

REGION

2

WIPING OUT DRUG BUSINESS FROM STATE VITAL ISSUE BEFORE MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR GOVT IN HARYANA



India celebrates 76th Independence Day : PM hoists National Flag & addresses nation

FW DESK

India is celebrating its 76th Independence Day today. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in celebrating the Day from the ramparts of the Red Fort by hoisting the National Flag. The Tricolour received a 'Rashtriya Salute'. The hoisting of the National Flag was synchronised with the 21 Gun Salute fired by the valiant gunners of the elite 8711 Field Battery.



Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr BR Ambedkar and Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

Prime Minister said as the nation pays respects to freedom fighters, there is a need to remember their vision and dream for India during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav. He said the nation is grateful to Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Ramprasad Bismil, Rani Laxmi Bai, and all other freedom fighters who shook the foundations of

the British Empire. He also saluted the architects of free India including Jawaharlal Nehru, Ram Manohar Lohia and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. He highlighted that India has been home to great thinkers like Swami Vivekanand, Sri Aurobindo and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. He added that Adivasi freedom fighters such as Birsa Munda, Tirok Singh and Alluri Sitarama Raju played a pivotal role in

keeping the freedom struggle alive in every corner of India.

Prime Minister said, Indian soil has the power that despite many challenges, it did not stop, did not bow down and kept on moving forward.

Prime Minister emphasised that for growth of New India, there is a need to ensure inclusive development across the nation. He said this was a vision held dear by Mahatma Gandhi. Prime Minister said, Jai Anusandhan is to be read with the slogan Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan and Jai Vigyan.

Prime Minister said, Har Ghar Tiranga has been an example of the entire nation coming together to celebrate the spirit of this glorious country. Modi said COVID has been an example of this common consciousness, where citizens came together.

Prime Minister said that as India celebrates 75 years of Independence, there is a need

to now move with a renewed focus and resolve for the next 25 years. He said, there is a need to focus on the Five Resolves. These are Developed India, Removing every ounce of Slave Mentality, Pride for glorious heritage, Unity and Fulfilling Citizen's Duties.

PM Modi said equality is the cornerstone of India's progress and people should be united through the mantra of India First. He requested every Indian to change the mentality toward women in everyday life. He added that the pride of Nari Shakti will play a vital role in fulfilling the dreams of India.

PM Modi also said that Aatmanirbhar Bharat is a public movement that should be taken forward. He urged people to follow Sri Aurobindo's mantra of 'Swadeshi se Swaraj, Swaraj se Suraj'. He said Aatmanirbhar Bharat is a public movement that must be taken forward.

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

5

LIC KEEN TO RE-ENTER MEDICLAIM SEGMENT, AWAITING REGULATORY CLARITY: CHAIRMAN



POTPOURRI

8

SUNNY SINGH, SAIEE MANJREKAR IN B PRAAK'S MUSIC VIDEO 'DUNIYA'



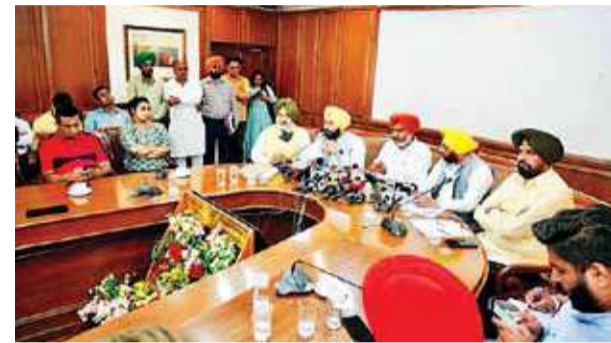
Bhagwant Mann led Government completes 5 months, 5 ministers present their report card

CHANDIGARH :

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann completes five months in office, five cabinet ministers holding key ministries, held a joint press conference to present a record of their performance.

Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, Health Minister Chetan Singh Jodemajra, Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, and Power & PWD Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO listed out a string of achievements and promises fulfilled so far.

Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said that among the main achievements of the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led government is the earmarking of a lion's share, that is 35.06 % of total budget for 9 major key depart-



ments of Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education and Research, Education, Technical Education, Home Affairs, Cooperation, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Social Security, Women and Child Development for this financial year.

Stating that Punjab Government is putting in honest

efforts to improve the fiscal health of the state, Cheema said that the government has returned the loan amounting to Rs. 12339 crore including the principal amount of Rs. 6349 crore and interest on loan Rs 5989 Crore, while the loan of Rs. 10729 crore rupees was availed during this period.

PM pays homage to all those who lost their lives during Partition



FW DESK

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has paid homage to all those who lost their lives during Partition to mark the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said: "Today, on #PartitionHorrorsRemembranceDay, I pay homage to all those who lost their lives during Partition, and applaud the resilience as well as grit of all those who suffered during that tragic period of our history."

Prayer at Akal Takht Sahib to commemorate lakhs of Panjabis who died during 1947 partition



JAGMOHAN SINGH

Prayer at Akal Takht Sahib to commemorate lakhs of Panjabis who died during 1947 partition. Governments of India & Pakistan should pass condolence resolutions in parliaments for people who died in partition: Jatehdar Akal Takht Amritsar, August 16 - Lakhs of Panjabis who lost their lives during 1947 India-Pakistan partition of the country were remembered today at Akal Takht Sahib the highest Sikh temporal seat. A special Ardas Samagam (prayer congregation) was organised in this regard

at Akal Takht Sahib, in which, tributes were paid to lakhs of people who lost lives during the country's partition. Earlier, bhog (concluding ceremony) of Sri Akhand Path Sahib was held and hazuri raagis jathas of Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib performed the Gurbani Kirtan. Addressing during Ardas Samagam, Jatehdar of Akal Takht Sahib, Giani Harpreet Singh said that the Governments of India and Pakistan should pass condolence resolutions in their Parliaments for the lakhs of people who lost lives during country's partition and suffered the pain of displacement.

India supplies nearly 60 pc of vaccines used worldwide: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said nearly 60 % of all the vaccines used in the world are produced in India and over the decades, the country has made remarkable contribution to vaccinating the world. India today is double dosing every citizen and produced COVID-19 vaccines even during the lockdown period, she added. Launching the book 'India's Vaccine Growth Story' by Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Secretary, Expenditure Department, Sitharaman said it is in the country's DNA to be able to contribute to world vaccination. India crossed the target of 200 crore COVID vaccinations in a time-bound manner. So far, 208.57 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered under the nationwide inoculation drive.

Ministry of Culture organises Silent March to mark the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

FW DESK

A 'Silent March' was organised on the eve of Independence Day, around the Central Park to mark "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day". In this 'Silent March' organized by the Union Ministry of Culture and Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, Union Culture Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of State for Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Minister of State Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi participated.



Before the commencement of the march, a two-minute silence was observed in the memory of the victims of the partition of the country.

G.K Reddy and Arjun Ram Meghwal thereafter inaugurated an exhibition on Partition of India 1947, in the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) campus, which will run till August 31. The exhibition showcases various

events related to the Partition of India.

The purpose of remembering the 'Partition of India' is to make the new generation aware about the sacrifices and struggle of our people at the time of partition. On 14th August 2021 Prime Minister Narendra Modi solemnly declared that 14th August will be observed as "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day".

In the context of 'partition', Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts organized different events such as seminars, 'silent march', photo exhibition, film screening based on theme of 'partition' in major cities of the country besides Delhi.

WPI inflation eases to 13.93 % in July



The wholesale price-based inflation eased to 13.93 % in July on easing prices of food articles and manufactured products. The Wholesale Price Index-based inflation was 15.18 % last month and at a record high of 15.88 % in May. It was 11.57 per cent in July last year. The WPI inflation continued its declining trend for the second month in July but remained in double-digits for the 16th consecutive month beginning April last year. Inflation in food articles in July eased to 10.77 per cent from 14.39 per cent in June. The rate of price rise in vegetables declined substantially to 18.25 per cent in July against 56.75 per cent in the previous month. In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 43.75 per cent in July compared to 40.38 per cent in the last month. Inflation in manufactured products and oil seeds was 8.16 per cent and (-)4.06 per cent, respectively.

The Reserve Bank of India mainly looks at retail inflation to frame monetary policy. Retail inflation remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level for the seventh month in a row and was at 6.71 per cent in July. To tame stubbornly high inflation, the RBI has hiked the key interest rate three times this year to 5.40 per cent. The central bank had projected retail inflation to average 6.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Punjab Govt Committed to provide conducive atmosphere for holistic industrial development: Aman Arora

FW DESK

Bhagwant Mann led Punjab Government would take care of the genuine demands of the industrialists, said Aman Arora, Housing and Urban Development Minister, while listening to the grievances being faced by the industrialists of Dera Bassi town.

Presiding over a meeting to discuss problems of industrialists with the senior officers of Departments of Housing & Urban Development and Industries at PUDA Bhawan, SAS Nagar, Aman Arora said that the state government recognizes the need of the industry and its role in the economic development of the state. Both H&UD and Industries departments would definitely consider the valid demands of the industrialists sympathetically and come up with measures to ensure a business friendly environment where industries could flourish, stated the cabinet minister.

Govt blocks 7 Indian & 1 Pakistan based YouTube news channels blocked under IT Rules, 2021

FW DESK

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, utilizing the emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021, has issued orders on 16.08.2022 for blocking of eight (8) YouTube based news channels, one (1) Facebook account, and two Facebook posts. The blocked YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of over 114 crore, were subscribed by over 85 lakh users.

The purpose of the content published by some of these YouTube channels was to



spread hatred among religious communities in India. False claims were made in various videos of the blocked YouTube channels. Examples include fake news such as the Government of India to have ordered demolition of religious structures.

Congress calls meeting of office bearers ahead of Aug 28 rally

Congress has called a meeting of AICC General Secretaries, incharges, PCC presidents, legislature party leaders and frontal heads on Thursday to prepare for the rally against inflation and unemployment on August 28. The rally is being organised in Delhi at Ramliya Maidan, and the party feels that the August 5 agitation was successful in which Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were detained by police. Congress has planned to build up the agitation programme from

the village level and involve retail and mandi workers in it. The party will organise "Mehangai Chaupal" interactive meetings at mandis, retail markets and other locations in all assembly constituencies from August 17 to 23, party sources said. The party will print booklets and will distribute them to all state organisations and they will then further translate and print them in the local language and then distribute them to the public, they added.

Tikait asks farmers to be ready for nationwide stir



FW DESK

New Delhi

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait exhorted farmers to be ready for a massive nationwide agitation over their demands during the 75-hour sit-in by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha at Lakhimpur seeking the removal of Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra and a law on the MSP. He said that farmer leaders will share the time, place and nature of the nationwide agitation at an opportune time. "In the meanwhile, we will need to strengthen the Morcha. We will lose if we aren't united and the government will get the better of us," he asserted. Representatives of the BKU-Chaduni faction, which is not a part of SKM, also reached the protest site to express solidarity with the agitating farmers. Farmers from different states on Friday reached the dharna site - Rajapur Mandi Samiti in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh. The agitation has gained strength since its start on Thursday with prominent leaders, including SKM core committee member Dharshan Singh Pal, Swaraj India national convener Yogendra Yadav and social activist Medha Patkar, addressing the dharna. Prominent farmer leaders from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh also addressed the farmers. Lashing out at Minister Mishra, Tikait said, "The entire country is well aware about the Tikunia violence and it was also known to all as to who was the main instigator behind it." "It's an irony that the minister was still holding his post," he said and added the minister should be considered an accused in the violence case under IPC section 120B, which relates to criminal conspiracy to commit an offence.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind condemns release of those convicted in Bilkis Bano Rape Case

FW DESK

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) has condemned the release of those convicted in the Bilkis Bano Rape Case. In a statement to the media, the Vice President of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Prof Salim Engineer said: "We are dismayed by the role of the Gujarat government in ensuring the release of those convicted and sentenced for life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case and the murder of seven members of her family. Such decisions that are aimed at reaping political dividends to appease a particular constituency are highly objectionable. We condemn the decision and hope the apex court intervenes in the matter to reverse this grave injustice carried out under the guise of official government policy."



Gadkari and Chouhan dropped from BJP parliamentary board

BJP on Wednesday dropped Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan from its parliamentary board, its apex organisational body, and brought in six new members, including Karnataka leader B S Yediyurappa and Iqbal Singh Lalpura, first Sikh representative.

The party also rejigged its Central Election Committee (CEC) and named Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union minister Bhupender Yadav among its new members. Gad-



kari and Chouhan ceased to be CEC members after their ouster from the board. All parliamentary board members, which include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh and BJP president J P Nadda, automatically become part of the CEC, which has some additional members as well. The other new board members are K Laxman, Sudha Yadav and Satyanarayan Jatiya, three old party faithfuls but considered political lightweights.

Former Union ministers Jual Oram and Shah Nawaz Hussain have been dropped from the CEC. After these changes, the board now has the full strength of 11 members while the CEC has 15 leaders. The new entrants to the CEC are Rajasthan leader Om Mathur and BJP women wing chief Vanathi Srinivasan besides Fadnavis and Bhupender Yadav. Srinivasan replaces her predecessor Vijaya Rahatkar as the party's 'Mahila Morcha' chief as its an ex-officio member. With Chouhan gone, there

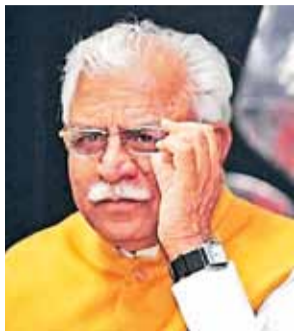
will be no chief minister on the board. There was speculation that Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath may make an entry. Union minister Piyush Goyal, who is also the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupender Yadav were also seen as contenders. Yadav, though, is in the CEC now. Both Yediyurappa and Jatiya are over 75 years of age, an informal age bar within the party for holding important posts as it has gone all out to reduce the average age of its organisational leaders.

Wiping out drug business from state vital issue before Manohar govt in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Illegal smuggling, sale and drug addiction among people, especially youths belonging to both sexes is a prime issue before Manohar government in Haryana state, widely discussed in recent Monsoon Vidhan Sabha session in which General Secretary INLD Abhay Singh Chautala also a former leader of opposition in Haryana Vidhan Sabha strongly condemned ruling BJP-JJP government unsuccessful to control this fast expanding illegal business. Abhay Chautala said, illegal smuggling, sale and drug addiction in people even children

in the state is constantly rising since after year 2015. He said, consumption of drug among youths, both male and females residing in hostels, PG houses has become a fashion due to easy availability even at Paan shops, street vendors, medical stores, general merchandize shops and door-to-door supply. Supporting the issue Congress MLA Amit Sihag said that the number of drug addict patients in government hospitals and drug de-addiction centers in the state is fast increasing every year giving rise to patients suffering from HIV diseases due to blood infection as a result of use of



single syringe by several while injecting drug in body. Sihag said that available data reveals that the number of drug addicted persons has witnessed three times increase in past 7-8 years. On

the other hand Haryana home & health minister Anil Vij said that state government is serious to wipe out drug smuggling, sale and consumption completely from the state and Haryana is first in the country to set up Narcotic Control Bureau and looking at the efforts by Haryana state government now government in the centre has decided to establish a centre at Panchkula to control this evil business jointly by five states in North. Another MLAs Shishpal Keharwal and Mewa Singh told that Sirsa and Hisar in Haryana state are worst affected districts witnessed drastic increase in

drug addicted persons and large number of them even losing lives due to excessive use of drugs. Information reveals, since the year 2015 patients suffering from drug addiction has registered themselves at government hospitals in the state has been recorded as 44643 patients during year 2015, 57995 patients during year 2016, 70882 patients during year 2017, 101599 patients during year 2018, 116111 patients during year 2019, 108426 patients during year 2020, 115587 during year 2021 and 97174 patients during current year 2022 with effect from January 1 to July 31.

Suspected explosive material was 2.700 kilogram RDX

JAGMOHAN SINGH

Amritsar : Police have nabbed two suspected youth from Delhi who had allegedly planted some explosive material that was kept under the sports utility vehicle of a police official here on Tuesday, said Police. ADGP Punjab Police R.N. Dhoke told media persons today that the explosive material which was planted under the SUV belonging to Sub Inspector Dilbagh Singh was 2.700 kilogram RDX as conspiracy was hatched to extend damage. He said that police had also seized a mobile from the spot that gave vital lead to police. He said it was a terrormodule. The accused were brought here from Delhi to Amritsar by air as they were trying to flee India, said police sources. He said that in the next twenty four, police would be able to disclose to the media about the accused, as who were behind the crime. Various police teams have been



dispatched to various states of India to round up certain people directly linked with the incident.

Police said those arrested accused belonged to the Patti area of Tarn Taran district.

However, on Tuesday a car cleaner boy had noticed the object under the sports utility vehicle (SUV) of Sub Inspector Dilbagh Singh at Ranjit Avenue locality, police said.

CCTV footage shows that two motorcycle-borne unidentified people kept the explosive material under the SUV and then fled the spot. A heavy police force along with a bomb disposal squad had reached the spot and defused the explosive material.

Approval for long awaited dream project for IMT at Ambala

SATISH HANDA

Long awaited dream project for developing an Industrial Model Town (IMT) at Ambala City has been approved by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter, it was disclosed by Aseem Goel Ambala City MLA while talking to media persons here. This project was initiated years ago by then Ambala City MLA Venod Sharma a former Union Minister when Congress was ruling in the state at village Panjokhra on Ambala Naraingarh Road near Ambala city but remained hanging on fire for a long times due to farmers protest strongly opposed not prepared to get acquired their valuable agriculture land. Even senior Congress leader Kumari Shelja along with many other Congress leaders also joined protest against developing IMT at Panjokhra near Ambala City which was a dream project of then MLA Venod Sharma. Addressing media persons Aseem Goel MLA said that he started efforts for developing IMT at Ambala City in 2019 which will not only bring prosperity in the town but also create ample sources of employment for youths in thy area.

Classrooms in Punjab jails soon for prisoners : Harjot Singh Bains



Punjab government's mission to transform the lives of jail inmates and enable them to join the social mainstream as reformed convicts, the department of jails is planning to construct classrooms with a capacity of 50 students in each jail to provide a learning environment for prisoners.

Stating this here today, Jails minister Harjot Singh Bains said that the state government considering that education will be tied to good conduct/remission to provide benefit to those who undergo education in jails.

Initially, 2 to 3 class rooms of capacity of 50 students in each jail will be constructed and if more rooms are needed in the future, suitable space will be identified for them. The facility of libraries are also being expanded in prisons. The idea is to inculcate a habit of learning and education and to provide them an opportunity to utilize their time in prison in a productive manner, said the minister.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: India@75, Freedom Ride held, Over 400 bikers participate in the ride

KULBIR SINGH KALSI

To celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Thumpers Café - a well known bike riders' group of tricity, organized an impressive 'India@75, freedom Ride.' Fervour and enthusiasm marked the event, which started from Sector 34 playground and concluded at Ropar Haveli.

"It was a rare honour to flag off India@75, Freedom Ride. We have completed 75 years as an independent nation. It is a rare milestone," said Manat Noor, famous singer, who flagged off the Ride along with Brigadier Satinder Singh, Vineet Joshi and Vishal Batra, brother



of Kargil martyr Capt. Vikram Batra, PVC(Posthumous). Vishal Batra also took part in the India@75, Freedom Ride that saw participation of over 400 bikers. The event was organised by Thumpers Cafe in collaboration with Red FM 98.5, Castrol Power 1 and Suzuki.

Issue of coming to Sri Harmandar Sahib while wearing T-shirt of Jagdish Tytler, SGPC condemns

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh Dhimi has strongly condemned the act of a Congress party worker Karamjit Singh, who visited Sachkhand Sri Harmandar Sahib (Golden Temple) wearing t-shirt with photo of Congress leader Jagdish Tytler, for getting his photograph clicked inside the premises and making it viral on social media. He said that a police complaint will be lodged against Karamjit Singh who committed this act. Dhimi said that Jagdish



Tytler is main accused in 1984 Delhi Sikh Genocide, who can never be forgiven by the Sikh Qaum (community). "Visiting Sri Harmandar Sahib while wearing a t-shirt with a photo of such a person (Tytler) is an act of annoying the Sikhs", said Dhimi. He said this act has been committed by Amritsar based Karamjit Singh, a representative of Congress party, from which it is clear that he has committed this act as part of deliberate conspiracy.

Himachal Congress working president Pawan Kumar Kajal joins BJP



Himachal Pradesh Congress working president Pawan Kumar Kajal joined the BJP on Wednesday.

Kajal two time MLA and vice president of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Lakhvinder Singh Rana also joined the BJP, along with Kajal, during a function at the party national headquarters here.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur, party national general secretary Arun Singh, media department head Anil Baluni and others were also present at

the function. Kajal and Rana are both two time MLAs from Kangra and Nalagarh respectively.

Welcoming both the leaders, Jairam Thakur said: "Kajal is a big OBC leader and his joining will strengthen the party."

Thakur noted that the Assembly polls will be held in November and the party is moving ahead with its preparations.

He added that like in the other states, the Congress is well.

4,47,018 cases under trial in Punjab and Haryana high court pending

SATISH HANDA

According to information there are 4,47,018 cases which include 2,81,438 civil cases and 1,65,580 criminal cases under trial in Punjab and Haryana high court Chandigarh lying pending due to acute shortage of judges in the court. Information also reveals that 12,887 cases are under trial in the court pending since past 20 to 30 years. A couple of days ago, as many as new judges were included in this court as such the total number of judges in Punjab and Haryana high court Chandigarh have reached 57 as against the requirement of total number of 85 judges first time so far and there is still shortage of 28 judges.



Information also reveals, there is possibility of joining another nine judges which include five judges from Punjab and four judges from Haryana enabling to bring relief to those awaiting justice since a long time. As regard number of pending cases dumped in Punjab and Haryana court awaiting decision there are 87,825 cases lying unsolved for decision pending since past 10 to 20 years. There are 21442 cases filed by females yet under trial in the court, besides another 24742 case filed by senior citizens have to wait for hours to attend hearing in the cases in court in their pending under trial cases. Information further reveals, according to available data out of total number of 4,47,018 pending cases under trial in Punjab and Haryana high court Chandigarh since past more than 20 years 14769 such pending cases have been decided in past one month.

Two members of Jaggu Bhagwan Puria group arrested in Jandiala in a cross firing

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Punjab police have succeeded to arrest two members of notorious Jaggu Bhagwan Puria gang here today with the recovery of arms, ammunition and drug consignment. In a late night here today, police informed the media about the arrest of two notorious criminals who were arrested after a heavy exchange of gunfire. Alleged accused broke a checkpoint in Jandiala and Police chased them for 11 kilometers. They fired at the police party all along and finally were nabbed near Wadala Jihal drain, said police. The arrested accused were identified as Gurbhraj Singh and Shamsheer Singh both residents of Tarn Taran district.



Famous Janmashtami fair was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Tandon, senior BJP leader and co-in-charge of Himachal Pradesh, State General Secretary of BJP Mahila Morcha Ruby Gupta was also present on this auspicious occasion. PHOTO: KULBIR SINGH KALSI

Footwear industry without NOC from PCB not permitted in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

According to recent notification by Haryana state government footwear industry in the state will not be permitted without obtaining a no objection certificate from Haryana State Pollution Control Board within 30 days and those violating directions will have to face consequences and cases will be registered against them. According to notification, footwear industry has now been brought under concept management and the units manufacturing other than shoe uppers will have to obtain clearance from Board as per consent establish (CTE) and



consent operate (CTO) failing which such footwear manufacturers will have to close down their shutters.

According to information, there are large numbers of units manufacturing footwear shoes and their components across the state which include more than 500 units functioning at

Bahadurgarh in Rohtak district alone known as 'Footwear Town' in the state especially manufacturing rubber shoes and their components being supplied in domestic as well as export markets. According to Amit Dahiya of State Pollution Control Board at Bahadurgarh, there are several chemicals used in footwear industry spreading pollution in atmosphere and declared harmful for human health require installation of pollution control devices along with exhaust fans in these manufacturing units. Moreover, diesel generating sets installed in these units too spread pollution. Footwear industry also releas-

SATISH HANDA

According to investigation by STF Hisar police, a network of over 200 Nigerians arrived at Delhi about two to three years ago on study or work Visa to start textile and shoe business presently residing in groups in residential colonies at Delhi. STF investigation revealed that these Nigerians are involved in illegally manufacturing Heroin by mixing raw materials brought from Africa and supplying in bulk quantity in neighboring states Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan having much demand for heroin.

Lokender Singh SP Hisar told media persons that Hisar police recently arrested a Nigerian from whom recovered raw material used for manufacturing heroin. He said, two police teams have been deployed to Delhi to investigate matter further and find out gangs involved in manufacturing drugs unethically with harmful chemicals and supplying in adjoining states

thus playing with the life of consumers. Information reveals that large number of drug addicts in Haryana state lost their lives due to excessive use of drugs in past sometime and their bodies were confined to flames by the family without postmortem to find out the cause of death in most of the cases.

According to information, Hisar police arrested two youths carrying 101 gm heroin who disclosed procured from Nigerians residing at Uttam Nagar and Anand Vihar Delhi. Meanwhile, STF Hisar intensified investigations in this regard and came to know that more than 200 Nigerians residing in rented houses at Uttam Nagar, Luxmi Nagar, Shastri Nagar and few others in posh South Delhi colonies in groups preparing and supplying heroin all over in adjoining states. Information also reveals that these Nigerians staying at Delhi since a long time falsely pose as if they are unaware of English and other Indian languages.

Punjab CM orders upgradation of five link roads connecting Gurdawara Fatehgarh Sahib

As a humble tribute to Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh along with Mata Gujriji, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann today ordered the upgradation and strengthening of five link roads connecting Gurdawara Sri Fatehgarh Sahib at a cost of Rs 8.19 crore. He directed that the roads should be ready before Shaheedi Sabha this year.

A major facelift of Fatehgarh Sahib town is also being planned. "This sacred land is a source of inspiration for not only Sikhs but the entire humanity as all of them converge here every year to pay respect to chotta sahibzadas and Mata Gujri on their martyrdom day", said the Chief Minister Punjab Chief Minister said that to facilitate the thousands of pilgrims coming annually to pay respect at this holy place five link roads will be strengthened and upgraded.

Shortage of 35980 teachers in 14492 government schools in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

The situation of government schools in Haryana turning bad to worst due to shortage of teachers in these schools. Information reveals against the requirement of total number of 126136 teachers in all government schools in the state there are 99156 teachers working in 14492 government schools having shortage of 35980 teachers. State education department had to close down 196 primary and middle schools in past three years. Independent MLA from Meham Vidhan Sabha constitu-

ency Balram Kundu when raised a question over government's claim now increased standard of education in government schools at par or even better as compared to private schools in the state when there is acute shortage of teachers in these schools. However, state education minister Kanwar Pal admitted that nearly 25% posts for teachers and other staff in government schools in the state are lying vacant. Kundu continued, there was difference of nearly 2500 teachers stated short in government schools in the state quoted during annual budget session this year.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar distributes portfolios, retains home and general administration



Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar has kept his previous portfolios including home ministry, general administration, cabinet secretariat, vigilance with himself.

He has given the health ministry to his deputy Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, along with road construction, urban develop-

ment and housing and rural development.

The other ministers under the JD-U quota include Ashok Chaudhary with the building construction portfolio, Bijendra Prasad Yadav with the power, planning and development department, Vijay Kumar Chaudhary with

finance, commerce and parliamentary affairs ministry, Sharawan Kumar, rural development, Lesi Singh, fertilizer and consumer affairs, Sanjay Jha, water resource develop-

ment ministry, information and public relations, Sunil Kumar, liquor prohibition and excise department, Jayant Raj,

Bihar cabinet expands, 31 ministers inducted

The newly formed cabinet in Bihar expanded on Tuesday when 31 ministers took oath, with the RJD getting a lion's share, and care having been taken to represent all sections of the society, including the minorities.

Among the ministers who took oath, 16 were from RJD, 11 from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), two from Congress, one from ex-CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and one Independent.

The number of Muslims in the new cabinet is five, up from only one in the previous NDA government that fell last week after the chief minister severed ties with the BJP.

minor water resource department, Shella Kumari has the transport department, Madan

The RJD has, predictably, given a significant number of seven berths to Yadavs, including Tej Pratap Yadav, the elder son of party president Lalu Prasad.

It, however, also gave representation to the upper castes in keeping with the wider social outreach by deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav.

Among those from the RJD quota were Kartikeya Singh, a Bhumihar MLC, and Sudhakar Singh, a Rajput, whose father Jagadanand Singh is currently the state president.

The JD(U) has retained its ministers from the previous dispensation. The Congress is represented by a Dalit and a Muslim.

Sahani is the social welfare minister and Jama Khan has minority affairs.

PM greets NCC cadets at Red Fort

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday interacted with NCC cadets dressed in traditional attire and seated in the geographical formation of the map of India in front of Red Fort's ramparts.

After his speech on the 75th anniversary of India's independence, Modi walked in the "Gyan Path" enclosure. He waved at and greeted the cadets.

The prime minister encouraged the cadets from Punjab and Gujarat to perform their folk dances -- Bhangra and Garba -- as he cheered for them. He also shook hands with some cadets, striking brief interactions.

A total of 792 NCC cadets (Army, Navy and Air Force) from different schools across the country took part in the festival of national fervour.

The cadets were seated at Gyan Path' in front of the Red Fort's ramparts in the geographical formation of the map of India. They were wearing clothes of the regions they were representing, symbolising India's cultural diversity.

The August 15 ceremony is particularly significant this year as it marks the 75th anniversary of the country's independence, with the government launching a host of exercises to add to the verve around the celebrations.



Kashmir : 7 ITBP men killed in accident, Kashmiri Pandits shot dead by militants

FW DESK

An Indo-Tibetan Border Police vehicle carrying soldiers met with an accident near Frislan at Chandanwari in Pahalgalam in Jammu and Kashmir, killing seven of them. The jawans were posted in the area for the protection of Amarnath Yatra.

«A civil bus carrying 39 personnel (37 from ITBP and 2 from Jammu and Kashmir Police) fell down to a roadside river bed after its breaks reportedly failed. The troops were on their way from Chandanwari to Pahalgalam,» the ITBP said.

«In a road accident near Chandanwari Pahalgalam in Anantnag district, six ITBP personnel got martyred while several others were injured. They are being airlifted to the Army hospital in Srinagar for treatment. Further details shall follow,» the Kashmir Zone Police added. In another development, a Kashmiri Pandit died and his brother was injured after they were fired at by militants in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said.

PM lauds the passion of Dr. H.V. Hande who saved the 75 year old newspaper announcing the Independence

FW DESK

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi lauded the vigour and passion of Dr. H.V. Hande who tweeted showing 75 year old newspaper announcing the Independence. The

Prime Minister said that people like Dr. H.V. Hande Ji are remarkable individuals who have given their life towards nation building. In response of Dr. H.V. Hande's tweet on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Prime Minister tweeted; «People like Dr. H.V. Hande Ji are remarkable individuals who have given their life towards nation building. Glad to see his vigour and passion. @DrHVHande1»



Six semi-decomposed bodies found in two houses in Jammu



FW DESK

Six semi-decomposed bodies were found at a residential house in Sidhra area of Jammu city of Wednesday. The bodies were found in two residential houses in Tawi Vihar locality of Sidhra.

Soon after the incident was reported, a police team rushed to the spot and took bodies into their possession.

«The doors of the house were forcibly broke open in presence of locals of Tawi Vihar Colony Sidhra,» police said, adding, «It

was found by the Police party that the dead bodies are lying in the house.» The official added that preliminary investigation reveals that all these people were from Kashmir and their families have also been informed.

Police have formed a Special Investigation Team to unravel the mystery surrounding the deaths. The deceased have been identified as Sakina Begum widow of late Ghulam Hassan, her daughter Naseema Akhter, Rubina Bano, Zafar Ali, Noor-ul-Habib and Sajad Ahmad.

Rahul greets people on 75th anniversary of Independence

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday greeted the people on the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

Sharing a quote from the country's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's «Tryst with Destiny» speech, he also posted a montage of pictures highlighting India's rich cultural tradition.

«To India, our much-loved motherland, the ancient, the eternal and the ever-new, we pay our reverent homage and we bind ourselves afresh to her service.» Happy Independence Day! Jai Hind,» Gandhi tweeted. On its official Twitter handle, the Congress said, «Let us enter the 76th year of Independence with new energy and

positive thinking and take the country forward on the path of development. Jai Hind.» At midnight, the party tweeted, «75 years ago, this day, at the stroke of midnight, India made a tryst with destiny. A pact where all forces knelt down before the valour of our forefathers, and gave us the freedom we enjoy today.

Bombay HC gives nod for demolition of 100-yr-old dilapidated Mumbai building, directs occupants to vacate it



Bombay High Court has given a go ahead to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to demolish a century-old dilapidated building in south Mumbai and directed its occupants to vacate the premises.

The HC, in an order passed on August 11, a copy of which was made available on Monday, noted that the building 'HN Petit Widows Home' was located on a busy road and in the event of any untoward incident, it could cause loss of lives.

A division bench of Justices R D Dhanuka and Kamal Khata upheld the BMC technical advisory committee's (TAC) decision

holding that the building was in a dilapidated and dangerous condition and has to be hence demolished.

Based on the committee's report, the BMC in April this year issued a letter to the building's landlord to vacate the premises.

A few occupants of the building and tenants who run shops on its ground floor, however, refused to vacate the premises and moved the HC arguing that the structure only needed minor repairs.

The ground plus five floor structure is more than 100 years old. It was used for providing hostel facilities to widows.

FIFA move extremely harsh but also an opportunity to get house in order, says Bhaichung Bhutia

Former captain Bhaichung Bhutia on Tuesday termed the FIFA's decision to ban Indian football «very harsh» but in it also saw an opportunity to get the country's sport in order.

India was suspended by world governing body FIFA for «undue influence from third parties», the development

jeopardising the country's prospects of hosting the Under-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled from October 11-30.

«Very unfortunate that FIFA has banned Indian football and at the same time I feel it's a very

harsh decision of FIFA to ban Indian football,» Bhutia, one of the sport's icons in the country, said.

«But at the same time I feel it's a great opportunity for us to get our system right. It's very important that all the stakeholders -- the federation, the state associations, to come together and get the system right and everybody work for the betterment of Indian football,» the Sikkimese sniper added.

FIFA said the suspension was effective immediately and that the transgression constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes. This is the first time the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been banned by FIFA in its 85 year history.

NTPC celebrates 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign with patriotic fervour



FW DESK

NTPC Ltd is celebrating 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign with patriotic zeal and fervour. The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign comes under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and has been implemented to encourage employees, associates and people living in the vicinity to bring the Tiranga home and to hoist it to honour the 75th year of India's independence.

At NTPC project locations, Indian Flags are being provided to the nearby local community to celebrate 75 years of Indian Independence and «Har Ghar

Tiranga» campaign.

Employees of NTPC are hoisting the Flag at their respective homes to commemorate the «Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav». Employees have registered on www.harghartiranga.com to showcase their pictures with the Indian Flag to commemorate the «Har Ghar Tiranga» spirit.

The idea behind the initiative is to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people and make them remember the contribution made by the country's freedom fighters for India's Independence and to promote awareness about the Indian National Flag.

Fadnavis appointed Leader of House in Maharashtra Legislative Council

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has been appointed the Leader of the House in the state Legislative Council, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced on Wednesday.

Shinde made the announcement as he introduced newly-inducted members of his Cabinet to the Upper House on the first day of the monsoon session of the state legislature.



Later, Fadnavis, a senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, introduced the newly-elected members of the Leg-

islative Council. Fadnavis is a member of the Legislative Assembly from Nagpur. Usually, the Chief Minister is the Leader of the House in the Assembly, while the deputy CM holds the equivalent post in the Council.

The Upper House also passed a resolution congratulating Droupadi Murmu and Jagdeep Dhankhar on their election as President and Vice-President, respectively.

UIDAI enrolls over 79 lakh children under Bal Aadhaar initiative in last four months

FW DESK

Unique Identification Authority has enrolled more than 79 lakh children in the 0-5 age group during the first four months (April-July) of the current financial year.

This is part of a renewed effort to reach out to more children in the 0-5 age group under the Bal Aadhaar initiative and help parents and children avail multiple benefits. While 2.64 crore children in the 0-5 age group had Bal Aadhaar by the end of 31 March 2022, this number has increased to 3.43 crore by the end of July 2022.

Bal Aadhaar registration is progressing very well, with increased speed across the country. Enrolments of children in the 0-5 age group in states like Himachal Pradesh and Hary-



ana have already covered more than 70% of the targeted age group. Registration of children (0-5 age group) has also done exceedingly well in several other states and UTs including Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep. Over all, Aadhaar saturation at present is around 94%. Aadhaar saturation among adults is almost 100%. Aadhaar is now a catalyst of both, ease of living and ease of doing business. UIDAI and its regional offices have been constantly encouraging residents to come forward

Nearly 25 lakh new voters likely to be enrolled in J&K : Election Commission

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer Hirdesh Kumar on Wednesday said around 25 lakh new voters are expected to be enrolled in the Union Territory as the special summary revision of electoral rolls is being held for the first time after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

He also described the ongoing exercise to complete the special summary revision of electoral rolls by November 25 as a «challenging task».

The massive exercise to complete the process in time is going on to ensure that all the eligible voters including those who have attained the age of 18 years on October 1, 2022 or earlier are enrolled to provide an «error-free» final list, Kumar said.

According to the rescheduled timeline issued by the election commission recently, an integrated draft electoral roll will be published on September 15, while the period for filing claims and objections was set between September 15 to October 25 followed by disposal of claims and objections on November 10.

Checking of health parameters and obtaining commission's permission for final publication and updating database and printing of supplements was fixed for November 19 before the publication of final electoral rolls on November 25. «The special summary revision



of electoral rolls is taking place for the first time after January 1, 2019 and so we are expecting massive changes in the voter list given the fact that a large number of youngsters have attained the age of 18 or 18 plus over the past three years. «After the abrogation of Article 370, many people who were not enlisted as voters in the erstwhile state of J&K are now eligible to vote and in addition anyone who is living ordinarily can also avail the opportunity to get enlisted as a voter in J&K in accordance with the provisions of representation of the Peoples Act,» Kumar told reporters here.

He said the projected population of J&K who are 18 plus are around 98 lakhs, while the number of enlisted voters are 76 lakh according to the last voter list.

«We are expecting an ad-



dition of 20 to 25 lakh new voters in the final list,» Kumar said, adding the Booth Level Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and District Election Officers have been sensitized to ensure that the final list will be «error free» and will also cover all the eligible voters.

Kumar said there is no need for a person to have a domicile certificate of J&K to become a voter. «An employee, a student, a labourer or anyone from outside who is living ordinarily in J&K, can enlist his or her name in the voting list. The documents will be scrutinized by the government officials concerned who will take a decision after being satisfied about the claim.»

He said like in the past, many residents of J&K who are working in armed forces and paramilitary forces and

are posted outside the Union Territory have an option to get themselves registered as service voters and can avail the facility of postal ballot to register their choice at the time of the elections.

«Likewise those from different parts of the country who are posted here have the option that if they are posted in a peace station they can enlist themselves as voters. Jammu is a peace station and anyone from outside posted in armed forces in the city can avail the option to enlist as a voter,» he said. He said after the delimitation commission submitted its report on May 5 and the union law ministry implemented the report on May 20, the number of assembly seats in J&K increased to 90. «All the 90 constituencies have witnessed some sort of change... We are presently undertaking mapping

of old constituencies with new constituencies and it will be followed by the special summary revision (SSR),» Kumar said, expressing satisfaction over the ongoing pre-SSR activities.

He said 600 polling stations have been added and now the total number of polling stations across Jammu and Kashmir has gone up to 11,370. Kumar said the commission is planning to undertake door-to-door campaigning and also organize special camps in educational institutions for the awareness of the eligible voters. The chief electoral officer said provision has been made in the modified registration forms for linking of Aadhaar number with electoral roll data, the objective of which is to establish the identity of electors and authentication of entries in electoral roll.

He said the commission will issue new voter Identity cards which will have new security features. About Kashmiri migrants residing outside the valley, he said there is already a special provision for such displaced population to enable them to exercise their franchise. «They (Kashmiri Pandit voters) are registered as migrants in their home constituencies. Special camps are being organized for them at different places including Delhi, Jammu and Udhampur for registration of new voters and all of them will be given the voter ID cards,» he said.

Suspected material seized from truck carrying cargo from Afghanistan at ICP Attari



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Custom Department has seized some suspected unknown material during rummaging of a truck carrying cargo from Afghanistan, where in a small metal box was noticed under the body of the truck.

In a statement issued here today by the Custom department said that the box was removed and kept at a secluded open place. As a precautionary measure, an explosive sniffer dog of the BSF was called in. However it didn't give any indication. After that sniffer dogs of both BSF and Customs were called for narcotics, which also gave no clear indication.

It may be mentioned here that the similar box was detected a few days back and similar modus operandi was noticed, therefore the matter was consulted with BSF.

As a matter of abundant precaution it was decided not to open the tightly closed box manually and so bomb disposal squad of the BSF did a controlled action to open to box to open the box, said custom official.

After such opening, the residual material collected and it weighed approximately 350 grams.

There's a thin line between 'freebies' and social welfare

A general concern over 'freebies' pushing the economy to ruin or unviable pre-election promises adversely affecting informed decision-making by voters seems reasonable. The Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, heading a Bench hearing a petition filed in public interest against the distribution or promise of 'freebies' ahead of elections, has made it clear that the Court is not going to issue guidelines, but only ensure that suggestions are taken from stakeholders such as the NITI Aayog, Finance Commission, Law Commission, RBI and political parties. The Court's concern over populist measures seems to resonate with the Government too, as the Solicitor-General submitted that these distorted the voter's informed decision-making; and that unregulated populism may lead to an economic disaster. The Supreme Court, in *S. Subramaniam Balaji vs Govt of Tamil Nadu* (2013) addressed these questions and took the position that these concerned law and policy. It upheld the distribution of television sets or consumer goods on the ground that schemes targeted at women, farmers and the poorer sections were in furtherance of Directive Principles; and as long as public funds were spent based on appropriations cleared by the legislature, they could neither be declared illegal, nor the promise of such items be termed a 'corrupt practice'. It had, however, directed the ECI to frame guidelines to regulate the content of manifestos. The ECI subsequently included in its Model Code of Conduct a stipulation that parties should avoid promises "that vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue influence on the voters". Any further step, such as distinguishing welfare measures from populist sops and pre-election inducements, or adding to the obligations of fiscal responsibility and fiscal prudence ought to come from the legislature. That politicians invariably back 'freebies' should be no reason to bypass Parliament.

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 sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them.

Madam C.J. Walker

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

RNI NO. CHAENG/2001/03736
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY SWINDER BAJWA
ON BEHALF OF FW MEDIA
PRINTED AT JAGJIT PUBLISHING CO. PVT LTD
D-12, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-1, MOHALI,
PUNJAB 160059
PRINTER & PUBLISHER SWINDER BAJWA
OWNER* : FW MEDIA
PUBLISHED AT: PLOT NO-F5, IT PARK, CHANDIGARH
CHANDIGARH 160101; PHONE: 9888040061
EDITOR* ABDUL WASEY

(*RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTION OF NEWS UNDER THE PRB ACT)



ABHIJIT SINGH DELVES INTO INDIA-US COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORALS

Maritime alliance a work in progress

The docking of the USNS Charles Drew, a United States Navy dry cargo ship, for repairs at an Indian facility in Chennai last week, marks an important first in the India-U.S. military relationship. Although bilateral strategic ties have advanced considerably over the past decade, reciprocal repair of military vessels was still a milestone that had not been crossed. With the arrival of Charles Drew at the Larsen and Toubro (L&T) facility at the Kattupalli dockyard, India and the U.S. seem to have moved past a self-imposed restriction.

Signs of a broader template

As some see it, a renewed sense of optimism now drives India-U.S. relations. During the bilateral 2+2 dialogue held in April this year, the two countries agreed to explore the possibilities of using Indian shipyards for the repair and maintenance of ships of the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC). In the weeks following that meeting, the MSC carried out an exhaustive audit of Indian yards, and cleared the facility at Kattupalli for the repair of U.S. military vessels.

The docking of a U.S. military vessel at an Indian facility has both functional and geopolitical implications. Functionally, it signals a more efficient leveraging of the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) — the military logistics agreement India signed with the U.S. in 2017. Thus far, India-U.S. cooperation under the pact had largely been confined to the exchange of fuel and stores during joint exercises and relief operations. With the arrival of a U.S. military vessel at an Indian dockyard, the template of logistics cooperation seems to have broadened. There is a good possibility now that India would seek reciprocal access to repair facilities at U.S. bases in Asia and beyond.

Many in India, meanwhile, are seeing the U.S. ship's docking as a global endorsement of Indian shipbuilding and ship-repair capabilities.



In recent years, New Delhi has sought to showcase its private shipyards, in particular the L&T, which has developed significant ship design and construction capability at its yards in Hazira (Gujarat) and Kattupalli. At a time when the Indian Navy has taken delivery of the INS Vikrant, the country's first indigenously constructed aircraft carrier, the spirits of Indian shipbuilders are already riding high. As Indian observers see it, the presence of the USNS Charles Drew in an Indian dockyard is a boost for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make-in-India'.

The political signal

Politically, too, the development is noteworthy, as it signals a consolidation of the India-U.S. partnership, and the Quadrilateral (India, Japan, Australia and the United States) Security Dialogue. Despite its intention to strengthen logistics exchanges among Quad members, New Delhi has desisted from offering foreign warships access to Indian facilities. Notwithstanding the odd refuelling of foreign warships and aircraft in Indian facilities, India's military establishment has been wary of any moves that would create the impression of an anti-China alliance. Yet, Indian decision makers evidently are willing to be more ambitious with the India-U.S. strategic relationship. New Delhi's decision to open up repair facilities for the U.S. military suggests greater Indian readiness to accommodate the maritime interests of India's Quad partners.

For Washington, the strategic implications of the docking in India are no less tangible. This is an incremental step forward in the U.S. moving to bolster its military presence in the Eastern Indian Ocean. Recent assessments of the evolving security picture in the Indian Ocean point to the possibility of China's military expansion in the Asian littorals, holding at risk U.S. and European assets. Reportedly, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been readying to play a more active security role in the region. New Delhi's offer of repair services for U.S. military vessels could kickstart a process that would culminate in India opening up its naval bases for friendly foreign warships. At a time when New Delhi has shied away from backing the U.S. position in the Russia-Ukraine war, greater India-U.S. synergy in the Indian Ocean littorals could galvanise the supporters of closer bilateral ties. It would revive talk about the bilateral as a defining partnership in the Indian Ocean, and of India's potential to counter China in the Indian Ocean. Coming on the heels of the delivery of the first two U.S. manufactured MH-60R (Multi Role Helicopters) to India (with a third craft due to arrive later this month) the visit of the USNS Charles Drew has given Indian and U.S. observers much to

be optimistic about.

CMF cooperation

Meanwhile, the Indian Navy has formally commenced its cooperation with the Bahrain-based multilateral partnership, Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), as an 'associate member'. This comes months after India had announced its intention to join the grouping in furtherance of its regional security goals. India's political and military leadership is seeing this as a demonstration of Indian commitment towards the collective responsibility of ensuring security in the shared commons.

Indian analysts, however, ought not to over-read developments, as extrapolating from perceived trends can often be misleading. The reality is that the India-U.S. relationship is still some way from crossing a critical threshold. For all the hype in the media surrounding India's membership of the CMF, the modalities of the engagement are still being worked out. The Indian Navy, it seems, has stopped short of formally joining the group, of which the Pakistan Navy is a key member. According to the CMF website, "associate members provide the assistance that they can offer, if they have the time and capacity to do so, whilst undertaking national tasking". This is not unlike India's earlier model of cooperation, whereby the Indian Navy worked alongside CMF and other security forces in the Western Indian Ocean on a need-to basis — all while operating independently, and under the broader banner of the United Nations. Despite increased engagement with the U.S. Navy, India's liaison officer at the U.S. Navy component (NAVCENT), or the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command) in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) is still the military attaché at the Indian Embassy in Bahrain.

Abhijit Singh is a retired Indian naval officer and Senior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi. Views are personal.



DR HARVINDER KAUR

Is there any Economic and Social Significance of Khap Panchayats in Progressive Haryana..?

With the advent of globalisation and liberalisation, many parts of India including Haryana have experienced rapid growth of urbanization and industrialization has given rise to urbanism in Haryana. Haryana is number 3rd in ease of doing business and has also been ranked third at the national level for its remarkable performance in industries and MSMEs. Savitri Jindal who is Asia's richest woman belongs to Haryana. The glory of Haryana is also visible in the commonwealth games and the role of Haryana was exclusive, especially for women players.

But still, Haryana's economic development sits uneasily with the regressive social and gender attitudes of its all-powerful khap panchayats. The largely agrarian society is against the act of increasing the age of marriage and the Succession Act of 1956. The recent series of violent crimes against women and aggressive statements on lowering the marriage age align with this anti-women attitude.

Khaps are largely believed to be started by upper caste jats in the fourteenth century, to consolidate their power and position. Each clan has a hereditary headman called a Chaudhry. However, some of the jat clans have called this position secretary. The clan head man is also the head man of the khap council, which is an institution which claims sovereignty over a particular area, either in the name of the clan or the gotra which is dominant in that area or by the name of the geographical area. There are social-political groups, which usually comprise the upper caste and elderly men who are united by geography and caste. Hence, Khap is a term for a social-political grouping and is used in a cast and geographical sense. Khap was a system of social administration and organization in the republics of North-western states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in India since



ancient times. It is commonly believed that they came into existence sometime around 600 AD. It is believed to have been started by the upper caste 'Jats' to consolidate their power and position in the community.

No doubt, the role of Khap Panchayats has been remarkably appreciated by scholars. The 'Khap Panchayats' have been rising socioeconomic and political issues from time to time. The pressing problems which include prevention of drinking habits among the villagers, female foeticide problem, brahambhoj on death and dowry system in the villages are some of the vital issues raised by the Khap Panchayats. To put check on the dowry system, a vital role played by the 'Khap Panchayats' a conference was held in the year 1950 at the village Beri in the Jhajjar district, where the rules framed by the 'Khap Panchayats' were to be followed by everyone, irrespective any caste, creed and religion. Similarly, from time to time various khaps put check on the menace of drinking and gambling. The special role of Khaps has been seen during COVID-19 when the Khaps banned the entry of outsiders into villages.

Khaps are nonelected as well as has no legal existence. They are based on gotra/s and caste systems and work like a joint family system. Traditionally khaps were engaged primarily in dispute resolution and in regulating the behaviour of individuals or groups, especially in rural North India. But lately, these bodies are notorious for their diktats and regressive

practices that are targeting youth, especially girls who do not follow their outdated feudal and patriarchal ideology.

In India especially in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and UP among others a marriage in the same gotra, in the same village and neighbouring village (as it forms part of 'bhairchara') is a taboo. Anyone daring to break these taboos is simply inviting the 'Hookah pani band' (ex-communication). According to certain communities marriage within the same gotra and the three generations of the mother's gotra is completely prohibited. A khap panchayat imposes its writ through a combination of social boycotts, fines and, in some cases, either killing or forcing the victims to commit suicide. The northern state of Haryana has seen the most extreme cases of gendered 'honour' killings, though other states, such as Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, have also witnessed similar incidences. Haryana is second in the country in high per capita income but lowest in gender equality and sex ratio, the highest female foeticide, female infanticide and, more recently, khap authorised killings. According to khaps marrying within the same gotras gives rise to various serious ailments and children will be wiser if gotra prohibition is followed. As per survey, 77% of the respondents do not support same gotra marriages. The survey was carried out in Chandigarh, Rohtak, Jind, Bhiwani and Kurukshetra. Surprisingly, even in Chandigarh, 65% of the respondents have opposed same-gotra marriages.

Haryana's story of economic development has not translated into corresponding gains in the social sphere with its people continuing to be subjected to traditional institutions and their regressive practices. This paradox in the state is indicative of how development can sometimes be misleading, if it does not change unjust cultural thought and practices. Despite constitutional provisions and safeguards to protect the rights of women by ensuring equal-

ity of opportunity and building a gender-just society, the state has the dubious distinction of the growing incidence of rapes/gang rapes, eve-teasing, molestation, abduction, rampant foeticide, child marriages, honour killings, diktats by khaps, violence against girls in natal families on the choice of their marriage partners and property issues, etc. In the state of Haryana, the women's work participation rate is lowest at only 17%. Although the sex ratio has improved in Haryana the sex ratio at birth for children (0-5) is showing signs of skewed sex ratio and unfolding the desire and preference for a male child in Haryana. Even in distt. Where the literacy rate is high still the sex ratio is decreasing among (0-5) children according to NFSH-5. Similar differences also exist in women's time allocation to paid and unpaid work. Haryana is the most unequal among the Indian states with men aged between 15-59 spend just 15 minutes on unpaid housework every day while women of the same age do 269 minutes of unpaid housework. The role of Khaps cannot be neglected for the degradable conditions of women in Haryana. Khaps are undemocratic in structure and functioning and they have no elected principle. They override any notion of gender equality or gender empowerment.

The khap panchayat diktats are increasing especially against young couples either in the name of the same gotra or invoking some other code of conduct in the name of Bhai Chara. Because of the widespread prevalence of patriarchy and casteism, and the low social status of women in Haryana, rural society in the state is widely perceived as one of the most regressive in India. Several incidents in the past years have reinforced this image. The honour killings such as Nidhi-Dharmendra (2013), Ved Pal Mor (2009), ManojBabli (2007) etc are not only fuelled but also glorified by these unconstitutional institutions.

Associate Professor In Economics, Ambala

BOOKS: REVIEW

An unmatched portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose

A new book "Netaji" offers a rare in-depth account of Subhas Chandra Bose's political motivations, his personal relationships, and the daring military campaigns he undertook to secure India's independence.

Originally written in Bengali by the late scholar and Bose's family member Krishna Bose, the writings reveal the "human being alongside the revolutionary and freedom fighter", traversing Bose's life from childhood to his death in August 1945.

The writings were compiled, edited and translated by her son Sumantra Bose.

"I have long felt that a prime selection of my mother's best writing on Netaji, the INA and

the struggle for India's freedom should be available in English. . . My mother was so full of vitality till the end of her life, despite some physical infirmities due to advanced age, that I had expected her to live a few years longer, into her nineties," writes Sumantra in the book, author of recently published "Kashmir at the Crossroads: Inside a 21st-Century Conflict".

"But there can be no better time for the publication of this volume — which presents a unique, composite portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose — than the 75th anniversary of India's independence," Sumantra Bose added.

August 18, 2022 marks the 77th death anniversary of Ne-

'I have long felt that a prime selection of my mother's best writing on Netaji, the INA and the struggle for India's freedom should be available in English'

taji, who — notwithstanding the mystery surrounding his demise — is widely believed to have died in a plane crash in Taiwan.

Aiming to bring an end to the controversies and conspiracy theories surrounding the freedom fighter, the over 300-page book gives a detailed and evidence-based account of Netaji's death in one of its chapters.



Netaji Krishna Bose Rupa 72 pages; Rs 95

Featuring 95 images and letters from family albums and Netaji Research Bureau archives, this nuanced and revelatory portrait of Netaji contains intriguing accounts of his personal relationships as well as those with his key political contemporaries — from Nehru and Gandhi to Tojo and Hitler.

"It also contains a detailed account of the women who influenced Netaji (his mother, adoptive mother, wife, and close friends as well as the soldiers of the all-women Rani of Jhansi regiment), an eyewitness account

of Netaji's epic struggle in Europe and Asia, his secret submarine journey and escape from his Calcutta home . . . and the Andamans where Netaji raised the national tricolour," read publishing house Pan Macmillan's description of the book.

Krishna Bose, a former MP from West Bengal, was married to Sisir Kumar Bose — the son of Netaji's older brother and lifelong confidant Sarat Chandra Bose. After Sisir's death, she served as Netaji Research Bureau (NRB) chairperson for two decades until her death in 2020.

The book is currently available for sale across offline and online stores.

In January 1941, Netaji made a dramatic escape from his Calcutta residence where he had been kept under house arrest by the British. Prior to that, he had been a member of the Indian civil services, but resigned to fight for his country's independence.

India achieved 10 pc ethanol blending target ahead of schedule: PM

India, the world's third biggest oil importing and consuming nation, achieved the target to blend 10 per cent sugarcane-extracted ethanol in petrol ahead of schedule, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 76th Independence Day, he rooted for energy independence and a nation self-sufficient in meeting its energy needs.

"We need to be Aatmanirbhar (self-sufficient) in our energy sector," he said. For a nation, 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs and 50 per cent for gas requirement, the key is alternate energy sources - from

renewable power to hydrogen and switching to electric vehicles from current petrol and diesel-run automobiles.

"From solar energy to Mission Hydrogen to adoption to EVs, we need to take these initiatives to the next level for energy independence," he said.

In a bid to cut reliance on imported oil, the government is pushing for mixing of ethanol, made from sugarcane and other agri commodities, in petrol. Modi said India achieved the target of blending 10 per cent ethanol in petrol ahead of schedule. The target of supplying petrol mixed with 10 per cent ethanol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) was achieved in June, ahead



of the original schedule of November 2022. Encouraged by the success, the government advanced the target of making petrol with 20 per cent ethanol by five years to 2025.

Last week, the Prime Minister had stated that 10 per cent ethanol blending had resulted in saving of about

Rs 50,000 crore of foreign exchange, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and gave farmers an alternate source of income.

India is the world's fifth largest producer of ethanol after the US, Brazil, EU and China. Ethanol worldwide is largely used for consumption but nations like Brazil and India also dope it in petrol.

Supply of petrol with 20 per cent ethanol will result in a saving of an estimated USD 4 billion annually.

The increased blending will expand the use of renewable energy in the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, and help turn the nation's surplus rice and damaged food grains into ethanol.

PubMatic Expands With New Engineering Hubs in Pune & New Delhi to Support Global Business Growth

PubMatic, an independent technology company delivering digital advertising's supply chain of the future, today announced the opening of new offices in Pune and New Delhi to support the



company's global headcount and business growth. The expansion is part of a program of major investments in the company's platform and engineering teams as it gains market share.

PubMatic recently announced revenue in the second quarter of 2022 of US\$63.0 million, an increase of 27% over US\$49.7 million in the same period of 2021.

PubMatic's long history of profitability has allowed the company to continue to invest in technology infrastructure and people, despite a challenging macroeconomic environment.

Earlier this year, the company announced plans to double global engineering headcount by late 2023 and is well-positioned to meet this goal. The company increased India based headcount by 30% over the past year (June 2021 - June 2022) and engineering headcount by 37% over the same period. PubMatic is continuing to invest in growing its team, with more than 100 open roles across India.

CCPA penalises with penalty of ₹ 1 Lakh to Flipkart for selling sub-standard Pressure Cookers to consumers



FW DESK

The Central Consumer Protection Authority passed an order on violation of consumer rights by e-commerce platform 'Flipkart' for allowing sale of domestic pressure cookers in violation to mandatory standards.

Headed by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare, the CCPA has directed Flipkart to notify consumers of all 598 pressure cookers sold on its platform, recall the pressure cookers and reimburse their prices to the consumers and submit a compliance report of the same within 45 days. The company has also been directed to pay a penalty of Rs 1,00,000 for allowing sale of such pressure cookers on its e-commerce platform and violating rights of consumers.

Central Government, from time to time, notifies the Quality Control Orders (QCOs) specifying compulsory conformity to a standard and use of standard mark for a product to protect consumers from risk of suffering injury and harm and in the interest of public at large. The Domestic Pressure Cooker (Quality Control) Order, which came into force on 01.02.2021 mandates conformity to IS 2347:2017 for all domestic pressure cookers.

Metaverse & Web 3.0 are going to play a vital role in this year's festive season: Agam Chaudhary

FW DESK

The shopping season is set to kick off with the onset of the great big Indian festival season that commences with the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival. This puts the spotlight on the retail sector, where consumer engagement is of prime importance. Retailers can no longer afford to be quite laid-back about it as they are no longer just operating in a physical world, but also a digitalised one. However, the digitalised world, which includes websites, mobile apps, and social media, has now gone virtual with Metaverse and Web 3.0 and retailers are now exploring the technology to leverage their brand, consumer engagement, and sales, this festive season.

The immersive technology of Metaverse, which is a combination of augmented, virtual and mixed reality, is largely youth-driven. Agam Chaudhary, the founder of Two99, which delivers end-to-end marketing solutions to WEB 3.0 companies, says, "Be it digital or virtual, it's the new generation that is driving the trend, especially since they are the prime consumers in gaming on Metaverse. They are used to a certain level of 3D experience that Metaverse has to offer and would expect the same in all their other virtual



engagements. In fact, it's a highly personalised experience for the retailer, too, to take the product to the consumer wherever he/she is virtually."

Interestingly, the retail sector is no longer the only real-world metaverse use case. The immersive technology has already made inroads in other eight sectors, including healthcare, travels & tours, financial services, media & telecommunications, public sector, construction and real-estate, energy and industrial goods and transportation. "This is a far cry from the general belief that the metaverse will be a reality in another five years. It is already here," says Mr. Chaudhary, adding, "The operational problem of creating the metaverse still exists even though India appears to have the technical, demographic, and policy basis for it. The deal flow in the private sector must quicken if India is to assume a leading position."

LIC keen to re-enter mediclaim segment, awaiting regulatory clarity: Chairman

Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is keen to re-enter the mediclaim segment as and when the regulator provides clarity on the issue, its chairman has said.

"We are already doing a lot of long-term health protection and guaranteed health products. And we are evaluating the suggestion that the regulator Irdai made recently," LIC Chairman M R Kumar told PTI when asked about the same during its earnings call over the weekend.

The chairman further said, "I don't think it will be difficult for us as we already offer some of the health products."

Mediclaim policies, which are indemnity-based health plans, are the best-selling health insurance products in the country. However, in 2016, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had asked life insurers to withdraw indemnity-based health plans from the market. Life insurers since then have been allowed to offer only fixed benefit health plans.

Under indemnity-based health insurance plans, the insurer provides reimbursement for the money spent on medical treatment up to the sum insured. For fixed benefit health insurance plans, a fixed amount is paid out of the sum



insured for pre-determined illnesses or medical conditions.

Recently, the new Irdai Chairman Debasish Panda had said it was time life insurers re-entered the health vertical as he had given a mandate to the industry to ensure that every citizen has a health insurance policy by 2030.

However, Panda later clarified that the regulator was only evaluating the pros and cons of allowing life insurers to sell health insurance policies and that no decision has been taken yet.

Globally, in most markets, life insurers sell health policies.

Currently, there are 24.50 lakh life insurance agents in the country, while there are only 3.60 lakh agents in the general and health insurance category. If life insurers are allowed into the

health insurance sector, the number of agents will jump by 600 per cent, increasing health insurance penetration significantly in the country.

However, according to industry watchers, there are some difficulties in the proposal. For instance, the claims department in a life insurer is oriented towards payment of the claim on death or policy maturity but health insurance claims are logged by around 7 per cent of the insured during the year.

But others counter that life insurers already have the necessary infrastructure in terms of distribution and policy servicing to offer these plans. In fact, this is an opportunity to further elevate the experience from what it was before 2016 when these policies were being offered by life insurers.

5G mobile services to start soon: PM Modi

India will soon see the advent of 5G mobile services, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he rooted for 'Made-in-India' technology solutions to meet challenges of new India.

"India's techade is here! With 5G, semiconductor manufacturing & Optical Fibre Cable (OFCs) in villages, we are bringing a revolution through Digital India to the grassroots level," Modi said.

He said that the Digital India Movement with production of semiconductors,



5G networks and optical fibre network show strength in three segments -- education, health facilities and change in common man's lives.

Modi said that India's industrial growth will come from the grassroots. "Our Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), street vendors & those working in the organised sectors need to be strengthened," he said.

PM Modi vowed to fight against corruption with full vigour.

Electric two-wheelers can pave the way towards an energy-independent, self-reliant future for India

FW DESK

India is known to be one of the world's largest two-wheeler markets. Estimates from India Emissions Model of the International Council for Clean Transportation indicate that two-wheelers accounted for 70% of petrol, and 25% of oil consumption from road transport in 2021. India's dependence on fossil fuels will



more than double by the year 2050 if we continue to promote petrol-powered two-wheelers.

In the past few years, the healthy uptake of electric two-wheelers in India has been instrumental in accelerating the country's transition to e-mobility. According to a recent report by the NITI Aayog and the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), there is a possibility of 100% penetration of electric two-wheelers in the Indian market by FY26-27.

PM Modi condoles passing away of noted stock investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala



FW DESK

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the passing away of noted stock investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said; "Rakesh Jhunjhunwala was indomitable. Full of life, witty and insightful, he leaves behind an indelible contribution to the financial world. He was also very passionate about India's progress. His passing away is saddening. My condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

NTPC captures its first CO2 from Flue Gas Steam at NTPC Vindhyachal

FW DESK

As part of its commitment towards Net Zero by 2070, NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated power company has captured its first CO2 on 15th August 22 from flue gas stream of 500 MW coal based power plant (Unit-13) at Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station (VSTPS). This plant is designed to capture 20 tons of CO2 every day. This initiative shall pave the way for scaling up CO2 capture technology and 'Greening the Coal Power Generation'. At the same location, NTPC is also setting up 'Green Hydrogen' Generation Plant which will use 'Proton Exchange Membrane' Electrolyzers to produce 2 Tons per day of hydrogen. Subsequently, 20 tons per day of captured CO2 and 2 tons per day of hydrogen shall be utilized to produce 10 Tons per day of 'Green Methanol' through a heterogeneous catalytic process.

Lay's celebrates launch of extraordinary gourmet chips with majestic tvc campaign

FW DESK

India's favourite potato chip brand, unveiled a TVC film on its newest offering: premium, slow-cooked kettle chips - Lays Gourmet. The film highlights how LAY'S Gourmet, is not just a regular chip, but a truly crafted experience that needs to be savoured.

The film - directed by Vinil Mathew - opens with a young tourist admiring a heritage European Palace. As he opens a packet of Lay's Gourmet - Thai Sweet Chilli flavour, his snacking is abruptly stopped when two guards confiscate his packet of chips. They immediately es-



cort him in a regal chariot into a palace, and a modiste suits him up for what comes next - a formal entry into a Queen's dining room. The tourist is, awestruck as he is greeted by a Queen. At the royal dining table, the staff

opens a cloche dish which has the same packet of Lay's Gourmet. The film ends with her commenting, "This is not just chips, it's Lay's Gourmet", as they begin snacking on the chips in courtly splendor.

Matthews International Acquires OLBRICH GmbH and R+S Automotive GmbH, Extends Engineering Capabilities for Energy

Matthews International Corporation (NASDAQ GSM: MATW) announced that the Company has closed on the previously announced acquisitions of German based engineering firms, OLBRICH GmbH ("OLBRICH") and R+S Automotive GmbH ("R+S Automotive"), for EUR €43 million (approximately U.S. \$45 million).

Headquartered in Bocholt, Germany, OLBRICH is a production and intelligent equipment manufacturer, specializing in purpose-built rotary processing equipment, includ-



ing equipment used in the manufacturing of dry and wet electrodes for lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles and components for hydrogen fuel cells and electrolyzers, with additional strong positions in Specialty & Pharma, Packaging and

Home & Décor. R+S Automotive is a specialty engineering services provider of automation, plant and tooling concepts for automotive manufacturing companies around the world.

The Company plans to integrate OLBRICH and R+S Automotive with its Saueressig Engineering and Energy business, part of its Industrial Technologies segment focused on high-precision engineering for a broad range of industrial automation applications including high-tech custom energy solutions, surfaces, marking, and coding systems.

Airtel gets spectrum allocation letter, Sunil Mittal hails ease of doing business

Bharti Airtel received spectrum allocation letter within few hours of making upfront payment to the Department of Telecom, Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Mittal said on Thursday. This is the first time ever that the Department of Telecom (DoT) has handed out a spectrum allocation letter on the day of making upfront payment. «Airtel paid Rs 8,312.4 crore towards spectrum dues and was provided the allocation letter for the designated frequency bands within hours.



Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav

All is not well in the world of sweeteners

Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) took more than 3000 jaggeries (gur) samples from around 250 districts across the nation. The results of the investigation are surprising, as the jaggery of Punjab has been found to be the worst in the country. Talking about the quality of jaggery found in other markets of the country, 36% of the jaggery did not meet the standards.

Punjab is considered the largest agricultural producer of the country and this state ranks on top in the country in the field of agriculture. However, the reality is that the farmers of Punjab have ruined the fertility of agricultural land by excessive use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers to increase the yield. At the same time, the amount of carcinogenic and other disease-causing elements has increased in the grains and water of Punjab, due to which not only the people of Punjab are troubled by diseases like cancer, but such diseases are spreading in other parts of the country as well.

Recently, the Food Safety

jaggery quality was very poor, while packaged and branded jaggery was found to be more or less fine.

The use of sugar in canned or packaged food and drinks is increasing in India. Also, saccharin is being used in the name of added sugar, which is a worrying trend. Between 2007 and 2019, a study was conducted on the use of sugar and sweeteners in packaged food and soft drinks, the report of which shows that in countries like India and China, the use of sugar to sweeten drinks has increased by more than 50%. The study found that food manufacturers adopt a dual policy, by selling high sugar and saccharin-rich foods in India while keeping the sugar content low in products exported to rich countries like the US.

The side effects of sugar-free foods and drinks are also worrying. Research from Massachusetts General Hospital indicates that consuming foods or beverages that claim to be sugar-free can lead to heart diseases, and



reduced eyesight and they are not at all helpful in weight loss. The chemical process used to make sweeteners like saccharin has an adverse effect on the digestive system also. They destroy the bacteria present in the intestines, killing the appetite, due to which problems like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity arise.

Return of Gilli Danda While taking action against Chinese products two years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for developing Indian toys and infusing new energy into the indigenous toy industry. Now on the completion of 75 years of India's independence,

under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the central government has taken steps to introduce 75 indigenous sports in all schools. The popular indigenous games include Gilli-danda, Posampa, Kanche, Kabaddi, Langdi, Kite flying, Sita udhar, Vish Amrit and Mardani Khel, etc.

Till three decades ago, all these games were often played in villages, towns, and streets, but after the trend of the internet and social media, they all disappeared and in their place, sports like cricket, and volleyball started getting priority. Also, due to social media, children started playing online games while staying indoors, due to which outdoor games gradually vanished. The government has started making 75 Indian sports a part of school education under the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) program. These will be implemented through physical training instructors (PTIs).

It is often seen that there is a lack of facilities and sports infrastructure in rural schools, due to which village children

are unable to participate in many sports and lag behind in competitions. In view of this, the government, considering that indigenous sports do not require any infrastructure, decided to promote 75 purely Indian sports. The list of sports also includes Santal Katti, a game similar to the popular Gilli-danda in Orissa, and a Manipuri game played with coconut, which is similar to rugby. Gilli-Danda is a 5000-years-old Indian game, which is also mentioned in Mahabharata that Lord Krishna, Arjuna, and Bhima were playing Gilli-Danda at one stance.

Global eyes on India

Many countries of the world including the US and Europe are currently suffering from the recession. The situation worsened after the Covid pandemic. The profits of all the companies the world over went down, forcing the corporates to reduce the workforce under cost-cutting efforts. Things have improved a bit now, but the

slowdown continues in the West and elsewhere in the world. In such a situation, work and investment opportunities are decreasing in the US, Europe, and China, whereas it is never the case in India.

Ample investment opportunities galore in India. Here the effect of recession is not as it is in the US or European nations. In fact, more than half of India's population lives in villages and the rural economy is a significant strength of India. This is the reason why there are good investment opportunities in India for foreign companies.

People in US and European countries are caught in the trap of credit cards and EMIs. This is not the case with Indians, who are reluctant to take loans and avoid the clutches of credit cards and loans too. More than 85% of India's populace does not even invest in the stock market. In such a situation, if the stock market falls, then it does not make any significant difference to the Indian economy.

The author is a senior journalist and columnist. Views are personal. Twitter @NarvijayYadav

Union Govt approves Interest subvention of 1.5% per annum on Short term Agri Loan upto Rs.3 Lakh

FW DESK

Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved to restore Interest Subvention on short term agriculture loans to 1.5% for all financial institutions. Thus, Interest Subvention of 1.5% will be provided to lending institutions (Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, Small Finance Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperative Banks and Computerized PACS directly owned with commercial banks) for the financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25 for lending short term agri-loans upto Rs 3 lakh to the farmers.

This increase in Interest Subvention support requires additional budgetary provisions of Rs 34,856 crore for the period of 2022-23 to 2024-25 under the scheme. Increase in Interest Subvention will ensure sustainability of credit flow in



the agriculture sector as well as ensure financial health and viability of the lending institutions especially Regional Rural Banks & Cooperative Banks, ensuring adequate agriculture credit in rural economy.

Banks will be able to absorb increase in cost of funds and will be encouraged to grant loans to farmers for short term agriculture requirements and enable more farmers to get the benefit of agriculture credit. This will also

lead to generation of employment since short term agri-loans are provided for all activities including Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Poultry, fisheries. Farmers will continue to avail short term agriculture credit at interest rate of 4% per annum while repaying the loan in time.

Ensuring hassle-free credit availability at cheaper rate to farmers has been the top priority of Government of India. Accordingly, Kisan Credit Card scheme

was introduced for farmers, to empower them to purchase agriculture products and services on credit at any time. To ensure that the farmers have to pay a minimal interest rate to the bank, the Government of India introduced Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS), now renamed as Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), to provide short term credit to farmers at subsidized interest rates.

Under this scheme, short term agriculture loan upto Rs. 3.00 lakh is available to farmers engaged in Agriculture and other allied activities including Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Poultry, fisheries etc. at the rate of 7% p.a. An additional 3% subvention (Prompt Repayment Incentive - PRI) is also given to the farmers for prompt and timely repayment of loans. Therefore, if a farmer repays his loan on time, he gets credit at the rate of 4% p.a. For enabling

this facility to the farmers, Government of India provides Interest Subvention (IS) to the Financial Institutions offering this scheme. This support is 100% funded by the Centre, it is also the second largest scheme of DA&FW as per budget outlay and coverage of beneficiaries.

Recently, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign, over 3.13 Crore farmers have been issued new Kisan Credit Card (KCC) against the target of 2.5 Crore. Special initiatives such as the KCC Saturation Drive for farmers enrolled under PM-KISAN scheme have also simplified the process and documentation involved for getting the KCC sanctioned.

Keeping in view the changing economic scenario, especially increase in the interest rate and lending rates for the financial institutions especially Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks.

Airtel pays Rs 8,312.4 cr to DoT to clear 4-yr instalment in advance for 5G spectrum

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel has paid Rs 8,312.4 crore to the Department of Telecom towards dues for spectrum acquired in the recently concluded 5G auctions, the company said on Wednesday.

With the payment, Airtel has paid four years of 2022 spectrum dues upfront. Airtel said it believes that this upfront payment, coupled with the moratorium on spectrum dues and AGR (adjusted gross revenue)-related payments for four years, will free up future cash flows and allow Airtel to dedicate resources to single-mindedly concentrate on the 5G rollout.

Telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel made a successful bid of Rs 43,039.63 crore. "This upfront payment of 4 years allows us to drive 5G rollout in a concerted manner given our operating free cash flow. Airtel also has access to Rs 15,740.5 crore in capital



from the rights issue, which is yet to be called.

"With the ideal spectrum bank, best technology and adequate free cash flow, we are excited to bring to the country a world-class 5G experience," Bharti Airtel MD and CEO Gopal Vittal said in the statement.

The company had an option to pay Rs 3,848.88 crore upfront and the rest in 19 annual instalments.

The country's biggest ever auction of telecom spectrum received a record Rs 1.5 lakh crore worth of bids, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold with Rs 87,946.93 crore bid.

Over the last one year, Airtel said it has also cleared Rs 24,333.7 crore of its deferred spectrum liabilities much ahead of scheduled maturities.

727 bank accounts ceased in Rs 2.78 crore cyber frauds in 8 months

SATISH HANDA

Large number of MLAs from Haryana, Punjab, Delhi and other states in the country had received ransom demand threats on mobile phone and internet between June 24 and 28 this year. Among MLAs from Haryana received threats were Sanjay Singh BJP MLA at Sohna, Surinder Pawar Congress MLA at Sonapat, Renu Bala Congress MLA at Sadhaura, Subhash Gangoli Congress MLA at Safidon, Kuldeep Vats MLA at Badli and Maman Khan MLA at Ferozpur Jhirka and few more from other states were threatened to kill them and their family members on behalf of gangsters. Special Task Force (STF) led by Amit Kumar SP started investigation in the case and it was detected that a network operating from Pakistan having network in several middle east countries including Saudi Arab, Kuwait, Behrin, Oman where large number of Indians are employed.

According to STF information, cyber frauds for amount worth Rs 2.78 crore were detected through 867 bank transactions in past eight months through bank accounts of those Indians working in middle east countries and amount transferred through Hawala as such



727 bank accounts were ceased. STF SP told that as many as 10 persons in Pakistan are found involved in such illegal activities. Sometime back STF was successful in arresting six persons running network in the country identified as Amit Yadav, Siddiq Anwar, Badre Alam, Dulesh Alam, Quaiish Alam and Abulesh Alam resident of Betia in Bihar the mastermind in the gang all involved in threatening MLAs for ransom demand on behalf of gangster groups and transferring amount.

STF is trying to arrest few more persons actively involved in this network of cheats on the basis of 18 virtual mobile numbers being operated from Pakistan and other Asian countries and some of the names were identified as Md. Khan, Iqbal, Rakesh, Ali Nazar, Wasim Shabbir and Imran. During search STF recovered about a dozen cheque books, about two dozen bank pass books, large number of debit cards, large number of mobile phones and sim cards from six arrested accused.

BJP leader suggests Bollywood stars should charge reasonable fee

With many Hindi films underperforming at the box office, BJP national spokesperson Syed Zafar Islam suggested on Tuesday that Bollywood stars should reduce their fee to allow producers to focus on good cinema.

The film industry should realise that OTT platforms are a better and cost-effective option to people now, he tweeted.

He said, "Bollywood stars haven't understood the great

reality despite flops after flops. If stars start charging reasonable fee, producers can focus on good cinema of national interest. Remember OTT is a better and cost-effective option available to people."

Since normal life resumed after the Covid-enforced lockdown, the Hindi film industry has been going through a lean phase with many big budget movies featuring big stars unable to do good business.



Abductors take Rs 1.3 Cr ransom in bitcoins from UP bizman

LUCKNOW: In a first-of-its-kind crime reported in the state capital, three persons, who had held a real-estate businessman captive, used cryptocurrency to take a ransom of Rs 1.3 crore in bitcoins before releasing him.

The matter came to light a week after the police arrested the three persons Sandeep Pratap Singh, Vijay Pratap Singh and Rajveer Singh.

Police said that the arrested accused were aware that the victim traded in cryptocurrency.

Police have recovered Rs 30,000 in cash, a country-made pistol, three live cartridges, five mobile phones and a car from them. According to police, the three abducted Arjun Bhargava of Indraprasth Grand near Kalindi Park in Vrindavan Yojana, on the pretext of showing him a plot in Barabanki on August 7.

They held him hostage at a house where they thrashed him, trained a pistol on him, and got Rs 1.3 crore in bitcoins transferred to their account.



DCP (East Zone) Prachi Singh said the abductors, who pretended to be real estate dealers, met Bhargava and took him to Barabanki.

"On the way, they tied his hands and legs and took him to

a house in Barabanki where they tortured him for three hours, < > said Singh.

The officer said the victim's wife, Nidhi Bhargava, said in the FIR that abductors held him at gun point and forced him to disclose the password and then got all the bitcoins transferred to their account.

"They also forced my husband to transfer the money into their bank account and opened fire when he resisted it. Luckily, he was not hurt. They

then brought him back to Lucknow and dumped him on the roadside, < > she said.

DCP Singh said that police were tipped off by an informer about the miscreants who had abducted the businessman a week ago in a car bearing the plate of high court.

"We laid a trap and, on Tuesday, when they visited the Kalindi Park locality probably to collect more money from the businessman, we arrested them, < > the police official said.

Bollywood Actress Jacqueline Fernandez named as accused in ED's supplementary charge sheet

FW DESK

Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez was named as an accused in the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) supplementary charge sheet filed in the Rs 200 crore money laundering case involving conman Suresh Chandrashekar, claim sources.

ED is likely to file a second supplementary prosecution complaint against the actress before the Patiala House Court on Wednesday.

Jacqueline and Nora Fatehi, also a Bollywood actress, have already recorded their statement as witness in the case.

Earlier, fixed deposits worth



Rs 7.2 crore belonging to Jacqueline were attached by the ED. The probe agency termed these gifts and properties as proceeds of crime received by the actress. In February, the ED had filed its first supplementary prosecution complaint against Pinky Irani, an alleged aide to Chandrashekar who introduced him to the actresses.

It was alleged in the charge sheet that Pinky used to choose

costly gifts for Jacqueline and later used to drop it at her house after the payments were made by Chandrashekar.

In December last year, the ED had filed the first charge sheet in this matter before the court of Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh.

Chandrashekar has allegedly spent around 20 crore on different models and Bollywood celebs. A few had refused to take gifts from him.

According to an excerpt from the charge sheet, Jacqueline says she did receive expensive gifts from Suresh and that he had also purchased a horse "Espuela".

Markets halt rally tracking weak global markets

Equity benchmarks halted their rally on Thursday, with the Sensex falling over 214 points in early trade, tracking weak global market trends.

The 30-share BSE index declined 214.11 points to 60,046.02 in early deals. The broader NSE Nifty went lower by 61.85 points to 17,882.40.

From the Sensex pack, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Pharma, Wipro, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finserv and Nestle were among the biggest laggards. On the other hand, Power Grid, State Bank



of India, UltraTech Cement and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the gainers. In Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower in mid-session deals. Markets on the Wall Street had ended lower on Wednesday.

The BSE index jumped 417.92 points or 0.70 per

cent to settle at 60,260.13 on Wednesday. The Nifty went higher by 119 points or 0.67 per cent to 17,944.25. Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.10 per cent higher at USD 93.74 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the Indian capital market as they bought shares worth Rs 2,347.22 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. "The Fed minutes suggest continuation of the hawkish stance and this may slightly impact sentiments in the mother market, US.

Ujjivan Small Fin Bank raises interest rate on fixed deposits by up to 1.5 pc

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has raised interest rate on fixed deposits by up to 1.5%.

The new rates have come into effect from August 9, 2022. The bank said that on the occasion of the 75th year of India's Independence, it has increased the rate on fixed deposits by 30-150 basis points (or 0.3-1.50 per cent) across different tenures.

Introducing tenures of 75 weeks (525 days) and 75 months, Ujjivan SFB said both carry the highest rate of 7.5 per cent per annum.

For an individual, investing Rs 1 lakh for 75 weeks at 7.5 per cent can earn returns up to Rs 1,11,282 at maturity. Likewise, senior citizens for Rs 1 lakh for 75 weeks at 8.25 per cent can earn returns up to Rs 1,12,466 at maturity.



The 990 days tenure too carries the same interest rate, up from 7.20 per cent earlier. The additional rate for senior citizens is now revised to 0.75 per cent from 0.50 per cent, the bank said. The new rates are applicable on deposits below Rs 2 crore.

The lender said it will offer monthly, quarterly and at maturity interest pay-out options.

Ujjivan SFB said these new rates are also applicable on tax saver fixed deposits carrying a lock-in period of five years.

Rupee falls 20 paise to 79.84 against US dollar

The rupee depreciated by 20 paise to close at 79.84 against the US dollar on Friday amid a strengthening greenback overseas on August 19.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.75 and moved in a range of 79.73 to 79.84 during the day.

It finally ended at 79.84 against the American currency,



down 20 paise over its previous close of 79.64.

Forex traders said the US dollar index witnessed an upturn after comments from

US Federal Reserve officials over the quantum of rate hikes weighed on investor sentiments.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.18 per cent to 107.67.

Foreign fund outflows from Indian equities also dragged the local unit down.

Cabinet approves enhancement in the corpus of ECLGS for increasing the limit of admissible guarantees

FW DESK

Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the enhancement in the limit of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by Rs 50,000 crore from Rs. 4.5 Lakh crore to Rs. 5 Lakh crore, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for enterprises in hospitality and related sectors. The increase has been done on account of the severe disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic on hospitality and related enterprises.

ECLGS is a continuing scheme. The additional amount of Rs. 50,000 crore would be made applicable to enterprises in hospitality and related sectors till validity of the scheme which is 31.3.2023.

ECLGS is an already operational scheme and on account of the disruptions



caused by the COVID 19 pandemic on hospitality and related sectors, Government has specifically earmarked an amount of Rs. 50,000 crore for enterprises in these sectors. The enhancement is expected to provide much

needed relief to enterprises in these sectors by incentivizing lending institutions to provide additional credit of up to Rs. 50,000 crore at low cost, thereby enabling these business enterprises to meet their operational li-

abilities and continue their businesses.

Loans of about Rs. 3.67 Lakh crore have been sanctioned under ECLGS till 5.8.2022.

The ongoing pandemic has adversely impacted contact-

intensive sectors, especially the hospitality and related sectors more severely. While other sectors were back faster on the path of recovery, demand continued to be subdued for these sectors for longer period, suggesting the need for suitable interventions for their sustenance and recovery. Further, given their high employment intensity and their direct and indirect linkages with other sectors, their revival is also necessary for supporting overall economic recovery.

Recognising this, in Union Budget 2022-23, it was announced to extend validity of ECLGS upto March, 2023 and increase in the limit of guaranteed cover of ECLGS by Rs. 50,000 crore to total cover of Rs. 5 Lakh crore, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for the enterprises in hospitality and related sectors.

Reliance, Nayara face windfall profit tax on local supplies alongside exports

The just-introduced tax on windfall energy profits of oil refiners like Reliance Industries is not only levied on the diesel they export but also on the supplies they make to fuel retailers within India, sources said.

The government on July 1 levied Rs 13 per litre additional excise duty on diesel exported out of India. A Rs 6 a litre tax was also imposed on petrol and ATF exported out of India. Alongside, it imposed export restrictions, subject to meeting domestic sales of 50 per cent for petrol and 30 per cent for diesel exports.

In subsequent fortnightly reviews, the government scrapped the export tax on petrol and jet fuel (ATF) and more than halved the export tax on diesel to Rs 5 per litre.

The windfall tax was targeted mainly at Reliance Industries Ltd and Russian oil major Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, who the government believed were making a killing on export-



ing large volumes of fuel made from discounted Russian oil, at the cost of the domestic market, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Post July 1, refiners exporting petrol and diesel would have had lower realisations and for continued exports, they had to shore up domestic supplies either through supplies to state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs), bulk sales or retail.

But the state-owned fuel retailers like Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), who have a

sizeable dependence on supplies from standalone refineries to feed their vast retail network, started paying for petrol and diesel bought from Reliance and others after deducting the newly imposed additional excise duty.

Sources said for sales to OMCs, refiners realize international prices as refinery transfer prices are 80 per cent of import parity and 20 per cent of export parity (the average of 80 per cent of the price at which petrol or diesel be imported and 20 per cent of the rate at which these fuels can be exported).

INTERNATIONAL

US Congress members meet Taiwan leader amid China anger

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen met Monday with a delegation of US Congress members in a further sign of support among American lawmakers for the self-governing island that China claims as its own territory.

Taiwanese media showed the delegation arriving for the talks, but details of the meeting were not immediately released.

It comes less than two weeks after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, which prompted days of threatening military exercises by China, including the firing of missiles over the island and into the Taiwan Strait. China has also sent warplanes and navy ships



across the waterway's median, which has long been a buffer between the sides that separated amid civil war in 1949. China regards formal contacts between

US politicians and the island's government as support for its independence from Beijing.

China says it wants to use peaceful means to bring Taiwan

under its control, but its recent saber rattling has emphasized its military threat. The five-member delegation is led by Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts and is to meet with other government and private sector representatives. Reducing tensions in the Taiwan Strait and investments in Taiwan's crucial semiconductor industry are expected to be key topics of discussion. The other members of the delegation are Republican Rep. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, a delegate from American Samoa, and Democrats John Garamendi and Alan Lowenthal from California and Don Beyer from Virginia.

16 killed, 36 missing in flash flooding in China



At least 16 people were killed and 36 others remained missing after a flash flood hit a county in China's northwest Qinghai province, local authorities said on Thursday.

The flash flood hit Datong

Hui and Tu Autonomous County on Wednesday night, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted the local emergency management department as saying. A total of 6,245 people from 1,517 households in six

villages were affected by the flash flood. The mountain flood was triggered by a sudden heavy rainfall in Datong county. Local authorities initiated a level-two emergency response on Thursday morning, state-run Global Times reported. Level-II is the second-most severe response in a four-tier disaster control emergency response system in China.

More than 2,000 people with over 160 vehicles from the armed police, public security, emergency and health departments have been sent to the scene for rescue work.

Former Australia PM says secret powers were needed in crisis



Scott Morrison said Wednesday that giving himself extra powers when he was Australia's prime minister was necessary during the coronavirus crisis as criticism rose the moves were deceptive and undemocratic.

Current Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is seeking an opinion from the solicitor-general on the legality of some of Morrison's moves.

Many of Morrison's own colleagues were blindsided by his decision to secretly appoint himself to five ministerial roles, which have only been revealed in recent days. Some have called for him to resign from Parliament, where he is now an opposition lawmaker after losing the general election to Albanese earlier this year.

Chinese factories close as drought hurts hydropower



Factories in China's southwest have shut down after reservoirs used to generate hydropower ran low in a worsening drought, adding to economic strains at a time when President Xi Jinping is trying to extend his position in power.

Companies in Sichuan province including makers of solar panels, cement and urea closed or reduced production after they were ordered to ration power for up to five days, according to news reports Wednesday. That came after reservoir levels fell and power demand for air conditioning surged in scorching temperatures.

Leave power for the people, said an order from the provincial government dated Tuesday.

ISI of Pakistan luring Sikhs to speak in favour of Pakistan

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is luring Sikh people with money to speak in favour of the country, sources said.

ISI is also planning to lure Indian Sikh leaders by providing them a hefty amount to speak in favour of Pakistan.



The agency has till now taken only few leaders into confidence, which mainly include members of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee.

Lured by money, these Sikh leaders have started making statements in favour of Pakistan.

Here are some people and what they said in favour of Pakistan --

Simpal Singh (Member of National Commission for Minorities):

"We being a minority in Pakistan consider ourselves lucky that we are living in a country where people belonging to minority communities get more hospitality and are safer than any other country in the world."

Founder of Pakistan Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his historic speech on

August 11, 1947 had assured the minorities in the country by saying that "You are free to go to your religious places and also free to go to the mosques".

The minorities in Pakistan are enjoying their religious freedom and every government tries to ensure our rights according to the Constitution.

The Kartarpur Corridor is a splendid example of the respect minorities get in this country. Being a minority, we have special rights on many aspects and enjoy special respect in the society.

Minorities are given importance in Pakistan and I am the biggest example of this."

Gopal Singh (Member of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee):

Pakistani doctor pleads guilty to terror charge in Minnesota

A Pakistani doctor and former Mayo Clinic research coordinator pleaded guilty Tuesday to a terrorism charge, more than two years after he was arrested for telling paid FBI informants that he pledged his allegiance to the Islamic State group and that he wanted to carry out lone wolf attacks in the US.

According to online court



records, Muhammad Masood pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to provide material

support to a foreign terrorist organization. A sentencing date has not been set. Prosecutors say Masood was in the US on a work visa. They alleged that starting in January of 2020, Masood made several statements to paid informants whom he believed were members of the Islamic State group pledging his allegiance to the group and its leader. Prosecutors said Masood expressed his desire to travel to Syria to fight for ISIS and a desire to carry out lone wolf attacks in the US.

The Mayo Clinic has previously confirmed that Masood was a former employee at the medical center in Rochester, Minnesota, but was not employed by the clinic at the time of his arrest.

Soaring food & energy costs drive UK inflation to 10.1%

Britain's inflation rate rose to a new 40-year high of 10.1% in July, as rising food prices tightened a cost-of-living squeeze fuelled by soaring energy prices.

The Office for National Statistics said on Wednesday that consumer prices inflation hit double digits, a jump from 9.4 per cent in June and higher than analysts' central forecast of 9.8%. The increase was largely due to rising prices for food and staples including toilet paper and toothbrushes, it said. Most economists believe worse is to come. The Bank of England says soaring natural gas prices are likely to drive consumer price inflation to 13.3% in October. It says that will push Britain into a recession that is expected to last through 2023.

Union Cabinet of India approves the contract with France to support ITF activities on Transport Sector



Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi was apprised of the signing of Contract between the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, France on behalf of the International Transport Forum and the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), India to sup-

port the International Transport Forum (ITF) activities on the Indian Transport Sector.

The Contract was signed on 6th July, 2022. The activities to be carried out under this Contract will lead to new scientific results, New policy insights, Capacity building through increase scientific interaction and Identification of technology options for decarbonization of transport sector in India.

S Korea offers North economic benefits for denuclearisation

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday offered audacious economic assistance to North Korea if it abandons its nuclear weapons programme while avoiding harsh criticism of the North days after it threatened deadly retaliation over the COVID-19 outbreak it blames on the South.

In a speech celebrating the end of Japan's colonisation of the Korean Peninsula, Yoon also called for better ties with Japan, calling the two countries partners in navigating challenges to freedom and saying their shared values will help them overcome historical grievances linked to Japan's brutal colonial rule before the end of World War II.

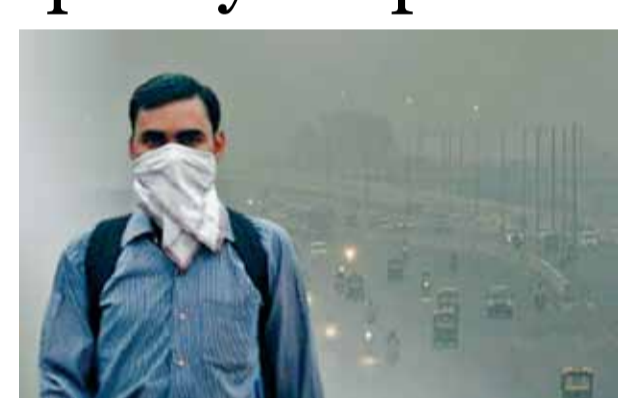
Yoon's televised speech on the liberation holiday came days after North Korea claimed a widely disputed victory over COVID-19 but also blamed Seoul for the outbreak.

World's biggest cities face worst air quality: Report

The world's biggest cities and urban areas face some of the worst air quality on the planet, a new report published by the US-based research organization Health Effects Institute (HEI) said on Wednesday.

The report, Air Quality and Health in Cities, released by HEI's State of Global Air Initiative, provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis of air pollution and global health effects for more than 7,000 cities around the world, focusing on two of the most harmful pollutants; fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2).

In 2019, 1.7 million deaths linked to PM2.5 exposure occurred in the 7,239 cities included in the analysis, with cities in Asia, Africa, and Eastern and Central Europe seeing the greatest health impacts.



By the year 2050, as much as 68 per cent of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas. This rapid urbanization places the world's top cities at the forefront in the battle to reduce the health effects of air pollution, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

The report, using data from 2010 to 2019, found that

global patterns for exposures to the two-key air pollutants are strikingly different. While exposures to fine particulate, or PM2.5 pollution tend to be higher in cities located in low- and middle-income countries, exposure to nitrogen dioxide, or NO2, is high across cities in high-income as well as low- and middle-income countries.

Telephone Conversation between Prime Minister Modi & H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of France

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation today with H. E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic. Prime Minister conveyed his solidarity to President Macron for the ongoing drought and wildfires in France. The leaders reviewed ongoing bilateral initiatives including defence cooperation projects and cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

They also discussed important geopolitical challenges including those related to global food security. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the depth and strength that the India-France Strategic Partnership has acquired in recent years and agreed to continue working closely together to expand the relationship to new areas of cooperation.

Biden says US & India are indispensable partners, invokes Mahatma Gandhi in Independence Day message

United States and India are indispensable partners, President Joe Biden has said and recalled Mahatma Gandhi's "enduring message of truth and non-violence" to honour 75 years of India's democratic journey.

This year, the US and India also celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, Biden said, underlining that the two democracies will continue to stand together to defend the rules-based order, advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and address the challenges that the world is facing. "As people around the world, including nearly four million (40 lakh) proud Indian-Americans, celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence on August 15, the United



States joins the people of India to honour its democratic journey, guided by Mahatma Gandhi's enduring message of truth and non-violence," Biden said in a statement. "This year, we also celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our great democracies. India and the United States are indispensable partners, and the US-India

Strategic Partnership is grounded in our shared commitment to the rule of law and the promotion of human freedom and dignity," he said.

He said the partnership between the two nations is further strengthened by the deep bonds between their people. "The vibrant Indian-American community in the United States has made us a more innovative, inclusive, and stronger nation," Biden said. "I am confident that in the years ahead our two democracies will continue to stand together to defend the rules-based order; foster greater peace, prosperity and security for our people; advance a free and open Indo-Pacific; and together address the challenges we face around the world," Biden said.

Rushdie stood up for universal rights of freedom of expression, freedom of religion: Blinken

Asserting that Salman Rushdie has consistently stood up for the universal rights of freedom of expression, freedom of religion and freedom of the press, US Secretary of State Tony Blinken on Sunday said Iranian state institutions have incited violence against the Indian-origin author for generations and state-affiliated media recently gloated about an attempt on his life.

Rushdie (75) was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident at a literary event in New York on Friday in what US authorities described as a "targeted, preplanned" attack. He is "pulling through" and has



his "feisty and defiant" sense of humour intact despite battling severe, life-changing injuries, his son and former wife Padma Lakshmi said on Sunday.

"We join those across the country and around the world who are keeping Salman Rushdie in our thoughts in the aftermath of this heinous attack," Blinken said in a statement.

Biden signs massive climate and health care legislation

President Joe Biden signed Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill into law on Tuesday, delivering what he has called the final piece of his pared-down domestic agenda, as he aims to boost his party's standing with voters less than three months before the midterm elections.

The legislation includes the most substantial federal investment in history to fight climate change some USD 375 billion over the decade and would cap prescription drug costs at USD 2,000 out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients. It also would help an estimated 13 million Americans pay for health care insurance by extending subsidies provided during the coronavirus pandemic.

The measure is paid for by new taxes on large companies and stepped-up IRS enforcement of wealthy individuals and entities, with additional funds going to reduce the federal deficit.

In a triumphant signing event at the White House, Biden pointed to the law as proof that



democracy no matter how long or messy the process can still deliver for voters in America as he road-tested a line he will likely repeat later this fall ahead of the midterms: The American people won, and the special interests lost.

In this historic moment, Democrats sided with the American people, and every single Republican in the Congress sided with the special interests in this vote, Biden said, repeatedly seizing on the contrast between his party and the GOP. Every single one.

The House on Friday approved the measure on a party-line 220-207 vote. It passed the Senate days earlier with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking a 50-50 tie in that chamber.

In normal times, getting these bills done would be a huge achievement, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said during the White House ceremony. But to do it now, with only 50 Democratic votes in the Senate, over an intransigent Republican minority, is nothing short of amazing.

Zelensky to host Lviv talks with UN chief, Turkish leader

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is due to host the UN chief and Turkey's leader Thursday for talks on the recent deal to resume Ukraine's grain exports, the volatile situation at a Russian-occupied nuclear power plant and efforts to help end the nearly six-month-old war.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrived Wednesday in Lviv, near Ukraine's border with Poland, where he will meet Zelensky and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said that among other issues, Guterres will discuss "his overall efforts to do what he can to essentially lower the temperature as much as possible with the various authorities."

Last month, Turkey and the UN helped broker an agreement clearing the way for Ukraine to export 22 million tons of corn and other grain stuck in



its Black Sea ports since Russia invaded February 24.

A separate memorandum between Russia and the UN aimed to clear roadblocks to shipments of Russian food and fertilizer to world markets. The war and the blocked exports significantly exacerbated the global food crisis because Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers.

Grain prices peaked after Russia's invasion, and while some have since returned to

prewar levels, they remain significantly higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Developing countries have been hit particularly hard by supply shortages and high prices. Even though ships are now leaving Russia and Ukraine, the food crisis hasn't ended.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters this week that Guterres' trip to Ukraine will allow him to see first-hand the results of an initiative that is

so critically important to hundreds of millions of people.

Dujarric added that he expects the need for a political solution to the war to be raised in Thursday's talks. He said the three leaders will also discuss the situation at the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, Europe's largest, which Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of shelling.

In his nightly video address Wednesday, Zelensky reaffirmed his demand for the Russian military to leave the plant, emphasizing that only absolute transparency and control of the situation at and around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant for the Ukrainian state, for the international community, and for the IAEA can guarantee a gradual return to normal nuclear safety. The International Atomic Energy Agency is a UN agency. Russia has rejected the

demand. Erdogan's office has confirmed that he would discuss the grain deal during the talks as well as ways to end the war through diplomatic means.

Earlier this month, the Turkish leader met on the same issues with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In March, Turkey hosted a round of talks between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators, who discussed a possible deal to end the hostilities. The talks fell apart after the meeting in Istanbul, with both sides blaming each other.

Erdogan has engaged in a delicate balancing act, maintaining good relations with both Russia and Ukraine. Turkey has provided Ukraine with drones, which played a significant role in deterring a Russian advance early in the conflict, but it has refrained from joining Western sanctions against Russia over the war.



Looking forward to more work on OTT, but will never shut my doors to TV: DRASHTI DHAMI

Hotstar series "The Empire" in 2020. Coming from television, the 37-year-old actor said she had to undergo transformation as a performer to get used to the longer format of storytelling on the web.

"I will always be in love with TV. I am what I am because of TV. Having said that, I'm enjoying this zone because this is very different from what I have done in the past. This is more real to some level, more raw. In TV, we don't get to prepare for a role, here we do that a lot."

"There was a lot of undoing for me when I got on to OTT. I'm glad OTT has also welcomed me so nicely. I'm

proud of where I have reached on my own today. I can never shut my doors to TV but right now I'm just going with the flow. I'm looking forward to more work on OTT," Dhami told PTI in an interview.

She will next be seen in the ZEE5 series "Duranga", the official adaptation of the hit K-drama "Flower of Evil".

In the upcoming show, the actor plays the role of Ira, a super cop who gradually discovers that her husband Sammit (Gulshan Devaiah) might not be as picture perfect as she believes him to be.

The series is directed by Pradeep Sarkar and Aijaz

Khan. It is showrun by Goldie Behl, who has co-produced the project via his Rose Audio Visuals along with Shraddha Singh. Boarding "Duranga" was a no-brainer for her, said Dhami. "When I got to know that Pradeep Sarkar, Aijaz Khan and Gulshan Devaiah were also a part of it, I thought I had to do the show. This is the first time we are having an adaptation of a Korean show and a show that has done very well," she added. The Mumbai-born actor said she had to work hard to prepare for the character, whom she described as a woman who is strong both physically and mentally.

Sunny Singh, Saiee Manjrekar in B Praak's music video 'DUNIYA'

Playback singer B Praak, who is known for crooning "Teri Mitti" from the Akshay Kumar-

starrer "Kesar" is back with yet another track. The new track by the singer is titled "Duniya" and features actor Sunny Singh of "Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety" fame and Saiee Manjrekar - the daughter of veteran actor-director Mahesh Manjrekar, who was most recently seen in the tri-lingual film "Major".

Commenting on the occasion of the song release, Sunny Singh said: "This happens to be my most cherished music video. Working alongside such great actors and with such a great time has totally been a wonderful experience. I feel great about the song and team behind it."

The song is a tale of intense love, deceit and fatal betrayal.

Based on the prominent play "The Macbeth", it has been narrated and sung by B Praak with Jaani penning the lyrics of the track.

The song represents unconditional love and unbearable pain and a modern love story.



POTPOURRI

ANGELINA JOLIE hires sons Maddox and Pax to work on her new film



Hollywood star Angelina Jolie has hired her sons 18-year-old Maddox and 21-year-old Pax for her new film "Without Blood".

Maddox and Pax Jolie-Pitt have both taken on roles in the assistant director department, reports mirror.co.uk. Based on a 2002 novel by Alessandro Baricco, the new movie is currently being filmed in Italy with actors Salma Hayek and Demian Bichir.

The two boys are thought to be working closely with mum Angelina who is directing the drama movie. According to IMDB the plot is being kept "under wraps", but a statement recently revealed that the film was "an unforgettable fable".

It is set in the aftermath of an "unidentified conflict" and "explores universal truths about war, trauma, memory, and healing". Her sons are said to be getting on fine in their new jobs.

"We work well together," Angelina told People.

"When a film crew is at its best, it feels like a big family, so it feels natural." Pax previously worked with his mum on the drama "First They Killed My Father" in 2017. He was in the photography department taking snaps of scenes. Maddox also worked on the movie, as well as "By The Sea" in 2015. The boys' new jobs come amid an ongoing feud between their famous parents. The former Hollywood couple share Maddox, 20, Pax, 18, Zahara, 17, Shiloh, 16, and twins Vivienne and Knox, 14. Shiloh and twins Knox and Vivienne are the couple's biological children and Maddox, Pax and Zahara were adopted.

'Dobaaraa': A thriller that will linger in your head for a long time



Anurag Kashyap has returned 'dobaara' with 'Dobaaraa', two years after his last streaming movie 'Choked' on Netflix. The film not just marks his reunion with his 'Manmarziyaan' actress Taapsee Pannu, but also marks his return to the genre of thrillers, his last outing being the Vicky Kaushal and Nawazud-

din Siddiqui-starrer 'Raman Raghav 2.0'.

The film is an official remake of the Spanish mystery-drama film 'Mirage'.

Kashyap, who is known for his offbeat stories, doesn't miss a beat in the film as he sketches up a fine thriller that will keep you hooked till the last frame

and will linger in your thoughts long after you have stepped out of the cinema.

The treatment rendered to the film is such that you have to be heavily invested as a viewer, for the devil lies in the details. The film tells the story of a nurse, Antara Vashisht (played by Taapsee Pannu), who saves a child named Anay from impending death by accessing and altering the events in the past through a television.

This is also where it gets interesting. The changes in past occurrences have their repercussions on Antara's present and future, as both get altered, a phenomenon known as the 'Consistency Paradox' in Physics, which is conveniently ignored in the majority of films that deal with time travel.

Filmmaker Subhash Ghai launches his latest patriotic track 'Tiranga'

Filmmaker Subhash Ghai has released a patriotic song, titled 'Tiranga' which is composed and written by him. He shared that it was an enriching experience to compose and to pen a song for the motherland.

The song is not only a tribute to freedom fighters but it also remembers legendary personalities of the film industry like Raj Kapoor, B.R. Chopra and many



more. On the contemporary beats, the track tries to capture the essence of brotherhood and unity of the nation.

He says: "The glory of our

magnificent motherland is indescribable. This year we complete 75 years of Independence. 'Tiranga' is an ode to my India, a country known for its incomparable cultural diversity and illustrious history. Kids, faculty at Whistling Woods were very pumped up when I first read out a couplet from the song."

The veteran director further

talks about the hard work and contribution by the students of his institute Whistling Woods International.

"It is an enriching experience to compose and to write a song for your motherland. They encouraged me to compose it. We, thus, decided on celebrating the country's 75th year of Independence in a spectacular, musical way."

Nikhat Zareen gifts PM Modi boxing gloves, Hima gives traditional gamocha

Indian athletes expressed their elation at being honoured by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their superlative showing at Birmingham Commonwealth Games with Nikhat Zareen gifting him her boxing gloves and sprinter Hima Das giving the traditional Assamese gamocha.



Modi, on Saturday, hosted the Indian contingent at his residence to felicitate the players.

The Indian athletes produced a sensational show in Birmingham, claiming 61 medals, including 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze.

"Honoured to gift the boxing gloves signed by all the pugilists to our honourable Prime Minister @narendramodi sir. Thank you for this amazing opportunity. A great day spent with my fellow athletes who have made the country proud," Nikhat tweeted.

The star boxer, world championship gold medallist, won the yellow metal in her weight category at the Games.

Hima wrote on her Twitter handle, "Elated to receive blessings from our honourable Prime Minister - Shri @narendramodi Ji, by virtue of Commonwealth Games 2022. Fortunate to have



presented him with our traditional gamocha, wrapped with immense gratitude from all of Assam."

Champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won the gold medal without breaking a sweat, a year after her historic silver at the Tokyo Olympics, thanked the PM for his words of encouragement.

"Honoured to meet & interact with our Honourable Prime Minister @narendramodi Sir. Thank you so much sir for all your support & encouragement. Jai Hind," Chanu said.

The golden period of Indian sports is knocking on the door, said the prime minister as he hailed the fine show of the Indian contingent.



Members of the Sikh community and people from other religions take part in a special prayer (Ardas) to remember the victims of 1947 partition to pay tributes at the Akal Takht, Sikhs highest temporal seat, inside the Harmandir Sahib complex in Amritsar on Tuesday. Nearly 10 lakh Punjabi men, women and children were killed during the Partition of Punjab between India and Pakistan in 1947. PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL



An Indian farmer inspects his paddy field on the outskirts of Amritsar on Thursday. The Indian state of Punjab is a major contributor to the India's food grain pool with wheat and rice forming a major chunk of the contribution. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

Actor Suraj Pancholi used to abuse Jiah Khan, her mother tells Mumbai court

Bollywood actor Suraj Pancholi used to subject actress Jiah Khan, who allegedly committed suicide here in 2013, to physical and verbal abuse, her mother told a special court here on Wednesday.

Pancholi, who was in a relationship with the 25-year-old actress, has been booked for abetment of suicide in the case probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He is currently out on bail.



On Wednesday, Jiah Khan's mother Rabia Khan began recording her testimony in the case before special judge A S Sayyad. Rabia Khan told the court about the actress's entry into Bollywood, her career progression

and relationship with Pancholi. Pancholi had approached Jiah Khan through a social media site and insisted on meeting her, she said. Jiah Khan was initially apprehensive and reluctant, but the duo met for the first time in September 2012, Rabia Khan said. At that time she sent some pictures. To me it looked like they clicked and had mutual interest. However, in September she (Jiah Khan) told me they were just friends, she said.

Bipasha Basu, Karan Singh Grover expecting first child



Bollywood couple Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover on Tuesday said they are soon set to welcome their first child.

Basu, 43, and Grover, 40, made the announcement on their official social media pages amid reports of pregnancy.

"A new time, a new phase, a new light adds another unique shade to our prism of life. Making us a little more whole than we used to be.

"We began this life individually and then we met each other and from then we were two. Too much love for only two, seemed a little unfair for us to see...so soon, we who once were two will now

become three," they said in a joint statement along with the pictures of Basu showing off her baby bump.

The couple, who first worked together on the 2015 film "Alone", tied the knot in 2016. They have also co-starred in the 2020 web series "Dangerous". Basu and Grover said the baby will arrive soon. "Thank you all, for your unconditional love, your prayers and good wishes as they are and will always be a part of us. Thank you for being a part of our lives and manifesting with us another beautiful life, our baby," they further said.

War drama 'PIPPA' to release on Dec 2

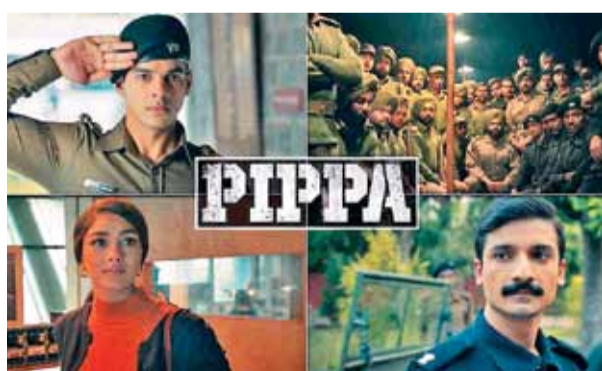
Bollywood Actor Ishaan-starrer war drama "Pippa" will make its debut in theatres a week early on December 2, the makers announced on Monday.

Backed by producers Ronnie Screwvala and Siddharth Roy Kapur, the film is directed by Raja Krishna Menon, best known for Akshay Kumar-led "Airlift". "Pippa" is billed as a heroic tank battle film, that underscores the bravery of Brigadier Balam Singh Mehta (Ishaan), a veteran of the 45th Cavalry tank squadron, who, along with his siblings, fought on the eastern front during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

On the occasion of India's 76th Independence Day, the makers unveiled the film's teaser and also announced its new release date. The movie was earlier scheduled for release on December 9.

Screwvala said they are looking forward to presenting the film to audiences worldwide.

"Pippa", set in 1971 against the backdrop of one of the largest refugee migrations in modern history that then led to the liberation and formation of a country, is a story that must be told and we can't wait



to unravel the scale of this epic movie to audiences world-wide on December 2," the producer said in a statement.

"Pippa" is based on "The Burning Chaffees", written by Brigadier Balam Singh Mehta. The movie takes its title from the Russian amphibious war tank called the PT-76, popularly known as "Pippa".

Maestro AR Rahman has composed the music. Roy Kapur said they are honoured to bring out the inspiring story of "Pippa".

"We are honoured to bring audiences this inspiring story of the birth of Bangladesh, through the incredible journey of an Indian family on the

frontlines. Under Raja's able direction, with a soundscape created by AR Rahman, and with an incredible cast and crew, 'Pippa' will come to cinemas around the world on 2nd December," he said.

Krishna Menon said on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day celebration, the team has shared a glimpse into the world of "Pippa".

"It's a small glimpse into the film we have been working on and carefully nurturing. We eagerly wait to meet all of you in cinemas on the 2nd of December," the director added.

"Pippa" also features actors Mrunal Thakur, Priyanshu Painyuli and Soni Razdan.

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

Read & Lead

A weekly Newspaper from Chandigarh & Delhi

For more stories & E-paper log on
www.thefinancialworld.com

SUBSCRIBE: YOUTUBE CHANNEL
FW News

FOLLOW US

@thefinancialworld
 @FWMedia_Tweets
 fw.thefinancialworld