

REGION

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PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCES TO FILL AROUND 2500 POSTS IN POLICE DEPARTMENT

face any sort of inconvenience. Chief Minister also announced that during the ongoing procurement season the tractors of farmers will be allowed for loading/ transportation of grains. He said that the act will be amended suitably only for the ongoing procurement season. Bhagwant Mann said that the state government is committed for well-being of the farmers. Chief Minister further said that the disbursement of financial assistance to encourage the farmers for direct sowing of paddy has also started. He said that payment has been transferred into the bank accounts of 17000 farmers. Bhagwant Mann said that the payment of remaining farmers will also be cleared within a week. Chief Minister also assured the farmers that the state govern-

FW DESK
Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann reiterated the firm commitment of the state government to procure every single grain of the farmers in the grain markets.

Punjab Chief Minister, during a meeting with the farmers here at Punjab Bhawan, said that the state government has already made elaborate arrangements for purchasing the golden harvest of the farmers as soon as it arrives in the Mandis. He said that a viable mechanism has been evolved to ensure on the spot payment to the farmers in their bank accounts. Bhagwant Mann said that smooth and hassle free procurement of grains is being ensured in the market so that farmers don't

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

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TVS CREDIT EXPECTS STRONG GROWTH THIS FESTIVE SEASON

has already been cancelled adding that remaining ones will be cancelled soon. He said that the families of the farmers who have lost their lives during the agitation have already been given assistance worth Rs 5 lakh each. Bhagwant Mann further said that Kin of 326 farmers out of total 624 who had lost their lives in agitation have been given government jobs and remaining ones will be given soon. Punjab Chief Minister said that the state government will work on constructing memorial in name of the farmers, who attained martyrdom during the agitation. He said that compensation for the Moongi crop too has been delivered to the farmers. Bhagwant Mann said that in future elaborate arrangements will be made for purchase of Moongi crop.



ment. Bhagwant Mann said that strenuous efforts are already being made to ensure that centre government declare this disease as pandemic. Dwelling on another issue, Punjab Chief Minister said that many cases registered during the farmers agitation in Punjab

POTPOURRI

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SUSHMITA SEN TO PLAY TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST GAURI SAWANT IN NEW SERIES 'TAALI'

Enough is enough: Raja Warring raps government over vendetta, false cases



FW DESK
Chandigarh

Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring on Thursday lashed out at the Aam Aadmi Party government for unleashing a war of vendetta on Congress leaders and said, the party will fight it back in the same measure in the people's court. He also announced to hold state-wide protests against the protection and patronage granted to minister Fauja Singh Sarari despite irrefutable evidence against him about planning to extort money from a contractor. "Enough is enough", he remarked, while telling the AAP government, "we cannot take it lying down that you choose people at your whims and fancy to victimize and intimidate them without any evidence or proof". The PCC president questioned the double standards of the government saying on the one hand it had let off two of

its ministers Vijay Singla and Fauja Singh Sarari scot-free. "You enacted a drama in the case of Singla and then did not pursue the matter effectively in the court as you either did not have evidence, despite claiming it publicly or then hid it from the court to shield him", he told the government. Similarly, he added, there is an open and shut case against Sarari, whose own OSD has admitted the audio recording to be authentic. "Leave aside taking any action against him, you have not even started an investigation", he pointed out. Referring to cases against Congress leaders like Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Capt Sandeep Sandhu and many others, Warring said, "just because someone alleged that he paid money to so and so or he was asked by him to do a particular thing you have registered FIRs and put a former minister in jail". He disclosed that a number of Congress sarpanches and grassroots workers were also being victimised and subject to vendetta. This is dictatorial and unacceptable, he warned. "The AAP is setting a dangerous trend and precedent and there will be no end to it, if not stopped here and now", the PCC president warned, while pointing out, "you are not going to remain in power forever".

RBI Announces Digital Rupee. E-Rupee To Launch Soon On Pilot Basis



THE CONCEPT NOTE ALSO DISCUSSES KEY CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN CHOICES, POSSIBLE USES OF THE DIGITAL RUPEE, AND ISSUANCE MECHANISMS, AMONG OTHERS

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India said it will soon commence the pilot launch of digital Rupee or e-Rupee for specific use cases as it tests digital currency in India. "As the extent and scope of such pilot launches expand, RBI will continue to communicate about the specific features and benefits of e-rupee, from time to time," the central bank said in a concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The concept note also discusses key considerations such as technology and design choices, possible uses of the digital rupee, and issuance mechanisms, among others. It examines the implications of the introduction of CBDC on the banking system, monetary policy, and financial stability, and analyses privacy issues.

Gold worth Rs. 17.77 Lakhs confiscated at SGRDJI Airport



JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Customs Department at Shri Guru Ramdas Ji International Airport has seized 336 Grams gold worth Rs. 17.77 Lakhs. A statement issued here today by the Customs department said that based on inputs Customs staff of SGRDJI Airport, Amritsar, intercepted two passengers, who arrived on domestic flight from Mumbai to Amritsar on Indigo flight No. 6E6072. On examination of their cabin bags, Customs officers recovered 401 gms gold paste. A total of 336 Grams gold of 24 Kt purity valued Rs. 17.77 Lakhs was extracted from the paste. On further interrogation, it was disclosed that said Gold was smuggled from Dubai to Mumbai in the same aircraft and these two passengers boarded in the aircraft at Mumbai and took the delivery of said gold from the aircraft. Gold weighing 336 gms valued Rs. 17.77 Lakhs has been placed under seizure being liable to confiscation, said Custom official.

Punjab Vigilance arrests AIG Ashish Kapoor for taking bribe Rs one crore



FW DESK
Chandigarh

Vigilance Bureau of Punjab on Thursday arrested Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) Ashish Kapoor, PPS, now posted as Commandant, 4th IRB, Pathankot for taking bribe of Rs. one crore through different cheques. In this case DSP Intelligence Pawan Kumar and ASI Harjinder Singh has also been nominated as accused. Disclosing this here today a spokesperson of the Vigilance Bureau (VB) said in this regard the Bureau has registered a case under sections 7, 7-A Prevention of Corruption Act and 420, 120-B of IPC against the above mentioned accused. Further investigation in this case is under progress. Giving more details he informed that during posting as Superintendent Jail at Central Jail, Amritsar in 2016, he had got acquainted with a lady named Poonam Rajan of sector 30, Kurukshetra, Haryana who was under judicial remand in the Jail in some case.

Service charge on food bills: HC grants time to restaurant owners to respond to CCPA affidavit

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court Monday granted two weeks to the associations of hotel and restaurant owners to file their rejoinder to the affidavit submitted by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on the levy of service charge on food bills. The high court was hearing petitions by National



Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and Federa-

tion of Hotels and Restaurant Associations of India challenging CCPA's July 4 guidelines prohibiting hotels and restaurants from levying service charge on food bills. The counsel for petitioners prays for and are granted two weeks time to file rejoinder to the reply filed by the CCPA

in the petitions, Justice Yashwant Varma said, while listing the matter in November. The NRAI has claimed before the high court that the CCPA ban under the July 4 order was arbitrary, untenable and ought to be quashed as it was imposed without an appreciation of the facts and circumstances.

Harmanpreet Singh named FIH Player of the Year

India defender Harmanpreet Singh was on Friday named the FIH Player of the Year in the men's category for the second successive time. The 26-year-old became just the fourth player to win the Player of the Year award (men's category) in consecutive years, joining an elite list that includes Teun De Nooijer (Netherlands), Jamie Dwyer (Australia) and Arthur van Doren (Belgium). "Harmanpreet Singh is a bona fide modern-day hockey superstar. He is a terrific defender with a knack for being at the right place at the right time to breakdown the opponent's offense," FIH said in a statement. "He has great dribbling skills to carry the ball up the field from defense. And he scores goals, goals and more goals!"



To add to that impressive resume, he has now been voted the FIH Player of the Year, for the second year running." Harmanpreet's total points tally stood at 29.4 points, followed by Thierry Brinkmann with 23.6 points and Tom Boon with 23.4 points. The India vice-captain has scored an incredible 18 goals from 16 games, with two hat-tricks, in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22.

Appointment on compassionate ground concession not a right: SC

NEW DELHI: Appointment on compassionate ground is a concession not a right and the object of granting such employment is to enable the affected family to tide over a sudden crisis, the Supreme Court has said. The apex court last week set aside the judgement of a division bench of the Kerala High Court, which confirmed the verdict of a single judge directing the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd and others to consider the case of a woman for appointment on compassionate ground. A bench of Justices M R Shah and Krishna Murari noted that the father of the woman was employed with Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd and died while on duty in April 1995. At the time of his death, it noted, his wife



was serving and therefore not eligible for appointment on compassionate ground. "After a period of 24 years from the death of the deceased employee, the respondent shall not be entitled to the appointment on compassionate ground," the bench said. According to the law laid down by the apex court on appointment on compassionate ground, equal opportunity for all government vacancies should be provided to all aspirants as mandated under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution. Article 14 of the Constitu-

tion deals with equality before law and Article 16 with equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. "However, appointment on compassionate ground offered to a dependent of a deceased employee is an exception to the said norms. The compassionate ground is a concession and not a right," the bench said in its judgement delivered on September 30. The apex court noted that when the employee had died in 1995, his daughter was a minor. On attaining the age of majority, she made an application for appointment on compassionate ground, the court said. It also noted that after a period of around 14 years after his death, his daughter had submitted an application for appointment on compassionate ground.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda arrive in Guwahati

FW DESK

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda arrived in Guwahati on Friday evening to attend different programmes in the Northeastern state over the weekend. Shah and Nadda arrived on separate flights. They were received at the Guwahati airport by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his cabinet colleagues, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, state BJP president Bhabesh Kalita, and party MPs from the state. Shah is scheduled to chair a high-level official meeting on the annual floods in Assam, and also hold discussions with the BJP's Assam core committee at the state guest house later in the evening. On Saturday, Shah along with the BJP president will inaugurate the party's newly-



constructed state office at Bel-tola, and also address a rally of party workers at the Khanapara Veterinary Ground. Nadda will then depart from the state, while Shah will proceed to hold a meeting on narcotics with the chief ministers, chief secretaries and director-generals of police of Northeastern states. He will also chair a review meeting on the North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) on Saturday evening. Shah will offer prayers at Kamakhya Temple on Sunday morning, and address the plenary session of the North East Council (NEC) at the Administrative Staff College.

Diwali Gift: Mann Government issues notification for regularising services of 8736 contractual teachers

FW DESK
Chandigarh

A delegation of 8736 teachers that have been regularised by the Punjab Government recently, today called on the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to express their gratitude towards him. The five member delegation profusely thanked the Chief Minister for accepting their long pending demand of regularisation of the service. They said that while earlier

governments had merely done lip service on the issue, the Bhagwant Mann government paved way for their regularisation by removing all the obstacles. The delegation said that they will ever remain indebted to Chief Minister for this path breaking initiative. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister handed over the letter of notification to the teachers and held detailed interaction with teachers. He said that the notification for regularisation of services of 8736 teachers



have been issued and they are part of the state government. Bhagwant Mann bemoaned that these teachers have been working since long on contractual posts only adding that some of these teachers have been discharging their duty from last 14 years. The Chief Minister underscored the need that for bright future of students the livelihood of teachers must be secured. He said that keeping in view this fact only they had decided to regularise

the services of these teachers. Bhagwant Mann called upon the teachers to discharge their duties well for grooming the students for competing with their convent educated peers. The Chief Minister said that the students must be inspired to excel in every arena. He said that the state government has also decided to take services of teacher for core teaching works only. Bhagwant Mann also congratulated the teachers and extended best wishes to them for future.

Sonia Gandhi joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka

Making a public appearance after a long gap, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka with her presence at the march being viewed in party circles as a major morale booster. Amid loud cheers and slogan-eering by party workers, Sonia Gandhi, 75, walked besides her son Rahul Gandhi and other senior Congress leaders for a few kilometres in Mandya district of Karnataka on Thursday morning. The top party brass of poll-bound Karnataka led by former chief minister Siddaramaiah and state unit chief D K Shi-



vakumar were also part of the convoy that walked alongside the Gandhis. The happy images of the mother and son walking together filled social media spaces.

to traverse Karnataka, where he will stay for another 15 days before moving into Telangana. "We have weathered many a storm and will overcome all challenges. Together we will unite India," he said in another tweet in Hindi and posted a photograph of him walking with his mother, his arm around her. The Congress also posted a picture of the two on Twitter, and said, "Those shielded by love fear nothing! On the road, marching ahead." Another post from the party simply said Ma with a heart and the photograph of Rahul Gandhi tying Sonia Gandhi's shoelaces.

Priyanka Gandhi to start Cong poll campaign in Himachal on Oct 10

NEW DELHI: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will start the election campaign from Solan in Himachal Pradesh from October 10 and will address a rally in the state. Priyanka Gandhi is likely to hold the fort of the Congress in the state since Rahul Gandhi is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The Congress is eyeing a comeback in the hill state and this will be the first election in the state which will be without Virbhada Singh. However, the Congress has appointed his wife Pratibha Singh as the

state president. The Congress is confident of clawing back to power, and banks largely on the trend of alternate governments in the state since 1985. The party is, however, facing a leadership crisis in the state and has also witnessed veterans jumping ship to the BJP. The latest high-profile exit from the Congress party was loyalist and three-time legislator Harsh Mahajan, who for over a decade played a crucial role in strengthening the party's organisation at the grassroots under Virbhada Singh.

Jammu and Kashmir DG Prisons murdered at friend's home



FW DESK

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Prisons Hemant Kumar Lohia, 57, was found murdered at his friend's home on the outskirts of Jammu with his domestic help being seen by the police as the main suspect. The murder took place on the eve of the home minister Amit Shah's visit to the union territory. Police have so far ruled out any terror angle. The domestic help, 23, is absconding, giving credence to the police version. Ahmed, according to senior Jammu police officer Mukesh Singh, had been suffering from severe depression. However a terror group, Peoples Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), has claimed responsibility for the murder.

Punjab CM announces to fill around 2500 posts in Police department

FW DESK
Chandigarh

In a major bonanza for youth of the state, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday announced to start the process of filling around 2500 posts in the Police department.

Divulging the details, the Chief Minister said that as per the ongoing process of providing employment to youth of the state, the Aam Aadmi government will recruit around 2500 more cops in Punjab Police to augment its workforce for effectively maintaining the law and order besides tackling unforeseen challenges. He said

that these posts include 1156 of Constables in Intelligence and Investigation cadre, 787 Head Constables in Investigation cadre and 560 posts of Sub Inspectors in Investigation, Intelligence, district and Armed Police cadre. Bhagwant Mann said that while the exam for Constables will be held on October 14, 2022, that of Head Constables will be conducted on October 15, 2022 and that for the post of Sub Inspectors will be held on October 16, 2022.

The Chief Minister further said that the state government has already handed over appointment letters to 4374 constables in the force. He



said that more recruitment is in the pipeline and the process

will be completed very soon. Reiterating the firm commitment of the state government to provide employment to youth, Bhagwant Mann said that the entire process of the recruitment is being done in a transparent manner.

The Chief Minister further said that his government is focussing on providing maximum employment to the youth both in public and private sector. He said that till now more than 17, 000 job letters have been handed over to the youth and more will be done in the future. Bhagwant Mann said that merit is the single thumb rule for the entire recruitment process.

Punjab Police busts Drone based arms smuggling module



RECOVERS 10 FOREIGN MADE PISTOLS FROM LOCATIONS PINPOINTED BY ARRESTED PERSONS

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Punjab Police on Wednesday busted a drone-based arms/ammunition smuggling module with the arrest of its two members including a prisoner.

Those arrested have been identified as Jaskaran Singh of Bhikhiwind in Tarn Taran, currently lodged at Sub Jail Goindwal Sahib, and Rattanbir Singh of Khemkaran in Tarn Taran, out on bail.

In a statement issued here today the Police have also recovered 10 foreign-made pistols including five .30 bore (made in China) and five 9mm (made in USA Beretta) along with 8 spare magazines from both of them, besides a mobile phone concealed by Jaskaran in his jail barrack.

AIG Counter Intelligence (CI) Amritsar Amarjit Singh Bajwa said that accused Jaskaran Singh was brought on a production warrant in a case pertaining to NDPS act, which was registered at SSOC Amritsar in August 2022.

During questioning, Accused Jaskaran confessed that he was using a mobile phone

in jail to contact Pak-based smugglers through WhatsApp for smuggling of narcotics and arms/ammunition from Pakistan via drones.

The AIG said that for this purpose the accused was taking the help of Rattanbir, who used to retrieve the consignments dropped via drones from different border areas. Pertinently, Rattanbir is also a co-accused in various NDPS cases with Jaskaran Singh.

He said that one consignment of five of 30 bore along with four spare magazines was recovered from the pinpointed location revealed by accused Jaskaran at Village Pidhi on Tarn Taran-Ferozepur Road, which was concealed by Rattanbir on the intervening night of September 28 and 28, 2023.

AIG said that acting on Jaskaran's inputs, the Police teams of Counter Intelligence Amritsar have also managed to arrest Rattanbir from Khemkaran and on his disclosure five more Pistols of 9 MM were recovered along with four spare magazines, which were concealed by him near drain at village Machhike in Khemkaran.

Meanwhile, a case FIR No. 30 dated 04.10.2022 has been registered under section 25 of the Arms Act at Police Station SSOC Amritsar.

STF arrests young man from J&K with 5 Kilogram heroin



JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Special Task Force wing of Punjab Police has arrested youth from Jammu and Kashmir with the recovery of five kilogram Heroin which was smuggled to India from Pakistan.

Talking to media here today STF AIG Rashpal Singh, confirming the arrest of accused Nazumuddin (35) from Rajouri - Poonch area of Jammu and Kashmir on tip of said that accused was government teacher in J&K used to bring drug from the neighboring country of Pakistan to further dispose it of in the Punjab State.

Continuing further, AIG said that the accused was directly intouch with the accused Jaggu lodged in the Jail in Ferozpur district of Punjab. It was Jaggu who used to give demand to the accused for the drug consignment for the State of Punjab.

I listen to the problems of the last person in Janta Darbar: Anil Vij



SATISH HANDA

Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij has said that strict action is being taken in Haryana against those who create wealth through illegal businesses and strict action will continue in the future also. He said, he was not aware of the threat received from the Bambhiha gang and it would be investigated. Apart from this, Vij gave directions to suspend the lady SPO wife of a soldier on the complaint of soldier husband during Janta Darbar.

Vij was responding to a question asked by media persons regarding the threat received by the Bambhiha gang during Janata Darbar at Ambala Cantt on Saturday. He said, the soldiers of the country fight the enemies on the borders or with the system within the country. He said that on the complaint of the army man who came from Charkhi-Dadri, directions have been given to suspend his wife a lady SPO and in this case the DGP Haryana has also been instructed to investigate by forming a three-member committee.

Punjab govt committed to restoring dignity of Numberdars : FM Cheema

FW DESK

Describing Numberdars as an important part of the government, Finance Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema on Thursday said that the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is determined to restore their dignity.

During a meeting with the unions of Numberdars here at Vit and Yojana Bhawan, Harpal Singh Cheema gave a patient hearing to their demands and issued directions to take immediate action on the legitimate demands. Cheema assured the union representatives that the government was considering their demands sympathetically.

For the convenience of the Numberdars, the Finance Minister has directed the concerned officers and departments to reserve room for them at Kisan Bhawan (Chandigarh), arrange sitting rooms at district and tehsil complexes besides including them in the grievance redressal committees to be formed at the district level. Apart from this, the Revenue department was asked to ensure the involvement of Numberdars in the land registration process. Replying to the demand made by the Numberdars for increasing the honorarium, the Finance Minister assured the union leaders that he would soon raise the issue with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Trident Group contributes Rs 11 lakh for the Saras Mela Sangrur 2022



KULBIR SINGH KALS

Trident Group has contributed Rs 11 lakh for the upcoming Saras Mela Sangrur-2022. The Cheque was handed over by Admin Head, Trident Group, Rupinder Gupta, to Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur Varjit Walia.

Gupta informed that this year state-level 'Saras Mela' is being organized by the Punjab Government at Ranbir College Sangrur from October 8 to October 17. He said that Saras Mela will provide a special platform for the presentation of the artworks made by the Artisans. This year more than 300 artisans of various products from all over India and more than 80 from Punjab are expected to participate in this mela. Apart from this, teams from different states of India will present their cultural specialties.

Adampur Vidhan Sabha bi-polls in Haryana to have four sided contest



SATISH HANDA

Political activities have started in Haryana state after the announcement of Vidhan Sabha bi-polls at prestigious Adampur seat got vacant due to resignation by Kuldeep Bishnoi son of the former Haryana Chief Minister late Bhajan Lal who joined hands with BJP ruling in the state after he resigned from Congress. This Vidhan Sabha seat remained occupied by Bhajan Lal family since past 24 years now going to have fourth time bi-polls incoming month and likely to have tough contest between four political parties in the state: ruling BJP, Congress, INLD and a new party entering in the state first time Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Protest march by SGPC for cancellation of HSGM Act & against anti-Sikh forces

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) carried out a large protest march from Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple) to the office of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Amritsar, and submitted a memorandum to DC Harpreet Singh Sudan in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The SGPC memorandum demands cancellation of separate Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGM) Act and it was against the interference of anti-Sikh forces in Sikh affairs.

The protest march was led by SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami, while a large number of office-bearers, members and employees of SGPC participated and expressed their Panthic (community's) resentment. During the protest, all of the protestors wore black turbans and also held black flags and placards carrying slogans expressing Panthic resentment.

On reaching at Deputy Commissioner office, the protest march the SGPC President refused to hand over a memorandum letter to ADC, due to absence of DC and called



for staging the demonstration until DC himself comes and accepts the document. After this, all members led by SGPC President Dhami sat in protest and started chanting Satnam Waheguru. This protest continued for about 2 hours, after which DC, Amritsar Harpreet Singh Sudan visited the spot himself and received the memorandum from SGPC President.

SVB Haryana registered 175 corruption cases against employees in past 9 months

SATISH HANDA

In view of zero tolerance on corruption by ruling government in Haryana, State Vigilance Bureau (SVB) has now started not to spare even senior level government officers allegedly involved in corruption. SVB information reveals that 175 corruption cases have been registered in the state during raids at government offices in past nine months this year, which include highest number of corruption cases registered in CM City Karnal recording highest number corruption cases in the state not only against junior level staff working in government offices but also senior officers, followed by Gurugram ranking second highest position in registration of corruption cases in past nine months with effect from January till month September this year.

According to information by Abhijit Kapoor Chief SVB Haryana, on getting free hand from Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter SVB conducted raids on corrupt government officers as well as staff working in government offices in the state in view of increasing corruption cases without seeking permission from the higher authorities in the department and take action against corrupts only informing to Deputy Commissioner of the district in order to wipe out increasing corruption in the state, which include senior employees working in Revenue Department, Excise & Taxation Department Municipal Corporation, Haryana State Vidyut Prasaran Nigam, Police Department and above all Engineering Departments in the state.



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Under preparations of centenary events, SGPC delegation reaches Gurdwara Panja Sahib

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) delegation, which went to Pakistan to discuss preparations of 100-year centenary congregations of Shaheed Saka (martyrdom massacre) Sri Panja Sahib, today visited Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib at Hasan Abdal and held discussions with local officials. The delegation members also visited the venue for the Gurbani Kirtan samagam (event) to be held at Hasan Abdal's railway station, where the tragic massacre of Panja Sahib took place in October 1922.



Notably, along with the main congregation Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib as scheduled on October 30, 2022, there is also a plan to hold a one-hour Kirtan Darbar at the railway station of Hasan Abdal, to pay tributes to the martyrs, said in a release issued here today.

The SGPC delegation including General Secretary Jathedar Karnail Singh Panjoli, former senior vice-president Bhai Rajinder Singh

Mehta along with others officials interacted with the local organisers about the arrangements of the congregation and motivated them to make Sikh Sangat of nearby areas aware about the centenary.

Giving information, SGPC General Secretary and delegation member Jathedar Karnail Singh Panjoli said that venue for the Kirtan Darbar to be held at Hasan Abdal railway station was visited along with Bhai Ranjit Singh and Bhai Kulbir Singh, the granthis of Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib, local Sikh leader Bhai Santokh Singh and other prominent Sikhs, so that the event can be conducted effectively.

Three marches reach Amritsar to intensify Panthic protest against efforts to break SGPC

ALL NATIONAL PARTIES WORKING TOGETHER TO BREAK SGPC: SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Three Panthic Ros (resentment) March organised by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) that started from Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib Anandpur Sahib, Takht Sri Damdama Sahib Talwandi Sabo and Gurdwara Manji Sahib Ambala concluded at Akal Takht Sahib (highest Sikh temporal seat) in Amritsar on Friday evening.

These protest marches were carried out to intensify the protest against recognition to Haryana Sikh Gurdwara (Management) Act, 2014 by



PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

the Supreme Court opposite the spirit of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, which was brought into existence by the Sikh community after great sacrifices more than a century ago and the conspiracies to break foremost Sikh body SGPC.

Upon reaching Akal Takht

Sahib, Ardas (prayer) was offered for the rising spirit of SGPC and success of the struggle.

Earlier, when the protest marches reached Golden Gate after passing through different districts, the present people of Sikh community and SAD activists expressed their protest with victory Sikh slogans. All three protest marches included a convoy of hundreds of vehicles including cars and buses, in which sizable crowd of Sikhs supporting SGPC were present. In this protest organised by the SGPC, apart from SGPC officials, employees, senior leaders of Shiromani Akali Dal were also present.

From Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, the protest march was led by SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami, while the one which started at Takht Sri Damdama Sahib was led by Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) President Sukhbir Singh Badal. The protest march from Haryana's Ambala was led by SGPC senior vice-president Raghujit Singh Virk and SGPC members and Sikhs were present in it.

PHD Chamber organizes Interactive session on Employee Provident Fund



KULBIR SINGH KALS
Chandigarh

PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an Interactive Session with Additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner along with Senior Officials of Employees Provident Fund Organisation at PHD House organised today, at Chandigarh to understand and clarify issues and challenges in the realm of PF and moving towards Ease of Doing Business.

Dr. Ashok Khanna, Former President, PHDCCI mentioned that it is a great opportunity where one can understand and clarify issues and challenges related to Provident Fund in presence of Senior EPFO officials who can implement the participants suggestions in their respective amendments. Ashish Mohan Wig, Co-Chair, HR & IR Committee, PHDCCI while moderating the session briefed the dignitaries about PHD Chamber. He highlighted that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is one of the largest organization in the world in terms of membership and its funds. He informed that the session has been organized to highlight the challenges being faced by employees and employers.

Senior Photo Journalist Naresh Sharma awarded with J&K Govt award for best heritage photo

FW DESK
Delhi

Senior Photo Journalist Naresh Sharma has been awarded with Jammu and Kashmir state award for best photograph on state heritage and culture. Recipient of various awards, Naresh Sharma got the award from Rashmi Singh, Commissioner, State Taxes, J&K Government, at a function held at Jammu.

This award for the three best photographs related to the state heritage was established by the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir. Interestingly, Naresh had also won the inaugural competition in 2002. This award was the part of the 'Sabse Bada Ghumakkar Photography Competition' organised by Directorate of Tourism, Jammu under the aegis of Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir Government.

Naresh Sharma hails from Delhi and has worked on various national and international projects. Some of his pictures were part of the Delhi Government campaigns. He received an award from Rashmi Singh, Commissioner, State Taxes at a function held at Jammu. A citation and a cash prize of Rs. 15, 000 was presented to him. Vivekanand Rai, Director Tourism Jammu and Sunaina Sharma, Joint Director, J&K Tourism and other dignitaries were present in the function. The Garba and Dandiya night function was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department in collaboration with District Administration Jammu at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt PG College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, as a part of Navratri celebrations. Vivekanand Rai, Director, Tourism, Jammu highlighted the achievements of Naresh Sharma in the field of photography. Naresh Sharma had worked in J&K for over 5 years and had covered terrorism, political and other major events. He also highlighted the initiative by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and said that Dandiya night is being held and Navratri is being celebrated in the Union Territory.



EESL successfully installs 30 Lakh Smart Meters to help India Achieve its Energy Efficiency goals

FW DESK
New Delhi

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the administration of Ministry of Power, (GoI) is spearheading India's transition to smart and energy efficient solutions with its Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP). As part of the programme, the company has installed over 30 Lakh smart meters in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, NDMC-Delhi, Bihar, and the union territory of Andaman. The company

has signed agreements with the state designated agencies and utilities in these regions for the large-scale deployment of smart meters. It further aims to install a total of over 47 Lakh smart meters by December 2023.

Most recently, EESL completed the installation of over 10.5 lakh prepared smart meters in Bihar. The company has also installed around 11.57 Lakh smart meters in Uttar Pradesh, over 1.24 Lakh smart meters in Rajasthan, over 5.3 lakh smart meters in Haryana, around 64 thousand smart me-

ters in NDMC Delhi and over 74 thousand smart meters in Andaman. These smart meters have optimized the operational performance of Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) by increasing the billing and collection efficiency, reducing the operation and maintenance cost; and enhancing the quality of service. With this, the company is enabling a paradigm shift in India's power sector and is adding momentum to the Government's efforts toward nationwide adoption of smart meters.

Speaking on the occasion,



Arun Kumar Mishra, CEO, EESL said, "EESL is deploying India's first large-scale smart metering project under the Smart Meter National Pro-

gramme (SMNP), in states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, New Delhi and Andaman. EESL has taken IOT Services from BSNL, Jio and Vodafone Idea for the network connectivity in DISCOMs. We are also working in association with Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T), Robert Bosch and EDF energy, which provide unique system integration solutions.

EESL smart meters are transforming India's energy landscape by increasing billing and collection efficiency; reducing operation and maintenance costs; enhancing the quality of

services and providing consumers with demand side management (DSM) options. It has led to huge revenue upside and improved financial standing for the DISCOMs in these regions. We look forward to replicating these successful stories on AMI projects, pan India."

This further helps with the web-based monitoring of smart meters and curtails commercial losses for utilities. Consequently, these smart meters also help with the reduction in peak power demand; strengthen the transmission & distribution of electricity as well as abating

carbon footprint, which was earlier generated due to patrolling for reading collection and outage detection purposes. Smart Meters have potential to make the power sector increasingly resilient, transparent, digitised and accountable. A seamless and consumer-focused energy ecosystem is the way forward and the adoption of smart meters across the country will be first step in that direction.

A joint venture of NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation and POW-ERGRID, Energy Efficiency

Services Limited (EESL) was set up under Ministry of Power to facilitate implementation of energy efficiency projects. EESL is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO) that seeks to unlock energy efficiency market in India, estimated at Rs. 74,000 crore that can potentially result in energy savings of up to 20 per cent of current consumption, by way of innovative business and implementation models. It also acts as the resource centre for capacity building of State DISCOMs, ERCs, SDAs, upcoming ESCOs, financial institutions, etc.

Former UP CM Mulayam's health deteriorates, shifted to ICU



NEW DELHI: Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Samajwadi Party patron Mulayam Singh Yadav has been shifted to the ICU of Medanta Hospital here on Sunday after his health deteriorated, sources said. According to hospital sources, the 82-year-old leader is being treated under the supervision of oncologists Dr Nitin Sood and Dr Sushil Kataria. He is under treatment in the hospital since August 22. The SP leader was admitted in the hospital in July also.

World-Class sports infrastructure built in Gujarat in 2 decades; Budget for sports increases to Rs 250 cr



PM Modi inaugurated the 36th National Games on September 29 from the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. It is noteworthy to mention that it generally takes 12-36 months to make necessary arrangements for such a grand event. However, the Government of Gujarat, led by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel ensured the same within three months.

In the last few years, the Government of Gujarat has prioritised

building a world-class sports infrastructure in the state. There were just three sports centres before 2002. Now, the state has one multipurpose indoor hall each in 19 districts with separate government complexes for outdoor sports. Investment in infrastructure provided Gujarat with the flexibility to ensure that the National Games can be organised smoothly across six cities. The sports complex in Naranpura,

Ahmedabad which is equipped with ultra-sports modern facilities is at par with the Olympic stature. The state government aims to have one such modern sports complex in every district. To help the players and coaches understand the science of the human body better and promote physical activities for improved performance, the state government has established Sports University in 2011. It has over 14 affiliated institutes. In the last two-and-a-half years, over 3, 500 students have enrolled here.

In 2022-23, the state budget for sports has increased to Rs 250 crore (2002: Rs 2.5 crore). Moreover, the state government's Shaktidoot Yojana and District-Level Sports School Yojana are aiding in promoting the sports culture in Gujarat.

Fruit Truck brings Heroin from Pakistan



JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Border Security Force (BSF) have seized 435 gms of heroin in Pakistani Truck loaded with Afghan dry fruits at Zero line / Trade gate of ICP Attari in Amritsar sector. In a statement issued here today by the BSF stated that the consignment of drug was smuggled to India from the Pakistan side.

Official said that on 03rd Oct, BSF troops recovered contraband item suspected to be heroin from the truck during the checking / frisking of Pakistan Truck loaded with Afghan dry fruits.

During search it was found that an Iron Patti (plate) was wrapped with the suspected item in black adhesive tape and further Iron Patti was attached with the magnet. Suspected packet was hidden with a mud guard of the rear - side tyre with the help of a magnet. Narcotics dog of BSF responded positive to narcotics. Gross weight of Heroin with packing material and magnet is 1.195 Kgs and Net wt. of Heroin is 435 gms.

The driver has been taken in custody of BSF and legal formalities have been initiated with NCB Narcotic Control Bureau.

Arms and drug smuggled from Pak seized

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Border Security Force (BSF) have seized four packets of heroin weighing 2.060 Kgs along with a carton containing 50 rounds of 9mm ammunition which was smuggled to India from Pakistan. In a statement issued here

today, said that today, during early morning hours, forward deployed BSF troops heard suspected sound of something thrown over the border fencing near International Border in the area falling near village - Bharwal, under Amritsar district. Further, during a thorough search of the area, four packets



of narcotics wrapped with yellow adhesive tape were recovered from the farming field on own side of border fencing. In one of these packets, a carton containing 50 rounds of 9mm ammunition was also recovered. 3. The gross weight of suspected narcotics substance is 2.060 Kgs.

Delhi hospital performs 19th century procedure to save Iraqi national's leg

NEW DELHI: Doctors at a city-based hospital here treated a 40-year-old Iraqi national using the cross-leg flap surgery, an over a century-old technique, in which they lifted tissue from one site and placed it on the affected area.

The doctors at Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj, decided to perform the procedure a technique arguably first described in medical literature in 1854 as the newer and more sophisticated ones were not feasible due to the patient's precarious condition, the hospital said. A flap surgery involves lifting tissue from a donor site and placing it on the recipient site with an intact blood supply. It was considered the gold standard to reconstruct soft tissue defects of the lower limb during its heydays. However, the technique fell into disuse with the advent of the highly sophisticated microvascular techniques, which enable doctors to join or repair damaged blood vessels or nerves, the hospital said.

The road accident victim, who had undergone three un-



successful surgeries in Iraq in eight months, was brought to the hospital with acute dislocation of the left knee joint and a severely infected, pus-oozing leg, the hospital said. Investigations revealed that the patient's affected leg had no intact blood vessel due to multiple injuries, which is necessary for the reconstructive surgeries currently in vogue. The doctors then decided to perform the cross-leg flap surgery.

After much deliberation, we decided to adopt a complex, multi-step approach. Though the treatment spanned over five weeks, the outcome is satisfactory, said Dr Dhananjay Gupta, Director, Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement Surgery, Fortis Vasant Kunj. «Presently, the patient's leg is well covered with soft tissue and there is no

evidence of infection, he said.

«The patient has been asked to start walking and he is currently undergoing physio-rehabilitation. We hope that once the fracture heals, over a period of three months, he will be able to take his full weight on that leg. We have also planned for additional procedures in the future, which may be required, Gupta added.

The case was challenging because the patient had a severe infection and poor bone quality, the hospital said. According to Dr Rashmi Taneja, Director, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Fortis VK, the patient was hypertensive and diabetic too. «The patient's legs had to overlap each other, and he had to be kept in that position for three weeks. «So, placing it in a manner where there's no pressure between the two feet and making sure that there is no bending of the flap while it is taking up the new circulation was challenging and required planning, and of course cooperation of the patient,» she added.

Government asks CJI Lalit to recommend successor

NEW DELHI: Setting in motion the process of appointing the next head of the Indian judiciary, the government on Friday wrote to Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit to recommend his successor.

Justice Lalit will retire as the CJI on November 8 after a brief tenure of 74 days. «As per the MoP on appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, today the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for sending his recommendations for appointment of his successor,» the Ministry of Law and Justice said in a tweet. This is perhaps the first time that the ministry has tweeted about it.

According to the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the CJI names the senior-most judge as his or her successor. The MoP is a document which



guides the appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and high court judges. Justice D Y Chandrachud is the senior-most judge after the CJI.

Going by the established practice and convention, Justice Chandrachud would be

the 50th CJI and take oath on November 9. He would have a tenure of two years and demit office on November 10, 2024. While Supreme Court judges retire after attaining the age of 65, high court judges retire at 62 years.

One pilot killed, another injured as Army chopper crashes in Arunachal Pradesh



ITANAGAR: A pilot was killed and another injured when a Cheetah helicopter of Army Aviation crashed near Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang on Wednesday, officials said.

Defence spokesman Lt. Col Mahendra Rawat said that the Cheetah helicopter, which was on a routine sortie, crashed at around 10 a.m. injuring both the pilots and they were immediately evacuated to nearest Military Hospital. «With regret to inform that one of the pilots Lt Col Saurabh Yadav, who was critically injured, succumbed to the injuries during treatment. «The second pilot is under medical treatment. The cause of the crash at this stage is not known. Details are being ascertained,» he said. Expressing his deep shock, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu offered all assistance.

Goa Ecological Revolution in Greening Fallow Lands

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Panjim

Goa is witnessing a green +Ecological Revolution+ whose environmental warriors are battling natural elements in their drive to create a verdant scenario out of neglected agricultural lands.

Therefore, +Green+ was the watchword as Goa rocked to the sights and sounds of the ecological warriors, who highlighted their efforts alongside music, munchies and merriment recently.

Gandhi Jayanti was observed on October 2 with a difference in Goa - an ecological celebration called "Matiechem Fest" (Festival of the Soil) being held amidst the local traditions of music and merriment at the St John the Baptist Church in Pilerne, Goa.

Guitars strummed, "ghumots" (local bongos) boomed, wind instruments blared as teenage dancers in village garb rocked the huge gathering.

Gavin Dias, General Manager, Goa Tourism Department, said Goa's traditions and prosperity was being rekindled and

highlighted through holding such "Fests" and needed to be done on an even more bigger level.

Meanwhile, the Pilerne Fest witnessed the announcement of the world record by the Pinnacle World Record Goa for the "Most Percussion Instruments played" at the Fest, besides also formation of the Pilerne Art and Socio-Cultural Association and Global Goa Girl's Ghumot Group.

The event was coordinated by the Goa Archdiocese's +Diocesan Commission for Ecology+ (DCE), that was started this year with its Convenor Fr. Bolmax Pereira highlighting the Fest as part of the "Season for Creation" global movement which promotes "The Earth as our Home and all Creation responsible for its Conservation."

"With the +Save Our Soil+ campaign - started by prominent environmental social activist Sadhguru -- taking off locally and globally, the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) has called for more such "ecology" Commissions coming up in all its dioceses in India,"



Pereira said.

"While the significance of such a movement is slowing seeping into the minds of locals here, we have started working on revival of "fallow" land (often caused by the rapid pace of industrialization and majorly due to agricultural lands being abandoned by people migrating in search of better paying jobs, changing lifestyles, foreign countries, etc)," he said.

The Commission's first green attempt witnessed a 20,000 square-metres fallow land being ploughed and harvested successfully by youngsters from the "Chicalim Village Youth Farmers Club," and this Pilerne Village being the next to follow suit in greening their fallow fields.

manpower and that is where the youth of Goa have stepped in to fill this gap."

"Our Government is focusing on +Vocal for Local+ and we are thus creating ground reality through practically transforming the fallow lands into green zones," he said while highlighting the need for keeping away +landsharks+ from green areas.

Meanwhile, the youth involved in this first ecological harvest expressed joy at their success. "Uncertain rains, exhausting work in cleaning, sowing and harvesting the overgrown bushy land witnessed success and excitement at having our crops," said Valerie Afonso, President, Chicalim Youth Farmers Club.

Riding the "Harvester" machine and watching it collecting paddy in its storage tank, ejecting waste stalks was an unforgettable experience for Jericho Vaz, while Neha Gaude's (Secretary, CYFC) heart leapt with joy at viewing the "golden efforts" of harvesting paddy crop while also working close with nature.

JODHPUR: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday inducted the first fleet of indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), which has been developed primarily for mountain warfare after a requirement for it was felt during the Kargil war in 1999.

Developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the 5.8-tonne twin-engine gunship chopper is armed with air-to-air missiles, 20 mm turret guns, rocket systems and other weapons. The fleet comprising four helicopters was inducted into the IAF at a ceremony at the Jodhpur Air Force Station in presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and other senior military officials. The defence minister named the helicopter as «Prachand» (fierce) and said the platform, capable of operating in day and night, will add significant edge to the IAF's combat capabilities as it can hit enemy targets with precision.

Singh, who also flew a sortie on the LCH, said it can operate in all possible conditions, and is among one of the best globally in its class. The helicopter, with its wide range of missiles and other weapons, can hit enemy infantry, tanks, bunkers, drones and other assets in high-altitude regions, military officials said. In his address, Singh described induction of the indigenously-built LCH into the IAF as a «momentous occasion» for India's defence production.

«The IAF has been playing an important role in protecting India's sovereignty and I am confident that its overall capability will enhance further following induction of LCH,» Singh said in his address. «We have been focusing on boosting the country's defence production following certain developments... security of the country has been our foremost priority and it will remain so,» he said. The defence minister also complimented the IAF for reposing confidence in indigenously developed platforms.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the capabilities of LCH is on a par with the helicopters of its class globally. The helicopters were given a traditional water-canon salute that followed a multi-religious prayer ceremony. The need for developing a light combat helicopter for mountain warfare was felt during the Kargil War in 1999.

«Subsequently, the IAF and HAL began exploring the possibility of developing the platform with a capacity to carry an adequate weapon load, sufficient fuel and still be capable of operating in the higher reaches of the Himalayan ranges,» said an official. By mid 2010, the prototype of LCH completed a major flight test and it was deemed to have fulfilled the desired parameters. In February 2020, the LCH was declared ready for production.

In March, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the procurement of 15 indigenously developed Limited Series Production (LSP) LCH at a cost of Rs 3,887 crore. The defence ministry had said 10 helicopters would be for the IAF and five will be for the Indian Army.

The induction of the chopper comes at a time India and China are locked in a military stand-off in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh.

The LCH has similarities with Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv. It has a number of stealth features, armoured-protection systems, night attack capability and crash-worthy landing gear for better survivability, officials said.

The LCH is equipped with requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high altitude performance and all-weather combat capability to perform a range of roles including combat search and rescue (CSAR), destruction of enemy air defence (DEAD) and counter-insurgency (CI) operations.

The helicopter can also be deployed in high-altitude bunker-busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in the jungles and urban environments as well as for supporting ground forces.

Inflation control should be top policy priority

The Reserve Bank of India's rate decision last Friday was ultimately inevitable. Monetary policymakers were left with little choice but to raise interest rates by 50 basis points, as a bout of extreme volatility in international financial markets combines with persistently high domestic retail inflation to threaten macro-economic stability, globally and in India. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das cited the 'aggressive monetary policy actions and even more aggressive communication from advanced economy central banks' as a third shock -- following the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine -- which he said had thrust the 'global economy into the eye of a new storm'. The central bank's own projections, in fact, do not anticipate a slowing in India's retail inflation below its upper tolerance threshold of 6% till the January-March quarter. There are multiple factors that could upend the RBI's inflation outlook. These include the likelihood of higher pass-through of input costs by service providers on increased demand, as well as upside risks to food prices from both the lower kharif output of rice and pulses, and the unseasonably excess spells of rainfall in some regions that have pushed up the prices of vegetables. The surfeit of liquidity or cash in the banking system could also threaten price stability and the RBI Governor was at pains to note that the policy stance of a calibrated 'withdrawal of accommodation' had become an imperative. Specifically, he pointed out that 'even as the nominal policy repo rate had been raised by 190 basis points since May, the rate adjusted for inflation still trailed the 2019 levels'. With the RBI's latest surveys of households' inflation expectations and consumer confidence too signalling that price pressures will continue to restrain consumption, inflation control will have to remain the top policy priority.

LETTERBOX

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"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

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NARVIJAY YADAV

Groundwater reaches a worrying level



Groundwater is depleting at an alarming rate in India, which is expected to overtake China as the world's most populous country in less than a decade. More than a third of India's population lives in water-stressed areas and this number is set to increase due to depleting groundwater and increasing urbanization. According to a report by the World Resources Institute, India is one of the 17 countries in the world facing an extreme water crisis. India's water crisis has worsened over the past few decades as bore wells were dug to extract more and more groundwater for water-consuming crops such as paddy and sugarcane. Ideally, surface water should be collected in ponds and other water bodies during the monsoon season and this stored water should be used throughout the year for irrigation instead of groundwater. Over 60 percent of the wells in the country checked by the Central Groundwater Board have recorded a decline in the water level in the past decade.

Punjab is facing groundwater scarcity due to the indiscriminate use of groundwater for agricultural purposes and 80 percent of the state's area has come under the red zone. In a workshop organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Punjab Energy Development Agency, an expert informed that 16 lakh electric tube wells in Punjab continuously draw water from below ground, due to which the groundwater level has reached a worrying point. The condition is that the groundwater level is going down by one meter every year. The Punjab State Assembly Committee, set up to study the depletion of water tables, had said in its report that the state would turn into a

desert in the next 25 years if the current trend of drawing groundwater continues. In simple words, we are drawing more water for our use than we are filling back into the ground. As a result, the water level is going down. This has created a threat of desertification in Punjab.

The rate of pumping up the groundwater in Punjab is 1.66 times higher than the rate of replenishment. It is worth mentioning that paddy cultivation got a boost in Punjab during the Green Revolution in 1966-67, which consumes a lot of water. The trend continues nowadays also. In such a situation, it becomes necessary that the farmers, urban bodies, and industrial units are made aware of the measures to save water and electricity and they should be warned about the dangers caused by the depleting level of groundwater. The United Nations has also issued a warning on the water crisis looming on the earth in its new report. The UN report says that due to climate change, droughts, floods, and drinking water-related crises are increasing. According to this report titled The State of Climate Service 2021, in

the year 2018, about 3.5 billion people had access to water for 11 months in a year. It is feared that if precautionary measures are not taken, by 2050, the number of people facing a water crisis could be 5 billion. Experts recommend native plants for the garden. They look great and don't need much water or fertilizer. Also choosing grass varieties for lawns that are adapted to the local climate, reduces the need for extensive watering.

The availability of water is also related to the food habits of people. There are foods that require more water, while some other food options need less water. A consumer court has imposed a fine of Rs 17,000 on Thai Airways after a passenger from Haryana was served non-veg food on a flight to Melbourne after he had stated his choice at the time of booking the ticket. When the food served between Delhi and Bangkok seemed odd and the passenger inquired, it was found that he was given non-veg food. When the airline did not respond to the complaint over email, the passenger filed a case in consumer court. For those who do not eat non-veg food, such a situation

becomes very troublesome. By the way, let me tell you that non-veg food is also responsible for increasing global warming. Raising an animal requires more water than farming, and the animals emit harmful gases. One should have compassion towards animals and birds and in view of the damage caused to the environment, it is prudent to eat vegetarian food.

From individuals to companies, governments, and nations, efforts have to be made at every level to save the environment. For this, the Sustainable Development Goals have been issued by the United Nations. Information about this has been given in the latest report of Hurun India. According to the report, 29 of India's top 50 companies that have taken measures in this direction include ITC, Infosys, Cipla, Adani Port, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Zinc and Tech Mahindra. Inspired by this list, other companies can step up their efforts. Many companies are constantly turning to such energy sources, which cause the least harm to the environment. For this, water recycling plants and solar energy plants are being set up. By doing this, not only will the environment be safe, but the cost of companies will also be reduced. Sadhguru Jagdish Jaggi Vasudev considers soil not as inert matter, but as the source of life. He is on a 100-day global bike tour to create awareness around soil and environment conservation. Sadhguru says that regenerating the soil will help in tackling the current environmental challenges. Water is a precious resource to sustain life on this planet, therefore it demands better care and more attention.

Narvijay Yadav is a journalist. Views are personal.



G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN BELIEVES IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EMERGING ECONOMIES TO CALL RICHER COUNTRIES TO ACCOUNT

What it takes to avert a global climate catastrophe

When Hurricane Ian struck Florida and Cuba a few days ago, it gave scientists and activists another attention-grabbing moment to tell people that climate change was already having a deadly impact on their lives. Scenes of death and devastation from a Category 4 storm in one of the U.S.'s favourite holiday States forced politicians and policymakers to confront their weak climate record. Scientists see governments and leaders everywhere as doing almost nothing when the threat has arrived at the door.

The instrument ratified by almost all countries to avert dangerous climate change through a phasing down of greenhouse gas emissions is the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pact of 2015 is now in its decisive decade of action. Its headline goals are clear -- firstly, to limit the rise in average global temperature to 1.5 degrees C by the end of the century, and at least peg it well below 2 degrees C; and secondly, to achieve a peaking of man-made emissions as soon as possible. However, individual national pledges of member-countries do not possess the finer details on how they will get to net zero emissions by mid-century.

The Paris process thus incorporates a timeline of actions to which countries have agreed, and the Global Stocktake of 2023 is the next big item on the agenda. This will be strengthened by the submission of a synthesis report on the science of climate change, the Sixth Assessment Report, by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The cost of political upheavals

The road to the Stocktake is marked by political upheavals in some countries. This threatens to upset the progress towards a scaling down of carbon emissions, of which a prominent example was the hostile stance of the U.S. under the Donald Trump administration (2017-21) towards climate science and emissions reduction. The echoes are felt



even today, and U.S. agencies are encountering judicial barriers to enforcing regulations on carbon emissions reduction.

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was restrained by the country's Supreme Court from regulating emissions from energy, in a case filed by the State of West Virginia. The successes achieved by ultra-conservative politicians in Italy and Britain threaten to slow the momentum on cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The International Energy Agency says 2021 witnessed the largest absolute annual rise in carbon dioxide emissions at 2 billion tonnes, making it clear that the post-COVID recovery was hardly green.

Such regressions threaten the Paris Agreement's progress, while the amount of GHGs that the earth can feasibly accommodate before the average temperature rises to extremely dangerous levels -- that is, beyond 2 degrees C -- remains finite. The IPCC assessment of 2020 says that the global carbon budget, which is the volume of greenhouse gases that can still be emitted to meet the Paris goals, are an estimated 400 gigatonnes CO2 (GtCO2) for 1.5 degrees and 1,150 GtCO2 for 2 degrees, with a 67% probability -- and 300 GtCO2 and 900 GtCO2, respectively, with an 83% probability.

Vital questions

Against this backdrop of political uncertainty, there is lack of clarity on whether emerging economies can bring down emissions by adopting appropriate technologies

and get adequate funds to adapt to climate change impacts. The UNFCCC is using a structured approach to get member-countries to document their actions for the Global Stocktake. The questions it has sent out ask, what collective progress has been made towards achieving the temperature goals in the Paris Agreement, what specific actions need to be taken, what barriers and challenges exist? Similar questions are asked on adaptation, finance flows, technology development and transfer, equity and human rights in national climate actions, and steps to stop the loss of the natural environment.

The Global Stocktake is a major opportunity for emerging economies and least developed countries to call richer countries to account, since current impacts of climate are largely due to the stock of CO2 in the atmosphere that they emitted since the industrial revolution. There is also despair among scientists that obstructionist climate politics played by wealthier nations is creating a point of no return, with ongoing climate impacts: warmer oceans, rising sea levels and threats to critical glaciers in Greenland and the West Antarctic. These could send the world into uncharted territory as tipping points are crossed.

The IPCC synthesis report on national pledges on greenhouse gas emissions cuts shows that at present rates, by 2030 there could be an increase in carbon emissions of 16% over 2010 levels. The latest findings indicate that such a rise may produce a temperature rise of about 2.7°C by the end of the century, with catastrophic consequences.

There is also legitimate fear of worse climate events to follow, that too more frequently. Climatologist James Hansen and his colleagues at the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) forecast in September that 2024 appears set to become the hottest year on record, "off the chart", on the back of an El Nino expected to set in during 2023 after a gap of a few years. This has implications for all connected aspects such as glacier health,

sea level rise, sea surface temperature and biodiversity health. A warmer atmosphere retains more water vapour, and when moving to cooler areas, dumps staggering volumes of rainfall. Drowning Indian cities are now a familiar sight.

Michael Mann, a climate scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, reported five years ago that on average, for each one degree C warming of the ocean surface, an increase in wind speeds of major hurricanes of about 28 km per hour could be expected. Their destructive potential also goes up considerably.

Another high-level scientific report written after the Paris Agreement came into force is the Dasgupta Review, by the Cambridge economist Partha Dasgupta, on the economics of biodiversity. His Commission's accounting shows that factors that influence the climate system, such as forests, rivers, waterbodies and the life forms that sustain them, should be treated as public goods since they play a critical role.

Reducing the damage from climate change and biodiversity loss is "akin to the production of public goods, which are neither rivalrous (access to a public good by any one group of people has no effect on the quantity available to others) nor excludable (no one can be excluded from access to the good)", he says in the report. Factors that help regulate the climate must be safeguarded as global public goods.

Claiming compensation

Scientifically estimating the contribution of natural resources would help countries including India claim special compensation for these public goods -- the Western Ghats, the Northeast forests, the Himalayan glaciers, river systems and so on. With such compensation Brazil should stop deforestation in the Amazon, a vital monsoon and climate regulator, and forests in Southeast Asia must be saved too.

G. Ananthakrishnan is a Chennai-based journalist. Views are personal.



BOOKS: REVIEW

New book chronicles rise of Indian IT sector

A new book, "Against All Odds: The IT story of India", co-written by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan gives readers an insider's account and an anecdote-rich history of Indian IT over the last six decades.

Published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI), the book taps into the first-hand experiences of Gopalakrishnan and 50 other stalwarts who built and shaped the Indian IT sector.

It is co-written by N Dayasindhu and Krishnan Narayanan, co-founders of itihaasa Research and Digital -- a firm focusing on the evolution of technology domains and business history.

"... Our book provides an authentic first-hand perspective

based on the recollections of over fifty leaders of Indian IT. In our 75th year of Independence, we need to celebrate the seminal role the IT industry has played in shaping modern India. The world wants to understand how such an astounding success was achieved, and where Indian IT is headed in the future," Gopalakrishnan told PTI.

The book's introduction is written by noted author-commentator Gurcharan Das.

Touted to be a tale of "foresight, planning and being ready when luck knocks on the door", the stories in book, according to co-author Dayasindhu, are about "resilience, entrepreneurship, leadership, and how the past connects with the present".

'In our 75th year of Independence, we need to celebrate the seminal role the IT industry has played in shaping modern India'

"Many in India and around the world are keen to know the inside story of Indian IT and its stupendous rise. This is the motivation for our book... The book is based on the experiences of Kris and other stalwarts; on how they created a world-class Indian IT industry against all odds. The book celebrates the bedrock of India's techade," he added.

"Against All Odds" has been endorsed by the biggies of the



Against All Odds: The IT Story of India By Kris Gopalakrishnan Penguin Random House India 320 pages, Rs 799

tech world, including the likes of Narayana Murthy, founder of Infosys; Azim Premji, founder of Wipro; Satya Nadella, chairman and CEO of Microsoft; and Nandan Nilekani, chairman and co-founder of Infosys.

While Murthy described the book as the "first written-down history of IT in India", Nilekani said the remarkable book is a "must-read" to understand a great Indian success story.

"The historic, six-decade-long ascent of India's IT sector can now be better understood thanks to Kris Gopalakrishnan's research

and compelling narrative," wrote Nadella in his praise for the book.

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

Here is an excerpt from the book:

In 1987, a serial entrepreneur, Ramalinga Raju, founded Satyam Computer Services, an export-oriented software services company in Secunderabad. As we saw earlier, Satyam partnered with Dun & Bradstreet Corporation for IT services and held a minority stake in the latter's subsidiary in India, a company that later became Cognizant Technology Solutions. Satyam moved on from this investment, got on to the Y2K bandwagon at the end of the 1990s, and witnessed a period of rapid growth. By the beginning of the 2000s, Satyam was one of the top five Indian IT services companies, with a strong capability in the hot and emerging domain of ERP implementation.

TVS Credit expects strong growth this festive season

Non-banking finance company TVS Credit Services Ltd was looking at building its channel partner relationships as it expects strong growth momentum during the festive season on its loan offerings, the company said on Tuesday.

The company offers finance towards purchase of two-wheeler, consumer durables, mobile, and used cars, among others.

"Our demand outlook is promising as we are looking at building our channel partner relationships and giving customers a better value for money through our innovative loan offerings," CEO of



TVS Credit Services Ltd Ashish Sapra said in a statement here. There was a subdued con-

sumer demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the last two years, the com-

pany said.

"Consumer sentiment is likely to be upbeat around this season which will propel a spike in loan disbursement," he said.

This year, the company said it offers instant approvals of up to 95 per cent funding on purchase of two-wheelers while 10 per cent cash back is available on consumer durable purchase, the statement said.

With the company's offers being available in over 30,000 touchpoints, TVS Credit expects a wider reach for EMI financing options that help customers meet their aspirations, the statement added.

Jio to start beta trial of 5G services in 4 cities from Oct 5

NEW DELHI: Telecom major Jio will start a beta trial of 5G services in four cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Varanasi - from October 5 with a select set of customers, the company said on Tuesday.

The company will send an invite to customers under Jio True 5G Welcome Offer to try its 5G services, and the subscribers will get unlimited 5G data with up to 1 gigabit per second speed.

"Post the successful demonstration of its True-5G services at the India Mobile Congress 2022, Jio is announcing the Beta trial of its True-5G services on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra for Jio users in 4 cities - Mumbai, Delhi,



Kolkata, and Varanasi," Jio said in the statement.

Invited users will be automatically upgraded to the Jio True 5G service without needing to change their existing Jio SIM or 5G handset. Customers will only pay for their existing 4G plan and will not be charged an additional amount for 5G data during the trial.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Chairman Akash M Ambani

said that by embracing 5G, Jio will create nation-first platforms and solutions that will transform skill development, education, healthcare, agriculture, and many such sectors, with the promise of enabling a better life for every Indian.

"5G cannot remain an exclusive service available to the privileged few or those in our largest cities. It must be available to every citizen, every home, and every business across India. Only then we can dramatically increase productivity, earnings, and living standards across our entire economy, thereby creating a prosperous and inclusive society in our country," Ambani said.

Kia recalls 44,174 units of Carens to inspect potential error in airbag control software



NEW DELHI: Kia India on Tuesday said it is recalling 44,174 units of its latest model 'Carens' to inspect and fix any potential error in air bag control module software. As a responsible corporate, the company has decided to voluntarily recall the vehicles for inspection and if required, a software update will be provided free of cost, the automaker said in a statement. The voluntary recall campaign is being undertaken to inspect any potential error in air bag control module software in the Carens, it added. The company said it will directly reach out to the owners of the concerned vehicles to update them about this voluntary recall campaign. Customers of the affected vehicles would be required to get in touch with their respective Kia authorised dealers to schedule an appointment.

MG Motor retail sales up 17 pc in September at 3,808 units



NEW DELHI: MG Motor India on Saturday said its retail sales increased by 17 per cent to 3,808 units in September. The automaker had sold 3,241 units in September 2021. «The waiting period continues to be 3-6 months across models impacted by supply chain constraints,» MG Motor said in a statement. The company stated that its models like Gloster, ZS EV, Hector and Astor continue to do well in the market. «However, the semiconductor availability issue persists, limiting MG to supply only the Astor MT (manual transmission) model for the time being,» it added. The company is hopeful about commencing deliveries of the Astor automatic variants soon, it noted.

DHFL scam: Delhi court dismisses bail plea of Wadhawan

A Delhi court has dismissed the statutory bail pleas of Mumbai-based Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd's (DHFL) former promoters Kapil Rajesh Wadhawan and Dheeraj Rajesh Wadhawan in connection with a multi-crore bank loan scam case. «The filing of the present charge sheet in the present investigation shall be governed by Section 167(2)(a)(i) CrPC which provides for a maximum period of 90 days. Since the period of 90 days has not yet expired in the present investigation, which also relates to Section 409 IPC, applicants Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan are not entitled to statutory bail under Section 167(2) CrPC,» said the recent order passed by Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court.

Real Time Angel Fund Launches Rs 100 Cr Fund

Early-stage investor Real Time Angel Fund (RTAF) on Wednesday announced the launch of its Rs 100 crore fund. The sector-agnostic fund has also marked its first investment in business-to-business (B2B) marketplace for cart-pushers, MyMandi.

Besides capital access, the Securities and Exchanges Board of India (Sebi)-registered fund also provides networking support to startups with tech expertise and global business connections, said Pranay Mathur, partner and chief executive, Real Time Angel Fund. The fund will invest in pre-seed to pre-series startups with a ticket size of Rs 1 crore per startup over the next five years, Mathur added. The fund received its Sebi licence in July and marked its first close on 14 August. Mathur added that it will launch its mobile app platform for angel investors on 26 January, 2023 to make angel investments simplified and transparent.

Bayer completes sale of its Environmental Science Professional business to Cinven

Delhi- Bayer has completed the sale of its Environmental Science Professional business to the international private equity firm Cinven, after the two companies had entered into a corresponding agreement in March. The conditions for closing the transaction - including the receipt of regulatory approval - have now been met. The purchase price for the business, which generated sales of approximately 600 million euros in 2021, amounts to 2.6 billion U.S. dollars.

"We thank the employees of Environmental Science Professional for their many years of commitment and the associated success of Bayer. In Cinven, we have found a strong new owner with a firm commitment to the long-term growth potential of the business and to its people," said Rodrigo Santos, member of the Board of Management of Bayer AG and head of the Crop Science Division.

Mercedes-Benz rolls out the 'Made in India' EQS 580 4MATIC, India becomes the first market outside Germany to manufacture this luxury EV

KULBIR SINGH KALSİ
Chandigarh

The country's largest luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz today achieved a significant milestone in its India journey, by rolling out the country's most advanced and sophisticated luxury Electric Vehicle - the EQS 580 4MATIC. India is the first market outside Germany to manufacture the EQS 580 4MATIC. The EQS 580 4MATIC, which becomes India's longest range EV, is a design and technology marvel and sets new benchmark in the luxury EV segment. The luxury EV's India rollout reiterates Mercedes-Benz's commitment for offering the Indian customers, the most desirable and technologically advanced, futuristic products from its global portfolio. The launch of the EQS 580 4MATIC also underpins Mercedes-Benz's global vision towards achieving a climate neutral car fleet in the foreseeable future. The local manufacturing of the EQS 580 4MATIC underlines Mercedes-



Benz India's global competencies accomplished in flexible production at its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility that now produces series, Maybach, AMG and luxury EVs, all under one roof.

Speaking on the occasion, Martin Schwenk, Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, said, "The EQS 580 4MATIC is our first locally manufactured EV in India and will play a pivotal role in driving our ambitious EV plans for the market. It is a perfect

blend of technology, luxury and safety, pioneering numerous tech features for our customers. India is the first country outside Germany to manufacture the EQS 580 4MATIC, and this unique distinction underpins Mercedes-Benz India's deep customer commitment and long-term vision for developing the luxury EV market here."

He added, "The manufacturing of EQS 580 4MATIC in India is a key milestone and a strong testament to our state-of-the-art manufacturing prowess

and our commitment to the vision of 'Make in India'. It reiterates our relentless focus on developing the local market, creating value for customers and introducing future-ready products, combining the best of luxury, technology and safety. The 'Made in India' EQS sets very high benchmark in the entire Indian automotive market and combines luxury and technology like no other modern EV in the market."

As the world's most aerodynamic car, the EQS 580 4MATIC boasts of a drag coefficient from 0.20. This contributes to the luxury saloon being India's longest range EV with 857 kms range (ARAI certified). The high power density of the lithium-ion battery comes with usable energy content of 107.8 kWh and is equipped with a powerful 400 volt battery manufactured using the latest lithium-ion technology. It is equipped with superior technology through the advanced infotainment system MBUX Hyperscreen.

Euler Motors raises USD 60 million in series-C funding led by GIC

KULBIR SINGH KALSİ
New Delhi

Euler Motors, an electric vehicle company building commercial vehicles has raised USD 60 million in its series C fundraise, led by GIC Singapore. The funding round also saw participation by Blume Ventures, Athera Venture Partners (formerly Inventus India), QRG Holdings, ADB Ventures and Moglix. Euler Motors will use the funds from this capital raise to scale up its manufacturing and supply chain infrastructure, accelerate product development and augment talent across key functions in the organization. The company will also invest in expanding its distribution network and brand building while continuing to focus on its core values of innovation, performance, and design. With this, Euler Motors plans to expand its retail presence in 12 new markets by the end of this fiscal. Commenting on the fund-



raise, Saurav Kumar, Founder & CEO, Euler Motors said, "The time for electric mobility in India is now, and we aspire to be a leading player in the growing Indian electric commercial vehicle segment. Our vision is to not only develop industry leading products but also the ecosystem to support the EV transition. We are proud to welcome GIC, one of the world's leading investors to our cap table. This investment will fuel our ambition to establish Euler Motors as a frontrunner to drive electrification of commercial mobility in India by scaling our manufacturing capacity, expanding distribution footprint and strengthening the team to deliver delightful experiences to our customers."

Work for the quality healthy bone life for our ageing population says health experts in Bone & Joint Week



NEW DELHI: The ASSOCHAM CSR Council, as part of the ILLNESS TO WELLNESS campaign, held a webinar on «Moving well, living well» to commemorate Bone and Joint Week 2022. The webinar's primary goals were to raise public awareness and disseminate comprehensive knowledge about Bones and Joints. The human body's bones and joints are extremely important for both structural support and general movement. These days, all age groups, but primarily the elderly, are affected by the issue of joint discomfort and weak bones. One of the most prevalent issues that millions of individuals throughout the world deal with is backache, joint pain, and other related disorders.

Expleo India to Create 5000 Jobs by 2025

Explo, a global technology, engineering, and consulting service provider, will create 5,000 jobs in the next three years in India. The business in India has registered over 30% Y-o-Y growth adding over 2,000 talents and 20 new clients in the last year.

Explo's growth is fueled by accelerating digital adoption, investments in digital skills, and opening its sixth delivery and centre of excellence in India, in Coimbatore, to support its clients across all industries. Backed by solid client satisfaction, Explo is hiring to establish a more robust workforce



in India. The larger talent pool will work in the development, automation, engineering, AI, cloud and data science space to challenge the status quo in the automotive, banking, financial services, aero, healthcare and life sciences industries.

The hiring plans are aligned with a vision to embrace digital disruption. The talent strategy will balance onboarding fresh

graduates and experienced hires to support its client and partner requirements.

It is the natural next step to boost existing operations in Expleo India to support the organisation's regional and global growth strategy.

Whether learning new skills, engaging in cross-functional projects, or taking on new challenges, Explo invests in employee learning and development to support long-term professional growth. Competitive benefits, a futuristic work culture, and ample global opportunities make Expleo the most promising workplace.

Indian corporate credit quality remains strong: CRISIL Ratings

Debt light balance sheets, domestic demand and better cash flows has resulted in higher credit ratio during the first half of FY23, said CRISIL Ratings.

According to CRISIL Ratings the corporate credit ratio (upgrades vs downgrades) continues to be high -- at 5.52 times in the first half of this fiscal (H1-FY23) -- underscor-

ing ongoing broad-based improvement in India Inc's credit quality. The credit ratio was 5.04 times in the second half of the last fiscal (H2-FY22).

Three reasons stand out: 1) strengthening domestic demand, with the economy expected to grow 7.3 per cent this fiscal; 2) higher realisations leading to better cash

flows; and 3) continuation of debt-light balance sheets as capex remains low, CRISIL Ratings said.

The credit ratio is in line with the positive credit quality outlook CRISIL Ratings had articulated earlier -- that upgrades will far outnumber downgrades through this fiscal.

'Invest Haryana Program' at Dubai to attract industrial investment

SATISH HANDA

A team from state government Haryana led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter comprising of Dushyant Chautala Deputy Chief Minister, D.S. Dhesi Senior Chief Secretary, Anand Mohan Sharan Additional Chief Secretary Industry, B.Umashankar, Chief Secretary HSIIDC and Vikas Gupta Managing Director HSIIDC recently attended 'Invest Haryana Program' at Dubai organized by Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) in which several investors from Dubai along with Sultan Ahmed Bin were present and most of them expressed interest to invest in Haryana.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter briefed various facilities available to the investors setting up industry in Haryana state provided by the government. Khatter briefed few prominent facilities available to those investing in the state which include



Haryana state have well connectivity with national capital Delhi and other prominent cities in the country, availability of electricity and water for 24 hours, single window system including availability of manufacturing licenses under a roof available to industry entrepreneurs as such Haryana state has been identified third as regard Ease of Doing Business in the Country and above all a Skill University having large number of training programs in different sectors has been set up at Palwal to provide trained work force to industry in the state. While addressing a large

gathering, Khatter said that Haryana state has become the first choice for industrial investors because of developing global city at Gurugram, an integrated multi model logistics hub at Nangal Choudhary, integrated aviation hub at Hisar, an integrated manufacturing cluster at Hisar and an electronics manufacturing cluster at Sohna. Talking to visitors in the seminar Anand Mohan Sharan told that 34 Industrial Model Towns (IMT) in 2854 acres area are being set up in Haryana state as such the state has become first choice for industrial investment in the country.

CNG, piped cooking gas prices hiked by Rs 3

THE RATES OF GAS PIPED TO HOUSEHOLD KITCHENS, CALLED PIPED NATURAL GAS (PNG), WAS INCREASED TO RS 53.59 PER STANDARD CUBIC METRE IN DELHI FROM RS 50.59 PER SCM, ACCORDING TO IGL

NEWDELHI: The prices of CNG and cooking gas piped to household kitchens in the national capital on Saturday hiked by Rs 3 each in step with rise in input natural gas prices.

The Rs 3 per kg increase in CNG price is the first hike in rates in over four months, while a Rs 3 per standard cubic metres increase in piped natural gas (PNG) was the first rise in two months.

CNG in the national capital territory of Delhi now costs Rs 78.61 per kg, up from Rs 75.61 per kg, according to the information posted on the website



of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) -- the firm which retails CNG and piped cooking gas in the national capital and adjoining cities.

This is the 14th increase in price since March 7. Rates were last increased by Rs 2 per kg on May 21. In all, the CNG price has risen by Rs 22.60 per kg during this period. Since April 2021, CNG prices have increased by Rs 35.21 per kg or 80 per cent, according to data compiled by PTI.

Simultaneously, the rates of gas piped to household kitchens, called piped natural gas (PNG), was increased to Rs 53.59 per standard cubic metre in Delhi from Rs 50.59 per scm, according to IGL.

It is the 10th increase in PNG rates since August 2021. In all prices have gone up by Rs 29.93 per scm, or almost 91 per cent.

IGL said rates of CNG and PNG have also been increased in Noida, Greater Noida,

Ghaziabad and Gurugram as well as other cities where it operates such as Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Ajmer in Rajasthan.

The price increase follows the government raising natural gas prices by 40 per cent to a record USD 8.57 per million British thermal unit from October 1.

Natural gas, which is extracted from below earth's surface, is converted to compressed natural gas (CNG)

for running automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking. It is also used to generate electricity and manufacture fertilizer.

Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) - the city gas operator in Mumbai and adjoining areas - earlier this week announced a Rs 6 per kg hike in CNG price to Rs 86 per kg and a Rs 4 per scm increase in PNG price to Rs 52.50 per scm.

Analysts anticipate that CNG prices are likely to be hiked by Rs 8-12 per kg and PNG rates by over Rs 6, but in tranches, to account for the rise in input natural gas prices. Natural gas prices are up nearly 5x in just a year - from USD 1.79 per mmBtu till September 2021 to USD 8.57 now.

For each USD per mmBtu gas price rise, city gas distribution (CGD) entities need to raise the CNG price by Rs 4.7-4.9 per kg.

Prices vary from city to city depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT.

Rupee falls 16 paise to all-time low of 82.33 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee depreciated 16 paise to an all-time low of 82.33 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday as a firm American currency and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, a negative trend in domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices sapped investor appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 82.19 against the greenback, then fell to 82.33, registering a fall of 16 paise over its previous close.



On Thursday, the Indian currency for the first time closed below the 82 level against the greenback. It

plunged 55 paise to close at a record low of 82.17 against the US currency.

"An uptick in crude prices has caused concerns around the trade deficit to resurface. US rates staying higher for longer is not helping the capital account," IFA Global Research Academy said in a note.

Moreover, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seems to have become conservative in spending reserves, it said, adding that these factors are causing the rupee to adjust.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of

six currencies, was trading 0.14 per cent down at 112.10.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.10 per cent to USD 94.33 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex was trading 111.83 points or 0.19 per cent lower at 58,110.27, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 38.00 points or 0.22 per cent to 17,293.80.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market on Thursday as they purchased shares worth Rs 279.01 crore, as per exchange data.

Adani announces Rs 65,000 crore investment in Rajasthan

JAIPUR: Richest Asian Gautam Adani on Friday announced a Rs 65,000 crore investment in Rajasthan over the next 5 to 7 years in setting up a mega 10,000 MW solar power capacity, expanding cement plant and upgrading Jaipur airport.

The investment by ports-to-energy conglomerate that Adani heads also spans city gas infrastructure for retailing CNG to automobiles and piped gas to households and industries as well as laying transmission lines to carry renewable power.

Speaking at the Invest Rajasthan 2022 Summit here, he said the Adani group already has a sizeable presence in the state. It operates a thermal power plant, has set up a solar park and supplies coal to the state's power-generating units.

Adani Group is investing Rs 50,000 crore to add 10,000 megawatts of renewable power generation capacity.

"This will be commissioned progressively over the next 5 years," he said, adding the group just a week back achieved commercial operation of the world's largest wind-solar hybrid power plant in Rajasthan.

Besides, it is looking to double its cement manufacturing capacity following its acquisition of Ambuja Cements and ACC.

"While we already have three cement plants and limestone mining assets, a significant part of our capacity expansion will continue to happen in Rajasthan. We anticipate investing another Rs 7,000 crore to double our cement manufacturing capacity in the state," he said.

The Group is also the operator of Jaipur airport which will be expanded, he said.



Adani would also develop a network to supply piped natural gas and CNG to accelerate cleaner fuel availability to industrial, commercial, transport and domestic consumers, and set up new transmission projects to move the renewable power being generated.

"Combining all ongoing and future investments, we anticipate investing an additional Rs 65,000 crore in Rajasthan over the next 5 to 7 years and creating over 40,000 direct and indirect jobs," he said.

Speaking with reporters after the inaugural ceremony of Invest Rajasthan summit, Adani said, "Along with this, while speaking to CM Gehlot, two proposals were approved. One for contributing for two medical colleges, particularly where there are no medical colleges and the other for cricket stadium in Udaipur."

The Adani Group, which started off as a commodity trader in 1988 and expanded rapidly into ports, airports, roads, power, renewable energy, transmission, gas distribution, real estate, FMCG, cement, data centres and media business, is also making one of the world's largest bets on energy transition. It is looking to build capaci-

ties to produce green hydrogen - a fuel that can run automobiles as well as factories. It plans to use renewable power to split water to produce green hydrogen.

Adani said the group is betting on green hydrogen, given its ability to generate the most inexpensive solar and wind power. "I believe this opportunity to generate green hydrogen to transform Rajasthan's deserts into an oasis of jobs enabling energy transition is an opportunity that no other state has."

His group has already invested over Rs 35,000 crore across multiple industrial sectors in Rajasthan.

These investments have been across a 1,320 megawatt (MW) Kawai power plant and a 10,000 MW solar park that produces 1,500 MW of green power. Besides, it has invested Rs 20,000 crore in commissioning over 4,000 MW of renewable projects.

Adani Group supplies coal to over 4,300 MW of state thermal plants.

It also operates high-voltage transmission lines, a dry port container terminal in Kishangarh and two edible oil manufacturing plants in Alwar and Bundi.

Reserve Bank of Australia lifts cash rate to 9-year high 2.6 per cent



Australia's central bank on Tuesday boosted its benchmark interest rate for a sixth consecutive month to a nine-year high of 2.6%.

The Reserve Bank of Australia's increase of a quarter percentage point to the cash rate was smaller than those at recent monthly meetings.

The banks had hiked the rate by half a percentage point at the last four meetings. Most economists had expected another 0.5% rise. When the bank lifted the rate by a quarter percentage point at its board meeting in May, it was the first rate hike in more than 11 years. It's now at its highest point since August 2013, when the bank cut the rate from 2.75% to 2.5%.

Reserve Bank Gov Philip Lowe said the smaller rise reflected that fact that the cash rate has been increased substantially in a short period of time.

The size and timing of future interest rate increases will continue to be determined by the incoming data and the board's assessment of the outlook for inflation and the labour market, Lowe said in a statement.

The board lifts interest rates in an attempt to reduce inflation to a target band of 2% to 3%. Australian inflation is running at 6.1% and the Treasury Department expects it to peak at 7.75% in the December quarter. Unemployment is at a near 50-year low of 3.5%.

Gold rises Rs 37, silver gains Rs 311



Gold price in the national capital rose Rs 37 to Rs 52,300 per 10 grams on Friday amid depreciation in rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had touched Rs 52,263 per 10 grams.

Silver also gained Rs 311 to Rs 62,022 per kg from Rs 61,711 per kg.

The rupee depreciated 16 paise to an all-time low of 82.33 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday as a firm American currency and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,711.16 per ounce while silver was up at USD 20.73 per ounce.

"Spot COMEX Gold last quoted at USD 1,711.16 per ounce, while the Indian gold prices trade higher amid a weaker rupee and strong physical gold demand," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

Markets fall in early trade on weak global cues

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices fell in early trade on Friday amid a weak trend in global equity markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 236.59 points to 57,985.51 after a weak start. The broader NSE Nifty dipped 69.95 points to 17,261.85.

Among the 30-share Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance and ITC were the major laggards in early trade. On the other hand, Titan, Maruti, HCL Technologies and Reliance Industries were the winners. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were quoting lower, while Seoul was in the green.

The US markets ended



lower on Thursday. "Equity markets could exhibit a cautious trend with a negative bias in Friday trade owing to weakness across the global indices. The US September jobs report to be released later today would be keenly watched

by investors the world over as this would set the market direction for the near term," said Prashanth Tapse - Research Analyst, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

The BSE benchmark had gained 156.63 points or 0.27

per cent to settle at 58,222.10 on Thursday. The Nifty advanced 57.50 points or 0.33 per cent to end at 17,331.80 in the previous trade.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude futures dipped 0.07 per cent to USD 94.35 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers as they bought shares worth Rs 279.01 crore on Thursday, according to data available with BSE.

"An important data which can influence markets globally is the US jobs data expected tonight. The fact that FIIs have stopped selling and have turned buyers, though in small quantities, is positive for markets," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

AP Govt revenue collection around Rs 26,000 cr in first half of 2022-23

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh government's revenue has touched Rs 25,928 crore in the first half of financial year 2022-23, the Chief Minister's Office said.

This was 94.47 per cent of the targeted Rs 27,445 crore for the first half of the year, the CMO said in a release on Thursday, citing officials who took part in a review by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on revenue earning departments. The release said Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in the state was 28.79 per cent in the April-September period as against the national average of 27.8 per cent. It also quoted the officials as informing the Chief Minister that the state's revenue was "on track" and that they were taking steps to "plug the leaks".

A couple of days ago, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) released the state



accounts for the first five months of 2022-23, putting AP's tax revenue at Rs 43,499.73 crore. This was Rs 6,448.94 crore excess as compared to the first five months in the previous fiscal.

Between April and August 2022, the state earned Rs 15,608 crore as GST revenue, Rs 3,473 crore as stamps and registration fee, Rs 7,592 crore as sales tax, Rs 6,594 crore as state excise duties and Rs 2,016 crore as other taxes. Another Rs 8,209 crore came as the state share in Union taxes, according to the CAG accounts.

EU leaders struggle to bridge gas price cap divide

European Union leaders converged on Prague Castle on a crisp Friday morning to try to bridge significant differences over a natural gas price cap as winter approaches and Russia's war on Ukraine fuels a major energy crisis.

The price cap is one of several measures the 27-nation bloc is preparing to contain an energy crisis in Europe that is driving up prices for consumers and business and which could lead to rolling blackouts, shuttered factories and a deep recession over the winter.

As the Europeans bolster their support for Ukraine in the form of weapons, money and aid, Russia has reduced or cut off natural gas to 13 member nations, leading to surging gas and electricity prices that could climb higher as demand peaks during the cold months.



Standing in the way of an agreement is the simple fact that each member country depends on different energy sources and suppliers, and they're struggling to see eye-to-eye on the best way ahead. A group of 15 member countries has urged the EU's executive branch, the European Commission, to propose a cap on gas prices as soon as possible, but the idea has not secured uni-

been cheap.

I therefore recommend stepping up negotiations with our reliable suppliers to reduce the prices of imported gas of all kinds, commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a letter to the leaders ahead of Friday's summit in the Czech capital.

Von der Leyen also recommended that countries work together to develop an intervention to limit prices in the natural gas market, where prices have fluctuated wildly over jitters about the war and potentially uncoordinated national responses to the problem.

For now, a breakthrough on the price cap seems a distant prospect, but the leaders may make enough progress to conclude some kind of agreement when they meet again in Brussels on October 20-21.

Slow recovery of low income households slowed down India's economic recovery

The slow economic recovery of the low income households post Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the overall economic recovery of the country, said Kotak Securities Ltd.

In a research report, Kotak Securities said, post Covid-19 pandemic, India's economic recovery seems to be lukewarm on a three-year compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) basis.

The major economic parameters reveal slow post-pandemic recovery, with gross domestic product (GDP), goods and services tax (GST) collections, electricity demand, credit growth and auto sales growing somewhat slowly as against the expectations.

Kotak Securities attribute the weaker-than-expected recovery to the slow 'repair' in the income of low-income households.

"It may take a few more quarters for growth to recover to full potential," the report said.

India's 1QFY23 GDP grew at 1.3 per cent CAGR over the past three years, despite growing 13.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY).

According to the report, the survey-based employment data suggests that India has not completely recouped all the jobs lost during the pandemic.

"While formal job creation has been robust, the employment conditions remain frail in the lower-income groups, as employment-seeking under MNREGA is yet to reach pre-pandemic levels," the report said. It may take a few more



quarters for employment and income to recover to pre-pandemic levels. The six month GST collections in FY23 logged a growth of 13.8 per cent on a three-year CAGR basis.

The high wholesale price index (WPI) in the last couple of years may have helped higher GST collections in this period. The expectation is that the WPI will sharply trend lower over the next several months.

Collections have grown at a higher pace than nominal GDP growth rate (9.5 per cent on a three-year CAGR), suggesting some widening of the tax base.

On the industrial growth front, India's indicators look rosy on a yoy basis but lose their sheen when examined on a three-year CAGR basis.

In particular, diesel consumption in 5MFY23 declined by 0.4 per cent and electricity demand grew at 4.7 per cent on a three-year CAGR basis.

Meanwhile, gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) has seen

Oil prices rise as OPEC+ agrees to large output cut

Oil prices shot up after major producers announced a big production cut.

The West Texas Intermediate for November delivery increased 1.24 US dollars, or 1.4 per cent, to settle at \$76.76 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for December delivery added 1.57 dollars, or 1.7 per cent, to settle at \$93.37 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, collectively known as OPEC+, on Wednesday decided to reduce production by 2 million barrels a day starting

in November.

The decision to cut stemmed from "the uncertainty that surrounds the global economic and oil market outlook," the group said in a statement.

"The production cut is OPEC+'s reaction to the marked price slide of recent months," and would help rebalance the



oil market, Carsten Fritsch, energy analyst at Commerzbank Research, said Wednesday in a note.

Concerns about demand amid growing recession risks and the sharp appreciation of the US dollar caused oil prices to fall at the end of September to their lowest level since January.

Govt notifies credit guarantee scheme for startups

FW DESK

Union Commerce Ministry has notified setting up of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS), aimed at providing credit guarantees to loans extended by scheduled commercial banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

CGSS will provide credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers, i.e. startups. The credit guarantee cover under the scheme would be transaction based and umbrella based. The exposure to individual cases would be capped at Rs 10 crore per case or the actual outstanding credit amount,



whichever is less.

Under transaction-based guarantee cover, the guarantee cover is obtained by the MIs on single eligible borrower basis. Transaction based guarantees will promote lending by banks and NBFCs to eligible startups. The extent of transaction-based cover will be 80 per cent of the amount in default if the original loan sanction amount is up to Rs 3 crore, 75 per cent of the amount in default if the original loan sanction amount is above Rs 3 crore, and up to Rs 5 crore, and 65 per cent of the amount in default if the original loan

sanction amount is above Rs 5 crore (up to Rs 10 crore per borrower).

The umbrella-based guarantee cover will provide guarantee to Venture Debt Funds (VDF) registered under AIF regulations of SEBI (a growing segment of funding in Indian startup ecosystem), in view of the nature of funds raised by them and debt funding provided by them. Along with institutional mechanisms for operationalising the scheme, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will be constituting a management committee and a risk evaluation committee (REC) for reviewing, supervising and operational oversight of the scheme. The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) will be operating the scheme, official sources said.

Indian crypto exchange WazirX fires 40 per cent of staff: Report



NEW DELHI: Amid the current global economic slowdown, crypto exchange WazirX has reportedly laid off 40% of its total workforce. A total of 50 to 70 employees of the 150 workers at the exchange were asked to go, CoinDesk reported, citing sources. The laid-off employees were informed on Friday that they would be paid for 45 days and that they would no longer be needed to report for work.

"The crypto market has been in the grip of a bear market because of the current global economic slowdown," WazirX was quoted as saying in a statement. "The Indian crypto industry has had its unique problems with respect to taxes, regulations and banking access. This has led to a dramatic fall in volumes in all Indian crypto exchanges, < it added. One of the sources said < the workforce has been cut from several departments including customer support, HR, and other departments. Managers, Analysts, Associate Managers/Team leaders were among those laid off."

SGPC & PSGPC decides to jointly mark centenary of 'Saka Sri Panja Sahib'

5-MEMBER SGPC DELEGATION HOLDS MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF PSGPC, ETPB IN LAHORE

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

To mark the first centenary of Shaheed Saka (martyrdom massacre) of Sri Panja Sahib in Pakistan, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) and Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) have decided to jointly organise the centenary events with support of each other. The centenary of Saka Sri Panja Sahib is being marked by SGPC at large scale on October 30, 2022.

The decision was taken in a meeting between a 5-member delegation of SGPC, office-bearers, members and officials

of PSGPC and ETPB in Lahore on Wednesday. In this meeting, apart from discussing marking the centenary events of Saka Sri Panja Sahib with Panthic grandeur, many international Sikh issues were also discussed according to the statement issued by the SGPC here today.

A 5-member SGPC delegation reached Pakistan today via Attari/Wagah Border, to discuss the centenary events of Saka Sri Panja Sahib with PSGPC and ETPB. This delegation of SGPC was led by its President Harjinder Singh Dhama.

Meanwhile, in a meeting at Lahore, SGPC delegation, officials of PSGPC and ETPB discussed organising and arrangements of centenary events.

After a one-day visit, SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhama, who returned to India in the evening said that during the meeting in Lahore, a consensus was reached that main event of centenary of Saka



Sri Panja Sahib should be organised on October 30, 2022, to organise 1-hour Gurbani Kirtan event at the railway track near Panja Sahib where the tragedy took place in 1922 to offer tributes to martyrs, for participation of groups of raagis, dhadis (balladeers), kavishars (poetry) and Panthic personalities, and for organising Amrit Sanchar (initiation ceremony). He said all the events will be organised jointly and approval will be taken

regarding organising Gurbani Kirtan at the railway track.

Dhama said that the SGPC will provide all support for the main event at Sri Panja Sahib including deputing the groups of raagis, dhadis, kavishars, and the SGPC will organise the Amrit Sanchar (initiation ceremony) during the centenary events, in which, kakaars (symbols of faith) will be provided free to the Sikhs.

Dhama said that PSGPC has been assigned the duty of langar,

transportation and accommodation for the pilgrims who would arrive to participate in centenary and the PSGPC has been asked to give the details of the entire arrangements soon so that the necessary action in this regard is taken by SGPC in time.

SGPC President said that he has raised a demand before the ETPB officials that on-arrival visas should be given to the pilgrims willing to pay obeisance at Sikh shrines in Pakistan, so that maximum number of pilgrims can visit during regularly in routine.

SGPC President said that he has also raised a demand Pakistan Sikh Sangat demanded that under the agreement between India and Pakistan, four Sikh jathas (groups) of pilgrims visit to pay obeisance at Sikh shrines, and this number should be increased to seven jathas. He said that to increase the number of Sikh jathas, PSGPC has written to the Pakistan government

and demanded from the SGPC to raise the same demand with the Government of India. He said Pakistan Sikh Sangat wants three more jathas of Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the Sikh shrines there on the occasions including Jyoti Jot Diwas of Guru Nanak Dev, birth anniversary of Guru Ramdas and Saka Nankana Sahib.

Dhama said that the Pakistan Sikh Sangat has also demanded that Indian government should remove the condition of online registration before allowing the visit for paying obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib through Kartarpur Sahib Corridor and it should allow pilgrims who visit at the Corridor directly by setting up counters to ease the process so that the Sikh pilgrims do not face inconvenience of online process. SGPC President said that in this matter, the SGPC has already made a demand from the Government of India and even now,

action will be taken in this regard.

He said that the PSGPC wants to establish a library and museum based on the life of Guru Nanak Dev at Sri Nankana Sahib, in which the SGPC will support them.

Meanwhile, SGPC President paid obeisance at Gurdwara Dehra Sahib, Lahore and also visited the Samadh of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. At Gurdwara Dehra Sahib, members of the SGPC delegation including the president were honoured.

Those present in the meeting including 5-member SGPC delegation, ETPB chairman Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani, additional secretaries Rana Sahid and Saifu Rahman Khokhar, PSGPC President Amrit Singh, former president Santvir Singh and Bishan Singh, PSGPC members Kirpa Singh, Dr. Mahipal Singh, Dr. Sarbat Singh, S. Ravinder Singh, two Granthi Singhs from Gurdwara Giani Pritam Singh and Giani Manjit Singh.

Nobel prize in medicine awarded for research on evolution



This year's Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine has been awarded to Swedish scientist Svante Paabo for his discoveries on human evolution.

Thomas Perlmann, secretary of the Nobel Committee, announced the winner Monday at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Paabo has spearheaded research comparing the genome of modern humans and our closest extinct relatives, the Neanderthals and Denisovans, showing that there was mixing between the species.

The medicine prize kicked off a week of Nobel Prize announcements. It continues Tuesday with the physics prize, with chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on Friday and the economics award on

Oct 10. Last year's medicine recipients were David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries into how the human body perceives temperature and touch.

The prizes carry a cash award of 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly 900,000) and will be handed out on Dec 10. The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895.

UK scraps tax cut for wealthy that sparked market turmoil



BIRMINGHAM: The British government has dropped plans to cut income tax for top earners, part of a package of unfunded cuts that sparked turmoil on financial markets and sent the pound to record lows.

In a dramatic about-face, Treasury chief Kwasi Kwarteng said on Monday that he would abandon plans to scrap the top 45 per cent rate of income tax paid on earnings above 150,000 pounds (USD 167,000) a year.

We get it, and we have listened, he said in a statement. He said it is clear that the abolition of the 45p tax rate has become a distraction from our overriding mission to tackle the challenges facing our country.

The U-turn came after a growing number of lawmakers from the governing Conservative Party turned on government tax plans announced 10 days ago.

It also came hours after the Conservatives released advance extracts of a speech Kwarteng is due to give later Monday at the party's annual conference in the central England city of Birmingham. He had been due to say: We must stay the course. I am confident our plan is the right one.

India-US relationship moving in right direction: Pentagon

WASHINGTON: The relationship between India and the United States is moving in the right direction, the Pentagon has said, noting that the two countries are particularly focused on the interoperability between their militaries.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) website, defence relationship has emerged as a major pillar of India-US strategic partnership. The two countries now conduct more bilateral exercises with each other than they do with any other country.

Aggregate worth of defence acquisition from US Defence has crossed over USD 13 billion.

It's a relationship that we look forward to continuing to improve, and particularly focused on the interoperability between our two militaries, Pentagon spokesperson Air Force Brig Gen Pat Ryder told reporters at a news conference here on Thursday.

So, I think it's moving in the right direction, he said in response to a question.

According to the MEA website, during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to America in June 2016, the US recognised India as a «Major Defence Partner», which commits the country to facilitate technology sharing with India to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners, and industry collaboration for defence co-production and co-development.

US starts fiscal year with record \$31 trillion in debt

United states' gross national debt has surpassed USD31 trillion, according to a US Treasury report released Tuesday that logs America's daily finances.

Edging closer to the statutory ceiling of roughly USD31.4 trillion, an artificial cap Congress placed on the US government's ability to borrow, the debt numbers hit an already tenuous economy facing high inflation, rising interest rates and a strong US dollar.

And while President Joe Biden has touted his administration's deficit reduction efforts this year and recently signed the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which attempts



to tame 40-year high price increases caused by a variety of economic factors, economists say the latest debt numbers are a cause for concern.

Owen Zidar, a Princeton economist, said rising interest rates will exacerbate the nation's growing debt issues and make the debt itself more

costly. The Federal Reserve has raised rates several times this year in an effort to combat inflation.

Zidar said the debt "should encourage us to consider some tax policies that almost passed through the legislative process but didn't get enough support," like imposing higher taxes on the wealthy and closing the carried interest loophole, which allows money managers to treat their income as capital gains.

"I think the point here is if you weren't worried before about the debt before, you should be and if you were worried before, you should be even more worried," Zidar said.

Putin facing further isolation from Int'l community: White House

WASHINGTON: Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing isolation from the international community, the White House said as it took note of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

«We're asking that countries around the world, and we've been very clear about that, continue to speak out publicly and continue to engage diplomatically on this as well. And so, I think that's what you're seeing from the prime minister (of India),» White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference on Tuesday.



«But his public comments directly to Putin are very clear. Now is not the time for war. And it's not the time, he was even more specific to that, he said his war, Putin's war, he

was alluding to,» she said.

«Look, Putin is facing further isolation from international communities as countries make clear that Putin's decisions do have a lot of sympathy,» Jean-Pierre said.

«When it comes to the potential nuclear threat, we have been very, very clear about that. We take any nuclear weapons or nuclear saber rattling very seriously here,» she said.

«I do want to say that we have not seen any reason to adjust our own strategic nuclear posture, nor do we have indication that Russia is preparing to imminently use nuclear weapons,» she said.

Power back in Bangladesh after grid failure causes blackout



DHAKA: Electricity supply across Bangladesh has been restored after the South Asian country plunged into a blackout following the failure of its national power grid, officials said.

The blackout, which impacted much of the country, started at 2.05 pm on Tuesday and lasted for nearly seven hours before power was completely restored at 9 p.m. It was not immediately clear what caused the glitch.

Many large shopping malls in the capital, Dhaka, closed early on Tuesday evening. Elsewhere, people gathered at fuel stations to collect diesel to run standby generators and market vendors operated amid candlelight.

Nasul Hamid, junior minister

for power, energy and mineral resources, said in a statement that he regretted the temporary inconvenience caused by the power failure. Officials at the state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board earlier said power transmission had failed in the eastern part of the country.

All power plants tripped and electricity was cut in Dhaka and other big cities, said Shameem Hasan, a power department spokesman. Bangladesh's recent impressive economic growth has been threatened by power shortages since the government suspended operations of all diesel-run power plants to reduce costs for imports as prices have soared.

Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy is US representative on WHO executive board

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden has nominated US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy to serve as the country's representative on the executive board of the World Health Organisation.

Dr Murthy, 45, will serve in the new position alongside his continued duties as the US Surgeon General, the White House said in a statement.

He was confirmed by the US Senate in March 2021 to serve as the 21st Surgeon General of the country. He previously served as the 19th Surgeon General under President Barack Obama.

As the nation's doctor, the Surgeon General's mission is to help lay the foundation for a healthier country, relying on the best scientific information available to provide clear, consistent and equitable guidance and resources for the public.

«While serving as the 21st Surgeon General, Dr Murthy is focused on drawing attention to and working across government to address a number of critical public health issues, includ-



ing the growing proliferation of health misinformation, the ongoing youth mental health crisis, well-being and burnout in the health worker community, and social isolation and loneliness,» said the White House.

As the Vice Admiral of the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Dr Murthy also commands a uniformed service of over 6,000 dedicated public health officers, serving the most underserved and vulnerable populations.

The first Surgeon General of Indian descent, Dr Murthy, was raised in Miami and is a

graduate of Harvard, the Yale School of Medicine, and the Yale School of Management, the White House said.

A renowned physician, research scientist, entrepreneur and author, he lives in Washington, DC with his wife Dr Alice Chen, and their two children, it said. Murthy was born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire to immigrants from Karnataka, India.

In 1978, the family moved to Newfoundland, where his father worked as a district medical officer. When he was three years old, the family relocated to Miami.

Sikh man honoured with top Australian award for his brave act

Jalandhar-born Sukhbir Singh Seehra, a mental health professional, is among 26 recipients of this year's Australian Bravery Decorations award that honour people who put risk their lives to protect others.

Seehra has been awarded

«C o m m e n d a t i o n f o r B r a v e C o n d u c t' for his swift action towards an agitated patient who threatened to blow up the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Queensland.

The patient had a red-wired explosive-looking device wrapped around his body, Seehra told SBS Punjabi.

Seehra, who works at the Psychiatric Emergency Centre of the Hospital, immediately dialled emergency services to report the situation, and «intervened immediately to assist in restraining the patient as it was a matter of the safety of other patients and the hospital staff,» SBS Punjabi reported.

Police arrived shortly and took control of the situation.

United Nations: 5.7 million Pakistani flood victims to face food crisis

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations humanitarian agency is warning that about 5.7 million Pakistani flood survivors will face a serious food crisis in the next three months, as the death toll from the deluge rose on Monday.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority reported that floods fuelled by abnormally heavy monsoon rains have killed 1,695 people, affected 33 million, damaged more than 2 million homes and displaced hundreds of thousands now living in tents or makeshift homes.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in its latest report on Saturday said the current floods are expected to exacerbate food insecurity in Pakistan and said 5.7 million people in flood-affected areas will be facing a food crisis between September and November.

Even before the floods, according to the World Health Organisation, 16 per cent of the population was living in moderate or severe food insecurity.

However, Pakistan's government insists that there is



no immediate worry about food supplies, as wheat stocks are enough to last through the next harvest and that the government is importing more.

The UN agency said in a tweet on Monday that the agency and other partners have scaled up their flood response and delivered aid to 1.6 million people directly affected by the deluges.

OCHA said outbreaks of waterborne and other diseases are on the rise in Sindh and southwestern Baluchistan provinces, where floods have caused the most damage since mid-June.

Several countries and UN agencies have sent more than 131 flights carrying aid

for survivors, but many are complaining they have either received too little help or are still waiting for it.

The UN humanitarian agency also said in its Saturday report that rainfall in Baluchistan and Sindh lightened substantially over the past week, as temperatures start to decrease ahead of winter.

Normal conditions are prevailing in most districts of Baluchistan, while in Sindh, the Indus River is flowing normally, said OCHA.

Overall, it added, in 18 out of 22 districts of Sindh, flood-water levels had receded at least 34 per cent, and in some districts up to 78 per cent.

The OCHA report also high-

Big Brazilian gold refiner delisted amid Amazon mining probe

MIAMI: One of Brazil's biggest gold refiners, which processes gold suspected of being mined illegally in the Amazon rainforest, has been stripped of an important industry seal of approval that global manufacturers from Apple to Tesla rely on to root out abuses in their supply chains.

An investigation by The Associated Press in January revealed how Sao Paulo-based Marsam shared ownership links and processes gold on behalf of an intermediary accused by Brazilian prosecutors of buying tarnished gold from Indigenous territories and other protected areas.

A former partner at Marsam, Dirceu Frederico Sobrinho, has been at the centre of recent gold rush in the Amazon, purchasing through a separate company he controls more than 2 billion



reais (USD 388 million) worth of gold last year from wildcat miners at 252 sites.

Last year, federal prosecutors filed a civil suit against the company, F.D'Gold, and two other companies that purchase gold, seeking 10 billion reais in social and environmental damages.

With that lawsuit still going on, Marsam this month was quietly removed by the Responsible Minerals Initiative from a public list of smelters and refiners deemed to follow best sourcing practices.

Bodies of kidnapped Punjab-origin Sikh family found in California

Punjab-origin a Sikh family of four, including an eight-month-old child, who were kidnapped from Merced County in California, was found dead, authorities said on Thursday.

«It's horribly, horribly senseless,» Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said. «We found the four people from the kidnapping and they are in fact deceased.» He said the man in custody was convicted in 2005 in a case involving armed robbery and false imprisonment. The man was paroled in 2015 and knew the victims.



The victim family, from Hoshiarpur in Punjab, was kidnapped on October 3. Earlier, Merced County Sheriff's Office in a statement said 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur, their eight-month-old child and 39-year-old Aman-deep Singh were taken against their will from a business.

Ukrainian troops continue offensive, claim new gains

KYIV: Ukrainian troops continued to push forward Monday with their offensive that has embarrassed Moscow, with Kyiv officials and foreign observers hinting at new gains in the strategic southern region of Kherson.

Kherson has been one of the toughest battlefields for the Ukrainians, with slower progress when compared with Ukraine's breakout offensive around the country's second largest city of Kharkiv, in the northeast, that began last month.

Kherson is one of the four regions illegally annexed by Moscow last week after a referendum orchestrated by the Kremlin.

The lower house of the Krem-



lin-controlled parliament is set to ratify the treaties Monday, and the upper house will follow the next day.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that two of those regions, Donetsk and Luhansk, are joining Russia with their administrative borders that existed before a conflict erupted there in 2014 between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces. He noted that the issue of the borders of the two other regions Zaporizhzhia and Kherson remains open.

SUSHMITA SEN to play transgender activist Gauri Sawant in new series 'Taali'

Bollywood star Sushmita Sen on Thursday unveiled her first look from an upcoming web series, featuring her as transgender activist Gauri Sawant.

Titled "Taali", the biographical drama series is created by Arjun Singh Baran and Kartik D Nishandar. It hails from production banner Viacom18. Sen, who made her digital debut with critically-acclaimed show "Aarya", posted her first look from the new series on Instagram. In the photo, the 46-year-old actor is seen as Sawant, striking a fierce and bold pose for the camera.

Sen said the series will chronicle the transgender activist's "story of struggle, resilience, and indomitable power". "Nothing makes me more

proud and grateful than to bring this journey that has been rife with challenges, only to witness a revolution! This one is special for reasons multifold, and I'm really excited to associate with Viacom18 for this one. This is just the beginning, stay tuned for what's in store," the former Miss Universe said in a statement.

Sawant, who was born as Ganesh and raised in Pune, was one of the petitioners of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) which was filed in 2013, in which the Supreme Court recognized transgender as the third gender with a final verdict in 2014.

"Taali" will shed light on the momentous life of Sawant -- from her childhood, her transition, to her contribution to revolutionizing the transgender movement in India.

Directed by National award-winning filmmaker Ravi Jadhav, the series is produced by Arjun Singh Baran, Kartik D Nishandar and Afeefa Nadiadwala.



Indian Bride Exhibition starts designer wear & lifestyle products from across India



KULBIR SINGH KALSİ Chandigarh

With the festive season around the corner, The Indian Bride Exhibition, started here today at JW Marriott, Sector 35. This mega event is all set to attract fashion enthusiasts from across the region, especially Tricity. The exhibition will be on till tomorrow, October 2 from 11 am to 8 pm. The fashion exhibition is housing more than 40 exhibitors from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Canada, different parts of Punjab and other parts of the country. These are showcasing unique collections at the event.

Randeep Hooda begins filming Savarkar biopic



MUMBAI: Bollywood Actor Randeep Hooda on Monday said he has started shooting for «SwatantraVeer Savarkar», a biopic of Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar.

It also marks the directorial debut of Hooda, who plays the titular role in the film. Filmmaker Mahesh Manjrekar was previously attached to direct the film.

The actor, known for movies such as «Highway», «Sarbjit» and «Sultan», took to Twitter to share the update and said working on the upcoming film is a «special moment» for him. «Lights, Camera HISTORY! Starting shoot for my next, @anandpandit & @officialsandipssinghs #SwatantraVeerSavarkar.

«The film is slated to release on 26th May, 2023 on the occasion of #VeerSavarkar's 140th birth anniversary @directorsamkhan.» Hooda wrote alongside pictures from the set.

Produced by Anand Pandit Motion Pictures and Legend Studios, «SwatantraVeer Savarkar» is co-written by Utkarsh Naithani and Hooda.

Anand Pandit, Sandeep Singh and Sam Khan are credited as producers along with Roopa Pandit and Zafar Mehdi attached to co-produce.

According to Pandit, Hooda is the perfect actor to play the title role in the film.

«Our film has Randeep as a director too and that makes me feel proud,» he said in a statement.

«I feel privileged and honoured to be making this film,» added Singh.

The movie is slated to be released on May 26, 2023.

'Black Adam' to release a day early in Indian theatres

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson's much-awaited movie «Black Adam» will make its debut in Indian theatres on October 20, a day earlier than its global release.

Warner Bros India shared the news on Thursday on its social media handle, announcing that the film will be released in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu in the country on October 20, instead of October 21.

«Brace yourselves because #BlackAdam is arriving one day early! Watch Black Adam» in cinemas in India from October 20 onwards in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu,» the studio tweeted.

«Black Adam» is a spin-off



from Warner Bros and New Line Cinema's «Shazam!», featuring Zachary Levi.

The character first appeared in DC Comics in the 1940s as a villain corrupted by power. He became an anti-hero in the early 2000s.

Directed by «Jungle Cruise» director Jaume Collet-Serra, the movie also features Aldis Hodge as Hawkman, Noah Centineo as Atom Smasher, Quintessa Swindell as Cyclone, and Pierce Brosnan as Dr. Fate.

Nushratt Bharuccha to star in drama thriller 'Akelli'



Actor Nushratt Bharuccha is set to headline an upcoming drama thriller movie, titled «Akelli», the makers announced Thursday.

The film will be directed by debutant filmmaker Pranay Meshram, who earlier served

as an assistant director on projects such as «Queen» and «Commando 3».

Set in Iraq, «Akelli» showcases how a person realizes her own capabilities in adverse situations like being trapped in the desert land.

Nitin Vaidya, the producer and founder of Dashami Studioz, said the company is thrilled to collaborate with Bharuccha for the project.

«Her (Bharuccha) character in this film symbolises a lone woman's battle against all odds. The film's subject is very different and as a storyteller Pranay has visualized each and every bit so well that his conviction made us want to back this movie,» Vaidya said in a statement.

«Akelli» is produced by Dashami Studioz Nitin Vaidya, Ninad Vaidya, Apama Padgankar along with Vicky Sidana and Shashant Shah.

Teaser lands Adipurush' in trouble over depiction of deities, demon king and bad CGI

NEW DELHI: Four months from release and Adipurush, a big budget adaptation of the Ramayana, is already neck deep in controversy for multiple reasons - the depiction of Ravana and Hanuman and also its inferior visual effects.

The 1.46-minute teaser of the movie, directed by Om Raut of «Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior» fame, was launched on Sunday in Ayodhya. And



the backlash was immediate.

Fronted by «Baahubali» star Prabhas who features in the title role as Lord Rama, the multilingual period saga sees Saif Ali Khan play the role

of a 10-headed demon king called Lankesh. With a beard, fierce eyes and a buzz cut, this Lankesh seems barbaric personified and many called out the filmmakers for the apparent Islamisation of Ravana.

The portrayal of Hanuman, with a beard, without a moustache and dressed in leather, also attracted criticism.

As hashtags like #BoycottAdipurush and #BanAdipurush

Khushwant Singh Litfest at Kasauli from Oct 14-16



THE MALDIVES ARE BUYING LAND FOR RELOCATION TO AUSTRALIA, AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET TUVALU'S FOREIGN MINISTER, GIVING A SPEECH, KNEE DEEP IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN

FW DESK

As the nation commemorates 75th year of Independence the Khushwant Singh Litfest in Kasauli bounces back in the post-pandemic times with a vision to reflect on "Can our ancient, unchanging

land be the catalyst for this year's Climate of Change?"

The three-day litfest to be held at iconic Kasauli Club from October 14 to Oct 16 will dive deep into the subject. It is going to be a Green KSLF this time, with minimal waste generation and carbon footprint.

As we know the ecosystem

of wildlife, flora and fauna, is being mercilessly torn down all around us. In Kasauli, for instance, forest fires are displacing the leopards who are compelled to come into town, looking for pets and strays for food. From Bengaluru to Varanasi, from Pakistan to Europe, there are flash floods.

Researchers have found that eight Asian countries — India, China, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Japan — housed more than 70 per cent of the total number of people currently living on affected lands worldwide. The Maldives are buying land for relocation to Australia, and we will never forget Tuvalu's foreign minister, giving a speech, knee deep in the Pacific ocean.

Do we have a vision of where we want to be in 100 years? And what transformation can get us there? Can we take stock of where we are today and how we have changed over these years? Have we used our freedom wisely? Or have we frittered away the enormous opportunities we have in natural wealth, human resources, creativity, scientific mindsets, and other soft power?

POTPOURRI

Urmila Matondkar sets OTT debut with series titled 'Tiwari'



MUMBAI: Actor Urmila Matondkar, one of the popular Bollywood stars of the 1990s, is set to make her web series debut with «Tiwari».

According to the makers, the actor plays the titular role in the small town-set thriller show which has an emotional mother-daughter story at its core.

Matondkar, known for films such as «Rangeela», «Kaun», «Ek Haseena Thi» and «Pinjar», said she can't wait to start shooting for her first web series.

«This one offered me characters and a story arc that is challenging as a performer and things that I haven't attempted so far. Written and created by a team of young writers, the team managed to keep me hooked till the end while narrating it.

«What I liked the most in the story is that at the core, it's an emotional mother-daughter story but at the same time it has everything from drama to action to some thrilling twists and turns,» the actor said in a statement issued Monday.

«Tiwari» is directed by Saurabh Varma and produced by Content Engineers. Varma said Matondkar was the first and only choice to play the role of Tiwari in the series.

«The kind of varied graph Tiwari aka Urmila's character has in the show, we really couldn't think of anyone else but Urmila. As a filmmaker and as a studio, we intend to create clean entertaining content that can be watched with the whole family, globally. «Tiwari» is something that has been loved as a script by all age groups and fits the bill in totality,» the director said.

Playing in IPL helps in passing information easily says Kagiso Rabada

Playing in the IPL helps gather information on Indian cricketers which can be easily passed on for analysis during national duty, says South African pace ace Kagiso Rabada.

The South African quick, who is currently in India for a white-ball series, has gained a lot of popularity in the country due to his impressive stints with Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings in the IPL.

«It is something we have prepared before going into the series. Lucky enough with leagues like the IPL, we play a lot with these players and against them as well, so information can be easily passed around,» Rabada told the broadcaster ahead of the first ODI. «Analysis has been done and has to be done,» he added. The right-arm, who will lead the South African pace attack at the T20 World Cup later this month



in Australia, sees ODIs as an extension of the shortest format of the game.

«I think T20 and One-Day cricket are kind of similar, it is just a longer version of it. «You have similar gameplans and obviously it is less pressure than T20s, I would say the processes are pretty similar.»

Region's first state of the art shooting studio - NK Studios unveiled by actor Suniel Shetty

KULBIR SINGH KALSİ Chandigarh



The region's first state-of-the-art shooting studio - NK Studios - was inaugurated today by famous Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty. Spread over a sprawling area of 4 acres NK Studio is located near Chandigarh and is just 20 Kms from the International Airport in Mohali.

Suniel Shetty after inaugurating the studio said, «NK Studios is a unique facility and is a God send for film, audio and TV production houses who will get a one stop shop

for all their production needs. It is not only going to be an asset for the region's entertainment industry but will also attract filmmakers from the Mumbai and South Indian film industries, due to inherent advantages like lower cost, pollution, and traffic congestion free environment etc.» It is to be noted that this integrated film studio is designed under the guidance of Suniel Shetty and executed by well known Director and Production designer Rajesh Latkar.

Veteran actor Arun Bali dies at 79



MUMBAI: Veteran actor Arun Bali, best known for his work on TV show Swabhimaan and blockbuster hit 3 Idiots, died on Friday morning at his residence in suburban Mumbai. He was 79.

Bali's son Ankush said his father was suffering with Myasthenia gravis, an autoimmune disease caused by communication failure between nerves and muscles, for which he was admitted to a hospital early this year. Ankush said his father was responding well to the treatment but passed away at around 4.30 am. My father left us. He was suffering from Myasthenia gravis. He had mood swings for two-three days. He told the caretaker he wanted to go to the washroom and after coming out he told him he wanted to sit down and he never got up then, he told PTI. Bali made his acting debut with noted filmmaker Lekh Tandon's TV show Doosra Keval as superstar Shah Rukh Khan's uncle and went on to work in TV shows such as period drama Chanakya, Swabhimaan, Des Mein Nikla Hoga Chand, Kumkum Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan, and P.O.W. - Bandi Yuddh Ke.



Farmers shout slogans against the central and state governments while blocking railway tracks during a demonstration to show their objection towards the Electricity Amendment Bill on the outskirts of Amritsar on Monday. PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

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