CHANDIGARH • NEW DELHI • WEEKLY • SATURDAY • AUGUST 13, 2022 • VOLUME 22, ISSUE 20 • Rs 5

**SVB IN HARYANA TO FUNCTION** 

**NOW SIMILAR TO CBI TO STOP** 

**CORRUPTION, FIR AGAINST SIX** 

**EMPLOYEES** 

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY



CIPLA BETTING BIG ON **DIGITISATION AND EMERGING SEGMENTS** 



'LAAL SINGH CHADDHA' **WINS HEARTS OF MOST TAMIL FILM CELEBRITIES** 

# Punjab Govt amends policy to make RAKHRI bonanza for women: 6000 POSTS OF construction material cheaper

CHANDIGARH: In order to make construction material available at affordable prices and to increase revenue, the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday gave nod to amend Sand and Gravel Mining Policy of 2021.

A decision to this effect was taken at the meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Chief Minister here.

A spokesperson for the Chief Ministers Office said this initiative will rationalise the sand and gravel policy with a view to give relief to consumers on one hand and generate more revenue for the exchequer on

As per this policy, the royalty of Rs 2.40 per cubic feet will be the same as earlier. Revenue collected under the Information and Technology Department and weigh bridge head, which is 10 paise per cubic feet, will be



deposited in the state exchequer instead of being retained by the contractor currently.

The department will make the payment of the bills raised by the contractors at the weigh bridge as per terms of the agreement. This will facilitate the department to computerise the entire operations of weighbridge and further reduce the scope of illegal mining.

As the major burden to the

consumer comes from the transportation rates, so the department will prepare a mobile App connecting transporters and consumers and the rates will be fixed by the Transport Department

Instead of earlier practice of issuing K-2 permits, a surcharge of Rs 5 per square feet will be charged by the authority approving the building plans where construction of basement

is proposed and the revenue thus generated will be collected by respective local bodies and town planning authorities and deposited it in the department.

This will not be applicable for residential houses of any size or for any other building on plot size up to 500 square yards. The royalty rate of ordinary clay and ordinary earth will be Rs 10 per tons for commercial use except

#### **Punjab cabinet gives** approval for constituting Sikhya-te-Sehat Fund FW DESK

Punjab govt. in a first of its kind initiative to give a major push to fields of Education and Health, the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann today gave approval to trust deed for constituting Sikhya-te-Sehat fund in the state. A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Chief Minister here at Punjab Civil Secretariat I. Disclosing this here today, a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said that the fund is primarily aimed at creation and sprucing up of the capital assets in the fields of Health and Education within the geographical limits of the state for the benefit of public through mobilising voluntary donations.

# **ANGANWARI WORKERS will be filled: CM Mann**

**JAGMOHAN SINGH** 

Baba Bakala (Amritsar), August 12 - Announcing a bonanza for women on the occasion of 'Rakhar Punia', Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann said that 6000 posts of Anganwadi workers will be filled.

 $Addressing\ a\ gathering\ here$ to mark festival of Rakhar Punia, the Chief Minister said that the wheels have already been set in motion for completing this recruitment process within 45 days. He said that entire recruitment will be based on merit and will be done in a transparent and fair manner for which a mechanism is being evolved. Bhagwant Mann said that in addition, 4300 posts have been recently filled in Punjab Police and the appointment letters to selected candidates will be handed over in the coming days.

The Chief Minister asserted that the state government is committed to check the brain drain from the state to foreign countries. He said that for this more vistas of employment are

being opened for the youth both in public and private sector. Mann said that the state government is working hard

towards this end. Training his guns on the Shiromani Akali Dal and Congress, the Chief Minister said that the people of state have abandoned both these parties because of their anti-Punjab stance. He said that these parties had mercilessly plundered the wealth of the state resulting in extreme hardship to the people. Mann

said that these rejected leaders

have not held conferences on

In week long raid the Income

Tax Department has seized cash

and valuables worth Rs 390

crore following a raid on the

premises of Maharashtra's Jalna

businessman, who deals in gar-

ments, real estate and in steel.

I-T department's 260 offi-

cials divided into five teams

this occasion because they are fearful of facing the people.

Taking in former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal to the Mann said that these leaders remained confined to the high walls of their palaces and never bothered about the common man. He said that these power drunk leaders built 'castles in air' and looted the public wealth mercilessly. He said that the result is that these leaders have been rejected by

the people.

**Income Tax Department seizes cash** 

& valuables worth Rs. 390 Cr in Maha

#### **Jagdeep Dhankhar** sworn in as 14th **VP of India**



Former West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was on Thursday sworn in as the 14th Vice President of India. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Dhankhar (71) in a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Jagdeep Dhankhar took the oath in Hindi in the name of god. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Dhankhar's predecessor M Venkaiah Naidu were among the dignitaries present at the

#### Digital media is facing credibility issue, says Fadnávis

The digital media is facing a credibility problem, Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said here on Wednesday. He was speaking



daily Lokmat. News media are undergoing a transformation with changing technology, the BJP leader said, adding that media outlets must adopt a "360 degrees approach" if they want

to survive. The digital media

is losing its trustworthiness

as content is sometimes pub-

#### the deputy CM said. Rajouri attack : Govt can't go in hiding after such assaults, has to

**answer says Kharge** Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday hit out at the Centre over the terrorist attack on an army camp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the gov-



can't go in hiding after such assaults and will have Two ter-

rorists carried out a 'fidaveen' attack on an Army camp in Jammu's Rajouri district in the early hours of Thursday, killing three soldiers. Both attackers were gunned down in the fourhour firefight that followed.

## Nitish takes oath as Bihar CM, Tejashwi as his deputy JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar on

Wednesday took oath as Bihar chief minister for the eighth time in a ceremony at Raj Bha-RJD's Tejashwi Yadav was

administered the oath of office as deputy chief minister. The no-frills ceremony comes a day after Kumar snapped ties with the BJP-led NDA and joined hands with the RJD to form a Mahagathbandhan' government. Nitish takes oath as Bihar CM for record eight time leader Nitish Kumar on Wednesday took oath as Bihar chief minister for a record eighth time in a nofrills ceremony at Raj Bhavan,



the BJP-led NDA and joining hands with the RJD to form a Mahagathbandhan' government.

Kumar is likely to retain the all-important Home portfolio, a day after snapping ties with while the RJD may get most of

the departments that were previously with the BJP, a highlyplaced source said. He said an in-principle agreement has been reached about the composition of the new cabinet, which is

more, drawn from Kumar's JD(U), the RJD and the Congress. Euphoric scenes were witnessed outside the Raj Bhavan and residences of Kumar and Yadav, as hundreds of supporters of JD(U) and RJD celebrated beating drums, bursting crackers and distributing `laddus' (sweetmeats).

Nitish to prove majority in Bihar Assembly on Aug 24 After taking the oath as Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar called for first cabinet meeting on Wednesday. In the meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, Nitish Kumar passed a proposal to call a speelect a new Chairman as well.

likely to have 35 members or cial session of the Assembly on August 24 - for him to prove his majority - and the Legislative Council on August 25. Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan has been intimated of the proposal and his approval is awaited.

Leaders of the Mahagathbandhan also brought in a no-confidence motion against Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha, of the BJP. Since he just has support of just 77 MLAs of his own party, it is most likely that he would resign from the post before motion. RJD's Awadh Bihari Chaudhary is the front runner for the post. On August 25, the Legislative Council will

#### The source also said that it took 13 hours to count the cash.

valuable stones.

"It was a week-long raid that started from August 1. Our Nasik Branch team got the tip off

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was

on Wednesday appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of In-

dia after President Droupadi

Murmu signed his warrant of

He will assume charge on August 27 after incumbent N

V Ramana demits office the

day before. "In exercise of the

powers conferred by clause (2)

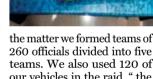
of Article 124 of the Constitu-

tion of India, the President is

pleased to appoint Shri Justice

Uday Umesh Lalit, judge of the

appointment.



carried out a week-long raid. The agency used 120 vehicles to carry out this raid. Sources our vehicles in the raid, "the source said. said that they seized around Rs 58 crore in cash, 32 kg gold and The source said that the cash

recovered from the premises of garments and steel businessman was taken to Nasik branch of State Bank of India, where it was counted for hours. The bank employees started countfollowing which the raids were ing the cash at around 11 a.m., went on till 1 a.m

Supreme Court, to be the Chief

Justice of India with effect from

27 August, 2022," a law ministry

notification said. Justice Lalit

will have a brief tenure of less

than three months. He will turn

65 on November 8 when he

demits office.

#### Congress to hit the streets against Akal Takht to hold prayers for Sikhs, Hindus, Agnipath scheme after Aug 15

**NEWDELHI:** The Congress is going to hit the streets demanding rollback of the Agnipath scheme of short-term recruitment into the armed forces and unemployment after August 15.

Addressing a press conference here, Congrtess MP Deepender Singh Hooda said that while the party extended full support to the <Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan> campaign launched by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and to the united front the Congress will extend full



support to the campaign against the Agnipath scheme. «After August 15, we will take to the streets, just like we did in our fight against inflation, to protest of ex-servicemen, who fought against unemployment and defor «One rank, one pension», mand rollback of the Agnipath scheme, « Hooda said.

#### LIC Q1 profit jumps multifold to Rs 682.89 cr

India on Friday reported a multi- came at Rs 1,68,881 crore for fold jump in its June quarter net the June quarter as against Rs profit at Rs 682.89 crore.

behemoth, which went public lished without proper vetting, recently, had a net profit of Rs 2.94 crore in the year-ago period. The first-year premium for

The state-run life insurance

7,429 crore as against Rs 5,088 crore in the year-ago period, it said in an exchange filing after its in the March quarter.

Life Insurance Corporation of board meeting. The total income 1,54,153 crore in the year-ago period, it said. When compared with the preceding March quarter, the performance was down across parameters, the filings showed. The net profit had come at Rs the reporting quarter came at Rs 2,371 crore, first year premium stood at Rs 14,614 crore and total income stood at Rs 2,11,451 crore

## **Muslims killed during Partition in 1947** AMRITSAR: On 75th an-

niversary of the Partition, Akal Takht will hold common prayers on August 16 for the peace of souls perished during the division of Punjab between India and Pakistan.

The Akhand Path will be start at Sri Akal Takht Sahib on August 16. In memory of those killed during the partition in August 1947.

"Around 10 lakh Punjabi men, women and children were killed during the Parti- India and Pakistan in 1947 including Gurdwara Nantion of Punjab between India and Pakistan.

Giani Harpreet Singh Jathedar Akal Takht highest seat of Sikh religion said that Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims were also included among those innocent Punjabis who sacrificed lives. Therefore, followers of every religion should hold religious ceremonies in their religious places on August 16 in memory of the Punjabis who were killed according to their own reli-

He said that Punjabis paid



with their lives. From August 10 to August 16, 1947, millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims had to suffer the pain of partition. Millions of daughters and sisters jumped into wells to save their rights. Rivers of blood and gore flowed everywhere. Jhelum and Jhanab were drenched in blood. Along with Nankana Sahib and Panja Sahib, the Khalsa Raj had to leave La-

Jathedar Akal Takht said that while the Sikhs had to the price for the partition of leave innumerable temples

kana Sahib, Gurdwara Panja Sahib and Sri Kartarpur Sahib, the Hindu community also had to leave temples like Katasraj and Shaktipeth Hinglaj. Chhade, who saw his children being killed in front of Akh, should be commemorated.

He appealed to the Sikhs living all over the world to pray at the feet of Akal Purakh in memory of the Punjabis who lost their lives from August 10 to August 16. In this regard, prayers will be offered at Sri Akal Takht Sahib on August 16

# **Punjab Cabinet Minister Aman Arora asks** officials to build strong relations with Media

Justice U U Lalit appointed 49th CJI



**FW DESK** 

Describing the media as 4th pillar of the democracy, Information and Public Relations Minister Aman Arora, on Thursday, directed the department officials to build a strong relations with media and look forward with positive attitude to ensure maximum coverage of citizens centric flagship schemes to reach the remotest corner of the state.

Chairing the fortnightly review meeting with PROs and APROs deputed at headquarters at Punjab Bhawan here, Aman Arora asked the officials to publicise the public welfare schemes and important decisions being implemented by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led Punjab Government. "Since the Public Relations Department acts as a  $\begin{tabular}{l} \begin{tabular}{l} \begin{tabu$ 

government, our aim should be to make connect with maximum people at the grassroot level through various media platforms, "he said.

Asking to tap the immense potential of social media for dissemination of information, Aman Arora said that the PR department should also keep the information about all the public welfare and flagship schemes handy to make the people aware about the new initiatives and efforts being made by the state government.

Secretary Information and Public Relations Gurkirat Kirpal Singh apprised the minister about the progress of the department while assuring that concerted efforts are being made to disseminate information about the government announcements, orders and the welfare schemes.

# China to provide Rs 15 billion assistance to Nepal to invest in various projects

China has pledged Rs 15 billion in grant assistance to Nepal to invest in various projects this year in the landlocked Himalayan nation after visiting foreign minister Narayan Khadka held wide-ranging talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to further cement the bilateral ties.

Khadka, who is on an official visit to China at the invitation of Wang, met Wang in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao on Wednesday.

The two foreign ministers took stock of overall aspects of Nepal-China relations and agreed to promote further cooperation in various sectors,



investment, health, tourism, poverty alleviation, agriculture, disaster management, education, culture, and people-to-peo-

the Nepalese foreign ministry said in a statement here.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress

made in a range of matters of bilateral cooperation since the official visit of Wang to Nepal in March this year.

Wang, also a State Councillor, announced that China will provide a Rs 15 billion (800 million RMB) grant to Nepal to invest in projects selected by Nepal for the year 2022. Wang also announced 3

million RMB worth disaster relief materials as per Nepal's request. "China will also provide

Nepal with an additional 12 million RMB worth of medical items and logistics," according to the statement.

#### Gold declines Rs 90, silver falls Rs 374

Gold price in the national capital on Friday declined by Rs 90 to Rs 52,915 per 10 grams, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at Rs 53,005 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also dipped by Rs 374 to Rs 59,166 per kg from Rs 59,540 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, both gold and silver were trading flat at USD 1,789 per ounce and USD 20.37 per ounce, respectively. "Gold prices are stuck in range over hawkish US Fed and soft inflation numbers while the weaker dollar has capped downside,' said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities

# Punjab Chief Minister launches "Punjab Khed Mela" portal

restore the pristine glory of Punjab and resuscitate the sports culture and sports friendly atmosphere in State, the Sports Department has chalked out an elaborate sporting extravaganza 'Punjab Khed Mela' under the banner of 'Khedan Wattan Punjab Dian' Every village and the city of Punjab would be covered in this sporting event.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann today launched the portal of Punjab Khed Mela. Aspirant players can register on portal www. punjabkhedmela2022.com between August 11 to 25, 2022. All information regarding this



sports fair will be available on the portal.

For the first time in Punjab an online database is being

such as age group and sport of the players, for this sports fair.

Chand on August 29 (National

rejuvenate the sports culture. In the Punjab Khed Mela, about 5 lakh players from Block to State level in the age On the occasion of the birth group of U-14, U-17, U-21, 21anniversary of Major Dhyan 40 years, 40-50 years and over

skills in the 28 sports included in the gradation list. The sports fest would continue for 2 months and the interested players can register themselves online from August 11 to 25. Block level competitions would held from September 1 to 7, District level from September 12 to 22 while State level from October 10 to 21.

Punjab Khed Mela would also feature Para Sports events. The State level winners of the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals would get Rs. 10000, Rs. 7000 and Rs. 5000 plus a certificate. Total prize money of Rs. 6 crore would be distributed. All the winning players would be covered in the

After a recent scam exposed

at Ambala in which land mafias

started developing unauthorized

colonies illegally on Panchayat

land where number of residen-

tial as well as commercial build-

ing have been constructed on

the basis of fake documents by

Tehsil offices. Supreme Court

of India has ordered to cancel

all such property registrations

and demolish unauthorized

constructions thereon as such

those involved in corrupt and

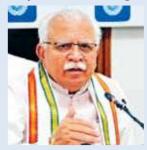
illegal practices are in the state

of panic and concerned officers

and employees involved in cor-

rupt practices are in the state

#### No one can force ration card holders to buy national flag: Haryana CM Khattar



**FW DESK** Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday said no one can force the ration card holders to buy the national flag along with the ration.

«No person will be de-nied of any services even if he does not wish to buy the national flag. Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan,

people can voluntarily buy the national flag, « said the Chief Minister in a state-

Taking cognizance of the complaint regarding a ration depot holder in Karnal forcing people to buy the Tricolour, the Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to spread mass awareness about this campaign.

If any organisation wants to help the state government in this campaign, then they can contact the Deputy Commissioner in their respective district. Meanwhile, the District Food and Supplies Controller has initiated an action against erring depot holder Dinesh Kumar in Hemda village. The monthly supply of ration of the depot holder has also been

#### **Dirty water from Budhanala** will be disposed off soon, Pb CM tells Ashok Gehlot **FW DESK**

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday spoke to Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann regarding the disposal of sewage coming from Budhanala in Punjab and relining of the Indira Gandhi Canal Project and the Sirhind Feeder under the Canal Project. Ashok Gehlot said that Mann assured him that the work of disposal of the dirty water would be done on priority and the work of relining would be completed during the next canal closure. The Rajasthan government has installed a real time water quality monitoring system on RD 555 (Rajasthan-Harvana border) of the Indira Gandhi feeder and RD 368 (Rajasthan-Punjab border) of the

**SATISH HANDA** 

Additional District Session Judge of Fast Track Court Ambala sentenced 10 years imprisonment and Rs 40000 fine to a general merchandize shop dealer Harbans Lal allegedly sexually abused a 12 years old minor girl a class seven students at a rural area near Mullana in Ambala district while she was returning home late evening after visiting teacher who took her inside the store behind the shop luring her to offer sweets. He threatened minor



girl to kill her in case she told to anyone and the minor did not disclosed to anyone about the incident but after having repeated cases of attempt to sexually exploit her the girl disclosed the same writing on a piece of paper to her mother that uncle is doing shameful act with her body while she is on way to home. A

complaint was lodged with Women Police Station Naraingarh by the mother of victim girl, which registered a case forwarded to fast track court Ambala after medical examination of the girl twice at Civil Hospital on 25th July 2019. The court recorded statement of victim minor under section 164. The case was under trial in the court for about three years in which statement of 10 witnesses was recorded on behalf of minor girl whereas no one appeared in the court for witness on behalf of alleged accuse, even no one from accused family appeared in the court on hearings in the case or at the time of declaring punishment a couple of days ago under section 506 IPC and Section 10 of Pocksy Act

## 75 years old shopkeeper sexually abused 12 yrs minor sentenced 10 years imprisonment, fine SVB in Haryana to function now similar to CBI to stop corruption. EID against six amplitudes. to stop corruption, FIR against six employees

50 years would showcase their

Mela" would be inaugurated

by Chief Minister Bhagwant

Singh Meet Hayer, Principal

Secretary Raj Kamal Chaudhary

and Director Rajesh Dhiman

were also present at the

guidance of the Chief Minister,

the State Government is

leaving no stone unturned to

Under the visionary

Sports Minister Gurmeet

Mann at Jalandhar.

SATISH HANDA

In view of increasing cases of corruption in government offices in the state including senior officers, Chief Minister Haryana has taken decision that State Vigilance Bureau (SVB) in Harvana will work now similar to CBI having powers to conduct raids and arrest alleged accuse including senior officers involved in corrupt practices, it was disclosed to media persons by Shatrujit Kapoor Chief of Vigilance Bureau in the state. He said, at present while conducting a raid or an investigation in a case SVB investigation team have to accompany a duty magistrate and before arresting a senior officer of a rank of HCS, HPS, IAS and IPS have to take permission from the higher government authorities prior to taking action which not only delays investigation but also cause leakage of important information.

Shatrujit Kapoor SVB chief said that according to the pres

PHOTO: KULBIR SINGH KALS

children between the age 12 and

16 being taken to Ludhiana and

Hoshiarpur in Punjab to work

as bonded labourer in spinning

Preliminary investigation

revealed that a gang of nearly

20 persons is very active in

human trafficking of children

procuring children from Bihar

and West Bengal since a long



ent decision corrupt officer as well as staff in government offices may be pushed behind bars by SVB framing a case with the directions by Additional Chief Secretary for which Chief Secretary Haryana Sanjiv Kaushal has already sent information to all Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the state to assist SVB team. According to rule constituted in 2008 SVB was authorized to undertake raids along with a duty magistrate which has now been modified by Haryana state government in order to wipe out fast increasing corruption in government offices since past few years.

#### **Punjab State level function** to mark the 'Martyrdom Day' of Shaheed Karnail Singh Isru at his native village on August 15 FW DESK

Punjab Government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has

decided to organise state level dom Day' of Shaheed Karnail Singh Isru on August 15 at his native village village near Khanna, Ludhiana. Disclosing this here today a



spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said that Bhagwant Mann will pre-

side over the state level function to be held at Isru. The Martyrdom Day' of Shaheed Karnail Singh Isru is commemorated every year at his native village Isru, Tehsil Khanna, District Ludhiana on August 15. This year the state Government has decided to hold a state level function to mark this day in which the Chief Minister along with his Cabinet colleagues will pay home to martyr, added the spokesman.

Punjab Transport Department recovers over Rs.39 cr from Tax Defaulters under Amnesty Scheme: Bhullar

**FW DESK** 

Punjab Transport Department has recovered over Rs.39 crore under the amnesty scheme launched by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led government for tax recov-

time and selling as bonded ery from private defaulters of the state. Divulging further, Punjab



Transport Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, on Thursday, said that the amnesty scheme was started on May 6, 2022, under which the amount of Rs.38.93 cr has been recovered so far. He said that the tax defaulters owed Rs.64.84 cr to the government.

said that strict action will be taken against violators who have not paid the dues yet.



Amritsar

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan today escaped unhurt after a truck driver rammed truck in his car near Amritsar

In an official statement issued here today Sandhwan sought an independent enquiry into the matter. On the occasion, the security guards had heated arguments with the driver but adopting a humane approach Sandhwan apologised for their behaviour. He said that every driver must behave properly on the road and follow the traffic rules.

However, a video went viral on social media wherein official gunmen of Speaker were seen brutally beating up the truck driver who was first beaten up inside the cabin of the truck and later he was dragged out by the gunmen of Speaker and brutally beaten up in full public view.

#### Stern action against defaulters, industry spreading pollution in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

As a result of fast increasing pollution in majority of nearly 18000 ponds in rural as well as urban areas and rivers mainly Ghaggar river and Yamuna canal passing through several districts across the state in which people residing in the area throw sewerage water, garbage and industry release wastes thus spreading pollution.

Chief Minister Haryana Manohar Lal Khatter has directed all concerned officers in the state to take immediate action against those violating directions and spreading pollution and installation of sewerage treatment plant (STP) there in and common efficient treatment plants (CETP) where required and intimate him in person within two weeks. Chief Minister told that in order to control pollution as many as 25 STP of 441 MLD capacity are being developed on Ghaggar and Yamuna canal, besides at Manesar and Mahrsspur Similarly, Hary- Yamuna canal.

ana Development Authority I reviewing development of

CETP at Kundli in Sonipat district disposing of maximum pollution in the area. Informtion reveals, to stop

pollution in Ghaggar river eight STP of 61MLD capacity and 17 STP of 381 MLD capacity are being installed on Yamuna canal in different areas across the state in 589 km area for which 549 km line out of total 589 km line installed. According to information, out of total 1652 km line in Yamuna canal in the state work has already been completed in 1472 km line., whereas proposal for three CETP of 19 MLD capacity and six CEPT of 131 MLD capacity is under process at present in

#### SAD-Badal leader Bikram Majithia granted bail in drugs case Punjab and Haryana High cotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Court on Wednesday granted Substances (NDPS) Act in bail to Shiromani Akali Dal December 2021. The former leader Bikram Singh Majithia minister was booked under

A division bench of justices MS Ramachandra Rao and pronounced the verdict on the bail plea of Majithia, one of his counsels Arshdeep

surrendered after the February 20 state assembly polls and is currently lodged in a Patiala jail. The division bench had reserved the order on the plea of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader on July 29.

Majithia had approached the high court on May 23, seeking bail in the case registered against him under

JAGMOHAN SINGH

Maninder Kaur.

The body of a five to six years

old girl child which was found

abandoned in the Golden Tem-

ple Plaza on Thursday, today it

was established that the victim

was left there by her mother

During scanning of the

CCTVs installed outside Golden

Temple by the SGPC, in which

a woman was seen carrying the

child in her lap. The purported

video has also gone viral on so-

Amritsar

Mother kills her five year old daughter and

leaves her abandoned outside Golden Temple

the NDPS Act on De-

cember 20 last year during the previous Congress governthe brother-in-law of SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and brother of former

Singh Kler said. Majithia had Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal. Majithia, in his bail plea, had submitted that the FIR against him was registered with a malafide objective to target the petitioner. The SAD leader had submitted that the previous Congress government in Punjab had "left no stone unturned to misuse its powers and position for wreaking vengeance various sections of the Nar- upon its political opponents".

Police, in a breakthrough,

found a clue when the same

suspicious lady identified

as Maninder Kaur reached

Punjab's Rajpura city Police

station to lodge a complaint

that she had lost her daughter

while showing her photograph.

The SHO of the police station

Harmanjit Singh Cheema act-

ing swiftly detained the lady

and subsequently informed the

an, who is accompanied by a

small boy, can be seen taking

In the CCTV footage, a wom-

Amritsar police.

the girl in the lap.

#### **Breastfeeding week celebrates** at Dietitian Shreya Academy



**KULBIR SINGH KALSI** 

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from 1st to 7th August. It is organized as an annual festival in more than 120 countries, World Health Organization Breastfeeding is celebrated this week with the aim of promoting the health and breastfeeding of children. This year, the theme of Breastfeeding section of the society.

Week is 'Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility'. In this episode, in order to take this very important message to every home, all the students and social media followers of Dietician Shreya Academy were asked to highlight its importance by writing an article on breast feeding and given the responsibility of reaching this message to every

#### Commissioner planted saplings of flowering shrubs at Sector 18 park

**KULBIR SINGH KALSI** 

Anindita Mitra, IAS, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh today planted saplings of flowering trees and shrubs in a part at sector 18, Chandigarh. Anup Gupta, Deputy Mayor, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh and Sanjay kumar Sachdeva, Additional District & sessions Judge (Retd.) presently Chairman perma-

nent lok adalat (public utility services) U.T. chandigarh, Arvind

jain and other dignitaries from Jain sabha were also planted plants during this program. Total 201 saplings of trees and flowering shrubs were planted like Neeli gulmohr, molsari, amla , chakrassia, silver oak, guava, kaner, rukmanjni etc. Jain Sabha also donated tree guards for the protection of these newly planted trees.

## 13th HP assembly's last session from August 10

The last session of 13th Himachal Pradesh Assembly will begin Wednesday at 11 am.

The hill state is bound for polls within the next four months. The four-day Monsoon session will begin with legislators paying tributes to four former members who passed away since the Budget session.

Tributes will be paid to former Union minister Pandit Sukh Ram, who died at AIIMS New Delhi on May 11 after suffering



A former MP and MLA, Pandit Sukh Ram had served as the Union minister of state for communications (independent charge) between 1993 and 1996.

He is remembered for bringing a telecom revolution in the country. He contributed immensely to the development of Himachal Pradesh and for the welfare of its people during his long political career spanning over sixty years. Former MLAs Roop Singh Chohan, Mast Ram and Praveen Sharma also died since the last session and the members would pay their respect to them as well. Standard Operating Proce-

dure (SOPs) issued by the Centre

and the state governments in view of Covid and monkeypox will be followed during session that concludes on August 13, Speaker Vipin Parmar said. Wearing of masks and adopt-

ing social distancing will be mandatory during the 15th session of this assembly, he added. Thermal scanning will be

done at the entrance of the Assembly building and visitors gallery would take only 50 per cent of its sitting capacity, he said.

#### Balmik Community withdraw bandh call said that August 12 a bandh given band call after the affidavit

The valedictory function of the month-long Internship Program of Final year law Interns from Panjab University,

Teams of different departments

including Anti-human Traf-

ficking, Special Crime Branch,

Railway Protection Force, GRP

comprising of 50 persons on a

information jointly conducted

raid at Ambala Cantt railway

train number 12907, Karamb-

humi Express train running

between Jalpaiguri and Am-

ritsar having stoppage four

railway station which remained

stranded at the railway station

for more than 90 minutes. The

aiding staff started checking

in all compartment at a time

immediately as soon as train

reached at the platform. And

24 children rescued in the train on

station on August 4, 2022 In into possession as many as 24

five minutes at Ambala Cantt and rubbrr mills.

human trafficking information

Chandigarh of Chandigarh Commission for protection of Child Rights was organised in the Conference Hall of

JAGMOHAN SINGH **Amritsar** 

The Balmik Community which has earlier given Bandh call, has withdrawn its decision after meeting with the senior district level officers including Deputy Commissioner Harpreet Singh Sudan and senior police officers who assured the community for meeting with State CM Bhag-

Punjab set up group of

CHANDIGARH: Punjab

Chief Minister Bhagwant

Mann on Wednesday an-

nounced to set up a group of

ministers (GoM) for effec-

tive monitoring and control

of lumpy skin disease among

livestock on a day-to-day basis. Sharing details after a high-

level meeting to review the sit-

uation, the Chief Minister said

the GoM comprising Finance

Minister Harpal Cheema, Ag-

riculture Minister Kuldeep

Singh Dhaliwal and Animal

Husbandry Minister Laljit

Singh Bhullar would be as-

sisted by experts from the Guru

Angad Dev Veterinary and

**Animal Sciences University** 

and officials from the animal

husbandry department.

ministers to monitor

lumpy skin disease

among animals

want Mann on August 19. In an official statement issued by the district administration

call was given by the Balmik community bur after marathon meeting between district administration and senior leader of the community it was resolved that matter to be discussed with CM on August 19. After assurance by the district administration the community leaders agreed to withdraw bandh call of Au-

Talking to The Financial World community leader Ravinder Hans said that they had

Advocate General Anmol Rattan Sidhu in the High Court wherein it was said that Schedule castes reservation for the vacancies in the office Advocate General which sent shock wave and severe resentment among the community and prompted them to announce Bandh call across the State. Now the appointment is fixed with the State CM for table talk and banh call stands withdrawn

during search campaign took labourer to industries. submitted by the former State

Punjab Transport Minister

# India reports minor surge in Covid cases



India on Friday reported a marginal rise in Covid cases with 16,561 fresh infections reported in the past 24 hours against previous day's 16, 299 count, as per Union Health Ministry data.

In the same period, 49 more Covid deaths took the nationwide death toll to 5,26,928.

Meanwhile, the active caseload has marginally declined to 1,23,535 cases, accounting for 0.28 % of the total positive cases.

The recovery of 18,053 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,35,73, 094. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.53 %.

Meanwhile, the Daily Positivity rate has also risen to 5.44 %, while the Weekly Positivity Rate currently stands at

Also in the same period, a total of 3,04,189 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 87.95 crore.

As of this morning, the Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 207.47 crore, achieved via 2.75.59.030 sessions.

Over 3.96 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

#### CJI Ramana asks lawyers to wear masks in courtrooms



Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana on Thursday advised lawyers to wear masks in courtrooms, saying staffers and judges were contracting COVID-19 infection.

"Please wear a mask. The majority of our staff and colleagues are getting it (COV-ID-19). Judges are also getting it," the CJI told the lawyers at the start of court proceedings.

bies, the bench, which also comprised Justice Krishna Murari, asked the lawyers to wear masks.

"I tested negative," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, adding that senior advocate A M Singhvi has tested positive. "Oh! I wish you a speedy recovery," the CJI said.

#### **BJP President JP** Nadda to visit **Tripura on Aug 27**



side over an officer bearers' meeting and a core committee

addressed by Nadda ji, Rebati

Chief Minister Manik Saha,

isational activities. Earlier, Nadda had can-

# India to be fastest growing economy this year: Govt source

Rising inflation rates notwithstanding, India will be the fastest growing economy in the world this year, a top government source said on

While inflation continues to be above the comfort zone, the economy has continued on its recovery path, supported by pent-up demand for services and higher industrial output.

The government, the source said, is taking continuous steps and engaging with the RBI to bring down inflation. Inflation has stayed above the upper is no chance of growth slowing and the next, the source added.

11th edition of its fellowships

that support books document-

ing various aspects of the dy-

namic and rich landscape of

India post-Independence era.

shortlisted to meet with a jury

consisting of eminent people

from the world of scholarship,

business, and social service and

5-10 fellowships will be award-

ed. With an annual stipend of

Rs 18 lakh to each recipient, the

NIF Book Fellowships will also

offer editorial and administra-

tive guidance through its course,

from proposal to publication.

Security forces on Thursday

after they mounted an attack

Mukesh Singh told media.

a post in the dark at Pargal

The fellowships are open

Three soldiers, two

Rajouri fidayeen attack

militants killed in

About 20-25 proposals will be

tion (NIF) has announced the and will be awarded for a period



tolerance limit of 6 per cent and India will be the fastest for six straight months. There growing economy this year

of one year. The jury this year

includes social scientist and

author Niraja Jayal, historian

Srinath Raghavan, and entre-

preneurs Nandan Nilekani and

"Fellowship-holders are ex-

pected to write original books

in English. Proposals should

be oriented towards publica-

tion, and outline a road map

towards that destination. The

foundation is agnostic as regards

genre, theme, and ideology: the

only requirement is that the

proposed works contribute to

a fuller understanding of inde-

pendent India," a statement by

Manish Sabharwal.

may choose to write a mem-

oir, or a work of reportage, or

a thickly footnoted academic

study. Their books could be ori-

ented towards economics, or

politics, or culture. They could

be highly specific - an account

of a single decade or a single

region - or wide-ranging, such

as a countrywide overview," it

added. According to NIF trustee

Raghavan, "In a very real sense,

the New India Foundation be-

lieves that India today is such

a fascinating yet complex phe-

nomenon that in order to be

able to get a grip on where we

are - and where we might be

going - we need to approach

NEW DELHI: Nalini, a con-

vict in the Rajiv Gandhi assas-

sination, has moved the apex

On swelling trade deficit, the source said the current account deficit (CAD) should steady going forward.

The government is continuously monitoring borrowing cost, the source said. Regarding cryptocurrency, the source said caution is necessary and the recent WazirX episode has exposed many darker sides of crypto transactions. On GST, the source said a group of ministers from the states is likely to submit to the Finance Minister its report on taxing **AGENCIES** 

NIF fellowships for books on post-Independence India Here's some good news for auto Indian nationals, including the Bengaluru-based NIF said. through many windows and those currently living abroad, "Thus, fellowship holders" through many windows and vantage points." The last date

for applying is December 31. Since its inception, the NIF Book Fellowships have resulted in the publication of several critically acclaimed books that have recorded various aspects of contemporary Indian history.

These include Swati Ganguly's "Tagore's University: A History of Visva-Bharati (1921-1961)"; Nazia Akhtar's "Bibi's Room: Hyderabadi Women and Twentieth-Century Urdu Prose"; Rahul Ramagundam's "The Life and Times of George Fernandes"; and "Not Just Cricket: A Reporter's Journey Through Modern India" by Pradeep Magazine.

# Hundreds participate in 'Tiranga Yatra' in Delhi

Hundreds of people with national flags gathered at the Red Fort on Tuesday to take part in the 'Tiranga Yatra' which will pass through eight locations that were visited by Mahatma Gandhi here during the freedom struggle.

The yatra was flagged off by Union minister Jitendra Singh, MP Prakash Javadekar and senior BJP leader Vijay Goel. The eight locations include

Katra Kushal Rai, Marwadi Sarvajanik Pustakalaya, Gandhi Maidan, Sangam theatre and Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib, where Mahatma Gandhi visited and held meetings during the freedom movement, Goel said.

Heavy security arrangements were put in place at Chandni Chowk area which was decked up with tricolours and flower on the occasion.



A cultural programme was organised at the Town Hall there where children from various schools performed.

"I'm glad that a large number of students turned up for this cultural programme. I congratulate all the schools who participated in the event," Goel said while addressing the students.

Modi has "ignited a new spirit of nationalism" among the citizens by launching the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, he

This event is an opportunity to revisit the memory of Mahatma Gandhi's struggles during the freedom move-ment," he said.

**Next Vice President:** 

EC issues certificate of

election to Dhankhar

An Army personnel allegedly officials said on Wednesday.

was on guard duty at Kullian camp in Miran Sahib area on

postmortem. Police have started inquest proceedings.

#### Soldier shoots himself dead in Jammu

Rifleman Yogesh Kumar

he shot himself in the head, the officials said.

shot himself dead with his service rifle inside a camp here,

Kumar, a resident of Himachal Pradesh, died on the

the outskirts of the city when

spot and later his body was taken to hospital by police for

## The Election Commission on Aug 7 issued a certificate

Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

tired now), B. R. Gavai, and

A. S. Bopanna said: «in the

exceptional facts and cir-

cumstances of this case, in

exercise of our power under

Article 142 of the Constitu-

tion, we direct that the Appel-

lant is deemed to have served

the sentence in connection

with crimea.. The Appellant,

announcing the election of NDA candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar as the 14th vice Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict Nalini moves SC seeking premature release president of India. Chief Election Commis-A bench comprising Jussioner Rajiv Kumar and tices L. Nageswara Rao (re-Election Commissioner

Anup Chandra Pandey signed the "Certification of the Election" of Dhankar. A signed copy of the certificate was handed over to the Union Home Secretary

by senior Deputy Election Commissioner Dharmendra Sharma and Narendra N Butolia, senior Principal Secretary in the EC, the poll panel said. The term of incumbent M

Venkaiah Naidu ends on August 10. Dhankhar won with a huge vote share of 74.36 per cent, the highest in the last six vice-presidential elections, with 528 votes against Alva's 182 votes.

## Road accidents in three dead

Three people were killed and a woman injured in two separate road accidents in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Wednesday.

Hari Kishore (50) and his wife Madhuri (45), residents of Hamidpur in Bihar, were killed while Kishore's sister Babita (25) was critically injured when their scooty was hit by a truck near Government Medical College Kathua on the Jammu-Pathankot highway on Tuesday night, police official said.

The three were on way to their rented accommodation in CTM colony in Kathua when the accident took place.

The injured woman has been hospitalised while the driver of the truck was arrested, the official said. In another accident, a resi-

dent of Kathua was killed after an unidentified vehicle hit his cycle at Barnoti on Tuesday night.

#### On a mission to produce 5,000 Khadi national flags for free distribution this I-Day Atleast five village panchayats

in Tamil Nadu would fly the Khadi national flags exclusively produced by the Avvai Ashram of the Gandhigram Trust in Sivasailam, this Independence

Apparently inspired by the Centre's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, the Gandhigram Trust, situated in Tamil Nadu's southern district of Tirunelveli, has embarked on a mission to churn out 5,000 Khadi flags.

The flags would be distributed to the village panchayats for free to help the villagers fly the national tricolour atop their houses or on their premises.

We have trained 10 persons to stitch the national flag and print the Ashoka chakra on them. They are working ceaselessly along with 5 others at our tailoring unit in Sivasailam," says K Shivakumar, managing trustee of Gandhigram Trust.

They were trained about a fortnight ago and have been told to confine to the specifications stipulated by the Central government and also use only Khadi material, he said.

On an average about 500 to

600 flags are made daily and

the Gandhigram Trust hopes

to complete the production by

August 12 to facilitate the distribution of the flags to village panchayats, he told to media. The workers, mostly women,

have been trained under a livelihood programme of the trust. They would be provided employment all through the year.

"Through this and many other initiatives we hope to ensure lasting income to the members of the Annaporna self help group (SHG) which we have formed," he said.

"Gandhigram is proud that

our unit in Sivasailam is actively

involved in making the national

the Independence Day, Shi-

vakumar said. Responding to a question, he said this is the first time the Sivasailam unit is producing the national flags. Our government is encouraging people to hoist the flags in their houses, so we decided to participate in the campaign to help the people celebrate the 75th year of India's Independence in a grand manner. Incidentally,

Gandhigram, the managing trustee said. Besides Gandhigram and Sivasailam, Chettiapatti, Thoppampatti and Alamarathupatti panchayats will receive the flags flags to help the people celebrate and in turn they would distrib-

ute the flags to the villagers. The relaxation in the flag code rules by the Central government permitting the public to hoist national flags as part of the Har Ghar Triranga is an opportunity for every citizen to carry home the national tricolour, says Lt Col N Thiagarajan, veteran, who had participated in the Kargil war. this is also the 75th year of our He hopes to distribute flags

for free to the poor people and tribals and help them express their patriotism. I have planned to plant 750 saplings at the CRPF training centre, Avadi, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Thiagarajan said.

Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Sunday led a procession of party leaders in remembrance of his late father and former CM M Karunanidhi on the veteran political leader's death anniversary

memorial on Kamaraj Salai here, with senior ĎMK Kanimozhi and state minis-

floral tributes to a portrait of Karunanidhi near the latter's statue, which was inaugurated in May this year, at the Omandurar Government Estate in the state capital.



## India's industrial production grows 12.3 per cent in June

India's industrial production rose 12.3 % in June 2022, according to the official data released on Friday.

As per the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 12.5 per cent in June 2022.

The mining output climbed 7.5 per cent, and power generation increased 16.4 per cent in June 2022.

The IIP had grown by 13.8 pared to a growth of 44.4 per cent in June 2021. per cent in the same period The index grew 12.7 per a vear ago.



April 2020 due to a decline in

rus pandemic

2020, when it

had contracted

18.7 per cent.

57.3 per cent in

It shrank

March

economic activities in the wake of the lockdown imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus infections



cance in view of next year's assembly elections. Nadda ji will be in Tripura

to oversee the party's preparedness for the 2023 assembly elections, BJP state vice-president and MP Rebati Tripura said. The BJP chief will likely pre-

meeting during his Tripura We are also trying to organise a rally, which will be

on a recent visit to New Delhi, had met Nadda and briefed him about the state's present political scenario and organ-

celled visits to the state twice due to the Covid pandemic.



engaged by alert troops. The terrorists, they said, have been morning killed two militants neutralised.

The attack comes ahead of on an army camp in the border Independence Day celebradistrict of Rajouri in Jammu tions.

demned by political parties personnel also lost their lives and two others were injured. in J&K. Former J&K Chief "Someone tried to cross the Minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah fence of the Army camp at Pargal in Darhal area of Rajouri". tweeted: "Very sorry to hear Following an exchange of fire, about the death in the line of the two militants were killed, duty of three soldiers following he added," Additional Direca militant attack in Rajouri. tor General of Police, Jammu, While condemning the attack I send my condolences to the The Nagrota-based White families & my prayers for the Knight Corps tweeted that "2 swift recovery of those officers

terrorists trying to sneak into & jawans injured in the attack

court challenging the Madras High Court order, which dismissed her plea saying that it cannot exercise powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to pass a similar order, which was passed by the apex court to release another accused, A.G. Perarivalan, in the case. «The directions sought by the petitioner cannot be given by the court, as it otherwise does not have power similar to what the apex court has under Article

dia. For the foregoing reasons,

Heavy rains in Uttarakhand

caused a surge in streams that

damaged buildings and shops

while landslides in the hills

a number of rural motor roads

blisera village washed away

eight shops in Uttarkashi

district in the early hours on

Thursday, the state emergency

operation centre (SEOC) here

said. Overnight excessive rains

completely damaged three

houses at Agarchatti village

near Gairsain in Chamoli

district. Mud and slush also

gushed into eight houses in

A swirling stream in Kha-

blocked national hi

on Thursday.

the writ petition is dismissed as not maintainable», said the high court in an order passed 142 of the Constitution of In-

Agarchatti, it said. However,

no casualties were reported

from anywhere. Badkot and

Purola in Uttarkashi district

received 88 mm and 84 mm of

nary powers to do complete justice under Article 142 of the Constitution, as it ordered the release of A.G. Perariva-On May 18, the Supreme lan, sentenced to life in the Court invoked its extraordia assassination of former Prime

who is on bail, is set at liberty forthwith». Perarivalan is currently on bail. His death sentence was commuted to life sentence and terrorism

Heavy rains trigger flash floods, landslides in Uttarakhand to the Himalayan shrines of Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri were blocked by debris following landslides said. The Rishikesh-Badrinath national highway (NH) was

> Gangotri NH at Ratudi-Sera, Bandarkot and Naitala, it said. Tanakapur-Champawat-

blocked at Narkota, Rishikesh-Yamunotri NH at Kharadi and

Dabarkot and the Rishikesh-

Ghaat national highway in Campawat district and Tyuni-Chakrata-Tehri-Maletha national highway in Dehradun district were also blocked by rubble at several places

#### Tributes paid to Karunanidhi on death anniversary DMK President and Tamil ters in tow. Stalin also paid

rain, respectively while the dis-

trict headquarters received 70

mm of rain. Chamoli gauged

National highways leading

62 mm of rain

The Chief Minister led a

Karunanidhi, a Dravidian

stalwart and former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, procession to Karunanidhi's passed away on August 7, 2018. A marathon was also held in connection with the leaders Dayanidhi Maran, K late leader's death anniver-



# CWG success will hold Indian athletes in good stead

he Commonwealth Games (CWG), alluding to a happily ever-after between England and its former colonies, may have its legacy issues. And in terms of the competitive yardstick, with the obvious absence of the United States of America, Russia and China, the CWG is considered a notch below the Olympics and the Asian Games. Yet, the CWG has a certain value in being a multi-nation quadrennial event that pits a disparate group of countries split by continents and fused by a shared past linked to the British Empire. It offers athletes one more shot at glory besides inspiring their fans to pursue sport with added vigour. In the latest edition that concluded at Birmingham on Monday, India with a medal haul of 61, inclusive of 22 golds, was placed fourth while Australia, host England and Canada led the charts. With shooting excluded from the CWG, India lost out on an additional yield. Most Indian medals told a tale etched by hope, diligence and hard work. If Sharath Kamal's table tennis exploits, even at 40, proved that sportspersons can fight the dimming light, weightlifter Sanket Sargar's silver in the men's 55kg segment, showed that financial difficulties cannot derail a focused athlete. Four years ago, Sanket used to sell paan from a tiny shop at Sangli in Maharashtra, and his is a story that needs to be cherished. Similar is the personal history linked to weightlifter Achinta Sheuli, who won gold in the 73kg division. Achinta, his brother Alok and mother did embroidery. The siblings also worked in the fields, fighting poverty and coping with the demise of their father. Like Sanket, Achinta's too is a story of hope and redemption. That sport is not always war minus the shooting was evident when Neeraj Chopra effusively praised Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who won gold in the men's javelin. The latest success in the CWG, should hold the Indian athletes in good stead as they prepare for next year's Asian Games in China.

#### LETTERBOX

Readers' feedback adds value to the newspaper. Please email comments on reports, features and columns to **fwletters@gmail.com**. We will publish them on this page.

"Don't worry about being successful, but work toward being significant and the success will naturally follow." Oprah Winfrey

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EDITOR\* ABDUL WASEY



MUKUL SANWAL EXPLAINS WHY A SHIFT IS REQUIRED TO COLLABORATION AROUND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# A new global vision for G20

hile India has taken a clear view of the role of the G20, there is concern that the agenda, themes and focus areas which India will set for 2023 lack vision.

The G20 plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues. It recognises that global prosperity is interdependent and economic opportunities and challenges are interlinked. The challenge is to craft new approaches to overcome the acute global discord.

However, according to the Ministry of External Affairs, in 190 meetings, India will strengthen international support for priorities of vital importance to developing countries in diverse social and economic sectors, ranging from energy, agriculture, trade, digital economy, health and environment to employment, tourism, anti-corruption and women empowerment, including in focus areas that impact the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Without specificity, India has lost a chance to nudge the G20 and regional organisations towards its focus areas.

The fractured world makes trade-offs, the essence of current multilateralism, difficult and suggests a new model of international cooperation.

First, multilateral commitments on aid and trade are faltering. Governance in a world that is steadily becoming more equal needs institutional innovation. This is because the role of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization in securing cooperation between donor and recipient country groups is losing centrality. There are now three socio-economic systems — the G7, China-Russia, and India and the others — and they will jointly set the global agenda.

Second, Ukraine's long shadow, rival finance, the expanding influence of the trade and value chains dominated by the U.S. and China, and the reluctance of developing countries to take sides in the strategic competition as they have a real choice requires fresh thinking on the nature and form of collaboration from the G20.

Third, the primary role of the G20, which



accounts for 95% of the world's patents, 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and 65% of the world population, needs to be reoriented to prevent a clash of ideas to the detriment of the global good. The solution lies in a new conceptual model seeking agreement on an agenda limited to principles rather than long negotiated anodyne text. The Rio Declaration of 1992 is an appropriate model. For example, incorporating the three major priorities of each of the groups as part of a global agenda will inform smaller groupings of countries which have issue-based linkages and overlaps between them instead of struggling for meaningful agreement on single concerns of groups which are not even talking to each other.

India should seek collaboration on limited focus areas around science and technology, building on resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and other multilateral bodies.

A new conceptual frame is needed. First, the presumed equality that we are all in the same boat, recognised in the case of climate change, needs to be expanded to other areas with a global impact redefining 'common concerns'. Second, emerging economies are no longer to be considered the source of problems needing external solutions but source of solutions to shared problems. Third, the BRICS provides an appropriate

model for governance institutions suitable for the 21st century where a narrow group of states dominated by one power will not

shape the agenda The starting point should be building on the global consensus in the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights 1993 reaffirming the indivisibility of all human rights. There is a growing recognition of economic and social rights — for example, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ensuring adequate food, housing, education, health, water and sanitation and work for all should guide international cooperation. Principles of common but differentiated responsibilities for improving the quality of life of all households can guide deliberations in other fora on problems that seem intractable in multilateralism based on trade and aid.

Second, the global agenda has been tilted towards investment, whereas science and technology are the driving force for economic diversification, sustainably urbanising the world, and ushering the hydrogen economy and new crop varieties as the answer to both human well-being and global climate change. Innovation supports dematerialising production and consumption and moving towards renewable sources of energy. The shift in lifestyles in the post-war period created urban jobs in services and retail that made up for the losses to high productivity

manufacturing, and climate change. A forum to exchange experiences on societal benefits and growth as complementary goals would lead to fresh thinking on employment and environment.

Third, harnessing the potential of the digital-information-technology revolution requires redefining digital access as a "universal service" that goes beyond physical connectivity to sharing specific opportunities available. For global society to reap the fruits of the new set of network technologies, open access software should be offered for more cost-effective service delivery options, good governance and sustainable development.

Fourth, space is the next frontier for finding solutions to problems of natural resource management ranging from climate change-related natural disasters, supporting agricultural innovation to urban and infrastructure planning. Analysing Earth observation data will require regional and international collaboration through existing centres which have massive computing capacities, machine learning and artificial intelligence. Open access to geospatial data, data products and services and lower costs of geospatial information technology facilities do not require huge financial resources.

Fifth, public health has to learn from the COVID-19 fiasco with infectious diseases representing a market failure. A major global challenge is the rapidly growing antimicrobial resistance which needs new antibiotics and collaboration between existing biotechnology facilities.

Sixth, overriding priority to development

suggests avoiding strategic competition. Countries in the region will support building on the 1971 UNGA Declaration designating for all time the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and non-extension into the region of rivalries and conflicts that are foreign to it.

Lastly, a Global Financial Transaction Tax, considered by the G20 in 2011, needs to be revived to be paid to a Green Technology Fund for Least Developed Countries.

> Mukul Sanwal is a former UN diplomat. Views are personal



RAHUL MUKHERJI ON WHY THE PARTY MUST SELF-REFLECT CRITICALLY TO FATHOM ITS PREDICAMENT

## Words of wisdom for the Congress's 'last Mughals'



n the eve of India's 75th year of Independence, we the people of India are groaning under the poison of Hindutva and a rudderless Opposition. Collectively, these two factors are overseeing the destruction of India's political liberalism. There is little hope for constitutional values such as sarva dharma sama bhava (equal respect for all religions under the law), and the same treatment for all citizens. Quite tragically, we are in a situation where India could morph into a Hindu Pakistan, as was willed by the assassins of Mohandas Gandhi.

India's foundational figures had understood the importance of religious diversity. Swami Vivekananda, the patron saint of the Indian youth, had argued for the necessity of religious diversity. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army had consistently worked with all the faiths to defeat the British. Bose's closest associates were Muslims. The experience of the struggle for freedom was enshrined in the constitutional idea of India, that was created by Maulana Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru, B.R. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, among numerous other stalwarts.

The legacy of the freedom struggle was the fundamental reason India shocked the world by turning into a resilient democracy with abundant poverty, where civilian control over the military was established. The Congress Party, led by Sonia Gandhi, largely built on those foundations. It not only engendered a rapidly growing and globalising India but even consolidated citizenship rights and welfare. India's growth even surpassed China's during the first decade of the new millennium, while historic financial and human investments were made to redistribute



that wealth. These remarkable achievements are forgotten today.

Today, we find only paper champions defending that idea of India. The once mighty Congress Party, the bulwark of the Indian nationalist movement, is in a state of such disarray that even Opposition parties consider it to be a liability. How is it that a party that governed India for nearly 60 years has been reduced to a sideshow? To comprehend this predicament and evolve, the Party must self-reflect critically on four salient factors.

First, the Congress Party has a leadership problem. It has much to do with those who control the reins of the party in the name of the Gandhis. Sonia Gandhi's managers such as Ahmed Patel, Motilal Vora, Janardan Dwivedi, Oscar Fernandes and Ambika Soni were politically grounded, and well versed with realpolitik.

Second, while experimentation with political tactics is healthy, ideological confusion

is not. Today's Congress high command swings between the extreme right (flirting with soft Hindutva) and the extreme left (flirting with radical anti-establishment ideas). The right-wing leadership matches Hindutva by visiting temples, flaunting the sacred thread, and, soft peddling on issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the dilution of Article 370, and numerous attacks on minorities. Such a disposition of the three Gandhis would have saddened Jawaharlal Nehru.

Third, successful political leadership demands a combination of charisma and astute political management. The charismatic leader can draw the crowds while the political manager strategises elections, makes the machinery of government work, and ensures adherence to the party's ideological agenda.

Nehru had a Sardar Patel to work with. While Nehru articulated the idea of India, Patel ran the party. This model was replicated under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, which Dr. Manmohan Singh ran, while Ahmed Patel managed the party. The same can be said regarding the political success of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. And, finally, the Congress's enviable con-

nections within the state and society have collapsed. The party once commanded an enormous network within the administration, media, civil society, and even with foreign governments. It could raise substantial funds. This infrastructure was a resource that the party could leverage to support less well-endowed parties in a coalition. If it cannot deliver on all these, why should Opposition parties work with the Congress? Yet, the team led by Rahul Gandhi has failed in strengthening old bonds and creating new ties. This is why the Congress's sphere of influence is shrinking rapidly.

The million-dollar question is: where will the Congress go? Will the party gerrymander its internal polls due in September 2022 till a Gandhi is reanointed as president? Or, will it once again delay the election hoping that Rahul Gandhi changes his mind after the Bharat Jodo Yatra (now from September)? In that case, the Gandhis, like Bahadur Shah Zafar and his sons, might well be the Congress's last Mughals. However, they still have the time to invest in the right persons, so that the Congress Party can move forward. This is the best service that the Gandhis can perform for the party, and for preserving much that is precious in India's civilisational journey.

Rahul Mukherji is Professor and Chair, Modern Politics of South Asia, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany



BOOKS: REVIEW

# Tracing journey of Article 370 from cradle to grave

new book on Article 370 chronicles its journey from the cradle to the grave through a contested birth, lawyerly machinations in its early years, endemic political skulduggery, episodic displays of judicial statesmanship, and a sudden and swift demise.

"Hamin Ast: A Biography of Article 370" by Arghya Sengupta, Jinaly Dani, Kevin James and Pranay Modi tells the story of how Jammu and Kashmir became part of India in 1947, achieved special status in 1950, shared a fractious relationship with New Delhi for the next seven decades, only to be reduced to a Union territory on August 5, 2019.

According to authors, the nullification of Article 370, like its genesis and much of its operation,

was vexed.
"Its formulation was an after-

thought to capture the temporary compromise between Srinagar and New Delhi. As relations between the two soured, it became a source of deep mistrust for political forces in Kashmir," the book says.

"The twiste and turns of Lynny."

"The twists and turns of Jammu and Kashmir politics, however, meant that after a tumultuous first decade, Article 370 surprisingly became the mainstay of constitutional relations between India and Jammu and Kashmir; over the next few decades, it was a vehicle of greater integration.

"In the words of (the then) home minister Gulzarilal Nanda, it was 'a tunnel (through which) a good deal of traffic has already passed and more will'. This long journey

'In the words of (the then) home minister Gulzarilal Nanda, it was 'a tunnel (through which) a good deal of traffic has already passed and more will'

of seven decades came to an abrupt halt when the tunnel was razed in 2019," it says.

Historical events and political actors are covered in this book only to the extent that they have a bearing on the drafting, interpretation, operation, and nullification of Article 370.

The authors argue that the emphasis of Article 370 has always been on collective decision-making by



Hamin Ast: A
Biography of
Article 370
By Arghya
Sengupta, Jinaly
Dani, Kevin
James and
Pranay Modi
Navi Books

the representatives of Jammu and Kashmir on the one hand, and the Indian government on the other

hand.

The fundamentality of this mutually cooperative decision-making was the cornerstone of the early stages of drafting Article 370, and had remained a central feature of the text of the Article in subsequent iterations of the draft. Ironically, even the erosion of the special status of the state was facilitated by such

cooperation, they say.
"In the actions of August 2019, the
absolute negation of any participation from Jammu and Kashmir is

squarely antithetical to the original constitutional compact. While that compact, like every other constitutional article, can change, it can change only in the manner that is envisaged. Literal gymnastics may go some way in sidestepping legal difficulties, but if allowed to carry the day, will only do so by extinguishing the spirit of that agreement," they write.

They are of the view that while the nullification of Article 370 was indeed the culmination of a longstanding party-political promise, the nature of a constitutional democracy is such that it requires that party-political promises must also be fulfilled in a constitutional manner.

"Laxity on this front – allowing the adoption of unconstitutional means to fulfil political promises – puts the polity on a slippery slope, where all constitutional norms are destined to become dispensable. This usually does not bode well for the long-term health of democracy and democratic norms of governance," they say.

# Cipla betting big on digitisation and emerging segments Drug major Cipla is betting big on digitisation and emerging of the outlibedies and some of the outlibedies a

segments like biosimilars and mRNA aided medications to drive its next phase of growth.

The Mumbai-based drug maker is also bullish on maximising value opportunity in the complex generics in the US market.

It is also looking to scale up its US core formulations sales on the back of respiratory and peptide franchises while monitoring upcoming complex product launches in the second half of the current fiscal. "Digitalisation in healthcare

found its rightful place during the pandemic, and there is a need to expand and support the essential backup services to enable digital healthcare to function efficiently in all primary and secondary healthcare centres," Cipla Executive Vice-Chairperson Samina Hamied said in the company's Annual Report for 2021-22.

The drug firm has embarked on the digital transformation of the value chain across functions, including finance, R&D, manufacturing, supply chain, HR, customer



engagement, she added.

Over the past few years, the company has set up several foundational elements to drive the digitisation and automation plans right from adopting latest trends to transform patient reach and customer care via digitalisation, Hamied

We have also been reimagining field force engagements with health care professionoutreach and stakeholder als (HCPs) in global markets

through virtual knowledge sharing platforms. Our aspiration is to create plants of the future in a digitally native organisation, that will transform the lives of our people and all

our stakeholders," she noted.

It is time for the industry to take note of advanced tools and emerging technologies powered by advanced analytics, robotics and automation that have the potential to revolutionise every element of pharma shift be it mRNA technology,

manufacturing within the next few years, Hamied said.

"Going forward all our growth engines will be fueled by our digital transformation initiatives," Cipla Managing Director and Global CEO Umang Vohra noted.

Elaborating further, he said that it would be important to watch out for the innovative trends in healthcare that are bringing about a paradigm

of the antibodies and cancer Besides, the company would

also ensure that within respiratory therapy, it has a robust range of offerings comprising innovative drug-device combinations and even bio-drugs that are gaining steam in the US, Vohra said.

"We will ensure steadfast rigour in our respiratory filings and new launches and maintain market beating growth,"

He noted that the company is passionate about building a strong global wellness franchise and are working towards identifying more brands with high consumer potential across India and South Africa.

"We will continue our execution on branded market portfolio including peptides, brand building and improvement in manpower productivity across markets," Vohra stated.

Cipla, the country's third largest drug maker, has 47 manufacturing sites around the world which cater to around 86 markets across

Maruti Suzuki India will increase its production and aims to produce 20 lakh units in the ongoing fiscal with improving availability of semiconductors, according to company Chairman RC Bhargava.

In his address to shareholders in the company's annual report for 2021-22, he said the upcoming mid-sized SUV Grand Vitara will play a key role in the challenge to touch 20 lakh units. In 2021-22, total sales

of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) increased by 13.4 per cent to 16.52 lakh units. It had lost out on sales in the first quarter of the fiscal due to the pandemic and production being affected by the shortage of semiconductors, mainly for domestic models, Bhargava wrote. "The number of unmet bookings with the company at the end of the year rose to about 2.7 lakhs," he said, adding MSIL's market share declined to 43.4 per cent from nearly 50 per cent as it lost some opportunity in the domestic market.



Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) data, domestic passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market stood at 30,69,499 units in 2021-22, as compared to 27,11,457 units in 2020-21.

On the outlook for the current year, he said, "The vehicle production would increase as the situation regarding the availability of semiconductors has improved. Your company has also made further improvisations to enhance production. I am exhorting our team to reach 2 million units, though doing that remains a chal-

Bhargava further said the launch of Grand Vitara, which will be manufactured by Toy-As per Society of Indian ota at its Karnataka factory,

production and challenge 2 million units". The new SUV will also come with Toyota's strong hybrid technology, which "is the first-time cars with this technology would be manufactured in India", he claimed. Enhancement of Maruti Suzuki's SUV portfolio is necessary to offset the decline in sales of the nonpremium hatchbacks, the core segment of the company, which declined by 5 per cent in FY22 due to rising costs as compared to 2020-2021, and were lower by 29 per cent as against 2018-19, he added.

"is one of the reasons why

we are expecting to increase

"On the other hand, the SUV sector continued to grow. We did not have enough models in this segment to compete effectively, though the situation has now become much better with the launch of the remodelled Brezza and the global launch of Grand Vitara," Bhargava said. More models are to follow, he said adding, "We are hopeful that MSIL's market share will rapidly increase in the SUV segment."

#### Skoda reopens bookings for Kodiaq, deliveries in Jan-Mar 2023



Skoda Auto India on Wednesday said it has again commenced the bookings of its SUV Kodiaq, with deliveries scheduled in January-March

The company had earlier opened the bookings for the model in January this year.

Prices start at Rs 37.49 lakh and will be applicable for the January-March quarter of 2023, the Czech automaker said in a statement.

The booking amount is Rs

50,000, and the SUV can only be booked across the company's dealerships across the country, it added.

The three Kodiaq trims are tagged at Rs 37.49 lakh, Rs 38.49 lakh and Rs 39.99 lakh, respectively.

India Brand Director Zac Hol-

We are opening bookings for Q1 2023 and will announce phase-wise booking windows for the rest of the 2023 volumes," Skoda Auto

plants.

#### **Ohmium and Spirare Energy** collaborate with NTPC NETKA for India's green hydrogen grid project

Ohmium International, Inc., a green hydrogen company that designs, manufactures, and deploys PEM Electrolyzers, is collaborating with Spirare Energy, a leading provider of onsite energy generation systems, to generate green hydrogen at the NTPC NETRA

Campus. Spirare Energy will manage the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of the project while Ohmium will provide

Spirare. Ohmium's unique interlocking modular PEM electrolyzers provide a safer, modular, flexible, easy to install

customized electrolyzers. The project will supply up to 52 tons of green hydrogen annually for the power generation and energy storage application. "Green hydrogen offers India the opportunity to become a global energy leader-and with Spirare and NTPC we're delivering on that potential.

the green hydrogen

the hydrogen electrolyzers to ternational. "We look forward to showing how our modular, high-volume, low-cost PEM electrolyzers can scale rapidly and efficiently to reach megaand maintain alternative to watt to gigawatt applications.

#### Trident announces broad base of its Board of Directors to empower **Professional Management**

three decades

at Trident Lim-

ited, I request-

ed the Board

of Directors to relieve me and

support to prioritize my overall

health and wellbeing. My family

will also be with me to rebuild

my physical and emotional well-

being." The outgoing Chairman

expressed his gratitude to the

board and shareholders for sup-

decades and trusting him to build

Trident Limited. He said, I am

hopeful that I would be able to

serve once I regain my physical

and emotional fitness.

Trident Limited announces that devoting over its Founder and Chairman has expressed his intention to the Board to step down as Director & Non-Executive Chairman of the Company due to his persistent health issues and family commitments. Respecting the request received from Rajinder Gupta to relieve him from the duties of the Chairman of the Trident Limited, the board commended the unparalleled contribution of the founder in building the company and graced the decision of prioritizing health care and

family commitments. Rajinder Gupta while expressing his desire to step down NTPC is pioneering

sector in India and we're thrilled that they are utilizing our Made in India electrolyzers," ohmium said Arne Ballantine. CEO of Ohmium In-

operation.

#### Motorola launches moto g32 with a brilliant 90Hz 6.5" FHD display

**KULBIR SINGH KALSI** Chandigarh

Motorola announced the launch of its latest smartphone in the g series franchise, the moto g32. A device that is truly #AllYou-Want. Launched at a starting price of Rs 12,999, consumers can buy it at an amazing offer price starting just Rs 11,749\*\* (including up to Rs. 1,250 Instant Discount on HDFC Bank credit cards). With a super smooth 90Hz FHD+ 6.5" FHD

display, the device allows clearer Octa-core processor. and sharper views and transitions. Along with this brilliant display, the moto g32 features stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos® enabling the user to immerse in fuller sound, better clarity, and improved bass on every beat.

Moreover, to boost performance and extend a seamless experience, all while keeping the device cool, the moto g32 is powered by Snapdragon® 680

Despite being an affordable smartphone, the moto g32 comes with a near-stock Android 12 and focuses on security and privacy with its remarkable ThinkShield for mobile protection feature that ensures enhanced protection from threats

to the device. The phone also comes with an assured update to Android 13 and guarantees 3 years of security updates.

### World's Largest Fintech Conference is Back

MUMBAI: The largest fintech conference in the world Global Fintech Fest (GFF) is back with its third edition. Organized by the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, Fintech Convergence Council (FCC), the Payments Council of India (PCI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), GFF 2022 will be held September 20 22, 2022 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. Pre-event festivities will begin virtually on September 19, 2022.

**Top Fintech Conferences** 

GFF 2022 is being supported by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), National Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency (Invest India), Startup India, Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) and ONDC. Special Partners of GFF 2022 are World Bank Group, KNOMAD, Better Than Cash Alliance and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Elaborating on the theme of the conference, Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chair - GFF 2022, Chairman, Axilor Venture and Co-founder, Infosys, said, "Our Financial institutions play a fundamental role in achieving sustainable goals by reorienting investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses and contributing to the creation of a low-carbon, climateresilient, and circular economy.

#### India should set up small modular reactors to meet energy demands: Niti member V K Saraswat

Niti Aayog member and scientist V K Saraswat on Sunday suggested that the government should focus on setting up small modular reactors as it would help meet the country's energy needs and also in replacing aging thermal power

Saraswat also said nuclear power plant projects which have been set

duction, should be accelerated, so that India is able to meet base load requirements at the earliest. "We are suggesting that in future we should go for small modular reactors which will be able to meet this (energy) requirements in a distributed manner.

Small modular reactors (SMRs) are advanced nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, which is about one-third of the generating capacity of traditional

Under the fleet mode, a nuclear power plant is expected to be built over a period of five years from the first pour of concrete. According to Saraswat, the advantage of an advanced modular reactor is that it is factory fabricated and can be operated by any agency and there could also be a larger participation of the private sector in that. Currently, India operates 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6,780 MW in

Last year in December, Minister of State in the Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh had said the share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country was about 3.1 per cent in 2020-21.

#### Kerala woman bags international entrepreneurs' award tainable development goals that

Kerala-based entrepreneur Sangeetha Abhayan ĥas won the World Women Entrepreneurs Award instituted by the Junior Chamber International Hong Kong (JCIHK) for her handloom and handicrafts startup's performance in tune with the United Nations sustainable development goals.

JCIHK, which provides development opportunities for youngsters, chose Sangeetha, who is CEO of eweworld.com from more than 225 female entrepreneurs from across the world, the organisers said.

world.com, won international Empowering Women Entre-

**KULBIR SINGH KALSI** 

Magicbricks has launched

a new digital film unveiling

MB Prime services, featuring

Bollywood Star and brand

ambassador, Ayushmann

Khurrana and his brother,

Aparshakti Khurana, in the

priority access to exclusive

owner properties along with

the added ease of assisted vir-

tual site tour, with the prom-

ise of bringing convenience

the high decibel brand cam-

paign unveiled Magicbricks'

full-stack services for prop-

erty related needs including

home loans and expert advice.

This digital film, as a part

of the ongoing campaign,

Launched earlier this year,

to the customers.

Magicbricks launches a new digital

film unveiling MB Prime services



changes and financial stability

"The online platform, whose reviation of



aim at curbing climate changes as well," a release issued by the organisers said in a release. The 2017-founded com-

pany, which was groomed by Mizone Incubation Centre under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), led in sessions, pitching and interview phases of the global contest. The KSUM provided eWe scale-up grant and seed fund in the initial phase.

The startup has been carrying out online sales of products in ways that empower traditional handloom and handicrafts em- sans, weavers, ployees working in rural Kerala for its adherence to UN's sus- and outside.

#### Flipkart signs MoU with **District Admin of Varanasi**, Govt of UP under the Samarth program

Flipkart, India>s homegrown e-commerce marketplace, todayannounced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the District Administration of Varanasi, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

to enable national market access for arti- Flipkart

of Varanasi. Through this partnership, iconic goods such as Banaras Sarees, Handmade Carpets, Zardoji Craft, Metal Crafts, and Handmade Dari from the state will now be available to

#### 400 million customers on the **Tata Chemicals gains** nearly 9 pc on strong



Shares of Tata Chemicals gained nearly 9 % in morning trade on Wednesday after the company posted strong first-quarter earnings. Shares of Tata Chemicals opened on a bullish note at Rs 999.95, then gained further ground to touch Rs 1,043, registering a jump of 8.96 % over its previous close. On the NSE, the stock opened at Rs 1,015, then climbed to Rs 1,038.05, higher by 8.47 per cent over

#### Steel players expect govt to withdraw export duty; to go ahead with capex plans

Export duty imposed on certain steel products recently will not force steel makers to review their capital expenditure plans as top producers expect it to be a "short-term"

ment hiked the duty on ex-

#### next phase of its brand campaign "Property Sahi, Aur Ab duo share onscreen space. Services Sabhi". The digi-Elaborating on the camtal film highlights various paign, Devarshy R. Ganguly, Head of Marketing, Magicfeatures of MB Prime such as personalized assistance,



marks the second commercial where the Bollywood actor

bricks, said, "We began the year with great momentum with the launch of "Property Sahi, Aur Ab Services Sabhi..." and the campaign continues to expand with the MB Prime digital film. It reflects our legacy of reimagining customer experiences by offering new and innovative solutions. MB Prime is a premium service which will continue to drive convenience by offering personalized services

#### Quest Global Becomes Arm Approved Design Partner

Quest Global, one of the world's fastest growing engineering services firms, announced it has joined the Arm Approved Design Partner program. This recognition further enables Quest Global to better support the organizations, by combining its expertise in designing ASICs (Application Specific Integrated Circuit) and Custom SoCs (Systems on Chip) with Arm's powerful IP catalog.

As an Arm Approved Design Partner, Quest Global will have select access to Arm's vast library of IP, tools and models, as well as roadmap updates. This partnership will further strengthen Quest Global's reputation as a partner of choice by providing access to its team of extraordinary silicon engineers and offering Arm customers with design support to deliver Arm-based SoCs specifically augmented for target markets.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Bagalkotkar, CTO, Semiconductor at Quest Global, said, "It is a very proud moment for all of us. This association will allow

range. The BUILD. products

truly offer an international,

high-quality protein supple-

ment range, which tastes great



ASIC development, helping them fast track their projects to market. Our international presence, wide range of expertise, brilliant team of engineers and our ability to deliver on our commitments no matter how challenging, will further enhance our capabilities to solve challenges faced across industries. The organization currently sup-

ports designs up to 3nm and 60% of its silicon engineers work on 7/6/5/4/3 nm technology nodes. The semiconductor team at Quest Global has already supported 300+ custom SoC tape-outs in the last five years delivering organization specific requirements, achieving desired design frequency and low power performance targets at the target technology nodes.



its last close.

of supplements from BUILD., which will be launched soon!» On the association, Soumava Sengupta, CEO BUILD. said, move to stabilise inflation. On May 21, the govern-

> ports of iron ore by up to 50 per cent and for a few steel intermediaries to 15 per cent. It also waived customs duty on the import of some raw materials, including coking coal and ferronickel, used by the steel industry.

#### Tiger Shroff collaborates with BUILD. to enter Protein Supplements Market recently launched BUILD. custom created Prowl range

Tiger Shroff has collaborated with BUILD., a promising start-up offering high quality sports nutrition supplements, to launch a customised new series of health supplements. Through this strategic partnership, Tiger's brand PROWL forays into the health and porting him over the past three nutrition category. This partnership is focused

on democratising fitness and

active lifestyle for all and fo-

cuses on Shroff's philosophy

of staying fit. Catering to the

idea that 'fitness is for all', the brand aims to bridge the protein deficit amongst the Indian

Prowl and BUILD. Through

and stands as a true testa-Tiger is one of the most popument that Indian brands can offer a product that is at par with international brands. I love sports and fitness; I celebrate movement and activity. BUILD. believes in that too. Thats how there exist strong synergies between my brand

lar stars and the undisputed fitness icon in India today. His regime and dedication to fitness is of the level of an elite athlete. We at BUILD. share his philosophy on fitness and strongly believe that fitness is for everyone and not restricted only to gyms and weight training.

lieve that the BUILD. team have the expertise and capabilities to develop and market an international quality "Indiathis partnership, I am looking forward to developing a Talking about the associamanufactured product", which tion, Tiger Shroff said, "I beis quite evident from their

# Lower bad loans push PSU banks' ED raid at houses of Karuvannur bank fraud accused profitability in June quarter

gross NPAs stood at 6.26 per

cent and it was 14.90 per cent

for Central Bank of India, which

is still under Prompt Corrective

Action (PCA) framework of the

Reserve Bank of India. Most of

the banks' net NPAs were below

3 per cent of their respective total

advances. Only three lenders --

Union Bank of India (3.31 per

cent), Central Bank of India (3.93

per cent) and Punjab National

Public sector banks have raked in more profits in the three months ended June on the back of a persistent decline in bad loans and the trend may have a positive bearing on their balance sheets in the coming quarters.

In the June quarter, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) and State Bank of India (SBI) were in the lowest quartile as far as Gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) and net NPAs were concerned, according to an analysis of the quarterly financial numbers published by the public sector lenders. Cumulatively, all the 12 public sector banks reported a profit of about Rs 15,306 crore in the three months ended June, registering an annual growth of 9.2 per cent. However, leading public sector lenders -- SBI and PNB -- posted lower profits in the June quarter.

During the April-June period of the previous fiscal, state-owned



banks recorded a total profit of Rs 14,013 crore. As per the analysis, the gross NPAs reported by BoM and SBI were 3.74 per cent and 3.91 per cent of their total advances, respectively, in the first quarter of the current fiscal. The net NPAs for these banks came down to 0.88 per cent and 1 per cent respectively, at the end of June. Gross NPAs of other public sector lenders varied from 6.26 per cent to 14.90 per cent. In the

net NPAs of more than 3 % in the June quarter.

Narendra Solanki, head of equity research at Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers, said NPAs have broadly reduced, resulting in lower provisions and better profitability. However, due to rising yields, Mark-to-Market (MTM) losses were also reported in treasuries which should get incrementally lower once the rate hike pace slows and finally ends, he noted. MTM losses occur when the financial assets held are valued by the market at a price lower than the purchase price. "Largely, with declining provisioning and improving quality of books, the public sector banks space is in a sweet spot to target growth in the coming quarters. Also, the ability to gather low cost deposits at scale is positive in current scenario,' Solanki said.

To improve the financial

Bank (4.28 per cent) -- reported health of public sector banks, the government has implemented a comprehensive 4Rs strategy -- Recognition of NPAs transparently, Resolution and recovery of value from stressed accounts, Recapitalisation of the banks. and reforms in the banks and the wider financial ecosystem. As part of the strategy, the government has infused Rs 3,10,997 crore to recapitalise banks during the last five financial years -- from 2016-17 to 2020-21. Out of the total amount, Rs 34,997 crore was sourced through budgetary allocations and Rs 2,76,000 crore through issuance of recapitalisa-

> Scheduled commercial banks recovered Rs 8,60,369 crore over the last eight financial years by way of resolution of the NPAs, as per official data. The gross NPAs of scheduled commercial banks hit a six-year low of 5.9 per cent

tion bonds.



**Enforcement Directorate** (ED) on Wednesday carried out raids at locations linked to the accused in the Rs 300 crore Karuvannur Cooperative bank scam, which triggered a political row in Kerala recently.

Sources in the ED told to media that searches were conducted simultaneously at the residences of all the five accused in this district.

"The officials from the ED unit in Kochi conducted the searches and other details cannot be divulged right now," they said.

The action comes at a time when the agitated depositors are on a warpath against the management of the ruling CPI(M)-controlled Karuvan $nur\ Cooperative\ bank, located$ at Irinjalakuda, demanding return of their investment.

The Opposition Congress had recently urged Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to hand launched.

Cooperative bank scam to CBI, alleging that there was not much progress in the ongoing probe by the state agencies.

After a brief interval, the bank again sparked a controversy last month over the death of a woman depositor, whose family had alleged that she was denied money for advanced treatment by the management despite having lakhs of rupees as deposit in the bank. They also staged a protest sit-in in front of the bank with the woman's body, following which opposition parties came out against the ruling CPI(M) which controls the bank.

The loan scam was reported in the bank, located in Thrissur district, in July 2021, following which a case was registered against six bank officials and an inquiry

Eicher Motors stock jumps nearly

1 pc after June quarter earnings

**ATM fraud investigation** cells established in Haryana



Haryana Police on Thursday said it has set up 22 investigation cells in all districts to effectively deal with increasing cases of ATM fraud.

A Haryana Police spokesperson said the state crime branch has handed over 132 untraced cases from different districts to the ATM Fraud Investigation Cells (AFICs).

The AFICs have been established under the Crime Branch of the state police and started functioning last month, he

In the present era, fraudsters cheat people, replace their ATM cards with another, and withdraw money instantly from that account," he said.

Though constant efforts are being made by police to deal with such crimes in a coordinated and effective manner, many times untraced reports are given by the district police in such cases, and the accused escape, said the spokesperson.

Additional Director General of Police, State Crime Branch, O P Singh has given stern instructions to crack such cases and work on untraced cases again, said the spokesperson.

#### Interest rate hike unlikely to impact tractor demand, says Escorts Kubota **Group CFO Bharat Madan**

The interest rate hike by RBI is unlikely to have a significant impact on tractor demand but high inflation is a concern that can affect sales, says Escorts Kubota Ltd Group CFO Bharat Madan. With the second and third quarters of ongoing fiscal year likely to witness flattish or even decline in sales due to off-season and high base of last year, and pick-up happening again in the fourth quarter, the tractor industry is likely to clock low to mid single-digit growth.

"There is a marginal impact on demand...We don't see any significant impact on the demand side because of interest rate hikes," He was responding to a query on how the interest rate hike by the RBI could impact tractor sales. Escorts Kubota is a farm equipment manufacturer. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points. This was the third consecutive increase since May, effectively bringing interest rate to the pre-pandemic level.



"If you look at the industry in retail finance in tractors, the interest rate charges as it is are very high. Those rates do not move with the happenings in the RBI side. They're not really floating rate," he explained. At present,

interest rates on tractor loans could range from 9 per cent to over 20 per cent per annum, depending on tenure and banks. On what could impact tractor demand, he said,"I think it'll be more because of the inflation where the impact is coming, but the RBI increasing interest rates has a marginal impact only."

There have been some pressures on the rubber side and tyre prices are moving up, he said, adding, however prices of other commodities like steel have gone down. As for the outlook of the industry, Madan said,"We are still expecting low to mid single-digit growth for the industry this year. We have seen that in the first quarter, the industry has grown 16 per cent because of the low base effect of COVID. Last year was the second wave of COVID and the industry got impacted." The next two to three months will not be really good, he added.

Normally, monsoon is not a season mont. but from September onward, we see the pick-up should happen. If the monsoon distribution is really good we should see some positives coming in the second half of this year," Madan said.

The expectation is that the industry will do well in the last explorer, reported a tripling quarter, he said adding,"Q2 and Q3 may see flattish growth or marginal degrowth. In Q3 the base (of last year) is high but in Q4 we can see a good growth number coming in". Madan said Q2 is normally a softer quarter due to the

off-season, while in Q3 normally the peak season comes up. However, he said,"This time, festive season is starting early. So the stocking will start happening from September onwards and October, they're all expecting to be the big month. The three months really play between two quarters and that's why overall for the six-month period, you may not see a major

The Q4, which is a standalone quarter, normally sees a good growth, especially in the northern pockets if the rainfall is good, Madan said.

As per industry estimates, domestic tractor sales grew 13 per cent at over 9 lakh units in 2021 compared to more than alised in the same period last

## Bombay HC grants bail to former VP of Gitanjali Group in PNB scam case The Bombay High Court on Thursday granted bail to Vipul

Chitalia, former vice-president of Mehul Choksi-promoted Gitanjali Group, more than four years after he was arrested in the multi-crore rupees Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Chitalia in March 2018 alleging that he was responsible for handling unauthorised Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) and foreign Letters of Credit (FLCs) and maintaining contact with the bank officials. Justice Bharati Dangre granted bail to Chitalia on Friday. A detailed order with bail conditions was not avail-



has been booked under the Indian Penal Code sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and fraud and also under the Prevention

of Corruption Act. He approached the HC through advocate among Sarma, representatives Vijay Aggarwal after a special CBI court refused him bail in of tea associations and work-

Chitalia had been in prison for four years and the charges in the case were yet to be framed, so he should be granted a meeting with tea associabail, advocate Aggarwal argued. Special public prosecutor Hiten Venegaokar, appearing for the CBI, opposed the plea, contending that Chitalia, alongwith Choksi, was instrumental in arranging fraudulent transactions and knew about the fraud from the very beginning. He was one of the two authorised signatories of Gitanjali Group when it filed applications for respectively," the chief minister LoUs from banks, Venegaokar said. The CBI's case is that Choksi, Chitalia and several others in connivance with some officials of PNB duped the public sector lender of Rs 12,000 crore by obtaining LoUs fraudulently. An LoU is a repayment guarantee given by a bank in India when a firm wants to avail of credit from overseas branches of other banks.

# Domestic airfare caps to be removed from Aug 31: Jyotiraditya Scindia

Limits imposed on domestic airfares will be removed from August 31, after a span of approximately 27 months, the Union Aviation Ministry said on Wednesday.

"The decision to remove air fare caps has been taken after careful analysis of daily demand and prices of air turbine fuel (ATF). Stabilisation has set in and we are certain that the sector is poised for growth in domestic traffic in the near future," Aviation Minister Jvotiraditva Scindia said on Twitter.

ATF prices have been coming down during the last few weeks after jumping to record levels, primarily due to the Russia-Ukraine war that began on February 24. On August 1, the rice of ATF in Delhi was Rs 1.21 lakh per kilo-litre, which was around 14 per cent lower than last month. The ministry had imposed lower and upper limits on domestic airfares based on flight durations when services were resumed on May 25, 2020 after a two-month lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, airlines currently cannot charge a passenger less than Rs 2,900 (excluding



#### Air India to operate 24 additional domestic flights from Aug 20

Air India on Thursday said it will operate 24 additional domestic flights from August 20 onwards. "The additional 24 flights include two new frequencies from Delhi to Mumbai, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad, and from Mumbai to Chennai and Hyderabad, as well as one new frequency on the Mumbai-Bengaluru route and Ahmedabad-Pune route," the airline said in a statement. Air India MD and CEO Campbell Wilson said, "Over the past six months, Air India has been working closely with our partners to return aircraft to service, and we are delighted that this effort is now bearing fruit." Air India's narrowbody aircraft fleet stands at 70, of which 54 are currently serviceable. The remaining 16 aircraft will progressively return to service by early 2023.

GST) and more than Rs 8,800 protect the financially weaker flights of less than 40 minutes. The lower caps were there to

(excluding GST) for domestic airlines and the upper caps to protect passengers from high

#### Shares of Eicher Motors on Thursday gained nearly 1 per cent after the company posted strong earnings for the quarter ended June.

The stock went up by 0.65 per cent to settle at Rs 3,175 apiece on the BSE. During the day, the stock opened strong at Rs 3,249 and gained further ground to touch its 52-week high level of Rs 3,260.85. On the NSE, it gained 0.71 per cent to settle at Rs 3,177 apiece. In volume terms, 60,000 shares were traded on BSE and over 21 lakh shares on NSE during the day. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 515.31 points higher at 59,332.60 on Thursday.

On Wednesday, Eicher Motors reported an over two-fold increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 611 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, driven



by robust sales in the international markets. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 237 crore in the June quarter of the last fiscal. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 3,397 crore in the April-June period compared to Rs 1.974 crore in the year-ago period, Eicher Motors had said

"Our international volumes continued to record consistent growth with more than 60 per cent increase as compared to the previous year. We have registered the highest ever quarterly revenues and EBITDA on the back of record international sales volumes," Eicher Managing Director Siddhartha Lal noted.

## Oil India net profit triples on oil, gas price boost Himachal facing debt burden of

Oil India Ltd (OIL), the nation's second-largest state of its net profit in the June quarter on record oil and gas price realisation.

Its net profit was Rs 1,555.46 crore, or Rs 14.34 per share, in April-June compared to Rs 507.94 crore, or Rs 4.68 a share, in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement.

The earnings rose as the company got USD 112.72 per barrel price for crude oil it sold in the quarter as opposed to USD 67.15 a barrel rate reyear. Gas price realisation more than doubled to USD



unit from USD 1.79. Higher crude oil and natural gas prices stem from the rally in international oil prices that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Turnover nearly doubled to Rs 6,029.86 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal year that began on April 1.

The earnings were also aided by a 4 per cent rise in crude oil production at 0.78 million tonnes and an 8 per cent rise in gas output at 771 6.1 per million British thermal million standard cubic metres.

#### Rs 64,904 cr: CM Jai Ram Thakur Himachal Pradesh is currently facing a debt of Rs 64,904

crore, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur informed the state assembly on Thursday. He gave the information during a debate on a no-confi-

dence motion against his government on the second day of the ongoing monsoon

The CM rose from his seat and gave the figure, correcting Congress legislator Jagat Singh Negi, who during the debate claimed that the hill state owes



Rs 80,000 crore. Thakur said that one Congress legislator ment in all had taken loans of says the state is facing a debt burden of Rs 70,000 crore, the other says Rs 75,000 and yet another says Rs 80,000 crore, none of which was true. took Rs 5,384 crore less debt

The CM said that the growth as fixed by the centre.

previous Congress government was 67 per cent, whereas it is just 35 per cent during the current government despite the COVID-19 pandemic hitting the economy

Thakur said that the previous Congress govern-Rs 19.200 crores whereas his government took loans of Rs 16,998 crores only.

The CM said his government

### Married daughters also entitled for compensation: Karnatka High Court



The Karnataka High Court has held that married daughters are entitled for compensation by insurance companies on the loss of their parents in accidents. The HC said the Supreme Court has held that married sons are also entitled for compensation in such cases. "This Court also cannot make any discrimination whether they are married sons or married daughters and hence. the very contention that married daughters of deceased are not entitled for compensation cannot be accepted," it said. The HC single judge bench of Justice H P Sandesh heard an appeal filed by an insurance company challenging the award of compensation to married daughters of one Renuka (aged 57) who was killed in an accident on April 12, 2012 near Yamanur, Hubballi, in north Karnataka.

# Assam hikes daily wages of tea garden workers by Rs 27

The daily wages of tea garden workers in Assam were hiked by Rs 27, the second increase in such payments since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government came to power in the state in May last year, able immediately. Chitalia an official said on Tuesday.

The upward revision of wages will be effective from August 1, he said.

The decision to revise the wages was taken in a meeting

"Happy to share that in tions, it was decided to hike the workers' wage by Rs 27, thus raising their daily wage to Rs 232 and Rs 210 in Brahmaputra Valley & Barak Valley wrote on Twitter.

Sarma said welfare of tea garden workers has always been his government's top priority

He said the cash hike in dai-



ly wages of tea garden workers "over and above the ration and other benefits"

"All garden workers will get ration cards & we urged the gardens to take Fair Price Shop licenses. Representatives of Indian Tea Association, NE Tea Association, Tea Association of India, Bharatiya Chah Parishad, Assam Tea Planters'

Mazdoor Sangha were present," he said on the microblogging site.

Traditionally, tea workers' wages are largely paid in two components -cash and other benefits such as ration, health services and education.

The previous wage revision was done in May last year soon

after Sarma became the chief minister, and it was made effective from February 22,

During Wednesday's meeting, Sarma also assured the planters of raising the government subsidy for orthodox tea

from Rs 7 to Rs 10 per kg. State Industry and Commerce Minister Bimal Borah

had on Tuesday held a meeting with small tea growers and workers for the fixation

'representatives from the various tea workers' unions have been requesting that the worker's wages be fixed.

"Hence, chaired a meeting, today with the Hon'ble Minister of Tea Tribes Welfare & Labour Welfare @ sanjoykishan1 dangoriya & other associated officials to finalise the wages of Small Tea Garden Workers as per direction by the Hon'ble CM in the meeting on May 24, 2022," Borah said on the microblogging site.

No announcement on the wages of small tea garden workers has been made vet.

Assam produced 667.73 million kg of tea in 2021, of which small gardens accounted for 311.12 million kg, as per Tea Board India data. The overall tea production in the country was 1,343.06 million kg.

#### NIA carries out raids across J&K in militancy funding case **FW DESK**

The National Investigation

Agency (NIA) on Monday conducted raids at multiple places in Jammu and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir against members of banned Jamaat-e-Islami in a militant funding case. According to official sources, the raids were carried out at Dhara-Gundana, Munshi Mohalla, Akramband, Nagri Nai Basti, Kharoti Bhagwah, Thalela and Malothi Bhalla in Doda district and Bhatindi in Jammu.

# US, Australia, Japan urge China to immediately cease military exercises

Japan have urged China to immediately cease its military exercises and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

A joint statement was issued by US Secretary of State Tony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Havashi Yoshimasa after their in-person meeting in Phnom Penh on the margins of the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The Secretary and the Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their

**Ukraine says 9 Russian** 

which would represent a sig-

nificant escalation in the war.

nied any aircraft were dam-

aged in Tuesday's blasts or

that any attack took place. But

satellite photos clearly showed

at least seven fighter planes at

the base had been blown up

and others probably damaged. Ukrainian officials stopped

short of publicly claiming

responsibility for the explo-

sions, while mocking Russia's

explanation that a careless

smoker might have caused

ammunition at the Saki air base to catch fire and blow

up. Analysts also said that ex-

films, the Union Cabinet has

approved signing of 'Audio

Visual Co-Production Treaty

between India and Australia.

The Union Cabinet chaired

by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has approved the signing of an Audio Visual Co-Produc-

tion Treaty». Audio Visual co-

documents which facilitate co-

production of films between two

ment or governmental agencies

films together. India has, so

far, signed 15 Audio Visual

Co-production Treaties with

foreign countries. Australia has

emerged as a preferred destina-

tion for shooting Indian films.

NKorea claims disputed victory

strike the base.

Russia on Wednesday de-

warplanes destroyed

in Crimea blasts

United States, Australia and commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. They appreciated ASEAN's statement about the importance of deescalating tension in the Taiwan Strait, according to the statement.

Sharing the region's desire for diplomacy to avoid the risks of miscalculation, the secretary of state and foreign ministers expressed their concern about the People's Republic of China's (PRC) recent actions that gravely affect international peace and stability, including the use of rge-scale military exercises.

They condemned the PRC's



which the Japanese government reported landed in its exclusive

and destabilising the region. The Secretary and the Foreign Ministers urged the PRC to immedieconomic zones, raising tension ately cease the military exercises, no change in the respective one China policies, where applicable, and basic positions on Taiwan of Australia, Japan, or the United States, they said.

Expressing their commitment to deepening the trilateral partnership among Australia, Japan, and the United States to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific region, the three diplomats highlighted that this partnership rests on the unshakable foundation of shared interests and values, including a commitment to freedom, rule of law, human rights, sovereignty

said the joint statement. There is and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes without resorting to threat or use of force, and freedom of navigation and overflight.

The secretary and the foreign ministers reaffirmed their resolve in supporting ASEAN centrality, and the importance of the pacific islands countries as partners in the region, said the statement. Maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is vital, not just for Taiwan but for the Philippines and many other countries, Blinken told reporters during a joint press availability with Philippine Sec-

retary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo. What happens in the Taiwan Strait affects the entire region. In many ways, it affects the entire world because the strait, like the South China Sea, is a critical waterway. Almost half the global container fleet. nearly 90 per cent of the world's largest ships, pass through the Taiwan Strait this year, he said.

Since their missile launches, Beijing has taken an irresponsible step of a different kind: They've shut down eight different areas where our two countries have been able to work together, Blinken said.

#### Trump says he's testifying on Wednesday in New Yorl investigation



Trump will be questioned un-der oath on Wednesday in the New York attorney general's long-running civil investigation into his dealings as a real estate mogul, he confirmed in a post on his Truth Social account.

Trump's testimony comes amid a flurry of legal activity surrounding him, taking place just days after FBI agents searched his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida as part of an unrelated federal probe into whether he took classified records when he left the White House.

The New York civil investigation, led by Attorney General Letitia James, involves allegations that Trump's company, the Trump Organisation, mis-stated the value of prized assets like golf courses and skyscrapers, misleading lenders and tax authorities.

In New York City tonight. Seeing racist NYS Attorney General tomorrow, for a continuation of the greatest Witch Hunt in US history! Trump wrote on Truth Social, invoking his oft-repeated claims about James, who is Black, and the

My great company, and myelf, are being attacked from all sides," Trump added. "Banana Republic! Messages seeking comment were left with James'

#### Dutch man accused in online harassment case found guilty

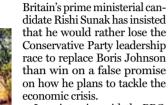
man guilty of extortion, harassment and other charges related to a case of a Canadian teenager who was blackmailed to expose erself in front of a webcam.

harassment in a YouTube video watched by millions around the world. The jury in the British Columbia Supreme Court trial of Aydin Co-

him guilty on all charges he faced, including communication with a

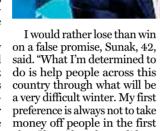
tribution of child pornography in relation to the Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, teen Āmanda Todd. She was 15 years old when she died by suicide in 2012 after posting a video that described being tormented by an online harasser. The jury's unanimous verdict comes a day after deliberations got underway. Coban was extradited from the Netherlands to Canada in 2020 after being convicted in Amsterdam of similar charges involving dozens of young girls and gay men. Amanda Todd brought the problem of cyber bullying to mainstream

#### would rather lose than win on a false promise: Rishi Sunak Large explosions rock Russian BBC interview on Wednesday



In an interview with the BBC, Ukraine has said that nine the British Indian former Chan-Russian warplanes were decellor said he was committed stroyed in a deadly string of to helping the most vulnerable explosions at an air base in families with the cost-of-living crisis and felt a "moral responsi-Crimea that appeared to be the result of a Ukrainian attack, bility to go further" and provide "extra help" over the winter.

The issue has become the key dividing line between him and his rival, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, who has pledged tax cuts which the former finance minister insists will benefit wealthier households rather than those



continue to be grilled by Conservative Party members who will be voting in the election in hustings up and down the UK, the issue of soaring inflation and prices has dominated

"People can judge me on my record, reiterated Sunak in his

as Chancellor through the COVID lockdown. "People can judge me on their record - when bills were going up by around 1,200 pounds earlier this year, I made sure the most vulnerable received around 1,200 pounds," he pointed out. Sunak also promised to "go further" than what he has already announced if elected Prime Minister. I know millions of people

night, referring to his work

are worried about inflation, particularly the cost of their energy bills. What I've said if I'm Prime Minister I will go further in supporting those families who most need support because the situation is worse than when I announced those measures earlier this year," he said.

**New Survey Elevates Site** 



military air base in Crimea

Powerful explosions rocked a Russian air base in Crimea and sent towering clouds of smoke over the landscape Tuesday in what may mark an escalation of the war in Ukraine.

At least one person was killed and several others were wounded, authorities said. Russia's Defense Ministry denied the Saki base on the Black Sea had been shelled and said instead that munitions had blown up there. But Ukrainian social networks were abuzz with speculation that it was hit by Ukrainianfired long-range missiles.

Videos posted on social networks showed sunbathers on nearby beaches fleeing as huge flames and pillars of smoke rose over the horizon from multiple points, accompanied by loud booms. Crimea Today News said on Telegram that witnesses reported fire on a runway and damage to nearby homes as a result of what it said were dozens of blasts. Russia's state news agency Tass quoted an unidentified ministry source as saying the explosions' primary cause appeared to be a violation of fire safety requirements.

The ministry said no warplanes were damaged. Ukraine's Defense Ministry said sarcastically on Facebook: The Ministry

fire safety and the prohibition of smoking in unspecified places. A presidential adviser, Oleksiy Arestovych, said cryptically in his regular online interview that the blasts were caused either by a Ukrainian-made long-range weapon or were the work of partisans operating in Crimea. During the war, Russia has

reported numerous fires and

explosions at munitions stor-

age sites on its territory near the Ukrainian border, blaming some of them on Ukrainian strikes. Ukrainian authorities have mostly remained mum about the incidents. If Ukrainian forces were, in fact, responsible for the blasts at the air base, it would be the first known major attack on a Russian military site on the Crimean Peninsula, which the Kremlin annexed in 2014. A smaller explosion last month at the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in the Crimean port of Sevastopol was blamed on Ukrainian saboteurs using a makeshift drone.

Russian warplanes have used the Saki base to strike areas in Ukraine's south on short notice. One person was killed, said

Crimea's regional leader, Sergei Aksyonov. Crimean health authorities said nine people young person to commit a sexual tablish the cause of the fire, but remained hospitalised.

# vestigation.

office and with Trump's lawyer.

A Canadian jury found a Dutch

The 15-year-old later committed suicide after detailing her

ban has found

attention in Canada after she posted the video on YouTube in which she told her story with handwritten signs, describing how she was lured by a stranger to

expose her breasts on a webcam.

### place," he said. As the candidates Jamaat-e-Islami Hind condemns Israeli barbarism in Gaza

New Delhi

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) planation doesn't make sense and that the Ukrainians could President, Syed Sadatullah have used anti-ship missiles to Husaini has condemned the latest Israeli attack on Gaza. In a statement to the media, Cabinet approves signing of 'Audio Visual the JIH President said: «We condemn the latest Israeli barbarism in Gaza. Taking the **Co-Production Treaty** excuse of carrying out a targeted killing, the Israeli Defence between India, Australia Forces attacked Gaza's Rafah refugee camp in which 43 civilians were killed including 15 children and four women. More than 300 Palestinians have been wounded. We endorse the statement of the UN Special Rapporteur on the oc-**NEWDELHI:** With a view



in Gaza are not only illegal but irresponsible." In fact, we feel that these attacks on innocent cupied Palestinian territories civilians amount to war crimes, who said that: "Israel cannot and Israel must be held acin this conflict. Israel's air raids international community for violence.»

double standards for Western nations to condone the latest Israeli barbarism and stark abuse of human rights by saying that «they stand by Israel and its right to defend itself". This not only exposes the complete bias of the West in the Israel-Palestine conflict but also puts a question mark on the integrity and sincerity of the West in desiring an early resolution to the Palestinian problem. Jamaat-e-Islami Hind appeals to the international community as well as the Government of India to pressurize Israel to desist from such open aggression on Palestinians and spare the

world of further cor

#### **Reliability Engineering** as the force Multiplier for Digital Experiences this unforgivable brutality.» Husaini averred: «Is it **FW DESK** not hypocrisy and professing

Sumo Logic the SaaS analytics platform to enable reliable and secure cloud-native applications, today unveiled the results of the Global SRE Pulse 2022, a survey of insights from the global IT community, which highlights the growing adoption of SRE as a central operating model to deliver digital services and applications. The survey was conducted by DevOps Instituteto establish a baseline on the current state of SRE in practice. "With the explosion of digital services, SRE has rapidly evolved to become an essential collaboration center across development and operations teams to deliver digital experiences," said Product & Strategy, Sumo Logic.

## Japan PM names new Cabinet, shifting some over church ties

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida reshuffled his Cabinet on Wednesday in an apparent bid to distance his administration production treaties are enabling from the conservative Unification Church, whose ties to the assassinated leader Shinzo Abe countries. Such agreements are and senior ruling party leadership Umbrella Agreements under caused a major drop in approval ratings. The Cabinet renewal was which private, quasi-governthe second in just 10 months since enter into contracts to produce July election victory that had been expected to ensure long-



support for Kishida's Cabinet plunged. Kishida told reporters Tuesday that a strict review of Kishida took office following the candidates' ties to the church would be a prerequisite in the new lineup of Cabinet officials term stability until 2025. But and Liberal Democratic Party Abe's shocking assassination on executives. He said he had in-July 8 and its impact on politics structed his ministers and other massive financial donations to the increased uncertainty as public senior officials to clarify their church ruined his family.

connection to the Unification Church so that we can achieve political and administrative work that can be trusted by the people. At a governing party meeting earlier Wednesday, he called on his fellow lawmakers to unite and tackle the challenges with a sense of urgency. Abe was fatally shot while giving a campaign speech two days before a parliamentary election. Police and media reports say the man arrested had targeted Abe over suspected ties to the Unification Church, which the man hated because his mother's

#### Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference: Special Emphasis on Africa, Asia Pacific Region & Reconciliation between North and South Korea

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is hosting "Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference," a five-day international summit with related peace events at the Jamsil Lotte Hotel in Seoul, South Korea, beginning this

World leaders from dozens of countries are gathering from August 11-15, 2022, to address paths to global peace, with a special emphasis on Africa, the Asia Pacific Region and reconciliation between North



A highlight of the August 12 opening ceremony is a presentation of a resolution to propose the development of a Peace Charter, which follows on the foundation of the Seoul Resolution signed at World Summit 2022 (February 2022) in Seoul

by former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

> Prominent international speakers will include: Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, Canadian Prime Minister (2006-2015); Hon. Newt Gingrich, US House Speaker (1995-1999); Hon. Mike Pompeo, US Secretary of State (2018-2021): Hon. Dan Burton, US Congressman (1983-2013); and H.E. Brigi Rafini, Executive General, Community of Sahel-Saharan States and Prime Minister (2011-2021), Niger.

#### In race to win, UK Conservatives accused of ignoring crises As Britain swelters through a lowering taxes, and will offer



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has declared victory over COVID-19 and ordered preventive measures eased just three months after acknowledging an outbreak, claiming the country's widely disputed success would be recognised as a global health miracle.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency also reported on Thursday that Kim's sister said her brother had suffered a fever and blamed the North Korean outbreak on leaflets flown from across the border from South Korea, while warning of deadly retaliation. Some experts believe North Korea has manipulated the scale of the outbreak to help Kim maintain absolute control of the country amid mounting economic difficulties.

roasting summer, and braces for a cold financial reckoning in the fall, calls for the Conservative government to act are getting louder. But the Conservatives are

busy choosing a new leader, through a prolonged party election whose priorities often seem remote from the country's growing turmoil. soared and further hikes are

coming as the war in Ukraine squeezes global oil and gas supplies. The Bank of England is predicting a long, deep recession later this year alongside 13% inflation. Meanwhile, temperatures in Britain hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in July for the first time ever, and millions are facing limits on water use as England's green and pleasant land dries to desiccated brown.

There is little sense of crisis among Conservatives as Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak



departing Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Under Britain's parliamentary system, the winner of the Tory leadership race to be announced Sept 5 will also become prime minister, without the need for a national election.

Conservative members are largely middle-aged or older, mostly middle-class or affluent, and their views don't always reflect those of the country as

I'd like to see some true Conservative policies, said Helen Galley, a lawyer and local Con-



regulations...Some self-reliance and sense of responsibility for Those priorities are mirrored in the campaign pitches of Truss and Sunak, who say they will tackle the cost-of-living crisis through long-term measures to boost the economy. Truss says she would cut individual

and corporate taxes rather than

give people handouts . Sunak

says he'll tackle inflation before

is grasping the scale of the crisis. Millions of households face a financial squeeze in October, when a cap on household energy bills tied to wholesale prices is next raised. Consulting firm

unspecified help to people strug-

gling to pay their bills.

Cornwall Insight forecasts the average household will then be paying over 3,500 pounds ( 4,200) a year for gas and electricity, more than double the amount a year earlier with a further hike due in the new year.

Martin Lewis, a consumer champion who runs the popular Money Saving Expert website, has warned that we are facing a potential national financial cataclysm, with millions unable to heat their homes this winter.

Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who led the UK during the global financial crisis of 2008, called for Johnson, Truss and Sunak to get together and draw up an emergency budget in preparation for a financial

time bomb in October. It's not just that they're asleep at the wheel there's nobody Critics say neither candidate at the wheel at the moment, Brown, a member of the op-

position Labour Party, told broadcaster ITV. Brown's call was echoed by Tony Danker of business group the Confederation of British Industry, who said we simply cannot afford a summer of government inactivity while the

leadership contest plays out. But with Parliament adjourned for its summer recess and Johnson whiling away his last weeks in office, big policies are on hold. The few government announcements in recent weeks have been decidedly modest one was a plan from a Chewing Gum Task Force to get sticky stains off city streets. Johnson's spokesman, Max Blain, said the outgoing leader is barred from making major fiscal interventions during the transition period, and any new cost-of-living remedies must be for the next

prime minister to decide.

## Israeli airstrike kills 2nd top **Islamic Jihad commander**



An Israeli airstrike killed a senior commander in the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad, the fighters said on Sunday, their second leader to be slain amid an escalating crossborder conflict.

The killing late Saturday of Khaled Mansour, who led the Iran-backed Islamic Jihad's operations in the southern Gaza Strip, came a day after another Israeli strike killed the militant's commander in the north. Already, the fighting has killed at least 29 Palestinians and seen rockets fired toward Israel in the worst violence between Israel and Palestinian militants since

the end of an 11-day war in 2021. Meanwhile, tensions could escalate as Jews mark a holy day that will see ultranationalist Israeli lawmakers visit a sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. Such visits can be a frequent flashpoint for violence between Israel and the Palestinians. The Al-Quds Brigades of Islamic Jihad confirmed on Sunday that the airstrike in the southern Gaza city of Rafah killed Mansour and two fellow militants. The militants said the

strike also killed civilians as it

flattened several homes.

# **'LAAL SINGH CHADDHA'**

## wins hearts of most Tamil film celebrities



CHENNAI: Several celebrities from the Tamil film industry have praised director Advait Chandan>s <Laal Singh Chaddha>, a remake of the Hollywood superhit (Forwas nothing short of brilliant.

The stars, who watched the film at a special show of days ago, shared their thoughts on the film soon after watching it.

director and actor Parthiban said, «Aamir Khan is a great human in the first place. Even if we make a 100 films to spread love, we cannot produce an effect like this. rest Gump>, saying the film Throughout the film, you are unsure if you should shed tears of joy or whether you should shed tears because organised for them a couple of the joy you experience as a result of the excessive love first frame till its last, brought

«I believe at this time and National Award winning juncture that such a film is

necessary for life. This film is necessary not only for the film industry but for society. I haven>t watched a film that can equal it in recent times. More than an actor, Aamir is just a great human who is spreading love through this

Actress Khushbu, who is also a politician belonging to the BJP, took to social media to share her thoughts. She said, «Thank you so much for such a fab evening, Aamir Khan. Always a pleasure to meet you and share thoughts. Must say <Laal Singh Chaddha> is such a heart-warming, soul-stirring film. And you are simply brilliant. Congratulations to the entire team.»

Later, in a byte, the actress said, «The film, right from its a smile on my face without even me realising it. It gives you a sense of satisfaction.»

#### 'If you make a good movie, trolls can't stop people from seeing it': **Milind Soman**

The Aamir Khan-starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha' hit the theatres on Thursday. And the movie is evoking mixed reviews from the critics as well the audience.

Even before the release of the film, it faced a lot of hate from netizens as the call for 'Boycott Laal Singh Chaddha' was trending on social media ever since the poster of the movie was made pub-lic. Several Bollywood stars came out in

Aamir and even the ac

support of

movie before making any decision. To this, supermode and actor Milind Soman, too shared his views. Speaking exclusively to media, he said "trolls can't stop a good film

#### **POTPOURRI**



Farmers shout slogans as they carry an effigy of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a against the Electricity Amendment Bill 2020 and the

move to privatise the power distribution in the Union Territories, in Amritsar.

# Raju Srivastava 'critical and on ventilator' following heart attack

Popular comedian-actor Raju Srivastava is "critical and on ventilator" in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the AIIMS, said hospital sources on Thursday.

Following a heart attack on Wednesday, the 58-year-old stand-up comic was admitted to the hospital where he underwent angioplasty.

"He is critical and on ventilator in the ICU," the source

Srivastava's cousin Ashok Srivastava had on Wednesday evening said the comic suffered a heart attack while exercising.

'He was doing his routine exercise and while he was on the treadmill, he suddenly



fell down. He suffered a heart attack and was immediately taken to the AIIMS hospital,' he had told to media, adding that the actor-comedian's wife Shikha Srivastava had reached

#### appearing on 'Koffee With Karan' MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu, who is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Dobaaraa', shared

why she hasn't been on the Karan

Johar-hosted popular chat show 'Koffee With Karan'. During a promotional event, while Taapsee Pannu and Anurag Kashyap were promoting their film 'Dobaaraa', Karan Johar was in the adjacent room promoting his chat show. Taking note of that. the media probed Taapsee about the reason why she hasn't been

invited to Karan's show. Answering the question, the



Taapsee reveals reason behind not

life is not interesting enough to be invited on 'Koffee With Karan'. Taapsee is known for her quick-

actress said in jest that her sex to be an on-point remark as the latest season of 'Koffee With Karan' has so far been circling sex talks of all topics discussed wit responses and this one seems during the episodes. Talking

a unique concept in the form of time travel, has opened at prestigious film festivals such as the London Film Festival & Fantasia Film Festival 2022. 'Dobaaraa' which reunites filmmaker Anurag Kashyap and Taapsee after their 2018 release 'Manmarziyaan', also stars Pavail Gulati. The film, produced by Shobha Kapoor and Ektaa R Kapoor's Cult Movies, a new wing under Balaji Telefilms and Sunir Kheterpal & Gaurav Bose of Athena, is set to debut in theatres on August 19, 2022.

about 'Dobaaraa', which presents

# Ishwak Singh wraps shoot of movie 'Bas Karo Aunty!'

Actor Ishwak Singh on Monday completed shoot of his upcoming feature film Bas Karo Aunty! .

Backed by filmmaker couple Nitesh Tiwari and Ashwiny

Iyer Tiwari, the young-adult comedy drama is directed by debutant filmmaker Abhishek Sinha. Singh, best known for

starring in shows such as "Pataal Lok" and "Rocket Boys", shared the news in a post on Instagram along with a short video clip from the sets. "Thank you all for letting me tap dance the happy feet way! he wrote in the caption. Also starring Mahima

Makwana of Antim: The Final Truth fame, the movie is

based on Varun Agarwal's bestselling book How I Braved Anu Aunty and Co-Founded a Million Dollar Company.



Girls tie sacred threads or 'rakhi' onto the wrists of Border Security Force (BSF) personnel during a ceremony observing the festival of Raksha Bandhan at the India-**Border Post about** 35kms from Amritsar on Thursday. PHOTOS-PRABHJOT GILL



# If I am training right I become my own psychologist:



A drastic change in training regimen and the extra push that her family gave enabled Vinesh Phogat to turn the tide after a forgettable last 12 months during which she "hit rock bottom mentally".

A premature exit from the Tokyo Olympics, where she went in as the top seed, injury issues and run-ins with the wrestling federation pushed her into an abyss. The 27-year-old's existing training methods were not yielding results. She had to

go back to the drawing board. After undergoing an elbow surgery in September, Vinesh only wanted to get her training right. "If my training is going right, I feel fine mentally as well," she said after easing to a 53kg gold at the Commonwealth Games here on Saturday. "Only I know what I have done to win this medal. It feels a lot more special considering what I have gone through over the past 12

months," said Vinesh who is now a three-time CWG gold medallist.

Vinesh, who had to really dig deep to win the trials to make the CWG squad, was struggling for sparring partners in her category. The women were not strong enough so she decided to train with the U-15 boys.

"She was not getting the required training earlier, now she is. That is the difference according to me,' said national coach Jitender Yadav on Vinesh's victorious comeback. The star wrestler herself got emotional while talking about her struggles since the Tokyo Olympics.

"I had lost my confidence, I feel I have found it now. It happens with all the athletes at some point. Only I know what pains I have taken to be here. I had hit rock bottom mentally, I was not able to digest what was going wrong with me.

#### Forward Rahim Ali extends stay at Chennaiyin FC



Indian team forward Rahim Ali has extended his stay at Chennaiyin FC till 2024, the two-time ISL champions announced on Tuesday. Ali is among the handful of members of the Chennaiyin squad that reached the ISL final in the 2019-20 season. land tour where he could He has made 40 appearances for the club spanning over three six innings across formats, years. "I'm very happy to sign a which included the resched-FC. There was never a doubt in as many T20s in July. The my mind. I'm not going anywhere," Ali was quoted as saying in a release. The 22-year-old is also a current member of the national team, having made six appearances since his debut in rat is going through right hul as he gears up for the September last year.

#### Virat Kohli has all tools to come out of batting slump: Jayawardene Star India batter Virat Kohli

is a quality player and has all the tools needed to come out of his prolonged dip in form, said former Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene. Kohli and a fit-again KL

Rahul on Monday returned to a 15-member Indian squad for the Asia Cup scheduled to be held in Dubai and Sharjah from August 27 to September 11.

Kohli is enduring his worst slump in form and has not scored a century in international cricket since November 2019. His last assignment was the Engmanage just 76 runs from uled fifth Test, two ODIs and former skipper was rested for limited over West Indies tour and the upcoming ODIs against Zimbabwe.

"It is unfortunate what Vinow at the moment, but tournament.

A complete KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE

he is a quality player," said Jayawardene in the latest episode of The ICC Review show. "I believe Virat has the tools to come out of it (the form slump). He has done that in the past as well and I'm sure he'll come through

this. Class is permanent and

form is temporary.

Rahul, who did not feature in the T20 series against the West Indies due to CO-VID-19 and then underwent a sports hernia surgery, will be back as vice-captain during the Asia Cup. Jayawardene feels lack of game time could be a problem for Ra-

#### Prime Video announces season 2 of 'Mind the Malhotras'



Streaming platform Prime Video on Wednesday announced that comedy-drama "Mind the Malhotras", starring Mini Mathur and Cyrus Sahukar, is set to return for a second run. Prime members in India and

across 240 countries and territories worldwide can stream the series starting August 12, according to a release. Directed by Sahil Sangha and Sangha and Karan Sharma, "Mind the Malhotras" is the Indian adaptation of the Israeli show "La Famiglia" distributed by Armoza formats. The first season gave viewers

a peep into Rishabh (Sahukar) and Shefali's (Mathur) midlife marital issues, which will continue in season two with more drama, fin and entertainment quotient as they prioritise individual professional goals. Playing Shefali Malhotra, said Mathur, has given her enormous love, appreciation, and admiration from the audience. I'm super-excited to get into the skin of my character again, give her some more shades and grow as an actor. I hope that Rishabh and Shefali's not-so-perfect life tugs at the heartstrings of viewers just like the previous season. Without divulging more, I can safely say that 'Mind the Malhotras' Season 2 will be messier, crazier, funnier, and a lot more relatable, the actor said in a statement.

#### Anshuman Jha, Sierra Winters to tie the knot in October

Wednesday said he is set to get married to his partner Sierra Winters in October in the US.

Jha, best known for featuring in Dibakar Banerjee's acclaimed Ma would have wanted that film "Love Sex Im Aur Dhoka". shared the

news in a media statement. The actor said the pair will exchange

vows in twin ceremonies, one in the US in October, followed by traditional Hindu nuptials in March 2023. "I feel like she ish Vyas' film "Hari-Om" in is my mom's blessing to me. September.

Actor Anshuman Jha on We are excited to have our first ceremony in America, followed by the Indian leg.

"Sierra always wanted to have an Indian ceremony &

too. It will be a private affair at both the places because that's what we both believe in," Jha said in

the statement. The couple got engaged in 2020. On the work front, Jha will begin shooting for Har-



Bollywood actor Aamir Khan pays obeisance at the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), on Wednesday. Aamir Khan in his film 'Laal Singh



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