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RBI HIKES REPO RATE BY 50 BPS TO 5.90 PER CENT

“The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not have any fixed dollar-rupee exchange rate and its market interventions are to curb excessive volatility”, said Governor Shaktikanta Das. “The aspect of adequacy of forex reserves is always kept in mind while RBI intervenes in the forex market. The umbrella continues to be strong” he concluded.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a fourth straight hike, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday hiked repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.90 per cent with immediate effect. The measure, aimed at curbing retail inflation, was announced by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das after the monetary policy committee's (MPC) meeting.

It, however, kept the inflation forecast unchanged and maintained retail inflation forecast for the current fiscal at 6.7 per cent. RBI has been hiking repo rates since May 4 this year.

RBI had cut repo rate in March, 2020 to reduce the impact of coronavirus pandemic and resultant



Eight core industries' growth slows to 9-month low of 3.3% in Aug

The growth of eight core infrastructure sectors fell to a nine-month low of 3.3 per cent in August from 12.2 per cent which was recorded during the corresponding period of last year. The previous low growth of 3.2 per cent was recorded in November 2021. Meanwhile the production growth of

eight infrastructure sectors namely coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity was 9.8 per cent during April-August period of this fiscal, compared to 19.4 per cent in the year ago period, according to official data released on Friday. In August 2022, there was an increase



in the output of steel, cement, coal, refinery products, fertilisers and electricity compared to the corresponding period of last year.

nationwide lockdown. Since then it had maintained status quo till May 4 this year. Commenting on the global economic scenario, Das in his virtual customary address said, "We are faced with another storm of aggressive monetary tightening globally. The global economy is in the eye of a new storm." He added that the step is causing volatility and risk aversion in

the financial markets.

The rate hike has also been necessitated due to the rising food prices, which have been spiralling owing to the supply disruptions due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Also the fast depreciating rupee too has led to the RBI's decision. On inflation, the RBI Governor said that it would remain high.

HIKE IN REPO RATE LIKELY TO IMPACT AFFORDABLE HOUSING



The 50 basis points hike in the repo rate coupled with inflationary pressure is likely to impact the sentiment of the Housing sector particularly in the affordable and mid-range housing segments.

While the hike is on the expected lines, the Real Estate developers and experts said that the corresponding hike in the home loan rates is likely to impact the housing sales during the upcoming festive season.

"The current 50 BPS repo rate hike by RBI now makes it higher than the pre-pandemic levels. At one level it reflects the confidence in the economy and future growth outlook, at another level it was necessitated by the recent global developments such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, including aggressive monetary policies pursued by global central banks.

"The recent correction in global commodity prices, if sustained, may ease cost pressures in coming months. Today inflation is hovering around 7 per cent and we expect it to remain elevated at 6 per cent in the second half of the year," he said.

Multi-Crore Scam: Faridabad Municipal Corporation ex-Chief Engineer gets bail

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday granted regular bail to a former Chief Engineer of Municipal Corporation Faridabad (MCF), accused in a multi-crore scam of grant of tenders and work allocation in several wards in the area.

As per the case, the accused Daulat Ram Bhaskar allegedly conspired with officials of the corporation and contractor by disbursing multi-crore payment to a single contractor for 112 work orders to be executed in several wards of Faridabad.

Bhaskar has been in custody for more than 140 days. He was also arrested in another FIR in relation to illegalities in the grant of tenders and work orders in several other wards of Faridabad. However, the District and Sessions Court granted him bail considering commonalities in FIRs on June 16.

The accused was represented by a team of Karanjawala & Co who had briefed Puneet Bali, Senior Advocate, who had opposed the action taken by State Vigilance Bureau,



Faridabad. It was argued that had no role either in passing the proposals or granting technical sanctions or even disbursing the payments. Geeta Sharma, Advocate for the state and submitted that the investigation stands completed and the charge sheet has already been filed.

TWO TERRORISTS KILLED IN J&K'S BARAMULLA, WERE TASKED TO DISRUPT AGNIVEER RALLY

Srinagar | Agencies

Two terrorists, who had come to disrupt the army's 'Agniveer' recruitment, were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, police said. Baramulla's Senior Superintendent of Police, Rayees Muhammad Bhat said

that following specific intelligence inputs, security forces, including the army, the SSB and the local police launched a cordon and search operation in Yedipora village in Baramulla district. "The hiding terrorists opened fire at the security forces from a residential house triggering an encounter. Both the terrorists were killed

today morning. Their exact identity is being ascertained," he said, adding that an AKS74U rifle with 3 magazines and a pistol with one magazine were recovered from them.

"We had received intelligence inputs that these two terrorists were given the task to attack the ongoing Agniveer recruitment rally in Baramulla," the SSP said.

Delhi Police arrest gangster Neeraj Bawana's father

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have arrested the father of gangster Neeraj Bawana after arms and ammunition were recovered from his residence in the national capital during raids conducted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), official sources said on Friday.

According to sources, during the raids, four country-made pistols along with 79 live cartridges, two spare magazines of sophisticated firearms and five barrel cleaning rods were seized. The agency also found a bullet-proof car at Bawana's residence.

Neeraj Bawana, one of Delhi's most dreaded gangsters, was arrested in April 2015. He has been lodged in Tihar Jail since then.

The NIA conducted raids at 50 locations across India on September 12, including premises belonging to gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi, Kala Jathedi, Neeraj Bawana, Bambiaya and Kaushal Chaudhary, in con-



nection with the latest cases lodged against them. The specified locations were raided to dismantle and disrupt the emerging nexus between terrorists, gangsters, drug smugglers and traffickers based in both India and abroad.

The NIA crackdown followed the launch of investigation against this nexus by the NIA after the re-registration of two cases, earlier registered by the Delhi Police, on August 26. A few of the most dreaded gang leaders and their associates based in India and abroad, who are spearheading and carrying out such terror and criminal activities, were identified and booked.

The cases relate to involvement of criminal gangs in different kinds of unlawful activities, including murder, terrorising people to extort money etc.

These gangs were also raising funds to carry out such criminal activities through smuggling of drugs and weapons.

WBSSC scam: CBI submits its first charge sheet, names Partha Chatterjee, 15 others

Team Absolute | Kolkata

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed its first charge sheet in the multi-crore West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) recruitment scam at a special court here.

A total of 16 persons, including former West Bengal Education Minister and Trinamool Congress Secretary General, Partha Chatterjee has been named in the charge sheet. Chatterjee's name is sixth in the list.

The CBI's first charge sheet in the matter has been submitted just 11 days after Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is conducting a parallel probe in the scam, submitted its first charge sheet on September 30. In the ED charge sheet, the central agency named six persons including Chatterjee and his close aide Arpita Mukherjee. The CBI's chargesheet in the matter comes after 51 days since it started its investigation in the matter.

The other important names in the CBI's charge sheet include the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education's (WBSE) former President Kalyanmoy Gangopadhyay, WBSSC's former Secretary Ashok Saha and the WBSSC's screening committee's former



convener S.P. Sinha, among others. Chatterjee is the only name that is common in both the charge sheets.

Trinamool Congress state General Secretary and pokesman, Kunal Ghosh said that if anyone is found guilty of scams the law will take its own course and the party does not have any further comments on this matter.

HC ALLOWS PEACEFUL PROTESTS DURING DURGA PUJA

A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court on Friday upheld the rights of agitators for peaceful protests during the forthcoming Durga Puja against the multi-crore teacher's recruitment scam.

A group of agitators sought the permission of the Calcutta High Court to conduct peaceful protest demonstrations on the streets of Kolkata.

The state government objected to that petition claiming that the police administration will be busy in traffic management during the festival days. However, on Friday afternoon, Calcutta High Court's single-judge bench of Justice Rajasekhara Mantha ruled out the state government's argument on this count and chose to uphold the right of the agitators for peaceful protest.

However, he said that the place of peaceful protest will have to be decided on the basis of discussions between the police administration and the protesters.



FEMA authority approves India's biggest seizure order of 5,551.21 cr against Xiaomi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The competent authority appointed under Section 37A of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) on Friday confirmed the seizure order of Rs 5,551.27 crore passed against Chinese phone maker Xiaomi India Private Limited by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), an ED official said.

According to the ED, this is the highest amount of seizure order in India which has been confirmed by the authority till date.

The authority, while confirming the seizure order, held that foreign exchange equivalent to Rs 5,551.27 crore has been transferred out of

India by Xiaomi India in an unauthorised manner, which is held outside India on behalf of the group entity in contravention of Section 4 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, and the same is liable to be seized in terms of the provisions of Section 37A of FEMA.

The competent authority also observed that payment of royalty is nothing but a tool to transfer foreign exchange out of India and the same is in blatant violation of the provisions of FEMA.

Earlier, the ED had seized Rs 5,551.27 crore of Xiaomi India lying in its bank accounts under the provisions of FEMA.

The company unauthorisedly remitted this amount abroad under

the guise of royalty, which is in violation of Section 4 of FEMA. Xiaomi India also filed a writ petition in the Karnataka High Court against the said order, which was dismissed by the court.

"Xiaomi India is a wholly-owned subsidiary of China-based Xiaomi group. This amount of Rs 5,551.27 crore lying in the bank accounts of the company has been seized by the us," the ED official said.

The ED had initiated investigation in connection with illegal remittances made by Xiaomi India in February this year. The company started its operations in India in 2014 and started remitting money from 2015 onwards.

The company has remitted for-

foreign currency equivalent to Rs 5,551.27 crore to three foreign based entities, which include one Xiaomi group entity, in the guise of royalty.

Such huge amounts were remitted on the instructions of its Chinese parent group entities. The amounts remitted to two other US-based unrelated entities were also for the ultimate benefit of the Xiaomi group entities.

The ED said that Xiaomi India did not avail any service from the three foreign-based entities to whom such amounts were transferred. The ED said that the company also provided misleading information to the banks while remitting the money abroad.

GEN ANIL CHAUHAN TAKES CHARGE AS INDIA'S CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan on Friday assumed charge as the second Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the country. The post was lying vacant for over nine months since the death of the first CDS General Bipin Rawat in December 2022.

In his first speech as CDS, he expressed his gratitude to the forces and promised to fulfil the expectations and tackle all challenges and difficulties together. CDS Chauhan laid a wreath at the National War Memorial and later inspected a tri-service Guard of Honour on the South Block lawns before formally assuming the charge. CDS later called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his South Block office.

"I am proud to be assuming the responsibility of the highest rank in the Indian Armed Forces. I will try to fulfil the expectations from the three defence forces as the Chief of



Defence Staff. We will tackle all challenges and difficulties together," he said.

Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, Navy vice chief Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade and Air Marshal B.R. Krishna were also present at the ceremony.

The Centre had announced the appointing of Chauhan as the new Chief of Defence Staff on Wednesday.



KHARGE, THAROOR FILE NOMINATION FOR CONGRESS PREZ POLL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge will file his nomination for the party presidential polls after meeting interim president Sonia Gandhi on Friday, the last day of filing nomination papers for the post.



The Madhya Pradesh Congress seems to have united to support Digvijaya Singh. More importantly, hours after Digvijaya Singh took the nomination form from the party headquarters in New Delhi and announced that he would file his nomination for the AICC president's election, state Congress head and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath called a meeting of party leaders at his residence in Bhopal and asked them to reach Delhi to back Digvijaya Singh.

Earlier in the day, Digvijaya Singh met Kharge at the latter's residence. It is being said that after Kharge emerged as the top choice of Gandhis for the top post, Singh withdrew from the race. Late on Thursday night, the G-23 leaders, including Manish Tewari, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Prithviraj Chavan met at Anand Sharma's residence but did not divulge details of the meeting. One of the most vocal G-23 faces, Manish Tewari, said this morning that it

was time to strengthen the party and termed the recent events in Rajasthan "unfortunate". After Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced on Thursday that he will not be contesting the election, political observers in Madhya Pradesh had started assuming that the route for former Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh to become chief of the party seems clear to some extent. However, the final outcome will be known only after the contestants file their nominations and the elections are held.

DIGVIJAYA OPTS OUT, TO BE PROPOSER FOR KHARGE

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh has opted out of the race for the Congress presidential poll. He will, instead, be a proposer for Mallikarjun Kharge, who is filing nomination on Friday.

I HAVE MY OWN VISION FOR CONG, WILL NOT PULL OUT: THAROOR

After filing nomination for the Congress presidential poll on Friday, Shashi Tharoor said he has his own vision for the party which he will soon share with all the delegates, and that he will not pull out of the race.



Tharoor said that he has submitted nomination papers of six sets. "The papers I have submitted reflect extraordinarily wide range of support extended voluntarily to me by party workers across India from Kashmir to Nagaland." He said he has his own vision for the Congress and will be sending that to all the delegates. Giving clean chit to Gandhis, he said that they are neutral. It is a friendly contest. And the contenders are colleagues and not enemies. "Kharge is a terrific leader. I have mine own ideas," Tharoor said. "I don't want to say anything negative against Kharge. I have a different approach. We are having setbacks for a couple of years in elections," he added. He said the Congress should bring a change in the country which is suffering from the inflation and unemployment.

Teacher's recruitment scam: SC shields Manik Bhattacharya from arrest till October 10

Kolkata | Agencies

Tirinamool Congress legislator and West Bengal Board of Primary Education's (WBBPE) former President Manik Bhattacharya will be able to enjoy the forthcoming Durga Puja festival as the Supreme Court on Friday extended, till October 10, the stay on coercive action, including arrest, against him by the CBI. The hearing at the apex court on the appeal by Bhattacharya for quashing of the Calcutta High Court's order on Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe in primary teachers' recruitment irregularities scam as well as his removal from chair of WBBPE President concluded on Friday.



till October 10, but Bhattacharya will have to cooperate with the central agency in the investigation process. At the same time, the apex court has also refused to put any stay on the CBI enquiry in the matter of the primary teachers' recruitment irregularities. The CBI counsel M.V. Raju informed the apex court that the central agency will complete the investigation process in the matter within the next three months. He also said that the CBI probe is being done following a direction of the Calcutta High Court as per procedures.

UP teacher held under POCSO Act for misbehaving with girl

Lucknow | Agencies

A teacher of a prominent school in Lucknow has been booked under the POCSO Act and detained after a Class 6 girl student accused him of touching her inappropriately during an exam.



The school has terminated the services of the teacher. According to the FIR, the girl complained to her parents about the indecent behaviour of the mathematics teacher during the exam. Her parents then approached the school administration. The parents were called to the school on September 26 and were told that the teacher will also remain present. However, the accused teacher took leave on the day the girl's parents reached the school. The parents then lodged a case with the police. "My daughter complained about the incident to her class teacher and later to co-ordinator of the school, but there was no response," her mother alleged. She said the school administration initially

tried to hush up the case. She also accused the teacher of indulging in similar acts in the past with other girls. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East, Prachi Singh, said that the accused was booked under section of sexual harassment and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. He was detained from Aliganj. "We have taken the statements of the girl before the magistrate and it will be put up with the charge sheet against the accused," she said.

Rahul kicks off Bharat Jodo Yatra in K'taka, says tricolour has no value without Constitution

Chamarajanagar, (Karnataka) | Agencies

After covering Kerala, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday kicked off the Karnataka leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra from Gundlupet town in Chamarajanagar district.



Launching a scathing attack on the ruling BJP in the convention before the launch of Padayatra, Gandhi stated that tricolour has no value without the Constitution. To counter the BJP and RSS's ideology and end the hatred and violence in the country, the Congress has taken up this padyatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, he said. "It is being undertaken to protect the constitution. There is no place for any kind of hatred or violence in it. If someone falls, without enquiring about his religion, caste and language, he will be lifted up," Gandhi added. "This is our Hindustan, bhaichara

ka Hindustan (country of brotherhood). This rally can't be stopped. No force can stop the padayatra and this is the strength of this country," he maintained. During the yatra, which starts in

the morning and continues till evening, the people meet us and share their woes. They talk about unemployment, atrocities on farmers, privatisation of PSUs, Poora Hindustan, apna dard batata hai (the

whole country is pouring out woes) he said. The intention of the yatra is not to give long speeches. It is an opportunity for the people to talk. Questions are raised on why this yatra is being taken up? Under democracy, there are various institutions like the media, parliament. But, all roads are closed for the opposition party, Gandhi stated. When they rise to speak in Parliament, their mikes are muted and if anyone tries to voice concerns they are jailed. There is no other way left but to take up yatra, he said. This yatra can't be stopped. The voice of Hindustan can't be stopped, he reiterated. Thanking party workers for gathering in large numbers, he welcomed them to join the yatra with him. "When you walk with me, you will know about corruption, unemployment and inflation in Karnataka," he said.

ADOPTED FOUR-FOLD STRATEGY TO MAKE ROADS SAFER: ODISHA CM

Team Absolute | Bhubaneswar

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday said that road safety is a high priority area for his government and the state has adopted a four-fold strategy to make the roads safer -- by enforcement, education improvement in road engineering and emergency care. He said this at SAFE convention organised by 'Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers' (SIAM) here. The Chief Minister has inaugurated an exhibition of new safe technologies for automobiles. Highlighting the state's performance in road safety initiatives, he said that Odisha has scored 66 per cent and categorized as 'high performer' in implementing road safety measures during an audit conducted by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety.



"The Supreme Court Committee has also rated some of our initiatives as best practices and suggested recommendations to neighbouring states. Our government has started a

Reward scheme for the people who help road accident victims. I am happy to share that more and more people are coming forward to help the road accident victims," Patnaik

said. He thanked the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers for organising this event in collaboration with the state transport department. The convention will be a great occasion to address issues of road safety, environmental concerns and sharing solutions, he added. Focussing on safety technologies, he said, with changing trends in the mobility sector, new technologies are being introduced for better and safer driving experiences. "It would be indeed a great experience here to know about new technologies behind safer and high-performing vehicles." Stating that road accidents are a serious cause of concern for all, Patnaik said many people lose their lives in road accidents across the country, including Odisha, every year. "This has a serious impact on families and the state's economy," he pointed out.

Three Uttar Pradesh doctors booked for gang rape

Basti | Agencies

Three doctors of a hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Basti district have been booked for gang rape. According to reports, a Lucknow woman approached the SSP of Basti district and handed over her complaint alleging that the accused gang raped her after one of them befriended her on a social media platform around seven weeks ago. The Basti police have registered an FIR under the IPC sections 376-D for gang rape, 504 for insulting and 506 for criminal intimidation at Sadar police station. An investigation in the matter was initiated on Thursday. Circle Officer (CO) City, Alok Prasad said that the FIR has been registered against two doctors posted at Kaili Hospital in Basti and their doctor friend in this con-

nection to the complaint provided by the woman. He said the police are further investigating the matter and the medical examination of the woman as well as the process of recording her statement under CrPC section 164 before the judicial magistrate is under process. The CO said so far, no arrests have been made in the matter and it will be done as per the findings of the investigation. In her complaint, the woman said that one Dr Siddharth working with Kaili hospital befriended her on the social media website and she visited Basti to meet him on August 10. She alleged that the doctor took her to a room in the hostel of Kaili hospital and forcibly made sexual relations. She alleged that the doctor then called up his two other friends, and they also raped her.

Two killed, five injured in Vadodara building blast



Vadodara | Agencies

Two persons were killed and five others injured in a blast in a tenement in Vadodara city on Friday, officials said. The injured persons were rushed to government hospital for treatment. Vadodara Fire Officer

Amit Chaudhary told IANS that they received a call about a blast in tenement number 106 of Dev Nagar society. When the team reached the spot, the house had almost collapsed, and adjacent tenement 105's wall too had collapsed because of blast impact. Seven persons were

trapped under the debris, and were rescued and taken to a government hospital for treatment where two were declared dead. Chaudhary said the cause of the blast was not ascertained as the fire team could not enter the house, since its roof was likely to collapse any time. Once it is completely demolished, the fire team can investigate. Injured neighbours were claiming that it was a LPG cylinder blast and impact was so heavy that adjacent houses, up to 20 to 30 feet away, suffered damages. The house is owned by Jayesh Jain and his mother Shankuntlaben and neighbour's wife Lilaben Chauhan died in the incident. Jain, his son Dhruvesh, neighbours Dipak Chauhan, and Bhavnaben Gohil were among the injured.

'Make 6 airbags mandatory only when 85% people start wearing rear seat belts'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Welcoming the announcement by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on deferring the decision of making six airbags mandatory till October 1, 2023, International Road Federation (IRF), a global road safety body, has said this provision should not be time-bound but governed by the survey, indicating how many people are wearing rear seat belts. "The six airbags in passenger vehicles should be made mandatory once 85 per cent of the people start wearing rear seat belts. Once this figure crosses 85 per cent pan India, the government should go ahead making this provision of six airbags. Otherwise, it will become counterproductive and we will loose more



lives," said K.K. Kapila, President Emeritus, International Road Federation (IRF). "A clarification to this effect may kindly be issued by the Ministry to give the right indication to the peo-

ple that if you want to save your lives, please wear seat belts. Unless people start wearing rear seat belts, the provision of six airbags will become counterproductive leading to more fatal accident. In a crash, seat belts

are primary restraint devices whereas airbags are supplemental support. Rather, several global studies have shown that if an airbag is deployed without having the seat belt on, it can cause severe injuries and even

death," said Kapila. According to MoRTH data, in 70 per cent of the 2-wheeler accident deaths, victims were found not wearing helmets; and in 87 per cent of the car accident deaths, victims were found not wearing seat belts. Sadly, 96 per cent of car passengers do not wear seat belts on the backseat. "It is high time that we move away from the populist ideology of mandating regulations, safety devices like six airbags, but bite the bitter pill of enforcement and penalties that may affect masses. Of course, harsh measures will face resistance and give discomfort initially, but eventually they will become a habit," Kapila added. "The IRF will prepare a one to one and a half minute film to highlight this point for screening on Cinema Halls and Television Network," he added.



VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TO RUN FOR SIX DAYS A WEEK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Vande Bharat Superfast Express train which Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be flagging off on Friday morning will run six days a week between Mumbai Central and Gandhi Nagar stations, Western Railway said.

In a late evening release on Thursday, it said that Vande Bharat Superfast Express will run six days a week except Sundays. The train will depart from Mumbai Central at 6.10 am and reach Gandhi Nagar at 12.30 pm. It will depart from Gandhi Nagar at 2.05 pm and arrive at Mumbai Central at 8.35 pm, the release said.

It will halt at Surat, Vadodara and

Ahmedabad stations in both directions. The train comprises AC Chair Car and Executive Chair Car compartments and will offer facilities such as sliding doors, personalized reading lights, mobile charging points, attendant call buttons, bio-toilets, automatic entry and exit doors, CCTV cameras, reclining facility and comfortable seats, the release said.

The fare for Mumbai-Ahmedabad journey by executive chair car will be Rs 2,505 while that for chair car will be Rs 1,385. Western Railway has revised the schedule and destination of the Shatabdi Express to accommodate the new train.

Shatabdi Express will now depart from Mumbai Central at 06.20 am instead of 06.10 am. It will reach Ahmedabad at 12.45 pm instead of 12.25 pm, the release said.

ED: 3 TV channels indulged in financial 'hera-pheri', money laundering

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed that three private television channels -- 'Fakht Marathi', 'Box Cinema' and 'Mahamovie' -- their owners and companies, had allegedly indulged in financial misappropriation and money laundering, as per its investigations into the Television Rating Points (TRP) scam.

The accused had used their companies as the vehicle for money laundering, diverted or invested in other sectors to profit personally from the proceeds of the crime, according to the agency, which is investigating the TRP scam and its pan-India tentacles. All the accused in the massive scam -- running into several hundreds of crores of rupees -- had conspired to manipulate the minuscule statistical data of merely 1,800 households in Mumbai, 45,000 in India, to "recreate" the viewing patterns of a whopping 197 million homes.

The ED said that Pattanshetty and his partner Singhal "connived and conspired" with several of the 16 co-accused by giving money to the viewers to boost the viewership (TRP) of Fakht Marathi to generate advertising revenues, with the help from many former officials of the Hansa Research Group (HRG). "He (Pattanshetty) is the prime conspirator who devised the entire manner and the mode of



the fraud, conspiring with the other accused for accumulating more advertisement revenue," said the ED.

The proceeds of the crime were siphoned off by Pattanshetty and Singhal, laundered through various means like buying properties, office and operating expenses or ploughing back a portion of the same money for generating more ad revenues to continue the swindling.

Pattanshetty and Singhal had "full knowledge of the frauds", were "active

participants" in the misdoings, but they deliberately projected it as 'untainted' and used the money -- laundered through Lotus Enterprises -- for their personal gains, said the ED.

A near-identical modus operandi has been detected for the other accused -- Sharma and Singh of Mahamovie channel and Narayan Sharma of Box Cinema channel, the ED said in its charge sheet.

By manipulating the data of a few

households at a nominal expense -- with payments ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 10,000 per household -- the scammers managed to not only attract massive advertising revenues but increase the valuation of the concerned companies' shares, said the ED. "It is very difficult to pinpoint as to when these manipulations started, but various channel owners gamed this system and manipulated (it) for a considerable period of time," admitted the ED.

Man kills friend, attacks two others after being stopped from dancing at Garba

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocking incident, a man allegedly killed one of his friend and seriously injured two others after he smashed their heads with a hammer while they were asleep, the police said. The incident took place on September 27 morning in Sai Nagar of Rabale, MIDC. The man was upset after being stopped by his friends from dancing in a Garba event, an official said.

The official added that, he was arrested later by Rabale MIDC Police.

According to the police, on September 26 night, four friends- Abhishek Bhalerao, Jitendra Patwa, Akash Jaiswal, Rashid Khan met and had drinks together. While going back to their home, they came across a Durga Pandal. Patwa wanted to dance in the pandal but others resisted as they all were drunk. Patwa had been upset with his friends stopping him from dancing. They later went to a house in Sai Nagar area and went to sleep.

In early morning, Patwa woke up and got hold of an iron hammer and started



hitting his sleeping friends. In the attack Akash Jaiswal got severely injured while other friends also sustained injuries. Khan and Bhalerao ran out of the house and saved themselves. They somehow managed to take Jaiswal along with them and rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead on arrival, the official said.

"As soon as we got information about

the incident, we immediately launched hunt for accused and nabbed him within a couple of hours. The accused was booked under sections 302 (murder) and 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC," said DCP (Zone 1) Vivek Pansare. He added, "one of the injured while 2 have been seriously wounded and in hospital" he added.

WOMAN BEATS TODDLER STEPSON TO DEATH IN DOMBIVLI, HELD

Mumbai: A woman allegedly beat up her three-and-half-year-old stepson to death in Dombivili town of Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Friday. The police on Thursday arrested Amitadevi Sanjay Jaiswal (28) under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code, an official from Tilak Nagar police station said. The incident took place on Wednesday when the boy's father found him in an injured state and rushed him to a local hospital, he said. The boy's condition turned critical and he was shifted to the civic hospital in Kalwa, where doctors declared him brought dead, the official said. A case of accidental death was registered and a probe was initiated, he said. Investigations revealed that Amitadevi had allegedly punched, kicked and beaten up the child with a wire, the official said. The motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained and further investigations are underway, inspector Suresh Sarde of Tilak Nagar police station said.



Mumbai would be transformed in 90 days under Swachha Maharashtra campaign: CM Eknath Shinde

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai would be transformed within 90 days under the new urban renewal plan unveiled by the state government, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Friday, according to the PTI.

CM Shinde was speaking after the launch of the Swachha Maharashtra Abhiyan (Urban) 2.0 in Mumbai.

He said, "cleanliness in cities should become a mass movement." He added that sanitation workers are the brand ambassadors of the new campaign.

His government has prepared an ambitious plan for Mumbai's transformation under which 450 roads will be concretised and the health infrastructure in the city will be strengthened, the chief minister said.



Speaking on the occasion, deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said cities are centres of growth which generate employment.

Under the Swachha Maharashtra campaign, the state's urban areas would be completely transformed, he said. The campaign is modelled on the Union government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It will be carried out from October 2 to December 31 and best-performing cities will get prizes.

RBI to write to government on inflation after MPC meet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet and decide on the letter that it would write to the government on not meeting the four per cent inflation target, central bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday.

Queried about the letter that the central bank would write to the government, he said that the MPC will have to meet before penning a letter to the government.

However, he said it is a privileged communication between the RBI and the gov-



ernment, and the RBI will not make the letter public, he said. Das also said there is no legal stipulation on the frequency of the communication between the RBI and the government. He also said the

inflation rate is expected to come down to four per cent in two years time, and there are many uncertainties.

The RBI has pegged the inflation rate at 6.7 per cent for FY23.

Woman Maoist killed in Maha jungle encounter, weapons recovered

Team Absolute | Gadchiroli

A woman Maoist was killed in an encounter between security forces and the red rebels in Kapewancha forests in Aheri subdivision, Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal said on Friday.

Following a tip-off that 30-40 Maoists of the banned CPI (Maoist) from the Aheri and Permili groups were planning to carry out attacks in the area, security forces launched anti-Maoist operations late on Wednesday evening.

"The crack commandos of the C-60 squad were carrying out searches in the forest when the hidden extremists suddenly opened fire at them," said Goyal. "The C-60 commandos



appealed to the Maoists to stop the firing and surrender, but they did not and continued shooting. The C-60 commandos retaliated with vigour in self-defence," Goyal added.

The Maoists took advantage of the thick forest cover and fled the scene.

After the encounter ended, security forces carried out a combing operation in the region and found the body of a woman Maoist, clad in a dark green uniform, whose identity is being ascertained.

"They also recovered an 8 mm rifle, ammunition and daily essential items from the spot. Further investigation is on," said Goyal. This takes the number of Maoists killed to 55, besides 46 arrests, and 19 who surrendered from October 2020 till date.

Banjara community leaders from Beed, Yavatmal join Thackeray's Shiv Sena

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena President and ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday welcomed several prominent Banjara community leaders who joined the party, along with a large number of their supporters. They include Ravikant Rathod, a senior leader of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), and Mahant Sunil Maharaj of the Poharadevi Temple in Yavatmal, and a dozen other leaders, who tied the 'Shiv bandhan' in the presence of Thackeray and other

leaders. The new entrants enjoy a considerable clout in the Banjara community - a denotified nomadic tribe spread in different parts of Maharashtra, say Sena officials.

Rathod, hailing from Beed district was the second-in-command to the VBA founder Dr. Prakash Ambedkar, the grandson of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution. Mahant Sunil Maharaj is a known figure in Yavatmal who could pose a tough challenge to the rebel Sena leader and now a Cabinet



Minister, Sanjay Rathod, elected from Digras seat. Sanjay Rathod was the Banjara face of the Shiv

Sena who had to quit the Thackeray ministry two years ago, and later joined hands with

Eknath Shinde who became Chief Minister in June after the Maha Vikas Aghadi government was toppled. Upon joining the Sena, the Banjara leaders said that the problems of their community were not resolved by the VBA and hence they decided to join the Thackeray-led mainstream party which could address their issues effectively.

Both Dr. Ambedkar and Sanjay Rathod downplayed the developments saying in a democracy, everybody had a right to join any party and a few persons leaving them would not affect their organisations much.

Banks will increase interest rates on deposits

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With bank credit picking up and interest rates for other savings schemes increased by the government, commercial banks will increase the interest rates on deposits, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said. Queried about banks passing on the interest rate hikes to their borrowers while not increasing their deposit rates, he said that the bank credit is picking up and they will be needing funds.

There is adequate liquidity available in the system, about Rs 5 lakh crore, he said.



The Centre has hiked interest rate for senior citizen savings scheme to 7.6 per cent and for Kisan Vikas Patra to 7 per cent. Similarly the two- and three-year time deposit with post offices have been increased to 5.8 per cent and 5.7 per cent.



EDITOR'S SPECS

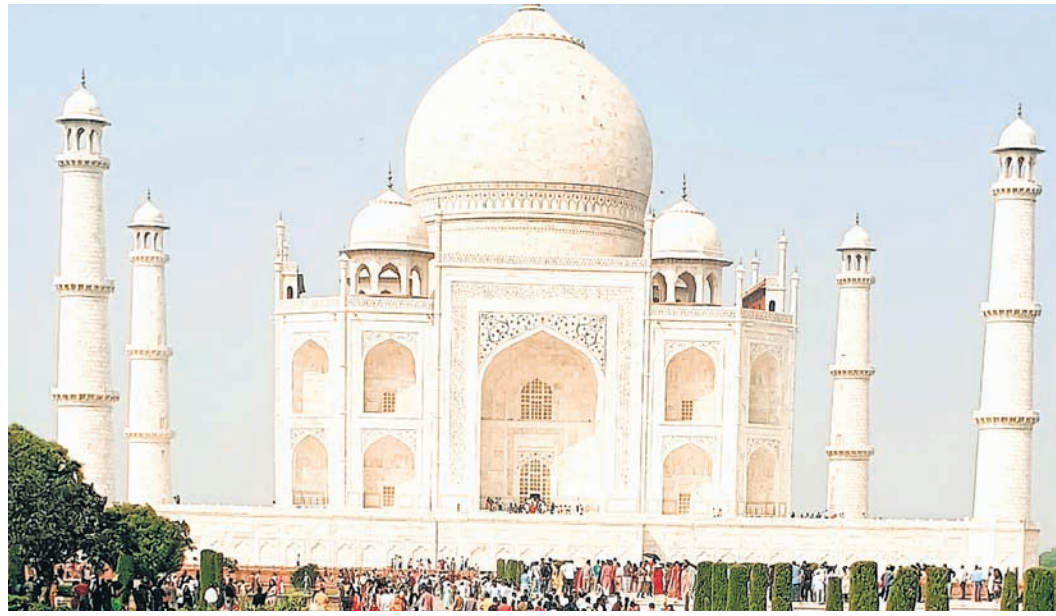
Noose tightens around terrorist supporters

For 32-years terrorist supporters in Jammu and Kashmir had a free run. Dispensations headed by politicians in the Himalayan region didn't frame any stringent laws against the terror supporters and allowed them to get away with everything. However, after August 5, 2019 -- when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate J&K's special status and bifurcated the erstwhile princely state into two Union Territories -- the situation changed as the government tightened its noose against the terrorists and their supporters with an aim to shatter their ecosystem, which allowed them to keep the pot boiling for three decades. To hit the terrorists hard the security agencies launched a massive crackdown against their sympathizers who used to facilitate terrorists by providing them with logistic support, food, shelter, transport, etc. The stringent measures that have been taken during the past three years have destroyed the ecosystem of ultras. This has allowed a common man in the Himalayan region to heave a sigh of relief as the Pakistan sponsored terrorism is weaning off. In 2021, Jammu and Kashmir Police had accorded sanction for the seizure of 75 vehicles, five houses, six shops, land, and cash under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Incidents of providing shelter to terrorists willfully have declined and in case the terrorists forcibly enter into the houses of people they inform the Police. This has led to terrorists staying away from the mainland. Steps taken by the government have made it difficult for the terrorists to operate freely. A common man in J&K by his actions has proven that terrorists and terrorism were imposed on him by Pakistan. Willfully people of J&K didn't support terrorism. Now, they are no more scared of gun as they are taking the terrorists head on and are not allowing them to use a common Kashmiri as a tool.

TAJ MAHAL DAZZLES AFTER RECENT RAINS AS YAMUNA LEVEL RISES

BRIJ KHANDELWAL

With the second spell of monsoon rains last week, the dry and polluted Yamuna River is again in full flow, adding visual delight to tourists' experience at the rain-washed Taj Mahal and the Etmauddaula. "Yamuna's lost glory has been restored. The river has sprung back to life drawing thousands of cheering people to its banks," said Devashish Bhattacharya of the River Connect Campaign. Will there be a flood? How long this beautiful scene with the river flowing full to the brim will continue to inspire and fascinate us? These are the questions everyone is asking. The rain washed Taj Mahal against a clear, blue skyline dazzles, as tourists, express awe and wonder. The Yamuna at the rear of the Taj Mahal has transformed the ambience as the lush green vegetation around the Mehtaab Bagh all the way to the Agra Fort and beyond is a delight to watch. The controversial Taj Corridor is now a sprawling green buffer between the Taj and the Fort, both world heritage monuments. The picturesque skyline against a full flowing Yamuna is an experience that tourists shall never forget. Pandit Jugal Kishor Kishore of the Sri Mathuradheesh temple along the river bank said, "From a sickly sewage canal, the Yamuna River stands as a vibrant and attractive water body which is the lifeline of the city. Heaps of garbage that had accumulated along the banks have disappeared. The banks are now cleaner and greener, thanks to the monsoon rains. The chirping birds are back and people stop by for a while to enjoy the spectacle of the Yamuna in its pristine glory." It is worth recalling that the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built



the Taj Mahal because of the Yamuna River, but in the past few decades, due to lack of fresh water and pollution by industries, the river has lost its charm and ancient glory. For most part of the year the Yamuna remains dry and polluted as upstream barrages from Hathini Kund to Wazirabad, Okhla and Gokul hold back all the water. The downstream cities suffer as a result. Environmentalist Devashish Bhattacharya says there is an urgent need to ensure a minimum flow of water round the year so that the river remains alive and sustains the precious aqua life. Over 500 years ago, it was the grandeur of the Yamuna that had attracted the founder of the Mughal dynasty to open shops in Agra. In later years, his descendants built some of the magnificent monuments like the Taj Mahal and the Etmauddaula along its banks. While the younger folk have generally stayed away from the stinking river which holds no charm for them, people of the older generations do occasionally venture out to conduct ritualistic pujas and baths.

Unfortunately the dozen-odd ghats along the riverfront, which once was the centre of a thriving commercial activity and river culture, have disappeared without a trace, reducing the 20 km-long riverfront to a vast wasteland, Bhattacharya adds. "We all know that all great civilizations in the world developed along river banks. The rivers have been sustaining life in its various manifestations and glory. The importance of rivers in India can be understood by one simple fact that almost all rivers are worshipped as goddesses," green activist Padmini Iyer said. Yamuna, the consort of Sri Krishna has played a significant role in shaping the history of India right from the days of the Mahabharat till today. An interesting fact about Yamuna is that it has a richer history and a valuable contribution to enriching culture, art, architecture and commerce, compared to river Ganga. Starting in Uttarkashi district in the Himalayas from Yamunotri glacier, it enters Dehradun, flows close

to Jagdhari and Yamuna Nagar in Himachal, separates Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, enters Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, touches Kurukshetra, Karnal, Sonapat, and the famous battleground of Panipat. The epic Mahabharata was written on its bank, Saint Parasher and Satyawati gave birth to Ved Vyas, Raja Bharat and the father of Bhisma Shantanu organised great Yagnas, and for thousands of years' great saints and thinkers lived in ashrams along the Yamuna banks. Leaving Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, the river enters Delhi which for 2,000 years has been the seat of power and politics. The Mughals and later the British built dozens of monuments and forts. The river once again enters Haryana and three of its big industrial clusters, Ballabgarh, Faridabad and Palwal depend on its water. Once it enters Uttar Pradesh, the river's profile changes as a whole mythology is woven around the Yamuna. Sri Krishna lore would be incom-

plete without the river. From Vrindavan to Batehsvar in Agra district, it is Sri Krishna and Radha and their leelas that sustain literature, culture, faith and philosophy. Vallabhacharya, the blind bard of Braj Bhasha Soor Das, the mediaval Bhakti movement and the Meera tradition blossomed along the Yamuna banks. As the river leaves Mathura it enters the famous Renuka Dham. Renuka was the mother of lord Parshu Ram. A little distance away the river suddenly takes an eastern turn as it enters Agra, the capital of the Mughals. The river is now joined by half a dozen other smaller rivers like Parvati, Khari, Utangan, Gambhir. Beyond Agra rivers Betwa and Chambal merge into Yamuna which eventually joins Ganga in Prayagraj. No other river in the world has a richer history, culture or religious significance and as the sister of Yamraj, the god of death, its star status in Indian mythological tradition is permanently etched. Yamuna finds mention in Rig Veda, the founder of the Mughal dynasty Babar was lyrical about the quality of Yamuna water confirmed by medieval historians and foreign travellers. Both Abul Fazal and Lahauri have written extensively about the Yamuna water. It was the Yamuna water that compelled Shah Jahan to build his dream monument the Taj Mahal along its bank. Pandit Jagannath, wrote the famous Ganga Lahri. But in praise of Yamuna he wrote the Amrit Lahri, such was the quality of its water. But what of today? How do we describe Yamuna today? A sewage canal, a drain, a big gutter, a civilisational sink? From the life giving Amrit to death dispensing poison, has been the cruel tale of this river which even in its dying stages is sustaining the life of millions of people.

international

19 DEAD IN SUICIDE BLAST AT KABUL EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

Kabul | New York

At least 19 people were killed and 27 others injured on Friday in a suicide blast at an education centre in Kabul, a police spokesman in the Afghan capital confirmed. "Students were preparing for an exam when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at the centre. Unfortunately, 19 people have died and 27 others wounded," Xinhua news agency quoted Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran as saying. No group or individual have claimed responsibility for the attack at the private Kaaj education centre located in Police District 13, which teaches both male and female students. In response to the attack,



the Taliban-run Afghan government said security teams were at the blast site and condemned the attack. Interior Minister spokesman Abdul Nafy Takor said attacking civilian targets "proves the enemy's inhuman cruelty and lack of moral standards", the BBC reported. Footage on local TV and shared on social media

appeared to show scenes from a nearby hospital, where rows of covered bodies were laid out on the floor. Other media reportedly from the site of the private college showed rubble and overturned tables in the damaged classrooms. A week ago, a similar blast in Kabul claimed seven lives and injured 41 others.

20 INJURED IN BALOCHISTAN MARKET BLAST

Quetta: At least 20 people were injured in an explosion in the main market of Balochistan's Kohlu district on Friday, an official in the Pakistani province confirmed. According to Balochistan Education Minister Mir Naseebullah Marri, the injured were moved to the Kohlu District Headquarters Hospital. "Twelve people are in critical condition," he told Dawn news. Marri said that a medical emergency has been imposed at the hospital and medical aid is being provided to the injured people. "If the condition of the injured worsens, they will be shifted to Multan for medical aid," he added. Meanwhile, police and other law enforcement agencies have cordoned off the area. Authorities are trying to ascertain the cause of the blast.

Pak PM House combed, debugged after audio leak

Islamabad | Agencies

A high-powered committee constituted to probe the leak of informal conversations from the Prime Minister's House in Pakistan is said to have combed and debugged the entire premises, a confirmed source said. "They have conducted thorough inspection of the building," the source told Dawn news. The team was also monitoring mobile phone data and laptops of employees and officers of the Prime Minister's House and Office. Following a series of audio leaks over the last week, also featuring Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz and former premier Imran Khan, a new standard operating procedure (SOP) has been implemented under which no staff and officer was allowed to take their mobile phone inside the building. "The phones are collected at the

entrance and returned after office hours," the source further told Dawn news. Meanwhile, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said in a press conference on Thursday that state institutions had conducted an exercise to secure the PMO's security, and confirmed some SOP of the Prime Minister's House's security had been changed. He also said legislation was the need of the hour in the context of modern technology, especially cyber security. "Many sensitive matters are discussed in important places where the environment should be such that everyone is 100 per cent satisfied with making national decisions in a secure



environment," he commented. The Minister further said talks regarding a "cleansing process" were under way, and the government was mulling over the steps to take in the future. Basic SOP was already in place for sensitive buildings and further orders have been given to make the security measures effective and prevent such breaches in the future, Tarar added.

JAPAN'S JOBLESS RATE DROPS

Tokyo: Japan's jobless rate dropped to 2.5 per cent in August, the government said in a report on Friday. The unemployment rate edged down from 2.6 per cent in July, Xinhua news agency quoted the report by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications as saying. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in a separate report said Friday that the job availability ratio was up 0.03 point from the previous month to stand at 1.32 in August. This equates to there being 132 job openings for every 100 people seeking employment. According to the statistics bureau's seasonally-adjusted data, in August the total number of people out of work stood at 1.75 million, which was 10,000 less from the previous month. Those leaving their jobs of their own volition totaled 690,000, down 8.0 per cent from the previous month, the report showed.

India urges Nepal to check entry of Chinese, Pak nationals through border

Kathmandu | Agencies

India's Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) has requested Nepal to stop the entry of Pakistani and Chinese nationals into India through the Nepal-India border points. SSB Director General Sujoy Lal Thaoson, who is on a five-day visit to Nepal, made this request during his meeting with Raju Aryal, Inspector General of the Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal, according to Nepali media reports. The concerns were raised during the sixth Nepal-India meeting on border security, management, and coordination, which started on Tuesday, and concluded on Thursday evening in Kathmandu. The citizens of Pakistan and China have been entering India after engaging in illegal



activities in the Nepal-India border areas, said one report citing highly-placed officials of APF who attended the meeting quoted SSB Director General Thaoson as saying in the meeting that the Armed Police Force should play a role to prevent them from entering India. However, the APF said in a statement that both sides have agreed to strengthen border

security cooperation, and cross-border criminal activities and agreed to share the relevant information and communications between the two entities. In the meeting, Thaoson proposed that Nepal should stop the entry of third-country citizens into India and their illegal activities. In response, APF Inspector General Aryal said that there is no anti-India activity on

Nepali soil and that people from third countries have not entered India through the Nepal-India border. "But the Indian side did not seem to agree with Nepal's assurance and said that as the citizens of third countries were seen entering India from Nepal, they insisted that it should be stopped anyway," said a highly-placed APF official. According to the report, the Indian side complained that citizens of China and Pakistan enter India through the porous Nepal-India border to carry out illegal activities. "Indian security personnel have arrested a Pakistani who entered from the Bhitamod area a few months ago. In the meeting, the Indian side presented this as an example", said a source who was present in the meeting.

UN STEPS UP EFFORTS TO EXTEND YEMEN TRUCE SET TO EXPIRE

Sanaa | Agencies

The UN, through its special envoy to Yemen Hans Grundberg, has stepped up diplomatic efforts to renew the existing truce between Yemen's warring parties to prevent any resumption of the country's years-long military conflict. The UN-brokered truce between the Yemeni government and the Houthi rebels went into force on April 2, and was later renewed twice through October 2, reports Xinhua news agency. Currently, the world body is racing against time to persuade the Yemeni warring parties and regional powers to extend the truce for an extra six months. In addition to extending the ceasefire agreement, the UN also seeks to expand its provisions. Under the UN auspices, the Yemeni warring parties previously agreed to halt all offensive military air, ground and maritime operations both within the country and across its borders. They have also consented to the entry of fuel ships into Hodeidah ports and the operation of commercial



flights into and out of Sanaa airport to pre-determined destinations in the region. According to the ceasefire agreement, the parties also agreed to meet under the UN auspices to discuss solutions regarding the opening of blocked roads into the besieged city of Taiz and other provinces in Yemen. "The UN envoy left Sanaa's airport during the past hours and headed to Jordan following his meetings with the Houthi leaders, who laid down a number of conditions for agreeing to a truce extension," a local Yemeni official told Xinhua on Thursday. "The UN envoy left without receiving a clear response from the Houthi leaders regarding the UN proposal for a six-month extension of the truce."



Digvijaya opts out of Cong prez poll race, to be proposer for Kharge

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh has opted out of the race for the Congress presidential poll. He will, instead, be a proposer for Mallikarjun Kharge, who is filing nomination on Friday.

Speaking to the media, Singh said, "He is our senior and I have told him that I will be your proposer and my commitment is towards the Congress and the Nehru-Gandhi family."

Another Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said, "I am going to sign papers for Khargeji."

Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge will file his nomination for the party presidential polls after meeting interim president Sonia Gandhi on Friday, the last day of filing nomination papers for the post. Earlier in the day, Congress'



Digvijaya Singh met Kharge at the latter's residence after Kharge emerged as the top choice of Gandhis for the party presidential polls. It is being said that after Kharge's name cropped up, Singh decided to withdraw from

the race. Late Thursday night, the G-23 leaders, including Manish Tewari, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Prithviraj Chavan met at Anand Sharma's residence, but did not divulge details of

DIGVIJAYA TOLD ME IN MORNING HE WILL NOT CONTEST PREZ POLLS: KAMAL NATH

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee chief Kamal Nath said on Friday that he knew that Digvijaya Singh will not contest the election for the party's president. He claimed that Singh himself conveyed to him this morning that he would not file his nomination as Mallikarjun Kharge was contesting the election. Kamal Nath made this statement here in Bhopal soon after Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh backed out of the race after the entry of Kharge. The state Congress chief also made it clear that he would support Kharge.

the meeting. Now that Mallikarjun Kharge has thrown his hat in the ring, it is likely that there may be a bipolar contest with Shashi Tharoor also filing his nomination.



Mahakal corridor of Ujjain temple to be inaugurated by PM Modi on Oct 11

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Expanded and newly constructed Mahakal Corridor in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, which has been designed on the basis of 'Shiv Leela' (108 murals and 93 statues depicting stories related to Lord Shiva), will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 6 p.m. on October 11, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Friday. The newly developed area, which is a part of the Ujjain Mahakaleswar temple has been named 'Shri Mahakal Lok', Chouhan said during a video address. He also appealed to the people to participate in the prayer in their homes or at nearby temples.

"After Kedarnath and Kashi Vishwanath, it would be a special occasion for Lord Shiva's devotees to witness the extension of Ujjain's Mahakaleswar temple. PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'Sri Mahakal Lok', people visiting here will find a glimpse of Shiva Leela," Chouhan added.

Notably, the expansion is being done (first phase completed, two more phases to go) under Mahakal Maharaj Mandir Parisar Vistar Yojna



of the Madhya Pradesh government, which includes expansion, beautification, and decongestion of the Mahakaleswar temple and its adjoining area.

Under the plan, the Mahakaleswar temple premise of around 2.82 hectares is being increased to 47 hectares, which will be developed in two phases by the Ujjain district administration. This will include the 17 hectares of Rudrasagar Lake. The project is expected to increase an annual footfall in the city from the current 1.50 crore to nearly three crore.

One of the aspects of the Vistar Yojna's first phase is a visitor plaza with two entrances or 'Dwaars' -- the Nandi Dwaar and the Pinaki Dwaar. The visitor plaza can hold up to 20,000 pilgrims at

a time. A circulation plan to reduce congestion has also been developed, keeping in mind the entry of visitors into the city and their movement up to the temple.

A 900-metre pedestrian corridor has also been constructed, connecting the plaza to the Mahakal temple, dotted with 108 murals and 93 statues depicting stories related to Lord Shiva, such as Shiv Vivah, Tripurasur Vadha, Shiv Puran, and Shiv Tandav Swaroop. The second phase, which will cost around Rs 310.22 crore, includes expansion of the eastern and northern fronts of the temple. It also includes development of various areas of Ujjain city, such as Maharajwada, Mahal Gate, Hari Phatak Bridge, Ramghat facade, and Begam Bagh Road.

TIGER RESERVES WILL WELCOME TOURISTS FROM TODAY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Good news for wildlife lovers and tourists in Madhya Pradesh: All six tiger reserves located across the state will allow visitors from today. MP's tiger's reserves were shut for three months due to monsoons.

Officials in Madhya Pradesh Forest Department said that the preparations for reopening tiger reserves are complete. Stretches that were damaged due to heavy rains have been revamped in all tiger reserves.

Out of 52 tiger reserves in India, six of them are located in Madhya Pradesh. Known as tiger state with 526 big cats in its reserves, the state sees a large number of visitors every year.

"Tiger reserves were closed for three months due to heavy rain in Madhya Pradesh. They will reopen for visitors from October 1," said a wildlife official in Bhopal.

Kanha Tiger Reserve is located in Mandla and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, which is the one of the oldest



reserves is located in Rewa. Similarly, Satpura Tiger Reserve, which is known for number of species of wild animals and birds, is located in Narmadapuram (Hoshangabad) district.

Pench Tiger Reserve is located in Chhindwara and Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh and also shares the forest area of neighbouring Maharashtra

(Nagpur).

Panna Tigers reserve is located in Chhatar and Panna districts. It is also close to MP's only Hill station Pachmarhi. Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve is located in dense forests of Sidhi district and it connect with neighbouring Chhattisgarh's forest area.

Besides these, Madhya Pradesh also has as many as 10 national parks including Kuno, where eight Namibian cheetahs were released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17.

Other than the highest number of tigers - 526 (according to Tiger Census in 2018), Madhya Pradesh is also known for highest number of Leopards - 3,421 - in different sanctuaries across the state.

There are 25 wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh and 30 per cent area of the state is reserve under forest zone.

As per the All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018, the state is home to 526 tigers, the highest for any state in the country. However, Madhya Pradesh also registers maximum number of death of wild animals almost every year.

CM will give incentive money to college-going Ladli Laxmis

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the preparations for various public welfare programmes and campaigns starting from 30 September to 8 October in the state. CM Chouhan said that necessary preparations should be made for these works for the welfare of students, Ladli Laxmis and to save people from drug addiction. Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Director General of Jan Abhiyan Parishad B. R. Naidu and senior officials of the departments concerned were present. Incentive amount to girls who have taken admission in college under Ladli Laxmi Yojana 2.0

CM Chouhan reviewed the preparations for the state level program for distribution of incentives to the girls who have taken admission in colleges under Ladli Laxmi Yojna 2.0 at Rabindra Bhawan Auditorium (New Convention Hall) on October 8. Along with this, discus-



sions were also held in the meeting regarding the programmes being held at the district level. Through this programme, all the girls and their parents who have benefited from Ladli Laxmi Yojana of the state should also be connected through mediums like TV, webcast, Ladli-App, YouTube and mobile. Social media should also be used to promote the programme.

CM Chouhan said that this scheme, which was started in Madhya Pradesh, was later implemented by other states in a different way. Madhya Pradesh is the state that start-

ed the scheme. Funds for laptops to meritorious students

CM Chouhan also sought information from senior officers of the School Education Department and Collector Bhopal about the preparations for the programme to honor meritorious students and to provide money for laptops at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal.

It is noteworthy that such students, who have secured 75 percent or more marks in class 12th, will be benefitted by providing funds for laptops.

Posters also imposed Entry ban of non-Hindus in Garba pandal in MP

Team Absolute | Ujjain

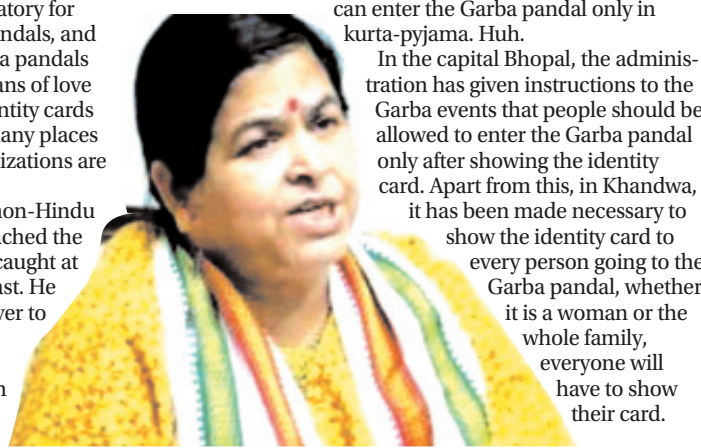
In large parts of Madhya Pradesh, entry of non-Hindus in Garba pandal has been banned, not only this, in Ujjain, tilak is also being applied along with seeing the identity card. Apart from this, posters prohibiting the entry of non-Hindus have also been put up. Even before the start of Navratri festival in the state, the debate over the entry of Garba venues had started. State Culture Minister Usha Thakur had insisted on making identity card mandatory for entry into Garba pandals, and even said that Garba pandals have become a means of love jihad. After that identity cards are being seen in many places and Hinduist organizations are also active.

In Indore, eight non-Hindu youths who had reached the Garba venue were caught at two places in the past. He was later handed over to the police. He is accused of making obscene remarks on girls and women and was

engaged in taking pictures.

Garba festival is going on in Nanakheda area of Ujjain, after showing the identity card to the visitors, tilak is applied and only then entry is given. The Seva Hi Sankalp Sanskriti Samiti has put up a poster at the venue in which it is clearly written that non-Hindus should not enter the pandal. Talking about Narmada Puram, it is mandatory to show the identity card here, as well as a dress code has also been fixed, in which women can come only wearing saree, salwar-suit and men can enter the Garba pandal only in kurta-pyjama. Huh.

In the capital Bhopal, the administration has given instructions to the Garba events that people should be allowed to enter the Garba pandal only after showing the identity card. Apart from this, in Khandwa, it has been made necessary to show the identity card to every person going to the Garba pandal, whether it is a woman or the whole family, everyone will have to show their card.



MP gets 14 lakh lumpy vaccines

Bhopal : As many as 14 lakh goat pox vaccines have been provided to Madhya Pradesh by the central government to keep animals safe from lumpy skin disease. Four focal points, Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior and Ujjain have been earmarked for vaccination. Indore focal point has been provided 5 lakh 34 thousand 762 vaccines Bhopal 3 lakh 45 thousand 690, Gwalior 2 lakh 87 thousand 68 in and Ujjain 2 lakh 32 thousand 480. Vaccines have been given directly to the districts. Veterinarians of the respective districts have been given training through video conferencing. Director Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. RK Mehia has given instructions to vaccinate the cows on a foot footing.

Dr. Mehia has said that ring vaccination should be done on priority in and around the affected village. Efforts must be made to eliminate this challenge as soon as possible by following the guide line issued by the central government and vaccination with constant monitoring. Dr. Mehia said that it is a matter of great relief that till now no buffalo-breed animal has found symptoms of lumpy disease in the state.



CM Chouhan pays homage to Late Madhav Rao Scindia on his death anniversary

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to former Union Minister Late Madhav Rao Scindia on his death anniversary. CM Chouhan also reminisced the contribution made by him in the interest of Madhya Pradesh by offering flowers on the portrait of Late Scindia in the CM's residence hall today. Late Madhav Rao Scindia was born on 10 March 1945 in Mumbai. He was an Indian politician. He received his higher education from Oxford University. He won the election for the first time in the year 1971 at the age of 26. Former Union Minister Scindia was also the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India from 1990 to 1993. Madhav Rao Scindia passed away untimely on September 30, 2001 in an air crash at Mainpuri (U.P.) while travelling from Delhi to Kanpur.

Ailing PHC: No place for institutional deliveries in this MP village

S.R.Pareek | Ratlam (MP)

Sukheda Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Ratlam's Piploa block stands for everything that is wrong with the rural healthcare services in Madhya Pradesh. The six-bedded PHC, which used to manage 15 to 20 deliveries a month almost three years ago, sees none at present, all thanks to the transfer of the lone trained Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) in 2019.

Now, the village women have to travel 60 km to the district headquarters, or 20 km to Jwara or Piploa villages for even basic healthcare. Sukheda has a population of almost 7,000.

Anita of Sukheda shivered as she relived the ordeal she underwent before her second child's delivery. "I was in the eighth month of my pregnancy. One evening, I suddenly began to experience pain. My family members got worried, and they rushed me to Sukheda PHC. Much to our dismay, the staff there redirected us to Ratlam citing lack of facilities." "I was in extreme pain. Though my family repeatedly called 108 ambulance to take me to Ratlam, the service was not available. They then began to frantically search



for a private vehicle. Finally, we got one for Rs 2,000, and just as we crossed 10 km, the baby came out. We then decided to return home," Anita said.

Medical services at Sukheda PHC are in

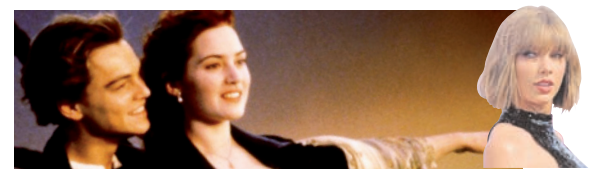
disarray not just due to the lack of trained ANMs. The posts of lab technician, pharmacist and male supervisor are also empty at present. In short, lab machines are useless as no tests can be done in the absence of

trained manpower. Even something as common as medicine for high blood pressure is mostly unavailable here.

A source linked to the PHC said that food was not being provided as the PHC saw no deliveries. "No delivery means no admission. The PHC does wash bed sheets and covers regularly, for which it gets funds from the patient welfare committee.

Sukheda PHC got its medical officer only a month ago, after a gap of one year. Medical Officer Dr Seema Choudhari said, "It is true that women have to travel 20 km to Piploa community health centre (CHC). I have already notified my senior officials about the issues affecting the PHC's functioning, though I have taken charge here only a month ago. I have been told that an ANM will be appointed soon, which may help restart delivery services here."

While many village women are anaemic, five have low haemoglobin count. Former medical officer Dr RC Verma claimed the facilities were satisfactory during his tenure. "Now, almost 20 per cent of pregnant women prefer to go to private hospitals," he said, adding that a trained ANM's presence was crucial to ensure the PHC's functioning.



Dua Lipa and Trevor Noah look cosy during an 'intimate dinner, sparks dating rumours



Dua Lipa and Trevor Noah look cosy during an 'intimate dinner, sparks dating rumours
Los Angeles
British singer Dua Lipa has sparked romance rumours with 'Daily Show' host Trevor Noah.

The two were spotted looking cosy during an 'intimate dinner' in New York which was followed by a kiss on the cheek goodbye outside the restaurant, reports a leading portal.

The singer was snapped cosy up with the 38-year-old comedian at a Jamaican restaurant. Pictures obtained by DailyMail.com show the pair hugging in the street before going their separate ways in New York City.

According to a leading portal, Lipa had previously split from her on-off boyfriend Anwar Hadid in December 2021 and Trevor reportedly broke up from his partner Minka Kelly in May 2022.

Earlier this year, Dua admitted she was making some healthy changes in her life, including quitting smoking, ahead of her world tour. Now she is seemingly looking to settle down and romance could be on the cards.

"I had laryngitis (last) December and that kind of kickstarted me quitting smoking a month earlier than I was supposed to. But I did it and I have stuck to it," she said previously. Dua told in a conversation with a leading portal, "I have this habit tracker on my phone where every night I tick off all the good things I have done for my body and things I have done for myself."

Angelina Jolie: To the women of Iran, we see you



Los Angeles | Agencies

The middle-eastern country is currently gripped by protests from women following the death of a 22-year-old woman named Mahsa Amini, reports a leading magazine. Amini died on September 16 in Iran after being detained by the country's Morality Police for allegedly wearing a Hijab too loosely.

Demonstrations broke out following Amini's death, and the ongoing unrest has seen women burning their Hijabs or cutting their hair in protest. The Academy Award winner shared several images taken in the streets of Iran on Instagram, raising awareness about the ongoing situation in the Middle East.

"Respect to the brave, defiant, fearless women of Iran," Jolie wrote in the caption of her post. "All those who have survived and resisted for decades, those taking to the streets today, and Mahsa Amini and all young Iranians like her."

"Women don't need their morals policed, their minds re-educated, or their bodies controlled. They need freedom to live and breathe without violence or threats," Jolie, 47, continued. "To the women of Iran, we see you

#WomanLifeFreedom #MahsaAmini."

In the post, Jolie also included a statement that briefly explained the conflict taking place in the country, "Protests in Iran are in their 12th consecutive night," the slide read. "They started in response to the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in morality police custody (sic)."

"Since the protests began, riot police have attacked protestors with brutal force, and more than 70 people have reportedly been killed," it added.

Dr Daniel Amen led the scientific stunt and confirms, Khloe had some recent "emotional trauma"

Los Angeles | Agencies

Tristan Thompson's cheating scandal has rendered reality star Khloe Kardashian with "emotional trauma on the brain". Last year, Kardashian, 38, made the shocking discovery that Tristan Thompson, 31, was expecting another baby with another woman, weeks after their surrogate became pregnant with their second child, reports. In the latest episode of the Kardashians Hulu show, sister Kendall encouraged Khloe to have an MRI test to see how her brain was functioning after the ordeal. According to a leading portal, Dr Daniel Amen led the scientific stunt and compared Khloe's brain with sister Kendall Jenner's, confirming that Khloe had some recent "emotional trauma". The medic instantly noticed some impact, which Khloe

quickly pinned down to being a result of a car crash she got into when she was just a teenager. "I went through a car windshield when I was 16, headfirst. I was knocked out and I actually hit my head a couple of times more after that," she explained.

Dr Amen revealed: "You worry, and you can be anxious and you've had trauma, do you see this diamond? This often will go with emotional trauma."

Spilling all on what it could be, Khloe told the doctor: "My last ex-boyfriend, there was a lot of cheating while I was pregnant."

MARK HAMILL: RIGHT NOW, IS THE BEST TIME FOR EVERYONE TO COME TOGETHER AND HELP UKRAINE...

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Mark Hamill has become the latest big name to become an ambassador for United24, the official fundraising arm of the Ukrainian government as it continues its war against Russia.

Hamill, known around the world as Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars franchise, recently spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has been recruiting A-listers to raise awareness for the Russian invasion that began more than seven months ago, reports a leading portal.

The actor joins other ambassadors for the effort, including Barbra Streisand, Liev Schreiber, Imagine Dragons, soccer star Andriy Shevchenko, tennis star Elina Svitolina and Balenciaga creative director Demna among others.

Organisers said Hamill agreed to participate in United24's 'Army of Drones' project, designed to raise funds for drone procurement, repair and training. To date, the group says, Ukraine has received 986 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) totalling about \$51.8 million.

"I know for certain that Ukrainians need drones to protect their land, their freedom and the values of the entire democratic world," Hamill said. "Right now, is the best time for everyone to come together and help Ukraine stand up in this war with the evil empire." Zelenskyy most recently enlisted Streisand to help spread the word about Friends of Ukraine, a United24 programme that raises money for doctors to procure medical supplies for the front lines.



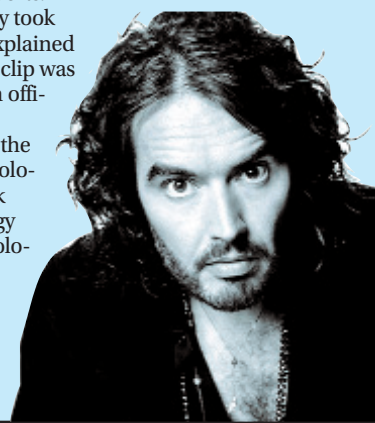
Russell Brand quit the video-sharing platform amid claims that he has been "censored" by the platform

Los Angeles | Agencies

Comedian and actor Russell Brand has quit YouTube amid claims that he has been "censored" by the video-sharing platform. After one of his posts was "censored" with YouTube saying that it featured Covid disinformation, the outspoken comedian has relocated to Rumble, a rival online video platform, reports.

"We have been officially censored by YouTube. They took down one of our videos for misinformation," Brand explained to his audience. Russell, 47, explained that a previous clip was removed from YouTube after he "cited information on official government websites, which we misinterpreted".

The movie star shared the error and apologised for the mistake. He said in a video message: "We made an apology video; we've taken that down as well. YouTube took down our original video, we've taken down the apology video because in case we reiterate the claim while apologizing for it. The 'Get Him to the Greek' star, who has been outspoken on various political and social issues on his YouTube channel, said: "I believe we're at a point of crisis, and things need to radically change, fast. And I believe we'll be able to communicate our message more freely on Rumble."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kylie Jenner

Seth Rogen and his wife thank people for coming forward to fight Alzheimer

Los Angeles | Agencies

A decade after founding their Alzheimer's non-profit Hilarity for Charity, Seth Rogen and his wife Lauren Rogen Miller recalled one of the event's most iconic charitable contributions and it involves a "blunt".

Seth and Lauren recounted how the Grammy Award nominee Snoop Dogg, 50, once raised five figures for Alzheimer's awareness in true Snoop Dogg fashion as they spoke to a leading portal for the 10th anniversary of their non-profit Hilarity for Charity, reports 'People'.

"Snoop Dogg once auctioned off a

blunt on stage for Alzheimer's," Rogen said as Miller Rogen, both 40, noted: "I think it went for \$10,000."

The couple founded Hilarity for Charity in 2012 after Miller Rogen's late mother Adele was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, and they've since frequently held events with comedians and musicians to raise money to fight the disease.

Rogen previously told in a conversation that he was proud of his wife for how she handled her mother's diagnosis before her death in 2020.

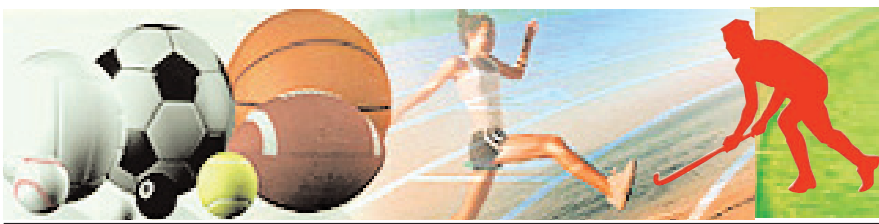
"Seeing Lauren talk about it is very impressive to me," he said. Miller Rogen also praised her hus-

band's 2014 testimony in front of congress to plead for Alzheimer's funding as "pretty amazing," adding: "It was just an incredibly moving speech that he made and the response that it got was really overwhelming, so that was pretty great."

"We get thank you notes from people who are getting care whose lives are drastically changed and every time I get one of those notes, it's like, 'Wow, you've helped people,'" the 'For a Good Time, Call...' writer and star added.

Hilarity for Charity's 10th Birthday Extravaganza takes place Saturday, October 1 at Rolling Greens on Mateo in Los Angeles. Tickets are available online.





Men's T20 World Cup A look at other pace options for India in Jasprit Bumrah's absence



Team Absolute | New Delhi

As of now, there is a lot of uncertainty and confusion over the availability of India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah for the Men's T20 World Cup, starting next month in Australia. Some media reports state that Bumrah has a serious stress fracture in the back, which will keep him out of the game for four to six months. On the other hand, there are some speculations which say that the pacer might just make it

to the World Cup if his recurrence of back injury may not be serious in nature and requires healing time of four to six weeks. With the changes to squads subject to the approval of International Cricket Council (ICC) can happen till October 15, India still has some arsenal in their pace attack and have time in hand to see how can the big gap left by Bumrah's potential absence be filled by the other Indian pacers.

If Bumrah is not available for the mega event then Indian seamers who are in World Cup squad as well as in the reserves:

Mohammed Shami: With an experienced hand like Bumrah in doubt for World Cup participation, it now makes it difficult to look past Mohammed Shami for the T20 World Cup. For starters, Shami hasn't played a T20I for India since they crashed out of the Super 12 stage of the Men's T20 World Cup in the UAE last year.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar: The senior pacer has been one of the busiest bowlers in T20Is this year, picking 32 wickets in 24 matches at an average of 17.56 and economy rate of 7.21. Though he earned Player of the Series awards in series against South Africa and England on the back of his strikes upfront, Bhuvneshwar's death bowling has emerged as a late concern.

Deepak Chahar: Seen as more of a back-up of Bhuvneshwar, Deepak Chahar is back into competitive cricket after an injury forced lay-off of seven months. Though the playing opportunities have been sporadic, Chahar had an outstanding spell with the new ball, picking two wickets with his famed swing bowling to reduce South Africa to 9/5 at Thiruvananthapuram.

Arshdeep Singh: Apart from Ravi Bishnoi's leg-spin, Arshdeep Singh has been one of the great finds for India in T20Is this year. Though he is seen as more of a death overs specialist due to his ability to land yorkers and hold his nerve, Arshdeep showed that he can be effective with the new ball too, seen from his triple burst in his first over at Thiruvananthapuram to break the back of South Africa's innings.

Harshal Patel: Emerging as a key player for India since his debut in November last year post superlative performances in the IPL, Patel has been known for his accuracy and hard to read slower balls as well as a dipping yorker apart from smashing big hits with the bat. But since his return after recovering from a rib injury, Patel is yet to be at his best. In the series win over Australia, he picked just one wicket in three matches, leaking 99 runs at an economy rate of 12.37, including 22 runs in the 18th over. Earlier, on Friday, the All-India Senior Selection Committee named Mohd Siraj as replacement for injured Bumrah for the remainder of the T20I series against South Africa.

Vietnam Open 2022

India's N. Sikki-Rohan reach mixed doubles semis

Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) | Agencies

The Indian duo of Reddy and Kapoor will take on the world No. 35 pair of Lisa Ayu Kusumawati and Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto

Indian shuttlers N. Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor advanced to the Vietnam Open 2022 mixed doubles semi-finals after beating Malaysia's Cheah Yee See and Chan Peng Soon, here on Friday.

The Indian pair, which came into the BWF Super 100 badminton event winning the India Chhattisgarh International Challenge 2022 last week, took 39 minutes to defeat their higher-ranked opponents 21-19, 21-17 in the quarter-finals.

Until the first break, there was little that separated the two teams. From the scores 11-11, the Malaysians stepped up to build a three-point at 17-14. Thereafter, N. Sikki and Rohan won seven of the following nine points to make it 1-0. The second game continued to be a close contest with the Indian pair trailing 11-10 at the break. However, like the first game, a series of consecutive points from Sikki and Rohan ultimately helped them seal the contest.



of Indonesia in the semifinals on Saturday. They are India's only remaining challenge at the Vietnam Open. World championships bronze medalist B. Sai Praneeth, junior world No. 2 Anupama Upadhyaya and Thomas Cup-winner Priyanshu Rajawat crashed out early in the tournament.

MOTOGP TO RACE IN INDIA FROM 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India will stage a MotoGP race at the Buddh International Circuit in Uttar Pradesh from 2023, organisers confirmed in a statement on Friday.

Commercial rights holders Dorna Sports said earlier this month that they were in talks with the state government of Uttar Pradesh and India's sports ministry. "We're very proud to announce that Buddh International Circuit will be on the 2023 calendar. We have a lot of fans in India and we're excited to be able to bring the sport to them," Dorna Sports CEO Carmelo Ezpeleta said in a statement.

Racing at Buddh International Circuit, located in Uttar Pradesh to the south of New Delhi, will bring the sport into the heart of this key market and make the sport more accessible than ever to our fanbase across the region.



As MotoGP continues to expand, the Indian Grand Prix marks an important milestone in the sport's mission to open the doors of motorcycle racing to all - writing a new chapter in the story of the world's first motorsport Championship and welcoming new audiences and fans from every corner of the world.

India is a true economic and cultural powerhouse, with a population of over 1.4 billion people and more than 200 million motorcycles on its roads. Two-wheeled transportation counts for near-

ly 75 per cent of the total number of vehicles used daily, making India one of the biggest motorcycle markets in the world and a key focus for the manufacturers in the MotoGP paddock.

Anurag Thakur, Union Sports Minister, Government of India: "It's a historical day for sporting industry and tribute to 75th year of India's celebration." Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh: "It's a matter of great pride for Uttar Pradesh to host such a global event. Our government will provide full support to MotoGP Bharat."

"India is also a key market for the motorcycle industry and therefore, by extension, for MotoGP as the pinnacle of the two-wheeled world. We very much look forward to racing at Buddh International Circuit and can't wait to welcome the fans through the gates to see this incredible sport in person," Ezpeleta added.

India's Bharat Singh Chauhan elected Deputy President of Asian Chess Federation

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Bharat Singh Chauhan on Friday was re-elected unopposed as Deputy President of the Asian Chess Federation. This is the second term for Chauhan as the Deputy President.

Contesting on the ticket of President Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan, Chauhan turned out to be a unanimous choice for the post of Deputy President as no other contestant chose to put up his nomination before the deadline on September 27.

The honour is bestowed on Chauhan again thanks to his remarkable exploits during the Chess Olympiad that witnessed a record participation. In addition to being to this the Delhi-based Chess buff who has had a tremendous run as a chess administrator in the last three years, the Delhi Chess Association said in a release on Friday.



Hisham Al Taher of UAE, Sahapol Nakvanich of Thailand and Xu Yuhua of China are also elected as the General Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President respectively. It is pertinent to mention

that during the FIDE Congress held along with the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram, Chauhan was elected unopposed as President of the Commonwealth Chess Association as well as FIDE nominated him as the Chairman of the FIDE Advisory Board, which includes legendary Grandmasters Vladimir Kramnik and Judit Polgar.

The advisory board will play a crucial role in FIDE management as it presents its recommendations to the different governing bodies of FIDE regarding the most important issues of the organization of chess life.

"This is one of the best recognition for all the hard work and the Chess Olympiad which was a grand success. I am sure this is a new dawn in the history of Indian chess and we are on our way to become the best chess-playing nation in the world," Chauhan said on his recent accomplishment.

Can use big boundaries in Australia to your advantage: Hazlewood on T20 World Cup



Sydney: Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood believes bigger boundaries and quicker pitches in Australia will play into the hands of hosts ahead of their Men's T20 World Cup title defence starting from October 16.

Hazlewood, one of the key reasons of Australia winning the silverware for the first time in 2021, will again be the vital cog in the wheel when the Aaron Finch-led side will open their campaign against New Zealand in a re-match of last year's final on October 22 at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG). Before that, Australia have two T20Is against two-time champions, the West Indies and three T20Is against 2010 winners England apart from one practice match against India, to whom they recently lost 2-1 in a recent week-long tour, on October 17 at The Gabba. "It was a great test to see where we're at (on series against India). A number of guys got to bowl the end against probably the best hitters in the game on the fastest wickets and smallest boundaries." "There's always stuff to work on - what fields you want at certain times, what balls you're bowling, how you're sequencing it. "But there's no (better) practice than that and we will be better off for the run." Hazlewood signed off by saying that apart from the Men's T20 World Cup, he's aiming to get back to the Test side.

NATIONAL GAMES: IN A BATTLE OF MANIPURIS, MIRABAI PIPS SANJITA FOR 49KG WEIGHTLIFTING GOLD

Gandhinagar | Agencies

The women's 49kg weightlifting competition at the 36th National Games unfolded on expected lines with a tactical battle between Mirabai Chanu and Sanjita Chanu at the Mahatma Mandir here on Friday. In the end, Mirabai walked away with the gold with a total lift of 191 kgs (Snatch 84kg, Clean & Jerk 107 kgs) while Sanjita had to settle for the silver medal with a total lift of 187 kgs (Snatch 82kg, C&J 105kg). Odisha's Sneha Soren picked the bronze after totalling 169kg (Snatch 73kg, C&J 96kg). In the snatch, Mirabai seized an early advantage by raising the bar to 81kgs in her very first attempt, before a clean effort of 84kg in her second lift gave her a cushion of 3kgs over her staminate Sanjita, who could manage 80kg and 82kgs in her first



two attempts. Sanjita's third attempt of lifting 84kg was adjudged a foul. Mirabai preferred to save her energy and didn't turn up for the third attempt. In clean and jerk, Sanjita lifted 95kgs in her first attempt before raising the bar to 100kg and 105kg, with all three attempts getting the green light from the judges. All eyes were on Mirabai.

She was greeted with thunderous applause from the crowd, which included a large Manipuri contingent. The Birmingham Commonwealth Games gold medalist successfully lifted 103 kg in her first attempt before returning to lift 107kg to confirm the centre spot on the podium. She didn't need a third attempt to take home the gold.

Elated after confirming the first medals for their state, the two Manipur weightlifters joined the rest of the members of the contingent.

Sanjita, the two-time Commonwealth Games gold medalists (2014, 2018) who was provisionally suspended by the IWF after testing positive for testosterone in May 2018 and cleared in 2020 after the charge was dropped, is making a comeback. A visibly emotional Sanjita, considering the mental demons she had overcome for the silver, said, "This is a special moment for me. But congratulations to Mirabai. She deserves all the praise and accolades for her brilliant effort. It feels great to compete at the National Games, and represent my state. The last time (in Kerala 2015), I won the gold in a lower weight category, but after seven years, the level of competition definitely goes up."

NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE RACING 2022

Prabhu Arunagiri, Sarvesh Balappa secure pole positions



Team Absolute | Chennai

Local ace Prabhu Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha) and Hubballi's Sarvesh Balappa (Axor Sparks Racing) clinched pole positions in their respective categories to set the tone for the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSCTV Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022 which began at the Madras International Circuit, here on Friday.

Arunagiri, lying third on the leaderboard in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open category, clocked a best lap of one minute, 55.045 secs while completing the front row was the Petronas TVS Racing pair of KY Ahamed (01:55.556) and defending champion Jagan Kumar (01:55.757).

Championship leader Mathana Kumar (Pacer Yamaha), who leads the field by 17 points, qualified seventh for Saturday's Race-1. Stressed out after his bike's battery burst due to overheating about 20 minutes before the qualifying session, Mathana played it safe and clocked a best lap of 01:56.423 to slot himself into the seventh position on the grid. Balappa, who has virtually clinched the championship in the Novice (Stock 165cc) category with five wins from eight starts for an unassailable 58-point lead, kept his cool during the qualifying session when he got stuck in traffic to clock a best lap of two minutes, 06.072secs to spearhead a front-row sweep for Axor Sparks Racing. Mysuru's Varun Nanjundegowda (02:06.188) and Rohan Ramesh from Coimbatore (02:07.219) were placed second and third, respectively.

Earlier, veteran Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1), who is chasing his 11th National career title, warmed for this weekend's double-header in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category with a flying lap of 01:51.639 ahead of Petronas TVS Racing pair of Deepak Ravikumar (01:52.159) and Jagan Kumar (01:52.494).

Elite Pro Basketball League: Delhi Storm to represent India at Half Court World Final in Egypt

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Elite Pro Basketball Athletes Abhishek Tyagi, Abhishek Rathee, Abhyudaya Yadav and Samsheer Ahmad who formed the Delhi Storms team is all set to represent India at the Red Bull Half Court World Final in Egypt.

The tournament is scheduled to take place on September 30 and October 1.

The Red Bull Half Court tournament is a global 3x3 tournament, held across 25 countries. This is the 2nd edition of the tournament in India which was held in June. The India leg consisted of 8 cities with 32 teams participating in each city and the winners of these 8 cities played against each other on to become the national champions.

This is the 1st year that India will make it to the world leg, in 2019 the team qualified but was not able to make to the world finals because of visa issues.

Talking about the same Abhishek Tyagi says, "Our team consist of 4 players each from different state, namely Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. We won against 6



teams at the city qualifiers and defeated 4 teams to win the

nationals. We are very excited to represent India at the world stage and we would also like to extend our thanks to Sunny Bhandarkar the CEO of Elite Pro Basketball League who has supported us throughout this journey both financially and for training." Talking about the same, CEO of Elite Pro Basketball Pvt. Ltd. Sunny Bhandarkar said, "This is a proud moment for the whole basketball community in India and we are very proud of these boys who are all set to showcase their talents at the world stage. Our aim is to provide a platform for the upliftment of the game in India and we will spare no effort to achieve it. We are hoping they make India proud and bring back learnings from other teams which they can spread to their teammates when the Elite Pro Basketball League starts." An excited Abhyudaya Yadav said, "Representing India at the world stage is every athlete's dream. We are working hard and want to put our best foot forward and showcase our talent to the world. Also, we want to observe and learn as much and get it back to India and spread the knowledge across everyone. My dream is to see India qualifying and participating at Olympics and other major basketball tournaments across the world."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rani Mukherji, who has entertained us with her unforgettable performances in memorable films, is all set to become an author. She will be penning her autobiography, which is set for release on her birthday, March 21, 2023. It will give readers a look into Rani Mukherji's life like never before.

Talking about her memoir, Rani Mukherji said in a statement, "In the 25 years that I have so lovingly spent in the Indian film industry, I have never spoken my heart out about my life and my journey in cinema. As women in cinema, we are constantly judged and the book delves into my personal trials and tribulations and the impact it had on me, as I navigated the industry and my career. I haven't had the time to pause, look back on my life, retrospectively and introspectively. This memoir was my way of reminiscing what I have been through right from my childhood. This one's for my fans and for every single person who has given me boundless love and kept me grounded. I look forward to their reactions when this book releases on my birthday next year, making the day even more special!" Workwise, Rani will next be seen in Mrs. Chatterjee vs. Norway.

Rani Mukherji turns author, here's when her memoir will release!



Navratri 2022 Special

DEEPIKA SINGH SAYS "ALL FALGUNI PATHAK SONGS ARE MY FAVOURITE"

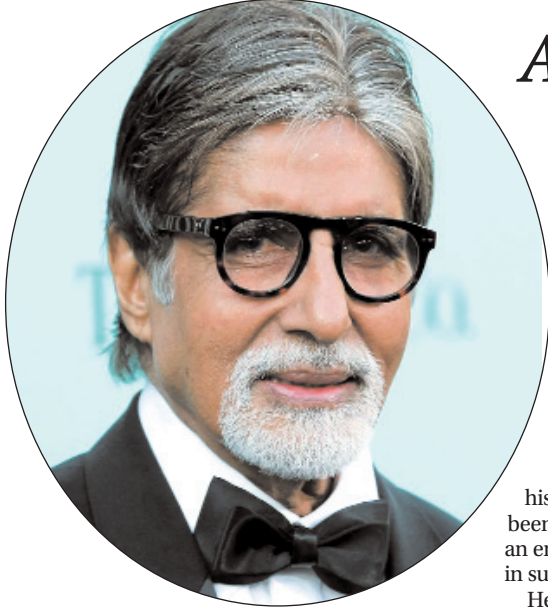
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Today is the sixth day of Chaitra Navratri 2022. It is dedicated to the ferocious warrior avatar of Goddess Durga, known as Maa Katyayani. As the auspicious nine days of Navratri are celebrated with fervour and zest, popular actress Deepika Singh shared how she loves attending events as a guest. She said, "I am always very excited for this festival as it also marks the beginning of Diwali as well. I love visiting Pandals and playing Garba-Dandiya. This year is special as events have finally begun after a hiatus of two years due to the pandemic. So, I am looking forward to attending events as a guest and having fun."

Talking about whether she is observing fast this year, Deepika shared, "I fast whenever I feel good. As it is optional and not a very religious thing. This time I have been busy because of which I am tired, perhaps I am not fasting."

Hailing from Delhi, the actress recalled a fond memory of visiting the fair and Ram Leela event. She shared, "During the festival, we used to watch the annual Ram Leela event and visit the fair."

Talking about her favourite song for the festival, Deepika revealed, "All Falguni Pathak music is my favourite." On a parting note, she advised fans to keep their ego aside. "Good and Bad simultaneously live with us. It is because of the ego we tend to miss out on a lot of things in life", said Deepika.



Amitabh Bachchan: The words of togetherness and admiration have always been so inspiring

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amitabh Bachchan, who is currently hosting the 14th season of reality show Kaun Banega Crorepati, says that each hour on the set has been a revelation for him. Talking about his experience he wrote in his blog, "Each hour on the sets of KBC has been a huge revelation for me and has brought an emotion that perhaps I had not experienced in such volume and fervour." He further added, "Love presents an

immense gravity that pulls one down from whatever perched position they have been in.. gives its immense environ to encompass all.. it's so involving and at times for keeps.. the affection in speech and form.."

"The words of togetherness and admiration have always been so inspiring.. they are the reason for the liberated fervour.. they.. the audience.. the younger generation the older and the mid range.. when there is none of this.. life lies listless and weak."

Work wise, the actor has Goodbye and Project K in his kitty.

VIKRAM VEDHA : SAIF ALI KHAN AND HRITHIK ROSHAN DELIVER A SEETI-MAAR ACTION ENTERTAINER

FILM REVIEW

BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Star Cast: Hrithik Roshan, Saif Ali Khan, Radhika Apte, Rohit Saraf, Yogita Bihani, Sharib Hashmi, Satyadeep Misra

Director: Pushkar-Gayathri

Rating: 3.5/5

Synopsis: Vikram, an honest Lucknow police officer, is on a mission to find and kill gangster Vedha. However, when Vedha surrenders to the police and begins telling stories to Vikram, he changes his perspective on good and evil.

Review: The film begins with an introduction to Saif's character Vikram, who has only one goal in mind: to apprehend Vedha the gangster. The movie has taken inspiration from 'Baital Pachisi,' which tells how a wise king (Vikram) is quizzed by a celestial spirit (Vedha), a Bhairava, and for each incorrect answer, he is further away from capturing the 'master of chaos.'

When it comes to star performances, seeing Hrithik and Saif in the same frame is a real 7-course meal for the eyes. Hrithik Roshan knew he was going to replace Vijay Sethupathi

before stepping in, and it took bravery for him to accept the challenge. What distinguishes this from the original is

tion with the viewers.

Every scene comes to life thanks to the background score. It's so revital-



the way he balances the extremes of good and bad in himself. It's not like anyone can cut a good mask for it, but Hrithik's inconsistent accent was a little disappointing. Saif Ali Khan replaces R Madhavan, and it's easy to see why he was chosen. He'll always be proud of Sacred Games on his resume, but now he can surely add Vikram to his resume. Radhika Apte didn't get much of a chance to show off her acting skills, and it wasn't something she could only do. Rohit Saraf throughout will give you K3G's Rohan vibes as he manages to look as cute as ever while building just the right amount of emotional connec-

ing and energising that it's both overwhelming and amazing.

Vinod makes the most of Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan's charisma by incorporating them into slo-mo sequences. The way he pans the camera in certain sequences was unmissable. Special mention should be made of the long shots in which the cinematographer captures Hrithik and Saif fighting in the same frame.

Conclusion
A mass entertainer with an amazing story and performers like Hrithik and Saif is a pure delight. This film is a must-watch.

THE SONG IS LOVED BY EVERYONE, WHICH MAKES IT SPECIAL: RASHMIKA MANDANNA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rashmika Mandanna's release Pushpa: The Rise made her a household name. The actor earned praise for her dance in the chartbuster Saami Saami. Her hook step in the dance became a sensation.

Speaking on the latest viral video of a Nepalese girl grooving on it, Rashmika Mandanna said in an interview, "When the song was released it was received so much love, that people from everywhere are singing and dancing to the song. It's amazing when some craft of yours does not belong to just one age group, instead its loved by everyone which makes it all the more special."

Workwise, Rashmika has, Goodbye, Animal, and 'Mission Majnu in the pipeline.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mouni Roy

WOH 3 DIN : SANJAY MISHRA SHINES IN THIS PREDICTABLE RURAL SLICE-OF-LIFE DRAMA

FILM REVIEW

BY AAKRUTI BAGLA

Director: Raaj Aashoo

Cast: Sanjay Mishra, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Rajesh Sharma, Purva Parag

Runtime: 103 minutes

Rating: 3/5

Story: Woh 3 Din revolves around the story of a cycle Rikshaw driver who resides in a village in UP. In order to earn 3000 Rs to clear his debts and pay his daughter's fees, he sets out on a ride filled with unexpected turns. Will Ram Bharose get his due of 3000 Rs? What is Sanjay Mishra hiding? The answers to these questions lie in the film.

Review: Directed by Raaj



Aashoo this rural slice-of-life drama tries hard to shed light on the plight of daily wage earner villagers. But unfortunately, they have nothing novel to offer.

Furthermore, the film also lacks tension-laden moments to keep us hooked. There were no interesting confrontations or plot twists. The climax was also quite predictable.

Even though the film has a runtime of close to two hours, the screenplay is slow-paced village life, just like village life.

Talking of other technical aspects, the cinematographer has done an amazing job in capturing the beauty of the small. However, the editing could have been better if a few scenes would have been trimmed down.

The songs of the film are also easily forgettable. But the background score contributes to the proceedings.

Speaking of performances, despite the poor execution, Sanjay Mishra's antics are the only thing keeping your eyes glued to the screen. He adds his touch to the character which manages to hold our attention. The rest of the cast, including Chandan Roy Sanyal, Rajesh Sharma, and Purva Parag play their parts well.

Overall, the film is to be watched only for Sanjay Mishra's outstanding performance.