

# absolute india

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**'RSS, THE IDEOLOGICAL ARM OF BJP, SHOULD ALSO BE BANNED' OPPOSITION FIRMLY BELIEVE**

## LALU PRASAD DEMANDS BAN ON RSS, BJP HITS BACK

### THE BJP HIT BACK.

BJP OBC Morcha's national General Secretary and state spokesperson Nikhil Anand said: "There is a competition going on among the parties involved in the Grand Alliance to become the champion of secularism. By speaking against the Sangh, Lalu Ji wants to satisfy the sentiments of Muslims to strengthen his vote bank."



Team Absolute | Patna

In wake of the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI), RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav said that every organisation, including the RSS, which are responsible for creating communal hatred in the country, should also be banned.

"I firmly believe that the RSS should also be banned in the country. It is worse than the PFI. The previous government had banned the RSS twice. Earlier Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had imposed a ban on RSS in the country," he said.

JD-U national President Lalan Singh demanded that the Narendra Modi government clarify on what basis the ban was imposed on the PFI. "Centre should clarify on what basis it has imposed a ban on PFI. I want to wait for the clarification of the Centre," he said.

### BAN ILLEGAL, WILL FIGHT LEGALLY, SAYS PFI'S TN CHIEF

The president of now banned Popular Front of India's (PFI) Tamil Nadu unit, Mohammed Shaik Ansari, said in a statement on Wednesday that the organisation would legally fight the ban.

The statement issued by Ansari read, "It has been pronounced that the Popular Front of India has been banned in India. This illegal and undemocratic ban will be challenged by us."

He also said that the organisation would stop all the activities that it has been carrying out in Tamil Nadu. In a related development, the leader of Dalit political outfit, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Thol Thirumavalavan, also issued a statement opposing the ban on PFI, saying that the 'RSS, the ideological arm of BJP, should also be banned'.

### Vijayan holds high-level meeting with police officials

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan met top state police officials to take stock of the situation and draw elaborate plans to ensure that everything is kept under control. State police chief Anil Kant told Vijayan that everything is under control and the Superintendents of Police of all the 14 districts have been asked to be on high alert. In a related development, the RSS office at Aluva in Ernakulam district was provided Central

security. Meanwhile, PFI state General Secretary A. Abdul Sathar, in a press statement, said that the PFI has been wound up and asked its cadres to stop all political activities and organisation work. News also came that Kerala Police, acting on the directions of the National Investigation Agency, took Sathar into custody and is now kept at the Kollam Police Club waiting for the NIA officials to arrive to take him away.



After the ban, several Muslim organisations welcomed the move by the government. Chairman of All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council, Naseeruddin Chisti said that if the action was taken after considering the public order, then everyone should show patience and welcome the action taken by the government. Similarly, Saiyed Zainul Abidin of Ajmer said that the ban has been invoked in the national interest as PFI was indulging in anti-national activity. Muslim Students Organisation of India (MSO), a body of Muslim Sufi students too have welcomed the move, and said in a statement that PFI was indulging in extremist activity.

## Rupee slides to all-time low of 81.93 against US dollar



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian rupee has depreciated to trade at an all-time low of 81.93 against the US dollar after the surge in dollar index, dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 81.90 against the dollar, then fell to 81.93, against the 81.58 close in the previous trading session.

"The dollar index at a 20-year high had led to sharp depreciation in the Indian rupee over the last week. Despite that, INR has outperformed other global currencies, as RBI has been actively supporting the domestic currency by selling the US dollars," said Aishwarya Dadheech, Fund Manager, Ambit Asset Management.

Dadheech also said that in the short term, due to global risk-off sentiment, we can expect more pressure on the Indian rupee. It will be difficult for the RBI to continue selling the US dollars aggressively any further, as the remaining forex reserves are around 9-10 months of import cover only. Most likely, RBI will have to increase repo

rates (post the recent FED outcomes) to defend against further pressure on INR. Nevertheless, in the medium term, the out-performance of the Indian rupee will be supported by lower external debt (below 20 per cent as of March 2022), robust inflows (FDI+PII), a resilient economy, and adequate forex reserve (\$540 billion).

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.16 per cent to 114.235.

The Brent crude oil prices were trading at \$85.26 per barrel.

Going forward, the investors are eyeing RBI monetary policy scheduled on Friday and the dollar index for the short-term directional trend.

Meanwhile, benchmark indices are trading marginally lower during the afternoon trade, with Sensex falling 112.02 points and Nifty by 38.30 points.

At 2.00 p.m., Sensex was trading at 56,987.85, which was down 119.67 points or 0.21 per cent, whereas Nifty was down 64.35 points or 0.38 per cent at 16,943.05.

## Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (retd) appointed Chief of Defence Staff

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian Army's former Eastern Command chief, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (retd) was on Wednesday appointed the second Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), with effect from the date of his assumption of charge and until further orders, an official statement said.

He will also function as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

Lt Gen Chauhan (retd) succeeds the first CDS, former Army chief, Gen Bipin Rawat who had died in a helicopter crash on December 8 last year.

In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lt Gen Chauhan has held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and north-east India.

Commissioned into 11 Gorkha Rifles in 1981, he is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

As Major General, he had commanded an Infantry Division in the critical Baramulla sec-



tor in the Northern Command, and as Lt General, commanded a corps in the northeast and subsequently went on to become the Eastern Command chief from September 2019 and held the charge until his retirement from service in May 2021.

In addition to these command appointments, he has also held important staff appointments including the charge of Director General of Military Operations.

He had also served on a United Nations mission to Angola.

## IRCTC scam case: Court seeks personal appearance of Tejaswini Yadav

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Wednesday sought personal appearance of Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejaswini Yadav on the CBI's plea seeking cancellation of his bail in a scam case in relation to railway hotels.

Special CBI Judge Geetanjali Goel of Rouse Avenue Court sought the personal appearance of Yadav on October 18 while granting time to his counsel to respond in the matter.

On September 17, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) approached the court challenging the bail granted to Yadav in the alleged scam involving the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

The case dates back to 2006 when his father and RJD chief Lalu Prasad was the Railway Minister in the UPA-I government. It was alleged that there were mul-



multiple irregularities connected to IRCTC hotels' maintenance contracts with a private firm.

The RJD leader and his mother Rabri Devi were granted bail in the case in 2018.

In one of its contentions, the central agency has submitted that Tejaswini Yadav had threatened its officials during a press conference, thereby influencing the case. Two IRCTC hotels in Ranchi and Puri were involved in the bribe case.

The probe agency had earlier

claimed that there was enough evidence in the IRCTC matter against Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi and Tejaswini Yadav, among others.

On August 24, the CBI had conducted multiple raids on the premises of RJD leaders in Patna, Kathihar, Madhubani, Vaishali, and Sitamarhi districts. Besides that, it also conducted an investigation into another case of Urban Cubes mall in Gurugram, purportedly on the belief that Tejaswini Yadav had made investment in it.

After the raids, Tejaswini Yadav was reportedly heard saying at a press conference that "CBI officials don't have mother and children? Don't they have a family? Will they always remain CBI officers? Will they not retire? Will only this party remain in power? What message do you want to send? You should honestly discharge the duty of the constitutional organisation."

## MUNDRA HEROIN SEIZURE: NIA ARRESTS 26TH ACCUSED



**New Delhi:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested 26th accused in connection the seizure of 3000 kgs of heroin, valued at Rs 21,000 crore, at Gujarat's Mundra Port in September last year, an official said.

A senior NIA official said that the accused, identified as Sushanta Sarkar of West Bengal, was arrested on Tuesday for his involvement in the illegal international trade of heroin into India for supporting terrorist activities.

Heroin was seized between September 17-19, 2021 at Container Freight Station, Mundra Port by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence from a consignment of semi processed talc stone it was concealed in.

The case was initially registered by DRI and then re-registered by the NIA. In March 2022, the NIA had filed charge sheet before a special court in Ahmedabad against 10 persons.

The case pertains to an international drug smuggling syndicate, run by Afghan nationals, brothers Hassan Daad and Hussain Daad, who had sent multiple heroin consignments to India through containers. The heroin was purified in Afghanistan and the concealed in other materials like, semi-processed talc and bituminous coal. These consignments were then sent to Indian ports in Gujarat and West Bengal and further to New Delhi, via trucks.

"The accused arrested yesterday is an important part of the criminal conspiracy, and had ordered a heroin-laden shipment of semi-processed talc from Afghanistan, via Iran in November. He used his firm 'Jesus Christ Impex' for the purpose. He transported the consignment to the firm of another accused Kabir Talwar, in New Delhi. The consignment was unloaded by members of the heroin smuggling syndicate who are charge sheeted in the instant case," said the official.

## 'IF TRUTH IS ON YOUR SIDE': SC REFUSES STAY ON DISMISSAL OF COP WHO PROBED ISHRAT JAHAN ENCOUNTER

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to stay the Centre's order dismissing Gujarat cadre IPS officer Satish Chandra Verma, who had assisted the CBI in its probe into the alleged fake encounter of Ishrat Jahan in Gujarat.

A bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy declined to interfere with the Delhi High Court's order, which refused to stay the dismissal order. "Consequently, we are not inclined to stay or interdict the order of dismissal dated 30.08.2022 at this stage," said the high court, asking the Centre to file a reply in the matter within eight weeks and rejoiner within four weeks thereafter, and scheduled the hearing on January 24 next year.

Verma's lawyer argued before the apex court that the high court relied on an unproven transcript of an interview downloaded from YouTube and his client does not have any knowledge who made the transcript and the CD. He added that it was the only evidence for which he was dismissed.



The top court was also informed that another officer has been appointed in place of Verma after his dismissal. It said that now somebody else has been put in charge and it can advance the hearing in the matter in November.

Verma's counsel said his client has put in 38 years of service and urged the court to extend the stay and let the high

court decide. Justice Joseph said the court needs to balance everything and "you talked about your honour, prestige. But if the truth is on your side, you will have your day in the court". He added if justice is on your side, you will succeed. Verma's counsel replied: "Let me retire with honour."

## Gehlot may meet Sonia on Thursday to resolve Rajasthan crisis

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will meet Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Thursday to end the ongoing political crisis in the state, triggered by the open revolt of MLAs supporting him, as well as to clear the picture on his status - both in the state as well in the party presidential poll, as per Congress sources.

Gehlot was supposed to leave Jaipur for Delhi on Wednesday evening but his plan was postponed and now, there are possibilities of him leaving later. They said that Congress Central Election Authority chief Madhusudan Mistry is not in Delhi on Thursday and hence candidates for presidential post can apply only on the last day of nominations, on September 30.

Meanwhile, in the midst of political turmoil, this afternoon, Gehlot met several senior leaders including Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi and Minister Shanti Dhariwal. Sharing the information, state minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas claimed that Gehlot is not resigning.



On the question if Gehlot will file nomination for the post of President, he said that only the Chief Minister and the central leadership are aware of this fact.

Meanwhile, veteran leader Digvijaya Singh's name has been doing the rounds for the post of President, as he left Bharat Jodo Yatra in between to go to Delhi.

Meanwhile, Congress General Secretary, Organisation, K.C. Venugopal said that the crisis seen in Rajasthan will be resolved in a day or two.

At the same time, Sachin Pilot, who is facing opposition from the Gehlot camp for the post of CM, is already present in Delhi.





# Strong actions will be taken against culprits : Shivraj

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan's attitude is becoming increasingly bitter and his target is those officers whose work is causing problems to the beneficiaries and affecting the image of the government.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Chouhan held a review meeting of Sheopur district on Wednesday, during which he suspended the food officer for giving wrong information related to distribution of ration. In the virtual meeting, the Chief Minister directly asked the officials and asked in detail about the schemes of the state and central government. During this, he even said that the officers who ask for the price for the work should be thrown out of the job, those who disturb the dis-



tribution of ration will not be left at any cost.

In this meeting, CM Chouhan said, 4 vehicles are operating under ration your village. Among the complaints I have, fair price shops are not

opening regularly. On this, the Collector said that 11 FIRs have been registered in the case of negligence in the distribution of ration. Penalty has also been imposed. Four arrests have also been made in this case.

On this, the CM said that action should be taken on the rest as well. Take this very seriously. We will not spare anyone who messes with the ration. During this, the Superintendent of Police said that two trucks full of rice have been caught. Action has been taken yesterday. Food officers should not present

false facts. It is our responsibility to ensure that ration reaches the poor in the right way. That's why I suspend DSO for now.

Even before this, the attitude of the Chief Minister has been visible, just recently, he suspended the District Food Officer TR Ahirwar from the stage for not fulfilling the target of Ujjwala camp organized at Jogi Tikaria village of Hinota gram panchayat of Dindori district. On the complaint received in Jhabua, it was announced to suspend the DSO during the public meeting.



## BJP MLA starts foot-march of Chitrakoot's Siddha Pahad

Team Absolute | Bhopal

To seek attention of the Centre and Madhya Pradesh government on development of Chitrakoot, BJP MLA from Maihar Assembly constituency Narayan Tripathi began a three-day 'dharma (religious) yatra' on the surrounding of 'Siddha Pahad'.

Several saints and seers of temples in Chitrakoot also joined the 'padayatra' (foot march), which to be completed after ferrying 84 km surrounding the Siddha Pahad on September 30.

The yatra will be followed by a 'dharma sabha' (religious meet) of Hindu priests and seers of all temples located in Chitrakoot on September 30. While starting dharma yatra, BJP MLA said this yatra should not be seen a political move but a religious one.

He claimed this padayatra is beginning of a fight to push his demand to provide Chitrakoot importance like Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh). The Siddha Pahad is no ordinary hillock, it has a mythological story behind it. It is believed that during Lord Ram's stay in the Chitrakoot forest during the 14 years of his exile, Lord Ram had pledged on the same hillock to eliminate the demons.

Earlier in August, a controversy had erupted after Satna district administration (Chitrakoot falls under Madhya Pradesh's Satna district) proposed to legalise mining on the Siddha Pahad.

Tripathi was the first who opposed the decision and wrote to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, which prompted the later to announce a ban on mining in Sidha Pahad.

"We fought a legal battle

for years for get back Lord Ram's birthplace -- Ayodhya and a huge temple is being constructed there. We are happy that the BJP-led Central government and Uttar Pradesh government made this possible. But, my question is that why Chitrakoot wasn't given so much importance despite being the 'Karmabhoomi' of Lord Ram." Tripathi said.

He said that Chitrakoot has been deprived of development despite having a crucial connection with Lord Ram, adding that if a grand Ram temple is being constructed in Ayodhya, Chitrakoot should also be given equal importance.

The BJP MLA said that a large size statue of Lord Ram should also be established in Chitrakoot. Besides, the area should be provided with facilities so that more people can visit Chitrakoot.



## Will not leave MP - Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Even though the name of the state president of Madhya Pradesh unit Kamal Nath is being taken in the speculation regarding the national president of Congress, but he has made it clear that he will not leave Madhya Pradesh.

On the question asked by Congress state president Kamal Nath regarding the election of the party's national president, he said, "I have already said that I do not want to leave Madhya Pradesh, 12 months are left and if I take any responsibility, then my attention will be in Madhya Pradesh." will depart from Right now my entire focus is only on Madhya Pradesh, I do not want to divert my attention from Madhya Pradesh.

On the political turmoil in Rajasthan, he told that, I myself have spoken to Ashok Gehlot ji, he said that I had called a meeting. Some people have committed indiscipline and show cause notices have been issued to them. At the same time the supervisors have given their report.

On the question of the action taken by the central government regarding PFI, Kamal Nath said, if there is any evidence that they are involved in terrorist activities, are associated with terrorist organizations, then PFI or any organization, strict action will be taken against them. Should be.

Taking forward his point, Kamal Nath said, today terrorism is a matter of great danger and the general public needs security and if the activities of PFI were going on for so many years then it is your intelligence failure, what are you doing for so many years. Were. This one has not been born today, since when has it been registered, if it was already associated with terrorist organizations, then what were you doing for so many years, today this question is in front?

Voting has been held for 46 urban bodies in the state and the results are due on Thursday, September 30. Regarding these elections, Kamal Nath said, all our leaders were engaged, BJP misused police, administration, money fiercely in these elections too. Our focus remains on every election and our main focus is also on the upcoming assembly elections.

Regarding the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Kamal Nath said, the yatra is getting immense success and it will be successful, because today there is a lot of resentment among the people. Now the public is not going to be affected by the politics of the media because the public is intelligent. Today BJP does not talk about unemployment, does not talk about farmers, does not talk about small traders, they bring out various issues to mislead the public.

## Internal surgical strike on PFI: Dr Narottam Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra has said that a total of 25 people associated with the People's Front of India (PFI) organization have been arrested, while banning PFI is an internal surgical strike. Talking to reporters, Home Minister Dr Mishra said that 21 and four such total 25 people have been arrested in the state who are associated with PFI. All these will be interrogated and as soon as the evidence is found in the interrogation, all the sleeper cells will be



caught.

Referring to the ban imposed on PFI, Home Minister Dr Mishra said that imposition of PFI is an internal surgical strike, earlier there was an external surgical strike, an air strike was done on terrorists, now it is an internal surgical strike, due to which its system is destroyed all over the country. The

unity and integrity of India will not be let down, this is a BJP government, it does not believe in the politics of appeasement.

On Tuesday, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) again raided the locations of PFI in the state. Last week too, four PFI office-bearers were arrested and many documents were recovered in the raids conducted at the locations of PFI in Indore and Ujjain.

On Tuesday, the NIA had raided Bhopal, Indore and Ujjain besides many other places. The state's ATS also cooperated in this action.

# CONG COME UP WITH WOMEN CENTRIC CAMPAIGN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Congress has come up with a women centric campaign for the state assembly polls under which the party will reach out to all the women voters across the state.

To execute its plan in an organised manner, the state committee has appointed a separate team for it on Tuesday. Vibha Vindu Dagar will lead the team.

As per the information, the team would carry a door-to-door campaign in both rural and urban areas and their primary focus would be to reach to women. They (team) have

been tasked to held meeting with women associated with schemes such as Aganwadi, Asha and others. The party workers would share Congress' vision for women empowerment.

Dagar, who is a vice-president of media department of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee, said "I had put my proposal before the party leadership and I am happy that my proposal was accepted. Now, it's my turn to make the plan success for which the leadership has shown trust on me." Dagar, who is a native of Indore, said.

Dagar further said that in the first step to execute the plan, she would need a team of

active and determined youths in each and every block and district. "Last time, when I was assigned a similar kind of task in Gwalior-Chambal area, I used to visit villages and conduct meeting with people. The best part was that the team was very active and energetic."

Dagar said that during the 15-month government, the Congress has increased monthly wages of Aganwadi and Asha workers. "We need to tell the women, especially housewives, that the Congress has launched several women centric schemes. I believe, a proper communication will perse a positive results and I will go ahead with the same thought," she added.



## CM Chouhan plants Peepal, Banyan and Badam saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings along with Minister of State for Horticulture and Food Processing Bharat Singh Kushwaha, Prithvipur MLA Shishupal Yadav, Jaora MLA Dharmendra Singh Lodhi in Smart City Park in Shyamla Hills. CM Chouhan planted saplings of peepal, banyan and badam along with the members of the International Bundeli Samagam Organising Committee and members of the academic faculty of Madhyanchal Professional University, Bhopal and NCC cadets. Devdutt Dubey, Sachin Chaudhary and Dinesh Shukla of International Bundeli Samagam Organising Committee

apprised CM Chouhan about the Samagam (meeting) to be held in Bhopal from 6th to 8th October and invited him. Teachers of Madhyanchal Professional University, Bhopal, participated in the plantation.

Madhyanchal Professional University Bhopal has been providing education in science, technology, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, agriculture, humanities, management and commerce subjects since last years. The University specially conducts activities under NCC and NSS with the aim of preparing the students for Defence Services. The students are constantly motivated by the University for Activities related to environment-protection, cleanliness and social concerns.

## CM Chouhan pays tribute to Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh on his Birth anniversary

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh on his anniversary. CM Chouhan garlanded his portrait in the auditorium at his residence office. Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh is considered one of the most influential revolutionaries of the Indian freedom struggle. Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh was born on September 28, 1907 in village Banga in Lyallpur district of undivided India. The family of Amar Shaheed Sardar Bhagat Singh was a supporter of the Gadar Party. At an early age, Bhagat Singh joined the non-cooperation



movement and bravely challenged the British army. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre had a deep impact on Bhagat Singh's mind. He formed a revolutionary organisation along with Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad. Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were sentenced to death in the Lahore Conspiracy Case and

Batukeshwar Dutt was given life imprisonment. Bhagat Singh was hanged along with Sukhdev and Rajguru at 7 pm on 23 March 1931. All three sacrificed their lives for the country without any fear. Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh was also a good speaker, reader and writer. He also wrote and edited for several magazines.

## Sheopur has to be freed from the stigma of malnutrition : CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that development work should be completed in time-limit while ensuring quality. It is our moral duty to ensure that every eligible person should get the benefit of the schemes, the difficulties of the people should be removed and their life made easier. We have got an opportunity to serve the public through the administration. Let us fulfill our duties with honesty in mission mode. With this the state will move on the path of progress. Wishing all on the third day of Navratri, CM Chouhan reviewed Sheopur district at 7 am. CM Chouhan prayed to Devi Maa to shower her blessings and grace for development and welfare.

In-charge of Sheopur and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Horticulture and Food Processing Bharat Singh Kushwaha, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary Home Dr. Rajesh Rajoura and other state level officers and Divisional Commissioners



took part virtually in the meeting held at Chief Minister's residence office.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that we have to free Sheopur from the stigma of malnutrition. Sheopur is a backward and poverty-stricken district; there is also a large number of migrations

from here. It is the top priority of the state government to ensure that there is effective implementation of welfare schemes for the poor in the district, there is no disturbance in ration distribution and to give good governance to the people. Special activities should be conducted in the district to make people aware about public welfare schemes. Chief Minister Chouhan reviewed various developmental activities, public welfare schemes and law and order situation in Sheopur.

Chief Minister Chouhan was informed that 211 camps are to be organized in the district under the Mukhya Mantri Jansewa Abhiyan. Till now 10 thousand 500 applications have been received. District administration teams are going door to door and taking applications of eligible beneficiaries and solving them on the spot. So far Ayushman cards of 7 thousand 200 persons have been made in the campaign. Chief Minister Chouhan instructed the Minister-in-Charge Kushwaha to keep constant vigil on the progress of the campaign.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Mayawati wants to be PM

In a major development, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has said that it can join the opposition alliance for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, provided the alliance partners are ready to project Mayawati as their Prime Ministerial candidate. BSP national spokesperson Dharamveer Chaudhary said that the "ultimate decision, however, will be taken by Behenji (Mayawati)" Chaudhary added that if the opposition parties reach out to BSP in a respectful manner and apprise the party chief of their agenda, there is no harm that the party would see in aligning with them. "The opposition parties have no leader of Mayawati's stature. She is a big leader with a pan-India appeal," he said. Asked about the possibility of an alliance with Akhilesh Yadav, Chaudhary said: "Mayawati ji is a much bigger leader than Akhilesh Yadav. She has been the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh four times, while Akhilesh has held the post only once. She also is a large-hearted leader and forgives the mistakes of others. If Akhilesh accepts her as a leader with a clean heart, we will welcome him with flowers." Notably, the BSP was kept out of the meetings of the opposition parties called by TMC and NCP when they were to decide their candidates for the President and Vice President posts. Mayawati had expressed her anger in public in a tweet on the opposition's behaviour. Mayawati's BSP also managed to win 10 Lok Sabha seats in 2019 Lok Sabha elections by stitching regional caste equations and taking advantage of the alliance with the SP. Meanwhile, few days back a senior party leader said that, Mayawati has already burnt her bridges with the SP and Congress. She has openly supported the BJP candidates in the recent elections of President and Vice-President. We are almost sure that she would go with the BJP again in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections."

EVEN AFTER CONG GETS NON-GANDHI PREZ, BJP NOT TO GO SLOW ON 'PARIVARVAAD'

Santosh Kumar Pathak

The suspense over the party elections for the post of a full-time Congress' president left vacant since the last three years seems to be almost ending now. The agenda with which the former Congress President Rahul Gandhi had resigned from his position seems to fructify now. If there are no major political rumblings expected, then Ashok Gehlot, who is a seasoned politician and troubleshooter for the Congress, is set to become the party's new national president through elections on October 17. After nearly 24 years, a non-Gandhi Congress leader is set to be the party's new national president. For the last 24 years, the reins of the Congress have been controlled by Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi. In such a situation all top and veteran party leaders are saying that the issue of dynasty rule levelled by the BJP will be finally put to rest. The Congress feels that the issue of dynasty politics or 'parivarvaad' which the BJP has



been cornering the Congress with will completely end following Rahul Gandhi's decision to not to become the party's president. But is this really going to happen? Prime Minister Narendra Modi had himself raised the issue of nepotism and dynasty politics from the ramparts of the Red Fort earlier this August to target the opposition parties. This issue of dynasty politics has been raised by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President J.P. Nadda, and all other BJP leaders, Union Ministers, BJP-ruled state chief ministers and party workers to target the

Congress and specially the Gandhi family. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the saffron party will raise this issue after the Congress gets a non-Gandhi at its helm? Has Rahul Gandhi played a big master-stroke by electing a non-Gandhi Congress leader as the party president? The BJP has dismissed such claims as mere political stunts. The BJP believes that Rahul Gandhi is going to play the same political gamble on the Congress' organisational front similar to what Sonia Gandhi played by making Manmohan Singh the country's Prime Minister, but this is not going to change the functioning of the Congress. The BJP is also trying to attack the Congress through Ashok Gehlot's statement that the election for the post of Congress President is just a sham. According to the BJP, dynasty rule has become the character of the Congress and the BJP will continue to work to warn and caution the people of the country on this. While addressing a rally in Purnia, Bihar, on Friday, Shah, while pitting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as a political fight between Prime Minister Narendra Modi vs Rahul Gandhi, asked the people that who should become the Prime Minister of the country in 2024 -- Modi,

Nitish Kumar or Rahul baba? The BJP's national spokesperson Tom Vadakkan, who had been a part of the Congress for a long time before joining the BJP, launched a scathing political attack on Rahul Gandhi. Vadakkan, while holding a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Wednesday slammed Rahul Gandhi, saying that whether Ashok Gehlot or Shashi Tharoor becomes the Congress President, they will be remote-controlled by Rahul Gandhi and the reins of the party will firmly remain in his hands. In the coming days, Ashok Gehlot may be seen working as the Congress National President, but in every decision taken by the Congress, the BJP will tell the people of the country whether that decision was taken by Gehlot or on the instructions of the Gandhi family. It is clear from the BJP's political attacks on the issue of dynasty politics that it will remain alive even if a non-Gandhi becomes the Congress' national president and the Congress, especially Rahul Gandhi, will have to face the BJP's allegations repeatedly and continuously.

WILL HURT, NOT HELP: RUMBLINGS IN GUJ CONG OVER LIKELY ALLIANCE WITH NCP

Haresh Jhala

Murmurs have started among Congress workers in the two districts of Anand and Porbandar against any alliance with the Nationalist Congress Party. The party's district leadership says they are helpless before the decision of the national leadership. The local leaders' reservation is that an alliance with the NCP will damage the party more than benefit it. The first such bugle was blown by the Porbandar District Congress Committee's former president Nathabhai Odedara. On Friday, addressing media persons he announced that he will not allow any alliance with the NCP. If the party goes for the alliance, he will work to damage the party's prospects on at least six to seven assembly seats where the Mer com-

munity has dominance. Odedara represents the Mer community. Odedara is reportedly interested in contesting the elections from Kutiyana constituency, which goes to the NCP in the alliance and from where Kandhal Jadeja got elected for the last two terms as the NCP candidate. Jadeja has a criminal history, his mother Santokben Jadeja had got the nickname of 'Godmother'. He has voted in defiance of the party whip in the Rajya Sabha elections for BJP candidates instead of Congress candidates. Porbandar District Committee president Rambhai Odedara told IANS, "We can at the most suggest to ally with the NCP, the final call will be taken by the state or national leadership. The local workers are not in favour of an alliance with the NCP." The problem with the NCP is that

it does not have a grassroots presence, yet its state unit president Jayant Patel wants to contest from the Umreth seat falling in Anand district, which is a stronghold of the Congress. By allowing him to contest the Umreth seat, party leaders are discouraging party workers, explained Mahendrasinh Parmar, president of the Anand District Congress Committee. He told IANS that Umreth constituency workers have conveyed their concern to the AICC observer for Central Gujarat, Ush Naidu. Parmar is of the strong opinion that the party should respect the workers' wishes. At the same time they also stated that they and the party workers will respect and abide by the party's state and national leadership's decision on any alliance.



international

CHILDBIRTHS IN S.KOREA REACH ALL-TIME LOW, DEATHS HIT RECORD HIGH

Seoul | New York

The number of babies born in South Korea hit an all-time low in July, while deaths climbed to a record high in the month amid rapid aging and the Covid-19 pandemic, new data revealed on Wednesday. A total of 20,441 babies were born in July, down 8.6 per cent from the previous year, according to the data from Statistics Korea. It marked the lowest for any July since the statistics agency started compiling related data in 1981, reports Yonhap News Agency. South Korea has faced a chronic decline in childbirths as many young people delay or give up on getting married or having babies in the face of an economic slowdown



and high home prices, combined with changing social norms about marriage. The country broke its own record for the world's lowest childbirths last year. Its total fertility rate -- the average number of children a woman bears in her lifetime -

came to 0.81 children in 2021, down from 0.84 the previous year. Last year marked the fourth straight year that the number was below 1. Rapid aging and the fallout of the pandemic also pushed up the number of deaths to a

record high in July. A total of 26,030 people died in the month, up 1.2 per cent from a year earlier. It marked the highest figure for any July and also represented the 17th straight month of increase. As the number of deaths outpaced that of births, the nation's population declined by 5,588 in July, marking the 33rd consecutive month of fall. South Korea reported the first natural fall in its population in 2020, as the grim demographic trend has continued. Meanwhile, the number of marriages fell 5 per cent on-year to 14,947 in July, the data showed. More people have postponed or delayed their weddings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Divorces declined 9.3 per cent on-year to 7,535 in July.

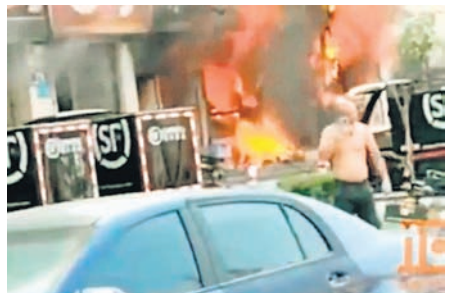
S.Korea to shun Russian rockets, to go with Musk's SpaceX



Seoul | Agencies

South Korea has decided to cancel plans to launch satellites using Russian rockets later this year amid the international community's sanctions on Russia's space programme over the Ukrainian war, a government document showed on Wednesday. The government is most likely to sign deals with Elon Musk-run SpaceX and the European Space Agency for the launches. The terms of the current deals

with Russia remain confidential due to five-year non-disclosure agreements, reports Yonhap news agency. The government had planned to launch the Korea Multipurpose Satellite 6, known as the Arirang 6, on Russia's Angara 1.2 vehicle later this year from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northwestern Russia and a next-generation mid-sized observational satellite aboard a Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. In a document submitted to the National Assembly, the Ministry of Science and ICT assessed it has become "difficult" to proceed with the satellite launches using Russian rockets, citing the international community's joint sanctions on Moscow over the Ukrainian invasion. The ministry also asked for an additional budget, estimating the projects to cost an additional 88.1 billion won (\$61.1 million) in total under new launch deals. It plans to nix the Russian deals and seek new space launch providers if the National Assembly approves the request.



China restaurant fire kills Seventeen people

Beijing | Agencies

Seventeen people were killed and three others injured due to a fire at a restaurant in Changchun, capital of China's Jilin province, on Wednesday, authorities said. The local fire brigade received reports of the incident that occurred in the Changchun high-tech industrial development zone at 12.40 p.m., reports Xinhua news agency. As of 3 p.m., the on-site search and rescue work had ended. The injured are being treated in a local hospital and the cause of the fire is being investigated.

SAUDI ARABIAN KING APPOINTS CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN AS PM



Riyadh: Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has appointed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as the kingdom's Prime Minister, Saudi Press Agency reported, citing a royal decree. The king meanwhile issued a decree on Tuesday ordering a cabinet reshuffle, appointing Saudi Prince Khalid bin Salman as the Defence Minister, Xinhua news agency reported. Heads of ministries that were kept unchanged include the Energy Minister, the Foreign Affairs Minister, the Investment Minister, the Interior Minister, and the Finance Minister.

11 soldiers killed, 50 civilians missing in Burkina Faso convoy attack

Ouagadougou | Agencies

Eleven soldiers were killed in an attack on a supply convoy in northern Burkina Faso, the Burkina Faso government said in a statement. According to the statement on Tuesday, a supply convoy under military escort and heading to the city of Djibo was attacked by terrorists near the commune of Gaskinde in Soum province, the Sahel region, Xinhua news agency reported. The provisional toll stood at 11 soldiers killed, 28 wounded, including 20

soldiers, and nearly 50 civilians missing, the state-



ment added. The attack also caused significant material damage, and a search for the attackers was ongoing, the statement said. Security in Burkina Faso has worsened since 2015 as attacks have killed more than 1,000 people and displaced more than 1.9 million others in the West African nation.

CIA warned about attack on Nord Stream pipes weeks ago

London | Agencies

The CIA warned weeks ago that the Nord Stream pipes could be attacked, it has been revealed, after explosions opened three huge fissures in two key gas links that Western leaders say are the result of sabotage, the media reported. Agents sent a 'strategic warning' to European allies including Germany over the summer that the pipes were at risk, sources told Der Spiegel last night, though they refused to say whether Russia was identified as a culprit. The warning was not specific and did not pinpoint a time or location for an attack, according to the New York Times. However, heavy suspicion for the attack has fallen on the Kremlin - with European officials briefing the Washington Post last night that 'no-one is thinking this is anything other



than Russian sabotage'. But allies currently lack enough hard evidence to publicly blame Moscow, they added. The Kremlin has denied any involvement, calling allegations against Russia 'stupid'. But Moscow certainly has the

capacity to carry out such an attack. It possesses the largest spy submarine fleet in the world including the Belgorod - a nuclear-powered sub which is designed to attack undersea infrastructure - and has ploughed money into underwater drones that

could have been used. The location of the blasts, in waters around 260 ft deep, is also shallow enough for divers to reach, Daily Mail reported. As for motive, the explosions came on the same day that Poland, Norway and Denmark opened a new pipe running under the Baltic. As one official said last night, it could be designed as a warning to Europe that its infrastructure is vulnerable. Stepan Stepanenko, research fellow at the Henry Jackson Society said, "At first glance, this act equates to cutting one's nose off to spite the face (but) to understand why Russia would do this, we have to look at it in the context of the sham referendum taking place in Ukraine. "Putin is fast running out of options, he needs to end the conflict with a tangible territorial gain before Russians twig what the rest of the world already knows: He lost the war."



# Enough evidence to show PFI sowed seeds of violence: Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said there was enough evidence to prove that the Popular Front of India, banned by the Centre for five years, was sowing seeds of violence in society. The aim of the organisation was to spread rumours and trigger violence, Fadnavis, who holds charge of the Home department, told reporters. The central government on Wednesday banned PFI, alleged to be involved in several violent and terror incidents and having "links" with global terror groups like ISIS, along with its several associates for five years. "There is enough evidence with the government and probe agencies that the PFI was sowing seeds of violence. Spreading rumours, raising funds and triggering violence was their aim," Fadnavis said. "A fake video of a mosque being demolished in a north eastern state



was circulated with an intention to trigger violence. We have seen such an incident in Amravati in the past. It

later came to light that the video was from Bangladesh," he said. Fadnavis said Kerala was the first

state to demand a ban on the PFI. Similar demands were later made by other states in the country also. With the Union government banning the PFI, like every other state Maharashtra will also issue a detailed order on the implementation of the ban, he said. Besides PFI, the organisations which were also declared banned under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA include Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala. More than 150 people allegedly linked with PFI were detained or arrested in raids across seven states on Tuesday, five days after a similar pan-India crackdown against the 16-year-old group had led to the arrest of over a hundred of its activities and seizure of several dozen properties.



## CABINET OKAYS PROPOSAL TO REDEVELOP NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, AHMEDABAD RAILWAY STATIONS

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved redevelopment of New Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad railway stations at a cost of Rs 10,000 crore. Addressing a press conference after the Cabinet meeting, Railway Minister Ashwini

Vaishnav said that the tender for redevelopment of New Delhi, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai, and the Ahmedabad railway stations will be issued in the next 10 days. "A total of 199 stations are to be developed," he said. Out of these, tenders have been issued for 47 stations while master planning and

design for the remaining stations is underway. Work is currently on for development of 32 stations, the minister added. Vaishnav further said that New Delhi station would be developed in three and a half years while the remaining two stations would be redeveloped in two and a half years.



## 3 DEAD, 8 INJURED IN FACTORY EXPLOSION IN PALGHAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The incident occurred at around 2.30 pm at the Vasai Cos Power Engineering Limited Company, news agency reported. The sound of the explosion was heard from up to two kilometres away. At least three people have died and eight others

have been seriously injured after a boiler exploded and caused a fire at a factory in the Vasai area of Maharashtra's Palghar district on Wednesday. The incident occurred at around 2.30 pm at the Vasai Cos Power Engineering Limited Company, news agency reported. As many as 50 employees were working at the factory

when the boiler exploded. Fire personnel arrived at the spot to douse the flames. Speaking to Media, a district disaster management cell official said, "Three workers were charred beyond recognition. Eight others received severe burn injuries." The injured have been shifted to the nearest hospital.

## MAHARASHTRA TRIBUNAL AWARDS RS 44.4 LAKH COMPENSATION TO KIN OF LOCO PILOT KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A motorcycle had hit the victim, Om Prakash Shrivastav (then aged 49), when he was crossing a road, following which he died. The Thane Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) has awarded a compensation of Rs 44.4 lakh to the family of a loco pilot killed in a road accident in 2013.

A motorcycle had hit the victim, Om Prakash Shrivastav (then aged 49), when he was crossing a road, following which he died. MACT member HM Bhosale, in his order on September 22, directed the owner of the motorcycle and its rider to jointly and severally make the payment to the claimants along with an interest of eight per cent per annum from the date of filing of the petition. The claimants' counsel, S M



Pawar, told the tribunal that on April 9, 2013, Shrivastav was walking towards his home by the side of the road in Badlapur area here in Maharashtra. When he was crossing the road opposite a shop in Sanewadi, the speeding motorcycle hit him. Shrivastav suffered injuries died 10 days later while undergoing treatment at a hospital in neigh-

bouring Mumbai. The petitioners - deceased's wife, son and daughter - informed the tribunal that the deceased, who worked as a loco pilot with the Railways, earned a salary of Rs 78,062 per month and the family was dependent on him. The petitioners prayed that Rs one lakh or a just and fair compensation along with an interest at 18 per

cent per annum may be paid to them. The two respondents did not appear and the case was decided ex-parte against them. The tribunal said the question for consideration is "whether a court can grant compensation more than claimed in the petition". It said the theory of not awarding compensation more than the amount claimed underwent a sea change with a Supreme Court judgement in which the apex court held there is "no restriction that the compensation could be awarded only up to the amount claimed". The tribunal ordered the respondents to pay a compensation of Rs 42,75,206 towards loss of dependency, Rs 16,500 each towards loss of estate and funeral expenses, Rs 44,000 towards spousal consortium and Rs 88,000 towards parental consortium.



## COPS REGISTER CASE AGAINST 27 BUILDERS FOR FABRICATING DOCUMENTS TO OBTAIN RERA REGISTRATION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Police have registered a case of cheating against 27 property developers in Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly fabricating documents for the registration of their constructions under the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), an official said on Wednesday. The accused developers had allegedly cheated home buyers from 27 villages and the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) as part of a racket, an official from Manpada police station said. According

to a complaint filed by a KDMC official, the accused forged documents to show that permissions for the construction of houses were issued by the KDMC and based on that they got the registration done under RERA. The developers indulged in the fraud between 2017 and 2022, and home buyers shelled out Rs 25 lakh to Rs 35 lakh for each of the tenement constructed by these developers, the police official said. A case was registered in this connection on Tuesday night, he said, adding that no arrest has been so far.

## NCP LEADER QUESTIONS DISPLAYING GODDESSES' PORTRAITS IN SCHOOLS, CHIEF MINISTER HITS BACK

Nashik | Agencies

Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Chhagan Bhujbal has questioned the displaying of portraits of goddess Saraswati at schools in Maharashtra. Reacting sharply, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis said the portraits of the goddess will not be removed as she is the deity of knowledge. Speaking at an event in Mumbai earlier this week, Mr Bhujbal had demanded that the portraits of social reformers like Savitri Phule, Jyotiba Phule, Shahu Maharaj, Bhaurao Patil, and B R Ambedkar be displayed in schools. "Instead of these social reformers, portraits of goddesses Saraswati and Sharda are displayed in schools. We haven't seen them and they haven't taught us anything. If at all they have taught, it is to 3 per cent people who kept us away (from education). Why should we pray before



them?" the former minister asked. Both Shinde and Fadnavis said that portraits of the goddess will not be removed from schools. "No photos will be removed. Some people (Bhujbal) may feel anything. We will do nothing as per their wish. We will do whatever the common people want," the chief minister told reporters in Nashik, the home turf of Bhujbal, a prominent OBC leader, on Wednesday. Deputy CM Fadnavis said the portraits of national icons can be installed in schools but goddess Saraswati's photos will not be removed. "Devi Saraswati is the goddess of knowledge. Those who don't accept our culture and Hindutva, make such statements," he said when asked about Bhujbal's remarks. Meanwhile, security has been stepped up outside Bhujbal's residence - Bhujbal Farm - in Nashik.

## After losing \$20 bn Vedanta-Foxconn project, Forest Ministers on Gujarat visit to understand its semiconductor policy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mid criticism from various quarters over the loss of the Vedanta-Foxconn project to Gujarat, the Shinde Fadnavis government has sent its two ministers including Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and industry minister Uday Samant Monday visited the BJP-ruled state to understand a slew of initiatives taken by the successive state governments there in various sectors. Even though the much-debated \$20 billion semiconductor project by Vedanta Foxconn has gone to Gujarat, the Shinde Fadnavis government thought it fit to take a few lessons from the BJP-led government on not just attracting investments but the implementation of digital mission, e-governance and above all understand the key features of its semiconductor policy which was rolled out recently. Mungantiwar and Samant on Monday morning held a marathon meeting with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and discussed the state govern-



ment's various policies so that they can be emulated in Maharashtra. The Gujarat government officers made a presentation of the CM's Dashboard. Mungantiwar said, "The study group led by me will make efforts to launch CM's Dashboard in Maharashtra." The visit of Mungantiwar and Samant is crucial as Vedanta Group chief Anil Agarwal has announced that they will create a hub where Maharashtra will be part of their forward integration. The state government expects that the proposed investment

will come up in Talegaon where the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation had earmarked 1100 acres of land. Mungantiwar and Samant discussed with the Gujarat CM and officials its recently unveiled dedicated 'Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-27'. The policy aims at creating at least 2,00,000 new employment opportunities over five years. The Gujarat Government has also proposed to develop a special 'Semicon City' as a part of the Dholera Special Investment region.

# MAHA, DELHI TOP DEFAULTERS AS BANKS' DUES MOUNT TO RS 8.58 LAKH CRORE

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

As banks' outstanding dues shot up to a whopping Rs 8.58 lakh crore, Maharashtra and Delhi top the list of defaulters, as per the latest official data of TransUnion CIBIL Ltd. The figures show that as on March 31, 2022, there were 30,359 records of borrowers with defaults of Rs one crore and above, with recovery suits filed against them by various banks, totalling to outstanding of Rs 858,396.32 crore. This amount has more than tripled since March 31, 2017 -- from 17,236 accounts facing lawsuits to recover Rs 258,266.97 crore (Rs 2.58 lakh crore) covering 32 states, compared with 2022, as per the CIBIL data. With a lion's share of defaulters, 12 public sector banks alone account for more than 20,000

cases filed to recover Rs 5.90 lakh crore, or half the total outstanding (Rs 8.58 lakh crore). State Bank Of India and its associate banks have to recover Rs 1.60 lakh crore, Punjab National Bank (Rs 1,08,23,992 crore), IDBI Bank Ltd (63,40,964) crore, Bank Of Baroda (Rs 54,54,790 crore), Union Bank Of India (Rs 53,39,571 crore), UCO Bank (Rs 31,27,521 crore), Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 31,10,724 crore), Canara Bank (Rs 30,39,338 crore), Bank Of India (Rs 28,15,693 crore), Bank Of Maharashtra (Rs 15,93,916 crore), Central Bank Of India (Rs 10,29,409 crore), and Punjab & Sind Bank (Rs 3,66,753 crore) -- totalling to Rs 5.90 lakh crore. The private sector banks have filed 6,897 cases to get back Rs 1.32 lakh crore from defaulters of Rs one crore and above, and foreign banks are pursuing 572 borrowers to recover Rs 13,669

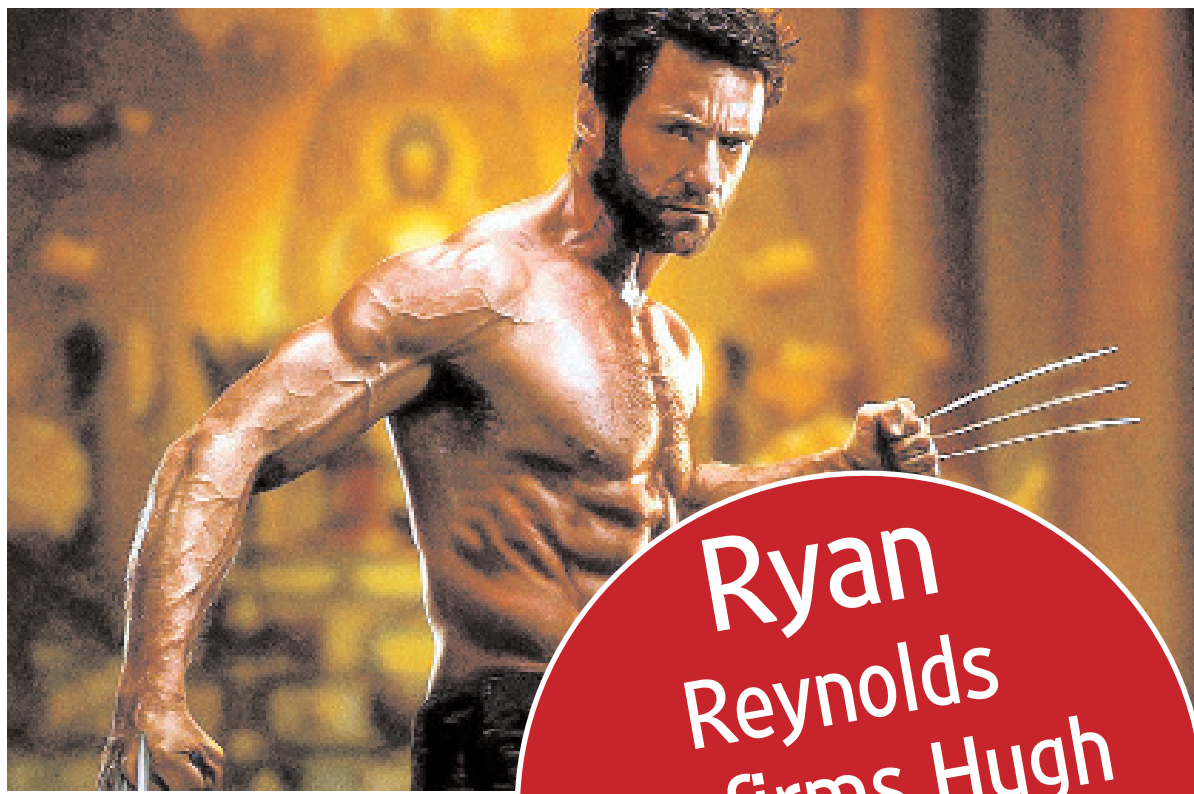


crore, and 20 cooperative banks have filed 442 suits to get back Rs 3,599 crore from the defaulters. Among the states, Maharashtra tops with 7,954 defaulters owing Rs 3.82 lakh crore (2022) compared with 4,726 cases in 2017 with unpaid dues of Rs 81,027 crore and Delhi with 2,862 cases to wrest back Rs 1.14 lakh crore (2022), as

compared to 1,507 cases to recover Rs 28,817 crore in 2017. In the third position is Telangana with 1,319 cases to get back Rs 59,083 crore (2022), compared with West Bengal's 1,795 suits to recover Rs 26,938 crore in 2017. Expressing serious concerns over the growing defaults, mostly by corporates, despite claims to the contrary by the government, United Forum of Bank Unions Convenor Devidas Tuljapurkar, demanded to know what and where exactly things are going wrong. "The Centre must publish a White Paper on the banks' non-performing assets, the write-offs as it involves public monies... There should be a mechanism developed to fix the accountability for NPAs while removing the corporate defaulters from the banking system," Tuljapurkar told reporter. He rues that despite the Debt Recovery

Tribunals (DRTs), Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFAESI), banks are compelled to make haircuts, one-time settlements or write-offs of the peoples' money and depriving funds for public welfare. Several financial institutions like LIC, SIDBI, EXIM Bank, GIC, IFCI, SUUTI, UTI have 467 such accounts with total outstanding of around Rs 1.18 lakh crore, as per the CIBIL list. The major private sector banks with huge amounts to be recovered are Axis Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd., Yes Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Indusind Bank Ltd., The Federal Bank Ltd., The South Indian Bank Ltd., HDFC Bank Ltd., The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd., Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.





Los Angeles | Agencies

**Ryan Reynolds confirms Hugh Jackman's return as Wolverine**

Hugh Jackman's highly anticipated return as Wolverine in 'Deadpool 3' has been announced by Ryan Reynolds. "Hard keeping my mouth sewn shut about this one," he wrote in the caption.

In the video where fans got to know about this great news, Reynolds says, "I've had to really search my soul on this one. His first appearance in the MCU obviously needs to feel special. We need to stay true to the character and find new depth, motivation, and meaning. Every 'Deadpool' needs to stand out and stand apart. It's been an incredible challenge that has forced me to reach down deep inside. And I...I have nothing. Yeah, just completely empty up here. And terrifying. But we did have one idea." When Jackman walks by in the background later in the video, Reynolds asks him if he wants to play Wolverine again. In response, Jackman responds, "Yeah, sure, Ryan."

After portraying the Wolverine in 2016's R-rated "Logan," Jackman reportedly hung up his claws. Wolverine was famously killed at the end of the movie. In 'X-Men Origins: Wolverine,' Jackman played Wolverine opposite Reynolds' Deadpool. The

clawed mutant kills the character in the film during a battle scene.

Hugh's return as the superhero was fuelled further when a fan asked him about it. The actor's reaction to the question did nothing to dispel the reports. Although it was thought at the time that he might come back as Wolverine in 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness,' he did not.

There is also speculation that, while the character will return, a new actor will take over. There has, however, been no confirmation of the same.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Constance Wu, according to a leading portal, in her upcoming autobiography 'Making a Scene,' the 40-year-old actress revealed that she managed to erase the alleged incident from her memory for years before it resurfaced when she found fame in Hollywood after shooting 'Crazy Rich Asians.' She spoke about her alleged rapist, whom she referred to in the book as Ty. According to an excerpt published by a tabloid magazine ahead of its October 4 publication. She went on to say that the alleged rape occurred during her second date with Ty at his apartment.

The actress stated that she refused to have sex with him, but he... did it anyway. "I didn't fight back. I just... gave up... I hate that it happened." Recalling the incident more than 10 years later, "I was on a plane from Singapore, where I had finished filming 'Crazy Rich Asians'. I'd just woken up from a nap when the realisation hit me like a flood." She further adds "I did not consent to sex. Maybe it wasn't violent, but it was rape. Period."

**Actress Constance Wu claims she was raped on her second date with an aspiring writer**



**Chris Martin says that turning 50 was easier**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Gwyneth goes nude at 50 for mag shoot, says getting Botox at 40 was 'embarrassing'. Although she thought the procedure was "cliche," the Oscar winner, who turned 50 on September 27, said it was part of how she "freaked out" when she turned 40. "I feel great. I feel very happy and fulfilled and not scared and weirdly not freaked out about it," she told a leading magazine on Tuesday. "I remember turning 30 and feeling like there was so much pressure to be married and have a baby. I was not in a serious relationship when I turned 30, and I remember just thinking, 'I'm disappointing my parents. I haven't married my stockbroker or a lawyer, and I'm this weird artist.' "When you're in your 20s, you're really a kid, and I think there's this expectation that when you're 30, you are going to really start to have a handle on your life. And then when I turned 40, I really freaked out. I remember going to some doctor and getting Botox. It was terrible; it was so embarrassing. I was like, 'I'm such a cliché.' "I thought I had to redefine so many aspects of who I am. It wasn't as scary as I thought, by the way, but going into it I think I had a particular set of unique circumstances." Chris Martin added that turning 50 was easier. The Goop founder, who is now married to 51-year-old TV producer Brad Falchuk, made the announcement alongside a photoshoot in which she stripped naked and was covered in gold paint to commemorate her milestone birthday. She said, "And then turning 50, it's been a lot smoother than I thought. I've really recalibrated the way that I look at that stuff. I don't relate to a 26-year-old model. I don't want her life. I don't want her face. I don't want her experience. I've earned my life. I've earned my wrinkles."

**Tom Hanks Believes that only 4 of his movies are "pretty good"**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Tom Hanks has appeared in nearly 100 films but believes only four of them are "pretty good." "No one knows how a movie is made -- though everyone thinks they do," Hanks said in a new interview with a leading news agency. "I've made a tonne of movies (and four of them are pretty good, I think), and I'm still amazed at how films come together. From a flicker of an idea to the flickering image onscreen, the whole process is a miracle." Over his four-decade career, Hanks has directed some of cinema's most celebrated films, including 'Forest Gump' and 'Philadelphia,' both of which earned him an Academy Award for best actor.

Hanks was also nominated for Oscars for 'Cast Away,' 'Big,' 'Saving Private Ryan,' and 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood' in 2020. However, it is unclear which films in Hanks' filmography he considers being the best. "Movie-making is very hard work over a very long period of time that consists of so many moments of joy slapped up against an equal number of feelings of self-loathing," he said. "It is the greatest job in the world and the most confounding of labours that I know of." This year, Hanks starred in the box office smash 'Elvis' and Disney's live-action 'Pinocchio' remake. His first novel, titled 'The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece,' will be released on May 9, 2023.



**MALALA YOUSAFZAI'S PRODUCTION COMPANY HAS JOINED FORCES ON A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY ON "HAENYEO" SOCIETY**

Los Angeles | Agencies

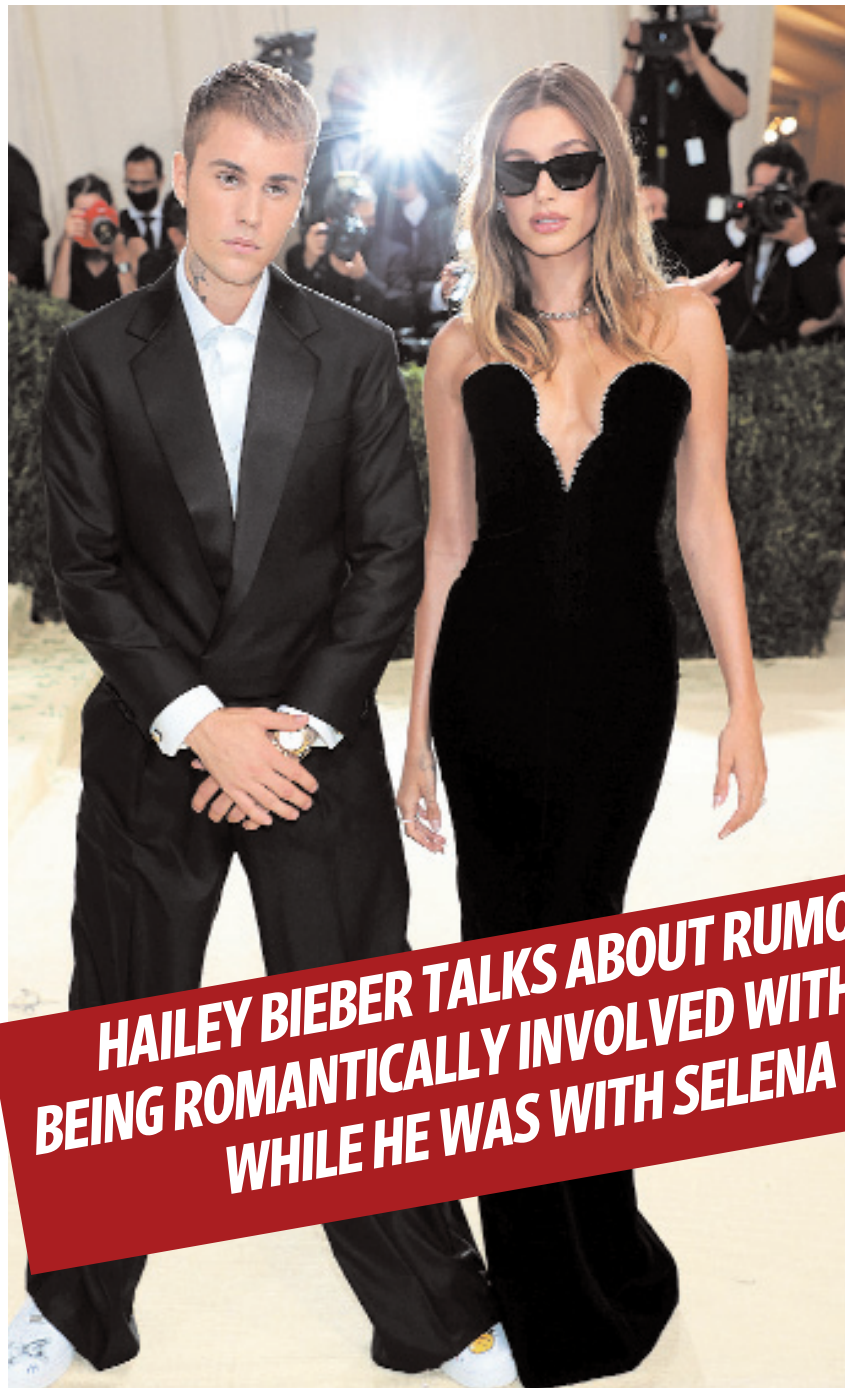
Malala Yousafzai, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and self-proclaimed "Stranger Things" fan, is working on her first project for Apple. Her production company has joined forces on a feature documentary about the legendary "haenyeo" society of fisherwomen on South Korea's Jeju Island.

On Monday, Malala unveiled her first slate of films and projects. Malala's production company is also developing a scripted series based on debutante writer Asha Lemmie's coming-of-age novel "Fifty Words for Rain,"

about a woman's search for acceptance in post-World War II Japan. Speaking to a leading portal, Malala said: "What I hope to bring to the table are the voices of women of colour, and debut writers and Muslim directors and writers. I hope we can have a wide range of perspectives and we



challenge some of the stereotypes we hold in our societies." She added: "I also hope that the content is entertaining and that people fall in love with the characters and have the best time together."



**HAILEY BIEBER TALKS ABOUT RUMOURS OF HER BEING ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH JUSTIN BIEBER WHILE HE WAS WITH SELENA GOMEZ**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hailey Bieber has rarely spoken out about her husband Justin Bieber's relationship with ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez. JB was engaged to the supermodel within two months of the ex-split, leading many to speculate if he was two-timing.

Most Jelena fans, as we all know, dislike Hailey. They frequently blame the supermodel for allegedly interfering with and ruining their relationship.

Hailey Bieber responded to rumours that she was romantically involved with Justin Bieber while he was with Selena Gomez during an interview with Alex Cooper on the podcast. She stated, "A lot of the hate and perpetuation comes from like, 'Oh, you stole him.' It's about people knowing

the truth because there's a truth." Of course, Selena Gomez fans were outraged when Hailey Bieber mentioned her idol directly or indirectly. They took to Twitter, and Sel and Hailey Bieber have been the talk of the town ever since.

**ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY**



Nina Dobrev





## Hrithik Roshan on negativity

# IT NUDGES YOU TO A BETTER PLACE

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Vikram Vedha starring Saif Ali Khan and Hrithik Roshan is all set to hit theatres this Friday. With this film, Hrithik Roshan is all set to return to the big screen after 3 long years, which reunites him with Saif Ali Khan after two decades.

The film is remake of 2017 Tamil film of the same name and is based on the popular Indian folktale "Vikram aur Betaal". In the flick, Hrithik will be seen as a dreaded gangster, and Saif, a tough cop.

Ahead of the release, the actor indulged in a freewheeling chat with media. Excerpts:

► **On relevance of acknowledging shortcomings**

Elaborating more about his character, Hrithik shared that despite being a bad guy, there are sensitivities built in him that makes him human. Taking a cue from it, he spoke about relevance of acknowledging shortcomings and said, "We have to be in acceptance of who we are, what we are and not dismiss any side of ourselves. Once you are in acceptance of who you are, it's a better way of living."

► **On social media being a deciding factor**

In times when social media is becoming a deciding factor for success of film, the actor spoke about how can it be used as a place to grow. "I have never seen social media as something that is negative, it has always been positive. Because you have to have your own filters, and be able to regulate how you respond or react. It's a place you can use to



grow. It has never been a bad place", said Hrithik.

► **On Negativity around film industry and actors**

Recently, there has been a surge of criticism directed towards Hindi films and actors in general. Talking about how important

such negativity is, the actor averred, "Negativity is important. Contrast like day and night, good or bad is relevant. We are talking about grey here (Vikram Vedha). So negativity is there to keep you in a state of seeking positivity. It should nudge you to find the light. And this is why I always look at that with positivity. It is there to help you for some reason. It nudges you to a better place. It is all good."

► **On the work front**  
Talking about Hrithik Roshan's work front, apart from Vikram Vedha he will next be seen in Fighter alongside Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor.

## Navratri 2022 Special

## Rashmi Desai

# Navratri is the time that brings the family together and closer

Shachi Chaturvedi | Mumbai

Today is the fourth day of the Navratri festival. For the unversed, Goddess Kushmanda, the fourth reincarnation of Maa Durga, is worshipped today. She is considered the creator of the entire universe and represents the planet Earth. She is also known as Ashtabhujia Devi due to her eight hands and is thought to have destroyed darkness by giving birth to light.

As Navratri approaches, Rashmi Desai indulges in an exclusive chat with Absolute India news.

While talking about the significance and her plans, the Dil Se Dil Tak actress said, "Since I firmly believe in Mata and this festival is a tribute to the Devi, it means a lot to me. The Garba is also a form of worship and not just entertainment and seeing the spirit of worship in people, old and young, touches me. Navratri is the time that brings the family together and closer and that's what I plan to do. To celebrate with my family and friends and do the Garba as many nights as possible. So I just follow the traditions and conduct puja at home."

Later the actress got nostalgic and mentioned, "I am not sure if I will be playing Garba anywhere outside this time also, but when I was a

kid, I used to play Garba and dandiya with my friends all night and forget about everything. We used to eat sweets and wait to hear the colour chart for the dresses. That childhood memory comes to my mind during every Navratri, and seriously it was awesome."

On a parting note, Rashmi wished everyone a happy Navratri and said, "For this Navratri, I will pray for the progress and prosperity of our country, peace in the world and a year of goodness for myself. I will also pray for all those who are suffering, that they may find solace and justice."



## 'It's a good time for actors'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's biggest media and entertainment convention, FICCI Frames, is back in its physical form after the hiatus of two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. Organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), FICCI Frames is attended by the who's who of the media and entertainment industries. Day 2 of FICCI Frames fast track saw a session with prominent personalities like Nikhil Advani, Ms. Divya Dutta, Sohum Shah, Shreyansh Pandey (TVF),



## Divya Dutta talks about the boom of OTT

Siddhart P Malhotra and Vikram Sahay, Joint Secretary, Information and Broadcasting on the magic of online curated content, moderated by senior critic Mayank Shekhar.

Divya Dutta on being asked how has it been for an actor when OTT is booming, said "It's a good time for actors. The characters are more layered. You get that time when it comes to a series vis-à-vis a short film or a feature film."

Nikhil Advani talked about the lack of pressure in creating content and the freedom which follows. He said, "On OTT, the shelf life is longer. The word of mouth stays for a longer time. The pressure to get stars to get the numbers vis-à-vis a story on Manto with writers and actors that you want for the content, this is easy when you have OTT."

## Nimrat Kaur kickstarts shoot for her social thriller

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nimrat Kaur is currently basking in the success of her recently released movie, Dasvi, co-starring Abhishek Bachchan and Yami Gautam. The actress will next be seen in Dinesh Vijan's social-thriller Happy Teachers Day which also stars Radhika Madan in a pivotal role.

The actress has kick-started shooting for the same in Pine. Sharing the picture

of the clapboard, she wrote, "Happy Day 1 from the set of Happy Teachers' Day!!(sic)"

When asked about her excitement at the start of the shooting, Nimrat expressed, "I am very excited to be in Pune, to be shooting the film. Incidentally, Pune is a city where I went to my first school ever. I was in Holloway Primary School College Of Military Engineering Pune here in my first standard."

"So it's very very interesting coming back here with a theme like 'happy teachers day' which is a story that

revolves around the education world. I am very excited to be here, it's really wonderful and I am looking forward to the journey as it begins", Nimrat added.

The film, directed by Mikhil Musale, is set to hit the screens on Teachers' Day 2023.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After much delay, Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal are all set to tie the knot on October 6. Their pre-wedding festivities The celebrations are set to take place starting Thursday and Friday in two different venues across Delhi. From dates, trossseau, venues to guestlist, each and every detail about their wedding is special and different. And now, details about their food menu, Mehendi and Sangeet ceremony are out! Talking about food, their extensive menu will have 'chaat', 'tikis' and an assortment of desserts from old Delhi. Reportedly, it includes Rajouri Garden ke choley bhature to Natraj ki chaat. For the Mehendi ceremony, if reports are to be believed, Mehendi person is being flown down from Rajasthan. As per sources in a leading portal, for Sangeet ceremony, there will be an attendance of approximately 150-200 guests. The source added, "Venue for Sangeet is a bungalow that is Richa's friends where she has spent a good deal of time growing up. Folk singers will also be present during mehendi tomorrow."

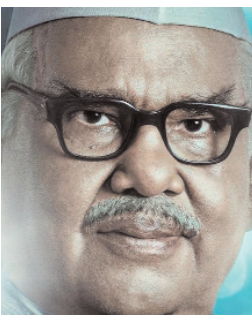
**Richa-Ali jet off to Delhi for wedding**



## SATISH KAUSHIK TO PLAY BABU JAGJIVAN RAM IN UPCOMING POLITICAL DRAMA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-filmmaker Satish Kaushik has time and again entertained us with his perfect comedy timing. The actor, who recently was a part of various projects like Sharmaji Namkeen, Guilty minds, and Thar, among others, will next be seen in Kangana Ranaut's Emergency. He will be seen essaying the role of activist and politician Jagjivan Ram. Sharing his look on social media, the veteran actor wrote, "Honoured to essay the role of Jagjivan Ram, also known as Babuji, the most compassionate and the crusader of social justice in Kangana Ranaut directorial Emergency (sic)." Kangana also posted Kaushik's look as Jagjivan Ram on her social media handle. The caption to her post read, "Last but not the least Presenting the powerhouse of talent Satish Kaushik as Jagjivan Ram in Emergency, popularly known as Babuji, he was one of the most revered politicians in the Indian political history. (sic)."



Kate Sharma