

REGION

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CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH'S JOINING BJP IS WRONG DECISION, SAYS DEEPENDER HOODA



Mann: Punjab ready for crop diversification but provide assured remunerative prices to farmers

FW DESK
Ludhiana

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said that the state is fully ready to adopt crop diversification but the Government of India must provide assured mechanism to give remunerative prices for these crops.

"The centre must take this step for ensuring that farmers of the state shift from water guzzling crops to less water consuming crops", said the Chief Minister while addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Kisan Mela here at Punjab Agriculture University and Pashu Palan Mela at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.

The Chief Minister said that instead of paddy, the farmer of the state is ready to sow sunflower, maize and pulses but for that they must get adequate



and assured price. He said that this will help in checking the depleting water table in the state on one hand and making agriculture a profitable venture on the other. Bhagwant Mann said that this is the need of hour to avert water crisis in the state.

Punjab Chief Minister said

that the farmers of the state are really worried about the depleting water table and pollution of environment due to paddy straw burning. However, he said that they are not able to come out of rut of wheat/ paddy cycle as they don't want to loose assured price mechanism asso-

ciated with it. Bhagwant Mann said that Punjab is blessed with fertile land where anything can germinate but efforts must be made to save this fertile land and it's water. However, the Chief Minister said that the crisis of water can never be ignored as we are pumping out water at the same depth in which Gulf countries are taking oil, which is alarming for us. He said that rice is not our staple food but for producing one kilogram of rice we are using 4000 litres of water due to which we have to adopt alternative crops. Bhagwant Mann said that the state government is already making sincere efforts in this regard.

Recalling the immense contribution of Punjab in making country self reliant in food grain production, the Chief Minister said that the hard working and resilient farmers of the state had provided food security to

country in testing times. However, he said that for this they had to over exploit their only available natural resources in terms of fertile land and water. Bhagwant Mann bemoaned that now when few more states are producing rice paddy so attempts are being made to deprive farmers of Punjab from MSP, which is completely unfair.

The Chief Minister said that Union government imports pulses worth Rs 120 billion dollar annually from other countries whereas it is not ready to provide Minimum Support price to farmers of the state who are ready to cultivate it. He said that in coming days an important decision will be taken to get rid of the menace of paddy straw burning. Bhagwant Mann said that it was duty of Union government to find solution for it as farmers produce rice for the country.

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

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HP TO CREATE 2000 DIGITAL CLASSROOMS ACROSS GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN INDIA



POTPOURRI

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DON'T FORGET TO WATCH THE TWO BLOCKBUSTER MOVIES "JINNE JAMME SAARE NIKAMME" AND "NIKKA ZAILDAR-3" ON YOUR TV SCREENS



Punjab DGP constitutes SIT over 'leaked objectionable videos' of students

Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav on Monday constituted a three-member all-women Special Investigating Team (SIT), under the supervision of Additional DGP Gurpreet Deo, to investigate allegations by Chandigarh University hostellers over their alleged 'leaked objectionable videos'.

The DGP said one student and two others were arrested. He thanked his counterparts in Himachal Police for excellent cooperation. "Electronic devices seized and sent for forensic examination. The SIT will go to the bottom of the conspiracy. No person to be spared, if found involved," said Yadav in a video message.

He appealed to everyone to maintain peace and harmony. "Don't fall to unverified rumours. Let's work together for peace in society," he added.

Responding immediately, Himachal DGP Sanjay Kundu said the police reacted to the request of Punjab Police with sensitivity



and professionalism. "We nabbed the accused. Congrats to Dr Monika, Superintendent of Police, Shimla, and her team for great professional work," Kundu tweeted. Huge protests broke out on the university campus in Mohali district after a girl allegedly leaked private videos of her hostel mates online. A day after daylight protest, silence returned to the campus on Monday as the local administration and the university agreed to investigate the demand of the students over objectionable videos of several girl students that were recorded by a hosteller and shared with

her friend in Shimla. The police arrested an MBA first-year student of the university, while her friend and another person were held in Shimla.

As the matter drew angry political reactions, the university authorities clarified that "no videos were found of any student which are objectionable, except a personal video shot by a girl which she shared with her boyfriend". Also dismissing reports of suicide attempt by some students who were allegedly filmed, the authorities said "there are rumours that seven girls have committed suicide whereas the fact is that no girl has taken any such step".

Senior Superintendent of Police Vivek Soni, who is leading the investigation team, categorically told the media on Sunday that no attempt to suicide was reported after the incident came to light. Also, he said, so far there is no evidence of the video going viral.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's judicial custody extended till Oct 3



FW DESK

A Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act Court extended the judicial custody of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut by 14 days till October 3 here on Monday. Raut was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on August 1 in connection with the alleged Patra Chawl redevelopment scam case, and has been in custody since.

The ED had recorded the Sena MP's statement and later raided his home on July 31, detained and then arrested him early on August 1 in the Patra Chawl, Goregaon case.

The issue pertains to the stalled redevelopment project of the Patra Chawl for 672 tenants which was taken up by Guru Ashish Constructions Pvt. Ltd. in which Sanjay Raut's close associate Pravin Raut was one of the Directors.

The ED has claimed that Pravin Raut benefitted to the tune of Rs 112 crore by illegal sale of the FSI from the project and he had allegedly passed on a certain portion of the proceeds to Sanjay Raut and his wife.

AAP led Govts in Delhi as well as in Punjab indulging in corrupt practice : Anurag Thakur

BJP CAN FORM GOVERNMENT IN PUNJAB WITH FULL MAJORITY

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Sports & Youth Affairs Anurag Thakur alleged that AAP led Governments in Delhi as well as in Punjab were indulging in corrupt practice.

Addressing the press conference here today, he said, "A news about a big leader surfaced who was allegedly found in state of drunken when he boarded the plane and subsequently he was deplaned is a matter of deep concern if it is true and correct. He said that truth would come in the near future as to why Chief Minister along with his official staff of Punjab was forced to offload the plane in foreign country".

He said that in Delhi AAP Government was already facing serious allegations about its liquor policy and at the same time news surfaced about its big leader that he was deplaned on Saturday night because of his alleged "inebriated" condition, was matter of deep



concern for the nation. Moreover, where the State Health minister was already behind the bar in that circumstances all these things raises many questions, he quipped. Castigating the AAP Government in Punjab while answering about the alleged operation Lotus, he said, "BJP don't need to topple any Government especially where just after the three months of formation of Government, AAP lost its Parliament seat in Punjab that depicts the plight of AAP in the state as people here no more like AAP Government. This Government was already fallen in the eyes of people and no need for any political party to topple them".

He said that if BJP can form and repeat its government in Haryana two times

in a row, Uttar Pradesh two times, three times Goa, even formed Government in Uttarakhand and Manipur and some other states, so why not BJP can form Government in Punjab with absolute majority in the coming time, equipped.

Talking about Himachal Pradesh, he said that majority AAP leaders have already left the party and joined BJP, so with all such political developments AAP was trembled.

He said issues like drug, crime planned from the jails of Punjab and mushrooming of gangsters on the soil of Punjab was a matter of deep concern and here Punjab police needed hard work to eradicate such menace, since the state has already experienced bad days of militancy.

National Green Tribunal slaps over Rs 2,000 cr fine on Punjab for failure to treat waste

NEW DELHI: National Green Tribunal has imposed a penalty of over Rs 2,000 crore on the Punjab government for its failure to treat solid and liquid waste, leading to a huge gap in their generation and treatment.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice AK Goel said corrective action could not wait for an indefinite period and health issues could not be deferred for long.

"Responsibility of the state is to have a comprehensive plan to control pollution which is its absolute liability, which is not being understood.

IED planted under SI's car case: Punjab Police arrests main perpetrator, his two aides from Himachal Pradesh

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Punjab Police on Friday arrested the main perpetrator and eighth accused, identified as Yuvraj Sabharwal alias Yash, who had retrieved and planted an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) beneath the Sub-Inspector's car in Amritsar on the directions of Canada-based gangster Lakhbir Singh alias Landa. In an official release issued today



"If there is deficit in budgetary allocations, it is for the state and the state alone to have suitable planning by reducing cost or augmenting resources," the bench said. It said the compliance of environmental norms on the subject of waste management had to be high on priority. According to the NGT, the

total compensation is rounded off at Rs 2,180 crore. Out of this, the Punjab government has already deposited with the tribunal Rs 100 crore for its failure to prevent discharge of untreated sewage and solid waste.

"The remaining amount of Rs 2,080 crore may be deposited by the state of Punjab in a separate ring-fenced account within two months," the bench said.

The NGT is monitoring compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and other environmental issues by states and Union territories.

Ghlot writes to Punjab CM seeking timely completion of Budha Nullah Rejuvenation Project



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Ghlot on Monday has written a letter to his Punjab counterpart, Bhagwant Mann, drawing the latter's attention to the issue of "untreated water" coming from Punjab into the canals of Rajasthan. In the letter, Ghlot urged Mann to direct his officials to complete the construction of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) under Punjab's Buddha Nullah Rejuvenation Project on time and to stop the flow of untreated waste directly into the rivers/nullahs.

"Rajasthan receives its share of water from Ravi-Beas and Sutlej rivers from Harike barrage. The polluted water of Ludhiana city of Punjab through Budha Nullah and the urban and industrial waste of cities/towns situated near Sutlej river through drains reaches Harike barrage," he said in the letter.

Punjab has highest number of Waqf properties under encroachment

CHANDIGARH: Punjab has the highest number of Waqf Board properties under encroachment in India with the number totalling 5,610, some of them have been encroached upon by government departments and a few by influential politicians, say records. This means every sixth property of the Punjab Waqf Board is encroached upon.

The state has 34,237 properties registered with the Waqf Board. Out of these 430 land units have been encroached upon by the government and semi-government departments. Officials admit over 3,500 properties fall under the "not located" category as revenue records of them have either been tampered or changed. To prevent the Waqf Board properties from encroachment, a dedicated online portal -- WAMSI (Waqf Assets Management System of India) -- was developed by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs. The encroachments in Punjab are maximum in Ludhiana (1,493 units), followed by Bathinda with (1,475), Jalandhar (465), Amritsar (430) and Rajpura (410).

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to intensify legal fight for the release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh political prisoners) besides adopting policy of struggle and political approach.

Talking to the media, after holding a special meeting with retired Sikh judges and senior lawyers at SGPC's sub-office in Chandigarh, SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhambi said that this issue is most important for the Qaum (community), as Sikh prisoners are not be released even after they have completed their sentences. He said legal experts have given important suggestions in this regard in the meeting today and the legal fight will be carried forward accordingly.

He said although the SGPC is already providing legal assistance to Bandi Singhs, but now the case of Sikh prisoners will be presented jointly in view of different legal aspects. He said that in the meeting today the best suggestions have been received and another meeting will be called in the coming days. SGPC President also said that apart from working for release of Sikh prisoners lodged in different jails for a long time, efforts will also be



SGPC to file review petition in HSGMC case: Dhambi

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has decided to file a review petition following the Supreme Court judgment today in the case regarding challenge to validity of Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC) Act, 2014. The opinion of senior lawyers will be taken in this regard and the legal action is required accordingly. This decision was taken in the SGPC executive

committee (EC) meeting presided over by SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhambi, here on Tuesday.

Talking to the media after the meeting, SGPC President said that a consensus has been reached to file a review petition in the case of validity to HSGMC Act, 2014, by the Supreme Court, for which, the officials of SGPC have been deputed at Delhi. He said that the next legal action will be taken as per the opinion of the senior lawyers after examining the Supreme Court's order.

made for the release of Bandi youths implicated in several cases in the present time.

Replying to a query, SGPC President said that Aam Aadmi Party and Congress parties are standing as obstruction in

the cause of release of Bandi Singhs.

"If the Aam Aadmi Party had any sympathy with the Sikh prisoners, then Prof Devinderpal Singh Bhullar can come out with just one order

SGPC rejects Supreme Court's judgment regarding Haryana Sikh Gurdwara (Management) Act

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has rejected the Supreme Court's judgment of upholding validity of Haryana Sikh Gurdwara (Management) (HSGMC) Act, 2014, terming it politically motivated.

In an official press release issued by the SGPC here today stated that a special resolution was passed in this regard, in an urgent meeting of SGPC's Executive Committee (EC), presided over by SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhambi at Kalgidhar Niwas, Chandigarh on Friday. The resolution clearly stated that the Gurdwara Act passed by the state government cannot affect the jurisdiction of SGPC, while The Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925 is in force.

Giving information about the resolution, SGPC President Dhambi said, "The Supreme

Court's judgment given by two judges regarding separate HSGMC Act is purely politically motivated and one judge among them has direct association with RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh). Therefore, this judgment is motivated by political interests, in place of being the one of Supreme Court."

SGPC President said that he has the evidence of one judge having association with RSS and soon, his name will be publicized. He said the SGPC's EC has decided to file a review petition on the Supreme Court's judgment on HSGMC Act and a special meeting of all the SGPC members has been called to discuss future course of action at Amritsar on September 30, 2022.

SGPC President said that the right to make any amendment in the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, is only with the Central Government and that too is

possible only with the approval of SGPC's General House.

"State governments cannot reduce the jurisdiction of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, as the amendment conduct is determined. From time to time, the governments have adopted tactics to weaken the Sikh power and interfere in SGPC affairs, but they never succeeded before the Panth's unity," said Advocate Dhambi.

He said, Congress-led Central Government had attempted to interfere in 1959, but it had to accept the Sikh community's demand. "After the protest by Sikhs, in April 1959, a pact was reached between the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Shiromani Akali Dal President Master Tara Singh, under which, it was made mandatory to take approval of SGPC's General House for making amendment in the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925," said Dhambi.

President included SGPC senior vice-president Raghujit Singh Virk, former general secretary Advocate Bhagwant Singh Sialka, member Kulwant Singh Mannan, Charanjit Singh Kalewal, apart from retired Sikh judges, senior lawyers GS Bal, Puran Singh

He said the Sikh community is saddened that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its parent organisation RSS, are also following the footsteps of Congress. If the then Haryana Chief Minister (CM) Bhupinder Singh Hooda, committed a mischievous act by passing an Act under unconstitutional conspiracy to break SGPC, then the BJP government also did the same. He said former Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh also presented evidence of being anti-Sikh by changing an affidavit filed during Akali government and the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party Punjab government also supported Haryana in Supreme Court.

Dhambi said that the validity given to HSGMC Act, 2014 by unconstitutional, unprincipled and illegal approach cannot be accepted and the existence of Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, cannot be abolished by state governments.

Hundal, Rajwinder Singh Bains, Gurinder Singh Punian, Gurminder Singh, Paramjit Singh Khariha, Navkiran Singh, Puneet Singh Sekhon, Paramjit Singh Brar, Jaspal Singh Manjhpur, Amar Singh Chahal, Baljinder Singh Sodhi, BS Dhillon.

Capt Amarinder's joining BJP is wrong decision, says Deepender Hooda



FW DESK
Congress leader Deepender Singh Hooda on Monday termed former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's decision to join the BJP as a wrong decision as after the farmers' protest it will not be appreciated by the people. Amarinder Singh was

asked to step down as the Chief Minister of Punjab in September last year by the Congress following a power tussle within the party, and in subsequent Assembly election the party was wiped out. Ahead of his joining the BJP, Singh met the party president J.P. Nadra.

Speculation of Amarinder Singh joining the BJP had grown stronger after he met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on September 12. "Had a very productive meeting with Hon'ble Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Discussed various issues pertaining to national security, the rising cases of narco-terrorism in Punjab and the future roadmap for the overall holistic development of Punjab, " Singh had tweeted after meeting Shah. Singh had floated his own party after quitting the Congress last year citing humiliation by the grand-old party.

Vij advises drug smugglers either leave their profession or Haryana

SATISH HANDA
Ambala

While having interaction with media persons here at the residence of Haryana Home & Health Anil Vij, a group of senior Sikh community leaders accompanied by Vice President Haryana Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee as well as SGPC member Harpal Singh Pali and Jathedar Ranbir Singh Fauzi arrived to convey thanks to Haryana state government for co-operation in long pending issue for a separate Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) in Haryana state as in case of Delhi. Vij expressed warm welcome to historic decision taken by Supreme Court of India to form a separate committee in Haryana after eight years. Visiting leaders also honored Vij with Siropa.



only face lifting of all gurudwaras in the state due to shortage of funds since all collections of the funds in Haryana gurudwaras were sent to their head office and they were not permitted for any development works in the state without seeking permission from head office. Pali told that every care will now be taken for face lifting of all gurudwaras in Haryana state besides opening of educational institutes, hospitals and other social welfare organizations because of availability of funds collected in gurudwaras in the state. As regard incident of demol-

ishing of a illegal residential building over government land in Ambala Cantt on Tuesday by a team of Sadar municipal committee and police which was illegally constructed by a drug smuggler having large number of cases registered against him, Vij told media persons that it is his sincere advice to all drug smugglers and suppliers either to leave this illegal business immediately or be prepared to leave Haryana state, failing which their properties too will face similar action since there is a long list of anti-social elements with police administration involved in drug smuggling and supply business invested in properties with the earnings through such illegal business, likely to face similar action and no one will be spared, Vij warned. In reply to a question as regard former Punjab chief minister Capt Amrinder Singh joined BJP recently, Vij said that it will strengthen BJP network in Punjab. As regard Congress

Khattar turns down pension request of agriculturalist woman

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday firmly turned down the pension request of an agriculturalist woman, saying only eligible persons would be entitled for a pension. "You already own nine 'kilas' of land and your annual income is Rs 2.5 lakh, therefore you are not eligible for pension benefits," he told the woman at a Jan Samvad Programme in Sirsa town. The woman informed the Chief Minister about her three daughters and sought financial help from him. Khattar then announced to give Rs 1 lakh to the woman from his voluntary quota. He said to avail pension benefits, a beneficiary should not have land more than five 'kilas'. But in this case, as the woman owns nine 'kilas', she is not eligible for the pension benefits.



BSF recovers 3 packets of contrabands and Pistol pushed from Pakistan through drone

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar



Border Security Force (BSF) have seized three packets of contrabands (suspected to be heroin) 2.570 kgs and one automatic imported pistol which was smuggled to India from Pakistan through drone. In an official statement here today, official stated that on the night intervening 18th / 19th Sept' 2022, BSF troops deployed on border and depth areas heard a buzzing sound of suspected flying object coming from Pakistan to India side and after a while returning to Pakistan side. Depth deployed troops also observed suspected light (radium type) and heard the sound of dropping something inside a farming field near village Dhanoe Kalan in Amritsar district.

STF Haryana Report: Network of 11 gangsters spreading terror from abroad

SATISH HANDA



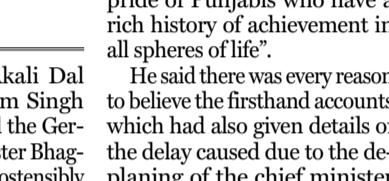
According to Special Task Force (STF) Haryana, as many as 11 criminals most wanted by police in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi states later became gangsters, left country and presently operating gangs in abroad spreading terrorism in India. STF Haryana recently released a list of 11 hard core criminals involved in anti-social activities as well as terrorism most wanted by the police managed to flee to other countries on the basis of fake passports and joined hands with gangster groups to spread terrorism in India. According to Satish Balan Chief and Sumeet Kumar SP Special Task Force in the state, police is trying its best to expand its network in other countries enabling to trap such hard core criminals in their net.

The name of Harvinder Singh alias Rinda ranking at fifth place in the list of gangsters was most wanted criminal by Punjab police allegedly involved in large number of criminal cases registered against him in police stations across the state including few cases of murder who managed to escape to Pakistan and presently working like a puppet on the directions by ISI in Pakistan to spread terrorism in India and supply RDX at Indo-Pak border areas in Punjab to take delivery of the consignments by his network operating in Punjab through drone service. Punjab and Haryana police succeeded in the arrest of few members of Rinda network in past sometime and was able to find important clues to trap Rinda in police net. Among another 10 gangsters

operating its network in India while sitting abroad include the names of Joginder Singh brother of Surinder Geong shot dead during encounter with Karnal and Kaithal police at a village in Karnal district in 2018. Joginder Singh operating his gangster network against India from South Africa presently on STF radar working for his arrest as well as another most wanted criminal Vikas Gulia presently operating his network from Dubai. Gulai was wanted by Gurugram police in a high profile criminal case registered against him and left country for Dubai.

German tour of CM has resulted in humiliation of Punjab and Punjabis, says Majithia

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar



Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) leader Bikram Singh Majithia today alleged the German tour of chief minister Bhagwant Mann, which was ostensibly undertaken to attract investment for the State, had resulted in the humiliation of Punjab and Punjabis due to the inappropriate conduct of the chief minister. Talking to newsmen here after paying obeisance at Gurudwara Chhehra Sahib, the SAD leader said "Punjabis are saddened by reports in the social media as well as firsthand accounts of passengers of the aircraft the chief minister had boarded in Frankfurt that he could not walk steadily and had to be held up by wife and aides. Equally humiliating is the assertion that the chief minister was deplained from the aircraft because he was in an inebriated condition. All this has hurt the

pride of Punjabis who have a rich history of achievement in all spheres of life". He said there was every reason to believe the firsthand accounts which had also given details of the delay caused due to the deplaning of the chief minister and removal of the baggage of the entire entourage. "The chief minister was scheduled to attend the AAP conclave which was being hyped as a major event and there was no reason why the chief minister would not attend it as his official visit to Germany was over one day before. The very fact that the chief minister was unable to attend the conclave gives credence to the reports". Stating that these acts had lowered the prestige of Punjab world over, he said earlier also during the course of the visit to Germany, Mann had hurt the credibility of India by lying that BMW would set up a car manufacturing plant in Punjab.

Man burnt alive as truck catches fire on Pathankot-Jammu highway



JAMMU: In a shocking incident, a truck conductor was charred to death after the vehicle caught fire on the Pathankot-Jammu highway in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, the police said on Monday. The incident happened late Sunday evening. Police said the helper of the truck coming to Jammu caught fire in Kathua district on the Pathankot-Jammu national highway. «Fire tenders came to douse the flames, but the helper of the truck could not be saved. «The identity of the helper is being ascertained, « police said.

Drugs of value worth Rs 1.25 crore seized at Ambala



SATISH HANDA
Ambala

When Jashandeep Singh Randhawa IPS took charge as SP Sonapat, illegal liquor business including manufacturing, smuggling and sale was flourishing in the district but the same was completely wiped out from the district after sometime, perhaps this was the reason state government Haryana transferred Randhawa at Ambala known as hub for smuggling and supply of liquor in the state. However, large number of people involved in illegal manufacture and sale of liquor said good bye to such illegal practices. Not only this, a special campaign against smuggling and sale of drugs was launched by SP Ambala sometime ago. In a recent case, during checking at Udham Singh Chowk between Barara and Adhoya in Ambala district CIA Staff along with Shahzadpur

police led by Inspector Varinder Kumar arrested a suspected youth identified as Sukhdev Singh alias Sikha a resident of village Sardehri in Ambala district and recovered from him 263 gm heroine of value worth Rs 1.25 crore and a case was registered against him under sections 21/61/55 of NDPS Act. While talking to media persons, Randhawa told that Ambala police has registered 100 cases under NDPS Act in which 119 persons were arrested in past eight months during this year in which police recovered drugs of value worth Rs 16 crore. He said, Ambala police recovered over 9 kg 99 gm opium, 3.12 quintal poppy husk, 7 kg 91 gm ganja, 238 gm charas, 64669 intoxicated tablets, 9824 intoxicated capsules, 1750 intoxicated injection and 95 bottles intoxicated syrup. Randhawa told that property of five accused of value worth Rs 4 crore was also seized by the government.

Six-lane access-controlled Greenfield Highway under Amritsar-Jamnagar Economic Corridor in full progress

FW DESK

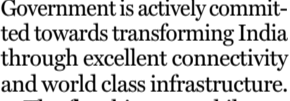


The project of six-lane access-controlled Greenfield Highway from Rajasthan and Gujarat border to Santalpur section of NH-754A under Amritsar-Jamnagar Economic Corridor is in full progress. According to the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, this stretch is the part of Amritsar-Jamnagar Economic Corridor in Gujarat under Bharatmala Pariyojana and Phase-1 and is being built at a project cost of Rs 2, 030 Cr. Once the project is completed, the travel time within this section will reduce by 2 hours and travel distance by 60 km.

"Reducing pollution level, median and avenue plantation throughout the stretch would enrich the ecosystem and boost SDGs (sustainable development goals). The stretch would facilitate ease movement of Border forces/ Armed forces/Military vehicles etc as it is closer to Indo-Pak Border," said Gadkari on Twitter.

Phulkari WOA, women's organisation of Amritsar celebrated 5th Anniversary with a musical soiree 'Taa'

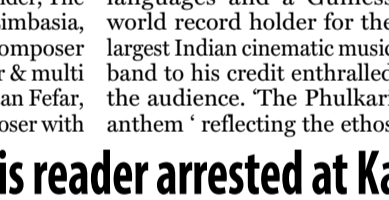
FW DESK



Maxwel Chhetry, founder, The Natak Way; Divya Limbasia, a celebrated music composer, Director, song writer & multi instrumentalist; Chetan Fefar, Singer & music composer with over 600 live shows worldwide, TV jingles in multiple languages and a Guinness world record holder for the largest Indian cinematic music band to his credit enthralled the audience. The Phulkari anthem 'reflecting the ethos

Tehsildar, his reader arrested at Karnal in bribe case

SATISH HANDA
Karnal



Team of the State Vigilance Bureau (SVB), Karnal, on Sunday arrested Gharaunda tehsildar identified as Nikhil Singla and his reader Gulshan allegedly demanding bribe for correcting the girdawari of a land. Gharaunda tehsildar was also having the

and journey of Phulkari was composed by the members & the musicians in an interactive & engaging activity during the course of the evening. A lucky draw & special prizes added excitement to the celebration. nabbed by vigilance team in the presence of duty magistrate Anubhav Mehta SDM while accepting bribe for Rs 20000 at Nootmahal Chowk Karnal from Gulshan the reader of the tehsildar. Both were arrested on the complaint of Vinod Kumar, a resident of Karnal. The police said they got a complaint regarding demand of bribe by the reader.

Massive reposnse for Aam Aadmi clinics from common man: Punjab Health Minister

FW DESK
Chandigarh

Punjab Government's Aam Aadmi Clinics have garnered enormous response across the state with a cumulative patient footfall of 1.82 lakh till date. SAS Nagar has secured first spot among districts to provide health care facilities to maximum number of patients. According to the data available here, total 25990 patients have got treatment and 2811 lab tests have been done till date in SAS Nagar, whereas Ludhiana district have attained second spot among 23 districts with 21384 patients and 2343 clinical tests, while District Bath-



inda gained third position with response from 16889 patients and 2243 clinical tests. In addition to this, cumulative footfall of patients have touched 1, 82, 325 from August 15 to September 17, 2022 with total 23402 clinical tests across the state. Pleased with this overwhelming response and patting the back of the doctors and officials, Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Chetan Singh Jouramajra informed that 75 such clinics have embarked on Independence Day, while 25 more clinics have started their operations later, which have been provided health care facilities to more than seven thousand patients per day now.

MCC organizes 'Plastic Mukh Chandigarh' campaign in 75 city schools in one day



CHANDIGARH: With a first of its kind initiative, 75 Schools organized "Plastic Mukh Chandigarh" activity today under the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' campaign.

The students collected waste plastic items/products from their houses and deposited them with the school authorities, which further handed over the collected plastic waste to the Municipal Corporation authorities for scientific disposal of the same. The students also pledged to adopt plastic-free practices in their households and school premises.

While sharing about this initiative, Ms. Anindita Mitra, IAS, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh said that to completely ban single-use plastic products, the students of 75 upper primary government as well as private schools at Chandigarh took out this activity aiming mass awareness to educate people about hazardous effects of plastic products.

Thousands youth set a new record, form a gigantic human chain at Chandigarh during mega launch of 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav'

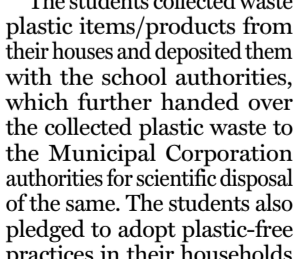


CHANDIGARH: It was a red letter day for Chandigarh, when over 2000 youth got together to form a human chain at Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh on the occasion of mega launch of 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' scheduled to be carried out from 17th September to 2nd October, 2022.

The activity was undertaken to mobilize communities from across the city to bring about behavioral change, with an aim to make the city Garbage Free. The youths from different schools and colleges of city made 'Open Hand', 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', '4 type of dustbins' (Green, Blue, Black & Red for segregation of waste), 'Chandigarh Challengers', the official logo of 'Swachhata League' and human chain

besides carrying out a rally in northern sectors. The event was powered by Punjab & Sind Bank as main sponsor. Sarbjit Kaur, Mayor, Chandigarh launched the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav', 15 days long activity schedule from Swachhata League at the Rose Garden, Sector 16 in the presence of Ms. Anindita Mitra, IAS, Commissioner, Dalip Sharma, Senior Deputy Mayor, Anup Gupta, Deputy Mayor, Rohit Kumar team leader, Brand Ambassadors of SBM, other dignitaries and prominent persons of city. Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor said that to celebrate eight years of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban, the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh will organize 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav', a fortnight of activities to galvanize action around swachhata from 17th Sept. Seva Diwas, till 2nd Oct. 2022, Swachhata Diwas.

4 held supplying banned stamina injections to wrestlers in Haryana



SATISH HANDA

The athletes in Haryana state, especially in the field of wrestling both male and females are popular not only in the country but all over in world bagging medals in national and international games bringing name and fame for the state as well as country. Sadly, wrestlers in Haryana state are being addicted to very harmful injections and tablets used for building stamina in the body being

supplied by a chain of suppliers at Delhi as well as in Haryana state. Haryana State Narcotic Bureau recently has been successful in busting a chain of suppliers with the arrest of four persons and recovered 1995 Pentazocine injection so far hoping to seize huge stocks of these harmful drugs soon. According to information, youths belonging to rural areas in Haryana state are adopting wrestling as their profession because Haryana state govern-

ment is providing large employment opportunities to athletes in government jobs in the state as such there are large number of wrestling 'Ahata' mushrooming in rural areas in Haryana state at present preparing wrestlers. On getting complaints as regard use of Pentazocine, Anabolic Steroid, Androstene and Human Growth Hormones (HGH) injections and tablets by youth wrestlers to build stamina, energy and strengthen muscles in their body by youths practicing for wrestling in 'Ahata' in rural areas they are becoming addicted to these harmful drugs Talking to Media persons Varinder Saini DSP told that on a clue Narcotic Bureau team conducted raid at 'Akhada' at village Kaith in Panipat district and recovered 145 Pentazocine injections from Kaushal a national level wrestler used to take as well as supply these injections to practicing youths in the 'Akhada' in the area and arrested him.

Over 25 lakh people assisted by 108 Ambulance in last 11 years

THIS IS ABOUT 600+ PATIENTS SERVED EVERYDAY OVER THE LAST 11 YEARS



**KULBIR SINGH KALSI
Chandigarh**

Upholding the commitment of serving the people of Punjab during their moments of distress, Ziqtiza Healthcare Limited, which is responsible for 108 ambulance services in Punjab has provided emergency assistance to over 25,04,229 people across the state over the last decade - since April 2011 to August 2022. The fleet of 325 Ambulances, managed by dedicated, capable and trained personnel, continued to ensure that each case is handled well by fast assistance and quick admission to the hospital, ensuring service in the golden hour and

thereby saving precious lives. 108 Ambulance continues to strive and provide the best emergency care available to all patients. Over the last 11 years, 108 ambulance services have assisted 363,414 patients in Ludhiana, 220,597 patients in Amritsar, 200,543 patients in Jalandhar, 187,372 patients in Patiala and 133,126 patients in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali). To augment the primary goal of assisting people in need, the 108 centralised call centres play an important role by quickly assisting all cases with strong support.

NIA raids houses of PFI members in Bengaluru and multiple locations in Karnataka

ARUN KUMAR RAO
Bengaluru

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out raids at the Popular Front of India (PFI) offices and Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) and the residences of the office-bearers of these two outfits across the state simultaneously. The raids which began early in the morning were carried out in at least 14 locations in Bengaluru, and other places in Karnataka, Mangaluru the district headquarters town of Dakshina Kannada, Sirsi in Uttara Kannada and Kalaburagi. According to reports, the raids were conducted after informing the local police according to information received here. As a protest many Muslim youth came near the places where the raid was going on and raised 'NIA go



back' slogans while NIA officials are conducting raids on residences of the members of Popular Front of India (PFI) in Bengaluru.

NIA officials are conducting raids on residences of the members of Popular Front of

India (PFI) in Bengaluru. The raids have been going on since the early hours of Thursday. According to sources the raids are being conducted in few places in the city - a flat in an apartment on Kannur Main Road near Bagaluru, a flat belonging to

Karnataka president Mohamed Shakib in Richmond Town, a house on Tannery Road.

Police sources said the NIA team detained a few key SDPI and PFI activists, seized documents, literature, computers, laptops and phones as well.

Have decided to contest for Cong president's post: Gehlot

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday made it clear he will fight for the party's president post and said irrespective of the outcome, it is necessary to work in a united manner and ensure the party emerges as a strong opposition.

Any call on his successor to head the Rajasthan government will be taken by party interim President Sonia Gandhi and Congress Rajasthan in-charge, Ajay Maken, he told reporters here. "I will fix the date (to submit the nomination papers) after going (back to Rajasthan), but I have decided that I will have to contest. It is a question of democracy and let us make a new start," he said.

With speculations rife that Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor is likely to jump into the fray, Gehlot said other "Congress friends" may also contest but what matters is unity and the need to strengthen the



organisation at all levels.

"There are Congress friends. Even if they contest, there is no issue. After the results, we should work together to strengthen the Congress at the block, village, district levels and also move forward making our (Congress) thought process as the base so that we emerge as a strong opposition," he added.

Considering the present situation in the country, there is a need for a strong opposition, the veteran Congress leader said.

Responding to a question on Rahul Gandhi's 'one-man, one-post' statement made in the context of the Congress leadership role and asked for his comment on a possible successor if he wins the party election, Gehlot said Rajasthan state in-charge Ajay Maken and Sonia Gandhi would decide on the matter.

He was also asked if he would have a say in the matter. "I can't say that standing from Kochi. Our general secretary in charge Mr Ajay Maken and Congress president Sonia Gandhi will decide" on the related developments in Rajasthan and when it is to be done, he added. The Congress had on Thursday issued notification for the party president post.

The party is likely to be headed by a non-Gandhi leader for the first time in decades, with Rahul Gandhi indicating he is not going to vie for the top post.

Amit Shah visits Bihar, first time after BJP's power loss



Union Home Minister Amit Shah will arrive in Bihar on Friday, for the first time after the political upheaval last month robbed the BJP of power in the state.

Shah, a former party president who is regarded as the BJP's principal strategist, will spend two days in the Seemanchal region. "The home minister will reach Bagdogra airport around 11.30 am and proceed to Purnea in a helicopter. Late in the evening, he will leave for Kishanganj," state BJP vice-president Rajib Ranjan told PTI. A series of meetings with party and administrative officials are scheduled during the two-day trip though the highlight will be a public meeting at Purnea, titled evocatively "Jan Bhavana Rally", in line with the party's stance that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has "betrayed public sentiments" by turning his back on the NDA as part of which he had won the mandate in 2020 assembly polls. The loss of power, in the third week of August, came as a rude shock for the party which had, less than a month earlier, held with much fanfare a two-day conclave in Patna -- attended by Shah and BJP president JP Nadda.

Former TN Chief Minister Palaniswami meets Shah



AIADMK interim general secretary and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Tuesday. This was the first time that Palaniswami is meeting a senior BJP leader after the controversial general body of the AIADMK on July 11 in which the former chief coordinator of the party, O. Panneerselvam was expelled from the party. During his previous visit to the national capital for the farewell function of former President Ramnath Kovind, Palaniswami did not meet any senior BJP leader.

K. Raja Prasad Reddy elected President of INS

The 83rd Annual General Meeting of the Indian Newspaper Society - an apex body of Publishers of Newspapers, Magazines & Periodicals in the country, was held through Video Conference ("VC")/ Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") today. K. Raja Prasad Reddy (Sakshi) has been elected President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2022-23. He succeeds Mohit Jain of Economic Times. Rakesh Sharma (Aaj Samaj) is the Deputy President, M. V. Shreyams Kumar (Mathrubhumi Arogya Masika) is the Vice President and Tanmay Maheshwari (Amar Ujala) is the Honorary Treasurer of the Society for the year 2022-23.

Dalai Lama extends b'day greetings to PM Modi



DHARAMSALA: On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 72nd birthday, the Dalai Lama has written to him offering his warmest wishes and prayers for his continued good health.

"It's wonderful that India has successfully met the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. Although we have not seen the complete end to it, India today is better placed to address similar challenges in the future," the Dalai Lama wrote in a letter.

"As the longest-staying guest in India I have observed its development first hand. Now the country is also a rising economic power and a leader in science and technology."

"India's strong democratic foundation is an example of peace and stability. Having one of the youngest populations is an asset that will enable further development and the fulfilment of positive aspirations. I am delighted to say India is poised to assume its rightful place in the world."

Ayodhya gets temple dedicated to CM Yogi Adityanath



AYODHYA: Even before the Ram temple reaches completion, Ayodhya now has a temple that is turning out to be a major tourist attraction.

A temple dedicated to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has come up about 25 kilometres from Ayodhya on the Ayodhya -Prayagraj highway in Bhadarsa village. The temple is located near the Bharat Kund. The idol of the chief minister shows him carrying a bow and arrow and an 'aarti' is performed at the temple every evening.

MISSION 2024

BJP set on Mission 80 in UP, many senior MPs may be retired



After winning the Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh bypolls recently, the BJP has swung into action and is now preparing for winning all 80 Lok Sabha seats in the most populous state as per its 'Mission 2024'.

To win all the Lok Sabha seats in the state, the BJP has already started working at a fast pace on several fronts simultaneously.

The primary focus of the party is on the 16 Lok Sabha seats it lost in 2019 elections in Uttar Pradesh as well as the seats from where the BJP MPs have been winning elections continuously, especially those where the same party leader has won both the previous Lok Sabha elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to remain the

party's most popular leader ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, but the popularity of MPs at the local level and their connect with the masses also plays an important role in determining the election results.

The BJP has cancelled tickets of its elected leaders on a large-scale to thwart anti-incumbency against them in different states many times in the past and the saffron party has benefited electorally. Therefore, MPs who have won consecutive elections from the same Lok Sabha seats on BJP tickets, especially those who have won in 2014 and 2019 elections from the same constituencies, will have to prove their credibility once again to retain their seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha election as well.

Fate of proposed third front to be launched by Chautala in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Hoping to change government in the country as well as in Haryana state former Haryana chief minister Om Parkash Chautala now making another attempt in this regard to announce a third front to wipe out BJP government in the country in a hope to repeat action similar to one like in Bihar in recent past. Information reveals, Om Parkash Chautala making efforts to launch a third political front in country on the eve of celebration of Samman Divas on the birth anniversary of his father late Tau Devi Lal also a former Deputy Prime Minister in the country on September 25 at Fatehabad. Om Parkash Chautala has been making continuous efforts to hold regular public meetings in rural as well as urban areas in Haryana state since after he was released from Tihar central jail after 10 years imprisonment.

Past scenario reveals, Tau Devi Lal had organized rallies in Haryana state in 1977 and



1989 to unite all political parties in opposition to face then ruling government in the state. About 33 years ago in 1989 he held a rally at Boat Club New Delhi when he was Chief Minister in Haryana to form a front against government. In the same way INLD supremo Om Parkash Chautala has now decided to make another attempt to unite all political parties in opposition once again to form a powerful third front in the country to face ruling BJP government in the country, although he remained unsuccessful in his previous effort, now hopes to be successful in his mission similar to as in case of Bihar state where Nitish Kumar Chief Minister separated himself from BJP alliance and formed a new government with the help of 'Maha Gathbandhan'.

Information reveals, OM Parkash Chautala has invited several prominent leaders in opposition from all over the country on the eve of Samman Divas' being celebrated on the birth anniversary of Tau Devi Lal on September 25 at Fatehabad which include the names of Nitish Kumar Chief Minister Bihar, Tejasi Yadav Deputy Chief Minister Bihar, Parkash Singh Badal former Chief Minister Punjab, Sukhbir Singh Badal Shiromani Akali Dal Chief as well as former Deputy Chief Minister Punjab, Chander Shekhar Chief Minister Telangana, Akhilesh Yadav former Chief Minister U.P., Sheikh Abdullah former Chief Minister J&K, Mamta Banerjee or Abishek Banerjee from West Bengal, Sita Ram Yechuri CPM leader, Hanuman Beniwal Member Parliament from Rajasthan and Satya Pal Malik Governor Meghalaya all have assured to attend Tau Devi Lal's birth anniversary.

Niti Aayog-like body to be set up in Maharashtra, says Fadnavis



An institute on the lines of Niti Aayog would be set up in Maharashtra for comprehensive data analysis and to make studied decisions on various sectors, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters here, Fadnavis said, "A delegation led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met the chief executive officer and other officials of the Niti Aayog today. It was proposed that an institute of transformation on the lines of Niti Aayog would be set up to make studied decisions on various sectors. CM Shinde has given an in-principle nod to this suggestion." Fadnavis said the institute would be named Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA), "which will be another milestone in the journey of fostering cooperative federalism under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

Three railway employees suspended in UTS fraud

SATISH HANDA

Three railway employees including Chief Booking Supervisor posted at Sangrur railway station were suspended due to fraud detected in unreserved ticketing system (UTS) at Sangrur and Dhuri railway stations in Punjab under Ambala Railw Division in which preliminary investigation revealed that tickets of short distance railway stations in machine were being converted to long distance railway station tickets thus putting excessive amount of fare in their own pocket causing heavy revenue



loss to railways. When fraud was detected at Sangrur and Dhuri railway stations and matter reached railway headquarter Baroda House New Delhi a three member railway vigilance team from Northern Railways reached at Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) office at Ambala Cantt which collected the file to investigate ongoing fraud not only

at Sangrur and Dhuri railway stations but also to check all UTS at other railway station in Ambala division.

Preliminary investigation revealed that large numbers of short distance tickets between Sangrur and Sunam railway stations having few kilometers distance with meager amount of fare were falsely converted to long distance railway stations in trains on way to U.P and Bihar thus putting difference of amount in fare into their pockets and cause huge revenue loss to railways. The practical demonstration was also given to vigilance team

in which while preparing a fake long distance ticket ink cartridge was removed from UTS machine at the time of operating machine on blank short distance ticket. Information reveals, Chief Commercial Manager Northern Railways has directed Divisional Rail Managers of all five divisions in Northern Railways to investigate similar frauds in UTS machines installed at all railway stations.

Hari Mohan Senior DCM told that a technical staff arriving to check all UTS machines installed at railway stations in Ambala division.

Amit Shah congratulates joint forces for uprooting Maoists from Buddha Pahad in Jharkhand

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the government forces for freeing Buddha Pahad in Jharkhand after almost three decades from the domination of Maoists.

The Maoist-dominated area has been freed under Operation 'Octopus' of Jharkhand police, Chhattisgarh police, Telangana police, CRPF Cobra battalion, Jaguar assault unit and IRB on Wednesday.

"A historic milestone in the internal security of the country has been crossed. Under the leadership of PM @narendramodiji, the security forces have achieved unprecedented success in the decisive battle against Left Wing Extremism across the country. Congratulations to @crpfindia, security agencies and state police forces for this," Shah tweeted.

"For the first time, permanent camps of security forces have been established by successfully removing Maoists from the inaccessible areas of Buddha Pahad, Chakrabandha and Bhimbabandh. Under the leadership of



@narendramodiji, the policy of zero tolerance of the Ministry of Home Affairs against terrorism and LWE will continue and this fight will intensify further," he said in another tweet.

The joint forces managed to free Buddha Pahad located in Jharkhand's Latehar district, about 150 km from state capital Ranchi. Buddha Pahad is spread in about 55 square km with one side connected with Chhattisgarh. It had turned out shelter of top naxal commanders of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana,

Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Odhisha. Jharkhand DGP Neeraj Sinha went to Buddha Pahad by helicopter a couple of days ago and congratulated the joint forces. He appreciated the brave Jawans of different units who established their camps in the Maoist-dominated area.

Operation Octopus was kicked off one and half months ago and it was completed on last Friday. The MI helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) was also landed on the top of the Buddha Pahad.

A.V. Homkar, the IGP (Operation) of Jharkhand police said: "The joint forces managed to capture Buddha Pahad and establish a camp there. It is a great achievement to fight with Maoists of the country." Jharkhand police is supplying food and ammunition to Jawans through helicopters. Many times in past as well, the security forces made plans to capture Buddha Pahad. However, serious efforts were started in 2018 under the leadership of D.K. Pandey - the then DGP of Jharkhand.

During the tenure of D.K. Pandey, the security forces applied pressure on the families of Maoists and also worked on cutting the supply of food and ammunition from the villages in the foothills of Buddha Pahad in Latehar and Gadhwa district of Jharkhand and from Chhattisgarh. Police also worked on gaining the trust of villagers as well. On many occasions, security forces have distributed Sharis, clothes, food items and others to the villagers.

Odisha cabinet okays proposal to bring limestone under long-term linkage policy



The Odisha cabinet has approved a proposal to bring limestone under the purview of Long-Term Linkage (LTL) policy, in a bid to streamline its supply to the industries of the state. These industries will henceforth be getting their limestone supply through Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC), Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra said on Thursday.

The proposal to bring limestone under the LTL policy was put forth by Industrial Development Corporation Of Odisha Limited, which has been merged with OMC, Mohapatra explained. Maintaining that the move will enhance limestone production and ensure its optimum utilisation, Mohapatra said the state exchequer, in turn, will be benefited.

27 Maoists killed, 1,131 held in J'khand since 2020

Twenty-seven Maoists were killed and 1,131 arrested in Jharkhand since January 2020, officials said on Friday.

A total of 108 gun fights happened between the Maoists and security forces between January 2020 and August 2022, and 45 Maoists surrendered before the police during the period, they said. The data was presented at a security review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday, they added.

Top police officers of the state, including the superintendents of police of all districts, were present at the meeting. Stating that Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) has declined in the state, officials said that eight of Jharkhand's 24 districts are at present LWE-free. Twenty-five forward posts or camps have been set up in extremely Maoist-affected zones such as Buddha Pahad, Parasnath, Saranda, Podahat and Chatra-Gaya, they said. Besides, 15 additional posts are also being set up in the region, they said.



Soren asked officials to provide the benefit of government schemes to villagers in the Maoist-affected areas by setting up camps with police protection. "Basic facilities such as electricity, water and roads should be made available there. This will increase the credibility of the police among the people and help in controlling the extremist activities," he said. "The items of daily need by the security forces should be acquired from locals in rural areas. This will give them employment as well as increase their income," the chief minister said. Soren also directed for installation of signal jammers in all jails of the state to restrict criminal activities.



ANURADHA M. CHENOY EXPLORES HOW THE REGION HAS BECOME A NEW AGENCY IN A CHANGING WORLD

The Global South's assertion



The international system is witnessing geopolitical changes and a push for competitive great power hegemony. The United States leads with its goal for primacy in the international system. The U.S.'s national security documents advocate curbing China's rise, weakening Russia's capabilities, securing Europe behind U.S. leadership and building satellite alliances with countries which conform to U.S. interests and values. But other players have different agendas and the Global South matters more than before.

China is the 'near peer', but in reality is no match to the U.S. militarily. Given its phenomenal economic reach that widened during globalisation, China began building counter institutions. It looked for accommodation with the U.S. in its 'peaceful rise' project. As the U.S. found this unacceptable, China turned from partner to competitor to threat.

Russia, with its vast natural resources and military capability, has shown capacity to assert its will in global geopolitics. The Russian aggression in Ukraine confirms the view of U.S. strategists who would like to weaken Russian capabilities. Further, they see Russia especially when in alliance with China or any other country as dangerous to U.S. geopolitics. Russian aggression against Ukraine and the terrible war of attrition have been a geopolitical watershed. The U.S. is using this conjuncture for global primacy. Europe is now firmly behind the U.S.'s strategic plans and is re-militarising. The developing Sino-Russian strategic partnership 'without limits' is the clearly defined enemy other for the West. So, the only speed breaker is the Global South.

Countries of the Global South, especially India, China and others, are being blamed for the failing sanctions against Russia in the context of the Ukraine war. The truth is that the Global South, with a few exceptions (except seven), wants a quick and negotiated end to this terrible war; all oppose the sanctions regime and all advocate neutrality. The reasons for neutrality include: the needs for regime survival especially because many in the South are dependent on Russian energy, fuel, fertilizers, wheat, commodities and

defence equipment. They have memories of colonialism and recent interventions such as Iraq (2003), Lebanon (1982, 2006), Libya (2011), Afghanistan (2001-21), Yemen (2010-on) Syria (supporting Jordan), Mali, etc.

Recent experiences such as the refusal by the West to grant a one-time exception for patents for the COVID-19 vaccine have not helped either. Media images of the way refugees from the South are treated in contrast to the welcome to Ukrainian refugees have revealed the unsurprising racism. Many countries of the South believe that they are unlikely to get western help when they need it the most. In such circumstances Russia is not seen as a threat in the Global South.

China's expanding military footprint is problematic for many countries in Asia. China's 'grey zone' policies — of creeping expansionism, violation of maritime zones in the South China Seas and elsewhere — have antagonised several countries which include Vietnam, Indonesia, India and the Philippines. But even then, most of these Southern countries would not like to be a part of security or military alliances with either the West or the Russian or Chinese sides. For example, the security pact that China (May 2022) offered to 10 Pacific island nations did not find favour with them (the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea, the Cook Islands, Niue, and the Federated States of Micronesia). They also did not agree to China's 'Common

Development Vision'.

The U.S. response to this neutrality has been to put massive pressure for sanctions on Russia and build threat narratives about China. But there has been an unprecedented pushback from the South that wants to make its own strategic choices. For example, the U.S. Congress recently passed a bill — "Countering Malign Russian Activities in Africa Act" — that advocates pressuring, monitoring, and punishing African states and leaders who engage with Russia. In response, the South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor in a press conference — U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken was present — said no African country could be bullied and described this U.S. Bill as "offensive legislation". Ms. Pandor called for diplomacy and urged: "African countries that wish to relate to China, let them do so, in whatever the particular form of relationship of their choice" (August 22, 2022). She also reminded Mr. Blinken of the plight of Palestine under occupation.

On its part, China is waiving debt owed by 17 African countries (for 23 interest-free loans that were due in 2021) — as India did in 2003. There has been similar pushback from Latin America and the West Asian countries. Of course regional powers also work with the U.S. to project their own power — for example Saudi Arabia vis-à-vis Iran. Smaller states do a balancing act between regional powers — as Sri Lanka does between India and China.

Stronger countries of the Global South such as India have used their leverage to negotiate with multiple sides. India increased oil purchases from Russia, shrugging off western pressure. India has a military Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) with the U.S.; at the same time it has developed the International North-South Transport Corridor connecting Russia and India via central Asia and Iran with three sanctioned states. It participates in military exercises such as the U.S.-led RIMPAC (the Rim of the Pacific Exercise, one of the world's largest maritime exercises) but also sends a military contingent for the Vostok exercises (one of exercises Moscow routinely conducts) with Russia

and China. So, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey and others have developed the capacity to transact with competing and conflicting sides.

Moving to geoeconomics

The South's choices are extending slowly to geoeconomics. The fear of the U.S. strategy of freeing dollar reserves has made the South cautious. Further, there is the U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's recent announcement about U.S. trade policies of 're-shoring' and 'friend-shoring' — meaning trade between allies. This is leading the South to gradually find ways of bypassing the dollar in bilateral trade by using local currencies. Currency swap arrangements are used by China and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)+ 3 countries; India with Russia and 23 other countries. This does not mean the end of dollar dominance, but alternate paths are opening up for them.

In sum, the Global South has new agency. Multilateral institutions, ranging from BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and the African Union, to ASEAN, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, have given it new confidence. Several countries including India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia have become economic powerhouses, albeit with their own inequalities and domestic problems. In these circumstances, neutrality and strategic autonomy have become a viable though not a normative option.

The Global South has made a statement on its development, for better terms for trade for which it needs strategic autonomy. If the Global South were to voice collective concerns on existential threats from climate change, ecological devastation, inequalities and increasing militarisation, and work in plural inclusive ways, it could make the world a better place for itself.

Anuradha M. Chenoy is Adjunct Professor at the Jindal Global University and former Dean, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Views are personal.

Halting rupee depreciation won't be easy

The rupee is yet again facing renewed pressure, along with major peers, as the dollar continues to strengthen in the wake of the Federal Reserve's latest jumbo 75 basis points interest rate increase and the U.S. central bank's unequivocal message that it remains squarely focused on taming inflation. The Indian currency weakened past the 81-mark against the dollar for the first time ever in Friday's intraday trade, before ending the week at a new record closing low. The rupee's slide was softened by the Reserve Bank of India's intervention to smoothen volatility; the cumulative impact of such interventions over the 12 months through September 16 have shrunk the RBI's war chest of foreign exchange reserves by almost \$94 billion to \$545.65 billion. The fact that the rupee is not alone in depreciating against the dollar can be of little comfort to Indian companies reliant on imports of raw materials or services for the smooth functioning of their businesses. They are struggling to contend with rising costs at a time when domestic demand is still to regain a durable post-pandemic footing.

So far in 2022, FPIs have in total dumped \$20.6 billion of Indian equity and debt following three straight years of net investments. And the Fed's projection of further steep monetary tightening, of at least another 125 basis points, is only likely to lead to more outflows over the last quarter of this year. With the rupee's real effective exchange rate (REER), or trade-weighted average of its value, also signalling that the Indian currency is still overvalued, the RBI's rate setting panel will have a fine tightrope to walk next week as it battles to restore a semblance of price stability without choking growth and by ensuring the rupee does not weaken too sharply.

LETTERBOX

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



MAITREYI MISRA ON WHY JAILS, MEANT TO FACILITATE REHABILITATION, HAVE BECOME DISEMPOWERING SPACES

What numbers don't tell us about prisoners

The latest numbers are out. 9,180 prisoners with mental illness, 150 deaths by suicide, five prisoners with schizophrenia and epilepsy have died.

While we know the numbers, we do not know what is being considered as a mental illness and whether these numbers are limited to persons who are in the mental health ward, or does it also include those who are living in barracks but still on psychiatric medication. We also do not know when the onset of the illness was and what the different illnesses were or how long they have been in prison for. The National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) Prison Statistics India Report is out for the year 2021. Perhaps it needs repeating, yet again that there is a mental health crisis in prisons.

We often hear that the aim of punishment (or at least one of its aims) is reform and rehabilitation. Yet when we look at the place where that punishment is served, we find conditions that, instead of promoting rehabilitation, ensure despair, hopelessness and helplessness. In any case, our prisons are not overcrowded with convicts, rather it is the undertrial population that makes up for over 70% of prison population. More than half of those with mental illness were undertrials (58.4% were undertrials, while 41.3% were convicts). However, the numbers could very well be higher.

For instance, Project 39A's report on mental health and the death penalty. Death-worthiness, revealed that over 60% of death row prisoners had a current episode of mental illness, but many of them had not been



identified by the prison as needing treatment and care. Deathworthy also revealed that suicide had little to do with mental illness and a lot with absent social support, violence, distress, and despair.

India's National Mental Health Policy, 2014, considers prisoners a class of people vulnerable to mental ill-health. But while the NRCB gives us data confirming this categorisation, it does not take us much further towards crafting solutions, and leaves us none the wiser. Why do we have so many prisoners living with mental illness? Were all these prisoners living with a mental illness before incarceration, or did they have their first episode in prison? The system is not equipped to give us such crucial information.

Understanding these numbers in a meaningful context is important because without that our default response to this crisis will continue to be that of treatment and conver-

sations will get stuck at the poor healthcare infrastructure in prison.

To resolve the mental health crisis in prison, a purely medical approach will take us only so far. We need to take a more all-encompassing approach, move beyond treatment of individuals and towards identifying the social and underlying determinants of mental health in prisons. We need to look at mental health in prisons from a social and structural perspective as well. Otherwise, we might end up with a heavily medicated prison population, but not a healthy one.

Aspects of incarceration

There are aspects of incarceration that cause distress — loss of liberty, loss of close contact with loved ones, loss of autonomy. A certain amount of distress in the prison population is, therefore, bound to be present. However, firstly the conversation cannot sim-

ply end there; the distress must be addressed in a way which is not limited to medicating it away. Secondly, there are aspects of incarceration that are now assumed to be its common features, such as overcrowding and violence, but are certainly not inherent to incarceration. It would be absurd to think a population subject to persistent violence (of different kinds) will be healthy.

Anyone who has interacted with prisoners and prison officials will attest to the fact that each is suspicious of the other and the relationship (as skewed as it is) is based on mistrust and fear. Spaces which are meant to facilitate rehabilitation instead become spaces with further disempowerment and disenfranchisement.

It is no coincidence that these are goals that are essential for a mentally healthy population. Reform, rehabilitation or reintegration are meant to make prisoners confident in their lives, their choices and their ability to take decisions and be responsible and accountable for it. The process is meant to be empathetic and caring. Instead, it is violent, harsh and ultimately leaves the prisoner no better off, if not worse off. That there are high rates of suicides and mental illness shouldn't surprise us. It should, though, make us question the aim and effectiveness of our penal and social justice policy.

Maitreyi Misra heads Mental Health and Criminal Justice team at Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi. She is the lead author of Project 39A's report Deathworthy: A Mental Health Perspective of the Death Penalty. Views are personal.



BOOKS: REVIEW

Storytelling answer to today's biz challenges

Storytelling can be the answer to many of today's business challenges, says a new book by executive coach Jyoti Gupta who provides practical tips to master this business skill.

Published by Pippa Rann Books & Media and distributed by Penguin Random House India, "Business Storytelling From Hype to Hack: Unlock the Software of the Mind" tells how stories can work for different individuals.

"Despite being a professional novelist, I did not appreciate the value of storytelling in business until I was a fellow at a United Nations partner organisation. There, I realised that some of the best content came after and between presentations, informally - when people told stories," Gupta says.

He then applied his experience with fiction to developing and applying strategy, to executive education, and to helping business leaders find their own best stories and tell them more effectively in talks, in pitching ideas, influencing meetings, and steering organisations.

"When you have an important message, you need to communicate it so that it 'clicks' (makes immediate sense) and 'sticks' (is memorable, repeatable, and consistently acted upon). You can hack this communications challenge with stories," the author says. According to him, storytelling has become a buzzword in business, especially in marketing.

"Yes, stories hack the brain, but what you're really hacking is what gets in the way of a human connection. Think of it like shedding unnecessary baggage and cutting to the chase"

There is corresponding scepticism by non-believers as well as disillusionment by people who have either tried and not been satisfied with their own performance, or have tried and not been satisfied with the results.

Gupta says his book is about taking people beyond the hype. "Telling stories is a brain hack. This is your hacker's guide."

He says in business, we tell



level. It is mission critical."

He says CEOs don't need to work out all of the organisation's stories, but they do need a working understanding of how stories operate and where they need deploying. They must have the important business skill: narrative competence.

This booklet, he says, is the "hack to understanding your ultimate communications hack". Readers can explore the power of storytelling for seven key areas of life and business, from becoming a more interesting conversationalist to getting buy-in for an idea.

Gupta argues that storytelling is the quickest, cheapest and deepest way to more influence. "Mastering storytelling can make you more successful, but perhaps more importantly, it will help you reconnect your life and business with your humanity and make you happier. It will help you hack yourself," he writes.

HP to create 2000 digital classrooms across Govt Schools in India

FW DESK
New Delhi

Continuing its commitment to enhance digital learning opportunities, HP India today announced it would enable up to 2000 digital classrooms under the HP ALFA (Accessible Learning for All) initiative. These digital classrooms will be set up in Government or Government-aided schools across 17 states for the students of classes 9th to 12th. The initiative is aligned with the New Education Policy (NEP)-2020 vision of the Govt of India goals.

HP is inviting corporate foundations and NGOs to participate in this initiative and the last date to submitting their request is October 07, 2022. HP will fund the capital expenditure required to equip each classroom with tech-



nology including Multi-function Printers, Webcams, a laptop for teachers, Smart TVs, Android boxes, and an internet dongle for connectivity. Implementation will be managed by the HP's NGO partner NIIT Foundation with active support from other corporations, corporate foundations, and Non-Governmental

Organisations (NGOs) as part of their CSR initiatives. HP, through NIIT Foundation as an implementing agency, will deploy cluster coordinators to monitor project implementation and progress across different clusters.

Ketan Patel, Managing Director, HP India said, "We are elated to introduce the HP ALFA

program and are confident it will pave the way toward digital equity for underserved communities. This initiative is a true reflection of HP's global vision to contribute to becoming the world's most sustainable and just technology company. Through this project, we aim to accelerate quality education for young

students and inclusive access to skills, knowledge, and technological expertise".

National Council for Educational Research & Training (NCERT)'s DIKSHA course content and syllabus will be used for the classroom learning program. The project will ensure that these students utilize the digital content and e-learning tools to the maximum and add further value to their learning journey. The project will also offer teacher training sessions in all schools, empowering them to use technology-led teaching to further integrate it into the classroom and engage students learning. The project will also look at partnering with individual State Boards and private content providers to use their specified course materials content in vernacular languages across select locations. Besides academics,

additional government of India approved programs and courses on EDP (Entrepreneurship Development Program) would also be offered in the project and be made available for students to aid their learning based on the requirement.

The project is divided into phases. The first phase includes Corporates, and Corporate Foundations, working with Government and Government-aided schools that have senior classes (Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12) in the state of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Daman & Diu, Delhi/NCR, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal, and Jharkhand that can apply to participate in HP ALFA (Accessible Learning for All) Project.

Flipkart enables 'Sell-Back Program' ahead of the Festive Season

CUSTOMERS CAN NOW UPGRADE BY SELLING THEIR USED MOBILE PHONES TO TRUSTED NETWORK PARTNERS, WHILE RECEIVING THE RIGHT BUY-BACK VALUE IN THEIR BANK ACCOUNT



FW DESK

Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, is enabling a "Sell-Back Program" ahead of the Festive Season. The program, while supplementing efforts toward creating a circular economy and reducing e-waste, offers a safe and convenient option to sell old phones to network partners. Customers can truly upgrade via the Sell-Back program by selling their used mobile phones while receiving the right buy-back value in their bank account.

An objective 10 grade system will guide the partners to value the used phones. The process is seamless and hassle-free with attractive value, quick payment, speedy doorstep pickup, and a safe and secure sale network for customers.

India is the second largest smartphone market and the fastest growing market for second-hand smartphones in the world. In 2021, around 25 million smartphones were traded in the second-hand market and are expected to rise to 51 million units at a valuation of \$4.6 billion by 2025, as per a report by IDC and the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). Around 70% of people don't sell their old phones mainly because of the lack of a trusted platform that can provide good prices, the convenience of selling, and

assurance of data safety.

Flipkart is giving customers access to a strong and reliable re-commerce platform and the launch of the "Sell-Back Program" is a significant step in that direction. With the acquisition of Yaantra, which has a robust device quality assessment capability, Flipkart has strengthened its foothold in the re-commerce industry.

Commenting on the launch of the program, Adarsh Menon, Senior Vice President, and Head-New Businesses, Flipkart, said, "As the festive season approaches, more people look at options to upgrade and purchase the latest devices and mobiles. Consequently, there has been an emergence of an ever-growing market of re-selling devices which is highly unorganized, unsafe, and difficult to navigate. With the "Sell-Back Program", we aim to provide our customers access to a secure, convenient, and environment-friendly option that assures the best value and quick payment. We have received strong adoption and interest for this program, which witnesses approximately one crore customers every month from across the country. At Flipkart, we consider it a priority to work towards bringing smart tech-enabled solutions to customers and help in reducing the generation of e-waste, which is a crucial step in creating a sustainable economy."

Cricket Icon Yuvraj Singh is Hosting an Exclusive Stay at his Goa Home on Airbnb

YUVRAJ SINGH BECOMES FIRST INTERNATIONAL CRICKET SUPERSTAR IN INDIA TO BECOME AN AIRBNB HOST

FW DESK

International cricket icon Yuvraj Singh is becoming an Airbnb Host and offering an exclusive one-time-only stay for a group of six at his home in Goa, India. Perched on a hilltop with spectacular views of the sea beyond, Singh's home pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of Goa. Renowned for its pristine beaches, unique cuisine and warm hospitality, Goa is consistently one of the most sought after destinations for travelers in India and around the world.

Singh has delivered outstanding performances and career defining knocks throughout his career; he is now setting another milestone by becoming the first international cricketer from India to host on Airbnb. Six guests will have insider access to the cricketer's three-bedroom holiday home filled with special memories and meaningful keepsakes from his years on the pitch. Bookable on [airbnb.com/yuvraj Singh](https://www.airbnb.com/yuvraj Singh), Singh's home will be available for INR 1212* per night - Singh's birthday and jersey number - for a two-night stay from October 14 - 16, 2022.



"My Goa home has always been extremely special to me. While my work takes me across the world, this villa is where my wife and I come together to spend quality time with our friends and family. I am looking forward to being an Airbnb Host and opening the doors of my home to a lucky group of six," shared Yuvraj Singh.

From its vantage point high on a hilltop, with 180-degree panoramic views of the sea beyond, Casa Singh offers a serene setting from which to explore the colorful charms of Goa's sun-kissed villages. Expansive decks and terraces burst with potted plants and greenery, dotted by pops of color from bougainvillea and other flowers. A luxurious pool features a swim up bar and several nooks for lazy afternoons spent reading or enjoying leisurely meals alfresco.

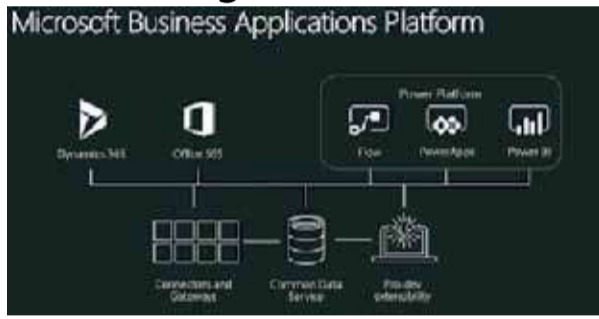
Microsoft Power Apps brings collaboration to center stage with 3 big announcements

FW DESK

On the first day of the inaugural Microsoft Power Platform Conference in Orlando, Florida yesterday, the company made three big announcements and feature updates, including:

Power Up skilling program: An upskilling initiative created to help individuals from non-technical backgrounds advance their careers with low-code technology and skills. Cards in Microsoft Power Apps: A new lightweight way to design and deliver micro-apps directly inside Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Outlook, and more with an adaptable user interface (UI).

Coauthoring in Power Apps: A feature enabling makers and developers to now design and develop the same app at the same time—just like coauthoring in



Microsoft 365. This is a big step forward for software development, allowing multiple makers to collaboratively build and edit the same app simultaneously. Enhanced SAP integrations: New and improved ways to connect your SAP data to your Microsoft Power Platform solutions.

Integrated virtual agent matching makers to makers in Power Apps: A conversational

bot (powered by Power Virtual Agents) designed to maximize and expand an organization's maker network. This Microsoft community-led event titled 'empower everyone' is a celebration of the passion and ingenuity of the Microsoft Power Platform community and will enable the pro/citizen developer community to build new skills with low-code technologies.

Medicines are Now Available on the Flipkart App, Powered by Flipkart Health+

FW DESK
Bengaluru

Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, announced the launch of Medicines via its app through Flipkart Health+. This gives millions of customers access to medicines, wellness products, and healthcare supplies at affordable prices. Customers across India can now order a wide selection of affordable and genuine medicines and healthcare products within minutes. Using Flipkart's trusted platform, with a recently revamped user-friendly interface, customers can enjoy a seamless shopping experience for medicines and health supplies. Built to ensure customers get access to genuine and trusted pharmaceutical products at their doorsteps, the Flipkart Health+ app that powers this availability of medicines through the platform has mandated its sellers to follow meticulous processes for quality checks.

Bombardier Announces the Winners of its 2021 Diamond Supplier Program

FW DESK

Bombardier has awarded 18 of its suppliers with the prestigious Diamond certification, recognizing them for their excellence in operational performance standards for 2021, as well as for their commitment to continuous improvement. Bombardier presented the awards for outstanding effort to its Diamond Suppliers during a ceremony

in Montréal today. "Our business partners are key to our continued success, as they help us in delivering the world's best business jets to the market," said Shauna Gamble, Chief Procurement Officer, Bombardier. "I want to congratulate the 18 winners of our 2021 Diamond Supplier program and for working collaboratively with us and pursuing continuous improvement in light of challenges observed around the world."

PubMatic Puts Publishers in Control with Major OpenWrap Enhancements



FW DESK

PubMatic (Nasdaq: PUBM), an independent technology company delivering digital advertising's supply chain of the future, today announced a series of major investments in OpenWrap, the company's unified auction solution for publishers. Recent enhancements to OpenWrap give publishers, including app developers, increased flexibility and improved performance with omnichannel and platform-specific enterprise-grade developer customization.

As a leading independent wrapper solution globally, OpenWrap gives publishers more control over their programmatic advertising business. There has been strong momentum for the solution: As of Q2 of 2022, PubMatic revenue from OpenWrap has nearly doubled year-over-year.

Int'l Day of Sign Languages, KFC India encourages to #SpeakSign



FW DESK
Delhi

With an aim to spread awareness and acceptance about sign language as a mode of communication, KFC India is all set to celebrate the upcoming International Day of Sign Languages on 23rd September by urging customers to #SpeakSign. On this day, customers, and KFC teams across 33 Special KFC Restaurants, operated by 150+ specially-abled team members across 19 cities, will be encouraged to interact in sign language.

Creating a more inclusive environment, customers will be motivated to use less words, and more signs on this day. As a run-up to the day, short tutorial videos on KFC India's In-

sta handle, aptly titled 'Crunch Course in Sign Language', will guide customers on how to converse in sign at a Special KFC restaurant. On the day, customers will be greeted with interesting messaging as 'Give us a Sign' or urged to 'Kuch naa kaho' and communicate 'isharon isharon mein' at the restaurants. To promote greater awareness, a booklet that opens up into a poster for a 'Crunch Course in Sign Language' will be given out on all orders. This booklet demonstrates basic signs for catching up with friends and family over your favourite Bucket of KFC chicken. With signs for 'How are you?', 'What plans today?' to 'LOL' - customers can learn easy signs and make some crispy conversations over crispy food.

Team members will greet customers wearing #SpeakSign badges, and cheer them on to use less words, and more signs. Consumers successfully placing their orders in sign language can sport their support with a special #SpeakSign wrist band. This booklet will also be available across 600+ KFC restaurants across the country taking forth the brand's messaging with their ongoing KFC Kshamata initiative.

With the #SpeakSign campaign, the brand is aptly demonstrating their commitment towards strengthening gender and ability parity as part of the Kshamata program. The brand aims to bridge the gender and ability imbalance gap and increase the women workforce at restaurants by 2X by 2024.

Codex DNA Debuts Next-Generation Automated Synthetic Biology Workstation

BIOXP™ 9600 SYSTEM – A FULLY AUTOMATED, HIGH-THROUGHPUT BENCHTOP INSTRUMENT FOR SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY WORKFLOWS – EMPOWERS SCIENTISTS TO ACCELERATE DISCOVERY OF NEW VACCINES AND BIOLOGICS

FW DESK

A pioneer in automated benchtop synthetic biology systems, today announced commercial release and first shipment of the BioXp™ 9600 system, a next-generation high throughput platform designed to revolution-

ize synthetic biology workflows. The latest instrument further accelerates the design-build-test process of research and discovery by building biology overnight and at the push of a button.

The fully automated BioXp™ system enables scientists to overcome process limitations created by the turnaround time, cost, or complexity of alternative means of building or acquiring DNA and mRNA. The BioXp™ system provides over-night, automated synthesis of genes, clones, DNA libraries, and mRNA, enabling users to more tightly integrate design and build cycles, driving greater productivity and reducing time to answer.



"Codex DNA is committed to empowering and inspiring scientists to advance their discovery of life-changing vaccines and biologics. We believe the BioXp™ 9600 system, the third release on our versatile and powerful BioXp platform, can enable scientists to overcome inefficiencies in their workflows which limit their discovery. Demonstrating our commitment, we accelerated development of this system,

releasing one quarter ahead of schedule," said Todd R. Nelson, PhD, CEO of Codex DNA.

"The versatility of the platform enables us to release additional capabilities intended to optimize discovery workflows. Beginning in Q1 of 2023 we will release additional BioXp kits that enable scientists to begin the cloning, amplification, and mRNA synthesis process from the customer's own linear DNA or plasmid DNA. We believe providing scientists the flexibility to begin with their sequence, linear DNA, or plasmid DNA, will further expand the utility, speed, and impact of the system," said Todd R. Nelson, PhD, CEO of Codex DNA.

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



During the lockdown period, when business was at a standstill and workers were being fired from jobs, people had to work in two places to earn their living. It was time to work from home. From there the practice of moonlighting started, which is now emerging as a big problem in the IT sector...

Moonlighting – a fancy name for a second income

time employees just because they were found indulging in the practice of moonlighting. Not only this, Wipro Executive Chairman Rishad Premji alleged that those Wipro employees were working part-time for the main rival companies, which is a morally unfair practice. During the Covid pandemic period, when business was at a standstill and people were being fired from jobs, many of them had to work in two or more places to earn their livelihood. It was a time for work from home (WFH) and people had enough privacy to work for anyone anytime. From there the practice of moonlighting started, which is now emerging as a big problem in the industry.

In the old times also, one had to search for a side income or a part-time job to increase the household income and it was not taken seriously. Now it's just given a fancy name - Moonlighting. Since it is a time to show off, they started



calling a side income job moonlighting, which looks like a very glamorous thing. There is a debate going on in the corporate world regarding moonlighting whether it is a wrong trend or the right step to pursue a moonlighting job. While Wipro's Rishad Premji considers it a 'criminal act', Mohandas Pai, former Infosys director, feels what is not wrong if someone takes up some other work in his or her spare time to increase income. He asked - "If I want extra income, I will work on Saturday. They can't stop me from doing this."

Rishad Premji said in an event of All India Management Association (AIMA) in New Delhi recently that employees can have a transparent dialogue with the company for their second or weekend work, but working secretly for our rival companies cannot be tolerated. In one of his tweets, he called Moonlighting outright fraud with the parent company. He wrote in the tweet - Moonlighting is cheating - plain and simple. Earlier, Infosys had sent a warning email to its employees that those found indulging in moonlighting would

be severely punished and could even be fired. N Ganapathy Subramaniam, COO of Tata Group's largest software services company, TCS, has opined that moonlighting can cause huge losses to IT companies in the long term. That is why this practice is ethically wrong.

IT companies are currently facing a double challenge. One is the lack of qualified staff, the other is problems like moonlighting and Quiet Quitting. Quiet Quit means secretly looking for another job in the market while working somewhere as a full-time employee. Also, doing only as little work as is necessary to keep the job going. Such employees do not work enough in the office and get detached from work or the company after the duty hours are over. As soon as they get a new opportunity, quietly leave their main job and vanish. IT companies hired over 1.20 lakh employees from April 2020 to September 2022, according to

IT market intelligence firm UnearthInsight. Apart from this, people doing freelance work were also given full-time jobs. In the second half of 2020-21, these companies hired 70,000 gig workers for full-time jobs. Similarly, 30,000 freelancers were given full-time jobs in the first half of 2021-22.

The hired freelance workers were mostly assigned the responsibility of testing, application development, maintenance, support, cloud, and microservices. In Indian IT companies, gig workers are paid only 50 percent as compared to full-time employees. They are also paid very less on average per hour because India does not have a fully evolved gig ecosystem like in western countries. Moonlighting is also rising because the gig ecosystem cannot be considered a substitute for full-time work. An UnearthInsight official estimates that some of the people who were earlier gig

workers may now be involved in moonlighting.

Due to the increasing use of digital technology, the demand for IT professionals is increasing in the Indian markets. Employment opportunities are being created in the technology, healthcare, e-commerce, and manufacturing sectors. The job opportunities in the field of Information Technology are much more than one can imagine. The way experienced and qualified professionals are in demand in the IT sector, qualified candidates are not much in supply. Since the desired candidates are not available in sufficient numbers, IT companies intend to increase the salaries of the existing staff to retain their qualified employees. Companies do not want to lose their existing employees. For example, HCL Technologies made a plan to give a stake to its 3000 senior workers in the company as part of the strategy to retain the talent.

Rupee slips below 81-mark against US dollar for first time in early trade

The rupee depreciated 44 paise and slipped below the 81-mark against the US dollar for the first time in early trade on Friday, weighed down by the strong American currency and risk-off sentiment among investors.

Forex traders said escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine and rate hikes by the US Fed and Bank of England in a bid to contain inflation sapped risk appetite.

Further, the strength of the American currency in the overseas market, a negative trend in domestic equities, and risk-off moods amid escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 81.08 against the greenback, then fell further to 81.23, reg-



istering a fall of 44 paise over its previous closing.

On Thursday, the rupee plunged by 83 paise -- its biggest single-day loss in nearly seven months -- to close at an all-time low of 80.79 against the US dollar.

The Bank of England hiked its base rate by 50 basis points (bps) to a 14-year high of 2.25

per cent.

The Bank of Japan intervened in the FX market for the first time in 24 years to stem a falling Yen after it kept rates at record lows, IFA Global Research Academy said, adding that the Swiss National Bank hiked rates by a record 75 bps to 0.5 per cent.

The US Fed has hiked inter-

“All major events are over for this month as we await RBI’s MPC to give its verdict on September 30, 2022”

est rates by 75 basis points to 3-3.25 per cent.

On Thursday RBI was conspicuous by its absence from the spot market as the rupee fell by 1 per cent possibly as it wanted the rupee to do the catching up, said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury, Finrex Treasury Advisors.

“All major events are over for this month as we await

RBI’s MPC to give its verdict on September 30, 2022,” Bhansali added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.05 per cent to 111.41.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.57 per cent to USD 89.94 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex was trading 558.59 points or 0.94 per cent down at 58,561.13, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 153.10 points or 0.87 per cent to 17,476.70.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,509.55 crore, as per exchange data.

Policy rate hikes by RBI seem unavoidable in the face of global headwinds, inflation : ASSOCHAM

FW DESK

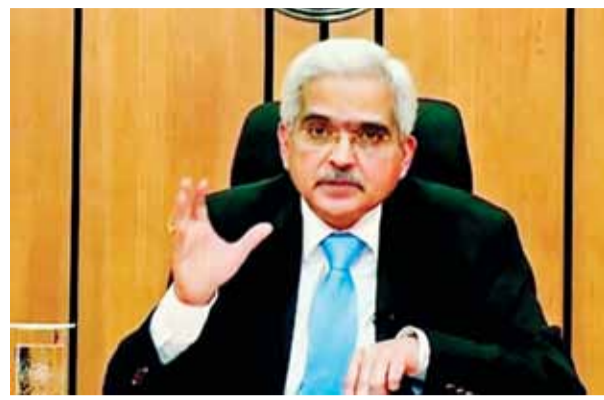
India Inc is bracing itself for yet another policy rate hike by the RBI Monetary Policy Committee in the range of 35-50 basis points as the move seems unavoidable in the wake of the global monetary tightening to limit the impact of inflation, ASSOCHAM has said. The Chamber has sought a balanced and smooth transition to the new trajectory for borrowing costs.

Seeking several measures for ensuring that adequate liquidity is maintained within the system, the ASSOCHAM has said “35-50 bps rate hike seems imminent and inevitable while the MPC may leave the CRR and SLR rates unchanged”.

ASSOCHAM President Sumant Sinha said while 35-50 bps increase in the benchmark rates seems unavoidable at this point of time given the continuous monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve and other central banks. He however noted that economic activity is at robust levels. “India is in a sweet spot with growth coming from all quarters and inflation is relatively in control. Softening of crude prices will augur well for the economy and we should start the interest rate cut cycle from early part of FY24.”

Among other suggestions, he said Sustainability should be brought under the ambit of priority sector lending and only then tax free bond issues and lower capital charge and provisioning will result in lower borrowing cost for sustainable projects and drive the same.

The Chamber Secretary General Deepak Sood said, “while the industry would like to see lower interest rates, the main challenge



“India is in a sweet spot with growth coming from all quarters and inflation is relatively in control. Softening of crude prices will augur well for the economy and we should start the interest rate cut cycle from early part of FY24”

and the priority is to tackle inflation head on so that we have a sustainable growth”.

He stated that the intent of monetary intervention by the RBI shouldn’t result in the deflation of the economy and fiscal boosters may prove beneficial to control inflation.

The chamber, which has sent a detailed note to the RBI, in the run-up to the forthcoming credit policy review, said India is better placed on the inflation front than the Advanced Economies, which are witnessing higher inflation due to supply side issues on labour, and energy shortages

particularly in Europe.

The Indian lending rates have to remain somewhat aligned with the global trend to ensure that the impact of the frequent rate revisions by the Federal Reserve of the US and several other central banks is minimised in terms of outflows from the emerging markets. Stability in our foreign exchange market is another ‘ask’ before the RBI. Pressure on rupee against USD would be inflationary, the chamber noted, appreciating the RBI for striking a fine balance in the forex rates.

On specifics, the chamber suggested continuation of the NPA classification norms following the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, for the MSMEs. It said MSMEs which got classified as NPAs due to pre-pandemic slow down, continue to face challenges by post pandemic disturbances. Hence, we suggest a one-time relaxation in Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms to MSME units which have been classified as NPA but continue to operate.”

In order to encourage retail participation in the Government securities, the ASSOCHAM suggested tax incentives in different forms, including for the senior citizens and others.

Gold falls Rs 139, silver declines Rs 363



Gold price in the national capital fell by Rs 139 to Rs 50,326 per 10 grams on Friday amid a fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal had finished at Rs 50,465 per 10 grams. Silver also fell sharply by Rs 363 to Rs 58,366 per kilogram from Rs 58,729 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,665 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 19.50 per ounce. “Gold prices have capped downside despite of stronger dollar over recession worries as the US Federal Reserve committed to raise interest rates,” said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

Air India signs agreement with Willis Lease Finance Corp



Air India on Thursday said it has signed a definitive sale and lease back agreement with Nasdaq-listed Willis Lease Finance Corporation for 34 CFM56-5B engines installed on its Airbus A320 family fleet. The engines will be covered under Willis Leases ConstantThrust, which will deliver significant reliability and cost savings over a traditional MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Operations) shop visit programme, the company said in a statement. Under the sale side of the transaction, Willis Lease will purchase 34 engines from Air India, powering 13 Airbus A321 aircraft and four Airbus A320 aircraft, it said.

Punjab National Bank contributes Rs.24.90 Lakhs under Corporate Social Responsibility to TN Medical Services Corporation Ltd.



KULBIR SINGH KALSII
New Delhi

Under its CSR initiative, Punjab National Bank (PNB), nation’s leading public sector bank, made a contribution of Rs.24.90 Lakhs to Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation.

The contribution was made towards constructing a recreation hall and badminton court for the benefit of front-line health workers.

The initiative took place in the presence of PNB’s P.Mahendar, Zonal Manager, Chennai, and Chetan Masoor, Circle Head.

PNB wins Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar

PNB won the “Rajbhasha Kirti” 2nd prize and Delhi Bank Narakas (Convenor: Punjab National Bank) “Rajbhasha Kirti” 1st prize for the FY 2021-22. These “Rajbhasha Kirti” prizes were presented to MD & CEO Atul Kumar Goel & Smeear Bajpai, Chairman, Delhi Bank Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Zonal Manager and Chief General Manager, Delhi and NCR, Punjab National Bank) in the presence of Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Ajay Kumar Mishra, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nisith Pramanik, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and



Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Darshana Vikram Jaroshi, Union State Minister of Railways and Textiles, in the Official Language function organized at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Indoor Stadium, Surat. On this occasion, General Manager-Rajbhasha Devarchan Sahoo and Assistant General Manager-Rajbhasha Manisha Sharma, Punjab National Bank were also present.

Asian stocks slide for 3rd day on economic growth fears

Asian stocks fell for a third day on Friday after more rate hikes by the Federal Reserve and other central banks to control persistent inflation spurred fears of a possible global recession.

Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Sydney declined. Oil prices edged lower. Japanese markets were closed for a holiday.

Wall Street’s benchmark S and P 500 index fell on Thursday for a third day after rate hikes by central banks in Britain, Switzerland, Turkey and the Philippines. The Fed hiked its key rate on Wednesday for a fifth time this year and indicated more rises were on the way. Global equities are struggling as the world anticipates surging rates will trigger a much sooner and possibly severe global recession, Edward Moya of Oanda said in a report. The Shanghai Composite Index dropped 0.3 per cent to 3,098.87 and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng lost 0.3 per cent to 18,085.72. The Kospi in Seoul tumbled 1.5 per cent to 2,296.39.

Sydney’s S and P-ASX 200 fell 1.7 per cent to 6,588.10. New Zealand and Southeast Asian markets declined. The S and P 500 lost 0.8 per cent to 3,757.99. The Dow Jones Industrial Aver-



age fell 0.4 per cent to 30,076.68 and the Nasdaq composite slid 1.4 per cent to 11,066.81.

The selling reflects investor fears the Fed and other central banks might be willing to tolerate a deep slowdown in economic activity to get prices under control. Some point to signs the US economy is cooling as support for the Fed to back off plans for more rate hikes. But chair Jerome Powell said on Wednesday that the Fed will keep rates higher for an extended time if needed to get inflation back to its 2 per cent target. US consumer inflation eased to 8.3 per cent in August from the previous month’s 9.1 per cent peak. But core inflation,

which strips out volatile food and energy prices to give a clearer picture of the trend, rose to 0.6 per cent over the previous month, up from July’s 0.3 per cent increase. That indicated pressure for prices to rise still was strong.

The Fed on Wednesday lifted its benchmark rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, to a range of 3 per cent to 3.25 per cent. It released a forecast showing it expects that benchmark rate to be 4.4 per cent by the year’s end, a full point higher than envisioned in June. Traders also are looking ahead to quarterly financial results from big companies. In energy markets, benchmark US crude lost

Markets continue to remain weak tracking bearish global trends

Equity indices began the trade on a weak note, falling for the third day running on Friday, amid an overall bearish trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 319.3 points to 58,800.42 in initial trade. The NSE Nifty fell by 90.8 points to 17,539. Among the 30-share Sensex pack, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, HDFC, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Axis Bank were the major laggards in early trade. However, Tata Steel, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma, Infosys, HCL Technologies and Dr Reddy’s were the gainers. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower. The US markets ended in the negative territory on Thursday. Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.50 per cent to USD 90.02 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net Rs 2,509.55 crore on Thursday, according to data available with the BSE. “The global risk-off is gaining strength aided by the steadily rising dollar. Dollar is rising against all currencies and this will impact capital flows into emerging markets including India.

21 cents to USD 83.28 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 55 cents to USD 83.49 on Thursday. Brent crude,



used to price international oils, declined 28 cents to USD 89.25 per barrel in London. It rose 63 cents the previous session to USD 90.46.

Seizure of Foreign Currency worth INR 6.05 Cr at SGRDJI International Airport, Amritsar

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Customs department at Shri Guru Ramdas International Airport have seized Foreign Currency worth INR 6.05 Crore.

Official stated that on the evening of September 18 during the course of security check of baggage of the outgoing international passengers by Airlines Staff on x-ray machine at International departure at SGRDJI Airport, Amritsar, some suspicious images in a bag were observed.

In an official statement here today informed that the Airlines staff subsequently alerted Customs officers on duty. Thereafter, Customs officers carried out profiling of the passenger and he was found to be suspicious. So the movement of the passenger was kept under observation.

The passenger, after handling over the suspected bag at the airline’s counter as check-in-baggage, proceeded for immigration check and got his passport stamped. Thereafter, the passenger was intercepted and asked whether he was carrying any excessive Indian



either in check-in-baggage or hand bag to which he replied in negative. However, his checked-in-bag, which was on Customs hold was called from the airlines and examination of the same resulted into recovery of 80 packets of foreign currency which was found concealed in specially made cavities. The recovered currency was *USD-755,700 - INR 5.95 Cr Saudi Riyals-26500-INR 5.43 lakh Rest Oman Rials and Kuwaiti Dinar-INR 4.5 lakh*

The passenger could not produce any evidence for its lawful acquisition, possession and exportation. Accordingly, the Passenger was offloaded. Follow up searches were carried out at residence and shop involved.

Yield Group of Companies Got AA Rated By 2 Int'l Rating Agencies



KULBIR SINGH KALSII

Yield Group of Companies has been rated by two reputed international agencies as low risk to work in the financial sector. The DCC (Dubai Chamber of Commerce) has rated Yield4Finance AA for the services being provided to the clients, and DNB (Dun & Bradstreet) has rated 1A With the constant efforts of Managing Director of Yield4Finance, Vipul Chadha, the company is attaining new success marks every day. Credit ratings are essential for firms to sustain in the densely competitive market. Furthermore, Yield Group of Companies is ISO 9001 2015 compliant to stay ahead of the market competition and is able to provide the most reliable services to their clients globally.

Tata Steel board approves merger of six subsidiary companies

NEW DELHI: Tata Steel will merge with itself six of its subsidiary companies, a statement said on Friday.

A proposal in this regard was approved by the Board of the company on Thursday, it said. “The Board of Directors of Tata Steel considered and approved schemes for the proposed amalgamation of six subsidiaries into and with Tata Steel,” the statement issued by Tata Steel said. The subsidiaries are Tata Steel Long Products Limited in which Tata Steel holds 74.91 per cent equity, The Tinplate Company of India Limited (74.96 per cent), Tata Metaliks Limited (60.03 per cent), The Indian Steel & Wire Products Limited (95.01 per cent equity holding), Tata Steel Mining Limited and S & T Mining Company Limited (both wholly-owned subsidiaries).

“Tata Steel Board approves the amalgamation of strategic businesses into the company,” the statement said. The Board



also approved the amalgamation of TRF Limited (34.11 per cent equity), an associate company of Tata Steel, into Tata Steel Limited. Tata Steel further said the proposed amalgamation is aimed at driving synergies, simplifying the group holding and management structure, and consolidating and strategically growing downstream operations and engineering capabilities.

The Board has considered the proposal based on independent fairness and valuation opinions. It followed the process laid down under the Companies Act, 2013 and Securities and Exchange Board of India Regulations.

GeM on Strong Growth Trajectory Across India

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Panjim

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has surpassed a “milestone” of Rs 1 lakh crore -- in a single fiscal year -- in FY 21-22, besides facilitating over one crore transactions worth Rs 3.02 lakh crore since its inception.

GeM is part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. “The GeM portal is a win-win situation for vendors and the Government, and there is a large scope of for GST-registered traders in Goa to register on the GeM portal,” Vikas Gaunekar, Additional Secretary (Finance), Government of Goa and State Nodal Officer for GeM, said while addressing a GeM Seller Samvad in Panjim recently that was moderated by Gautam Kumar, Deputy Director, Press Information Bureau. “The Government is providing a fillip to the GeM portal which has total transparency and a prompt payment system,” he added.

Describing GeM as an interactive platform “contactless, paperless, and cashless, end-to-end” online marketplace launched on August 9, 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nishant Deengawal, Director, GeM, States and Union Territories, told the meeting that the 62,000 registered government buyers and 50.90 lakh sellers across India highlighted the size and scale of GeM operations.

“Everything from a tiny Pin to even cement and Flight Simulators are the products in various categories that keep moving in sales on the portal,” he said while emphasizing that business were free to sell their general products elsewhere, besides also on GeM. To query about having a grievance cell, he said an “Incident management module is there in our portal.”

Meanwhile, the level of the GeM’s penetration into the national markets including



Goa could be witnessed in the response from the vendors/sellers at a meeting recently in Goa, where the local businesses highlighted their success in drawing business across various categories in the State. Kenneth Alphonso, GeM’s Goa Business Facilitator, highlighted the fact that GeM provided direct access to all government departments and direct real-time notifications to sellers for participation in bids. Saisrasad Bhartu, Chief Operating Officer, Innovativa Waste Aid & Management Pvt

Ltd (Goa), noted that his startup drew business from the Government (70%) and private (30%) sectors. “We joined the GeM portal in 2019 and got startup exemptions that enabled us to get orders based on this from the State Government. Gem ensured cash flows and last year we did Rs 2.5 crores business which we expect to do better figures this year,” he said adding that the business included biogas plants, sanitary waste incinerators and wet waste composters. “We have been getting a tremendous response since registering on the GeM portal and my business has grown from Rs 2.80 lakh to Rs two crores.” Jyoti Rao Rerapalli of Jyoti Enterprises said while describing her business as supplying manpower services.

Ashish Ranjan of Nidhi Enterprises, which deals with the Defence Sector, said registering on the GeM portal had drawn pan-India business orders and also witnessed increased transparency in the growing numbers bidding. “We are operating in Goa since 2005 and came on board GeM in 2019 as we deal with the Defence sector including the Port Trust for electrical supplies,” he said. Sumita Ranjan of Durga Sales and Supplies Company noted that her business had witnessed a doubled turnover since joining the GeM portal. Describing GeM as a +one-stop+ online procurement portal since 2016 for all Government buyers including Central/State Ministries, Departments, Bodies and PSUs, Deengawal said GeM provided the tools for the procurement journey including e-Bidding, Reverse Auctions and Direct Procurement to facilitate Government Buyers getting best value for their money. He said that Rule 149 of Government Financial Rules (GFR) 2017 mandated all Central Ministries, State Departments, Central Public Sector Units (CPSE) and autonomous bodies to procure all common use goods and services from GeM.

INTERNATIONAL

SCO : Indian diplomacy's ace performance at Samarkand

India has asserted itself diplomatically by refusing to join an important pillar of the US-led IPEF, and at the same time Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Samarkand has demonstrated his governments resolve to act globally and resolutely in interactions with regional leaders. The 22nd summit of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) took place in Uzbekistan's capital Samarkand, last week. The summit was held amid the growing geo-political turmoil set-off by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Straits. China which initiated this regional grouping as Shanghai Five in 1996, has transformed the forum into an influential grouping of eight nations, with many more like Iran to join as a permanent member and diverse countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Belarus

and Mongolia being given Observer status, which shows its transformation into an influential regional forum, besides challenging to other western regional alliances. In his address at the summit, Modi obdurately touched every relevant aspect of the current geo-political situation. He urged SCO to strive to develop reliable, resilient and diversified supply chains in the region. For this, better connectivity will be required, besides giving full rights of transit to each other, he asserted, in a veiled reference to Pakistan. He also batted for making India a regional manufacturing hub. On tackling the challenges of food security, he spoke of India's efforts to popularise millets as an alternative and cheap option. In a speech that was otherwise free from references to India's regional issues on terrorism with Pakistan and on territorial



sovereignty with China, Modi called for greater cooperation in the Eurasian region. He also focused on initiatives on manufacturing that India is willing to pilot in the next year, when India assumes the chair of the SCO and hosts the Summit in mid-2023. Modi-Xi Jinping meeting The most important meeting from India's standpoint was a possible meeting between Prime

Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Everyone wondered whether roadblocks have been cleared and temperaments cooled after the recent success of commander level talks between two countries on the issues of Chinese aggression in the Ladakh region in May 2020. But, officially the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) mentioned no such meetings. In

fact, Samarkand offered the perfect opportunity for two leaders to reset the ties. But there seemed little willingness from the two sides, to compromise. In fact, if the reports are to be believed, the exchange between the two leaders, reminded one of the cold treatment meted out by Modi to former Pakistan's Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif at the 2014 SAARC summit, though it eventually ended with a handshake at the last moment, but nothing such happened in Samarkand. But the moot question here is whether China is in a mood to mend ties with India? Well, it seems no, not at the moment perhaps. Modi and Xi have met twice earlier but that is not enough to read each other's thoughts and also make a convincing and principled case, though both the countries stand to gain much economically, if ties are improved.

Prez Murmu meets B'desh PM Hasina ahead of Queen's funeral in UK



President Droupadi Murmu met with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina here on Monday before the commencement of the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. President Murmu, who is in London on a three-day visit to attend the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, visited Westminister Hall here on

Sunday and offered tributes to the late British monarch on behalf of the Indian government and the people of India. "President Droupadi Murmu met with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and her sister, Sheikh Rehana just before commencement of the State Funeral at London," the President's official Twitter account Rashtrapati Bhavan tweeted.

World opinion shifts against Russia as Ukraine war grows



The tide of international opinion appears to be decisively shifting against Russia, as a number of non-aligned countries are joining the United States and its allies in condemning Moscow's war in Ukraine and its threats to the principles of the international rules-based order. Western officials have repeatedly said that Russia has become isolated since invading Ukraine in February. Until recently, though, that was largely wishful thinking. But on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, much of the international community spoke out against the conflict in a rare display of unity at the often fractured United Nations. The tide had already appeared to be turning against Putin even before Thursday's UN speeches. Chinese and Indian leaders had been critical of the war at a high-level summit last week in Uzbekistan. And then the UN General Assembly disregarded Russia's objections and voted overwhelmingly to allow Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to be the only leader to address the body remotely, instead of requiring him to appear in person. That shift against Russia accelerated after President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday announced the mobilisation of some additional 300,000 troops to Ukraine, signalling the unlikelyhood of a quick end to the war. Putin also suggested that nuclear weapons may be an option.

Indian mission condemns violence, temple attack in UK



India on Monday strongly condemned violence against the Indian community and vandalism of Hindu premises in the eastern England city of Leicester as it sought immediate action against those involved in these attacks. In a statement, the High Commission of India here said it had "strongly" taken up the issue and called for protection for those affected from the UK authorities following reports of clashes over the weekend in the city, described as "serious disorder" by the local police. There have been reports of clashes between Hindu and Muslim groups in the city since fans clashed following an India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match at the end of last month.

Australia holds national day of mourning for British queen

An Australian national day of mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday centered on Parliament House, where dignitaries placed sprigs of golden wattle the national floral emblem in a wreath. The focus at the ceremony at Parliament's Great Hall was a portrait of the former monarch of Britain and Australia in a yellow dress adorned with golden wattle motifs that she wore on her first night in Australia in 1954, known as the Wattle Painting, created by Australian artist William Dargie. The queen's death on Sept. 8 came in the Southern Hemisphere spring when wattle blooms, its golden flowers and green leaves reflecting Australia's national colors in what has become a symbol of unity.



The government declared Thursday a nationwide public holiday and the ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Governor-General David Hurley, King Charles III's representative in Australia. Both had returned Wednesday from the queen's

India-UK free trade pact is likely to take place by the end of October: Rajendra Ratnoo

There is a considerable positive sentiment over the potential of the foreign trade agreement (FTA) between India and UK and the anticipated economic benefits to businesses on both sides. The zeal and enthusiasm with which the FTA negotiations are progressing are a testimony to our commitment to double bilateral trade by 2030," said Rajendra Ratnoo, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of the Republic of India at the India-UK Business Outreach. "The leaders of both the countries are committed to FTA and have set an ambitious goal



to gift it to people from both sides. Optimistically, it should happen by the end of October and will be a Diwali gift," said Rajendra Ratnoo, Joint Secretary, Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India at the India-UK Business Outreach at Trade and Investment Alliances was organised by the apex industry body, Associated

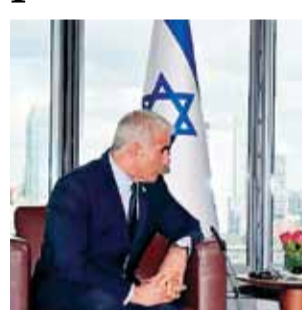
Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). Talking about the impact of the free trade pact on India, Ratnoo said, "FTA with UK is expected to provide certainty, predictability, transparency, and create a more bilateral facilitative and competitive services regime. FTA expands sector and corporation, enhances our exports by addressing market issues on both the sides and removing the restrictions which are impeding the trade on both sides. India is expected to register a quantum jump as the FTA will give a major thrust to Indian export and labour-intensive sectors like leather, textile, jewellery etc. Services like IT, ITES, nursing, education and healthcare are also likely to get huge thrust."

Moscow-held regions of Ukraine vote whether to join Russia



Voting began on Friday in Moscow-held regions of Ukraine on referendums to become part of Russia, Russian-backed officials there said. The Kremlin-orchestrated referendums, which have been widely denounced by Ukraine and the West as shams without any legal force, are seen as a step toward annexing the territories by Russia. The votes are being held in the Luhansk, partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions. In Kherson, which is almost fully controlled by Moscow, the balloting was also expected to get underway on Friday morning. The vote, which asks residents if they want their regions to be part of Russia, is certain to go Moscow's way. That would give Russia the pretext to claim that attempts by Ukrainian forces to regain control are attacks on Russia itself, dramatically escalating the 7-month-old conflict.

Israeli PM meets Turkish president, first time in 14 yrs



Israel's prime minister has met with Turkey's president for the first time in 14 years, the latest sign of warming ties between the two regional powers after a long and bitter rift. The office of Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said he met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the largest annual gathering of world leaders now underway in New York. In his meeting with Erdogan, Lapid said he commended the recent restoration of full diplomatic ties between the countries and the appointment this week of a new Israeli ambassador to Turkey. The scene of Lapid, the Israeli caretaker prime minister until new elections in November, warmly greeting Erdogan could serve to bol-

ster his diplomatic credentials as an alternative to Israel's longtime former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu has billed himself as a world-class statesman, but relations with Turkey deteriorated during his more than a decade in power. Erdogan has shown a willingness for warmer ties since Netanyahu left office last year. Over years of strained relations, Erdogan has been an outspoken critic of Israeli policy toward the Palestinians. Israel, in turn, has objected to Turkey's embrace of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip. The once-close regional allies withdrew their respective ambassadors in 2010, after Israeli forces stormed a Gaza-bound flotilla carrying humanitarian aid for Palestinians that broke an Israeli blockade.

China : Man missing for 17 days after Sichuan earthquake found alive

A man who was missing for 17 days after an earthquake in China's southwest Sichuan province has been found alive, according to local media reports. The 28-year-old hydro-power station employee Gan Yu had stayed behind with his colleague Luo Yong after the magnitude-6.8 earthquake hit Sichuan on Sept. 5. The quake killed 93 people and injured hundreds. Gan administered first aid for his colleagues and helped prevent flooding by releasing



water from the dam, according to the state-owned China National Radio. Both Gan and Luo then stayed in the station for over a day without food or

mobile signal. The duo attempted to leave on Sept. 7, walking more than 12 miles. But Gan, who is short-sighted, had lost his glasses and was having difficulties navigating the mountainous terrain, local media reported. The pair eventually decided to split up, with Luo going off to find assistance and Gan staying put with some wild fruits and bamboo shoots for sustenance while he waited for help. Rescuers found Luo on Sept. 8, but when they returned to the spot where he had left Gan, he was no longer there. Finding only discarded clothing and footprints, rescuers feared that Gan might have succumbed to hypothermia.

Mahsa Amini: Acting UN human rights chief urges impartial probe into death in Iran

Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada Al-Nashif today expressed alarm at the death in custody of Mahsa Amini - detained by Iran's "morality police" enforcing strict hijab rules - and the violent response by security forces to ensuing protests. Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman from the Kurdish minority, was with her brother in Tehran when she was arrested on 13 September for what was perceived to be "improper" hijab. She fell into a coma shortly after collapsing at Vozara Detention Centre. Amini, who also goes by the Kurdish name Jhina, died three days later. There are reports Amini was beaten on the head with a baton, and her head was



banged against the vehicle by the so-called morality police. Authorities have stated she died of natural causes. "Mahsa Amini's tragic death and allegations of torture and ill-treatment must be promptly, impartially and effectively investigated by an independent competent authority, that ensures, in particular, that her family has access to justice and truth," said Al-Nashif. Al-Nashif said the compulsory veiling laws remain of concern in Iran, where appearing in

Iran protests: Mahsa Amini's death puts morality police under spotlight

The death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after she was detained by Iran's so-called morality police has sparked angry protests, with women burning their headscarves in a defiant act of resistance against the Islamic Republic's strict dress code and those enforcing it. The Gash-t-e Ershad (Guidance Patrols) are special police units tasked with ensuring the respect of Islamic morals and detaining people who are perceived to be "improperly" dressed. Under Iranian law, which is based on the country's interpretation of Sharia, women are obliged to cover their hair with a hijab (headscarf) and wear long, loose-fitting clothing to disguise their figures. Ms Amini allegedly had some hair visible under her headscarf when she was arrested by morality police in Tehran on 13 September.

public without a hijab is punishable by imprisonment. In recent months, the morality police have expanded street patrols, subjecting women perceived to be wearing "loose hijab" to verbal and physical harassment and arrest.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Jaishankar arrives in New York



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has arrived here for the high-level UN General Assembly session, with a packed diplomatic week ahead that will include more than 50 official engagements including bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral meetings. Jaishankar arrived in New York Sunday to participate in the high-level 77th session of the UN General Assembly, which kick-starts September 20 with the opening of the General Debate. "#IndiaAtUNGA. Delighted to welcome our External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar who is now here to attend the 77th Session of the @UN General Assembly #UNGA. He will co-host & participate in several bilateral, plurilateral & multilateral meetings during this hectic week," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said in a tweet.

China's ex-justice minister sentenced to death with 2-year reprieve for corruption



China's former Justice Minister and top public security official, Fu Zhenghua, was on Thursday sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve for corruption and abuse of power, official media here reported. Fu took advantage of his official authority or position to seek gains by helping others with their business operations, official positions, and legal

cases, according to prosecutors. Fu, a former senior official of China's top political advisory body, the China People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), accepted bribes and abused his power, state-run People's Daily Online cited the Intermediate People's court in Changchun of Jilin province as saying in its

verdict on Thursday. Fu, who previously had also served as head of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, vice minister of public security, and the minister of justice, the report said, was accused of accepting money and gifts worth 117 million yuan (about USD 17.3 million) either directly or through his relatives. Over a million officials of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and dozens of top officials of the Chinese military were punished in the sweeping anti-corruption campaign carried out by President Xi Jinping ever since he came to power at the end of 2012. Critics say the anti-graft campaign has helped him to firm up his power base.

Biden, Truss seek to smooth over N Ireland divide

US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Liz Truss declared themselves staunch allies Wednesday as they tried to patch up a divide over Brexit's impact on peace in Northern Ireland. The leaders met at the United Nations two days after they attended the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London, and Britain hopes the global goodwill toward the late queen will help smooth out bumps in relations with the US and other allies caused by the UK's departure from the European Union. The US, in particular, is concerned that Brexit has rattled the foundations of the 1998 Good Friday peace accord that ended 30 years of sectarian violence. At the end of the 75-minute meeting, Truss's office said "the prime minister and



President Biden both agreed that the priority must be protecting the Good Friday Agreement and preserving the gains of peace in Northern Ireland". Truss spokesman Max Blain said Northern Ireland took up a small part of the meeting at the UN General Assembly in New York, which was dominated by the war in Ukraine and concern

about the growing global clout of China. But Northern Ireland was the issue that Biden chose to emphasize during televised remarks at the start of the meeting. Biden noted that both he and Truss "are both committed to protecting the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ire-

land," but subtly alluded to his concerns about her stance on the protocol. "I am looking forward to hearing what's on your mind," Biden added. Analysts say there is some trepidation in the White House that undercutting the Northern Ireland protocol could plunge Europe into trade turmoil at a moment when Biden is working mightily to keep the West unified in confronting Russia over its aggression against Ukraine. Truss thanked the president and First Lady Jill Biden for coming to London for the queen's funeral, and described the United States and Britain as "steadfast allies." But she avoided referring to the transatlantic partnership as a "special relationship," shying away from the language her predeces-



KULBIR SINGH KALSİ
Chandigarh

Zee Punjabi is going to entertain its viewers once again this Saturday with two entertaining movies “Jinne Jamme Saare Nikamme” and “Nikka Zaildar-3” which will surely make your day more wonderful.

The film, titled “Jinne Jamme Saare Nikamme,” is as distinctive as its title. Its plot centres on a middle-aged couple named Gurnam Singh (Jaswinder Bhalla) and Satwam Kaur (Seema Kaushal), who are the parents of four kids who have been raised by them with a lot of love and affection. You would be amazed to see what they receive in return from their children at 1 PM today. Like all ageing parents, they only want their children’s time and attention, but this is exactly what they don’t get.

Zee Punjabi is going to present Nikka Zaildar-3 this Saturday at 8:30 PM, which will make every moment of your night even more amazing. Ammy Virk, Wamiqa Gabbi, Sonia Kaur, Nirmal Rishi and others. This part of the Nikka Zaildar series has a unique plot where Ammy Virk tries to fulfil his desires by taking advantage of his grandfather’s death making his entire family dance on his toes. The whole family is fed up with the ghost of their grandfather and to get rid of it they take the help of a witch and this ghostly atmosphere turns into a comedy. So don’t miss this ghostly comedy tale this evening at 8:30 PM only on Zee Punjabi.

Don’t forget to watch the two blockbuster movies
“Jinne Jamme Saare Nikamme”
and “Nikka Zaildar-3”
 on your TV screens



POTPOURRI

Aamir Khan’s
 DAUGHTER
IRA,
 NUPUR SHIKHARE
 are engaged

Superstar Aamir Khan’s daughter and theatre director Ira Khan has announced her engagement to celebrity fitness trainer Nupur Shikhare.

Ira and Nupur, who have been in a relationship for reportedly over two years, made the announcement on Instagram late Wednesday night.

In the video shared by the couple from an event in Cervia, Italy, Nupur is seen getting down on one knee with a ring in his hand and Ira accepting his proposal.

“Popeye: She said yes. Ira: Hehe I said yes,” read the caption of the post.

Ira is the younger of Aamir’s two children with his first wife, film producer Reena Dutta.



Kamal Haasan resumes work on ‘Indian 2’

Veteran star Kamal Haasan on Thursday started shooting for the remaining portions of upcoming film “Indian 2”.

The Tamil movie is the follow-up to the 1996 vigilante action thriller “Indian”, which also starred Haasan.

The actor, whose last release was the superhit film “Vikram”, took to Twitter to share the update.

“#Indian2 from today. @Udhaystalin @shankarshanmugh @LycaProductions @RedGiantMovies_” Haasan tweeted. Production on the Shankar directorial officially resumed on August 24.



Kajal Aggarwal, Siddharth, Rakul Preet Singh, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Bobby Simha, Guru Somasundaram and Samuthirakani also round out the cast of “Indian 2”. The film is backed by Subaskaran Allirajah of Lyca Productions and DMK Youth Wing Secretary and MLA Udhayanidhi Stalin via Red Giant Movies.

Spain female players to quit national team over coach

Fifteen female soccer players are expected to quit Spain’s national team after their demand for a coaching change was rejected by the Spanish federation.

The federation on Thursday said it received identical emails from the 15 players saying they would renounce their places on the team if coach Jorge Vilda wasn’t fired. The federation said that, according to the players, the situation “significantly” affected their “emotional state” and their health.

The federation did not elaborate on the “situation” or name the players who made the demand. According to Spanish media, Ballon d’Or winner Alexia Putellas was not among them.

“The federation will not allow the players to question the continuity of the national



coach and its coaching staff, as those are not their responsibility,” the federation said in a statement, adding that it would “not admit any pressure from any player” when it comes to sporting decisions. “These types of maneuvers

are harmful and are not within the values of football and sports,” the federation said.

It noted in its statement that, according to Spanish legislation, not accepting a call from a national team is considered a serious infrac-

tion that could prompt sanctions between two and five years. The federation said it would not seek those sanctions against the players, but would not select them again unless they “admit their mistake and ask for forgiveness.”

Samantha Ruth Prabhu-starrer
‘SHAAKUNTALAM’
 to release on Nov 4



THE FILM WILL BE RELEASED IN TELUGU, TAMIL, MALAYALAM, KANNADA, AND HINDI

Multilingual mythological drama “Shaakuntalam”, headlined by Samantha Ruth Prabhu, is set to be released in theatres on November 4.

Based on Kalidasa’s acclaimed Sanskrit play ‘Abhijnana Shakuntalam’, the film is written and directed by award-winning director Gunasekhar of “Rudramadevi” fame.

Billed as a whimsical tale, “Shaakuntalam” revolves around the epic love story of Shakuntala and King Dushyant, portrayed by “The Family Man” star Samantha and Dev Mohan (“Sufiyum Sujatayam”), respectively.

Production banner Sri Venkateswara Creations shared the film’s release date and motion poster on its official Twitter handle on Friday. “Witness the

#EpicLoveStory #Shaakuntalam in Theatres from Nov 4th 2022 Worldwide! #ShaakuntalamOnNov4,” the tweet read.

“Pushpa: The Rise” star Allu Arjun’s daughter Allu Arha portrays the role of Prince Bharata, son of Shakuntala and Dushyant.

Sachin Khedekar, Kabir Bedi, Dr M Mohan Babu, Prakash Raj, Madhubala, Gautami, Aditi Balan, Ananya Nagalla and Jisshu Sengupta are also part of the cast.

“Shaakuntalam” is presented by Dil Raju via Sri Venkateswara Creations in collaboration with Guna Teamworks and is produced by Neelima Guna. The film will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi.

Catch the biggest entertainer of Punjab ‘Saunkan Saunkne’ this Sunday on Zee Punjabi at 1 pm



KULBIR SINGH KALSİ

Just two days remaining! This Sunday afternoon at 1 PM, Zee Punjabi got it all decked up with the popular Punjabi film Saunkan-Saunkne for its much-anticipated debut on Indian television.

The movie’s comical plot will make audiences laugh out loud, as the title suggests. The film portrays the special link between two sisters to have a shared spouse will include Ammy Virk, Sargun Mehta, Nimrat Khaira, and Nirmal Rishi. The movie’s plot changes to a comical family feud when Ammy Virk’s first wife, Sargun Mehta, asks him to remarry her younger sister Nimrat Khaira.

Entire Punjab will be watching the movie and if you don’t want to miss watching this madhouse of comedy, tune in to Zee Punjabi at 1 PM on September 25th.

Babar and Rizwan lead Pak to big win over England

Babar Azam returned to batting form with a century and Mohammad Rizwan hit 88 in a Pakistan record-breaking double-century opening stand to beat England by 10 wickets in the second Twenty20.

Babar made an unbeaten 110 in his second T20 century off 66 balls as Pakistan reached 203-0 with three balls to spare to level the seven-match series on Thursday.

Moeen Ali accelerated at the back end of England’s innings with an unbeaten 55 off 23 balls and led the team to 199-5 after he won the toss and elected to bat. “We planned to play according to the situation, and planned when to charge and when to hold back,” Babar said. “The execution of that plan went brilliantly. When you have a target in front of you, you play according to that and change gears accordingly.” Babar and Rizwan charged against England with



aggressive batting as the visitors couldn’t hold on to their chances to break the stand.

Babar came into Thursday’s game on the back of only 98 runs in his previous seven T20s that included 68 runs in the six Asia Cup matches in the United Arab Emirates and a knock of 30 in the opening game of the series

on Tuesday. Rizwan profited from two let-offs before he had completed his half century, but Babar belted 11 boundaries and five sixes against both pace and spin. Babar and Rizwan held the previous record of Pakistan’s 197-run, opening-wicket stand, which they made against South Africa at Centurion in 2021.

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KULBIR SINGH KALSİ
Chandigarh

Presenting the finest collection of perfumes from around the world, SCENTIDO is the haven that will truly capture your senses. Bringing the artistry of master perfumers and showcasing the finest range of niche fragrances, SCENTIDO, India’s first niche perfume boutique, is ready to make its presence felt in Chandigarh and has opened its doors at the prestigious Elante Mall.

Located on the first floor, the store houses some of the best selections of celebrated fragrances, handpicked from all over the world. SCENTIDO offers an olfactory escape to a place of exploration - where your senses are taken over by the evocative forces of the niche scents. Released in smaller batches, niche perfumes are valued for their rare ingredients and complex scents.

Royal Enfield’s global community celebrates the 11th edition of ‘One Ride 2022’ with focus on Responsible Travel



KULBIR SINGH KALSİ
Chandigarh

On Sunday, September 18, cities across the world reverberated to the sound of Royal Enfield motorcycles, as the brand concluded its global marquee ride that celebrates the spirit of motorcycling - the Royal Enfield ‘One Ride’. Introduced in 2011 with an aim to celebrate the passion that riders have for motorcycling and Royal Enfield, ‘One Ride’ was celebrated globally across 50 countries. In India, the 11th edition of ‘One Ride’ saw more than 15000 riders from across 500 cities, where Royal Enfield enthusiasts came out to ride together, celebrating the ca-

maraderie and brotherhood. “One Ride’ is India’s largest cause led ride where motorcycling enthusiasts of all ages from diverse regions and social identities come together for a ride that is inclusive and fiercely unique. The ride encourages the riders to become the change agents where they are sensitized about the local ecosystem, community challenges, and opportunities to volunteer/ support them for regeneration or building resilience within the local community. The theme for this year ‘One World | One Mission | One Ride’ is deeply rooted towards Royal Enfield’s social mission of encouraging Responsible Travel practices.



Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Anurag Thakur with Guru Nanak Dev University Vice-Chancellor Jaspal Singh Sandhu during the 52nd Annual Sports Prize Distribution Function of the university, in Amritsar on Tuesday. PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

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