# **THE FINANCIAL WORLD** Read & Lead

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PM on two-day visit to Gujarat from Aug 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to be on a two

day visit to Gujarat, beginning August 27 during which he is

developmental projects in Bhuj. In the evening, the Prime

Minister will address a programme in Gandhinagar, marking

the commemoration of 40 years of Suzuki in India.

#### REGION



**CHANDIGARH MAYOR SARABJIT KAUR DHILLON** LAUNCHES FLORAL WASTE MANAGEMENT



CORPORATES & INDUSTRY **ONGC PREPARES FOR 3RD INTERIM CHAIRMAN** IN A ROW, **9 SHORTLISTED** 

### POTPOURRI



YOODLEE'S NEXT PUNJABI **FILM 'SHINDA SHINDA NO PAPA' TO RELEASE ON VAISAKHI**, 2023

## **PM dedicates Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre to the Nation at Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar**

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi dedicated Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre to the Nation at Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Mohali today. Governor of Punjab, Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh were among those present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion,

the Prime Minister said that today's event reflects the improved healthcare facilities of the country. He said that the hospital will provide service to the people of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. He thanked the people of Punjab for their enthusiastic participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.

Referring to his proclamation that he made from the ramparts of the Red Fort about making India a developed nation, the Prime Minister said "To make India developed, it is equally



## **SIT summons Sukhbir** Badal in 2015 Kotkapura firing incident



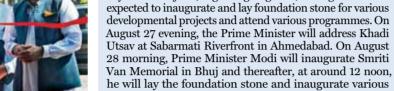
FW DESK

Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the 2015 Kotkapura firing case following sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib has summoned then former Deputy Chief Minister and current Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal in Chandigarh on August 30. The SIT led by Additional Director Police (ADGP) L.K feneral



important to develop its health services." The Prime Minister said that when the people of India will get modern hospitals filled with modern facilities for treatment, then they will get families well sooner, and their energy will be channelled in the right

direction. The Prime Minister reiterated the government's commitment to create facilities for cancer treatment. He noted that Tata Memorial Centre is now equipped for treatment every way, and supports it step by of 1.5 lakh new patients every step. The Prime Minister further



year. He said that the new hospital and the AIIMS at Bilaspur will reduce the burden on PGI Chandigarh and provide much relief to the patients and their

Prime Minister Modi remarked that a good healthcare system doesn't just mean building four walls. He emphasised that the healthcare system of any country becomes strong only when it gives solutions in

Punjab FM Cheema writes to Union FM, seeks her personal intervention

in taking into account reversal of Input Tax Credit for IGST settlement

added that holistic healthcare has been placed among the top priorities in the country in the ast eight years. Talking about preventive

approach, the Prime Minister said that due to the Jal Jeevan Mission, the number of patients suffering from waterborne diseases has gone down considerably. Similarly, cleanliness, Yoga, fitness trends, Poshan Abhiyan, Cooking gas etc. are bringing

down the number of patients. On the second front, quality testing facilities have been created and more than 1.5 lakh Health and wellness centres are being established. Out of which 1.25 have already been established. In Punjab about 3000 centers are functioning. All over the country, more than 22 crore people have been screened for cancer out of which 60 lakh screenings took place in Punjab.

Punjab CM asserts, AAP Govt has handed over 17313 appointment letters to youths in 5 months

Punjab Chief Minister Bhag-want Mann on Tuesday said that in merely five months of assuming charge the Aam Aadmi government in the state has handed over appointment letters of government jobs to around 17,313 youth in the state

Addressing the gathering here while handing over appointment letters to newly recruited 4358 constables in Punjab Police, the Chief Minister said that the state government has conducted the entire recruitment process in a transparent and fair manner. He asserted that merit had been the only criteria of selection in this recruitment drive. Bhagwant Mann further said that recruitment for filling 5739 more vacant posts of the Police department will be also embarked soon.

Exhorting the newly recruited constables in Punjab Police to update their expertise for eliminating crime and criminals from the state, the

Chief Minister emphasised that it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction for them that all the recruits are highly qualified and well equipped with academic and technical knowledge. He asserted that this qualification can be very helpful with dealing with the crime and criminals in today's era of technological advancement. However, Bhagwant Mann further said that as the criminals are devising new techniques of committing crime so the cops should also update their expertise for

tackling crime and criminals efficaciously.

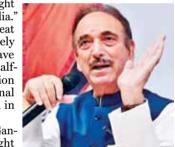
Punjab Chief Minister said that he is elated to learn that vouth with high academic qualifications have been successfully recruited for this challenging job. He revealed that out total 4358 candidates 103 are post graduates, 2607 are graduates and 1648 are senior secondary pass outs. Similarly, Bhagwant Mann said that 2930 constables fall in age group of 18-25 years whereas 816 fall in age group of 26-30 years.

Ghulam Nabi Azad resigns from Congress

FW DESK

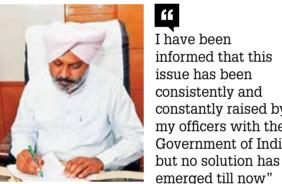
Veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad today resigned from the Congress party. In a scathing letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Azad said that "the party has lost both the will and the ability under the tutelage of the coterie that runs the AICC to fight

for what is right for India.' "It is therefore with great regret and an extremely leaden heart that I have decided to sever my halfa century-old association with the Indian National Congress," wrote Azad in his resignation letter. Azad blamed Rahul Gandhi for the current plight



of Congress, saying the latter's "childish behaviour" more than anything else, contributed significantly to the defeat of UPA in 2014.

"This all happened because the leadership in the past 08 ears has ti



in FY 2019-20 and Rs. 227 crores in financial year 2020-21 respectively", said Cheema.

State have carried out reversal of huge amount of Input Tax He further added that the Credit but the same has not said amount has not been been considered for the IGST taken into account while undertaking the process of IGST "Particular instance has been thereby depriving the State of

I have been informed that this issue has been consistently and constantly raised by my officers with the Government of India

of India but no solution has emerged till now" said Cheema.

Referring to the grave importance of the issue for the revenue of the state, Cheema urged the Union Minister that her personal intervention is settlement for the said period of much importance for the resolution of this matter as early as possible. He said that the significance of this issue resonates more strongly in light of the expiry of the GST compensation regime.



FW DESK

Punjab Vigilance Bureau in its drive against corruption arrested former minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu in the food grains transportation tenders scam and further investigation State Vigilance Bureau (VB) said that the Bureau, after veri- incharge of all Punjab being fication of a complaint made chairman of departmental chief by complainant Gurprit Singh, vigilance committee for tenders has already registered FIR No. and was acting on the directions 11 Dated 16-08-2022 u/s 420, of former minister.

## Punjab Vigilance arrests former minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu in food grains transportation tenders scam



in this case is under progress. Singla, Deputy Director Food

409, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC

and 7, 8, 12, 13(2) Preventions of Corruption Act at VB police station Ludhiana in which contractors namely Telu Ram, Jagroop Singh and Sandeep Bhatia besides owner/partners of Gurdas Ram & Company has been booked.

Revealing more he informed that accused Telu Ram has already been arrested in this and he is on police remand. During investigation by the VB, accused Telu Ram has submitted that he met Bharat Bhushan Ashu through his PA Meenu Malhotra for getting tenders for the season 2020-21 who further told him to meet Rakesh Kumar & Civil Suppl ies. Singla was

nied that Badal, who was the home minister of Punjab in 2015, has been summoned for questioning. Sukhbir Badal has been asked to appear at the Punjab Police Officers Institute in Sector 32 in Chandigarh at 10.30 a.m.

### **Right Tax Structure** for Online Gaming Industry can boost tax revenues: ASSOCHAM FW DESK

According to a joint report by ASSOCHAM & EY, titled 'GST on Online Skill-Based Gaming', GST Council's Group of Ministers (GoMs) are examining the GST on online gaming. One of the considerations by GoM is recommending a levy of 28% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the complete contest entry amount including the prize pool, which can have an adverse effect on the industry. Levy of GST on the contest entry amount would increase the tax burden on the nascent industry by 10 to 20 times. The industry currently pays GST at the rate of 18% on the platform fee or the Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) earned directly by the gaming operators.

mer DGP Sumedh Singh Saini. 03AABCG5231FIZ8) which However, SAD leaders de- has reversed ITC to the tune

lentified of M/s HPCI

settlement.

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Fi-

nance, Planning, Excise and **Taxation Minister Harpal** 

Singh Cheema sought per-

sonal intervention of Union

Minister of Finance & Cor-

porate Affairs Smt. Nirmala

Sitharaman in taking into

account the reversal of Input

Tax Credit by the taxpayers

registered within the state for

In a letter to Union Fi-

nance Minister, Harpal Singh

Cheema said that It has been

observed that although the

taxpayers registered within the

the IGST settlement.

Yadav, earlier questioned for- tal Energy Limited (GSTIN its rightful share of rrevenue "I have been informed that this issue has been consistently of Rs. 223 crores in financial and constantly raised by my year 2018-19, Rs. 230 Crores officers with the Government

**BILKIS BANO CASE** 

of the party," Azad wrote ..

Significantly, Azad's resignation comes days after Congress veteran Anand Sharma resigned from a key party position offered to him in the poll-bound Himachal Pradesh, citing "exclusions and insults."

## After Delhi & Punjab its Himachal's turn to have access to quality health services: Mann SC asks for Centre, Gujarat govt response on remission of convicts



FW DESK

health services.

while promising second guarantee of health to the people of Punjab Chief Minister, accompanied by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, said that Himachal has lagged behind in health sector in last 75 years. Citing an example, he said that serious patients from Una and other parts of Himachal still don't have adequate health facilities and have to travel till Chandigarh in case of serious ailment. Bhagwant Mann said

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday urged people of Himachal Pradesh to support AAP for getting access to quality

care services to people. He said Addressing the gathering that people are being offered 41 packages with around 100 clinical tests free of cost in these Himachal Pradesh from Una, Aam Aadmi Clinics. Bhagwant Mann said that 90% of patients are treated from these clinics only thereby reducing the burden in hospitals. Punjab Chief Minister said that state government has

opened 100 such clinics across the state which have received huge response from general public. Bhagwant Mann further said that only the serious patients with major ailments are further

The Supreme Court asked on Thursday and issued notice to the Centre and the Gujarat government on a plea challenging the release of 11 convicts in the 2002 case of Bilkis Bano's gangrape and murder of her family members

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana asked the petitioners to implead all 11 who that this need to be changed for which AAP should be voted to have been granted remission as people. Punjab Chief Minister parties in the matter. The bench. said that Mohalla clinics in Delhi also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath, posted and Aam Aadmi clinics in Punjab are providing world class health the matter for hearing after two weeks. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five months pregnant when she was gangraped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning in

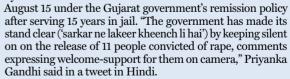


2002. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven killed. The 11 men convicted in the case walked out of the Godhra sub-jail on August 15 after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy. They had completed more than 15 years in jail. The plea in the apex court has been filed by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revathy Laul and

activist Roop Rekha Rani.

## Give justice to Bilkis Bano, says Priyanka

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday demanded justice for Gujarat riots survivor Bilkis Bano and said the government has made its stand clear with its silence on the release of 11 people convicted in the 2002 case of her gangrape and murder of her seven family members. The 11 convicts were released on



tions. We have to ensure that the

In her address NHAI Chair-

person Alka Upadhyaya said,

We are pleased to organize this

session and deliberate with

stakeholders on what could be

the likely way forward on de-

Deliberating on the issue that is whether there was application of mind while considering the has led to huge debate on the issue of relief in such heinous issue of remission and whether it cases, the court said the question was within the parameters of law.

## Drug hauls from Gujrat : Ease of doing drug business, Rahul attacks on PM Modi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over multiple drug hauls from Gujarat and asked for how long he would be silent on the matter.

His attack came days after the Anti Narcotics Cell (ANC) of Mumbai Police busted a mephedrone manufacturing unit in Gujarat and seized drugs worth Rs 1,026 crore.

'Ease of doing drug business' in Gujarat? Mr Prime Minister, answer these questions. Drugs worth thousands of crores are reaching Gujarat. Who is spreading this poison in the



process of toll collection is seamless. To achieve this objective, in a tweet we need to have a technology in Hindi. framework that will enable us Posing to operate in an efficient way, a series of questions, he asked is economical and acceptable why the port owner had not to various stakeholders.

been questioned so far despite drugs being recovered time and again.

"Why are NCB and other gov-ernment agencies still not able to nab 'Narcos' running drug cartels in Gujarat?" Gandhi said. "Narcos" is the title of a Netflix series on drug cartels in Colombia.

Who are the people sitting in the government of the Centre and in Gujarat who are giving protection to mafia 'friends', the Congress leader went on to ask.

## NHAI Organises Workshop on Global Navigation Satellite System Based Tolling

#### FW DESK

NHAI organised a day-long stakeholder consultation workshop on Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) based tolling in India. The objective of the workshop was to seek input and suggestion from various industry experts and stakeholders on different aspects of the GNSS-based tolling system. The workshop will help strategise and design the future roadmap for free-flow tolling system in India based on GNSS technology.

Various stakeholders including relevant government departments, ISRO, NIC, and industry players such as Vehicle Manufacturers, AIS-140 On-Board Unit (OBU) manufacturers,

ers, Banks, Payment Aggregators/Gateway Service providers were invited for deliberations on GNSS based tolling system. Sessions and presentations were held with consultants & industry experts on global best practices for GNSS based tolling, discussions were held on the findings of the pilot carried out by NHAI on Delhi - Mumbai corridor

and various aspects of GNSS ar-

Global GNSS service provid- chitecture, payment settlement process, proposed enforcement measures and discussion on legal framework requirements

ployment of GNSS based tolling were also discussed. Speaking on the occasion in India. This session will help Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, us to get inputs from the experts Ministry of Road Transport & who have come from other parts Highways said that "The stakeof the world and will help us to holder consultation is imporaddress various challenges that we may face in planning and tant to discuss various issues rollout of GNSS based tolling involved in GNSS based tolling deployment and seeking suggesacross the country.

referred to the big hospitals. averted," Kashmir Zone Police The militants have escalated their attacks on minorities and outsiders in recent past. A few

days ago, one more Kashmiri Pandit identified as Sunil Kumar was killed and his brother Pintu Kumar was injured after they were fired at by militants in the Shopian district.

J&K Police recovers 12 kg IED, averts major terror incident

#### FW DESK

Jammu and Kashmir Police averted a "major terror incident" by recovering in time an IED weighing about 10-12 kg. at the Beihgund area of Tral in the south Kashmir district. "On a specific input of police,

an IED, approx 10-12 Kgm has been recovered in Beihgund area of #Tral. Police and Army



are on the job to destroy it in situ. A major #terror incident



## **REGION**

# Chandigarh Mayor launches floral waste management

#### KULBIR SINGH KALSI

Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh by dovetailing National Urban Livelihood Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission starts processing Floral Waste into "Puja Samagri " like Agarbattis and Divas. Mayor Sarabiit Kaur Dhillon honoured SAI Trust and gave certificates to the participants in the presence of Anindita Mitra IAS, MC Commissioner Chandigarh and Nirmala Devi, Area Councillor.

A two day training camp was organized in Village Maloya in collaboration with SAI Trust, for 35 women Self Help Groups. An NGO, Save Prithvi working in the field of Floral Waste Management, trained the women. In the training, the women were taught how to process floral



waste and convert it into beautiful and environment friendly end products.

kg of floral waste per day which rises to 700kg per day during the festive season. There are 156 locations in Chandigarh which include Religious

Chandigarh generates 450

Places, Banquet halls, Florists shops, etc. Sarbjit Kaur, Mayor, appreci-

ated the efforts of SAI Trust, a Religious Organisation, which came forward to help in the initiative by providing the land for processing daily floral waste, manpower of around 5-6 wom-

en who will provide support in the whole process. Mr. Rajesh Kalia, President of SAI Trust also committed for an outlet in the mandir where the Products and Samagri will be sold. She said that the city should strive towards ECI friendly festivities in which only such products should be used.

Speaking on this occasion, MC Commissioner Anindita Mitra said that Municipal Corporation Chandigarh is fully committed to processing 100% waste generated by the city. Already, MC has started processing its coconut waste, its hazardous waste, its sanitary waste completely. Within the next 3 months 100% dry waste and horticulture waste shall also be processed by MC Chandigarh.

## Akali Dal Badal smells Rs 500cr Punjab FM approves Rs. 25 crore **AAP liquor scam in Punjab**

CHANDIGARH: Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Thursday said the party would appeal to the Punjab Governor to take action in the Rs 500-crore AAP excise scam, besides filing complaints with the CBI and the ED into kickbacks received by the party from the liquor cartel in Punjab.

Addressing the media here, Badal said «there should be a free and fair inquiry against all political leaders, including Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and MP Raghav Chadha, as well as Punjab government officials who facilitated the scam». Asserting that AAP had followed the Delhi model while

framing the Punjab excise policy, he said «like in the state of Delhi, nearly the entire liquor trade was handed over to two

Crime Branch Harvana arrested

four persons identified as Ritik

originally hailing from Motihari

district in Bihar, Sandeep also

originally hailing from Bihar

SATISH HANDA



companies»

Badal said the profit marin of the two companies was doubled to facilitate a quid pro quo. «Hundreds of crores have been passed back to the AAP government in Punjab and the AAP high command in Delhi.»

# for 'Khedan Watan Punjab Diyan'

#### **FW DESK**

Punjab Finance, Planning, Excise and Taxation Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Thursday said that the Finance Department has given approval for the release of Rs. 25 crore for 'Khedan Watan Punjab Dian'— a two month long sports extravaganza being organized by the Sports Department on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

Revealing this, Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema said that the Finance Department has given approval for release of Rs 19.43 crores out of approved budgetary provisions under various heads including Rs. 9.43 crore as grant-in-aid, Rs. 6 crore for rewards and Rs. 4 crore for other expenses. "FD has

also approved the release of Rs.5.57 crores as additional budgetary provisions to the Sports and Youth Services department", he added.

Punjab FM Cheema said that the all the Ministries, Departments and district administrations are working in tandem under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant mann to ensure that the grand success this state level sports festival as it would be another step towards the making of 'Rangla Punjab' and restoring its pristine glory in the field of sports. The "Khedan Watan Punjab Dian' would be kickstarted by the Punjab CM on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand on August

29 (National Sports Day)

at Jalandhar.

## Union Health Minister visits PGI Satellite Majithia demands high level inquiry Centre, Sangrur to reviews its progress



### FW DESK

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya visited PGIMER Satellite Centre, Sangrur and reviewed its progress today.

Expressing satisfaction at the pace of the execution of the Project, the Minister stated, "With the pace at which the work is being executed, including procurement of medical devices and equipment, the Satellite Centre will be fully functional by January, 2023 and will provide a huge relief not only for the local population but for those

### Tech and digital shift required to build a modern railway infrastructure **FW DESK**

The entire railway ecosystem is changing in terms of management, environment but of employment opportunities the theme remains same as conomy will only grow when

## far and wide."

Updating about the success of the 'free precaution vaccination drive' launched by Prime Minister on 15th July for 75 days to mark Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Union Health Minister shared, "Already over 13 crore people have leveraged this facility by getting vaccinated under this initiative in one month and three days till date." The Minister urged the people of Punjab and country in general, especially the vulnerable population, to get vaccinated in the balance of 75 days and equip themselves to face the CÔVID crisis.'

Amritsar

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia today demanded a high level inquiry into the working of the liquor mafia in Punjab, saying the same mafia which was being probed in Delhi by the CBI had taken over the liquor business in the State.

In a statement issued here today he said "the AAP government of Punjab is looting the exchequer of the State to contest elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat". He said the excise policy of Punjab, which encouraged monopoly of the liquor business in the hands of few people, was a copy of the Delhi excise policy. "Now when corruption in the liquor policy is being investigated in Delhi, the same must be done in Punjab also", he added. He also expressed shock at the

manner in which the health sector had become totally paralyzed due to the undue interference and even in-

## into working of liquor mafia in Punjab

JAGMOHAN SINGH

sult and harassment of doctors at the hands of the State health minister as well as AAP legislators. "The irony is that the AAP government is not releasing funds to the Baba Farid University as well as government hospitals even as AAP legislators pick up quarrels with health specialists". He said a wrong message had been sent to State doctors by the insult meted out to former vice chancellor and eminent surgeon Dr Raj Bahadur and it was high time the government started releasing funds to government hospitals instead of frittering away resources in refurbishing Sewa Kendras and renaming them as Mohalla Clinics.

#### both presently residing at Sushant Lok Gurugram, Gulshan resident of Rajendra Park Gurugram and Bunty a resident of Kurukshetra in a raid and



recovered from them 49 ATM cards, 62 sim cards, 23 mobile phones and a bank pass book. During preliminary investigation arrested accused admit-



4 demanding ransom from VIPs for gangster Lawrence Bishnoi arrested are unaware of king pin in the gang but police was able to find large number of contact numbers from the mobile phones in Pakistan and Dubai seized from arrested accused and investigation revealed that transaction for amount worth Rs 24 lakh was made in a account during a month and the members running criminal activities used to get 10% commission.

## AAP dares Sukhbir Badal to clarify his association with Dera Chief Ram Rahim

Accusing the Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) president Sukhbir Singh Badal of patronising 2015 Kotkapura firing



case accused, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday dared the Badal to clarify his involvement in this case and his association with Dera Sacha Sauda Ram Rahim, who was main conspirator behind the sacrilege cases.

Addressing a press conference, chief spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang along with spokesperson advocate Ravinder Singh and spokesperson RPS Malhotra said that as the ongoing investigation has linked Badal in 2015 Kotkapura firing case following sacrilege of Guru Granth, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has summoned former deputy chief minister Badal for questioning in the Kotkapura firing case on August 30.

## **SGPC President Dhami** meets Bapu Surat Singh

## Micro industry providing maximum employment opportunities to youths in Haryana

A study reveals, youths in search of jobs in Haryana state finding maximum number in micro and small industry.

Punjab is expecting a cotton output of around 8 lakh bales in the current Kharif season due the crop due to rains.

The cotton output had dropped sharply to 6.45 lakh bales in the last 2021-22 season st more than 10

## PHOTO: PRABHIOT GILL Punjab expects cotton production of 8 lakh bales this season

to lower acreage and damage to

due to the pink bollworm insect tion would be nearly 35 per cent lower than that in 2018

by rains and whitefly pest attack are being seen as the main reasons behind the expected decline in the overall yield.

Punjab could bring only 2.48 lakh hectares under cotton crop as against the target of 4 lakh hectares in cotton-growing areas of Bathinda, Muktsar, Mansa, Fazilka, Sangrur, Moga and

FW DESK Chandigarh

railway sector is strengthened stated D C Sharma, Member -Traction & Rolling Stock (L/A), Railway Board, Ministry of Railwavs. Government of India at an International Conference organised by the apex industry body, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). Speaking at the event titled «Futuristic Technologies for Indian Railways» at Rail Tech 2022 D. C. Sharma emphasised that the PM>s message to the nation, which included innovation and technology, was visionary because the nation>s railways are its lifeline. Cleanliness, safety, passenger amenities, aiming toward Net Zero Carbon Emission, green trains, and freight are a few of the recent changes made to the rail industry.

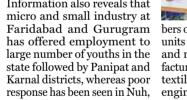
## Majithia appeals for release of Bandi Singhs



#### JAGMOHAN SINGH

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) leader Bikram Singh Majithia made a appeal for the release of all Sikh detainees including Balwant Singh Rajoana, saying the Bandi Singhs also had the right to return to their families as they had completed their jail terms, some even twice over.

Asserting that the country was run as per the constitution and that in a democracy the rule of law prevailed, he said it was unfortunate that the Sikh detenues were still incarcerated despite having completed the full tenure of their life sentences. "I am confident that our prayers for their early release will also be heard soon".



large number of youths in the state followed by Panipat and Karnal districts, whereas poor response has been seen in Nuh, Mohindergarh, Palwal and Bhiwani districts in Haryana state.

Haryana state has been identified far ahead having maximum number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) units as compared to adjoining states Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. According to information by MSME Haryana office at Karnal there are as many as 622 MSME units operating in Haryana as against one lakh population whereas state government aims to set up 1233 MSME units in the state against one

lakh population and out of total number of 22 districts across the state 11 districts are vet in red zone. Information which included 2648 micro reveals, there are total num- and 9 small units

bers of nearly 9.70 lakh MSME has offered employment to units working in Haryana state and most of these are manufacturing automobile products, textile goods, food products, engineering instruments and metallic components.

During financial year 2021-22 nearly 66767 MSME units were set up in Haryana providing employment to nearly 3.36 lakh youths which include maximum number of 66442 micro units, 318 small units and 7 medium level units. Information also reveals, during vear 2021-22 total number of 46519 MSME units which include 46366 micro, 144 small and 9 medium level units were set up in Punjab state, 12460 units were set up in Himachal Pradesh which include 12394 micro, 63 small and 3 medium level units. Similarly, 2657 MSME units were set up at

Chandigarh UT in this period

lakh bales in the previous year. The current season produc-

Lesser area under cotton Faridkot in the Kharif sowing along with damage to the crop season.

## Severe shock to SAD (B), launched new group in Haryana

#### SATISH HANDA

It was a severe shock to Shiromani Akali Dal (B) political party when large number of party leaders, workers and district presidents in Haryana state gathered at Dera Kar Sewa Gurudwara, Karnal and took decision to launch a new party Haryana State Shiromani Akali Dal after submitting resignations to SAD (B) blaming that the party functioning as a single Badal family organization.

Addressing a press conference, Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) member Bhupinder Singh said that under the influence of single Badal family the reputation of SAD (B) has been adversely affected and becoming bad to worst which is a matter of utter



Harmandar Sahib (Golden Temple) is being decorated with flowers ahead

of the 418th anniversary of the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib

concern. He said, a handful of party leaders from or near and dear to Badal family are only ruling in this party on way to collapse as such decision has been taken to say good bye to SAD (B) and launch a separate party in Harvana state and save reputation of honorable 'Panth'. Bhupinder Singh said that all members have left SAD (B) not SGPC since party has started taking decisions not on behalf of a party but functioning as a puppet in the hands of a fam- projects facing crisis.

ily as if it was their personal property. Gurmeet Tiblewala SGPC member while talking to media persons said, Sikhs in Haryana state have now become aware of their rights and want to get themselves free from Badal family. Imposing blame on SAD (B), SGPC member said that huge amount of funds are being granted for medical college and hospital in Haryana state every year but there is no development in these welfare

**JAGMOHAN SINGH** Amritsar

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh Dhami today met Bapu Surat Singh



at DMC Hospital in Ludhiana, to know about his health.

Under the struggle for release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh political prisoners), Bapu Surat Singh is protesting for a long time.

On this occasion, Advocate Dhami said that justice is not being done with the Bandi Singhs lodged in Indian jails for three decades, and despite being in elder condition, Bapu Surat Singh is struggling for their release.

Appreciating the determination, belief and courage of Bapu Surat Singh, Dhami said the SGPC affirms his struggle and expresses commitment to continue the efforts initiated for the release of Bandi Singhs.

He said that the SGPC and Bapu Surat Singh have the same intention regarding the release of Bandi Singhs and all parties which are active for this Panthic affair are respectable. He said the governments are deliberately inattentive on this issue of releasing Bandi Singhs, but the Sikh Panth (community) will continue the struggle until justice is obtained.

Meanwhile, Bapu Surat Singh honoured SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami for his Panthic services.

## Three including a female kidnapped youth in honey trap for Rs 50 lakh ransom demand arrested

SATISH HANDA Chandigarh

Kharar police within 48 hours arrested a gang of three including a female allegedly kidnapped a youth student of Punjab University for Rs 50 lakh



ransom demand from his parents. Three were identified as prime accuse girl Rakhi a resident of village Baroli in Sonipat district, and her male accomplishes Ajay Kadian (25) resident of village Jatal in Panipat district and Ajay Kumar (22) resident of village Abubshahar in Sirsa district. The three constituted a conspiracy to trap Hitesh a student of Punjab University in honey trap to extract ransom amount from his parents.

Hitesh was introduced to Rakhi through a friendship request in Face Book when he was highly impressed by her high profile bio-data and accepted her friendship. He went to see Rakhi at Ranjit Avenue Society complex at Kharar as desired by her when he was kidnapped by her along with her two accomplishes Ajay Kadian and Ajay Kumar. Hitesh was beaten and locked in a room.

## Vikramjit Sahney writes to PM to have inscriptions in Punjabi also in Jallianwallah bagh JAGMOHAN SINGH

#### Amritsar

Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha here today paid homage at historic jalianwala Bagh.

He expressed disappointment for the facade of Jallianwala Bagh is covered by the iron sheets hiding the entrance to the Bagh and narrow passage leading to the Bagh from where Gen. Dyer entered with the forces had nanak shahi bricks (ancient and antique bricks) which now have been plastered. He said that we must conserve our heritage in the form it existed and should not change the historic entrance of the monument.

He requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi and members of



Jallianwala Bagh Trust to appoint a Committee of experts to restore the heritage of Jallianwala Bagh. He further added that a small burji (ancient pillar) which was remembrance of the site from where Gen. Dver ordered indiscriminate firing on peaceful gathering have been destroyed and a marble plaque has been put instead which is not visible to many visitors.

He said that "It is ironic to

see that all the quotations of the freedom fighters in the Bagh are written in English and Hindi. He suggested that they should be written in Punjabi also so that more people can read it".

He said that the Amar Jawan Jyoti which was in the centre of the Bagh has been shifted to one corner. He appealed that the huge money in form of currency notes and coins thrown in the deadly well where hundreds of women jumped should be collected in a donation box and the money should be spent for the education of poor girls. He hoped that the Prime Minister will look into the suggestions and will constitute a Comprehensive Committee to rectify these discrepancies at the earliest

## HP Govt should save apple growers from ruining, says Mahila Kisan Union Mahila Kisan Union, affiliated



to the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha,

Biba Rajwinder Kaur Raju urged the Central and state Governments to procure the total production of apples through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFD) and State Procurement Agencies thereby protecting the apple growers from the shocks of falling prices.

## **NATION**

## Home Minister Amit Shah reviews situation in J&K

Jnion Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday reviewed the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, including the security arrangements along the border with Pakistan, officials said.

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and senior officials of the Centre and the Union Territory administration attended the meeting chaired by Shah.

The meeting discussed the A group of terrorists tried to security situation in Jammu infiltrate into the Indian terriand Kashmir, an official said. tory in the Pallanwala sector of The security review comes Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday night. Alert troops fired at

following attacks on security personnel, infiltration bids and killings in the Union Territory. Three infiltrators were killed

ployed in the Jhangar sector by security personnel along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kamalkote sector of Uri on Thursday.



the officials said. There have been at least three

infiltration bids by terrorists One of the terrorists tried to from across the border in the flee, but was injured in firing by last four days in Jammu and the soldiers and captured alive. The two other terrorists managed to flee, the officials said.

On the intervening night of August 22 and 23, a group of two to three terrorists tried to infiltrate in the Lam sector of Naushera. As they moved ahead into minefields, a series of mines got activated and two ultras were killed on the spot.

of Rajouri's Naushera spotted the movement of two to three Terrorists attacked an Army terrorists on the Indian side of camp in Rajouri district on Authe LoC and challenged them, gust 11, killing four soldiers. The two attackers were gunned down in a shootout after the pre-dawn suicide strike that marked the return of "fidaveen" attackers to Jammu and Kashmir after more than three years.

The government had informed Parliament that till last month, as many as 118 civilians, including five Kashmiri Pandits and 16 other Hindus and Sikhs, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019.

The killings of Kashmiri Pandits triggered protests by the members of the community, who demanded enhanced security and transfer of government employees to safer locations.

In May, four Hindu pilgrims were killed and at least 20 injured when their bus caught fire near Katra in Jammu. Police suspect a sticky bomb might have been used to trigger the fire

# BJP suspends Raja Singh for making derogatory remarks against Prophet Mohammad

The member of Telangana

Police have booked a case

against the MLA from Gosha-

mahal constituency at Dabeer-

pura police station. He has been

booked for promoting enmity

between the different groups

officers in corruption case

comments.

SATISH HANDA

BJP on Tuesday suspended its Telangana MLA T. Raja Singh for making derogatory remarks against Prophet Mohammad. In a letter to Singh, Member

Secretary BJP Central Disciplinary Committee Om Pathak said, "You have expressed views contrary to the Party's position on various matters, which is in clear violation of Rule XXV. 10 (a) of constitution of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"I have been directed to convey to you that pending further inquiry, you are suspended from against Prophet Mohammad. the party and from your responsibilities / assignments if any, with immediate effect.' Legislative Assembly was arrested following huge protests

Pathak further wrote, "Please also show cause within 10 days by Muslims in parts of Hyderabad after he uploaded a video from the date of this notice as to on Facebook making derogatory why you should not be expelled from the party." "Your detailed reply must reach the undersigned no later than September

2," Pathak added. Earlier in the day, the Hyderabad Police arrested the controversial BJP MLA for

on grounds of religion. making derogatory remarks

Singh was taken into preventive custody last Saturday for threatening to disrupt comedian Munawar Faruqui's show. The comedian's show was held amid tight security.

Singh is famous for making provocative speeches and derogatory remarks against other religions. In June, he was booked for making offensive remarks against Sufi saint Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

residence of Col. Wasim Siddiqi

but no one was available. When

intervened by security guard

CBI team took him in custody.

residence of Col. Wasim Sid-

diqi on Sunday but found

house locked. Before return-

ing to Chandigarh CBI team got deployed Military Police

outside the residence of both

arrested army officers. All ar-

rested were produced in CBI court Panchkula on Monday.

Information reveals, earlier all

army purchases and tenders

were invited and finalized by

MES when large numbers of

embezzlements were reported.

CBI team again visited the

**Congress Leader** Digvijaya demands adequate price for garlic farmers

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Tuesday wrote to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan demanding that the state government ensure that farmers get adequate price for garlic.

Farmers in Ratlam, Mandsaur, Neemuch and Indore districts are forced to sell their garlic crop at Rs 1 per kg in the mandis (wholesale markets) and the government is not doing anything for them, the Rajya Sabha member claimed.

On August 8, a quintal of garc fetched only Rs 51 in Malwa's ipliya Mandi, he said.

Earlier, onions were purchased at a throw-away rate (by the traders)....Protesting against low prices of garlic and



Sehore district, the farmers were crying and were forced to throw away hundreds of quintals of garlic in the Parvati river, Singh said in the letter.

Chief Minister Chouhan had not taken any effective steps for the welfare of farmers since 2005 when he became chief minister for the first time and even the `Bhavantar scheme' for ensuring they get adequate returns for their crops was not effective, he alleged. Chouhan had promised minimum support prices for vegetables last

year but the scheme was yet to naterialize, Singh said. In 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that by 2022 the income of farmers will be doubled, but "unfortunately this promise was also proved to be a jumla (hollow rhetoric)," the Congress

observing the movement of

In order to stop corruption. leader said.

### IAF helicopter makes emergency landing in In a jolt to the Congress ahead

of assembly elections in Him-

and he has resigned from the

His resignation comes soon

after another leader of the

G23 grouping Ghulam Nabi

Azad resigned as chairman

in Jammu and Kashmir a few

post, sources said.

days ago

FW DESK

them, forcing them to retreat.

On August 21, soldiers de-

Kashmir.



A helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) made an emergency landing in a farm in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district after it developed a technical snag on Tuesday, police said.

Its crew members are safe. of the campaign committee they said. Station House Officer of Sangaria police station Hanumanaram Vishnoi said, "It was a helicopter of the Indian Air Force that made emergency landing in the farm on Tuesday morning." "The helicopter made Union Agriculture Minister attends the emergency landing due to a technical snag. It's crew mem-bers are safe," he said. the convocation ceremony of Indian

## PM Modi to visit Mangaluru on Sept 2

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra 10th Convocation of the Indian Modi will visit Mangaluru on Veterinary Research Institute September 2 to attend various (IVRI), Izzatnagar (Bareilly) was programmes.

held today with the Union Min-Modi will inaugurate six projister for Agriculture and Farmers ects, including Anagha Refinery Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and berth number 14 at New as the chief guest. Speaking on Kaal) of the country's indepen-Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT). the occasion, Tomar said that dence, India should establish as the Government of India under He will also lay foundation to



cess. However, he told Gandhi that he will continue to campaign for the party candidates in the state. The former union minister and deputy leader of the Congress in Rajya Sabha was appointed as chairman

Sharma has told the Congress chief that he has been ig- of the Steering Committee in nored in the consultation pro- Himachal Pradesh on April

completes 100 years (Amrit

26. Both Azad and Sharma are prominent leaders of the G23 grouping which has been critical of the decisions of the party leadership The grouping comprising

prominent veterans including Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Manish Tewari has been

insisting on genuine elections right from the block up to the CWC level. Sharma, who is considered among the tallest leaders of Himachal Pradesh, has reportedly told the Congress president in his letter that his self-respect has been hurt as he has not been consulted or invited for any of the meetings of the party.

wrest power from the BJP in polls slated later this year.

assembly elections in 1982 and was given a Rajya Sabha ticket by then prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1984, has been a Rajya Sabha member ever since and has occupied several key

CBI team from Chandigarh arrived in two vehicles during surprise raid on Saturday late night arrêsted four persons

Himachal Pradesh in assembly Sharma, who first contested

## PM Modi security breach in Punjab: SC panel holds Ferozepur SSP responsible for lapses



Malhotra to head the committee to investigate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security breach in Punjab.

Chief Justice N.V. Ramana then had said the panel would inquire into the causes of the security breach, persons responsible for the breach, and also measures to be taken in the future to prevent security ime Mini

## Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in J&K's Rajouri





registered specifying their visit at police station Ambala Cantt. positions in the party. The raiding team first visited the

team during search recovered Rs 32.50 lakh from Lt. Col. Rahul Pawar and Rs 16 lakh from the contractors and a case was

#### Lt. Col Rahul Pawar Barack Store officer and Pradeep Kumar Subedar Major at Ambala Cantt along with contractors Dinesh Kumar and S. Preetpal

the Sagarmala project.

Later, the PM will address a convention, which is likely to take place at Goldfinch grounds at Kulur.

Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner K V Rajendra has confirmed the visit of Modi. All preparations including security arrangements have begun ahead of the visit.

### Police raids underway in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch



#### **FW DESK**

The police today raided multiple locations across the Poonch district in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a hawala racket. The raids followed the arrest of two people who were allegedly routing money to terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba and Al Badr, officials said. They have been identified as Abdul Hamid Mir, a resident of Poonch, and Mohammad Yaseen, Delhi-based garment trader. The two were arrested from Jammu bus stand and the national capital on August 17 and 18 respectively and Hawala money worth Rs 24 lakh was recovered from them.

Yaseen, a resident of Delhi's Turkman Gate, revealed that the hawala money was being routed to India through South Africa and collected in Surat and Mumbai, police said.

Yaseen ran a garments business at Meena Bazaar and was the Delhi link to send this money to Jammu and Kashmir through couriers.

the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is working with full dedication to transform and move the country forward.

The Supreme Court on Monday

ing those who received degrees Tomar said that on the ocat the convocation. Tomar said casion of the Azadi Ka Amrit that educational institutions play Mahotsav, everyone has to fulfill an important role in the develtheir old resolutions and simulopment of youth and students taneously start working on new feel proud by getting excellent resolutions. By the time India education.

**Veterinary Research Institute** 

st nation in the world. For this, institutions and students, all should join hands and contribute towards the nation. Congratulat-



Former Supreme Court judge Justice Indu Malhotra Committee, inquiring into the security lapses in the Prime Minister's convov in Punjab in January. informed the top court that there should be an oversight commit-

Book' and indicted Ferozepur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) for not taking steps in connection with the security to PM's convoy.

On January 12, Supreme Court had appointed retired tee for periodic revision of 'Blue top court judge Justice Indu

other constitutional functionaries. The other members of the panel include -- Director General of Police, Chandigarh; Inspector General, National Investigation Agency (NIA) or his nominee not below the rank of IG: Registrar General of the Punjab and Haryana High Court; and Additional DGP, Security, Punjab.



Army has foiled an infiltration attempt by a group of terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesperson said on Tuesday.

There was movement of suspected infiltrators in Naushera sector on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. A search operation in the area is underway and further details are awaited, he said.

According to officials, a group of suspected terrorists tried to sneak into Pukharni village of Laam in Naushera under the cover of darkness from across the border.

One of the terrorists stepped over a landmine causing an explosion around 10 pm on Monday, they said, adding the alert Army troops who were

the terrorists laid a cordon and started a search of the area on Tuesday morning. It is not immediately known whether any terrorist was injured or killed in the explosion,

officials said. The latest infiltration bid in the Naushera sector comes close on the heels of the arrest of a highly trained Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) guide, who also worked for an intelligence unit of Pakistani army, in an

injured condition by Army on Sunday Tabarak Hussain (32), a resident of Sabzkot village of Kotli in Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir (PoK), was arrested for the second time in the past six years while trying to infiltrate into this side from across the border.

agreed to list a plea seeking review of its order upholding the Enforcement Directorate's powers related to arrest, attachment of property involved in money laundering, search and seizure under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. "Okay, we will list it," a bench headed by Chief Justice N V

Ramana said after the plea was mentioned before it. committed not only by unscru-

the world over that money laundering can be a "threat" to the good functioning of a financial system, the apex court had observed on July 27 while upholding the validity of certain provisions of the PMLA. It underlined that this is not an "ordinary offence". The Cenpulous businessmen but also tre has been insisting money laundering is an offence that is

terror organisations, posing a grave threat to national security. A bench headed by Justice A

SC agrees to list plea seeking review of PMLA judgment

#### M Khanwilkar had said authorities under the 2002 Act are "not police officers as such" and the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) cannot be equated with an FIR under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). The bench had said supply of an ECIR copy in every case to the person concerned is not mandatory and it is enough if the ED, at the time of arrest, discloses the grounds of such

an arrest. The petitioners in the case had raised the issue of the contents of ECIR not being

by the government to harass its political adversaries

disclosed to the accused. The court's judgement came on a clutch of over 200 petitions filed by individuals and other entities questioning various provisions of the PMLA, a law which the opposition has often claimed has been weaponised

> The third most delayed project is Subansiri Lower hydro electric project (8X250 MW)

of NHPC at 155 months. About the road transport and highways sector, the report stated that total original cost of implementation of 825 projects when sanctioned, was Rs 4,90,792.42 crore. This was subsequently anticipated at Rs 5,37,163.29 crore, implying a cost overrun of 9.4 per cent.

The expenditure incurred on these projects till June 2022 was Rs 3,21,084.28 crore, which is 59.8 per cent of their anticipated cost. About railways, it said the total original cost of implementation of 173 projects when sanctioned, was Rs 3,72,761.45 crore, which later increased to Rs 6,12,578.9 crore, implying a cost overrun of 64.3 per cent.

## All political parties are in favour of freebies: SC

All political parties including BJP are in favour of freebies and due to this a judicial attempt has been made to deal with it, said the Supreme Court on Tuesday while deliberating with a PIL opposing promises of such handouts by the parties during polls. The top court also rapped Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and some of its leaders for making statements on the issue of freebies and the judicial intervention on the ground that welfare measures are for uplifting marginalised people and cannot be held as freebies . On this issue, I can say all political parties are on one side including BJP. Everybody wants freebies. That is the reason we made an attempt, a bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Hima Kohli and CT Ravikumar observed during the hearing.

## India successfully test-fires VL-SRSAM

It is common experience

India on Tuesday successfully test-fired Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the Odisha coast here, officials said.

The VL-SRSAM was flighttested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy.

The flight test was carried out from an Indian naval ship against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability, DRDO sources said. The missiles, equipped with indigenous radio frequency (RF) seeker, intercepted the target with high accuracy. The VL-SRSAM system has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO.

During the test launch, flight path and vehicle performance parameters were monitored



search and Development Labousing flight data, captured by various range instruments ratory (DRDL), Research Centre such as radar, electro-optical Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad and tracking system (EOTS) and R&D Engineers, Pune.

telemetry systems deployed Defence Minister Rajnath by ITR, Chandipur," they said. Singh has complimented DRDO, Indian Navy and as-An official statement said that the launch was monitored by sociated teams on the successful senior scientists from various flight trial of VL-SRSAM and DRDO laboratories involved in stated that the missile will prove the design and development of to be a force multiplier for the the system such as Defence Re-Indian Navy

## Road transport and highways sector has maximum number of delayed projects: Government report

The road transport and highways sector has the maximum number of delayed projects at 300, followed by railways at 119 and petroleum sector at 90, showed a government report. In the road transport and highways sector, 300 out of 825 projects are delayed. In railways,

out of 173 projects, 119 are delayed, while for petroleum, 90 out of 142 projects are delayed, as per the latest flash report on infrastructure projects for June 2022.

The Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) is mandated to monitor central sector infrastructure projects costing Rs 150 crore and above based on the information provided on the Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) by the project by 162 months.



implementing agencies.

IPMD comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The report showed that a 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor being constructed by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI) is the most delayed project. It is delayed by 168 months.

The second most delayed project is PARBATI-II hydro electric project (4X200 MW) of the NHPC, which is delayed

## Linking Aadhaar to voter ID should remain voluntary

ne of the clear successes of Indian democracy has been the regular conduct of elections and the relatively high participation of electors in the voting process compared to other countries. Besides the fact that the process is relatively simple with the use of the electronic voting machine, high voter turnout has also been possible due to registration drives by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Periodically, the ECI does face the issue of a cleaning up of electoral rolls due to increases in migrant populations in urban sprawls, demographic changes due to the entry of more eligible voters, besides deaths of older people. But repeated cycles of elections have allowed for a cohesion in this process with voters allowed to register based on proofs of their age and current place of residence. The Aadhaar number is not a proof of citizenship and is meant to be issued to residents, while only adult citizens who are resident in India are eligible to vote. Instrumentally speaking, matching the Aadhaar number to the electoral roll in order to perform verifications is not a foolproof process. The Internet Freedom Foundation has cited data to show that selfreported errors in the Aadhaar database are higher than those in the electoral database. There is also evidence that Aadhaar-linkage with voter identity cards, as in the Assembly elections in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh recently, for example, led to the arbitrary deletion of eligible voters on a large scale. Besides, with the Aadhaar number now being used to access a variety of services, linking to voter IDs, when aggregated from booth level data, can possibly lead to misuse by agencies. The absence of a data protection law heightens the risk of this possibility as well. The insistence on linking Aadhaar with the voter ID militates against these principles. The ECI should limit itself to utilising existing proofs for voter authentication and Aadhaar declaration should remain voluntary.

## **R.K. VIJ** SAYS ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE PAID TO LINGERING ISSUES IN INDIA'S POLICE AGENCY Criminal laws: The shackles of 1861 need to go

s India is celebrating 75 years of Independence, the police continue to be in the public gaze, most often or antagonistic reasons. Criminal laws and procedures, though modified, and the shadows of India's colonial legacy do not appear to leave the police agency any time soon.

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India's parliamentarians rose to the occa-sion and passed The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, with an objective more to reform, rather than punish, offenders. Realising the urgent need to check the social evil of dowry, the Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961. More revolutionary changes were made in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1983 and 1986 and by introducing Sections 498A (cruelty by husband and his relatives) and 304B (dowry death) along with certain amendments in the Evidence Act. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, was enacted in 1989

The definition of rape has been widened and offences related to sexual assault made tougher. Comprehensive laws such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, have been enacted. Electronic documents and signatures have been given legal sanctity to facilitate online transactions and check cybercrime under the Information Technology Act of 2000. The National Investigation Agency was constituted in 2008 (after the deadly 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai) to investigate and prosecute offences affecting national security. All these statutes have added a progressive and more humane chapter to the history of our criminal justice system



The constitutional courts have also made far-reaching contributions. By reading down Section 377 of the IPC, the Supreme Court granted relief to the LGBTQ+ community. Custodial torture and sexual harassment of women have been held to be violations of fundamental rights. The jurisprudence of providing compensation to victims of crime has evolved over time. The right to privacy has been recognised as a fundamental right. The demon of 'sedition' (Section 124A), which was brought into the IPC in 1870 to suppress the national movement, has recently been caged by the Supreme Court so that its constitutionality can be decided and its alleged misuse be curbed.

Attempts have been made to blend some elements of the inquisitorial system into the (prevalent) adversarial system by making judicial inquiry into custodial death and custodial rape mandatory and dig out the truth to punish the guilty. However, the police continue to be haunted by allegations of being a brute force. The trust deficit does not appear to have bridged despite the power to arrest having been curtailed, the use of handcuffs restrained, the presence of a lawyer permitted during interrogation, CCTV cameras installed in the police stations, and human rights bodies allowed to keep a constant eye. Lawmakers are still reluctant and the judiciary apprehensive about making voluntary confessions before a police officer admissible.

Many committees have been constituted and recommendations made to reform the criminal justice system in general and the police in particular, but to no avail. The latest in focus is the Supreme Court order in Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006). The poor and tardy compliance with the directives has been explained in the book, The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police. This public

interest litigation was filed with an objective of transforming 'a ruler's police into a people's police'. The writer, Prakash Singh, has said that even the directive of separating investigation from law and order, which only required a sanction of a few more posts, was not implemented by States and Union Territories in the true spirit. Despite 'Police' being a State subject, no State government has given due attention to police reforms so far. Though the Police Act of 1861 was made applicable to all provinces after the 1902-03 Commission's recommendations, no State or UT has adopted the Model Police Act drafted by Soli J. Sorabjee.

**EDITORIAL** 

**COPINION** 

Though there was no connection between the magistrates and the police in the system established in England from 1829 onwards, the mutiny made this arrangement possible for the purpose of utilising the police primarily for the maintenance of British rule in India. All such provisions, despite having outlived their purpose long ago, still ontinue to exist not only in the States' Police Acts but also in the criminal codes. It is no wonder then that the District Superintendent of Police is unable to transfer his Station House Officers without the approval of the District Magistrate in U.P.; the performance appraisal report of a Superintendent of Police s still written by the District Magistrate in some States (including Chhattisgarh) despite the Supreme Court's directions to the contrary; and the introduction of the police commissionerate system in metropolitan areas (as per the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code) is always resisted tooth and nail.

R.K. Vij is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh. Views are personal

## **RAJESH GUPTA** EXPLORES WHY UNIVERSAL BASIC INSURANCE IS A BETTER PROPOSITION Making out a case for the other UBI in India

t took the COVID-19 pandemic to expose the precariousness of human society across the world. As the importance of social security came into focus after the major waves of the pandemic, the debate on universal basic income (UBI) began to resurface in policy circles across the globe. However, there is another UBI that needs to be examined in the Indian context, i.e., universal basic insurance. Before discussing the second UBI, or insurance, it is worthwhile looking at the design options for social security.

Income shocks result in a free fall of those living on the line of basic living wages (say line 1) down towards the critical survival line (say line 2). In any case, a fall that is further below line 2 needs to be prevented as it can be catastrophic — a household can end up facing a poverty trap. Social security systems are like a safety net placed at line 2. These social security nets can be of three The first i catches those falling from line 1 and prevents a fall below line 2. The second is an active safety net which works like a trampoline so that those who fall on it are able to bounce back to line 1. The third is a proactive safety net which acts like a launchpad so that those who fall on it will not only bounce back but will also move up beyond line 1. The first type of safety net is basically a social assistance programme meant for the most income-deprived sections of society. The second type of safety net is a scheme with a higher outlay. The third type of social security net is the most desirable option but requires immense resources and institutional capacity. For social security, people on the south end of the income line need social assistance schemes. Those on the north end of the income line should have voluntary insurance. Social security mainly encompasses food security, health security and income security. India operates the widest spectrum of social security schemes which cater to the largest number of people than any other country. The sheer scale of Indian social



Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana has about five million beneficiaries while there are about 50,000 beneficiaries under the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders) scheme. The largest unorganised sector income security programme is the scheme under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which has about 60 million beneficiaries. Thus, out of 500 million workers in India, about 100 million have no income security (pension, gratuity or other income) coverage. Proponents of universal basic income cite the informality of the Indian economy as the hurdle in rolling out schemes such as unemployment insurance in the country. However, besides huge fiscal implications (around 4.5% of GDP), the proposal of universal basic income runs the risk of implementation failure due to largescale beneficiary identification requirements.

The other UBI, i.e. universal basic insurbetter proposition for two One, the insurance penetration (premium as a percentage of GDP) in India has been hovering around 4% for many years compared to 17%, 9% and 6% in Taiwan, Japan and China, respectively. Two, though the economy largely remains informal, data of that informal sector are now available both for businesses (through GSTIN, or Goods and Services Tax Identification Number) and for unorganised workers (through e-Shram, which is the centralised database of all unorganised workers). As a result of the recent initiatives by the Government, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) portal has 13.5 million registrations and the e-Shram portal has over 280 million registrations. As a prototype of a social security portal based on such data, the social registry portal, 'Kutumba', developed by Karnataka is available as a blueprint. Till the Indian economy grows to have adequate voluntary insurance, social security can be boosted through the scheme of universal basic insurance.

#### LETTERBOX

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

Business opportunities are like buses, there's always another one coming.

- Richard Branson

## THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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of households spread over a vast geography is mind-boggling.

The Indian food security programme, for example, has over 800 million beneficiaries being provided heavily subsidised food grain under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The NFSA is the world's largest food security programme. About 120 million children are provided free lunch under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. In addition, some 50 million people benefit from the free meals programme run by a few State governments. Nevertheless, there are issues of financial sustainability and leakages in the food security programme.

On the health security front, for the unorganised sector, there is the Ayushman Bharat Scheme of the central government with over 490 million beneficiaries. In the organised sector, the Central government runs the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) catering to 130 million and four million beneficiaries, respectively. Health insurance schemes run by various State governments cover about 200 million people. Only about 110 million people in India

large-scale provisions, about 400 million Indians are not covered under any kind of health insurance.

Income security is the trickiest part to tackle in the social security basket. For the organised sector, there are three types of provident fund schemes: General Provident Fund (GPF) which is availed by about 20 million Central and State government employees in the country. The second is the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) which is availed by about 65 million workers in the other organised sector. The third is Public Provident Fund (PPF) that can be availed by any Indian citizen but has contributions from the organised sector mostly. There are about 53 million New Pension Scheme subscribers in the country (about 2.2 million in the Central government, 5.6 million in the State government and the rest in the private sector).

In the unorganised sector, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) and the PM-KISAN scheme is availed by about 120 million farmers. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) benefits 40 million people. The

Rajesh Gupta is a research scholar. Views are personal.

### OBIEAN PAMUK Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk's VIGHTS OF PLAGUE book to release in September

urkish novelist and Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk's new work of fiction, "Nights of Plague", will hit the stands next month, Penguin Random House India (PRHI) announced on Tuesday. The book, slated to release un-

**BOOKS: REVIEW** 

der Penguin's 'Hamish Hamilton' imprint, is a historical novel with events that takes place in 1901 during the third plague pandemic on a fictional Ottoman island. It is currently available for preorder online.

"The 19th century European novel has an Eastward movement from London, Paris, Berlin, Moscow, to St Petersburg. "In my novel 'Nights of Plague', however, the action moves in a sphere that is much more Southern, and from

East to West: Hong Kong, Beijing, Bombay, Alexandria, İstanbul, Crete and Venice. Indian readers will notice and enjoy this new novelistic demographic and the warmer setting," Pamuk said in a statement. Pamuk, who is the author of ten novels and three works of non-fiction, is the winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Literature. It is April 1900, in the Levant, on the imaginary island of Mingheria — the twenty-ninth state of the Ottoman Empire. Half the population is Muslim, the other half are Orthodox Greeks, and

tension is high between the two. When a plague arrives brought either by Muslim pilgrims returning from the Mecca or by merchant vessels coming from Alexandria – the island

'In this part detective story and part historical fiction, Pamuk has created an imaginary world plagued by an outbreak, not very different from the one we are living in today - except he has been working on this novel for more than four years'

revolts. To stop the epidemic, the Ottoman sultan Abdul Hamid II sends his most accomplished quarantine expert to the island an Orthodox Christian. Some of the Muslims, including followers of a popular religious sect and its leader Sheikh Hamdullah, refuse



to take precautions or respect the quarantine. And then a murder occurs. "Soon, the eyes of the world will turn to this ancient island, where the future of a fragile empire is at stake, in an epic and playful mystery of passion, fear, scandal and murder, from one of history's master storytellers," reads the description of the book. According to the publishers,

Pamuk's new novel is a "masterpiece", and the drawings and hand-drawn maps in the book add texture to its thrilling universe. "In this part detective story and part historical fiction, Pamuk

has created an imaginary world plagued by an outbreak, not very different from the one we are living in today – except he has been working on this novel for more than four years," said Meru Gokhale, publisher, Penguin Press at PRHI. Pamuk is best known outside his own country for his two most recent novels - My Name is Red (2000) and Snow (2002, English translation 2004).

The former, which won the Impac award, is a murder mystery and love story set among the artistic intrigues of the Islamic miniaturists of the Ottoman court in 16th-century Istanbul. A rich and complex work narrated by a range of voices, it explores the tension between east and west, Islam and Christianity.

The critically-acclaimed Snow, a thriller set in the 1990s that features a poet who is caught up in a military coup, is the first of Pamuk's novels to tackle politics directly.

## CORPORATE **GINDUSTRY**

# ONGC prepares for 3rd interim Chairman in a row, 9 shortlisted

preparing for a record third interim chairman as no full-time head of India's most profitable company has yet been selected in 17 months since the post fell vacant, sources said.

ONGC is without a regular chairman and managing director since April 2021. Subhash Kumar, the senior-most director on the company board and the director for finance, was named officiating head after Shashi Shanker superannuated on March 31, 2021. And when Kumar retired on December 31, 2021, Alka Mittal. Director for Human Resources, was given an additional charge.

Mittal will superannuate at month-end and unless she is given an extension, the next senior-most director. Raiesh Kumar Srivastava, Director (Exploration), is likely to be named as interim head, two officials with knowledge of the matter said.

The third interim chairman interview the candidates and send recommendations to the - a record for ONGC - is being

### India's Hospital Management System, Insta by Practo, Moves to SaaS Model, as it Charts **Expansion** Course



#### FW DESK

Practo's hospital management system, Insta, trusted by1500+ healthcare centres globally, today announced its transition to SaaS model to drive more value, efficiency, flexibility and scalability for its partner clinics and hospitals. The development, part of the company>s holistic growth and profitability strategy, is expected to impact the topline positively, with a 25% increase in healthcare centres. With this move, the company aims to improve its integration, enabling timely upgrades and greater ease of use, at 4x lesser costs as compared to conventional IT infrastructures. Insta's ambitious expansion path includes going deeper into the Middle East and Indian markets by providing for local needs.

## **Renault Nissan's Chennai** plant gets new MD

State-owned Oil and Natural talked about as the govern-Gas Corporation (ONGC) is ment is yet to even identify a full-time head.

A search-cum-selection committee, which was in February this year tasked to identify suitable candidates, began work only this month after terms of reference were finalised. The panel has shortlisted nine candidates on the basis of higher eligibility age limit proposed by the oil ministry, which brought most existing directors - who otherwise were ineligible to even apply, in the zone of consideration, they said. The shortlisted include Mittal and Srivastava as well as three other directors on the ONGC board - Om Prakash Singh, Director (Technology & Field Services); Pankar Kumar, Director (Offshore) and Anurag Sharma, Director (Onshore). The other shortlisted candidates are outside of ONGC and include heads of oil marketing companies, the officials said. The panel will

ongc oil ministry, which will forward

it to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister for final vetting and approval. The committee shortlisted candidates on the basis of the oil ministry's revised eligibility criteria that raised the eligibility age

The ministry proposed that any candidate to be eligible for consideration should not be more than 60 years of age on the date of occurrence of vacancy, according to the ministry's office memorandum sent to the Department of Personnel and



Training (DoPT) on June 17. The vacancy arose on March 31, 2021. Prior to this change, the minimum age prescribed for being eligible for the top job is 45 years. Besides, internal candidates needed to have two vears of residual service as on the date of vacancy and three vears for external candidates.

What the ministry proposed was that any eligible candidate who is not more than 60 years of age at the time of occurrence of vacancy which was April 1, 2021, should be considered eligible. This essentially meant that the current acting chairman, Alka Mittal, who other- Board (PESB) but the governwise would retire in Augustend and was ineligible, would come under the zone of consideration. Also, Srivastava, who retires on December 31, and Sharma, who superannuates on February 28 next year, have become eligible. Previously, only Pankaj Kumar and Om Prakash Singh were eligible. The ministry also proposed appointment for a period of three years from the date of joining instead of the present five-year term, according to the letter.

The selection will be done through a three-member search-cum-selection committee headed by PESB chairman and composed of oil secretary and former Indian Oil chairman B Ashok (outside expert). The panel was formed on

February 4, 2022 but the terms of reference are being framed recently. Most board-level appointments at public sector companies are done on the basis of recommendations of the Public Enterprise Selection

ment headhunter in June last year did not find anyone suitable among nine candidates, including two serving IAS officers, to head ONGC.

"Keeping in view the strategic importance and vision for the company and its future, the board did not recommend any candidate and decided to constitute a search committee," the ministry letter said referring to PESB's interviews on June 5, 2021. The panel was constituted after eight months of that recommendation on February 4. The ACC approved "consideration of central government officers, including those of the armed forces of the Union and the all India services for the post on

immediate absorption basis." "Energy security is critical for the nation. ONGC plays a votal role in exploration as idia's National Oil Company (NOC). Its activities need to be scaled significantly and rapidly. Those interviewed included As an NOC, it is necessary to have a specially designed 'sui

generis' job description for ONGC in order to attract the best talent available," the ministry note had said. As per the practice, PESB recommends a name for a board-level position at least three months prior to arising of the vacancy. However, in the case of ONGC, PESB advertised and interviewed candidates after the

on March 31. 2021. The committee route for appointment of PSU board members has very sparingly been used in the past. In 2016, current NTPC chairman Gurdeep Singh was appointed through the route. Last appointment using the route was that of Sanjeev Kumar as the chairman of Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL). PESB on June 5, 2021, interviewed nine out of the 10 candidates who had applied for the post of chairman and managing director of ONGC.

senior bureaucrats Avinash Joshi and Niraj Verma.

retirement of Shashi Shanker

Mars Wrigley India Appoints Meghal Sheth as CFO



**FW DESK** 

Mars Wrigley has announced the appointment of Meghal Sheth as Chief Financial Officer for India. He will report to Kalpesh Parmar, General Manager (GM), Mars Wrigley, India

Kalpesh Parmar, Country GM, Mars Wrigley India, said, I'm delighted to welcome Meghal back into the India business after spending 4 years as Regional Finance Director managing FP&A and Supply Finance for Global Emerging Markets region in MW segment. We are a purpose-led growth company with a dynamic and capable talent pool, and we are excited for Meghal to help define and enable our plans in India, as we continue to innovate and create products that our consumers love. His experience of the business and culture of Mars along with strong regional experience around managing complex and volatile emerging markets and outstanding leadership qualities will be an invaluable addition to the team. I wish him all the success in this new assignment."

A seasoned member of Mars Wrigley's finance organization, Meghal comes with significant financial executive experience in the FMCG sector. He had joined the erstwhile Wrigley India in 2015, as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and subsequently led the seamless integration of the chocolate and confectionary businesses in India following the global merger of Mars, In-corporated and Wrigley.

## Serum Institute CEO **Adar Poonawalla** calls on PM Modi



## Time for Indian SaaS startups to go global

With increasing digitization and automation across the world. the relevance of cloud-based Software as a Service (SaaS) firms and digital apps is on the rise. According to data from research platform Venture Intelligence, SaaS companies raised \$2 billion across 93 deals in the first quarter of 2022.

To assist early-stage SaaS startups to tap into this growth opportunity, Prime Venture Partners and Amazon Internet Services Private Limited (AISPL) are collaborating to host the third installation of 'SaaS Central' program. The two-week hybrid program is designed to support the startups in India that are building for the global market and assist to accelerate their growth journey by focusing on SaaS architecture, product management, go-tomarket and industry connect.



"Many hyper-growth SaaS startups in India are developing products to scale globally from the start. With the majority of India's SaaS unicorns building on AWS, we have deep experience in supporting our customers to launch and grow innovative software products, and go global in minutes on our secure, extensive, and reliable cloud infrastructure. We understand the needs of In-

led by Itkhori Circle Police

Inspector Shivprakash Kumar

to initiate necessary action and

in Alakdiha village under May-

urhand police station.

dian SaaS startups at all stages of their growth, and through a combination of the broadest and deepest set of cloud products and services and a commitment to help nurture SaaS startups as they navigate critical business milestones, we are well positioned to support them on their journey. We're delighted to kick off the third annual installation of the SaaS Central program to

help support, guide, and grow the next cohort of India's innovative SaaS startups," shares Amitabh Nagpal, Head of Startup Ecosystem, India, AISPL.

include virtual sessions as well as offline workshops with SaaS experts, industry leaders, and mentors in the startup ecosystem, providing cohorts networking opportunities and workshops that can help to accelerate their growth journey. "SaaS from India has be-

have established playbooks, global SaaS Company.

## **ENGLE to provide clean drinking** water to the villages in Tamil Nadu

#### FW DESK

A leader in low-carbon energy solutions, ENGIE has committed to provide clean drinking water to the families of drought hit Mattiyarendal district and ding villa s in state

# The hybrid program will

come a mainstream global phenomenon in the last few vears. Hundreds of startups

and Prime has been fortunate to partner with several of them. For the last three years, the SaaS Central program has shared its learnings with startups on all aspects of building a great

touchpoints by the end of 2022. HD Autowheels Pvt Ltd is strategically located at New Golden Gate and can be conveniently accessed by customers across the region. The facility is spread across with a capacity 06 sa. mts to hold 6 cars on display. The workshop located in Majitha Road Bypass, is spread across 1366 sq. mts. The workshop facility is equipped with 6 bays and can service 2400+ vehicles per annum. Commenting on the inauguration of the new facility, Zac Hollis, Brand Director, ŠKODA AUTO Indiasaid, "Amritsar is one the most important markets for us in the northern region and HD Autowheels is an organisation that shares our passion for customer centricity and ŠKODA cars with the same rigour. We have always maintained INDIA 2.0 as one that

"

#### **JAGMOHAN SINGH**

SKODA AUTO India inaugu-All this together rated a new, state-of-the-art with the solid dealership in Amritsar, HD Autowheels Pvt Ltdat New Golden success of the Gate in the city. With this new KUSHAQ and the facility, ŠKODA AUTO India SLAVIA will see further strengthens its presence in Punjab, deepening its reach us making this the in the North India region. The **Biggest Year for** Czech auto manufacturer, under INDIA 2.0, plans to expand ŠKODA in India" its presence to 250 customer also takes the ŠKODA brand

to new and emerging markets across India. Enhancing the ownership experience for our cars is vital to our growth strategy and increasing our network presence is one of the

ŠKODA Auto India partners with HD Autowheels in Amritsar to expand its footprint in Punjab ŠKODA

Automobile-maker Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL) has appointed Keerthi Prakash as managing director of its plant in Chennai with effect from September 1. Currently, Prakash, who has over 20 years of experience in automotive-manufacture, serves the auto-maker as its deputy managing director. He succeeds Biju Balendran after four years as managing director. "I am pleased to announce Keerthi's appointment as managing director of our plant in Chennai. He has a wealth of production and engineering experience, having held numerous management

and senior management positions in the plant since 2008." president of Nissan India (operations) Frank Torres said in a statement on Friday.

### SATO Unveils Refreshed **Brand Identity Globally**

SATO, an award-winning social business, part of LIX-IL, unveiled a new brand identity globally with an updated tagline - A Better Life. Every Day.' and a refreshed look that reflects its customer-centric approach to business and impactfully communicates the brand's purpose. At its core, SATO is a transformational brand that empower millions through innovative and award-winning sanitation and hygiene solutions. The brand strives to put these solutions in the hands of more people around the world and, as it expands into new markets, forge new partnerships, and reach more consumers. The new brand tagline - A Better Life. Every Day - encapsulates these attributes and helps establish a stronger emotional connection with its customers and stakeholders.

An illegal liquor factory was busted with the arrest of four inter-state smugglers and seizure of large quantity of illicit liquor in Jharkhand's Chatra district on Tuesday, a police officer said. The accused were operating

the illegal factory in a closed upgraded primary school premises, Deputy Superintendent of Police (HQ), Kedar Nath Ram said.

The DSP said that altogether 1,854 bottles of illicit liquor, as the police officer said. well as liquor making materials were seized.

this regard under relevant sec-He said on a tip-off, Super- tions of the IPC and Excise Act. goals and mission of the EN-

Illegal liquor factory busted

in Jharkhand, 4 arrested

Tamil Nadu. 



stickers of branded liquor comproject. Talking about the initiapanies. The accused had plan to smuggle the liquor in states tive, Amit Jain, Country Manoutside Jharkhand after finishager - India & COO Renewables AMEAshares, "Delivering clean ing and sealing the product, and sustainable water resonates A case has been registered in with ENGIE's purpose and is also fully supported by the

GIE Foundation, i.e., to support innovative, philanthropic projects related to renewable and sustainable energy solutions."

The water purification system will clean up to 500,000 litres of contaminated water per day, using only wind or solar energy, at a very low maintenance cost of \$100 per year. The system is deployed to serve the communities that face challenges to access clean drinking water. Through reduced energy demands and low waste output, the system can be monitored and controlled remotely, ensuring its efficiency

in serving the community.

key pillars to meet this objec tive. All this together with the solid success of the KUSHAQ and the SLAVIA will see us making this the Biggest Year for ŠKODA in India." Neeraj Dhingra, Dealer

Principal, HD Autowheels Pvt Ltd, said, "It is extremely prestigious for us to be associated with ŠKODA AUTO India and introduce this all-new stateof-the-art facility in Amritsar. Our fully digitalised, immersive showroom experience is fully in line with SKODA AUTO India's high standards. This, with our understanding of local customer preferences will enable us to provide an unparalleled customer experience."

Adar Poonawalla on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and congratulated him for his leadership in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. In a tweet, Poonawalla said he met Modi on Tuesday. "Delighted to have met PM, Shri @narendramodi Ji. Congratulated him for his remarkable leadership and success in the fight against COVID-19. As an entrepreneur, I find his commitment to reforms, social welfare, and vision for Aatmanirbhar Bharat very assuring," he tweeted. Pune-based Serum Institute of India is the world's largest company in terms of COVID-19 vaccine production.

as a humble leader is what makes Anand Mahindra great.

For success and good health, the most important thing after a healthy and balanced meal is adequate and also comes quickly due to sound sleep. A lot of people overeating, frequent eating, have this misconception that sleeping less can lead to more success. These people are spoiling their health by doing overwork. Research says that those who get busy with 4 hours of sleep start getting old 10 years before the time. In such a situation, the right solution is to sleep and salt should be moderate, and wake up at a certain time and there should be a fixed sleeping routine. At least 7 to 8 hours of sound sleep is required for adults. During sound sleep, the damaged cells of the body are reconstructed and the body gets energized. That is why adequate sleep is necessary to fully recharge the body and mind.

Aging also comes faster by eating excessively, consuming more sugar or salt, or having foods made from refined flour (maida). The reason for that he simply leads them this is that foods made from and never pretends that he refined flour and fried in reworld, and what kind of life has a similar habit, he likes of the household habits of the several successful CEOs in the knows everything. Working fined oil draw nutrients from

the body for their absorption. which leads to a deficiency of vitamins and minerals in the body. Due to this, the body starts aging quickly. Aging and eating unhealthy foods, because these things increase obesity. Excess obesity increases the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Therefore, for healthy aging, it is necessary that food should be eaten in moderation, the amount of refined flour, sugar, and at least 8 hours of sound sleep should be taken every day. Sleeping early at night and getting up early in the morning, eating healthy food, as well as exercising for at least 2 hours per week are essential requirements to stay healthy. Research says that if someone is not able to exercise every day, but if s/he does the same exercise for 2 hours a week, then also the benefits remain the same.

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

## Billionaires who wash utensils at home

to cook and wash dishes at

home. Both the billionaires

Narvijay Yadav

The Forbes report on the lifestyle of the wealthiest people states that Bill Gates prefers to wash the utensils himself after having dinner. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has a similar habit, he likes to cook and wash dishes at home. Both the billionaires have the same explanation they want to set an example in front of their children.

Share market investor Rakesh these people must be leading Jhunjhunwala, one of India>s 100 richest people, passed away recently, but the tales of his ingenuity remain in view of this curiosity, Forbes constant discussion. The big bull of the share market used to say that even if he had a tenth of his current wealth, he would still live in the same ordinary house, and drive the same car. There is a curiosity in everyone>s mind about the living style of the richest and

Talking Points

have the same explanation they want to set an example in front of their children so that they do not get spoiled and do not become careless in the pursuit of money and wealth. They should understand the value of money and not take any work as small. However, a surprising fact also came to the fore that none of these billionaires likes to do laundry. In the case of India, it is a well-known fact that Mrs.

Sudha Murthy, wife of Infoin their homes. How do they sys founder Narayan Murthy, live and how do they spend prefers to clean the toilet hertime with their children? In self. She has no qualms about doing household chores. In the house, both the husband magazine has released a list that reveals the lifestyle and and wife live in a simple way likes and dislikes of the top and lead a very simple life. billionaires of the world. Forbes magazine usually re-The Forbes report on the leases an annual list of the lifestyle of the wealthiest world>s richest businessmen. people states that Bill Gates Along with this, the magazine prefers to wash the utensils also publishes various types of himself after having dinner. surveys on the habits of the most wealthy people in the Amazon founder Jeff Bezos richest people. In the survey



billionaires, 65 of the world>s richest people were included. More than half of these said that they spend their free time with family members and children. They like to play with their children, spend time together, cook for them, and do small tasks happily.

It is said that humility is the first condition to being a great leader. Whether you want to be successful in life or business, humility is a good habit to follow. Legendary author Gene Collins studied

business world and found that they all had two traits in common - humility and a strong will. The two qualities seem to contradict each other, but they are not. The world salutes the humble and down-to-earth leaders. Anand Mahindra, chairman of the Mahindra Group, says his company employs thousands of people with higher qualifications, including engineers, scientists, and economic experts. He says

## BANKING **S**FINANCE

## FPIs pump in Rs 44,500 cr into Indian equities in three weeks of Aug

After turning net buyers last flows are to remain volatile. month, foreign investors have shown tremendous enthusiasm for Indian equities and have infused close to Rs 44,500 crore in August so far amid softening of inflation in US and falling dollar index.

This was way higher than a net investment of nearly Rs 5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in entire July, data with depositories showed.

FPIs had turned net buyers for the first time in July after nine straight months of massive outflows, which started in October last year. Between October 2021 till June 2022, they sold a massive Rs 2.46 lakh crore in the Indian equity markets. In the coming months, FPI

bribe in Gujrat

A Superintendent of Central

However, with the fading concerns of rising inflation, tightening of monetary policy and performance of first quarter earnings, inflows are likely to improve in emerging markets, said Shrikant Chouhan, Head -Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

The near-term trend in capital flows will be influenced mainly by the movement of the dollar, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to data with depositories, FPIs pumped in a net amount of Rs 44,481 crore current year. in Indian equities during August 1-19. This is the highest investment made by them so far in the



"The main trigger for the sustained buying has been the Sentiments in the equity market have turned bullish due to steady fall in the dollar index the sustained buying by FPIs. from above 109 in end July to

around 105 recently. But on August 19 the dollar index has said net inflows were driven by expectation that the recession again moved up and crossed 107. If this trend continues capi-tal inflows might be impacted," Vijayakumar added.

Kotak Securities' Chouhan attributed the positive inflow to mounting hopes that the global economy may avoid a major downturn amid softening inflation levels in the US.

US inflation slowed down from a 40-year high in June to 8.5 per cent in July on lower gasoline prices, indicating that the US Federal Reserve might be less aggressive in hiking interest rates

Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India,

which is expected to hit the US market may not materialise or its impact would be minimal. While the inflation continues

to be at elevated levels, it has risen less than expected, which has improved sentiment, he pointed out.

These positive sentiments have led foreign investors to take some bit of risk and invest

in the Indian equity markets. On the domestic front, correction in the Indian equity markets provided investors a good buying opportunity.

In addition, FPIs poured a net amount of Rs 1,673 crore into the debt market during the month under review

Cabinet approves amendment to export policy for Wheat Flour



FW DESK

tions/ ban.

emption for Wheat Flour (HS

Code 1101) from export restric-

The approval will now allow

to put a restriction on the export

of Wheat Flour which will en-

sure a curb on rising prices of

wheat flour and ensure food

security of the most vulnerable

Directorate General of For-

eign Trade (DGFT) shall issue a

Russia & Ukraine are the

major exporters of wheat ac-

counting for around 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the

global wheat trade. The conflict

between them led to the global

wheat supply chain disruptions

increasing demand of Indian

wheat. As a result, the price

of wheat in domestic market

sections of the society.

notification to this effect.

billion people of the country, Cabinet Committee on Ecothe decision was taken to put a nomic Affairs, chaired by the prohibition on export of wheat Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in May 2022. has approved the the proposal However, due to prohibition for amendment of policy of ex-

on export of wheat (which was done to put a check on increasing prices in domestic market and to ensure food security in the country), the demand for wheat flour has increased in foreign markets and it's exports from India have registered a growth of 200% during April-July 2022 compared to

to ensure food security of 1.4

the corresponding period in 2021. The increased demand for wheat flour in international market led to significant price rise of wheat flour in the domestic market.

Earlier, there was a policy not to prohibit or put any restrictions on the export of Wheat flour. Therefore, a partial modification of the policy was required by withdrawing the exemption from ban/ restrictions on export for Wheat Flour in order to ensure food security and put a check on mounting prices of Wheat flour in the country

## showed an increase. In order Air India to restore staff salaries to pre-COVID level

Tatas owned Air India will restore salaries that were cut in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic from September 1, according to a communication.

which was taken over by Tatas in January this year, has also decided to revise crew layover allowances and meal arrangements from September 1.

In the communication to the employees, Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said the airline "will be restoring the salary reduction operators had resorted to costfor all employees with effect cutting measures, including ber 1 2022

to do to return to profitability, "sunsetting most of the COVID measures is an important and welcome milestone", he said.

The coronavirus pandemic had significantly impacted the airline industry, and the ductions.

#### **Central GST official** NDTV shares continue to gain, hit upper circuit limit held while taking

Ltd (NDTV) hit the upper circuit limit for the third straight day in the opening trade on Friday.

Goods and Services Tax (CGST) has been caught red-handed The company's shares have while allegedly taking a bribe of been rising after Adani group's hostile takeover bid with the Rs 5,000, the Gujarat Anti-Corruption Bureau said on Friday. announcement of an open offer S S Agrawal, the official, was on Tuesday to acquire an addiarrested on Thursday evening tional 26 per cent stake. The scrip while accepting the bribe during opened at Rs 423.85, its highest a trap laid by the ACB at the trading permissible limit for the CGST office in Nanpura area day as well as the fresh 52-week high level, on BSE. This was a 5 of Surat, it said in a release. A tax consultant had complained

Shares of New Delhi Television per cent increase compared to Thursday's closing level of Rs 403.70 apiece.

As the session progressed, the shares were trading at Rs 422.10 apiece, a gain of 4.56 per cent. On NSE too, the company's shares reached the upper circuit limit of Rs 427.95, which was also its 52-week high on the bourse, after opening at Rs 421.90. The scrip marginally shed the gains and was 3.48 per cent up at Rs 421.80. On Thursday, it closed at Rs 407.60.

In early trade, both the Sensex and the broader Nifty indices were trading in the green.

Adani group, on Tuesday, launched the open offer after an indirect acquisition of 29.18 per cent shareholding in NDTV.

However, NDTV has said that markets regulator Sebi's approval is "necessary" for Adani group firm Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Ltd (VCPL) to acquire interests in the company's promoter entity RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd.



FinMin to Inaugurate Global Fintech Fest

## Rupee rises 6 paise to close at 79.86 against **US dollar**

to the ACB that Agrawal had

demanded Rs 5,000 for clear-

ing the GST refund of one of

his clients.



The rupee appreciated by 6 paise to close at 79.86 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, supported by foreign fund inflows and a positive trend in domestic equities. However, higher crude prices in the international markets restricted the rupee's gain, forex dealers said. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.87 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.81 and a low of 79.94 against the American currency during the session. It finally ended at 79.86 against the US dollar, ment Promotion & Facilitation from government interventions, from its previous close of 79.92. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.13 per cent to 108.33. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.42 per cent to USD 100.75 per barrel.

NirmalaSitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, India, will inaugurate the Global Fintech Fest, 2022 (GFF 2022), on September 20, 2022. As the Chief Guest of the conference she will deliver the inaugural ad-

dress, virtually, at 11:30 AM (IST). GFF is organised by the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, Fintech Convergence Council (FCC), the

Pavments Council of India (PCI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), India's largest fintech conference, GFF 2022, will be held September 20 - 22 at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. Pre-event festivities will begin virtually on September 19, 2022. The theme of the hybrid event this year is Creating a Sustainable Financial World - Global, Inclusive and Green'. GFF 2022 is being supported by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), National Invest- tiatives and interventions, right



Hub (RBIH) and ONDC. Special Partners of GFF 2022 are World Bank Group, KNOMAD, Better Than Cash Alliance and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

India has made exceptional rogress in fintech adoption and has emerged as a role model for the entire world. As India prepares to take the G20 leadership in the coming year, GFF 2022 will showcase India as a dominant fintech thought leader and demonstrate India's fintech ecosystem to the world, creating solutions for 6 billion global consumers and driving financial inclusion adoption for the 1.4 billion unbanked adults at an even higher pace.

Stalwarts from across the globe will brainstorm on a range of ini*v*e policies conc ess moo

## Overseas investment rules & regulations notified, another step towards Ease of Doing Busines

#### FW DESK

In line with the amendment in the Foreign Exchange Management Act 2015, Outward Investments Rules have been framed by the Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank. Presently, the overseas investment by a person resident in India is governed by the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Any Foreign Security) Regulations, 2004 and the Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property Outside India) Regulations, 2015.

Union Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank undertook a compre-

businesses in India, in an increasingly integrated global market, there is need of Indian corporates to be part of global value chain. The revised regulatory framework for overseas investment provides for simplification of the existing framework for overseas invest-

ment and has been aligned with the current business and economic dynamics. Clarity on Overseas Direct Investment and Overseas Portfolio Investment has been brought in and various overseas investment related transactions that were earlier under approval route are now under automatic route, significantly enhancing «Ease of Doing Business»

hensive exercise to simplify these regulations. Draft Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment) Rules

and draft Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment) Regulations were also put in the public domain for consultations. Extant regulations pertaining to Overseas Investments and Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property Outside India have

healthy life and pursue

been subsumed within these

rules and regulations. In view of the evolving needs of

model innovations that can be The conference will focus on cre- unforeseen financial shocks, live

The loss-making airline,



### Gold falls Rs 254, silver gains Rs 21

Gold prices fell by Rs 254 to Rs 52,031 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid weak global cues, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 52,285 per 10 grams. However, silver, gained Rs 21 to Rs 55,979 per kg from Rs 55,958 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi fell by Rs 254 per 10 gram in line with fall in COMEX gold prices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,751 per ounce while silver

India, Reserve Bank Innovation els, technology, and operating push to the sustainability agenda.

meet their current needs, absorb

life goals.

While the airline has much their financials.

## Sensex, Nifty post slim gains; close lower for the week

Benchmark indices closed modestly higher on Friday as fag-end choppiness trimmed most of the day's gains amid a largely firm trend in overseas markets.

gency (Invest India). Startup

Global investors were in wait-and-watch mode ahead of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the annual Jackson Hole symposium, where he is expected to provide clues on the US central bank's rate

hike trajectory. The BSE Sensex opened firm and soared over 500 points to an intra-day high of 59,321.65, but succumbed to profit-booking towards the end of the session. It finally closed at 58,833.87, up 59.15 points or 0.10 per cent.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 36.45 points or 0.21 per cent to end at 17.558.90. NTPC was the biggest gainer among the Sensex constituents, spurting 2.80



PowerGrid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra. On the other, IndusInd Bank, HDFC, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Dr Reddy's and Reliance Industries were among the prominent laggards, shedding as much as 1.92 per cent. The market breadth was positive, with 21 of the 30 Sensex stocks closing in the

green. "Investors' lack of confidence was flat at USD 19.22 per ounce. per cent, followed by Titan, and caution in anticipation of

7 days to 10 years.

the Fed chair's remarks led to a significant sell-off towards the close of the session. Western markets are trading with cuts as they await clues on further policy actions by the Fed to tame elevated inflation. This is expected to impact demand.

"On the sectoral front, metals and PSBs led the rally, while IT turned green after continued selling pressure," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. On a weekly basis, the Sensex tumbled 812.28 points or 1.36 per cent, while the Nifty lost 199.55 points or 1.12 per cent. "The benchmark indices

headed toward a weekly decline, ending the 5-week-long positive streak. The market witnessed some profit booking amid concerns over the outcome of the US Fed speech later Friday," said Sunil Damania, Chief Investment Officer, MarketsMojo.

#### Income Tax Department 'Liger' earns Rs 33 crore on opening day conducts searches in Gujarat

Vijay Deverakonda and Ananya Panday-starrer sports drama FW DESK "Liger" has raised Rs 33.12 crore gross worldwide on the first day of its theatrical release.

Income Tax Department car-Directed by Puri Jagannadh ried out a search and seizure of "Pokiri" fame, the film reoperation during 2<sup>nd</sup> week of leased in theatres in Hindi, August on a business group primar-Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam on Thursday. The movie is backed by Jagannadh and Charmme Kaur's banner Puri Connects and Karan Joharled Dharma Productions. "Liger packs a solid punch as Vijay Deverakonda and Ananya Panday starrer collects Rs 33.12 crore gross worldwide," the makers announced on Friday. In the movie, "Arjun Reddy" star Deverakonda plays a kickboxer with a stutter. The film also features Ramya Krishna, Ronit Roy

ily engaged in manufacturing and trading of ceramic tiles. The search action covered a total of 36 premises, spread across Rajkot, Morbi, Ahmedabad, Raipur, Guwahati, Gurgaon, and Kolkata. The search operation also covered persons engaged in providing finance. During the course of the search

operation, various incriminating evidences in the form of documents and digital data have been found and seized. The initial analysis of these evidences reveal that the group has been engaged in large scale tax evasion Mike Tyson is in a special role. by adopting various methods,

including, by way of unaccounted

cash sales outside the books of account, under invoicing of sales and booking of bogus purchases. The group has also been found to be involved in layering of unaccounted sums through bogus unsecured loans from related parties and share capital from Kolkata-based shell companies. Further, several evidences indi-

cating the group's involvement in

and improved service quality.

The ADB project will connect

75,800 households to the ser-

vice, providing uninterrupted

water supply to about 3,70,000

residents across 10 districts. To

improve water supply and sanita-

tion services, the project aims to

routing of the unaccounted funds into the regular books of account using accommodation entries provided by a Guiarat based person engaged in providing finance, have also been found.

So far, the search action has resulted in unearthing of unaccounted transactions exceeding Rs. 300 crore including cash loans of more than Rs. 100 crore. Further investigations are in progress.

ADB, India sign \$96.3 million loan to improve water supply & sanitation services in Himachal ICICI Bank hikes Interest rates on FDs above Rs 2 cr to 5 cr

**NEW DELHI:** ICICI bank has increased the interest rates on fixed deposits of more than Rs 2 crore to 5 crore. The new rates are effective from August 26, 2022, as per bank's official website. So now, the bank will provide the interest rates between 3.50% to 5.90% on fixed deposits with maturities ranging of 7 days to 10 years. It is to be noted that ICICI bank increased the interest rates on fixed deposits below Rs 2 crore on August 19.

The bank interest rate on FD for 7 to 14 days is now 3.50%. And the same rate is for 15 days to 29 days maturity FD. The interest rate increases to 3.60% for FD whose maturity is 30 to 45 days. Fixed



deposit maturing in 46 to 60 days is offering 4.00% rate, while FD maturing in 61 to 90 days giving 4.75%. Three maturity types FDs - 91 to 120, 121 to 150, & 151 to 184 days rate of 5.90%.

will get now 5.25% interest rate. 5.40% on fixed deposits maturing from 185 days to 270 days. ICICI offers an interest rate of 5.60% to FDs maturing between 271 days to less rates are similar to normal than 1 year. And over 1 year rates.

#### **FW DESK**

ICICI bank increased interest rates on FDs above Rs Asian Development Bank (ADB) 2 cr to 5 cr. The bank will and the Government of India now provide the interest today signed a \$96.3-million rates between 3.50% to loan agreement to provide safe 5.90% on fixed deposits drinking water and improve wawith maturities ranging of ter supply and sanitation services in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

The signatories for the Himto 5 years FD will get 6.05% achal Pradesh Rural Drinking interest rate. Fixed deposits Water Improvement and Livelimaturing in 5 years 1 day to 10 hood Project were Rajat Kumar years will now get an interest Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Af-It is important to note that fairs, who signed on behalf of Senior Citizens don't get any Government of India and Takeo additional interest rates over Konishi, Country Director for normal rates in the FDs above ADB in India, who signed for Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore. The ADB.

After signing the loan agreement Mishra stated that the

project is aligned with the objectives of the Government of India's Jal Jeevan Mission which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024 and it will upgrade water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure

and Vishu Reddy. Boxing icon

safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services. "ADB's involvement in the project will provide water management best practices, strengthen institutional capacity, and guide tariff reform," added Konishi. "These interventions will address the government's aim of providing uninterrupted pressurised water supply to households, inclusive sanitation services, strengthening operation



and maintenance for sustainable service delivery, and building capacity of relevant staff."

More than 90% of the state's rural population have access to drinking water, but the water supply infrastructure needs revamping, to result in efficient

construct 48 groundwater wells, 80 surface water intake facilities, 109 water treatment plants, 117 pumping stations, and 3,000 km of water distribution pipelines. A pilot fecal sludge management and sanitation programme will also be implemented in Sirmaur District, benefiting 250,000 residents.

The project will strengthen the capacity of the Jal Shakti Vibhag of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and gram panchayat (local government) village water and sanitation committees. It will support the state governments water tariff policy reforms and introduce an asset management system at the state-level and district asset management plans.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

## India-Mauritius Third Joint Committee Indo-Bangla border remains Meeting on SME Cooperation unfenced: AASU Meeting on SME Cooperation

#### FW DESK

Third Joint Committee Meet-ing (JCM) between Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSME) and Ministry of Business, Enterprises and Coopera-tives of Republic of Mauritius for cooperation in the field of MSMEs was held in New Delhi. In the said meeting, Indian side was led by Narayan Rane, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, and Mauritius side was led by Soomilduth Bholah, Union Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives. Minister of State for

PM wishes Japanese PM H. E. Fumio Kishida a speedy recovery from COVID-19

#### **FW DESK**

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has wished the Prime Minister of Japan, H. E. Fumio Kishida a speedy recovery from CO-VID-19. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said; "Wishing my friend Prime Minister Fumio Kishida a speedy recovery from COVID-19."

## BSF hands over 2 rescued Bangladeshi fishermen to BGB



Border Security Force of India on Tuesday handed over to its Bangladeshi counterpart two rescued fishermen of the neighbouring country, whose boats had capsized in inclement weather in the Haribhanga river, a BSF release said. According to the release, the BSF jawans who were patrolling the Haribhanga River in North 24 Parganas district on their boats rescued the two Bangladeshi fishermen whose boats had capsized due to bad weather. "The duo identified as Md. Hanif Maula and Md Salim Holder were rescued with the help of Indian fishermen. Later they were handed over to the Border Guard Bangladesh as a gesture of humanity and goodwill," it stated.



MSME, Secretary(MSME) ritius in the field of MSMEs, and other senior dignitaries and held discussion on poalso took part in the meeting. tential areas of cooperation In the JCM, both sides re- in various areas including exviewed the present engage-ment between India and Mau-experiences in development B2B meets; entrepreneur-

External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar has unveiled a bust

of Mahatma Gandhi in Para-

guay and visited the historic

Casa de la Independencia from

where the South American

country's Independence move-

ment started more than two

on the first leg of his six-day

visit to South America aimed

at boosting overall bilateral ties

with the region. Jaishankar, who

is on his first-ever official visit to

South America, is also visiting

"Honoured to unveil a bust

of Mahatma Gandhi ji in Asun-

Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj

Pande will travel to Nepal on

September 4 on a five-day visit

to explore ways to boost overall

strategic ties between the two

to hold extensive talks with

the top civilian and military

brass of Nepal including his

counterpart Gen Prabhuram

Sharma on key issues relating

to military cooperation during

the visit from September 4

to 8, official sources said on

1950, Gen Pande will be con-

ferred with the honorary rank

In continuation of an age-

The Army chief is scheduled

countries

Tuesday.

Paraguay and Argentina.

Jaishankar arrived in Brazil

centuries ago.

of MSME sector; holding of physical/virtual exhibitions/ fairs; technological cooperation; encouraging B2B col-

EAM Jaishankar unveils bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Paraguay

sion to locate it at the prominent ment started more than two

ship development & training programs; collaboration in various sectors such as aromatherapy, food processing and eco friendly businesses.

During the Mauritius delegation's visit two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation have also been signed, one between SME Mauritius Ltd. and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)-Ahmedabad on 23rd August, 2022 in Ahmedabad; and another between SME Mauritius Ltd. and National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Ni-msme), an institute under the Ministry of MSME on 24th August.

2022 in New Delhi.

South America.

tweeted.

(MEA) said.

of Latin America and the Ca-

Students' union AASU on Monday alleged that a large stretch of the India-Bangladesh border in Assam's Dhubri district has remained "unfenced" even after 37 years of signing of the historic Assam Accord.

A team of All Assam Students' Union led by its gen-eral secretary Shankar Jyoti Baruah went to the international border in the district on Sunday and expressed their dissatisfaction over the "exposed" boundary.

"We are shocked to see that the border between India and Bangladesh along the Gangadhar river in Binnachara area near Golakganj is totally exposed, Baruah said.

He accused both the Centre and the state government of making "false promises on sealing of the border" to the Assamese people, he said.

The historic Assam Accord of 1985 has completed its 37th Delhi, with a focus on boosting anniversary, and "still one of overall bilateral ties. The meetits major clauses of total sealing came ahead of his visit to ing of the Indo-Bangla border remains unfulfilled", Baruah Pleasure to host Ambassadors said. "The government has in New Delhi from the Group no interest in protecting the Indo-Bangla border, and in ribbean countries- Argentina, fact, the quality of fence in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Assam is poor as compared to that of the India-Pakistan Cuba, Dominican Republic, boundary," he alleged. Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico,

Panama, Paraguay, Suriname and Uruguay, Jaishankar had All promises that the Centre and the state are making about the sealed border and different The visit of the External Aftechnologies being used to profairs Minister is aimed at explortect the illegal migration are ing new areas of cooperation "false", the student leader said. in the post-pandemic era, the Baruah claimed that AASU had warned the authorities 40 Ministry of External Affairs years ago of the outcome of the

मारत বার্জোদেশ

#### HIGHLIGHT

WE ARE SHOCKED TO SEE THAT THE BORDER BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH ALONG THE GANGADHAR RIVER IN BINNACHARA AREA NEAR GOLAKGANJ IS TOTALLY EXPOSED THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTEREST IN PROTECTING THE INDO-BANGLA BORDER, AND IN FACT, THE QUALITY OF FENCE IN ASSAM IS POOR AS COMPARED TO THAT OF THE INDIA-PAKISTAN BOUNDARY

open international border in Dhubri district, and "now the chief minister is saying that the Jihadi activities in the state have increased".

Assam has become a hotbed of "jihadi activities" with five modules having links with Bangladesh-based terror outfit Ansarul Islam found in five months, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said earlier this month. "If the Centre had sealed the border in time, threats by the fundamentalists would not have existed," the student leader said.

use better scientific methods to seal the exposed border. The team of the AASU's central committee members visited the India-Bangladesh boundary between Pillar 1001 and 1031. The Assam Accord was signed on August 15, 1985, by the Centre, the state government, the AASU, and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad to end an agitation spearheaded by the students' organisation against the "illegal entry of foreigners

The students' body demand-

ed that the government should

in the state".

## Strict punishment should be given to accused who did nigah of Sikh woman in Pakistan: SGPC

**JAGMOHAN SINGH** Amritsar

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami has strongly condemned the incident of abduction of a Sikh woman and of doing her niqah (Mohammadan marriage) in Pakistan.

He said it is great injustice against the minority Sikhs and the culprits in this case should be strictly punished. SGPC President said that such anti-Sikh activities are

continuously taking place in Pakistan, but sadly the Pakistan government is not paying attention. He said that there is big displeasure

among Sikh Qaum (community) due to the recent incident of a Sikh teacher Deena Kaur's niqah after abduction. "This incident is completely against e values of Dharam (r and also, this act of promoting communal thinking is a big question for the Pakistan government. If such incidents are not stopped in Pakistan, the feeling of insecurity will increase among the minorities", said he.



Asuncion Municipality's deci-

waterfront of the city. This is a

statement of solidarity that was

so strongly expressed during the

Devi Bhandari at an event in Kathmandu. India also confers the honorary rank of "General of Indian Army" to the Nepal old tradition that started in Army Chief.

Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall of "General of the Nepal Army" strategic interests in the re- cial relations between the two by Nepalese President Bidya gion, and the leaders of the countries.

two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship.

Paraguay's Independence move-

centuries ago. A fitting testa-

ment to our common struggle

and our growing relationship,"

Jaishankar on Friday met

envoys of Latin America and

The country shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services.

Nepal's access to the sea is through India, and it imports a predominant proportion of its requirements from and through India.

The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the spe-



## China extends power rationing for factories in drought

Power rationing that forced factories in China's southwest to shut down has been extended through at least Thursday due to low water at hydroelectric dams, according to a notice reported by news outlets and a company announcement, adding to losses from the hottest, driest summer in decades.

The tense situation of power supplies in Sichuan province has further intensified, Tencent News reported Monday. There was no public announcement, but the report included a photo of the government notice to companies.

The drought and heat have wilted crops and caused rivers including the giant Yangtze to shrink, disrupting cargo traffic. State media say the government



will try to protect the autumn before a meeting in October grain harvest, which is 75% of or November when President China's annual total, by using Xi Jinping is expected to try to chemicals to generate rain. award himself a third five-year The disruption adds to chalterm as leader.

lenges for the ruling Communist Factories in Sichuan that Party, which is trying to shore make processor chips, solar panup sagging economic growth els, auto components and other

industrial goods were required to shut down or reduce activity last week to conserve power for homes as air-conditioning demand surged in temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). Airconditioning, elevators and lights were shut off in offices and shopping malls

On Monday, LIER Chemical Co. said in an announcement through the stock exchange in the southern city of Shenzhen that its facilities in the cities of Jinyang and Guang'an in Sichuan received an order extending power rationing through Thursday. Some companies said earlier that supplies to customers weren't affected, while others said production would be

on Monday, following two recent high-profile visits by U.S. politicians that drew China's ire and Chinese military drills that included firing missiles over the island.

Gov. Eric Holcomb arrived Sunday evening in Taiwan for a four-day visit that will focus on economic exchange particularly semiconductors, according to a statement from his office.

His visit is coming at a particularly tense moment for Taiwan, China and the U.S., after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan earlier this month. China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and views exchanges with foreign governments as an infringement on its claims.

In response to Pelosi's visit, China's military held

nor began a visit to Taiwan included warplanes flying toward the island and warships sailing across the midline of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial buffer between the island and mainland.

> China also imposed visa bans and other sanctions on several Taiwanese political figures, though it's unclear what effect the sanctions would have.

Holcomb will meet with Taiwan's President Tsai Ingwen, along with representatives of the semiconductor industry, and is expected to promote academic and tech cooperation between Taiwan and the state of Indiana. He is traveling with officials from the state's econom-

ic development council, as well as the dean of engineering at Purdue University. He will visit South Korea next.



SGPC President said that the Government of India should also take notice of this serious matter.

He appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar to take action at the diplomatic level to ensure strict punishment to culprits of this crime and return the Sikh woman safely to her family.

SGPC President said the Government of India must summon Pakistan's ambassador to India and register its protest against this incident.

He said a letter is being written by SGPC to the chief of Pakistan's embassy in Delhi regarding the cases of harassment of Sikhs in Pakistan.

However, a Sikh teacher in the Buner district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistanwas reportedly abducted and converted to Islam, triggered protests. Dina Kaur, daughter of Gurcharan Singh, was abducted at gunpoint, raped and married to her abductor on August 20.

## Imran Khan moves court for pre-arrest bail in terrorism case

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan moved the Islamabad High Court on Monday seeking pre-arrest bail, a day after he was booked under the Anti-Terrorism Act for threatening police, judiciary and other state institutions at his Islamabad rally on Saturday.

The petition filed by his lawyers Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry stated that Khan was a target of the ruling PDM

(Pakistan Democratic Movement) for his fearless criticism, and extremely bold and blunt stance against corruption and corrupt politicians, the Dawn newspaper reported. And to achieve this malicious agenda, acting in a most unfortunate and clumsy manner, a false and frivolous complaint has been registered against him by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)



police at the behest of the incumbent government, it added. The plea further alleged that the government had decided to cross all limits to arrest Imran under false accusations and was hell-bent to sort out the petitioner and his party at all costs . The case against Khan was registered at the Margalla Police Station of Islamabad. The FIR reads that Khan in his speech had "terrorised and threatened top police officials and a respected female additional sessions judge" with the aim to stop them from performing their functions and abstain from pursuing any action against any individual related to his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf party (PTI). It says that Khan's speech had spread fear and uncertainty among the police, judges and the nation.

## US and S. Korea open biggest drills in years amid North threats

depressed

The United States and South Korea began their biggest combined military training in years Monday as they heighten their defense posture against the growing North Korean nuclear threat.

The drills could draw an angry response from North Korea, which has pushed its weapons testing activity to a record pace this year while repeatedly threatening conflicts with Seoul and Washington amid a prolonged stalemate in diplomacy. The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises will continue through Sept. 1 in South Korea and include field exercises involving aircraft, warships, tanks and potentially tens of thousands of troops.

While Washington and Seoul describe their exercises as defensive, North Korea portrays them as invasion rehearsals that justify its nuclear weapons and

missiles development.

Cho Joong-hoon, a spokesperson of South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the South hasn't immediately detected any unusual activities or signs from the North.

The United States and South Korea had cancelled some of their regular drills and reduced others to computer simulations in recent years to create space for diplomacy with North Korea and because of COVID-19 concerns

Ulchi Freedom Shield, which started along with a four-day South Korean civil defense training program led by government employees, will reportedly include simulated joint attacks, front-line reinforcements of arms and fuel, and removals

guarantee of survival.

of weapons of mass destruction. The drills came after North Korea last week dismissed South



Korean President Yoon Suk for continuing military exercises Yeol's offer to exchange denuclewith the U.S. and also for Seoul's failure to stop South Korean arisation steps and economic benefits, accusing Seoul of recvcivilian activists from flying anticling proposals Pyongyang has Pyongyang propaganda leaflets long rejected. Kim Yo Jong, the and other dirty waste across the increasingly powerful sister of border by balloon. North Korean leader Kim Jong She also ridiculed U.S.-South Un, described Yoon's proposal Korean capabilities for moni-

toring the North's missile acas foolish and stressed that the North has no intentions to bartivity, insisting Seoul wrongly ter away an arsenal her brother identified the launch location of apparently sees as his strongest the North's latest missile tests last Wednesday, hours before She harshly criticised Yoon Yoon at a news conference

urged Pyongyang to return to including joint military drills. diplomacy.

month warned of deadly retaliation against South Korea over a recent North Korean COVID-19

or missile test or even border skirmishes, and that the North may try to raise tensions sometime around the allied drills.

In an interview with Associated Press Television last month, Choe Jin, deputy director of a think tank run by North Korea's Foreign Ministry, said the United States and South Korea would face unprecedented security challenges if they don't drop their hostile military pressure campaign against North Korea,

Last week's launches of two Kim Yo Jong earlier this suspected cruise missiles extended a record pace in North

Korean missile testing in 2022, which has involved more than 30 ballistic launches, including the country's first demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic

missiles in nearly five years. North Korea's heighted testing activity underscores its dual intent to advance its arsenal and force the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power so it can negotiate economic and security concessions from a position of

strength, experts say. Kim Jong Un could up the ante soon as there are indications that the North is preparing to conduct its first nuclear test since September 2017, when it claimed to have developed a thermonuclear weapon to fit on its ICBMs.

outbreak, which Pyongyang dubiously claims was caused by leaflets and other objects floated by southern activists. There are concerns that the threat portends a provocation

which might include a nuclear

# Yoodlee's next Punjabi film *Shinda Shinda No Papa* to release on Vaisakhi, 2023 KULBIR SINGH KALSI

### Chandigarh

Yoodlee Films is on the path of expanding itself in the regional cinema universe and giving audiences great movie experiences. After announcing multiple movies in Punjabi and Malayalam, the film studio vertical of Saregama India Ltd. recently announced its next Punjabi project with superstar Gippy Grewal as the lead. The film, 'Shinda Shinda No Papa' will release on the festive day

of Vaisakhi on April 14, 2023. The movie will star Gippy Grewal as the lead alongside his son Shinda Grewal. This is

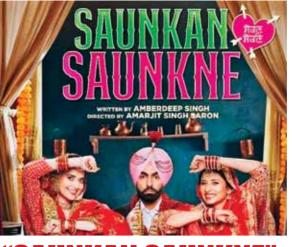


the first time we will see the around a father trying to get father-son duo together on his naughty and mischievous screen. The film is based in UK son on the right track. Superstar Gippy Grewal and moves to India revolving

whose son Shinda also stars in the film says, «I thrive to give complete entertainment to my audiences, and 'Shinda Shinda No Papa' is no exception. The film has a rollercoaster of emotions and shows how a father manages his disobedient son while moving from UK to India. I am very excited to work with my son Shinda and bring our real-life chemistry to the screen. This is going to be my second film with director Amarpreet Chhabra and working with him is a delight. Looking forward to coming together with Yoodlee Films and giving audiences a movie to cherish on Vaisakhi.'

ਮਹੀਨਾ ਕਿੱਥੇ ਹੈ

5



'SAUNKAN SAUNKNE' Box Office hit, will soon be premiered on your favourite Zee Punjabi channel

KULBIR SINGH KALSI

Sargun Mehta.

Hold your breath because Zee

Punjabi will shortly air the year's most successful Punjabi film, "Saukan Saukne," starring Ammy Virk, Nimrt Khaira, and

Your favourite laughs, melo-

dramas, and family films have

been and will continue to be

shown on Zee Punjabi in an

effort to win over the audience

completely. In light of this, Zee Punjabi will shortly present the

immensely popular Punjabi

film "Saukan Saunkne" on your

television. A family drama and

comedy are the main themes of

this Amberdeep Singh produc-

tion. Sargun Mehta arranges

her husband's marriage to her

sister in order for her to have

the child she has long yearned

for, but things end up in a

huge mess of the traditional

"Saunkans."

### Sania Mirza pulls out of US Open due to injury

**POTPOURRI** 



Star Indian tennis player Sania Mirza has pulled out of the upcoming US Open doubles event due to an injury that she had sustained wo weeks back in Canada, a development which will lead to a change in her retirement plans.

The 35-year-old Sania aid in an Instagram post that she had injured herself during the Canadian Open in Toronto this month and the scans showed a torn tendon

"Hi guys, a quick update. just have some not so great news. I hurt my forearm/elbow while playing in Canada two weeks ago and obviously didn't realise how bad it was until got my scans yesterday and unfortunately I have in fact torn a little bit of my tendon," Sania said in the Instagram post.

### Kamal Haasan starrer 'Indian 2' resumes shoot



dian 2" is set to start shooting for the remaining portions on

The Tamil-language movie is the follow-up to the 1996 vigilante action thriller "Indian", starring Kamal Haasan.

Shankar, who also directed the first part, shared the update on Twitter as he shared the film's new posters featuring

Haasan. "Good morning Indians, we are glad to announce that the remaining shoot for Indian 2 is commencing today! Need all of

your support and wishes," the acclaimed filmmaker wrote. Haasan said he will join th production next month.

## Multiple blunt force injuries on Sonali Phogat's body; murder case lodged -- the brother of Sonali Phogat.



PANAJI: Goa Police on Thursday said Haryana BJP leader and TikTok star Sonali Phogat>s body had <multiple blunt force injuries», as per the postmortem report, and a murder case has been registered.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi told to Media that there are multiple blunt force injuries on the body. «We have registered the case against her personal assistant

'Bulbul-e-Pakistan'

Nayyara Noor Laid to

her immortal work

rest as admirers praise



Sudhir Sangwan and his friend Sukhwinder Wasi, « Dalvi said. The autopsy was conducted on Thursday. The case has been registered on Thursday following a complaint by Rinku Dhaka

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday said that DGP has been given full freedom to take decisions in this case. «There is full freedom to the

police department to take correct decisions, « he said after the case was registered. Sawant on Wednesday had

said the Goa police is thoroughly investigating the death of Haryana BJP leader and actor Sonali Phogat, however, according to preliminary investigation, it looks like cause of death is

hotel in Anjuna.

cardiac arrest. According to Goa police, Sonali Phogat felt uneasy on Monday night and later in the morning (on Tuesday), she was taken to St. Anthony hospital in Anjuna at around 8 a.m., where she was declared brought dead. She had come to Goa on Au-

gust 22 and was staying at a

## Suriya starts filming for Rasika Dugal on reprising characters: Tougher for writers than actors

The difficulty of carving an arc for a relatively known character in a new season of a web series rests more with the writers

Dugal is returning for the second season of the Netflix series "Delhi Crime". She is currently shooting for the third season of Prime Video show "Mirzapur". It is an easier task for the actor to get back into the skin of a relatively old character, she said.



ficult part rests with the writers. ter a season when you come It's difficult when the characters

credits also include Disney+ Hotstar series "Out of Love", said one can never prepare enough to play a brand new role "Playing a new role is far

more scary as you have to put in a lot of work and you don't even know if you are making the right choice. "Also, whenever you prepare for a new character, you feel maybe if you would have got one more month, you were good to go. An actor can never say they are fully prepared for the role. You can just keep on preparing and here'

National Award winner Su- movie marks the actor's 42nd riya on Wednesday said he has project. started shooting for his next

Last month, Suriya was nnounc

Siruthai Siva's movie than the actors who are essaying them, says Rasika Dugal.

> "There are series like 'Delhi Crime' and 'Mirzapur' so it is easy to pick up the characters from season to season. When

promised during election campaign, in Patiala on Thursday.

you are picking up a role from

back, you are like you know are already introduced and then them (characters). They have only changed a little bit but we you have to make those characters go somewhere else. still know what they are and we understand them ut for actors one season to another, the dif- more comfortable because af- to media in an interview here. she added.

Congress MP Maharani Preneet Kaur and women activists stage a protest against Punjab Government demanding fulfillment of a monetary scheme PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL

The actor, whose franchise

The team of upcoming film "In-Thursday, director Shankar has announced.

he bord rest here after her admirers attended her funeral in huge numbers

Navyara Noor, the iconic

Pakistani singer who earned

the honorific title of 'Bulbul-e-

Pakistan' for her mesmerising

voice that enthralled music

aficionados on both sides of

Noor, born in India, died after a long battle with cancer in this southern Pakistani city on Sunday at the age of 71. She is survived by her husband and two sons.

Funeral prayers of Noor were offered at DHA's Imambargah Yasrab on Sunday, following which she was laid to rest in the Phase VIII graveyard. Showbiz personalities, politicians, journalists and music lovers attended her funeral in large numbers, The News newspaper reported on Monday. Her husband Shehryar Žaidi, a veteran TV actor, told the media that Noor had been suffering from last-stage cancer for one and a half years. He said her death is a loss for the entire nation, but my loss is more, the report said. Often known as Bulbule-Pakistan (the Nightingale of Pakistan), Noor was born in November 1950 in Guwahati, Assam, where she spent her early childhood before her family relocated to Karachi, the capital of newly created Pakistan, a few years later.

of "Annaatthe" fame.

The actor made the announcement on his official Twitter account.

"Shoot begins..! Need all your blessings..!! #Suriya42

@directorsiva @ThisIsDSP @StudioGreen2 @UV\_Creations," Suriya captioned the photo with the director and composer Devi Sri Prasad from the film's launch.

Produced by Studio Green and UV Creations, the untitled

the honour with Ajay Devgn for latter's performance in "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior". Suriya recently featured in a Actor Aayush Sharma on Tues-

best actor National Award for

"Soorarai Pottru". He shared

cameo in the Kamal Haasanstarrer "Vikram" and starred as himself in a guest appearance in "Rocketry: The Nambi Effect", fronted by R Madhavan. He will next be seen in

"Vanangaan"

Dugal told

## Aayush Sharma announces his next film, shares first look

the film.

day announced that he has started working on his next feature film.

The untitled project will be released in 2023, Sharma said in an Instagram post where he also shared his first look from

"Iss film mai guitar bhi bajega aur rubber band bhi.. aur agar main saari details Abhi bata doonga toh Mazza bhi kirkara ho jayega. Bas yeh bolna tha. milenge 2023 mai. (You will hear a guitar as well as a rubber



band in this film... If I provide all the details now, it will ruin all the fun. Just want to say we will meet in 2023)" Sharma wrote in the caption.

law and superstar Salman Khan. The film's official title and its Khan's upcoming movie, reportdirector are yet to be announced. edly titled "Kabhi Eid Kabhi

with 2018's "Loveyatri" and later

The actor made his debut Diwali".

starred in "Antim: The Final Truth", opposite his brother-in-Sharma will next be seen in

**Celebrated boxer Mary Kom undergoes ACL surgery** 

Six-time world champion boxer MC Mary Kom on Tuesday underwent a reconstructive surgery to repair an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear in her left knee. The veteran boxer had torn

her ACL when she twisted her knee in the first few minutes of her 48kg bout during the the Commonwealth Games selection trials in June.

The surgery was done at a Mumbai hospital.

"Mary had an ACL injury

underwent surgery today in Mumbai," Mary Kom's coach Chhote Lal Yadav told to in her knee for which she media

39-year-old had missed the CWG, where she had become the first Indian woman boxer to claim a gold medal in the 2018 edition.

The multiple-time Asian Championship gold medallist had last competed in the Tokyo Olympics, where she had bowed out in the prequarterfinals

The most decorated Indian boxer, Mary Kom had decided to skip the World Championships (May 8-20) to concentrate on the CWG.

### wins men's 50m Due to the injury, the pistol trial



Punjab marksman Arjun Singh Cheema won the national men's 50m pistol selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here on Thursday. Arjun shot 562 after 60

shots to finish ahead of the CISF's Avishkaar Tomar, who shot 558. The Air Force's Ravinder came third with 558, but with one lesser inner-10

than Avishkaar. In the junior men's free pistol competition, Abhinav Choudhary of Rajasthan finished first with a score of 554. Harvana's Ankit Tomar was second with 544 while Uttar Pradesh's Akshat Verma was third with 540.

In the junior women's free pistol, Sakshi Suryavanshi of Maharashtra was first with 545, Haryana's Shikha Narwal second with 540, while Divanshi, also from Haryana, was third with an aggregate of 536 points.



In a meeting that sparked a buzz, Union Home Minister Amit Shah interacted with popular Telugu actor Junior NTR, a grandson of legendary NT Rama Rao, here on Sunday night during his day-long visit to Telangana.

"Had a good interaction with a very talented actor and the gem of our Telugu cinema, Jr NTR in Hyderabad," Shah tweeted

In response, Junior NTR said it was a pleasure meeting Shah.

"It was a pleasure meeting you and having a delightful interaction @AmitShah ji.



MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar said Thanks for the kind words," it was a personal meeting and he said Telangana BJP president and that he was not present.

Some BJP sources claimed that Shah appreciated Junior NTR's performance in ace director Rajamouli's recent blockbuster 'RRR'.

The meeting, however, triggered speculation that it could be a move to attract Junior NTR's fans and also Andhra Pradesh-origin voters in Telangana

Junior N T Rama Rao, popularly known as Junior NTR, is a son of late Hari Krishna, one of the sons of TDP founder and former Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh N T Rama Rao.

## **Arjun Singh Cheema** A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**





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