

NATION

3

SAIRA BANU SAYS DILIP KUMAR SHOULD GET BHARAT RATNA



Capt Amarinder for reviewing 'Agnepath' policy, 4 year service too short for a soldier

Former Punjab Chief Minister and a veteran of Sino-Pak Wars, Capt Amarinder Singh today suggested reviewing the 'Agnepath' policy of recruitment in defence forces. "It will dilute the long existing distinct ethos of regiments", Capt Amarinder said in a statement today, while remarking, "four year service is too short for a soldier".

He wondered why the government of India needed to make such radical changes in the recruitment policy, which has been working so well for the country for so many years.



"Hiring soldiers for four years, with effective service of three years, is not at all militarily a good idea", he remarked. Capt Amarinder strongly opposed the 'All India All Class'

recruitment policy saying it will dilute the ethos of the regiments. He pointed out, different regiments like the Sikh Regiment, the Dogra Regiment, the Madras Regiment and so on have their own distinct ethos which is very important from the military point of view and which seems to have been overlooked.

The former Chief Minister, who is also a reputed military historian, pointed out, the system has worked so well all these years. Besides, he added, it will be very difficult for recruits from different cultural backgrounds to adjust in a culturally different

environment that is exclusive to a particular regiment and that too within such a short span of time, which effectively comes to less than three years.

Capt Amarinder said, the already existing short duration tenure system of seven and five years is fine, but four years, which once training and leave period are excluded, effectively comes to less than three years, will not be workable. "It will never be workable for a professional army which is faced with tough challenges on both eastern as well as western theatres", he remarked.

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

5

ADANI AND TOTAL ENERGIES TO CREATE THE WORLD'S LARGEST GREEN HYDROGEN ECOSYSTEM



POTPOURRI

8

'POSTI' PREMIERE: HUMBLE MOTION PICTURES PROJECT IS A SOCIAL MESSAGE DELIVERED IN A REMARKABLE WAY



Congress and corruption 'made for each other': Naqvi



Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday alleged that the Congress and corruption are "made for each other", and claimed that the opposition party was carrying out a "satyagraha for corruption".

The minority affairs minister's attack on the opposition party came after Congress leaders took to the streets on Monday as Rahul Gandhi appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in a money laundering case.

Naqvi said that with the family facing allegations, the Congress was "fabricating agitation". He said this proves that the Congress and corruption are "made for each other".

The country has earlier witnessed "satyagraha" against corruption, but the country is witnessing the Congress' culture of "satyagraha for corruption" for the first time.

The Congress' attempt to show strength on the streets during investigation into a corruption case shows its brazen attitude despite indulging in graft, Naqvi told reporters.

"The Congress has become a 'crew of corruption' and a champion of converting corruption into revolution," the senior BJP leader said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering probe linked to the National Herald newspaper after the MP reached the party's headquarters here accompanied by a battery of party leaders and supporters.

Congress takes ED battle to Prez, Parliament

Congress has taken the battle to Parliament and has met the presiding officers of both the Houses. Party leaders will also meet the President over the issue.

A delegation of Congress MPs met the Vice President to register their complaint. The delegation comprising of Mallikarjun Kharge, P. Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh complained about the high-handedness of the police and the ill-treatment meted out to the Parliamentarians.



The Congress Lok Sabha MPs also met Speaker Om Birla on Thursday morning and aired their grievances. Adhir Ranjan

Chowdhury, while speaking to the media after the meeting said: "We have informed the Speaker about the manner in which we have been subjected to violence and atrocities. The Speaker listened to us. We told him about Delhi Police officers who barged into the Congress office and attacked our workers in a pre-planned manner."

The Congress on Wednesday filed a complaint against the Delhi police officials who manhandled the party men during Wednesday's protest.

Roll back 'Agnipath' scheme in interest of youth: Mann

CHANDIGARH: Condemning the decision of NDA government to implement Agnipath scheme in the Indian armed forces as «a retrogressive step», Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday sought its roll back its decision in the larger interest of the country and the youth.

«After agriculture it is a serious attack on the youth, which is unwarranted and undesirable. It is a huge loss for Punjabi youth who are ever ready to serve their motherland by joining the Army,» he said.

The Chief Minister, in a statement, said that the decision «reflects the sorry state of affairs in the country as the party in power is recklessly running the country without bothering about its youth».

He said this mindless decision has put the country on boil as the youth of the country have come on roads to protest against this irresponsible move of the Centre.

Mann said his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) vehemently opposes this move which deprives the youth of the opportunity to serve the country throughout the life and rendering them useless after service of mere four years.

He said it is unfortunate that the Union government has not employed even a sin-



“After agriculture it is a serious attack on the youth, which is unwarranted and undesirable. It is a huge loss for Punjabi youth who are ever ready to serve their motherland by joining the Army”

Goal of USD 5 trillion GDP appears to be case of 'shifting goalposts': Chidambaram



With Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran citing the IMF forecast that the Indian economy would cross USD 5 trillion by 2026-27, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Sunday said the goal of a USD 5 trillion GDP appears to be a case of "shifting goalposts" as the original target year was 2023-24.

Speaking at the finance ministry's iconic week celebrations of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Nageswaran had said last week that IMF has forecast the Indian economy to cross USD 5 trillion by 2026-27. India's Gross domestic product (GDP) in dollar terms has already crossed USD 3 trillion. Reacting to the remarks, Chidambaram said the goal of a USD 5 trillion GDP appears to be a case of "shifting goalposts". The original target year was 2023-24, the former finance minister said, adding that, "We are nowhere near that goalpost." "Now, the Chief Economic Adviser has said we will achieve the goal 'by 2027,'" he said. "I think each one of the key players has a different goalpost: PM, FM, FS and CEA. Whenever the Economy reaches the milestone, one can say 'We told you so!'" Chidambaram said.

Fitch expects RBI to raise interest rates to 5.9 pc by December-end

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday said the Reserve Bank is likely to raise interest rates further to 5.9 per cent by December 2022, on deteriorating inflation outlook.

In its update to Global Economic Outlook, Fitch said India's economy faces a worsening external environment, elevated commodity prices, and tighter global monetary policy.

"Given the deteriorating outlook for inflation, we now expect the RBI to lift rates further to 5.9 per cent by December 2022 and to 6.15 per cent by the end of 2023 (vs. previous forecast of 5 per cent) and to be unchanged in 2024," Fitch said.

Last month in an unscheduled policy announcement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised rates by 40 basis points to 4.4 per cent, and subsequently to 4.9 per cent last week.

The RBI has forecast inflation to be 6.7 per cent by the end of current fiscal. The retail inflation for May came in at 7.04 per cent.

"Inflation has risen to an eight-year high and broadens across more CPI categories, posing a severe challenge to consumers. In the past three



months, food inflation has increased by an average of 7.3 per cent year-on-year, while healthcare bills are rising at a similar pace," Fitch said.

According to Fitch, the April-June quarter growth is likely to improve on a rebound in consumption as COVID-19 cases subsided towards end-March.

"GDP grew by 4.1 per cent year-on-year in 1Q22 (January-March) compared to our March forecast of 4.8 per cent. We now expect the economy to grow by 7.8 per cent this year (2022-2023), revised down from our previous forecast of 8.5 per cent," Fitch said.

Fitch had last week upped outlook on India's sovereign rating to 'stable' from 'negative' after two years citing diminishing downside risks to medium-term growth on rapid economic recovery. The rating was kept unchanged at 'BBB-'.

'Agnipath' will provide good opportunity to NCC cadets'

The new 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment in the armed forces will provide a good opportunity to National Cadet Corps cadets, Director General of the NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh said here on Wednesday.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the passing-out parade of Associate NCC Officers at Kamptee here. To a question about the new recruitment scheme, Lt Gen Singh said 'B' and 'C' certificate holders of the NCC get a special weightage



for recruitment in the armed forces. Under the Agnipath scheme, NCC cadets have a good opportunity to become 'Agniveer' for four years and they can follow other professions afterwards, he said. The main objective of the NCC is to make

youths and cadets responsible citizens, and NCC cadets who become Agniveer will become more responsible citizens when go back to civilian life, Singh added.

India on Tuesday unveiled the 'Agnipath' scheme for the recruitment of soldiers into the army, navy and air force, largely on a short-term contractual basis with an aim to cut the ballooning salary and pension bills and enable a youthful profile of the armed forces.

India's palm oil imports dip 33 pc in May: SEA

India's palm oil imports declined by 33.20 per cent to 5,14,022 tonne during May this year, but there was sharp rise in shipment of RBD palmolein oil by refineries, industry body Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) said on Tuesday.

India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, imported 7,69,602 tonnes of palm oils in May 2021. The country's total vegetable oil imports declined to 10,05,547 tonne in May this year, compared to 12,13,142 tonne in the year-ago period.

The share of palm oil is about 50 per cent of the country's total vegetable oil imports. According to the SEA, Indonesia has lifted the ban on export of palm oil with some conditions from May 23 and also reduced export tax. This will increase exports from Indonesia and have a dampening effect on global prices.

Among palm oil products,



import of crude palm oil (CPO) declined to 4.09 lakh tonnes in May this year, against 2.67 lakh tonnes in the same period of the previous year. Whereas import of sunflower oil fell marginally to 1.18 lakh tonnes, as against 1.75 lakh tonnes in the said period. According to the SEA, edible oils stock as on June 1 this year, was estimated to have been at 4.84 lakh tonnes and about 17.65 lakh tonnes was in the pipeline.

sharply to 3.73 lakh tonnes in May this year, as against 2.67 lakh tonnes in the same period of the previous year. Whereas import of sunflower oil fell marginally to 1.18 lakh tonnes, as against 1.75 lakh tonnes in the said period. According to the SEA, edible oils stock as on June 1 this year, was estimated to have been at 4.84 lakh tonnes and about 17.65 lakh tonnes was in the pipeline.

SGPC strongly objects to parole to Gurmeet Ram Rahim

AMRITSAR:Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Advocate Harjinder Singh strongly objected to one month parole to Dera Sirsa head Gurmeet Ram Rahim by Haryana government and said this decision shows double standards of the government.

Harjinder Singh said that on one hand, the governments are not bringing the Bandi Singh (Sikh political prisoners) out of the jails despite they have completed their sentences, while on the other, Dera Sirsa head, who is a convict in heinous crimes like rapes and murders, is being brought out from the jail time and again. He said on the 500th Parkash Purb (birth anniversary) of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the Centre government had announced to release the Bandi Singh but due to malice of the government, the same has not been implemented.

Earthquake of 5.2 magnitude hits J&K

An earthquake of magnitude 5.2 on the richter scale hit Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said. The tremor was recorded at 2:52 pm, the officials said.

The epicentre of the quake was at latitude of 36.46 degrees North and longitude of 71.09 degrees East in Afghanistan, the officials said. It hit a depth of 260 km. The tremors caused panic among the people who rushed outdoors for safety. However, there were no reports so far of any injury or damage to property, the officials added.

GoM fails to reach consensus on GST rate rationalisation

NEW DELHI: A panel of state ministers on GST rate rationalisation on Friday failed to reach a consensus as some members opposed changes to tax slabs and rates, sources said.

The Group of Ministers will, however, present a status report to the GST Council on the consensus which was arrived at the previous meeting of the GoM on November 20, 2021, they added. The GoM will seek an extension to submit its final report, they said, adding issues of tax rates will also be raised in the upcoming Council meeting later this month. The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is scheduled to meet on June 28 and 29 in Srinagar.

The Council had last year set up a seven-member panel of state ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to suggest ways to augment revenue by rationalising tax rates. The GoM has been mandated to review items under inverted duty structure to help minimise refund payout, and review the GST exempt list with an objective to expand the tax base and eliminate breaking of input tax credit (ITC) chain.

Under GST, a four-tier structure exempts or imposes a low rate of tax 5 per cent on essential items and levies the top rate of 28 per cent on cars and demerit goods. The other slabs of tax are 12 and 18 per cent.

SIT arrests four men in 1984 anti-Sikh riots case in Kanpur

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the mass killings during the anti-Sikh riots in 1984, arrested four men accused of setting a building to fire in which three persons were burnt to death, a senior official said on Thursday. The arrests were made on Wednesday by the SIT, headed by Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Balendu Bhushan Singh, from the Ghatampur area of Kanpur. The SIT, constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government on May 27, 2019, on the orders of the Supreme Court, has been probing the anti-Sikh riots' cases for the last three years and efforts are on to nab more suspects, DIG Singh said. It had identified 96 persons as prime suspects, of which 22 have died. Complete information about 11 suspects was gathered and it helped the SIT to nab four of them, he said. The four arrested accused were identified as Saifullah, Yogendra Singh, Vijay Narayan Singh and Abdul Rahman, all sexagenarian residents of the Ghatampur area. They have been charged under Indian Penal Code sections 396 (dacoity with murder) and 336 (act endangering life or safety of others), he said, adding they have been sent to jail. Elaborating further, the DIG said the four arrested accused had accompanied dozens of others in a couple of buses to reach Nirala Nagar for setting the house of one Gurudyal Singh on fire in 1984.

Retail inflation eases to 7.04 % in May 2022



Retail inflation eased to 7.04 per cent in May, mainly on account of softening food prices, though it remained above the RBI's upper tolerance level for the fifth consecutive month, government data showed on Monday. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation was 7.79 per cent in April. In May 2021, the retail inflation stood at 6.3 per cent. Inflation in the food basket was 7.97 per cent in May 2022, marginally lower than 8.31 per cent in the previous month, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The Reserve Bank, which factors in the CPI in its monetary policy, had earlier this month raised the inflation forecast for the current financial year to 6.7 per cent from its previous estimate of 5.7 per cent.

J-K: Draft electoral rolls to be prepared by August 31

Setting in motion the process of holding assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, the Election Commission has initiated the revision of electoral rolls following the delimitation exercise in the union territory and the draft rolls will be prepared by August 31, sources said on Wednesday.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey carried out a review and directed the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer to map the redrawn assembly constituencies.



The electoral roll revision needs to be carried out before the first assembly election is conducted in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said that intensive and time-bound pre-revision activities are required due to the redrawing of electoral constituencies.

Directions have also been given for the appointment of officials for the work on updating voter list.

Re-serialisation, mapping and renaming of polling stations post the delimitation will be done by June 30, in addition to the identification of polling stations for those villages where new booths need to be created.

After the delimitation, some of the earlier polling stations may come under more than one new constituency or may be completely shifted to another constituency.

Himachal HC acting Chief Justice's daughter held on murder charge



The CBI on Wednesday arrested Kalyani Singh, daughter of Himachal Pradesh High Court acting Chief Justice Sabina, in connection with the murder of national-level shooter Sukhmanpreet Singh, a.k.a. Sippy Sidhu, in Chandigarh in September 2015.

In January 2016, the case was transferred to the CBI, after which the investigating agency registered a fresh murder case.

Advocate Sippy, 36, was shot dead on September 20, 2015, in a park in Sector 27. A .12 bore gun was used in the crime and four bullets were fired from it.

Chandigarh Police had registered a case of murder and recorded the statements of various suspects, including the judge's daughter, who is believed to be a close friend of the victim, though it failed to make any headway.

She was questioned twice by the police. Sidhu's family

had held protests alleging that she was being shielded by the police. In December 2020, the CBI had informed the court that it has no evidence of the involvement of a former Punjab and Haryana high court judge's daughter in the crime. However, it said it would keep investigations open as it has "strong suspicions about the role of a woman to eliminate Sippy."

Sippy was a rifle shooter and had won the team gold along with Abhinav Bin-

dra in the Punjab National Games in 2001. He had been on the shooting circuit for more than 15 years and won medals regularly at various shooting competitions. He was also a joint secretary of the Paralympic Committee of India.

On January 22, 2016, Chandigarh Administrator Kaptan Singh Solanki had transferred the case to the CBI, which questioned the investigating officer and other police personnel.

Former Congress MLA Joginderpal arrested for illegal mining

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann reaffirmed its zero-tolerance against corruption and illegal practices with the arrest of former Congress MLA from Bhoha Joginder Pal on Friday after he was found indulging in illegal mining. Pathankot Police has arrested him for carrying out illegal mining.

Divulging the details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pathankot Arun Saini said that acting on the reliable telephonic information Police team was sent to the site of a crusher near village Maira Kalan on June 8, 2022, where some people were found carrying out illegal mining using Poclairn JCB.

He said that the Police teams have managed to recover the Poclairn JCB and tractor-trolley from the spot, however, the driver identified as Sunil

Kumar and the representative of the crusher Prakash managed to flee from the spot. The Poclairn JCB was registered in the name of Krishna Washed Stone Crusher, Kidi Khurd village in Taragarh.

An FIR no. 49 dated 08/06/2022 under section 21 (1) of the Mining and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act was registered at Taragarh Police Station in Pathankot.

The SSP further revealed that during the investigation it was found that the former MLA Joginder Pal has a 50% share in Krishna Washed Stone Crusher.

Meanwhile, acting on the zero-tolerance policy of the Aam Aadmi Party, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had even sacked the Health Minister Vijay Singla from the State Cabinet on corruption charges and he is still behind the bars.



Action against industries in Haryana using underground water without permission

SATISH HANDA

According to recent notification by Haryana state government use of underground water by private industries in the state without obtaining permission from Haryana Water Management Authority will be treated illegal and action will be taken against such units with fine. Information reveals that there are nearly 25000 industrial units in Haryana state registered with State Pollution Control Board observing measures to control pollution, out of these hardly 2500 industrial units has taken permission from the government to use water procured from underground.

Keshni Anand Arora Chairperson Haryana Water Management Board told that a campaign has been started against those industrial units in the state collecting underground water with the help of submersible pump or manually for use in the industry without obtaining

permission from Board. She told that Deputy Commissioners of all districts in the state have been directed to take stern action against those units found violating directions by enforcement officers deployed in every district in the state.

Information also reveals, out of total number of 142 blocks in Haryana state underground water level has been found fast declining in 85 blocks in the state which is a matter of deep concern for residents. State government Haryana has a plan to develop water management project in educational institutes as well as in rural areas having acute shortage of water and install water treatment plants to re-use sewerage as well as waste water, especially in Mohindergarh and Charkhi Dadri districts facing extremely severe drop in underground water level having alarming situation. A water sewerage treatment station has been set up at Gurugram in the state for re-use waste as well as rain water.



GJMT celebrates Farewell Party for MBA, MCA, BBA, BCA, B. COM & BTM final year students



FW DESK

Mohali- On 25th year of Excellence in education, GJMT celebrated The Farewell Party for MBA, MCA, BBA, BCA, B. COM (Hons.) & BTM final year students. During the program the juniors greeted the seniors with their best wishes. They presented colorful bonanza of cultural activities for their seniors. All the students were dressed in their best attire. It was a proud privilege to watch the students in such colorful dresses. Honourable Chairman J.S. Bedi inaugurated the event with cheerful words for the final year students. He congratulated students to enter in their next phase of life where hard work will be the key to the success and growth.

AK-47 gun provided to every Kashmiri Hindu for self-defence: AAP



SATISH HANDA

Addressing a press conference here Naveen Jaihind Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Convener in Haryana said that in view of present situation in Kashmir where Kashmiri Pandit as well as Hindus living in Kashmir are facing severe danger to their lives due to target killing by terrorists. He said, in case early stern action will not be taken against terrorism and antisocial elements grooming in Kashmir state by the government situation similar as in past may be repeated when countless residents of these communities living, settled in Kashmir valley since years were killed, robbed, became homeless and compelled to migrate to other places from Kashmir state to remain alive leaving everything behind.

Naveen Jaihind said, he is continuously visiting every district in Haryana state to make an appeal to join protest rally in support of Kashmiri Pandits and Hindus residing in Kashmir at Jantar Mantar New Delhi on 26th June 2022. He said, recent protest rally held at Rohtak in Haryana attended by large number of people from all 36 'Biradaris' was merely a trailer, whereas proposed rally to be held at Jantar Mantar New Delhi on 26th June will exhibit complete

Dera Sacha Sauda chief gets one month parole

CHANDIGARH: In less than five months of granting a 21-day furlough, self-styled jailed godman and Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was on Friday granted parole for a month by the BJP-led Haryana government.

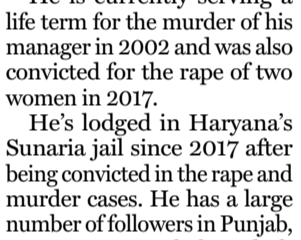
He is currently serving a life term for the murder of his manager in 2002 and was also convicted for the rape of two women in 2017.

He's lodged in Haryana's Sunaria jail since 2017 after being convicted in the rape and murder cases. He has a large number of followers in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, he was released from the jail four times for various reasons, including his plea to meet the ailing mother. The parole has been granted for the first time since his conviction.

Justifying the decision, an official said Ram Rahim has been granted parole as per the jail manual.

He will stay in Barnawa in



Bagpath, the first ashram established in Uttar Pradesh in 1980, during parole.

According to an official, the dera chief was provided Z-plus security cover during his parole owing to the "high threat perception" to his life from "pro-Khalistan" groups.

Earlier just ahead of the Punjab polls, Ram Rahim, who is lodged at the high-security Sunaria jail in Rohtak, 250 kms from state capital Chandigarh, was granted furlough on February 7 to meet his family in Gurugram.

In June 2019, Ram Rahim Singh had withdrawn his parole plea after the state BJP government was cornered by opposition parties for favouring the self-styled godman, who sought parole for 42 days to tend to his agricultural fields at his sect's headquarters in Sirsa town.

SGPC delegation raises Sikh issues before Chairman of National Commission for Minorities

AMRITSAR: High-level delegation of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) today held a meeting with Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) at New Delhi and raised important Sikh issues.

The SGPC delegation included General Secretary Jathedar Karnail Singh Panjoli, Executive Committee member Sarvan Singh Kular, members Gurcharan Singh Grewal and Satwinder Singh Tohra, Secretary of Dharam Prachar Committee, SGPC Balwinder Singh Kahlwan, Delhi Sikh Mission in-charge Surinder Pal Singh and Writer IT Department, SGPC Jaskaran Singh.

The delegation members handed over a letter regarding Sikh issues sent by SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami and demanded simplification of these issues.

SGPC delegation leader Jathedar Karnail Singh Panjoli while giving information said several issues pertaining to Sikhs have



been raised with the National Commission for Minorities.

He said the issues raised before the NCM include giving self-determination to Sikhs by amending Section 25 (B) of the Constitution of India; handing over management of Gurdwara Gian Godhri Sahib Haridwar, Gurdwara Dongmar Sahib Sikkim and Gurdwara Mangu Mattha Sahib Odisha and other Gurdwaras to Sikhs; release of Sikh political prisoners Prof Devinderpal Singh Bhullar, Bhai Balwant Singh Rajjoana, Bhai Jagtar Singh Hawara, Bhai Gurdeep Singh Kherha and others; stopping fraudulent and by allurement conversion of Sikhs by so-called Christian missionaries in Punjab and outside Punjab; stopping the eviction/ruination of Sikhs at the hands of administration, living for long in different states and giving them rights of the lands; strict punishment to the perpetrators of 1984 Sikh Genocide.

Panjoli added that more issues include giving minority status to Sikhs living in Jammu and Kashmir and fixing quota for them in government jobs, education institutions and other organisations; making efforts at diplomatic level to stop racial attacks on Sikhs in foreign countries; creating employment opportu-

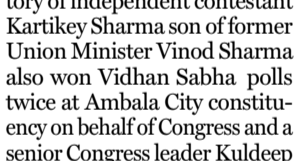
nities for Sikkigar and Vanjara Sikhs in their respective states for improving their economic condition; issue of forcing Sikhs candidates/students to remove Kakaars during recruitments/examinations and allowing to wear Kirpan in international flights like domestic ones; getting Sikh history recognised from SGPC before including it in syllabus of different state/centre boards of education and universities giving Indian citizenship to Hindus and Sikhs migrated from Pakistan and Afghanistan and assurance of protection of their lives and property in their respective countries.

Panjoli further added that similarly the demand has been made to abolish the condition of passport for Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor; giving permission to SGPC to EPFF Trust for all its affiliated Institutions, Trusts, Hospitals, Educational Institutions; exemption to SGPC from ESI and all its affiliated Institutions, Trusts, Hospitals, Educational Institutions.

Kartikey & Kuldeep may prove a healthy tonic for ruling govt in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

The present scenario reveals, victory of independent contestant Kartikey Sharma son of former Union Minister Vinod Sharma also won Vidhan Sabha polls twice at Ambala City constituency on behalf of Congress and a senior Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi son of former Haryana Chief Minister Ch.Bhajan Lal presently Adampur Vidhan Sabha constituency MLA now expelled from the party by Congress high command allegedly cross voting against Congress candidate Ajay Mekan in recent Rajya Sabha polls. The victory of Kartikey supported by BJP and



possibility of Kuldeep Bishnoi joining hands with BJP at this stage as per available sources may prove a healthy tonic for ruling BJP-JJP government in Haryana state. According to sources, both Manohar Lal Khatter Chief Minister and Dushyant Chautala Deputy Chief Minister have played an im-

portant role in victory of both candidates likely to strengthen BJP network in Haryana state and also likely to attract large number of 'Brahmin' and 'Bishnoi' voters in the state during 2024 Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha polls.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter has played an historic political role in the victory of both newly elected Rajya Sabha members and Manohar government in the state has become more powerful. Soon after declaration of result he met newly elected Rajya Sabha members to welcome, offer them sweets and congratulate the winners.

Master Degree Projects Presented by NIIFT Students

KULBIR SINGH KALSI

Mohali

Master of Design in Fashion & Textiles (M.Des. F & T), Fashion Marketing and Management (FMM) and Garment Manufacturing and Technology (GMT) students of Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology (NIIFT, Mohali) presented their final Master Degree projects at the NIIFT Campus, Mohali. This year a total of 15 projects by (M.Des. F & T), 4 research projects from the FMM department and 3 projects from the GMT department were presented. It was an important moment for the students who were given degrees and trophies too.

Geetika Singh, PCS, Director, Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology, Mohali, commented, "The presentations made by the students gave a deep analy-



sis of the market conditions and manufacturing competitiveness and were of a very high order."

Vishav Bandhu, Registrar, NIIFT said, "The projects presented by the students are need based industry projects. The M.Sc programs at NIIFT are the support systems for garment industry wherein the students under the direct supervision of senior industry representatives and their faculty members are doing research projects."

Dr Poonam Aggarwal Thakur,

Principal, NIIFT congratulated the passing out students for showcasing deep understanding and analysis of Research problems and offering the industry very practical and commercial solutions. Awards were given by the Director, NIIFT, Registrar, NIIFT, Principal NIIFT and Jury Members. The Award categories for this year for all Degree project presentations were Best Degree Project, Most Innovative Project and Most Industry Relevant Project.

RTA ASI moves writ to become witness against SDM arrested in bribery case

SATISH HANDA

RTA ASI Jaspal Singh arrested by State Vigilance Bureau has now moved a writ in the court to become witness in the case registered against Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Kaithal in Haryana Amrinder Singh arrested by State Vigilance Bureau allegedly involved in corruption accepting bribe from drivers of overloaded vehicles plying on roads when he was also having additional charge of District

Transport Officer Ambala. During preliminary investigation by vigilance department team Jaspal Singh said that during checking he used to collect money from drivers of overloaded vehicles on roads as desired by Amrinder Singh SDM and was unable to disobey his instructions. However, advocate of SDM facing corruption charges against him denied allegations made by ASI as untrue made under a conspiracy against his client. State Vigilance Bureau had



conducted raid and arrested Jaspal Singh ASI while accepting bribe from overloaded vehicles during surprise checking on road by SDM also having additional charge of DTO and

registered a corruption case against them on the complaint of a Kaithal transporter Dev Raj allegedly both involved in collecting bribe from overloaded vehicles during checking disclosing that those overloaded vehicles carrying 'Fresh Food' sticker affixed in front of their vehicles were not stopped for checking by the team.

Vigilance department team arrested Amrinder Singh SDM Kaithal near Toll Plaza at Saini Majra when his car rammed into another 'Inova'

car while attempting to flee and caught by large number of angry persons gathered at the spot including Toll Plaza employees and damaged, broken glasses of SDM's car. Meanwhile, police arrived at the spot arrested Amrinder Singh SDM driving the vehicle. The entire episode was recorded in CCTV cameras installed at Toll Plaza and footage of the same was collected by the police. Police also took into possession SDM's car and his mobile phone.

Haryana government to recover Rs 21 crore in 3 projects at Ambala

SATISH HANDA

Investigation by Haryana state government reveals, frauds for amount worth Rs 21 crore in construction of three projects at Ambala which include embezzlements of value for amount worth Rs 13.20 crore in construction of building for mini secretariat at the place where Session courts were situated in past at Ambala City. Now decision has been taken to recover amount from

those involved in corruption. The projects scheduled to be completed long ago are still hanging on fire causing lot of inconvenience to residents of area.

Three developmental projects approved by government of Haryana incurred fraud worth crores of rupees with the involvement of PWD (B&R) officers as well as contractors and suppliers of building material include construction of Mini Sec-



retariat at the place where Session Courts were situated

earlier at Ambala City to accommodate all government

offices under a roof in which recoveries for amount worth Rs 13.20 crore has been detected including payment of 524 ton steel was released to the supplier on the basis of fake bills without receiving the material. This project was scheduled to be completed by February 25, 2021 when hardly 30% work was completed is still lying incomplete causing inconvenience to residents in the district.

SGPC President welcomes Turban Day related Act by Canadian state

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee President Advocate Harjinder Singh welcomed the Turban Day related Act passed by Manitoba state of Canada. As per this Act passed, now every year April 13 will be celebrated as Turban Day in Manitoba state of Canada.

SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh said dastar (turban) is an integral part of Sikh living and today, Sikhs living across globe are increasing the pride of Sikh identity by wearing turbans. "Respect and recognition to turban on behalf of government in any country is satisfying and a matter of happiness. This has been possible with the efforts of Sikhs living across globe and their achievements at the international level", said Har-



jinder Singh, while thanking government of Manitoba state and congratulating the Sikhs.

Meanwhile, SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh has welcomed the arrests of four accused involved in 1984 Kanpur Sikh Genocide case and demanded strict punishments for every accused involved in

this pogrom. «In 1984, Sikhs were massacred in different parts of the country and the accused involved in these crimes are still evading punishments. Until every accused people are given exemplary punishments, the hearts of survivor and victim Sikhs will not be at peace», said Harjinder Singh.

Govt arrogant, 'police brutality' will not yield results: Sachin Pilot

Congress leader Sachin Pilot, detained by police amid protests over Rahul Gandhi's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate, said on Wednesday that the government is "arrogant" and asserted that "police brutality" will not yield results as the party was steadfast in its resolve to expose attempts to intimidate the Opposition.



"We were just entering the party office and for no reason we were just shoved into a bus

and taken to a police station and we don't know what next they plan to do with us."

"Police brutality and intimidation will not yield results because we are steadfast in our resolve to expose the undue pressure being exerted on agencies to intimidate the Opposition," the former Union minister said.

He alleged that the government is acting out of "arrogance" and not allowing any voice of protest.

"We wanted a peaceful march just to show solidarity and to expose the fact that the government is vindictive and is attacking all anti-BJP and Congress leaders, maligning their image, to divert attention from issues such as Kashmiri Pandits being massacred in the Kashmir Valley, inflation, unemployment and poverty," he said.

Earlier, in a tweet, Pilot said the "politics of hatred and revenge" the central government is doing is a "big threat to democracy".

"BJP's efforts to suppress the truth through untruth, injustice and immorality will never succeed. Truth is on Rahul Gandhi and the Congress' side that will neither bow down nor be afraid of any atrocities," Pilot said.

The Congress alleged that some Delhi Police personnel forcibly entered its headquarters and beat up party workers and leaders on Wednesday.

The party demanded that an FIR for "criminal trespass" be registered, the erring police personnel be suspended and disciplinary action initiated against them.

Government should reconsider Agnipath scheme: Hooda

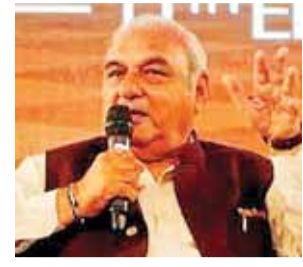
CHANDIGARH: Senior Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Wednesday lashed out at the Centre over its "Agnipath" scheme, saying it neither favours the country nor the youth.

He requested the government to reconsider and rationalise it by ensuring permanent jobs to soldiers who complete their four-year term in the armed forces.

The Centre on Tuesday unveiled the ambitious "Agnipath" scheme for recruitment of the youth aged between 17 and a half and 21 in the Army, Navy and the Air Force, largely on a four-year short-term contractual basis. The youth recruited under the scheme will be known as 'Agniveers'. After the completion of the four-year tenure, 25 per cent of the recruits from each specific batch will be offered regular service.

"It has far-reaching consequences and these have not been fully considered while preparing this scheme. In the long run, the policy would have a detrimental impact on our national security," Hooda claimed in a statement here.

"It seems the government is compromising with the security of the country with the intention of saving money on salary, pension, gratuity



and halving the strength of the armed forces," the former Haryana chief minister alleged.

Hooda claimed that a large number of youth have become overage due to the closure of Army recruitment for the past three years due to the Covid pandemic. "The hopes of the youth who had been waiting for the Army recruitment for the last many years and also those who had given written examination, physical test for Army recruitment and were waiting for the results have been dashed after the implementation of this new policy," he said. The Congress leader demanded that the government should consider giving relaxation in age limit to the youth who have become overage in the past three years.

Counting the shortcomings of the scheme, Hooda said 75 per cent of the soldiers who will be recruited in the army as Agniveers will be retired after four years.

Akhilesh seeks votes in name of religion: Balyan

Union Minister of State Sanjeev Balyan on Monday hit out at Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, alleging the opposition leader seeks votes in the name of religion.

"Akhilesh Yadav seeks votes in the name of religion. If he stops seeking votes on this basis, his shop will close down," said Balyan who arrived here to address a public meeting.

The minister's statement came a day after Yadav criticised the ruling BJP over the violence following Friday prayers on June 10. Violence had taken place in parts of the state over now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks against Prophet Mohammed.

"It is no secret that the BJP's politics is based on hatred and division of society on the instructions of its parent organisation RSS," he said.

To a question on the Enforcement Directorate (ED) notice to Congress leader and MP Rahul Gandhi, Balyan said the agency's job is to enforce if there is a wrongdoing. They do scams and when the government acts, they allege oppression, the minister said.



Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) develops an Indian Standard for 'Non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay'



Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India, has developed an Indian Standard, IS 17693: 2022 for 'non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay'.

Named as 'Mitticool refrigerator', Mansukh Bhai Prajapati from Gujarat is the innovator behind the refrigerator which projects an eco-friendly technology. BIS standard specifies the construction and performance requirements of a cooling cabinet made out of clay, which operates on the principle of evaporative cooling. These cabinets may be used to store perishable foodstuff without the need of electricity. This standard helps BIS in fulfilling 6 out of 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like No poverty, Zero hunger, Gender equality, Affordable and clean energy, Industry, innovation, and infrastructure, and Responsible

consumption and production.

It is a natural refrigerator made primarily from clay to store vegetables, fruits, milk, and also for cooling water. It provides natural coolness to foodstuffs stored in it without requiring any electricity. Fruits, vegetables, and milk can be stored reasonably fresh without deteriorating their quality. The efficacy of the product is boundless. To name a few, it is playing an influential role in reviving the pottery culture, tradition, and heritage; connecting people back to roots in better healthier ways; promoting sustainable consumption; economically empowering the indigent community; working towards green and cool earth, economic development and employment generation; and finally contributing towards rural women upliftment and making them financially independent.

I&B secy releases Prasar Bharati's procurement policy

Information and Broadcasting Ministry Secretary Apurva Chandra on Wednesday released a policy of Prasar Bharati for procurement of materials, services, and work of the specified quality at the "most competitive prices" in a fair, just, and transparent manner.

The ministry said there was a need to bring in "a uniform and well-documented" policy guideline and processes in place to ensure that critical works are completed on time in a well-coordinated manner with the fewest cost overruns possible.

"In the spirit of ease of doing business at Prasar Bharati, for the first time a procurement policy was released by the I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra in the presence of Prasar Bharati



Member (Finance) DPS Negi, Additional Secretary Neerja Sekhar and other officials," the ministry said in a statement.

It said the policy is a directive to all procurement entities in all Prasar Bharati verticals, including All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD), for procurement of materials, services, and work of the specified quality at the most

competitive prices in a fair, just, and transparent manner.

"To accomplish this, Prasar Bharati was in need of a uniform and well-documented policy guideline and processes in place, ensuring that critical works are completed on time, in a well-coordinated manner, and with the fewest cost overruns possible," the ministry added.

Lawyer files complaint against Nupur

A lawyer has filed a complaint against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma with the Contai police station in West Bengal over her derogatory statement on Prophet Mohammed, police said here on Sunday.

Abu Sohel, who stated

that he is a lawyer, filed the complaint through an e-mail dated June 11 to the inspector in charge of Contai police station in Purba Medinipur district. He sought that an FIR be registered against Sharma for her remarks.

A senior officer of Contai

police station said that the e-mail has been received.

Sharma who made an objectionable statement about the Prophet during a TV debate on the Gyanvapi controversy was suspended by the saffron party after many Islamic countries raised objections to it.

PM to dedicate Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor project on 19th June

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation the main tunnel and five underpasses of Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor Project on 19th June, 2022 at 10:30 AM. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. The Integrated Transit Corridor project is an integral part of Pragati Maidan Redevelopment Project.



being held at Pragati Maidan.

The impact of the project, however, will be much beyond Pragati Maidan as it will ensure hassle-free vehicular movement, helping save time and cost of commuters in a big way. It is part of the overarching vision of the government to ensure ease of living for people through transforming urban infrastructure. The main Tunnel connects Ring Road with India Gate via Purana Qila Road passing through Pragati Maidan. The six lane divided Tunnel has multiple purposes, including access to the huge basement parking of Pragati Maidan. A unique component of the Tunnel is that two cross tunnels below the main tunnel road have been constructed in order to facilitate movement of the traffic from either side of the parking lot.

The Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor project has been built at a cost of more than Rs. 920 crore, entirely funded by the Central Government. It is aimed to provide hassle free and smooth access to the new world class exhibition and convention centre being developed at Pragati Maidan, thereby facilitating easy participation of exhibitors and visitors in the programmes

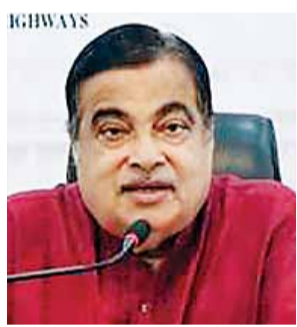
Nitin Gadkari proposes setting up of Innovation Bank for new ideas, research findings & technologies to focus on 'Quality' in infrastructure development

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has proposed setting up of Innovation Bank for new ideas, research findings and technologies to focus on 'Quality' in infrastructure development. Virtually addressing the inaugural function of the 222nd Mid-Term Council Meeting of the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) he said new initiatives are expected from IRC. Innovation should be the focus area for all Engineers. He said IRC should develop a World-class state-of-art laboratory with the help of IITs and global institutions in the world.

Gadkari said infrastructure development has an important role in fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a 5 trillion-dollar economy and

Road infrastructure is directly linked to the prosperity of that region. He said Road infrastructure connects people, culture and society and brings prosperity through socio-economic development.

The Minister said in the last 8 years, the length of National



Highways has gone up by more than 50% from 91,000 km in 2014 to about 1.47 Lakh km now. He said our government is dedicatedly working towards expanding the National Highway network to 2 lakh kilometers by 2025. In last 8 years, our team has created multiple world records, he added.

Nitin Gadkari said Government is very committed to the development of the North East region. He said NHIDCL is playing a vital role in developing infrastructure in this region. The National Highway share of the region stands at 10%. He said till date, 2344 km highway is constructed at the cost of Rs. 45,000 crore.

Will Neeraj Chopra breach 90m barrier in Kuortane Games?



Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will be primed to breach the 90m mark during the Kuortane Games in Finland on Saturday after his spectacular return to action in Turkey where he had sent his spear to 89.30m for a new national record.

The 24-year-old Indian superstar's spear landed 70cm short of the 90m mark, the gold standard of the javelin world at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, on Tuesday in his first competition after winning gold in Tokyo in August last year.

He was second in a star-studded field behind local athlete Oliver Helander, who was the surprise gold winner with a personal best of 89.83m.

Chopra will be competing for the second time this week at the Kuortane Games, which is a silver-level event in the World Athletics Continental Tour.

Land acquired after possession and payment of compensation vests with state: Supreme Court

Land acquired by authorities after its possession and payment of compensation under the Land Acquisition Act vests with the State, free from all encumbrances, the Supreme Court has said.

A vacation bench of justices M R Shah and Aniruddha Bose agreed with the view of the Allahabad High Court that any person retaining possession of the land thereafter has to be treated as a trespasser.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by a Uttar Pradesh resident, challenging a notice dated February 2 issued by the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, asking him to remove unauthorised encroachments over a piece of land situated under its notified area.

The top court noted that the petitioner's land was acquired, its possession taken over and the payment of compensation under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 paid.

"In that view of the matter, the petitioner has no right to occupy and/or continue with the possession, as after the acquisi-



tion, the land absolutely vests with the state government. The high court has rightly refused to interfere and we are in complete agreement with the view taken by the high court.

"Therefore, we see no reason to interfere with the impugned order in exercise of our powers under Article 136 of the Constitution of India. The Special Leave Petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the bench said.

The high court had said after the acquisition of land and passing of award, the land vests with the State, free from all encumbrances.

The Uttar Pradesh government had contended that the possession of the land in question was taken in 1996 and even the entry of the revenue record was changed.

Gadkari emphasizes on maintaining equilibrium between ecology, environment and development

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has emphasized on maintaining equilibrium between ecology, environment and development. Inaugurating 'Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022' (IDS-2022) - Road Map for Carbon Neutrality by 2070 he said to overcome power shortage, it is essential to develop alternative fuels. He said eccentric one sided approach in these issues is not beneficial for the country.

Nitin Gadkari said in the coming days, we have to strengthen our economy and at the same time save the environment. He said our priority is green hydrogen, by using Biotechnology we can increase the productivity of Biomass and by using Biomass we can make Bio-ethanol, Bio-LNG and Bio-CNG. He said pollution will decrease by usage of methanol and ethanol. The Minister said that a focused road map should be created and adequate research must be done so that we reduce our imports and increase exports

Gross Tax collections for the Financial Year 2022-23 grown at about 40%

The figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2022-23, as on 16.06.2022 show that net collections are at Rs.3,39,225 crore compared to Rs. 2,33,651 crore over the corresponding period of the preceding year, representing an increase of 45% over the collections of the preceding year. The net collection (as on 16.06.2022) in F.Y. 2022-23 has registered a growth of 171% over the corresponding period of F.Y. 2020-21 when the net collection was Rs. 1,25,065 crore, and a growth of 103% over the corresponding period of F.Y. 2019-20 when the net collection was Rs. 1,67,432 crore. The Net Direct Tax collection of Rs. 3,39,225 crore (as on 16.06.2022) include Corporation



Tax (CIT) at Rs. 1,70,583 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Security Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs. 1,67,960 crore (net of refund). The Gross collection of Direct Taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for the F.Y. 2022-23 stands at Rs. 3,69,559 crore compared to Rs. 2,64,382 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, representing an increase of almost 40% over the collections of the preceding year.

SC issues notice to CBI, ED on bail plea of actor in Ponzi schemes cases



The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea of actor Mohd Naseer seeking bail in connection with criminal cases related to alleged cheating and siphoning of funds in the names of Ponzi schemes.

Naseer, a visually impaired actor who had acted in the 2009 Bollywood Hindi movie - 'The Shadow, the Dark Side of Truth', is in jail from 2019 in connection with the cases lodged by CBI and the ED. A vacation bench comprising justices A S Bopanna and Vikram Nath sought replies of the probe agencies within three weeks after senior advocate Siddharth Bhatnagar, appearing for the jailed actor, said the Orissa High Court, which reserved the order on the bail plea on June 12, 2020, was yet to deliver it.

Left parties demand scrapping of Agnipath scheme

The Left parties on Thursday demanded that the Agnipath scheme be scrapped and be taken up in Parliament for discussion, alleging that it does a "disservice" to India's national interests.

The government had unveiled the scheme on Tuesday saying it will overhaul the decades-old selection process to bring in fitter and younger troops to tackle future security challenges facing the nation.

Around 46,000 soldiers will be recruited this year between the ages of 17 and a half years and 21 years into the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

"The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) strongly disapproves the 'Agnipath' scheme that does disservice to India's national interests. Professional armed forces cannot be raised by recruiting 'soldiers on contract' for a period of four years. This scheme, to save pension money, severely



compromises the quality and efficiency of our professional armed forces." CPIM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said in a tweet.

He further said that for the last two years there has been no recruitment in the Indian Army and instead of recruiting regular soldiers into the armed forces, this scheme leaves such contract soldiers with no other prospects of employment after four years.

"This creates a dangerous situation where they may end up serving private militias. This has hazardous implications for our social fabric already under severe strain. It is criminal to call upon our youth to be prepared to make the supreme sacrifice without the minimum protection of job security. The spontaneous protests in various parts of the country, reflects the anger against this scheme."

Saira Banu says Dilip Kumar should get Bharat Ratna

MUMBAI: Veteran actor Saira Banu says her late husband actor Dilip Kumar should be honoured with the Bharat Ratna as he is the "kohnoor" of the country.

Saira attended the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award on late Tuesday evening, where union minister Ramdas Athawale presented the honour to Dilip Kumar, who passed away last year aged 98. At the event, Athawale said he would request Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider awarding Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honour of the country, to the Hindi cinema



legend. When asked about the same, Saira Banu told reporters, "It should happen, God willing, because Dilip sahab has been the 'Kohnoor' of our country. So 'Kohnoor' should definitely receive a Bharat Ratna." Saira Banu and

Dilip Kumar got married in 1966. The couple acted together in several films including "Sagina" and "Gopi". At the event, the 77-year-old actor repeatedly broke down while receiving the honour. "This is the reason I don't attend any functions because I feel terrible, but what do I do," she said, wiping her tears. Saira said she feels that Dilip Kumar continues to be with her as a solid support. "I feel he is still here, watching everything, being with me. He is not in my memories."

Taming inflation should be the top priority for now

The latest retail inflation numbers point to a slight softening in the pace of price gains, and that should provide policymakers some solace that recent interventions appear to be working. Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), slowed 75 basis points from April's 95-month high of 7.79%, to 7.04% in May. While it is hard to quantify the effect that the RBI's surprise 40 basis points interest rate increase of early May had on prices, the Centre's May 21 decision to cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 8 and Rs 6, respectively, seems to have had an immediate impact. Inflation in the transport and communication category of the CPI slowed by 137 basis points to 9.54% last month. This key category, with a weight of 8.59 that places it behind only cereals and housing, captures the pump prices of the main transportation fuels, making it a crucial indicator of price pressures in the economy. A closer look, however, shows inflation in the category continued to quicken sequentially, even if at a slower pace. Rural consumers, who have comparatively lower purchasing power than their urban peers and yet are heavily reliant on the fuels for farm operations, experienced a significantly slower softening of only 42bps over the year. With the price of the Indian basket of crude oil now having surged by almost 8.5% from April to a 10-year high this month, and the rupee plunging to successive new record lows against the dollar, it would be unwise to drop one's guard. Food prices, the other driver of retail price gains, offered far less respite with the Consumer Food Price Index (inflation slowing by only 34 basis points to 7.97%. With the RBI's consumer confidence survey showing an appreciable deterioration in households' expectations of the one-year ahead price level, authorities must proactively try to tame inflation.

LETTERBOX

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"Whenever you see a successful business, someone once made a courageous decision."
- Peter F. Drucker

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GAURAV GOGOI EXPLORES HOW INDIA CAN RESPOND TO GROWING ANAEMIA WITH PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

Malnutrition remains a key worry

Good nutrition has the power to empower the present and future generations. India's greatest national treasure is its people — especially women and children — but even after 75 years of independence, a majority of them do not get the required diet to meet their nutritional needs. A child's nutritional status is directly linked to their mother. Poor nutrition among pregnant women affects the nutritional status of the child and has a greater chance to affect future generations. Undernourished children are at risk of under-performing in studies and have limited job prospects. This vicious cycle restrains the development of the country, whose workforce, affected mentally and physically, has reduced work capacity.

While there has been some progress in tackling malnutrition among children and women over the past decade, the improvement has been modest at best. This is despite declining rates of poverty, increased self-sufficiency in food production, and the implementation of a range of government programmes. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has shown marginal improvement in different nutrition indicators, indicating that the pace of progress is slow. Children in several States are more undernourished now than they were five years ago.

While there was some reduction in stunting rates (35.5 per cent from 38.4 per cent in NFHS-4) 13 States or Union Territories have seen an increase in stunted children since NFHS-4; this includes Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Kerala. (Stunting is defined as low height-for-age.) Malnutrition trends across NFHS surveys show that wasting, the most visible and life-threatening form of malnutrition, has either risen or has remained stagnant over the years (Wasting is defined as low weight-for-height).



India also has the highest prevalence of anaemia in the world (Anaemia is defined as the condition in which the number of red blood cells or the haemoglobin concentration within them is lower than normal). The NFHS-5 survey indicates that more than 57 per cent of women (15-49 years) and over 67 per cent children (six-59 months) suffer from anaemia. My home State, Assam, is among the low-performing States, with a huge burden of anaemic cases — 66.4 per cent of women (15-49 years) and 68.4 per cent children (6-59 months) are affected. It is imperative to introspect about these problems, which remain persistent, pervasive, and serious. Anaemia has major consequences in terms of human health and development: it reduces the work capacity of individuals, in turn impacting the economy and overall national growth. Developing countries lose up to 4.05 per cent in GDP per annum due to iron deficiency anaemia; India loses up to 1.18 per cent of GDP annually.

Step up the financing

There is a greater need now to increase investment in women and children's health and nutrition to ensure their sustainable development and improved quality of life. While the Government's focus has been on the consolidation of several programmes to improve outcomes, there is a need for increased financial commitment. Experts have pointed out that Saksham Anganwadi and the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) 2.0 programme have seen only a marginal increase in budgetary allocation this year (Rs 20,263 crore from Rs 20,105 crore in 2021-22). Additionally, 32 per cent of funds released under POSHAN Abhiyaan to States and Union Territories have not been utilised.

India must adopt an outcome-oriented approach on nutrition programmes. It is crucial that parliamentarians begin monitoring needs and interventions in their constituencies and raise awareness on the issues, impact, and solutions to

address the challenges at the local level. There has to be direct engagement with nutritionally vulnerable groups (this includes the elderly, pregnant women, those with special needs and young children), and contribute toward ensuring last-mile delivery of key nutrition services and interventions. This will ensure greater awareness on the one hand and proper planning and implementation of programmes at the grass-roots level on the other, which can then be replicated at the district and national levels.

With basic education and general awareness, every individual is informed, takes initiatives at the personal level and can become an agent of change. Various studies highlight a strong link between mothers' education and improved access and compliance with nutrition interventions among children. We must ensure our young population has a competitive advantage; nutrition and health are foundational to that outcome.

I strongly believe that there should be a process to monitor and evaluate programmes and address systemic and on the ground challenges. As a policymaker, I recommend that a new or existing committee or the relevant standing committees meet and deliberate over effective policy decisions, monitor the implementation of schemes, and review nutritional status across States. The country's response to malnutrition and its growing anaemia burden should be practical and innovative. This is critical to make an India that is malnutrition-free and anaemia-free a reality, and not just an aspiration. Every one is a stakeholder and should contribute towards ending malnutrition and anaemia. We should not become part of a tragedy that is preventable.

Gaurav Gogoi is Member of Parliament (Congress party) for Kuliabor, Assam. Views are personal.



TRIDIVESH SINGH MAINI DELVES INTO THE MULTIPLE POLICY WOES FACED BY THE US PRESIDENT

Biden tries hard to deal with internal, external challenges

A lot of commentators have repeatedly drawn attention to the multiple foreign policy challenges which the US President Joe Biden administration has been facing over the past year — while the first major challenge for Biden was the exit of US troops from Afghanistan, the Ukraine-Russia conflict has had even broader economic and geopolitical ramifications.

The US economy has, not unexpectedly, borne the brunt of the Ukraine-Russia crisis. A strong reiteration of this point is that consumer inflation hit a 40-year high in May, 2022 increased 8.6% from the previous year. According to US Labour Department data which came out on June 10, 2022, food and gas (gas prices had reached USD 4.99 a gallon last week) were major contributors towards the steep rise in inflation. While in May 2022, energy costs rose 34.6% from a year earlier, groceries, jumped 11.9% from last year.

The economic situation has dented US President, Joe Biden's popularity. In an ABC News/Ipsos poll published on June 4, 2022, only 28 per cent of voters said they approved of the way Biden had handled the problem of inflation, while 27 per cent approved how he is handling the increase in gas prices. According to the poll a whopping 80% of voters said that inflation would influence their vote in the mid terms later this year.

The US President during his visit to Los Angeles, last week confessed the challenge posed by inflation, but also pointed to the fact that unemployment had dropped to its lowest in 52 years.

Biden's popularity has also dropped amongst democrat law makers, party members and voters who believe he would be a liability for the Democrats were he to stand



as President in 2024. Biden's age has also been cited as a major drawback (in 2024, Biden will be 82). Democrat strategist David Axelrod in an interview to the New York Times stated:

"The presidency is a monstrosity taxing job and the stark reality is the president would be closer to 90 than 80 at the end of a second term, and that would be a major issue." He also said that Biden has not got credit for a number of his achievements because of not seeming to be in control.

Biden's foreign policy hand, while not deviating significantly from Donald Trump's foreign policy on a number of issues — including China — has tried to send out a message, that he is less isolationist and is keen to work closely with allies — specially to counter China and Russia. Biden an establishment has not been an idealist, though he has tried to bring in the

'moral dimension' into foreign policy. The US President has faced scathing criticism especially from the US withdrawal from Afghanistan as well as his handling of the Ukraine crisis. US economy and Biden's Foreign Policy Given his low approval ratings, and the mid-term elections in November 2022, Biden's foreign policy will be driven by domestic politics — especially the state of the US economy.

If one were to look at the Biden Administration's openness towards removing tariffs on certain Chinese products, such as household goods, bicycles, imposed by former US President Donald Trump it is driven by the urge to control inflation (tariffs on steel and aluminium are likely to remain in place)

US Commerce secretary, Gina Raimondo while commenting on the same said: "We are looking at it. In fact, the president has asked us on his team to analyze that. And

we are in the process of doing that for him and he will have to make that decision."

Biden also needs to keep oil prices down before the November mid-term election. His policy vis-a-vis the Middle East is important in this context. First, even if the Iran Nuclear deal 2015 can not be revived, it is likely that Biden will allow Iran to sell oil (ever since the Ukraine crisis both Iran and Venezuela have been selling oil).

Second, Saudi Arabia which had earlier refused to drill more oil has agreed to do so (Saudi Arabia led OPEC and its allies agreed to a higher than expected increase in oil production), and Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia in July is important in this context. While he had been scathing in his criticism of Saudi Arabia for its human rights record, and had cold shouldered Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman (MBS), who shared close relations with Biden's predecessor, a reset of relations is likely during his visit. While commenting on his upcoming visit to Saudi Arabia, the US President said: "The commitments from the Saudis don't relate to anything having to do with energy. It happens to be a larger meeting taking place in Saudi Arabia."

In conclusion, the Biden administration faces numerous challenges and to address some of the economic challenges at home he will need to tweak his foreign policy. It remains to be seen how political constituencies, in the US, respond to the lifting of tariffs on certain Chinese products and the outreach towards Saudi Arabia.

Tridivesh Singh Maini is a policy analyst, commentator and writer. He is also a visiting faculty, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat.

BOOKS: REVIEW

Book: Tech brought more Southpaws into cricket

Technology has brought more left-handers into cricket. Leading Cricket thinkers Nathan Leamon, Ben Jones, and others write in "Hitting Against the Spin — How Cricket Really Works".

If this sounds like science fiction, take a look behind the scenes at a Formula 1 team to see it in action. There are more human elements to Cricket than we know.

The authors say that Cricket will follow F1's lead (once we figure out how to calculate the tyre wear of a fast bowler).

In the early 1990s 25% of Test cricket's top order batsmen were left-handed. The home team provided both umpires. The International Panel of Umpires was established and the standard of

umpiring in Test matches grew over the next 25 years.

"First, one neutral umpire was introduced, then two. Hawk-Eye was introduced, which helped improve umpires' understanding and made their decision-making more efficient.

"Finally the introduction of the Decision Review System, and the professional training of the most skilled umpires in the country, raised standards even further.

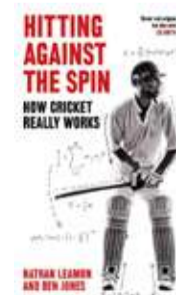
"The accuracy of umpiring decisions increased simultaneously and independently, and the proportion of left-handers began to rise as well." Leamon and Jones write that left-handed openers grew in popularity as umpiring became more accurate. They eventually outnumbered

'Hopefully, we'll solve puzzles that you have been pondering for years and show you new ways of thinking. It will be difficult in places and as geeky as your imagination will allow'

right-handers.

This was no accident. Better umpiring was the direct and unintended consequence of increased success for left-handed batsmen.

"Left-handed openers have always enjoyed an advantage under the LBW laws, but pre-1990



Hitting Against the Spin — How Cricket Really Works
By Nathan Leamon & Ben Jones
Constable, 400 pages; Rs 899

inconsistent umpiring was too blunt to reveal this advantage. If the umpire gives out, your law protection against ball pitching outside of your leg stump is not applicable to you.

"But as the precision of decision-making grew, the value of that protection grew as well, and so did performance of left-handers in the top ranks.

"This was, of necessity, only one of many ways that improving the umpires changed Test cricket's patterns and trends. Constable/Hachette published the book. This is just one of many amaz-

ing gems in the book. It takes you on a fascinating whistle stop tour of modern Cricket, sports analytics, and brings Cricket into the 21st Century by revealing its long-kept secrets.

It sheds light on international Cricket and explains the hidden workings and dynamics.

It examines the forces that influence Cricket and, in turn, the cricketers who play it. It reveals the invisible forces that decide which players succeed or fail, which tactics work, and which teams win or lose.

It reveals the hidden hands that have shaped the game, and the people who play it.

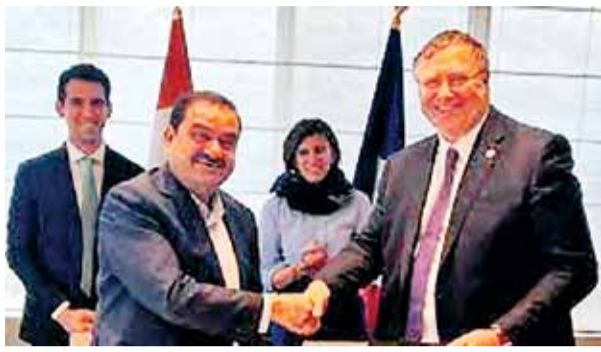
"Hopefully, we'll solve puzzles that you have been pondering for years and show you new ways of thinking. It will be difficult in places and as geeky as your imagination will allow. The authors say that it will be enjoyable and you'll see Cricket differently afterward."

Adani and TotalEnergies to create the world's largest green hydrogen ecosystem

Adani, India's fastest-growing diversified business portfolio, and energy supermajor TotalEnergies of France, have entered into a new partnership to jointly create the world's largest green hydrogen ecosystem. In this strategic alliance, TotalEnergies will acquire 25% minority interest in Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL) from Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL).

The new partnership, centered on green hydrogen, is expected to transform the energy landscape both in India and globally. Both Adani and TotalEnergies are pioneers in energy transition and clean energy adoption, and this joint energy platform further strengthens the public ESG commitments made by both companies. ANIL's ambition is to invest over USD 50 billion over the next 10 years in green hydrogen and associated ecosystem. In the initial phase, ANIL will develop green hydrogen production capacity of 1 million ton per annum before 2030.

"The strategic value of the Adani-TotalEnergies relationship is immense at both the business level and the ambition



level," said Mr. Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group. "In our journey to become the largest green hydrogen player in the world, the partnership with TotalEnergies adds several dimensions that include R&D, market reach and an understanding of the end consumer. This fundamentally allows us to shape market demand. This is why I find the continued extension of our partnership to hold such great value. Our confidence in our ability to produce the world's least expensive electron is what will drive our ability to produce the world's least expensive green hydrogen. This partnership will open up a number of exciting

downstream pathways." "TotalEnergies' entry into ANIL is a major milestone in implementing our renewable and low carbon hydrogen strategy, where we want to not only decarbonize the hydrogen used in our European refineries by 2030, but also pioneer the mass production of green hydrogen to meet demand, as the market will take off by the end of this decade," said Mr. Patrick Pouyann, Chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies. "We are also very pleased with this agreement, which further strengthens our alliance with the Adani Group in India and contributes to the valorization

of India's abundant low-cost renewable power potential. This future production capacity of 1 million ton per annum of green hydrogen will be a major step in increasing TotalEnergies' share of new decarbonized molecules including biofuels, biogas, hydrogen, and e-fuels to 25% of its energy production and sales by 2050."

This partnership builds on the exceptional synergies between the two platforms. While Adani will bring its deep knowledge of the Indian market, rapid execution capabilities, operations excellence and capital management philosophy to the partnership, TotalEnergies will bring its deep understanding of the global and European market, credit enhancement and financial strength to lower the financing costs, and expertise in underlying technologies. The complementary strengths of the partners will help ANIL deliver the largest green hydrogen ecosystem in the world, which, in turn, will deliver the lowest cost of Green Hydrogen to the consumer and help accelerate the global energy transition.

AirAsia India expands its network to Uttar Pradesh, adds Lucknow as its latest destination with 112 weekly direct flights

FW DESK
Mumbai

AirAsia India today announced that it is expanding its network to Lucknow with daily direct flights connecting Lucknow to Bengaluru, Delhi, Goa, Kolkata and Mumbai with fares starting from Rs 4,064. The flight operations will start from 5th Aug 2022. Inaugural fares are now open for booking on all major booking channels. NeuPass is a rewards program by Tata Neu where members get benefits such as additional discounts on flights, 5% assured NeuCoins and free Red Carpet priority service.

In addition to NeuPass members, students, senior citizens, SMEs, dependents and members of the armed forces can also avail special fares on airasia.co.in. By offering fab deals, unique benefits and fantastic value to guests, the airline has consistently tried to enhance guest experience. In addition to providing nonstop connectivity to Bengaluru, Delhi, Goa, Kolkata and Mumbai, AirAsia India would also be connecting Lucknow through convenient one-stop itineraries to other stations on its network such as Srinagar,



Cochin, Hyderabad, Guwahati and others.

Speaking about the announcement, Ankur Garg, Chief Commercial Officer, AirAsia India, said, "We are delighted to add Lucknow to our network and looking forward to commencing operations in Uttar Pradesh from Aug'22. The future prospects in travel have been a contributing factor in zeroing in on Lucknow as our next destination. By operating 112 weekly direct flights to Bengaluru, Delhi, Goa, Kolkata and Mumbai from Lucknow, we look forward to delivering a convenient and pleasant flying experience to our guests. Our cushioned and comfortable seats, a wide choice of oven-hot

meals from our award winning 'Gourmair' menu, and the benefits of NeuPass would provide a distinct experience to the flyers in Uttar Pradesh."

India, AirAsia (India) Private Limited is a subsidiary of Tata Sons Private Limited. AirAsia India commenced operations on 12th June 2014 and flies over 50 direct and 100 connecting routes across India. The airline offers plush leather seats, hot meals and Red Carpet priority services. AirAsia India has consistently embraced technology to deliver operational efficiency and enhance guest experiences, offering fast bookings, fab value and fantastic deals on its award-winning mobile apps and website airasia.co.in.

Statement by TVS Motor on Agnipath Scheme

The Agnipath scheme will have a significant positive impact on society, and contribute greatly to nation building. Agniveers will play a key role in furthering economic growth and strengthening society in the coming years, - Mr. Sudarshan Venu, MD, TVS Motor Company.

TVS Motor Company is a reputed two and three-wheeler manufacturer globally, championing progress through Sustainable Mobility with four state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Hosur, Mysuru and Nagargh in India and Karawang in Indonesia. Rooted in its 100-year legacy of Trust, Value, and Passion for Customers and Exactness, we take pride in making internationally aspirational products of the highest quality through innovative and sustainable processes.

We are the only two-wheeler company to have received the prestigious Deming Prize. Our products lead in their respective categories in the J.D. Power IQS and APEAL surveys. We have been ranked No. 1 Company in the J.D. Power Customer Service Satisfaction Survey for consecutive four years.

Mamta Binani completes a triumphant 25 years in her profession



In 1996, she was named the All-India Topper in the Institute of Company Secretaries of India's Intermediate Examinations. She has served as the Chairperson of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India's Eastern India Regional Council, receiving the D. L. Mazumdar Silver Medal and the Mauji Ram Memorial Award. She received the prestigious 'Bharat Nirman Awards' for 'Excellence in Professional Services,' making her the first Company Secretary to receive this honor.

She has received a number of awards namely, 'Tejaswini Award', 'Hello Kolkata', 'KKMERS', Best President Award, Lions Clubs International District 322B2. She was the first Indian to receive the 'IWRIC Women of the Year in Restructuring (Asia) Award, 2021'. Binani has also been felicitated at the 15th Edition of Asian Business & Social Forum 2021, Awards & Business E-Summit, on 26th October 2021 at Emirates Ball Room, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Dubai.

Schneider Electric launches 'Innovate to Inspire' - a supply chain hackathon for start-ups

MUMBAI: Schneider Electric the global leader in digital transformation of energy automation and management, today announced the launch of 'Innovate to Inspire' - a supply chain hackathon for start-ups. The hackathon which will be powered by K-Tech Innovation Hub, IKP will focus on finding solutions specific to the global supply chain challenges.

Future-ready platforms powered by new technologies and start-ups built on innovation are the keys to solving today's business obstacles. The hackathon will bring industry leaders and enthusiasts from across the country together to co-create innovative supply chain solutions. In line with recent advances, the supply chain industry has an immense potential to grow further, powered by new-age technologies. This initiative will offer an opportunity to partner and collaborate with Schneider Electric by competing to solve industrial use cases and providing the best solutions. Selected start-ups will get a chance to work with Schneider Electric along with receiving professional mentorship and the opportunity to network and scale themselves up.

Javed Ahmad, Sr. Vice President, Global Supply Chain, International Region, Schneider Electric, emphasised the significance of the hackathon for the continued growth of the supply chain industry and said, "The supply chain industry has been showcasing exponential growth. With this, energy demands are also growing in tandem.

JK Tyre celebrates 4 decades of Motorsport in India

MUMBAI: JK Tyre, the name that stands synonymous to motorsport in the country is celebrating over four decades of their motorsport journey. While the pandemic did not deter the spirit of the brand in last two years as they successfully hosted their racing championship coupled with all annual events, the team today announced their plans for 2022.

Present at the event, India's decorated rally driver and Arjuna Awardee Gaurav Gill announced his participation in the World Rally Championship



(WRC) 2022. The three-time APRC (Asia Pacific Rally Championship) champion and seventh INRC (Indian National Rally Championship) champion is all geared up to participate in

40% of youths spend 4 hrs daily on the Net

BY NARVIJAY SINGH

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is spreading rapidly and is becoming more powerful day by day than before. It is the mechanical form of the human brain, with the help of which many functions are being performed through computers, smartphones, and machines. Innovative applications of AI are emerging one after the other in medical science, computer science, and commercial processes. Your smartphone is called smart because it is powered by AI and the internet, and in the blink of an eye, you can do many impossible tasks with the help of this handy gadget. It is surprising that the smartphone alone has replaced many of the tools and technologies that had existed over the years and thus has changed the lifestyle of people the world over. Now you do not



wear a wristwatch to check the time and don't rely on the radio set or a tape recorder to listen to your favorite songs or music. The camera has already disappeared from the scene. The calculator also met a similar fate. The mobile phone alone is doing a lot of work now and behind it is the power of AI. There is so much about AI that no matter how many times it interferes in our lives, there are some things that only humans can do well.

generation relied on their memory for multiplication or daily calculations and did most of the counting with their minds, the youth of Gen Z could not walk a step without a smartphone or the Internet. They need calculators for simple addition and subtraction and the Internet for solutions to every problem, big or small. 40 percent of the youth of this generation are those who spend more than four hours on the internet every day and use the internet to make their everyday decisions. This generation maintained contact with the outside world only through the Internet at the time of the Covid pandemic. The period of the lockdown was such that it was not possible to go anywhere and mutual contacts were also broken, in such a situation, from ordering medicines to necessary video or zoom meetings, these youths kept the pace of work.

Ravi Bulchandani to join the board of Rent Alpha Private Limited

Rent Alpha Pvt. Ltd., a leasing and residual management company and owner of CapSave Finance, an NBFC, announced the appointment of Ravi Bulchandani to its Board of Directors.

"The addition of Ravi Bulchandani to the Board will bring a huge amount of global knowledge to Rent Alpha," said Bharat Bhise, founder and CEO of Bravia Capital, majority owner in Rent Alpha. "Ravi was a senior global strategic adviser at 4 of the 10 largest financial institutions in the world. I am confident that with Ravi's advice, we will be one step closer to fine-tuning Rent Alpha's business model and taking it to the next level, alongside the world's best companies in this space."

"We welcome Mr. Bulchandani to the Board of Rent Alpha, and we are eager to work with him as we grow to become one of India's leading residual management companies," said Jinesh Jain, CEO of Rent Alpha.

Globe Toyota clocks 154 pc growth in May 2022

KULBIR SINGH KALSI
Chandigarh

Globe Toyota, known for speedy and efficient service, allowing customers to experience the convenience and pleasure of owning a Toyota automobile, logged an incredible growth of 154% in May-2022 as compared to the last corresponding period of May-2021.

Commenting on the May 2022 performance, figures for which have come out, Vivek Datta, CEO and MD, Globe Toyota, said: "Demand continues to peak as we have very encouraging booking orders and inquiries for all our models. The cool new Glanza has received an overwhelming response from our customers as



their trust and faith in the brand helps us perform better."

Datta further said that segment-leading models like Innova Crysta and Fortuner continue to perform well and generate healthy booking orders. "Camry Hybrid and Vellfire continue to garner strong demand and our

focus for going forward would be to meet the immediate needs of our customers," added Datta.

Reflecting further, Datta revealed that Toyota Hilux is being appreciated very well in the region as Hilux is aimed at fulfilling the needs of the customers seeking an incredible lifestyle utility vehicle that is best suited for off-roading adventure drives on tough terrains, and everyday city use.

Hilux's global reputation as a powerful performer is attributed to its rigid Innovative Multi-purpose Vehicle (IMV) platform and a powerful power train system with a 2.8 L four-cylinder turbo diesel engine and is available in an option of 6-speed automatic or 6-speed manual transmission.

India Fintech market expected to expand at CAGR of 31 per cent up to 2025: ASSOCHAM PwC Report

FW DESK
New Delhi

India's Fintech is poised to grow at compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 31% up to 2025 and this growth has also fuelled the Fintech focused need in the Indian talent pool. Indian Fintechs raised funding worth USD 10.6 billion in 2021.

The global fintech industry has maintained significant momentum and seen considerable expansion. According to the ASSOCHAM PwC Report, rising consumer demand, innovative business models, technologies, and cost-effective services have resulted in the industry growing steadily. The report, titled, "The Changing Face of Financial Services: Growth of Fintech in India", is jointly conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) with PwC.

"The Fintech has the poten-



tial to transform the financial landscape, strengthen the efficiency of financial institutions and provide consumers with a variety of financial products at competitive prices," says Deepak Sood, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

The Indian Fintech Story have enabled doors for more Fintech unicorns that are not even a decade old. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched in 2009 has introduced a new set of infrastructure to enable Indian Fintech ecosystem. This included API Products, UPI,

Aadhar, e-KYC, Digi Locker as public infra.

The pandemic's digital adoption has undoubtedly played a significant role in the shift to digital payments with a seamless customer experience. It served as a tipping point for the widespread adoption of Fintech products. The number of new demat accounts increased by around 63 percent in FY22 compared to FY21.

The pandemic has quickened the digitisation of various parts of the financial services value chain and the Fintech-

Cosmo Ferrites announces Vikas Puri as Business Head for India operations

FW DESK
Mumbai

Cosmo Ferrites Limited, a leading manufacturer and exporter of Soft Ferrites and an emerging player in wire wound magnetic components, today announced the appointment of Vikas Puri as Business Head for their operations in India. In his new role, Vikas will be responsible for devising strategic solutions to everyday operations and will be expected to strengthen Cosmo Ferrites' presence in the fast-growing ferrites market space.

A seasoned business leader with above 29 years of experience, Vikas holds laurels of working in diverse areas of EMS, Automotive and Power Electronics. In his past tenures, he has served in a number of leadership roles, including Business Head (India) of Varroc Lighting Systems, Managing Director of Marquardt India Pvt. Ltd., SBU Head of Minda Stoneridge Instruments Ltd., and Director Operations of General Electric. Throughout his career, he has been driven by a passion to leverage innovation in product management to better enable providers to deliver best of the services.

Welcoming him, Pankaj Poddar, Group CEO, Cosmo Films and Cosmo Ferrites said, "I am delighted to welcome Vikas as our new Business Head for Ferrites operations in India. He has a sharp business acumen with a knowledge of diverse sectors. His experience in building effective portfolios and achieving market leadership through winning teams make him a great asset at Cosmo Ferrites. We look forward to working with him and welcome his inputs in attaining our strategic goals."



Commenting on his new role, Vikas Puri, Business Head, Cosmo Ferrites Limited said, "I am honoured to take up this responsibility that the company has entrusted me with. With Cosmo Ferrites operating at record levels and with a deep and talented leadership bench in place, it is now time for me to add value from my role. I will be exploring uncharted avenues to grow our business through various initiatives. I am obsessed with enhancing business practices with innovation, and I will ensure Cosmo Ferrites continues to be at the forefront of ferrites industry."

Vikas has done his Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics & Communication from SDM College of engineering and is an alumnus of National Institute of Labour Education Madras. About Cosmo Ferrites Limited: Established in 1986, Cosmo Ferrites Limited is the largest producer of manganese (MnZn) based Soft Ferrite cores in India. Cosmo Ferrites is also the leading soft ferrite core exporter from India exporting to more than 50 countries across the Globe. The Company has a State-of-the-art manufacturing facility located in the foothills of Himalaya in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The products manufactured goes into multiple applications in Electronics industry. The Company is also into manufacturing of wire wound magnetic components, a forward integration of Soft Ferrites.

Tata Pravesch Dealership launched in Bahadurgarh for Doors & Windows by Tata Steel



KULBIR SINGH KALSI
Bahadurgarh

Tata Pravesch, the new stalwart brand in Tata Steel's portfolio, launched its dealership at Jaswi Metals, G1, Ground Floor, Galleria Market, Omxase City, Jhajjar Road, Bahadurgarh here today, to offer the complete range of stunning and strong home solutions including steel doors to windows and ventilators.

Pankaj, Dealership Owner, Bahadurgarh, Tata Pravesch, said, "Each product of Tata Pravesch has the strength of steel and the beauty of wood. The cutting-edge products are long lasting and ensure ultimate security for a house. Combining the strength of steel and the beauty of wood, Tata Pravesch doors and windows offer complete peace of mind to its users in terms of price, quality, durability and security."

Asian shares sink after inflation-driven retreat on Wall Street

Shares sank in Asia on Monday after a report that US inflation worsened last month sent stocks reeling on Wall Street. Major regional markets dropped more than 2 per cent in early trading Monday, while US futures slipped more than 1 per cent. On Friday, the S&P 500 sank 2.9 per cent, locking in its ninth losing week in the last 10. Investors had hoped the highly anticipated consumer price report would show the worst inflation in generations had slowed a touch last month, passing its peak. Instead, the US government said inflation accelerated to 8.6 per cent in May from 8.3 per cent the

month before. Investors took Friday's report to suggest the Federal Reserve will persist in raising interest rates and making other moves in order to slow the economy, to try to force down inflation. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 2.6 per cent to 27,018.01 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong skidded 3 per cent to 21,145.27. In South Korea, the Kospi declined 3.18 per cent to 2,516.95 as a truckers strike raised concern over supply chain disruptions. The Shanghai Composite index dropped 1 per cent to 3,253.04. Thailand's benchmark fell 1.4 per cent, and markets in Aus-



tralia were closed for a holiday. Regional concerns have also been weighing on sentiment, as China combats more outbreaks of coronavirus after easing some precautions in recent weeks. That means previous optimism surrounding China's reopening may also take a pause, as the resumption of mass-test-

ing in Beijing and Shanghai seems to place Covid-19 risks at the forefront once again," Jun Rong Yeap of IG said in a commentary. On Friday, the S&P 500 shed 117 points to 3,900.86 and tumbling bond prices sent Treasury yields to their highest levels in years. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 2.7 per cent to 31,392.79, and the Nasdaq composite dropped 3.5 per cent to 11,340.02. The growing expectation is for the Fed to raise its key short-term interest rate by half a percentage point at each of its next three meetings, beginning next week. Only once since 2000 has the Fed raised rates

by that much, last month. Surging prices and expectations about Fed policy have sent the two-year Treasury yield to its highest level since 2008 and the S&P 500 down 18.7 per cent from its record set in early January. High-growth technology stocks, cryptocurrencies and other big winners of the pandemic's earlier days have been hurting the most, but the damage is broadening as retailers and others warn about upcoming profits. Record-low interest rates engineered by the Fed and other central banks have helped keep investment prices high. Now the easy mode for investors is being switched off. Since higher inter-

est rates make borrowing more expensive, dragging on spending and investments by households and companies, there also is a risk the Fed could push the U.S. economy into a recession. Investors also worry food and fuel costs may keep surging, regardless of how aggressively the Fed moves, partly because of the crisis in Ukraine, which is a major breadbasket for the world. Another report Friday showed consumer sentiment worsening more than economists expected. Much of the souring in the University of Michigan's preliminary reading was due to higher gasoline prices.

India-Japan hold Finance Dialogue in New Delhi

Masato Kanda, Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Japan, and Mr. Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, held the first India-Japan Finance Dialogue here today. In view of the growing importance of India-Japan relations in recent years, the dialogue on India-Japan financial cooperation, which had been held at the level of Deputy Director-Generals, was upgraded to the level of Vice Minister/Secretary. The Japanese delegation included the representatives from Ministry of Finance, Financial Services Agency, and financial institutions. From Indian side, the representatives from Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, and financial institutions participated in the discussion. The participants exchanged their views on the macroeconomic situation, financial system, financial digitalization and investment environment in both countries, and confirmed that both sides will continue to work closely together as they hold presidency of G20 and G7 next year. The participants including private financial institutions also discussed various financial regulation issues towards further expansion of investment in India.

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Gold climbs by Rs 416, silver zooms Rs 1014

Gold prices in the national capital on Friday rallied by Rs 416 to Rs 50,802 per 10 grams, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 50,386 per 10 grams. Silver also surged by Rs 1,014 to Rs 61,343 per kg from Rs 60,329 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi were up by Rs 416 reflecting overnight rally in COMEX gold prices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

the Arulmigu Mariamman temple, Irukkankudi, following the re-launch of the gold monetisation scheme by the state government in October last year. Originally, the scheme was launched in 1979. Under the scheme, small gold ornaments offered by the devotees but lying unused with the temples would be converted into gold bars and deposited with the nationalised banks to generate revenue, which will be utilised to carry out temple renovation and restoration works, the government said.

Duplicate watches worth Rs 1 crore seized, five held

The Crime Branch Control of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) raided wrist watch shops at Manish Market and Al Saba Market in South Mumbai and seized duplicate watches of prominent brands worth Rs 1.06 crore, an official said on Thursday. Five persons were arrested, he added. The raid was conducted by six teams of EOW on Wednesday.

DFS holds meeting with Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies & Financial Institutions to identify ways to support Agniveers



The Union Cabinet on 14th June, 2022 approved an attractive recruitment scheme for Indian youth service in the Armed Forces called AGNIPATH and the youth selected under this scheme will be known as 'Agniveers'. AGNIPATH allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for the period of four years. The AGNIPATH scheme has been designed to enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces.

In order to identify ways in which the Banks and Financial Institutions can support the 'Agniveers' on completion of their tenure of duty, the Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS) held a meeting with Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Public Sector Insurance Companies (PSICs) and Financial Insti-

tutions (FIs), here today. In the meeting, Joint Secretary, Department of Military Affairs made a presentation on the salient aspects of the AGNIPATH scheme.

During the meeting, it was decided that PSBs, PSICs and FIs would explore employment opportunities for 'Agniveers' in suitable capacities based on their educational qualifications and skills through suitable benefits/relaxations, etc.

It was also decided that Banks would explore possibilities of supporting 'Agniveers' through suitable credit facilities for skill upgradation, education for setting up businesses and to take up self-employment. The existing Government schemes such as MUDRA, Stand Up India etc. would be leveraged for extending such support to 'Agniveers'.

GST Council to meet on June 28-29 in Srinagar

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on June 28 and 29 in Srinagar.

"The 47th meeting of the GST Council will be held on June 28-29, 2022 (Tuesday & Wednesday) in Srinagar," the finance minister's office tweeted.

This is the second time that the GST Council meeting is being held in Srinagar. Before the launch of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2017, the 14th meeting of the Council was held on May 18 and 19 in the city. GST rates on 1,211 items were approved at the two-day meeting.

The 47th GST Council meeting assumes significance as it is expected to discuss the report of the panel of state ministers on rate rationalisation and also the tax rate on casinos, race courses and online gaming.

The GST Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprising state counterparts, is also expected to discuss certain simplifications in procedures.

Ahead of the Council meeting, the panel of state ministers on GST rate rationalisation is scheduled to meet on June 17 to discuss possible tweaking in tax rates, sources said.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) is likely to discuss possible changes in tax slabs, the sources said, adding that the



final report of the panel would take some more time. The Council had last year set up a seven-member panel of state ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to suggest ways to augment revenue by rationalising tax rates. The GoM had last met in November 2021.

The GoM has been mandated to review items under inverted duty structure to help minimise refund payout, and review the GST exempt list with an objective to expand the tax base and eliminate breaking of input tax credit (ITC) chain. Under GST, a four-tier structure exempts or imposes a low tax rate of 5 per cent on essential items and levies the top rate of 28 per cent on cars and demerit goods. The other slabs of tax are 12 and 18

per cent. Besides, a cess is imposed on the highest slab of 28 per cent on luxury, demerit and sin goods. The Council will also consider a report of the panel of ministers on applicability of GST on casinos, race courses and online gaming.

The group of state ministers unanimously decided on hiking the tax rate on these services to 28 per cent, besides working out a method of valuing these services for the purpose of levying this tax. Currently, casinos, horse racing and online gaming services attract 18 per cent GST. The Council may also consider some modification in summary return and monthly tax payment form GSTR-3B with a view to check fake input tax credit claims and expedite settlement of genuine ones.

Markets decline for 6th day, Sensex sheds 135 points



Benchmark indices extended their losing streak to the sixth straight session on Friday, with the Sensex declining 135 points in choppy trade amid mixed global markets, unabated foreign fund outflows, and rising crude oil prices.

The BSE benchmark declined 135.37 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 51,360.42. During the day, the benchmark faced volatility and tanked 574.57 points or 1.11 per cent to its one-year low of 50,921.22.

The NSE Nifty went lower by 67.10 points or 0.44 per cent to end at 15,293.50.

From the Sensex pack, Titan, Wipro, Dr Reddy's, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Power-Grid, Larsen & Toubro, UltraTech Cement, Maruti, TCS and Hindustan Unilever were the biggest laggards.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries and ICICI

Rupee settles flat at 78.09 against US dollar



The rupee pared initial gains to settle just 1 paisa higher at 78.09 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid a muted trend in domestic equities and unabated foreign capital outflows.

A strong dollar overseas and higher crude prices also kept the domestic unit under pressure, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened strong at 78.03 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 78.02 and a low of 78.09.

It finally ended at 78.09, registering a gain of 1 paisa over its previous close of 78.10.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, climbed 0.71 per cent to 104.37.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, spurted 0.96 per cent to USD 120.96 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 135.37 points or 0.26 per cent lower at 51,360.42, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 67.10 points or 0.44 per cent to 15,293.50.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,257.65 crore, as per exchange data.

India leads and delivers at the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference: Piyush Goyal

India has been able to secure a favourable outcome at the WTO after many years, despite a strong global campaign against our farmers & fishermen, said Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, after conclusion of the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva today.

Termining the just concluded MC12 as an "outcome oriented" success, Shri Goyal said the Indian delegation, guided constantly by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been 100 percent successful in portraying before the world the priority issues for India and the developing world.

Goyal said the Indian delegation leveraged India's strong relationship with the world, which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has nurtured over the last few years.

"Few countries attempted to create false campaign, initially on Sunday and Monday, that India is obstinate due to which no progress is being made. The real situation has emerged before us all, the issues raised by India, on which Prime Minister had



asked us to focus upon, now the whole world acknowledges that was the correct agenda and ultimately India played a vital role in arriving at all solutions," Shri Goyal told a press conference in Geneva.

Stating that it is a proud day for 135 crore Indians at the WTO today, Goyal said India took the lead and was at the center of the conference. "It turned the tide of

negotiations from full failure, gloom & doom to optimism, enthusiasm and consensus based decision. India's efforts to bring members on a table to discuss issues irrespective of the existing geopolitical order has ensured that the world order is not broken," he said.

Admitting that India and the Developing countries accepted certain compromising decisions when the WTO was established 30 years ago and during the Uruguay Round of negotiations, Goyal said India today bats on the front foot rather than being fearful on various issues be it Environment, Startups, MSMEs or gender equality. This is a result of the confidence of New India. India is able to build consensus & get a Win-Win outcome for the world, he said.

SBI hikes minimum interest rate on home loans to 7.55 pc

The country's largest lender State Bank of India has hiked the minimum interest rates for home loans to 7.55 per cent effective Wednesday.

The move follows a 50 basis points hike in repo rate to 4.90 per cent by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last week. In May also RBI had hiked repo rate by 40 basis points. The lender has hiked its External Benchmark-based Lending Rate (EBLR) to a minimum of 7.55 per cent effective today as compared to 7.05 per cent earlier, as per the bank's website.

The lender also adds a credit risk premium over the EBLR. The bank has increased its Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 20 basis points effective June 15. On Tuesday, SBI hiked the interest rates by up to 20 basis points on domestic term deposits of below Rs 2 crore for select tenors. For deposits of 211 days to less than 1 year, the lender will offer interest rate at 4.60 per cent, as against 4.40 per cent earlier. Likewise, for domestic term deposits of 1 year to less



than 2 years, customers can earn an interest of 5.30 per cent, up by 0.20 per cent.

On tenor of 2 years to less than 3 years, SBI has raised the interest rate to 5.35 per cent from 5.20 per cent. The lender has also revised the interest rates on domestic bulk term deposits of Rs 2 crore and above for select tenors by up to 75 bps. For tenors of 1 year to less than 2 years, customers having bulk deposits will earn an interest of 4.75 per cent from 4 per cent earlier, with effect from June 14, 2022. Another state-owned lender Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Wednesday announced a hike in its fixed deposit interest rates on domestic term deposits including Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) and Non Resident External (NRE) term deposits of below Rs 2 crore by up to 40 basis points.

Tata Steel unveils green investment plan for UK steel tube mill

Tata Steel has unveiled a 7-million pound investment plan for its Hartlepool Tube Mill in north-east England that the Indian steel major says will cut carbon emissions, improve capacity and reduce costs to strengthen its UK business.

The investment will go into a new slitter which will allow the Hartlepool site to process coils of steel delivered from Tata's Port Talbot steelmaking site in South Wales. All of the steel products made at the site, where almost 300 people work producing up to 200,000 tonnes of steel tubes a year, are 100 per cent recyclable and the investment is forecast to pay for itself in less than three years.

This project will allow us to bring a vital process on site, which in turn will free up thousands of tonnes of capacity at the Port Talbot site, Andrew Ward, Works Manager of Tata Steel in Hartlepool, said last week.

This will improve our efficiency and reduce overall CO2 emissions from our steel



processing as well as reducing the total costs across the business, he said.

Currently, wide steel slabs are slit in Port Talbot before being rolled and sent to Hartlepool to be turned into steel tubes, which are then used in a wide range of products such as agricultural machinery, sports stadiums, steel-framed buildings and the energy sector.

The new project is expected to take more than a year to complete and is the second major investment announced by the Indian company in the UK this year after an invest-



ment plan for its site at Corby in the north-eastern England region. Both projects will further strengthen the UK business, improving services to customers and using the latest available technology to reduce environmental emissions, Tata Steel UK said.

Andrew Ward added: Above all, safety will be a key factor in this investment both during the construction phase and when the new slitter is up and running. It will feature the latest computer-controlled technology, which reduces the need for our employees to be close to any hazardous operations and

it will be as energy-efficient as possible.

The new slitter line will optimise the UK value chain for our smaller tube product range, allowing steel coil to flow through the chain and provide flexibility with on-site slitting. This investment will support the ongoing drive to improve customer delivery performance and responsiveness which the Hartlepool 20 Mill team pride themselves upon.

Tata Steel in the UK says it has the ambition to produce net-zero steel by 2050 at the latest and to have reduced 30 per cent of CO2 emissions by 2030. The vast majority of that work will need to happen in South Wales, where the company's largest operational site is.

Tata Steel says it is developing detailed plans for this transition to future steelmaking based on low CO2 technologies and is close to knowing which will best help achieve its ambitions.

The steel giant is one of Europe's leading steel producers,

with steelmaking in the Netherlands and the UK, and manufacturing plants across Europe. The company's tube products are used across a broad range of industries, including construction, machinery fabrication, energy and automotive. Next week, the company will be at the Wire and Tube 2022 fair in Dusseldorf, Germany, after a long gap due to the coronavirus pandemic.

After the last few years, we are really looking forward to this opportunity to connect with so many customers in one place and showcase our broad tube portfolio, said Anil Jhanji, Chief Commercial Officer for Tata Steel UK.

We are making major investments to further strengthen our Tubes business and, as we come out of the coronavirus pandemic, I look forward to meeting all our customers to demonstrate how we can help them succeed in their markets, added Tony Waite, Tata Steel Director of Sales Tubes and Engineering.

INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lanka to introduce guaranteed weekly fuel quota for consumers at filling stations from next month

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan government plans to introduce a fuel rationing scheme from next month, under which registered consumers at filling stations would be guaranteed a weekly quota, a senior minister said on Sunday.

The island nation has been experiencing long lines for fuel refilling since mid-February with pressure coming on the diesel supplies for thermal power generation.

By early April, the island was experiencing 10-hour power cuts due to shortages of diesel and furnace oil for power generation. We have no choice but to register consumers at filling stations and give them a guaranteed weekly quota until we are able to strengthen the financial situation, restore 24 Hour Power and a steady Supply of fuel. I hope to have this system in place by the 1st week of July, Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera tweeted on Sunday.

The minister said that the supply of fuel should be man-



aged until there is a round-the-clock 24-hour uninterrupted supply of electricity and fuel. This paucity has led to reports of stockpiling and hoarding of fuel.

Wijesekera hoped that this measure of imposing a fuel quota would go a long way in addressing the crisis. With the financial restrictions in place, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation imports fuel to manage for a week, but some consumers stockpile fuel for a month or more for their machinery and generators, he said in another tweet. He said that 24-hour

power supply costs an additional USD 100 million monthly for diesel, furnace oil and naphtha.

The shortage in gas supply has increased the demand for electricity and kerosene, and the monthly fuel bill that was USD 200 million four months ago, now stands at USD 550 million, the minister added.

Meanwhile, the last of the fuel shipments due under the Indian Line of Credit are arriving in Sri Lanka later this month, with no indications on the sustenance of future supplies, which are dependent on India's assistance.

We are expecting the last diesel shipment under ILC (Indian Line of Credit) on June 16 and the last petrol shipment on June 22," Wijesekera told reporters on Saturday. Sri Lanka's fuel purchases have been totally dependent on the ILC -- a USD 500 million credit line initially which was supplemented with another USD 200 million later.

Wijesekera said the minimum daily requirement of diesel was 5,000 metric tonnes as people need it to run private generators due to the power cuts imposed. India has helped Sri Lanka with thousands of tonnes of diesel and petrol, apart from food and medical supplies, to help ease the acute fuel shortage in the debt-ridden island nation.

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka has prompted an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and other fuel, toilet paper and even matches, with citizens for months being forced to wait in lines lasting hours outside stores to buy fuel and cooking gas.

Blinken US assures Sri Lanka of support to promote American investments once the IMF negotiations are over



COLOMBO: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has assured crisis-hit Sri Lanka of support to promote American investments in the country after the completion of IMF negotiations, as he spoke with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to discuss the island nation's current economic and political challenges.

The two leaders spoke over the phone on Monday. Wickremesinghe explained the current status of the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He further said that Sri Lanka

is willing to have closer cooperation with the US.

"It was a pleasure speaking to Secretary of State @SecBlinken. I briefed him on the current economic situation and requested for our countries to work closer. He assured his support to further promote US investments in Sri Lanka upon the completion of IMF negotiations," Wickremesinghe tweeted.

Sri Lanka has decided to seek the assistance of the Washington-based global lender to combat the worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948. The talks be-

tween Sri Lanka and the IMF commenced on April 18.

US State Department in a statement said, "The Secretary and Prime Minister discussed Sri Lanka's current economic and political challenges."

"The Secretary affirmed the United States' commitment to the Sri Lankan people during this challenging time and the importance of supporting reforms that address the concerns of all Sri Lankans, including on democratic governance and human rights," it said.

The nearly bankrupt country, with an acute foreign currency crisis that resulted in foreign debt default, announced in April that it is suspending nearly USD 7 billion foreign debt repayment due for this year out of about USD 25 billion due through 2026. Sri Lanka's total foreign debt stands at USD 51 billion.

The IMF in May said that it requires sufficient assurance from the country that it will restore debt sustainability during the debt restructuring process.

Britain's Queen becomes world's second-longest reigning monarch



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II on 12th June overtook Thailand's King to become the world's second-longest reigning monarch in history, after France's Louis XIV.

The UK has been celebrating the 96-year-old Queen's Platinum Jubilee to mark 70 years of service to the nation with grand events taking place last weekend. Now she has overtaken Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for 70 years and 126 days between 1927 and 2016, to set another record. Louis XIV of France remains the longest-reigning monarch, with a 72-year and 110-day reign from 1643 until 1715. Crowned in 1953, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest-serving British monarch in September 2015, surpassing her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria.

After four days of royal parades, street parties, pageantry and other events held across the UK and the Commonwealth to mark the Platinum Jubilee milestone, the monarch thanked the nation in a letter, saying that she had been "humbled and deeply touched", and that "this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come". "When it comes to how to mark 70 years as your Queen, there is no guidebook to follow. It really is a first, the letter read. "But I have been humbled and deeply touched that so many people have taken to the streets to celebrate my Platinum Jubilee," she said.

The Queen has been hit with some age-related mobility problems and chose to miss some of the events, with her son and heir Prince Charles and second in line Prince William and close ranks of the royal family joining. But she did appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace at the end of the Jubilee Pageant as the extended Bank Holiday weekend drew to a close.

New York state to protect abortion providers under new laws



New York has expanded legal protections for people seeking and providing abortions in the state under legislation signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul on June 12.

The Democratic governor pushed for the laws in anticipation of the US Supreme Court potentially overruling its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which established a constitutional right to abortion. A ruling that could weaken or end abortion protections is expected as early as this week, and abortion providers are worried New York will see a surge in out-of-state residents.

Today, we are taking action to protect our service providers from the retaliatory actions of anti-abortion states and ensure that New York will always be a safe harbor for those seeking reproductive healthcare," Hochul said. Out-of-state residents accounted for nearly 9% or 7,000 out of roughly 79,000 abortions performed in New York in 2019, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's up from 5% or roughly 4,700 out of 93,000 in 2015.

One new law protects abortion providers from arrest, extradition and legal proceedings in other states by forbidding New York state and local courts and law enforcement agencies from cooperating in most scenarios.

Austrian govt presents package to cushion inflation

The Austrian government on Tuesday presented a package of measures aimed at cushioning the impact of high inflation that includes 500-euro (523) payments for all residents and a three-month delay to a new levy on carbon dioxide emissions.

The government, a coalition of Chancellor Karl Nehammer's conservatives and the environmentalist Greens, put the price of immediate measures at about 5 billion euros and said the package will cost a total of 28 billion euros through 2026.

It says it aims to bring relief first to people on low incomes; the unemployed and people on



low pensions are slated to get a payment of 300 euros each.

That's in addition to 500 euros each for everyone half of that for children, and half of it described as a climate bonus.

The government decided to delay from July until October the introduction of a CO2 pricing plan that envisions an initial levy of 30 euros per ton of carbon dioxide, rising to 55 euros in 2025.

Other measures include electricity price compensation for business and a grant for energy-intensive companies and, in the longer term, a move to address wage increases being eaten up when they move recipients into a higher tax bracket.

Austria's annual inflation rate hit 8% in May, in line with similar rates in other European countries fueled by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Indo-bangladesh bilateral exercise "ex Sampriti-X" concludes at Jashore, Bangladesh



Indo-Bangladesh bilateral Joint Military Exercise "Ex SAMPRITI-X" concluded at Jashore Military Station, Bangladesh. The Closing Ceremony of the 10th edition of "Ex Sampriti" was attended by Lieutenant General Ataul Hakim Sarwar Hasan, Chief of General Staff, Bangladesh Army along with Major General Praveen Chhabra, General Officer Commanding 20 Mountain Division of Indian Army and Major General Md Nurul Anwar, General Officer Commanding 55 Division of Bangladesh Army.

The aim of the exercise was to strengthen the military relations between the two countries. The exercise also provided an opportunity to the contingents from both the Armies to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques as well as to share their experience on Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorism, Peace Keeping and Disaster Relief Operation under the United Nations mandate. Senior officers of both the Armies conveyed their appreciation to the participating contingents for achieving the objectives of the Exercise.

China city mayor apologises over COVID-19 lockdown response

The mayor of a northeastern Chinese city on the North Korean border that had been under lockdown for more than 50 days has apologised for failures in his administration's work amid widespread - but often disguised - dissatisfaction over the government's heavy-handed approach to handling the pandemic.

Dandong Mayor Hao Jijun gave no specifics, but said government work and basic services had been unsatisfactory, for which he offered his apologies, according to a statement issued by the city government late Monday.

It is highly unusual for a ranking Communist Party official to publicly concede errors, particularly regard-



ing the headline zero-COVID policy that has been repeatedly endorsed by top officials under President and party leader Xi Jinping. Despite reporting only a handful of cases, Dandong had seen one of the strictest lockdowns in China, with even deliveries of food and other necessities banned, according to unofficial sources.

China accuses US of trying to 'hijack' support in Asia

China's defence minister accused the United States on 12th June of trying to hijack the support of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to turn them against Beijing, saying Washington is seeking to advance its own interests under the guise of multilateralism.

Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe lashed out at US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, rejecting his smearing accusation the day before at the Shangri-La Dialogue that China was causing instability with its claim to the self-governing island of Taiwan and its destabilizing military activity in the area. Austin had stressed the need for multilateral partnerships with nations in the Indo-Pacific, which Wei suggested was an attempt to back China into a corner.

No country should impose its will on others or bully others under the guise of multilateralism, he said. The strategy is an attempt to build an exclusive small group



in the name of a free and open Indo-Pacific to hijack countries in our region and target one specific country - it is a strategy to create conflict and confrontation to contain and encircle others.

China has been rapidly modernising its military and seeking to expand its influence and ambitions in the region, recently signing a security agreement with the Solomon Islands that many fear could lead to a Chinese naval base in the Pacific, and breaking ground this past week on a naval

port expansion project in Cambodia that could give Beijing a foothold in the Gulf of Thailand. Last year US officials accused China of testing a hypersonic missile, a weapon harder for missile defense systems to counter, but China insisted it had been a routine test of a spacecraft.

Answering a question about the test on Sunday, Wei came the closest so far to acknowledging it was, indeed, a hypersonic missile, saying, "As for hypersonic weapons, many countries are developing weapons and I think there's no surprise that China is doing so. China will develop its military, he added. I think it's natural. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken last month said China represented the most serious long-term challenge to the international order for the United States, with its claims to Taiwan and efforts to dominate the strategic South China Sea.

Two members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard die amid tensions

Two members of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's aerospace division died as martyrs in Iran in separate incidents over the weekend, Iranian media reported on Monday. The term is typically a designation given to those on important assignments.

The deaths of the two men come as tensions remain high over Iran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers, and its uranium enrichment program that is now closest it has ever been to weapons-grade levels. While authorities offered no suggestion of foul play in the men's deaths, Israel has been accused of killing other high-ranking Guard members amid the growing crisis.

The semi-official Fars and Tasnim news agencies, believed to be close to the Guard, identified one of the dead as Ali Kamani and said he died in Iran's central city of Khomein. Tasnim said that Kamani died in a car accident, without elaborating.

The news agencies did not give a rank for Kamani. However, a photo published by Tasnim showed the man wearing the epaulettes of a second lieutenant in the Guard's aerospace programme, which runs Iran's ballistic missile program as well as some of the country's air defences. Khomein, the birthplace of the Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who led the 1979 Islamic Revolution, is in the province of Markazi. That



province is also home to Iran's Arak heavy water reactor, a key nuclear program site that has air defences around it.

Fars alone reported on the death of the second man, whom it identified as Mohammad Abdous. The agency published a picture of Abdous in civilian clothes at the Imam Reza Shrine in the city of Mashhad, Iran.

Fars said that Abdous died on a mission while working in Iran's Semnan province. Rural Semnan province, east of Tehran, is home to the Imam Khomeini Spaceport, which has been used in satellite launches.

The report of the two men's deaths came about a week and half after the reported death of Guard Col. Ali Esmailzadeh, a member of its expeditionary Quds Force, under unclear circumstances. In May, two gunmen on a motorcycle shot and killed Guard Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodaei in Tehran. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack. Iranian officials have blamed global arrogance code for the United States and Israel for Khodaei's killing.

Economic and Social cost of Brain drain in India

DR. HARVINDER KAUR

According to the Oxford Dictionary, 'brain-drain' can be defined as 'the movement of highly skilled and qualified people to a country where they can work in better conditions and earn more money.' The word 'brain-drain' is related to the emigration of various technologists, doctors and scientists from the so-called 'third world' and developing countries to more 'first world' and developed nations, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, England, etc.

Based on data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, "1,37,26,945 Indians have travelled overseas in the last 5 years" on an employment visa. That is, between January 2016 and March 18, 2021. As many as 4.78 lakh people from Punjab left the country for employment from January 2016 to March 2021 and 2.62 lakh students for studies during this period. Punjab is placed third in the country, after Andhra Pradesh (2.82 lakh) and Maharashtra (2.64 lakh). Also, over 1.26 lakh people from Chandigarh moved abroad in January 2016 for employment and 31482 from Haryana. 43,135 from Haryana flew overseas during the period for higher education and Haryana will also be in the queue. The main

motive of these youth is to get settled abroad. Around 1.5-2 lakh youngsters from Punjab go abroad every year to study and earn a living. Around Rs. 30,000 crore goes to foreign institutions in the form of fees and other expenses, which constitutes 20% of Punjab's budget. More than half of the first-rankers of standard 10th and 12th board exams between 1996-2015 -- the brightest Indian minds -- migrated abroad and are still employed there. In Budget 2019-20, India allocated Rs 6.43 lakh crore of public funds towards education, part of which went into subsidising the studies of skilled emigrant Indians. In this way, the investment in the Indian educational system indirectly contributes to the progress of foreign nations.

Students choosing to move abroad for higher education cost India about \$17 billion a year in lost revenue, according to a study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSO-CHAM). Not only students but the migration of businessmen also affected revenue. Studies have found that 23,000 Indian millionaires have left India since 2014 and that nearly 7,000 millionaires left in 2019 alone, costing the country billions in tax revenue. Since 2015, nearly 9 lakh Indians have given up their citizenship.



These are the economic cost of brain drain. It is typically seen in terms of economic cost because emigrants generally take with them their government-sponsored education or training from other resources. India is facing a shortage of skilled labour, particularly in crucial fields like healthcare and engineering. At the same time, for higher education and jobs, a large number of trained staff emigrate each year. The trend of brain drain has a beneficial impact on the host country, and another nation's brain drain becomes a brain benefit for the receiving country. Most developing countries, including India, one of the major nations impacted, suffer from brain drain, and developed nations such as the United States of America have benefited from this phenomenon.

We can see that the intensifying 'brain drain' phenomenon has resulted in an outflow of skilled workers and professionals. About 30 per cent of physi-

cians in the National Health Services, England, are of Indian descent according to a study.

Another significant finding of the study is that while there is only one doctor for every 2,400 Indians, there is one Indian doctor in the US for every 1,325 Americans. As per government reports, India has 1.7 nurses per 1,000 population and a doctor-to-patient ratio of 1:1,404 which is well below the WHO norm of three nurses per 1,000 population and a doctor-to-patient ratio of 1:1,100.

Several factors can cause brain-drain, namely a country's political unrest, lack of economic opportunity, the standard of living or personal reasons. In every part of the world, there is a need for qualified professionals. Better living standards and quality of life, higher wages, access to sophisticated technology, and more sustainable political environments in developed countries, however, tend to attract professionals from lesser developed

countries like India.

There are strong pull and push factors associated with the migration of workers, in terms of higher pay and better opportunities in the destination countries. Lack of higher education opportunities is one of the major reasons for brain drain. The increasing cut-offs, reservation policy and leaking of competitive exams make access to higher education difficult in India. Abroad, they have an advantage over students from other countries in terms of skills and knowledge. India's Gross domestic expenditure on research has stayed at 0.7% of the GDP for years. India has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS nations. So, brilliant minds in R&D tend to migrate to other countries to continue their research. Developed countries offer better pay to sectors like health, research, IT, etc. Income is one of the main triggers of emigration from India. Non-recognition of talents is another big reason. The chances of being recognized in one's field are difficult in a populous country like India. Bright minds choose foreign countries where their work is appreciated more. Moreover, the developed countries provide better living standards, salaries, tax benefits, etc, which becomes a great attraction for emigration.

US sanctions 93 Nicaraguan officials for crackdown



The US State Department imposed visa restrictions Monday on 93 more Nicaraguan officials for their role in supporting the regime of President Daniel Ortega.

Ortega jailed dozens of opposition figures in order to win a fourth consecutive term in Nov 7 elections that were broadly criticized as a farce. He has also outlawed dozens of nongovernmental organizations.

Since then, dozens of opponents have been tried or convicted in brief trials on vague charges equivalent to treason.

The State Department announced it had pulled the visas of judges who convicted the opposition leaders, as well as legislators who had cooperated in banning NGOs and civic groups. The department said in a statement that legislators and Interior Ministry officials helped the regime to tighten its authoritarian grip over Nicaraguan citizens and institutions by using repressive laws to strip more than 400 NGOs and a dozen universities of their legal status.

'Posti' Premiere: Humble Motion Pictures project is a social message delivered in a remarkable way

KULBIR SINGH KALSI

Humble Motion Pictures project, 'Posti' after Ardaas, Ardaas Karaan, and recent box office hit, Maa, has been awaited by the audience for a long time, and now it's released on 17th June 2022 worldwide. The makers of the film executed a premiere where the presence of the cast and crew like Prince Kanwaljit Singh, Raghhbir Boli, Vada Grewal, and Babbal Rai, along with many more enthralled the audience.



Gippy Grewal has done in the past with the films under his production house, Posti also has an out-of-the-ordinary story about drug addicts shown in a different light.

The producer, Gippy Grewal

is delighted about the work, "With Humble Motion Pictures, I try to bring out a concept that is new for Punjabi cinema but at the same time is associated with Punjabi roots as well. I am hoping that the film is a

successful one and the audience takes home an important social message."

The man behind the film, Posti, Rana Ranbir says, "Posti is very close to my heart as it took a long time to be represented amongst the audience. Now, that is here, I hope that the audience likes the representation of one of the biggest menaces in Punjab, drug abuse in a new light. With God's grace, Posti is a hit over the world."

Prince Kanwaljit who has handled his screen presence well in the film, speaks about his experience, "I really felt that the reality is being spoken through our characters in the film about the ground reality in Punjab. We want to provide a positive understanding about drug abuse with a little twist to the audience so that everyone takes home a lesson when they watch Posti."



'Swayamvar - Mika Di Vohti' all set to begin on Star Bharat

BY NARVIJAY YADAV

Star Bharat unveiled the opulent and lavish set of its highly anticipated show 'Swayamvar - Mika Di Vohti' at the beautiful Umed Jodhpur Palace Resort & Spa. The resort was decked up like a newlywed bride with flowers, lights, and candles, and the atmosphere was celebratory as the festivities saw participation from singer Mika Singh, the gorgeous contestants, and more. The grand celebration for the launch was packed with several energetic performances and celebratory music booming throughout the palace. The night was dedicated to folk musicians, Bollywood music, and the mesmerizing performances by a close friend and host of the show Shaan, the effervescent Bhoomi Trivedi, and musically gifted Jaspinder Narula, to name a few.

which will have 12 contestants and Mika woo each other, will be hosted by Shaan the melody king. Shaan the host and dost will give audiences a glimpse of the real Mika behind the very public persona as he sets out to select his dream girl.

The star of the evening and the show, singer and performer Mika Singh said, "I am very excited and all set to find my dream girl - 'Dusron ki shaadiyon mein bohot Bhangra paa liya, ab apni baari hai'. Star Bharat's 'Swayamvar - Mika Di Vohti' has given me the opportunity to find my companion for life and when they approached me with the show, it seemed like fate had already set things in motion. To find out who will be the chosen one finally, stay glued to Star Bharat at 8 pm starting June 19, 2022."

Singer Shaan who returned to host a reality show after a gap of 14 years, said, "I was absolutely

POTPOURRI

More responsibility on viewers to ascertain veracity of news, says Jaideep Ahlawat



"Paatal Lok" star Jaideep Ahlawat says in the age of social media where information is just a tap away for a person with a smartphone, the responsibility to "filter" right from wrong rests more on viewers.

Ahlawat currently stars in the ZEE5 drama series "The Broken News", in which he plays the role of Dipankar Sanyal, a TRP hungry media baron and top anchor at Josh 24/7 News.

"Everyone has to be more responsible in times like these where anyone who has a smartphone is barraged with information. Media is regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy but now it's also upon viewers to filter what is right and wrong," the 44-year-old actor told PTI in a Zoom interview.

Gaurav Gill returns to WRC-2 with Safari Rally in Kenya

India's decorated rally driver and Arjuna Awardee Gaurav Gill on Wednesday announced his return to the World Rally Championship (WRC) 2022 after a two-year hiatus.



The three-time APRC (Asia Pacific Rally Championship) champion and a seven-time INRC (Indian National Rally Championship) champion will take part in the WRC Safari Rally in Kenya scheduled from June 23 to 26.

The 40-year-old will be driving the Skoda Fabia R5 in WRC 2, a car he is familiar with, with Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Moraes.

Touted as one of the most challenging rallies on the WRC calendar, the Safari features 19 special stages covering almost 365km of competition crossing challenging closed dirt roads, rocky and rutted tracks and unpredictable weather which can transform dry and dusty

trails into muddy bogs.

Gill's last outing in WRC 2 was pre-pandemic in 2019 in Rally of Turkey where despite missing out on completing his tryst with victory, he won a lot of praise for his commendable drive by the fraternity.

His outing in Rally of Australia came to a halt as the event was cancelled last minute due to the raging fire in the forest stages around the city of Coffs Coast, New South Wales.

Goa government to seek fitness certificate from sports coaches

Goa Sports Minister Govind Gaude has said coaches employed with the department will have to submit a fitness certificate every two years. While taking to Media, Gaude said he had conducted surprise visits to various sports facilities in the state where coaches were not found many a times.



Once coaches are employed, the sports department never checks their fitness, said Gaude, who took charge of the ministry in March this year. Can an unfit coach produce a fit player? he asked. We will make a rule that every two years, they will have to produce a physical fitness certificate, which will also be good for their own well-being," the minister said. The minister claimed that out of 130 coaches in the department, only 35-40 are professional, while the others need training.

The coaches were earlier recruited by the department either due to their experience in the field or excellence in a particular sport. "They are not trained coaches, he said. They should be well trained in all aspects. They should undergo training at the National Institute of Sports, Gaude said. The minister said the sports department has more than 1,000 staffers, but its output is not satisfactory.

Pulitzer and now top Tony, 'A Strange Loop' makes history



show about a Black gay man writing a show about a Black gay man. Jackson also won for best book.

A Strange Loop beat MJ, a bio musical of the King of Pop's biggest hits, for the top prize, although the other Jackson musical nabbed four Tony Awards including for best choreography. Myles Frost moonwalked away with the award for best lead actor in a musical for playing Michael Jackson, becoming the youngest solo winner in that category. MJ represents Frost's Broadway debut as he plays Jackson with a high, whispy voice, a Lady Diana-like coquettishness and a fierce embrace of Jackson's iconic dancing and singing style. Heal the world, Frost said from the stage, channeling Jackson.

Michael R. Jackson's 2020 Pulitzer Prize drama winner is a theater meta-journey a tuneful

Saiyami Kher unveils first look from 'Ghoomer': This project let me play a sport I love

Saiyami Kher on Wednesday shared her first look from filmmaker R Balki's much-awaited movie "Ghoomer".

Balki, known for movies such as Cheeni Kum, Ki and Ka and Pad Man, is directing and producing the movie, which is rumored to be a cricket drama. It also stars Abhishek Bachchan.

Kher took to Instagram and shared the first look, which features the actor and Bachchan, intriguingly looking at something off screen. The actor said she always wanted to live "the life of a professional cricketer," a wish that came true with "Ghoomer".

Rasika Dugal begins prep for 'Mirzapur' season 3



Actor Rasika Dugal said she has started rehearsals for the much awaited third season of the popular crime drama series "Mirzapur".

Dugal took to Instagram and shared a reel, showing several trunks with the name tags of the show's primary characters. On the show, the 37-year-old actor features as the deviant Beena Tripathi. "Prep #Mirza-

I did not evade dope testing agencies, asserts quarter-miler Aishwarya Mishra



Singh had last month said that Mishra was at a village in UP, looking after her ailing grandmother.

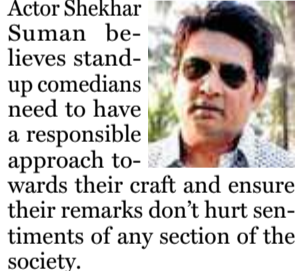
Asked if it was true that she had evaded a dope test, she told to media, "It's not true, I was in UP at that time, even nobody from my family knew where I was."

She said she will speak on the matter later. Mishra won the third heat of the women's 200m in the National Interstate Senior Championships of Monday with a time of 23.73s to qualify for Tuesday's finals and was faster than star sprinter Hima Das (24.40s), who also made it to the medal round.

The 24-year-old Mishra was allowed to take part in both the 200m and 400m by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). She however got disqualified in the 400m heats after making a false start.

Refuting assumptions that she deliberately evaded dope testing agencies after emerging champion in the Federation Cup in April, Maharashtra quarter-miler Aishwarya Mishra on Monday asserted that she did not run away from the authorities but was in Uttar Pradesh on a personal visit. Her personal coach Sumit

There's difference between humour and humiliation: Shekhar Suman calls for 'clean' comedy



Actor Shekhar Suman believes stand-up comedians need to have a responsible approach towards their craft and ensure their remarks don't hurt sentiments of any section of the society.

Suman, 59, is a known face in the television comedy circuit courtesy popular 1990s sitcom "Dekh Bhai Dekh" and talk show "Movers & Shakers". He has also served as a judge on reality comedy shows such as Comedy Circus, Comedy Superstar, Laugh India Laugh, and The Great Indian Laughter Challenge.

The actor-host, who is now returning to the genre as a judge on India's Laughter Champion, said comedians should not exploit freedom of speech.

Afghanistan completes T20 sweep as Zimbabwe replaces coach

HARARE: Afghanistan won the final Twenty20 against Zimbabwe by 35 runs to complete a clean sweep of all six limited-overs games on its tour.

Afghanistan added a 3-0 T20 series win to its 3-0 victory in the one-day internationals.

Teenage left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad delivered the final win for Afghanistan at Harare Sports Club with 4-10 on his international debut. The 17-year-old Ahmad was pivotal as Zimbabwe was restricted to 90-9 in 20 overs chasing Afghanistan's modest 125-8.

As Zimbabwe slipped to a sixth straight defeat against Afghanistan to follow a T20 series loss against minnow Namibia last month, it was announced that former captain Dave Houghton had replaced



Lal Chand Rajput as Zimbabwe coach. Rajput was moved to the role of technical director in what Zimbabwe Cricket called a reshuffle" of its coaching team.

The changes were made after an emergency board meeting on Tuesday. The 64-year-old Houghton was Zimbabwe captain when the country played its first test in 1992 and had a previous stint as head coach in

the late 1990s. Rajput, who had a short playing career with India, was initially appointed Zimbabwe's coach in 2018 and had his contract renewed in 2021. But Zimbabwe continued to slide under his watch with poor performances across all three formats. He was finally removed as Afghanistan secured another comfortable victory.

Malaika's debut book to be on nutrition

Actor Malaika Arora is all set to foray into the literary world with her debut book on nutrition.

how to mix nutrition plan with fitness goals. Talking about her book, Arora



The book will offer readers a deep dive into Arora's healthy eating routine and cover some key elements of food and nutrition like relationship between eating right and overall well-being, challenges associated with food deprivation; and process of mastering discipline in eating with a guide on

personally believe in the comprehensive well-being of our body. Concentrating on just one, does not support the other. So the idea is to promote good health inside out and we have barely scratched the surface as of now."

The book is being mentored by The Sunflower Seeds literary consulting. The publication date or the publisher's name are yet to be announced.

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