

REGION

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PUNJAB GOVERNMENT HONOURS ENTERPRISING FARMERS OF PUNJAB WHO DO NOT BURN STUBBLE

Punjab Govt is moving in the right direction under the leadership of Bhagwant Mann: Kular Singh Sandhwan

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kular Singh Sandhwan said that Punjab Government is moving in the right direction under the leadership of Bhagwant Mann and it is determined to bring farmers out of agrarian crisis.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion of Premier Agri and Food Technology Fair at the CII Northern Region headquarters here today, Sandhwan said that due to the absence of a concrete and effective agricultural policy in the changing conditions, the crisis of agriculture has increased in Punjab and now the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann



is continuously trying to bring the farmers out of the crisis. He said that Punjab has played an important role in making the

country self-reliant in the field of grain. He said that there is an urgent need to take the state out of the crop cycle of paddy

and wheat, for which agricultural diversification needs to be adopted. In order to implement this, the Center should ensure minimum support price for crops other than wheat and paddy. He also emphasized on the need to adopt new schemes and new initiatives to bring the farmers out of various crises.

The Assembly Speaker said that such fairs play an important role in imparting information to the farmers about the new initiatives and new technologies in agriculture and horticulture. Farmers can be continuously informed about new technologies by organizing farmer fairs. He said that these fairs can produce

better results in rural areas. This will make it easier for the government and other industrialists to reach the farmers.

S. Sandhwan said that the farmers of Punjab always played a leading role in the country. The farmers of Punjab had made a significant contribution in making the country self-reliant in the field of food grains with their hard work. He said that the farmers of Punjab have always adopted new technologies and techniques. Now, to make agriculture profitable, there is a need to leave the traditional crop cycle and diversify agriculture. Gardening is a good option for this.

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

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PM VIRTUALLY INAUGURATES 'INVEST KARNATAKA 2022', GLOBAL INVESTORS MEET IN BENGALURU

POTPOURRI

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ACTRESS JASMIN BHASIN: HONEYMOON IS MORE ABOUT THE PERSON THAN DESTINATION

PM Modi condoles death of India's first voter, says his outlook towards democracy inspiring



SUNDERNAGAR (HP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences over the death of India's first voter Shyam Saran Negi, who died aged 106 at his residence in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur on Saturday morning. Two days ago, Negi had cast his vote for the state's Assembly polls through postal ballot, the Election Commission said earlier in the day. Addressing a poll rally here in Mandi district for the November 12 assembly polls in the hill state, Modi said, "When I started from Delhi in the morning, I got to know about the death of Shyam Saran Negi. The 106-year-old had voted more than 30 times in his life."

RSS cancels Nov 6 events in TN, to appeal against HC verdict allowing route marches with riders



CHENNAI: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Saturday said it will not hold its proposed route marches on November 6 as certain conditions laid down by the Madras High Court in this connection were "not acceptable" to it. An appeal will be preferred against the single judge order, R Vaninarayan, president, RSS South Zone, said in a press release. He said the organisation had moved the court following the state police's refusal of permission to hold route marches in 50 locations across the state on October 2.

Sugar export ban extended till October 31, 2023

The Centre has extended the ban on sugar exports by a year till October 31, 2023 to ensure a check on the domestic prices and its availability in the country. The move is being seen as a step towards curbing rising food inflation.

In May this year, the government had banned sugar exports with effect from June 1 till October 31, 2022 after the prices had surged exponentially. "Restriction on export of sugar (raw, refined, and white sugar) is extended beyond October 31, 2022 till October 31, 2023, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Other conditions will remain unchanged," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated October 28.

Punjab Congress condemns Suri's assassination; Says, complete collapse of law & order

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has strongly condemned the broad daylight assassination of Shiv Sena leader Sudhir Suri in Amritsar today.

At the same time he appealed for peace and harmony and urged people to defeat the nefarious designs of the enemies of Punjab.

"There is complete collapse of law and order in the state and culprits are choosing and killing their targets with so much ease and convenience", PCC president said in a statement here today.

He said, the killing reflects the failure of the government in handling the law and order



situation in a state like Punjab. "This has to happen as the entire government is busy with Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections", he observed while cautioning the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann against taking things lightly.

Warring said, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal can afford to leave his state Delhi and campaign in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, but Punjab CM cannot as Punjab is not so easy to govern and administer

Morbi bridge collapse: Gujarat CM has no right to continue, says Kejriwal

AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that Bhupendra Patel has no right to continue as Gujarat Chief Minister after the Morbi bridge collapse.

While addressing a press briefing here, Arvind Kejriwal said, "Morbi bridge collapse in Gujarat was a result of massive corruption. Prayed for those who lost their lives in the incident. The CM has no moral grounds to continue on the post".



"This is a case of big corruption and efforts are being made to suppress it. A watch company was given the contract to build the bridge. Maintenance work was given without any tender. Neither the name of the company nor the owner is mentioned in the FIR. The CM has no moral right to continue", said Delhi CM Kejriwal.

On the ongoing tussle between Delhi government and the L-G over discontinuation of Yoga classes in the city, CM Kejriwal said, "Last December, we had started 'Dilli ki Yogshala' programme. We have made excellent health arrangements but we think why should anyone need treatment, people should do Yoga Pranayama daily. For this, 25 people from any locality can call a yoga trainer. In 11 months, 17, 000 people were taking advantage of it. From today it is closed".

Without taking names, he

CII Agro Tech a synergy between agriculture and industry: Dhankhar

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has done a wonderful job with Agro Tech India by bringing in a synergy between agriculture and industry, and also by bringing all relevant stakeholders at one platform, Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, said on Friday at the inaugural session of CII Agro Tech India 2022 here.



"Our ultimate aim should be to generate sustainable incomes for our farmers. This will reduce poverty and enhance prosperity for our 'annadatas'. We need to focus on not just on food production, but also on food processing and value addition. This will go a long way in transforming Indian agriculture in the 21st century," Dhankhar said.

The Vice President said with the contribution of visionary policymakers, ingenious scientific minds and above all 'annadatas' (food producers), India has attained the feat of becoming the largest producer of millet, pulses, milk, and jute.

Army foils infiltration bid, kills terrorist

FW DESK

Army on Friday stopped an infiltration bid by killing terrorist along the Line of Control in Poonch area of Jammu and Kashmir, according to officials.

"At around 1000 hours today, vigilant soldiers of the army noticed suspicious activity along the Line of Control in the Poonch sector (J-K), where some people were attempting to cross across into the Indian side," according to a defence spokesman.

He claimed that when the infiltrators began fire on the soldiers, the soldiers retaliated by engaging them in fire, which resulted in the death of one terrorist. "His body has been retrieved along with two AK-47 rifles, a pistol, and war-like supplies," the spokesman added. Jammu and Kashmir



Twitter plans to charge \$20 per month for verification

Twitter has planned to charge users \$19.99 per month for verification. According to The Verge, employees got their first deadline from Elon Musk -- meet his deadline for starting paid verification on the platform or leave immediately. Twitter Blue, the company's \$4.99 per month optional subscription that unlocks additional features will convert into a more expensive subscription that also verifies users. Verified users will have 90 days to subscribe under the current plan in order to keep their blue checkmark, the report said. It was informed to the team members that failing to launch the feature by the deadline of November 7 will result in



termination. The Twitter Blue subscription became widely available over a year ago as a way to read articles from some publishers without advertisements and make other changes to the application, such changing the colour of the app's icon on the home screen. Musk wants subscriptions to increase to cover half of the business' total revenue. Recently, Musk had said that the platform could expand or even get rid of the 280-character limit on the platform.

United Sikh Mission to hold 50 free eye check-up camps in Punjab



CHANDIGARH: Fifty free eye check-up camps covering more than 400 villages in Punjab will be organised in the next five months by United Sikh Mission (US) in its 18th year of service.

Announcing the eye check-up camps here on Thursday, United Sikh Mission Chairman Rashpal Singh Dhindsa said this "mission for vision" is a selfless act of serving the community and this year, already seven camps have been organised in Ferozpur, Sangrur, Barnala, Kapurthala, Jalandhar and Mohali districts beginning October 15.

A total of 2,627 OPDs, 265 surgeries, 1,684 spectacles and 2,533 medicines were provided in the camps. Rashpal Singh said they generate their own funds from donations from various sponsors

who are mainly NRIs who want their native village to be benefited by the camps.

He expressed that it is all Gurus will and as humans, they are trying to help other humans irrespective of their religion, gender and caste. He said their mission is to empower communities worldwide by addressing disparities in healthcare needs by eliminating preventable medical illnesses while promoting peace and community to spread prosperity and kindness towards humanity. Avtar Singh, board of director and camps management, said this is an inspiring journey of a philanthropic American Sikh Rashpal Singh and his team towards establishing a mission to improve eye healthcare to serve his community in Punjab.

Bollywood Actor-Filmmaker Pooja Bhatt joins 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'

Bollywood Actor-filmmaker Pooja Bhatt on Wednesday briefly joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, which resumed in Hyderabad.

Bhatt walked with the Congress MP for some distance after he resumed the rally from Balanagar after the night-halt at Bowenpally.

For the second consecutive day, the foot march continued in Hyderabad.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief A. Revanth Reddy, Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, MP U-tam Kumar Reddy and several other leaders and scores of party workers were participating in the yatra.



The rally will halt at a hotel at Hafeezpet, Madinaguda for a mid-day break.

The walkathon will resume in the evening from BHEL bus stand and halt at Muthangi with a corner meeting.

RSS & BJP should stop interference in election of SGPC office-bearers: Harjinder Singh Dhami

SAYS IQBAL SINGH LALPURA MISUSING CONSTITUTIONAL POST AT THE BEHEST OF BJP

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

body to vote against the candidate of Shiromani Akali Dal in the upcoming annual election of Sikh body on November 9. He said big temptations are being given to buy votes of SGPC members by leaders who joined BJP from different parties. He said several SGPC members have disclosed this fact to him.

During a press conference at the SGPC office in Amritsar on Friday, Harjinder Singh Dhami said the Congress party had been interfering in Sikh affairs for a long time and now, BJP is also following the same path.

He said BJP and RSS controlled office-bearers of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) to make them work as per their wishes, and now efforts are being made to break SGPC through a separate



Gurdwara management committee for Haryana.

"Now, going further, pressure is being put on SGPC members before SGPC's annual elections. BJP leader Iqbal Singh Lalpura, who is Chairman of NCM, is interfering to harm the Sikh body by forgetting the dignity of its constitutional position. The Minorities Commission is responsible for protection of minorities in the country and to

resolve their issues. But its chairman is acting against minorities as per policy of his party (BJP)", said Harjinder Singh Dhami.

He said that the annual election of office-bearers of SGPC is an issue of members elected by Sangat, in which no external interference can be tolerated. "I advise Lalpura to stay in his jurisdiction and BJP people should not interfere in the election of Sikh body", he quipped.

Punjab government honours enterprising farmers of Punjab who do not burn stubble

FW DESK

Punjab Government and the Punjab Pollution Control Board honoured 150 progressive farmers from across the state who did not set fire to stubble for the last five years in an impressive function organised at Kisan Vikas Chamber, SAS Nagar here today. Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kultar Singh Sandhawan said that when people come forward to stop any bad practice then the result comes out. He said that the farmer

heroes who came to the event proved that farming can be done even following the teachings of Baba Nanak. He appealed to the farmers not to set the stubble on fire so that the environment of Punjab can be made clean and pollution free. He informed that burning of crop residue causes damage to other micro-organisms present in the upper layer of the soil as well as its organic quality. Due to the loss of 'friendly' pests, the wrath of 'enemy' pests has increased and as a result, crops are more prone



to disease. While addressing the event on this occasion, Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer, Cabinet Minister, said that it is a matter of happiness that farmers are giving up stubble burning, accepting the message being given by the Punjab government. He said that due to pollution, not only the lungs are damaged, many other types of health diseases affect the human being. He also expressed his happiness that the young generation is becoming aware and under the green campaign, they are now participating more in the planting campaign and trees are being planted in large quantities. He said that due to the campaign of the Punjab government, Mini Forests are being set up at various places in Punjab

Amritsar would experience real sound of bombs, fire arms and gun firing

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The bordering city of Amritsar would experience real sound of Bombs, fire arms, hand grenades and Gun firing by troops of Punjab Police and National Security Guards during their practice session the different locations in Amritsar on November 3. Addressing the press conference here today Police Commissioner Arun Pal Singh said that the people of city shouldn't scare with the defining sound of Bombs, hand grenades and Gun firing as it would be part of exercise of security personnel as NSG has chosen the Punjab police for this purpose in order to make the Punjab Police hi-tech.

'Mukhbir - The Story of a Spy': Prakash Raj, Adil Hussain & Zain Khan Durrani visited Amritsar

KULBIR SINGH KALSİ

India's largest home-grown video streaming platform, launched the trailer of its upcoming espionage thriller series 'Mukhbir - The Story of a Spy'. Directed by Shivam Nair and Jayprad Desai, 'Mukhbir - The Story of a Spy' is an inspiring story of India's secret agent in Pakistan who rose to the occasion to save the nation and turn the tide of the war in his country's favour. Punctuated by powerful performances of Zain Khan Durrani, Prakash Raj, Adil Hussain, Barkha Bisht, Zoya Afroz, Harsh Chhaya, Satyadeep Mishra and Karan Oberoi, the 8-episodic series will stream on ZEE5 from 11th November 2022.

Action Plan against crimes, corruption including corrupt police officers in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Chief Minister Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar worried over increasing number of gangsters, criminal activities and corruption in the state addressed a meeting with senior bureaucrats in the state on the eve of Haryana Day as regard new Action Plan to wipe out crime and corruption in the state in spite of the fact State Vigilance Bureau, CID and CM Flying Squad had jointly taken action and arrested large number of senior officers as well as staff working in government offices allegedly involved in corrupt practices sent them behind bars. Chief Minister said that 'Bulldozer Campaign' was launched in the state in which large number of



residential buildings illegally built by gangsters, hard core criminals and drug smugglers in the state were either completely demolished or taken over by the government. He said, the campaign will continue till Haryana becomes completely crime as well as corruption free state. While addressing meeting Chief Minister told that Haryana state government has now prepared a strict 'Action Plan' against criminals, drug smug-

glers, gangsters and corrupt officers as well as staff working in government offices in the state. Khattar disclosed that nearly 700 government officers and employees working in government offices involved in corrupt practices have been arrested by State Vigilance Bureau so far and investigation is going on against several others likely to be in police net soon and this campaign will continue till Haryana becomes corruption free state. Comparing the performance of BJP government in the state since past eight years Khattar said what ruling government has done in past eight years rule the previous governments while ruling over in the state could not do in past 48 years rule some of these include the resident in the state are availing benefits of all government proposals directly instead of middlemen thus saving amount worth Rs 1300 crores. Khattar said, according to central government information, nearly 29 lakh persons in the state belonging to different categories are now availing benefit under 'Ayushman Yozna' at present as against only 9.5 lakh persons were availing this facility earlier.

RTO & Inspector arrested, network of agents & transporters on vigilance radar in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

During three days police remand, State Vigilance Bureau (SVB) team from Karnal collected large number of evidences as regard corrupt practices by a network of agents and transporters in Ambala, Karnal, Yamunanagar and Panchkula districts in which vigilance department arrested RTO Ramit Yadav an HCS officer of 2020 batch originally hailing from Jhajjar and Inspector at Karnal Jasmir who was a Kabaddi player joined service in 2012 when both were found involved in embezzlements getting monthly from the owners of overloaded vehicles carrying sand, stone and dust collected from illegal mining in the area. SVB team during three days police remand collected a dairy containing

large number of evidences as regard corrupt practices by both arrested officers as well as a chain of agents, contractors and transporters running illegal activities in the area having shelter by influential persons as well as political leaders now on vigilance radar. Information also reveals that vigilance team conducted raids twice in 24 hours at the official residence of Ramit Yadav in PWD Colony Ambala Cantt and during search recovered currency notes of value worth Rs 10.24 lakh, a personal diary and a tab. Raiding team entered the house quickly and took Ramit Yadav into their possession, brought him to their office at Karnal along with the security guard Roop Singh within 25 minutes where the alleged accuse was interrogated for several hours.

Haryana to hold Industry Fairs in every district

SATISH HANDA

Manohar government in Haryana is taking another historic step for the development of industrial sector in the State. Chief Secretary Haryana Sanjeev Kaushal addressing a meeting with the officers of industry department in the state said that in order to promote industries and to facilitate the entrepreneurs in setting up of Industries in the State Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has desired to take another historic step in the state similar to Geeta Mahotsav at Kurukshetra and Surajkund Handicrafts Fair being organized every year having worldwide identification as well as fame now going to hold similar type of industry fairs in every district in the state. Kaushal said, decision has been taken to start first fair in the state at Gurugram, followed by second fair at industrial town Faridabad aiming to recognize



these fairs similar to national and international Trade Fairs being held at Pragti Maidan New Delhi every year. Sanjeev Kaushal while addressing Haryana's 32nd governing body meeting called to review preparations as regard coming International Trade Fair to be held on November 14 at Pragti Maidan said, Haryana state government is making all efforts to promote industry as well as export in the state providing all facilities to entrepreneurs in the state, country and foreign investors willing to start industry in Haryana as such potential entrepreneurs are advised regarding availability of land at subsidized rates in Haryana state. While having virtual dialogues with youths at Adampur going to have Vidhan Sabha bi-polls on November 3, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar produced the performance and achievements for youths by the ruling government in the state in past eight years saying that ruling government has always encouraged youths for start up and now going to develop small scale industrial units in 50 to 100 acre area in each block across the state under 'Padma Yozna' for which loans will be provided for amount up to Rs 5 crore with provision of a cluster in every block enabling youths to manufacture high quality products. Dhami was speaking to the media at Amritsar on Saturday, before the departure of a special jatha going to attend 100 year centenary congregations of Shaheedi Saka (martyrdom massacre) Panja Sahib at Pakistan. «The SGPC had already expressed its apprehension that the government wants to take control of managements of Gurdwaras through HSGMC and the fresh notification of Haryana, is its confirmation. I caution the Sikh Sangat to strongly oppose this intention of government possession on the Gurdwaras», said Dhami. SGPC President said that in its notification, the Haryana government notified that besides forming a 41-member ad-hoc committee for 18 months, if the election of HSGMC is not held within the stipulated time, then the government will increase the tenure of the ad-hoc committee for next 18 months. «This means, for 3 years, the management of Gurdwaras would be in the hands of the government», he said. SGPC President said that by passing an ordinance, Haryana government has also made a provision of appointing a «Patron» of the ad-hoc HSGMC. «No person is Patron of Sikh Qaum (community) and Sikh bodies, but only Guru Granth Sahib and Akal Takht Sahib. In 1920, even the British government had attempted to keep the management of Gurdwaras in its own hands through a government appointed committee but after the Panthic opposition, the government had to back down. Today, the Haryana government is doing the same, which will



Haryana government working on '3-C' politics & '5-S' policy: CM

SATISH HANDA

SGPC rejects notification of Haryana govt on HSGMC



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Rejecting notification of Haryana Government's Law and Legislative Department dated October 24, 2022, regarding 41-member ad-hoc panel of Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC) and making provision to appoint «Patron», the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh Dhami said that this is direct government interference into the Sikh affairs. Dhami was speaking to the media at Amritsar on Saturday, before the departure of a special jatha going to attend 100 year centenary congregations of Shaheedi Saka (martyrdom massacre) Panja Sahib at Pakistan. «The SGPC had already expressed its apprehension that the government wants to take control of managements of Gurdwaras through HSGMC and the fresh notification of Haryana, is its confirmation. I caution the Sikh Sangat to strongly oppose this intention of government possession on the Gurdwaras», said Dhami. SGPC President said that in its notification, the Haryana government notified that besides forming a 41-member ad-hoc committee for 18 months, if the election of HSGMC is not held within the stipulated time, then the government will increase the tenure of the ad-hoc committee for next 18 months. «This means, for 3 years, the management of Gurdwaras would be in the hands of the government», he said. SGPC President said that by passing an ordinance, Haryana government has also made a provision of appointing a «Patron» of the ad-hoc HSGMC. «No person is Patron of Sikh Qaum (community) and Sikh bodies, but only Guru Granth Sahib and Akal Takht Sahib. In 1920, even the British government had attempted to keep the management of Gurdwaras in its own hands through a government appointed committee but after the Panthic opposition, the government had to back down. Today, the Haryana government is doing the same, which will not be accepted by the Sikhs», said Harjinder Singh Dhami. He appealed to the Sikh leaders of Haryana to understand the intention of the government and strengthen the SGPC, an organization of the Sikh Panth working under the patronage of Akal Takht Sahib. He also warned the governments to stop interfering in Sikh issues and not to play politics for Gurdwaras. Meanwhile SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami has crossed over to Pakistan to participate in the 100 year centenary congregations being organised regarding Saka Panja Sahib. He led a jatha to Gurdwara Panja Sahib, Pakistan which departed from SGPC office in Amritsar, was accompanied by Granthi (priest) of Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib Giani Gurmander Singh, SGPC executive members Jarnail Singh, Sarvan Singh, members Bhai Rajinder Singh, Ajmer Singh, Khushwinder Singh, Bhai Pritpal Singh. In addition to the above, SGPC additional secretary Balwinder Singh, Bijai Singh, in-charge of Yatra Department Rajinder Singh Ruby, raagis, dhadis, kavishars and pracharaks are departed to attend the centenary congregations in Pakistan. SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami said that marking 100 year centenary of Saka Panja Sahib by the Khalsa Panth is a tribute to the martyrs of this massacre. He said that after two day congregations related to Saka Panja Sahib at Amritsar, now events are being held at Gurdwara Panja Sahib. This event is being jointly organized by Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) and the SGPC. He said that the visas of a large number of members of the SGPC jatha were rejected, but 14 other members of the group received visas late last night on Friday. He said that although the cancellation of visas has affected the SGPC jatha, he is still grateful to the management for giving the visas. He said that a jatha of SGPC had reached Gurdwara Panja Sahib yesterday.

SHO alleged involved in honey trap racket suspended, absconding leaving '3-W' trapped in police net

SATISH HANDA Ambala

Jashandeep Singh Randhawa SP Ambala suspended the station house officer (SHO) of Mahesh Nagar police station in Ambala Cantt for his alleged involvement in blackmailing an officer Manoj Kumar a permanent resident of

Jhajjar working with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and presently staying in a rented house in Sector 9 Ambala City along with two others. The suspended police inspector Subash absent from duty since he was also alleged involved in blackmailing in this honey trap cases at Ambala as well as also alleged



earlier at Yamunanagar when he was SHO at Mulana police station in which three women alleged involved in this racket identified as Raveet, Sukhpreet and Preeti have already been arrested by Ambala police, whereas a local youth Gaurav alleged the kingpin of the racket is still absconding and police conducting raids at his hide outs for his arrest, SP said.

Drugs of value worth over Rs 5 crore destroyed at Ambala

SATISH HANDA Ambala

Divisional police Ambala destroyed drugs of value worth over Rs 5 crore seized by the police in as many as 133 cases registered under NDPS Act in Ambala, Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar districts in the division at village Bhadog in the presence of Shrikant Jaghavad ADGP Ambala division also holding charge of Narcotic Bureau in the state after obtaining report from Forensic Laboratory. Drugs were destroyed in the presence of Drugs Disposal Committee in the presence of Shrikant ADGP and Jashandeep



ja, nearly 901 gm Heroine, 1.5 kg sulphur, 10 gm charas, 8500 intoxicated capsules, 59391 intoxicated tablets, 1586 intoxicated injections and 91 bottle intoxicated syrup. Randhawa told that the value of heroine destroyed in this case was nearly Rs 4.5 crore. He disclosed that Ambala police has recovered heroine of value worth Rs 20 crore so far from drug smugglers in past 10 months this year. He said Ambala police has recovered heroine of value worth Rs 20 crore from drug smugglers in past 10 months this year and arrested as many as 135 persons in 111 cases registered under NDPS Act. Singh Randhawa SP Ambala. Randhawa told media persons that its first time seized drugs have been destroyed at Ambala because earlier such drugs seized by the police were being destroyed at Kurukshetra. He told that drugs recovered by the police in 133 cases included nearly 2.98 quintal poppy husk (Chura post), 91 kg 796 gm gan-

Coach attendant in train arrested smuggling drugs

SATISH HANDA Ambala

Team of Crime Investigation Agency GRP led by Inspector Joginder Singh during a search campaign in Paschim Express train (No. 12926) running between Amritsar and Bandra railway stations recovered a case containing apples kept in luggage cabin of a train attendant in 1st class AC coach Chander Parkash originally hailing from village Shankar Pura in Allahabad

district (U.P.) on Tuesday. Inspector Joginder Singh told that when the wooden case containing apples was opened near Sonipat railway station three packets containing 3.5 kg Charas of value worth Rs 3 lakh were found under the apples and train attendant was arrested. GRP SP at Ambala Sangeeta Kalia told that a search campaign against drugs smuggling led by Dheerak Kumar DSP Headquarter is going on since past few months in which GRP



at railway stations and RPF in trains has recovered huge quantity of drugs from the smugglers carrying for supply to other destinations. A case was registered against Chander Parkash coach attendant under NDPS Act who during preliminary investigation admitted smuggling drugs first times due to desire to earn extra money and was given a slip carrying mobile number when the consignment will be collected by an unidentified person while giving a ring when train reaches at Bandra railway station.

Drug smuggler arrested with 1 kg 150 gm opium at Ambala

SATISH HANDA

Crime Investigation Agency of Ambala police on a clue arrested a drug smuggler identified as Ram Avtar a resident of village Kotha in Badaun district (U.P) carrying 1 kg 150 gm opium for sale at Ambala City. SP Ambala Jashandeep Singh Randhawa told media persons that police team led by Inspector Harjinder Singh while patrolling near Kalka Chowk on the national highway No. 1 at Ambala City got information that a man carrying drugs

is searching customer near Hari Palace theatre Ambala City when police team started search at Hari Palace Road and saw a person coming from Deha Colony side which is a drug retail supply centre in Ambala City. When searched police team recovered opium from bag he was carrying. Ram Avtar was arrested by police and a case under sections 18-61-1985 of NDPS Act was registered against him. Arrested accuse was produced in the court on November 3 and remanded to police custody for five days.



During preliminary investigation he admitted brought opium from U.P for sale in Ambala City and was in search of a customer at Deha Colony known as a retail sale centre of drugs in the town. Randhawa told that with effect from January 1, 2022 Ambala police has arrested 137 persons in illegal drugs smuggling business and registered 113 cases under NDPS Act so far and recovered from them 4 kg 95 gm heroine, 15 kg opium, 223 gm charas, 3.82 quintal poppy husk, 7 kg 911 gm ganja, 64664 intoxicated tablets, 9824 intoxicated capsules and 1950 intoxicated injections. He told that about a week ago huge stocks of drugs seized in various police raids from drug smugglers in Ambala police range were destroyed at Ambala.

Trust, credibility important for developed nation: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that for a developed country, trust and credibility are critical, noting that the earlier governments failed to earn people's trust.

Addressing a programme marking the vigilance awareness week of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) at Vigyan Bhawan, Modi said, "Earlier the governments not only lost people's confidence but they also failed to trust people."

"We have been trying to change the system of scarcity and pressure for the last eight years. The government is trying to fill the gap between the supply and demand," he added.



launched the Management System portal of CVC on the occasion. "For a developed India, trust and credibility

are critical," he said further, adding that technology, service saturation and Aatmirbharta are the three key ways of tack-

ling corruption. "For a developed India, we have to develop such an administrative ecosystem with

zero tolerance on corruption," Modi emphasised.

He suggested to the CVC officials present on the occasion to devise a way of ranking departments on the basis of pending corruption cases and publish the related reports on a monthly or quarterly basis.

"Institutions acting against the corrupt and corruption like the CVC don't have to be defensive," he advised.

"When you take action with conviction, the whole nation stands with you," said the Prime Minister.

Touching upon the worrying trend, the Prime Minister said, "We have seen that many times the corrupt people are glorified in spite of being jailed even after being proven to be

corrupt." "This situation is not good for Indian society. Even today, some people give arguments in favour of the corrupt who have been found guilty. It is very necessary for such people, such forces to be made aware of their duty by society. In this also concrete action taken by your department has a big role," he said.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, P.K. Mishra, Minister of State for Personnel & Parliamentary Affairs Jitendra Singh, Cabinet Secretary, Central Vigilance Commissioner Suresh Patel and Vigilance Commissioners P.K. Srivastava and Arvinda Kumar were also present on the occasion.

Parwanoo-Solan section of NH-05 contributing to prosperity of Himachal



NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, said on Tuesday that the Parwanoo-Solan section of NH-05 (old NH-22) in Himachal Pradesh has been developed under Phase III of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) from the end of Parwanoo bypass to Solan, adding that the infrastructure of 'New India' is developing at a fast pace under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Gadkari said presently this national highway is part of the ancient and historical route known as Hindustan-Tibet Road. In the 70s, it was upgraded to the NH specification.

The minister said that this national highway connects the districts of Solan, Sirmaur, Shimla, Kinnaur, Lahaul and

Spiti and its subdivisions, the Seraj region of Kullu district and the Karsog subdivision, which constitute more than 30 per cent of the land area in the state.

He said this project has brought a large number of electronic and non-polluting industries in the Shimla section of the state, in Parwanoo town, Solan and Sirmaur districts. Gadkari said the border areas of Kinnaur/Lahaul and Spiti have been opened by the government for domestic and foreign tourists. The influx of tourists has contributed significantly to the development of road traffic in these districts and to the all-round economic development of the state.

The minister said the road height in this project area is 874 to 1,659 metres above MSL (mean sea level).

BJP's CEC to meet on Guj poll candidates on Nov 10, PM may attend too



NEW DELHI: The BJP's Central Election Committee is likely to meet on November 10 to decide on the list of candidates for the Gujarat Assembly elections next month, party sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also likely to be attend the meeting in which party President J.P. Nadda, General Secretary B.L. Santhosh,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, among others, will be present.

As the Election Commission announced the Gujarat Assembly poll schedule, parties are rushing to finalise the names of the candidates.

Polling is scheduled for December 1 and 5 and counting will be on December 8.

AAP contesting Gujarat polls to help BJP : Jairam Ramesh

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday alleged that AAP is contesting elections in Gujarat to help BJP.

Claiming that the fight in Gujarat is between Congress and BJP, he said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) entered the fray to cut into Congress votes.

He was addressing a news conference during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra which entered Hyderabad this morning.

The former union minister claimed that AAP has no presence on ground in Gujarat and that it is engaged in shadow boxing with BJP. "The way AAP leaders are campaigning and raising issues, we see no difference between BJP and AAP. The two parties are engaged in shadow boxing," he said.

He alleged that through advertisements issued by AAP gov-



ernments in Delhi and Punjab, a false impression was created about the party's strength. "In Gujarat the fight is between Congress and BJP. AAP is the B team of BJP. AAP is contesting to divide the Congress votes," he said.

Muslimen (MIM) and described it as B team of BJP. "Both AAP and MIM are B team of BJP who contest elections in various states to cut into Congress votes," he said.

Replying to a query, he said MIM was earlier part of UPA and on the oxygen cylinder of Congress. "Today MIM is on BJP's oxygen cylinder. MIM gives booster dose to BJP. They are together."

He virtually ruled out Congress renewing friendship with MIM. "The way they are busy contesting elections in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and other states at BJP's instance to cut into Congress votes, I don't think this will happen," he said.

He remarked that a divorce has taken place. "This is a single Talaq, not triple talaq," he added without elaborating.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's ironclad will united India: Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI: Congress on Monday paid tributes to India's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary, with former party chief Rahul Gandhi saying the most fitting tribute to him would be to keep the flame of unity he ignited shining brighter than ever.

Patel is considered the chief architect of integration of the erstwhile princely states with the Union of India.

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's ironclad will united India. The most fitting tribute to him would be to keep the flame of unity he ignited shining brighter than ever," Gandhi said in a tweet.

Bharat Jodo Yatra: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi enters in Hyderabad



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Hyderabad on Tuesday to a huge response by the party cadres and supporters.

After covering Narayanpet, Mahabubnagar and Rangareddy districts, the yatra entered Hyderabad on the seventh day of its journey in Telangana.

Rahul Gandhi along with other party leaders and workers resumed the walkathon from Matha temple at Shamshabad on the city outskirts and entered the city through Bangalore-Hyderabad highway.

Congress MP and yatra coordinator for Telugu states Uttam Kumar Reddy, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, former MP Madhu Yashki Goud and other leaders along with hundreds of party workers were participating in the yatra.

The yatra will halt at Bahadurpura, where Rahul Gandhi will meet various groups and will have lunch and take rest. The foot march will resume in the evening and reach the historic Charminar after passing through Puranapul, Hussaini Alam and Khilwat. At the historic monument, Rahul Gandhi will hoist the national flag.

It was at the Charminar that Rahul Gandhi's late father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had launched Sadbhavana Yatra on October 19, 1990 for communal harmony in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

Every year, the Congress party organises Sadbhavana Yatra commemoration day at Charminar and presents awards to personalities working for peace and communal harmony. From Charminar, Rahul Gan-

dhi will lead the Bharat Jodo Yatra to Necklace Road on the banks of Hussain Sagar lake, which divides the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The yatra will pass through busy areas like Patthargatti, Madina Circle, Afzal Gunj, M.J Market, Nampally, Saifabad and Secretariat to reach Necklace Road.

The Congress MP will then garland the statue of his late grandmother and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Necklace Road and address a corner meeting. Congress leader and incharge for Telangana Manickam Tagore said Rahul Gandhi will also pay tributes to late Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, whose Samadhi is located at Necklace Road. Newly-elected Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will also be joining Bharat Jodo Yatra in Hyderabad later in the day.

He will walk for some distance with Rahul Gandhi and is likely to address the corner meeting at Necklace Road. Hyderabad police have made elaborate security arrangements for the yatra. They have imposed restrictions on movement of traffic on the yatra route.

Rahul Gandhi will have a night halt at the Gandhi Ideology Centre at Bowenpally in Secunderabad.

Following eviction notice, Mehbooba to move to relative's house on Srinagar outskirts



FW DESK

Mehbooba Mufti, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), will relocate to the outskirts of the city by November 15.

She was recently asked by the government to vacate her official residence on Gupkar road.

"Mehbooba Mufti will vacate the official house within seven to 10 days," a party leader told the media." She has decided to shift to a rela-

relative's house on the outskirts of city at Harwan. Many people offered the former CM accommodation, but she declined."

Mufti, her chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari said, had been offered a dilapidated place in Tulsi Bagh, which she found unsuitable.

Another PDP spokesman Mohit Bhan said that everyone knows that Mehbooba Mufti does not have a house to live in. "This is why the government is weaponising the accommodation," he said.

4 militants killed in anti-militancy operations in Kashmir: J&K Police



FW DESK

Four militants were killed in two separate anti-militancy operations in south Kashmir's Anantnag and Pulwama districts on Tuesday.

Two militants killed in Pulwama were planning to carry out a suicide attack on a security forces' camp, the

forces' camp. The Awantipora police and the Army averted a major terror incident."

The ADGP said Bhat was involved in the killing of one Assistant Sub-Inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force and two Railway Protection Force personnel.

One AK-47 rifle, one AK-56 rifle and one pistol were recovered from the encounter site at Pulwama's Awantipora.

Police also arrested three militants in Srinagar and "10 kilogrammes bucket Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and two hand grenades" were recovered from them.

"The IED is being destroyed in-situ in the Rangreth area by the Bomb Disposal Squad. A case has been registered under Sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, Arms Act, and Explosives Act," the police said.

Mamata Banerjee writes to PM, seeks excise relief on Bengal rice variety

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking exemption on the 20 per cent excise duty levied on the special rice variety 'Gobindobhog'.

According to the letter, "without exemption in excise duty, the exports for the particular variety of rice will be affected badly." The chief minister has also pointed out in the letter that in the absence of relief in excise, the farmers producing this particular variety of rice, will also suffer because of lack of exports.

The chief minister has also pointed out that Gobindobhog variety of rice was extremely popular in some European and West Asian countries like the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait. According to her, the Gobindobhog variety of rice is also used for various

religious occasions. The state government too encourages the farmers to produce this variety of rice for its popularity overseas, the letter said. The chief minister also pointed out that the Centre has recently exempted excise duty on Basmati rice and going by that logic similar relief should be allowed on Gobindobhog variety.

She also argued that since the price of the Gobindobhog variety is higher than the minimum support price (MSP), the relief in excise is necessary for the farmers to continue with the smooth production of the variety.

Morbi bridge collapse death toll over 130

MORBI: The death toll in Morbi suspension bridge collapse in Gujarat rose to over 130 on Monday with rescue personnel recovering more bodies from the Machchhu river, a police official said.

The over a century-old bridge, which had reopened five days ago after extensive repairs and renovation, was crammed with people when it collapsed around 6.30 pm on Sunday. "At least 160 deaths have been reported so far," the official said. Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi told reporters at Morbi, around 300 km from the state capital, that the state government has formed a committee



to probe the collapse. Eyewitnesses said there were several women and children on the British era "hanging bridge" when it snapped, plunging them into the water

below. Some people were seen jumping on the bridge and pulling its big wires, an eyewitness said, adding the bridge may have collapsed due to the "huge crowd" on it.

Morbi tragedy brings limelight back on safety

At least 140 people were killed after a suspension bridge, a tourist attraction in Gujarat's Morbi town, collapsed, sending hundreds of revellers into the Machchhu river below. At least 47 of the dead were children, making it one of India's most horrendous tragedies. Inaugurated in 1879, the bridge was renovated and opened on October 26, four days before the tragedy. This raises several concerns. A company that seems to have had no apparent expertise or track record in the field was awarded the contract. There are questions about the fitness of the bridge; in any case, it was not intended to carry more than 150 people at a time, according to reports. Hundreds were on the bridge when it snapped as there was no crowd control. People were allowed to walk into a death trap. All these point to a major failure of governance at various levels. Gujarat is among the richer States of India, but it has often faced governance challenges — its poor management of the pandemic is a case in point. Human acts of omission and commission often cause tragedies, and significantly change the impact of natural disasters. The police have arrested nine people. A thorough inquiry and the fixing of accountability must follow quickly. While tourism and travel are powerful engines of the economy, there must be more attention paid to ensure that they are safe and sustainable. Development of new centres where large numbers of people are expected should account for such contingencies. The rapid pace of road and infrastructure development in ecologically sensitive areas such as the Himalayas should be in accordance with topographic limitations. More must be done to regulate the flow of travellers according to the infrastructure capacity of particular destinations. Tourism promotion campaigns must include creating safety awareness among visitors and local officials.

LETTERBOX

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

Excellent Quotes by Warren Buffet

On Earning: "Never depend on single income. Make investment to create a second source".

On Spending: "If you buy things you do not need, soon you will have to sell things you need".

On Savings: "Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving".

On Taking Risk: "Never test the depth of river with both the feet".

On Investment: "Do not put all eggs in one basket".

On Expectations: "Honesty is very expensive gift. Do not expect it from cheap people".



Depreciation of the Rupee in comparison of the Dollar

Talking about India is facing most of its economic odds in the form of, unemployment, depreciation, CAD, etc. India is witnessing a continuous depreciation in its currency with a more than 9% depreciation in 2022. There is a difference between depreciation and devaluation as the second is done to make our exports cheaper to increase demand for domestic exports in the international market.

The currency exchange rate is slated to hit the low point of 83.2 per dollar and according to the projections of the International Monetary Fund, it is going to depreciate further to 94 per dollar. Although the rupee has been continuously depreciating throughout the period since the adoption of a flexible exchange rate system, the intensity of depreciation in the current times is high compared to what it used to be in the past. Many experts, however, believe that the Indian rupee has not performed that badly in comparison to other currencies. While the rupee has lost 9.8 per cent in the calendar year 2022, it has remained much more stable compared to the Japanese Yen, which is down 22.6% against the USD year to date. Others like the South Korean Won are down 17.1%, while the pound sterling is down 16.6%. The Euro is down 14.2%, the Philippines peso is down 13.6%, Taiwan dollar is down 13.5%. The currencies that are more stable than the INR include Indonesian Rupiah (down 8%), Singapore's dollar 5.4%, and the Hong Kong Dollar (down 0.7%), which showed data analysed by Kotak Institutional Securities.

Although there are many reasons for the depreciation of the rupee, some of the major causes can be discussed here. First is the Russia-Ukraine war leading to a rise in oil prices. India is one of the largest importers of crude oil, importing about 80% of its oil from outside. Hence, it



needs to pay more in import expenditures, which ultimately leads to an increase in the supply of the rupee in the market and results in its depreciation. Second is the uncertainty created by factors like the US economic slowdown, which enforces investors to park their assets in safe havens. Adding to that, the US Federal Reserve's tapering is attracting investors to move their assets out from low-yielding nations back to the US. All this resulted in the outflow of portfolio investments from India.

Post-COVID-19, foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign institutional investors (FII) favoured developed countries the most with an increase of 114% in the US, which is the largest host economy. Similarly, the FDI in China saw a 20% increase in 2021, while FDI inflows to India in 2021 were 26% lower, mainly because large merger and acquisition deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated. FIIs have also been on a selling spree across most emerging markets, including India where they have sold over \$7 billion worth of equities thus far in 2022 and

over \$11 billion since October 2021 when they started to unwind positions in India. Analysts say FIIs may choose to remain on the sidelines for now and come back strongly in the latter half of 2022 when the markets face relatively less uncertainty.

Depreciation of the currency is not always bad; sometimes countries need their currency to devalue to curb the balance of payments disequilibrium. A depreciated rupee can benefit the Indian economy by boosting exports, which account for 18.7% of India's GDP. But in the current scenario of low global demand, it is not going to benefit the country. Besides, the benefits, if acquired via exports, will be much lower than the losses, which India will have to face in the form of higher import prices. Due to depreciation, India's trade deficit is rising tremendously to a record high of \$26.1 billion and is expected to be \$105 billion by the end of this fiscal year, which equals 3% of its GDP. Efforts in the form of a tight monetary policy, rise in interest rates, and use of forex reserves are being made by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

to pull the Indian economy out of this situation. In this process, India's forex reserves fell by \$7.5 billion to their lowest in over 20 months as the RBI stepped up its intervention to protect the rupee from tumbling past 85 per dollar.

This is a double curse for the common man with the country going under high inflation and the prices of everyday items drastically going up. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, however, recently said that the Indian currency is relatively better placed than other global currencies against the greenback.

In the meantime, as the currency volatility continues, let's decode what this means for us.

How does a weak rupee impact you and the economy? Since India mostly depends on imports, including crude oil, metals, electronics, etc. the country makes payments in US dollars. Now if the rupee is weak, it has to pay more for the same quantity of items. In such cases, the cost of raw materials and production goes up which gets passed on to the consumers.

On the other hand, a weakening domestic currency boosts exports as shipments get more competitive and foreign buyers gain more purchasing power. However, in the current scenario of weak global demand and persistent volatility, exporters are not supportive of the currency fall.

The falling rupee's biggest impact is on inflation, given India imports over 80 per cent of its crude oil, which is the country's biggest import. The global crude prices have sustained at over \$100 a barrel since Russia invaded Ukraine in February this year. High oil prices and a weaker rupee will only add to inflationary pressures in the economy.

Dr. Harvinder Kaur, Associate Professor in Economics, Ambala, views are personal.



MANURAJ SHUNMUGASUNDARAM REVIEWS THE RECENT JUDGMENTS RELATE TO CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT

A pathway to citizenship for Indian-origin Tamils

The Supreme Court of India has now posted the 232 petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) to be heard on December 6, 2022. However, there is another issue linked to the subject, i.e., the unresolved status of Indian-origin Tamils who repatriated from Sri Lanka. For over four decades, nearly 30,000 Indian-origin Tamils have been classified as stateless persons, based on technicalities. Given their genealogical link to India, the Government of India needs to consider extending citizenship benefits to them in accordance with Indian bilateral obligations and international humanitarian principles and international conventions.

Under the British colonial government, Indian-origin Tamils were brought in as indentured labourers to work in plantations. They remained mostly legally undocumented and socially isolated from the native Sri Lankan Tamil and Sinhalese communities due to the policies of the British. After 1947, Sri Lanka witnessed rising Sinhalese nationalism, leaving no room for their political and civil participation. They were denied citizenship rights and existed as a 'stateless' population, numbering close to 10 lakh by 1960. As an ethno-linguistic minority without voting rights, this resulted in a double disadvantage till the two national governments addressed this issue.

Subsequently, under the bilateral Sirimavo-Shastri Pact (1964) and the Sirimavo-Gandhi Pact (1974), six lakh people along with their natural increase would be granted Indian citizenship upon their repatriation. Thus, the process of granting Indian-origin Tamils (who returned to India till around 1982) began. However, the Sri Lankan civil war resulted in a spike in Sri Lankan Tamils and Indian-origin Tamils together seeking asylum in India. This resulted in a Union Ministry of Home Affairs directive to stop the grant of citizenship to those who arrived in India after July 1983.



Furthermore, the focus of the Indian and Tamil Nadu governments shifted to refugee welfare and rehabilitation. Over the next 40 years, the legal destiny of Indian-origin Tamils has been largely intertwined with that of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, and both cohorts have been relegated to 'refugee' status. This is because Indian-origin Tamils who arrived after 1983 came through unauthorised channels or without proper documentation, and came to be classified as 'illegal migrants' as per the CAA 2003. This classification has resulted in their statelessness and blocking of potential legal pathways to citizenship.

Overcoming statelessness

While constitutional courts have not had an occasion to deal with the question of statelessness, there have been two recent judgments (Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, Justice G.R. Swaminathan), taking these issues head on. In P. Ulaganathan vs Government of India (2019), the status of citizenship of Indian-origin Tamils at the Kottapattu and Mandapam camps came up for consideration.

The court recognised the distinction between Indian-origin Tamils and Sri Lankan

Tamils and held that a continuous period of statelessness of Indian-origin Tamils offends their fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The court further held that the Union Government has implied powers to grant relaxation in conferring citizenship and prescribed that a humanitarian approach, shorn of the rigours of law, should be adopted.

On October 11, the court held in Abirami S. vs The Union of India 2022, that statelessness is something to be avoided. The court further held that the principles of the CAA, 2019, which relaxes the conditions for citizenship for Hindus from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, would also apply to Sri Lankan Tamil refugees. As such, these judgments have provided categorical judicial guidance to the Union of India on how to utilise an expanded and liberal interpretation of the CAA, 2019 to overcome statelessness.

The situation of statelessness of Indian-origin Tamils is 'de jure', created from the failure in implementing the 1964 and 1974 pacts. De jure statelessness is recognised in international customary law. Therefore, India has an obligation to remedy the situation. In the case of the Chakma refugees,

the Supreme Court (Committee for C.R. of C.A.P. and Ors. vs State of Arunachal Pradesh 2015) held that an undertaking made by the Government of India with respect to grant of citizenship inheres a right in the stateless or refugee population. As such, India has made repeated undertakings, through the 1964 and 1974 pacts, which have created a legitimate expectation among the Indian-origin Tamils and would entitle them to be granted citizenship.

Remedying statelessness is not a novel process in law. While dealing with a similar situation, in 1994, the United States enacted the Immigration and the Nationality Technical Corrections Act to retroactively grant citizenship to all children born to an alien father and citizen mother. Similarly, Brazil, through the Constitutional Amendment No. 54 of 2007 retroactively granted citizenship to children under jus sanguinis, which was earlier stripped by an earlier amendment, i.e., Constitutional Amendment No. 3 of 1994. Therefore, any corrective legislative action by the Government of India to eliminate statelessness should necessarily include retroactive citizenship for Indian-origin Tamils.

According to a recent report by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, "Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for Sri Lankan Refugees", there are around 29,500 Indian-origin Tamils currently living in India. As such, when the Union Government makes its case before the Supreme Court to extend citizenship to Indian-origin persons from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh seeking asylum in India, it cannot deny Indian-origin Tamils their rightful pathway to citizenship.

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram is an advocate practising before the Madras High Court and Spokesperson, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Inputs from Sheeba Devi L., advocate. Views are personal.



BOOKS: REVIEW

Short and sweet: Book on stories told in 140 characters

A collection of 250 tales, each under 140 characters and told by over 100 contributors, is set for a unique launch on Facebook Live. Penguin Random House and contemporary micro-fiction platform Terribly Tiny Tales have come together to bring out this handpicked collection.

The book will be launched on October 3 by Tanmay Bhat of the comedy sketch group All India Bakchod.

"The book features curated favourites from the TTT community and brand new tales as well as exclusive entries by Penguin's bestselling authors," Penguin said in a statement.

The publishers say each story in the collection is written in 140

characters or fewer, "waiting to stir a world".

Speaking on the book, Anuj Gosalia and Chintan Ruparel, the founders of the TTT community say, "From the time we started Terribly Tiny Tales, our community of readers has been waiting for the official book. With over a hundred writers and our very best stories from over a hundred thousand submissions, the first TTT book brings together the best of micro fiction from across India and the world."

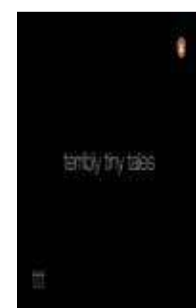
Tanmay Bhat jocularly says that the only reason he is involved in the launch is "because I get to get my hands on the book before anybody else".

"This is like a jar of little treats, best enjoyed one tiny tale at a time.

'The book features curated favourites from the TTT community and brand new tales as well as exclusive entries by Penguin's bestselling authors'

Amazing what the authors have been able to say with so few words. And so nice to read from an "old-fashioned" printed paper book," writes Jesper Hougaard, a reader. Shivalika Singh, another reader, wrote, "Hits home, words are powerful, this book displays it aptly with one liners or few lines, the writers have conveyed so many emotions."

An Amazon book buyer Karthik Krishnan wrote, "Thanks to longer



Terribly Tiny Tales
By a diverse pool of writers
Penguin Random House India
312 pages, Rs250

working hours and shorter attention spans, reading as a habit is on the decline. And I'm one of those who doesn't read much, even for a writer. But the joy of seeing my tales in Terribly Tiny Tales' first book (and becoming a published writer in the process) is unparalleled.

"It's not just a book - it's a bunch of warm and fuzzy feels as well as cold and sharp reality checks embroidered together, perfect for anyone of any age. From the first page to the last, it's a roller-coaster that makes stops in different scenarios with its stories and takes

you into the minds of a hundred writers, each with a unique voice - who pen magic in 140 characters.

"And just like any classic movie with incredible rewatch value, this book has genuine re-read value. Adorn your bookshelf with this gem or gift it to someone who loves to read - either way, it's a must-buy," she added.

Shivani Rohella wrote, "This one's for keeps, on a tiny shelf of your heart. I couldn't agree more with the description printed on the book because this collection of micro-fictional writings from numerous writers has an interesting blend of emotions, experiences, aspirations and feelings."

"The stories written in less than 140 characters will surely touch one's soul and its various themes has a treat for everyone. Why to buy this book : To simply appreciate the pure talent of the writers and the team of @tnt_official who came together to create this.

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PM virtually Inaugurates 'Invest Karnataka 2022', Global investors meet in Bengaluru

ARUNKUMAR RAO
Bengaluru

The Karnataka Government Signed MoUs worth Rs 2.1 Lakh crore on the Inaugural day of "Invest Karnataka 2022", its flagship Global Investors' meet in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the The Global Investors Meet and invited investors from all across the world to come and invest in Karnataka. "I can see that companies from all over the world are participating in this meet. I have been told that investment partnerships worth thousands of crores of rupees are expected to fructify during the event, and it will generate employment opportunities for the youth at a large scale," he said.

In his Inaugural speech Modi said that Karnataka represented a wonderful confluence of technology and culture. "This is a place that is known for its architect-



ture as well as vibrant start-up ecosystem. Whenever talent and technology are talked about, the brand Bengaluru comes to mind first, and this name is established not only in India but worldwide. The state is also known for its natural hotspots. I am happy that GIM is happening in India, and it is a perfect example of competitive and cooperative federalism," he added.

The Prime Minister expressed that while the whole world is passing through a crisis, India is being identified as a bright spot by experts and econo-

mists, and we are working on our fundamentals to strengthen our economy further. "The number of Free Trade Agreements that we have signed in the last few months have indicated towards our preparation to the world," he said.

On this occasion he added that the power of a double-engine government was propelling the development of Karnataka, adding that, "Investing in India means investing in inclusion, investing in Democracy, investing for the world, and investing for a bet-

ter, cleaner and a safer planet". The three days 'Invest Karnataka' event launched under the theme of 'Build for the World' theme.

Karnataka Chief Minister Bommai assured all support from his government to the investors in the state and said that "Karnataka is a pioneer in recovery from the covid impact. The state has been able to garner good investment post-covid. This shows the trust our investors have in us who have all gathered here at the Global Investors Meet." He said, Government will provide "all permissions

and clearances" to investment proposals signed during the ongoing global investors meet within three months and make them a reality. Speaking during inaugural ceremony cm Bommai said first of three days meet, "expects to attract Rs 7 Lakh crore in investment proposals and MoUs have already been signed for 2.8 lakh crore proposals. "In the future, I am convinced that Karnataka will be the global center of innovation and research & development," he added. Among the top industrialists spoke on investment, Chairman Jindal Group, Sajjan Jindal, Vice Chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd, Shri Vikram S Kirloskar, Chairman, Wipro, S Rishad Premji; Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, Rajan Bharti Mitta; CEO, Adani Ports and SEZ, Karan Adani and MD, Sterlite Power, Pratik Agarwal and shared their experience in Karnataka and expressed continued interest in the state.

Phone sales will drop much more than expected in 2022: Qualcomm

Chip-maker Qualcomm has announced that phone sales will be down much more than expected, in low double-digit, this year owing to the unpredictable global economic environment.

Announcing the fiscal fourth quarter results, Cristiano Amon, President and CEO of Qualcomm, said that "while our financial outlook is being temporarily impacted by elevated channel inventory, our diversification strategy and long-term opportunities remain unchanged".

"Given the uncertainty caused by the macroeconomic environment, we are updating our guidance for calendar year 2022 3G/4G/5G handset volumes from a year-over-year mid-single-digit percentage decline, to a low double-digit percentage decline," Qualcomm said in a statement late on Wednesday. Akash Palkhiwala, Chief Financial Officer, said that "We now project 3G, 4G, 5G handset volumes in calendar 2022 to



decline by low double digits on a year-over-year basis, including 600 million to 650 million 5G handsets".

The rapid deterioration in demand and easing of supply constraints across the semiconductor industry have resulted in elevated channel inventory, the company noted.

In its Q4, the company delivered record revenues of \$11.4 billion, reflecting record revenues in its chipset business and solid performance in licensing.

The FY22 revenues of \$44 billion were up 32 per cent year over year.

"In handsets, we entered into a new multiyear agreement with Samsung, expanding the use of Snapdragon platforms for future premium Samsung Galaxy products globally," said Amon.

World Gold Council: A strong third quarter lifts gold demand to pre-pandemic levels



FW DESK

The World Gold Council's latest Gold Demand Trends report reveals that gold demand (excluding OTC) in the third quarter of 2022 hit 1,181 tonnes, up 28% year-on-year. Strong demand pushed the year-to-date total to pre-COVID levels. Gold demand was bolstered by consumers and central banks, although there was a notable contraction in investment demand.

Investment was down 47% year-on-year, as ETF investors responded to a challenging combination of markedly higher interest rates and a strong US dollar with significant outflows of 227t. These movements, alongside weakness in OTC demand and negative sentiment in futures markets, hampered gold's price performance — contributing to an 8% quarter-on-quarter drop in the price during Q3 2022.

Despite these headwinds, gold continued to hold favour with retail investors who reacted to different market cues and turned to gold for its status as a store of value amidst rampant inflation and geopolitical uncertainty. Investors sought to hedge inflation with bar and coin investment, driving total retail demand up 36% y-o-y. This was supported by significant purchasing in Turkey (up more than fivefold y-o-y) and in Germany (up 25% y-o-y at 42t), but also from visible contributions across all major markets.

Jewellery consumption continued to rebound and is now back to pre-pandemic levels, reaching 523t — 10% higher compared to Q3 2021.

SIS Group Enterprises announces its partnership with Practo

NEW DELHI: SIS Group Enterprises, a market leader in security, cash logistics and facility management with presence in India and Asia-Pacific (APAC), today, announced its partnership with Practo, India's leading integrated healthcare company to empower its employees with customised corporate health and wellness plans.

The partnership will enable SIS Group employees and their families to avail the benefits of a flexible consultation model (online or physical) with doctors across 23+ specialities, in addition to services like preventive/diagnostic health checkups, secondary care surgeries and medicine delivery.

Through Practo's Corporate Health benefits plan, SIS Group employees will get 15 free online consultations every month. Apart from covering traditional specialities like General Physician, Gynaecology, and Pediatrics, these plans also include super specialities like Cardiology, Oncology, and Neurology.

Airbnb and IndiGo come together for an 'InterFriendtion'



FW DESK
New Delhi

Constantly dreaming of a leisurely getaway with your friends? Looking to create new memories instead of reminiscing old ones? For the first time, Airbnb and IndiGo have come together to offer three lucky individuals (and up to one companion each) the ultimate dream adventure to "InterFriendtion" anywhere in India*.

Through the contest, Airbnb and IndiGo are seeking three special winners who will fly and live anywhere in India for a vacation of a lifetime with

their friend.

The winner will win an incredible US\$1000 each worth of Airbnb credits to book a domestic Airbnb stay of their choice and IndiGo will sponsor the return tickets for these winners and their companion to that destination! During their travel, the winners and their companions will get to travel to their bucket list destination with IndiGo and stay in some of India's most unique Airbnb's.

"Indians today are eager to travel and are seeking unique, meaningful and restorative experiences with their loved ones."

DP World taps young tech innovators to create new global trade solutions



FW DESK
New Delhi

DP World recently opened its doors to students from the top universities in UAE and India to reimagine global supply chains and create new technology-driven solutions in its first-ever innovation challenge, THE BIG TECH PROJECT.

DP World challenged the university students to design and build prototypes of their proposed trade solutions, under the expert guidance of mentors from DP World's Global Technology team.

After receiving dozens of entries, four finalists have now been selected, with three from India and one from the UAE. They will be flown on an all-expenses paid trip to Dubai in November to present their solutions to DP World's THE BIG TECH PROJECT jury.

The grand finale will take place at the end of November where the finalists will compete for DP World's first-ever Student Innovators title. All finalists will be given guaranteed internships at DP World and MacBook laptops, while the winner and runner up will receive cash prizes as well.

"By digitising a traditionally analogue industry, DP World aims to make trade smarter, to keep it flowing, increase visibility and minimise disruption. This is how trade networks fit for the future are built. Initiatives like THE BIG TECH PROJECT will help us accelerate this trend by tapping into the creativity of some of the brightest young minds in India and the UAE."

The Nissan Magnite continues to be the preferred choice of vehicle in the B-SUV segment and has garnered over 1 lakh bookings.

Former Joint Secretary MoP Vishal Kapoor Joins EESL as CEO

NEW DELHI: Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Power has announced the appointment of Vishal Kapoor as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Kapoor graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering (IRIMEE). Holding a Masters degree from National University of Singapore, he has also pursued the Advanced Management Program in Public Policy from Indian School of Business. Kapoor takes charge as CEO, EESL after having completed his tenure as Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

As Joint Secretary, his role entailed leading various government interventions, schemes, and reforms in the Distribution Sector. Furthermore, he was spearheading cyber security and IT initiatives in the power sector. Kapoor has



played an instrumental role in formulating the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme for Operational and Financial turnaround of Distribution Utilities. In his previous roles with the Indian Railways, he has worked in various capacities in design, operations and maintenance of Rolling Stock of Indian Railways. Amongst his other accomplishments are the introduction of high-capacity car carrying freight cars in India and export of more than a dozen locomotives

to Tanzania and Myanmar.

Sharing his thoughts, Vishal Kapoor said, "EESL Group has been at the forefront of India's journey towards sustainability and self-reliance. The time is now ripe to recognize the potential of energy efficiency, demand side management, electric mobility, and renewables in India's energy matrix. The Government of India has acknowledged EESL's potential as the key pillar in leading India towards energy security.

40% of Indians have been targeted by a scam when shopping online during the festive season: Report

FW DESK
New Delhi

Norton, a global leader in consumer Cyber Safety, today published Indian findings from a global study conducted online in August 2022 among 1,001 Indian adults aged 18+ by The Harris Poll on behalf of Norton-LifeLock that explored attitudes towards Cyber Safety and online shopping during the festive season. The report highlights the importance of taking precautions with your personal information online. The findings reveal that all (100%) of those planning to shop during the 2022 festive season expect to do so online, with 61% saying that they expect to do more than half of their festive season shopping online. The festive season is often a



time when many people buy gifts for their family and friends. This holiday season, Indian adults surveyed expect tech-based gifts including smartphones (64%), smart watches (55%), and smart home devices (47%) to be the most sought out gifts. Though only a small minority of adults in India surveyed (8%) plan to buy fewer technology gifts this festive season compared to years past, over 4 in 5 of those planning to buy less tech gifts (84%) say this is due to concerns of rising costs of living and inflation. To help with inflation/the rising

cost of living, most Indians surveyed (91%) are likely to take cost cutting measures of some kind this festive season, which for some includes clicking on a questionable link offering them a good deal on technology products (36%) or a reduced energy bill (29%).

"Festivals bring friends and family together. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of online shoppers, and with that the rise in online shopping scams, gift card frauds, postal delivery frauds. Our Norton report also suggests that many Indian adults surveyed who have fallen victim and been defrauded while online shopping have been impacted financially and have lost money as a result, their average loss of those surveyed being INR 6216.

Free foreign education counselling platform for Students, HALP.co enters India



NEW DELHI: Halp, one of the world's largest tech-enabled international college admissions coaching platforms, has announced its entry in India to support students aspiring to study abroad. Halp, backed by Tennis legend Serena Williams, has entered the Indian education sector by setting up its offices in Mumbai, Delhi, and Punjab. With its 1:1 digital assistance model and free end-to-end coaching support, Halp is already a trusted name among thousands of students worldwide.

Along with admissions counselling, Halp coaches assist the students with end-to-end support in setting up a new life in the new country; including flights, phone plans, bank accounts, accommodation, VISA, scholarship, loan and everything that they need to start their education in that country. "We want students to save their money so they can afford to study abroad at their desired institution. We are the only company offering premium, end-to-end coaching for free", said Matthew McLellan, Co-founder & CEO, Halp.

McLellan added, "Halp is working on removing the trust gap created by commission agents of international universities, bringing transparency and increasing the chances of getting admission into the right colleges with the right advice". Studying abroad in the college of one's dreams can enrich and transform a student's life in multiple ways; from exposing them to diverse cultural and learning experiences, to exponentially accelerating their career growth.

Nissan India registers wholesales of 10,011 vehicles in Oct 2022

FW DESK
Gurugram

Nissan Motor India announced cumulative wholesales of 10,011 units, inclusive of domestic wholesales of 3061 units and export wholesales of 6950 units, in the month of October 2022. The cumulative wholesale YTD growth stood at 22% as compared to the same period last year.

Rakesh Srivastava, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, commented, "Festive season has strong momentum of increased number of deliveries, with customer pref-



erence for early delivery and ease of finance. Preference of customers was for SUVs specially amongst the first time and replacement buyers. We are confident that demand will continue to rise with an improvement in economic growth, customer sentiment and with improvement in supply."

In the month of October, Nissan showcased to the media its intended portfolio expansion in India of globally established and premium products, the Nissan X-Trail, Qashqai, and the Juke, and has started running feasibility tests around its manufacturing facility in Chennai. The X-Trail would be the first model that would be introduced in Indian market once the tests conclude.

The Nissan Magnite continues to be the preferred choice of vehicle in the B-SUV segment and has garnered over 1 lakh bookings.

CANSO highlights earth to Sky Air travel infrastructure growth

DOMINICK RODRIGUES

The race for air space has begun globally as countries "vie for a chunk of the air travel pie" in the sky. In the near future, fines and tickets for air traffic violations may be handed out by air traffic cops to errant air vehicles.

The occasion was the CANSO Asia Pacific Conference held in Panjim Goa from November 1 to 3, where delegates and exhibitors from the Asia-Pacific region held discussions on collaborating on key issues that will help shape the future of Asia's aviation industry and turn the Complete Air Traffic System (CATS) Global Council's vision for the skies of 2045 into a reality.

Simon Hocquard, Director-General, (Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation - CANSO), said "We are at a critical juncture as Covid-19 affected global economies, which witnessed aviation plummeting by 60%, though domestic air traffic remained strong."

"Aviation has reached a tipping point and we need to focus on how we can restore public confidence in air travel. Many



short-term challenges need to be addressed. However, now the skies are set to be crowded in proliferation of U.S. users taking to the skies with info-centric networks and digitalization being the key words, and focus on future airspace being more +scalable+, sustainable and resilient though we need to work with our different stakeholders in this regard."

Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Civil Aviation, Government of India, said despite Covid-19, Indian aviation witnessed 95% domestic air traffic and presently Delhi was expected to witness 100 million air travelers by next

ing in about five years. We have a policy for drones, which we even manufacture in India. However, cost-effectiveness is important in our high aspirations where we must think at global and collaborative levels while also ensuring that our skies are technologically advanced," he added.

Poh Theen Soh, CANSO Director, Asia Pacific Affairs, said that with air traffic recovering, it was time to look beyond covid-19 and to the future. Building on the CATS vision, Asia Pacific Air Navigation Service providers can step up collaboration and tackle crucial subjects like sustainability, while also embracing and exploiting technology.

Kok Juan Han (DG/Chairman, Asia Pacific/ CEO, Committee CAAS/CANSO), said despite the last two years being difficult for civil aviation, IATA air traffic levels are expected to be at 83% by 2022-end and on strong track to recovery.

He said that despite tensions in Europe and Covid-19 introducing unprecedented challenges that placed tremendous responsibility on infrastructure, air travel capacity has to be built in a +holistic+ fashion.

Microsoft expands Cyber Shiksha to accelerate cyber security skilling opportunities

FW DESK
New Delhi

Continuing to support the cybersecurity ecosystem in the country, Microsoft announced the expansion of its CyberShiksha program in association with the Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Tata STRIVE, and ICT Academy. In the next three years, the program aspires to reach 45,000 women and underserved youth with technical skills for careers in cybersecurity and provide internships/job opportunities for 10,000 learners.

Aiming to build a strong pool of diverse cybersecurity talent in the country, CyberShiksha launched by Microsoft and DSCI in 2018, has successfully trained 1,100 women and employed more than 800 women through multiple training batches. More than 5,000 underserved youth have also been trained in Cybersecurity Beginners modules. CyberShiksha for Educators with ICT Academy, the latest addition to the CyberShiksha portfolio launched in June 2022



for providing cybersecurity training to 400 faculty members, will help build cybersecurity careers for 6,000 underserved students across 100 rural technical institutions and facilitate job opportunities for over 1,500 students.

In its fifth year, CyberShiksha will focus on scaling the program, leveraging industry partnerships, and conducting specialized training for careers in the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) industry. Expanding its reach into semi-urban and rural locations of the country, the program will offer AI/ML training for cybersecurity product development and enable

cybersecurity certifications through an enhanced Cybersecurity Beginners program named 'Ready4Cybersecurity'. More than 10,000 rural underserved youth will be enabled with Ready4Cybersecurity certifications.

The announcement was made in New Delhi in the presence of Rama Vedashree, former chief executive officer of DSCI; Tom Burt, corporate vice president - customer security and trust, Microsoft Corp; Dr. Rohini Srivathsa, national technology officer, Microsoft India; Hari Balachandran, chief executive officer, ICT Academy; and Rajarshi Mukherjee, principal lead - partnerships, Tata STRIVE.

Indigo reports net loss of Rs 15,833 million in Q2 FY22-23

Airline IndiGo reported a loss of Rs 3, 818 million, excluding foreign exchange loss, for the quarter ending September 2022, compared to a loss of Rs 14, 699 for the same quarter last year.

Including the foreign exchange loss of Rs 12, 015 million, the net loss for the September 2022 quarter aggregated to Rs 15, 833 million.

Total income for the quarter ended September 2022 was Rs 128, 523 million, an increase of 121.6 per cent over the same period last year. For the quarter, passenger ticket revenues were Rs 111, 104 million, an increase of 135.6 per cent and ancillary revenues were Rs 12, 872 million, an increase of 57.4 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Company CEO, Pieter Elbers said: "This is the second con-



secutive quarter wherein we have operated at higher than pre-Covid capacity. In spite of a seasonally weak quarter, we witnessed relatively good yields with strong demand across the network. However, fuel prices and exchange rates have adversely impacted our financial performance."

"We are on a steady path to recovery, benefiting from enormous opportunity both in domestic and international markets. With an industry challenged by global supply chain disruptions, we are working on various counter measures to accommodate this strong demand. We have an unparal-

leled network presence enabling air travel to 74 domestic and 26 International destinations, we will continue to accelerate and build on this," he added.

Total expenses for the quarter ended September 2022 were Rs 144, 356 million, an increase of 99.5 per cent over the same quarter last year.

For the quarter ended September 30, 2022, compared to the same period last year IndiGo airline's capacity increased by 75 per cent and passenger numbers increased by 75.9 per cent to 19.7 million.

"Overall, IndiGo has been recovering faster than the market, having operated two quarters at full capacity. Our capacity stands at 107 per cent in Q2 FY22-23 quarter, compared to Q3 FY19-20; while the industry capacity recovery is at 85 per cent as per the same compari-

son. This quarter the industry witnessed reduced traffic due to seasonality. While the industry witnessed a dip to 79 per cent of the passengers carried in Q2 FY22-23 quarter, compared to Q3 FY19-20, IndiGo carried 97 per cent of the passengers in Q2 FY22-23 quarter, compared to Q3 FY19-20, "the airline said.

As of September 30, IndiGo had a total cash balance of Rs 196, 606 million comprising Rs 82, 442 million of free cash and Rs 114, 164 million of restricted cash. The total debt (including the capitalised operating lease liability) was Rs 409, 452 million.

Indigo has a fleet of 279 aircraft including 26 A320 CEOs, 149 A320 NEOs, 68 A321 NEOs, 35 ATRs and 1 A321 freighter - a net decrease of 3 passenger aircraft during the quarter.

Dubai-based fraudster dupes bizman of Rs 17L through bitcoin sale



Investing in Bitcoin proved costly for a businessman based in South Delhi, who lost Rs 17 lakh to a Dubai-based fraudster, who was using the bank account of an Aligarh-based man to commit the fraud, police said.

The South Delhi Cyber Police arrested the Aligarh resident, who shared his banking access to the fraudster on commission basis in this regard.

A senior police official said that the accused was identified as Sarik Naseem. The police said that they have freed Rs 3, 84, 897 from the bank account of the accused. The official added that on October 10, they received a complaint in this regard at South Delhi Cyber police station.

The complainant alleged

the same briefly. After that, the police coordinated with the officials of the concerned bank where the cheated money was transferred and got the account of the beneficiary freed," the police said. The police added that all possible technical details about the alleged person were obtained and sources were deployed to track the accused. The police used technical surveillance and came to know that the accused was hiding in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh. A police team was immediately sent and Naseem was held. He told the police that he had shared his bank account details and access for mobile banking apps to a resident of Meerut, who currently lives in Dubai, on commission basis.

that he was cheated to the tune of Rs 17 lakh on the pretext of investment in USDT Bitcoin by the accused. The police after receiving the complaint filed an FIR in this regard under sections 420, 120-B read with section 34 of the IPC.

"During the course of investigation, the police team started working on various angles of the case. The complainant was enquired thoroughly to get supplementary details of the case. The team collected the bank account statement of the accused and analysed

Buyer-seller relationship with Russia, says Hardeep Puri on crude purchases



Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri on Wednesday said that though India got discounted crude oil from Russia in May and June this year, "buyer-seller" relationship between the two countries.

Replying to a question on crude oil supplies from Russia, the minister said that he has spoken a lot about it in interviews (referring to his interview to CNN on Tuesday in Abu Dhabi, where he had said that India had no moral conflict in buying Russian crude), but went on to say that "there is no discount in price from Russia. There were discounts in May and June but then others (countries) also started giving discounts. So now it's a buyer-seller relationship (with Russia)".

On fuel prices being stable for the past five months in the country, the minister said that though prices of oil and gas have been rising globally, the prices have not risen by that much in India.

"With quiet confidence we will navigate the situation," he said.

K'taka inks MoUs for investments worth around Rs 10 lakh crore



BENGALURU: Karnataka has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for investments worth nearly Rs 10 lakh crore, during the three-day Global Investors' Meet (GIM) - 'Invest Karnataka 2022', which concluded here on Friday.

Over Rs 2 lakh crore of these investment proposals, are said to be in the green energy sector.

"Investments (proposals) have come beyond our expectations...we are a very serious government and want serious investors...these MoUs are just an indicator. How much of these MoUs gets converted into investments is important," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said addressing the valedictory function of GIM.

Bank of England warns of longest recession in 100 yrs

Bank of England has warned the UK risked being plunged into the longest recession in 100 years after it pushed up the cost of borrowing to 3 per cent in the biggest single interest rate rise since 1989.

A 0.75 per cent increase, the latest in a series of eight interest rate rises since last year, would not be enough to guarantee victory in the war against double-digit inflation, the Bank said, as it cautioned further action would be needed.

The UK economy faces a "very challenging outlook", with a recession that began this summer now expected to last until the middle of 2024, the Guardian reported.

With the possibility of a general election being held in 2024, the Conservatives face campaigning to remain in government at the tail end of a prolonged slump, during which the Bank said it expected unemployment to rise from 3.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent.



However, there was some relief for mortgage holders as the central bank downplayed City expectations of a steep rise in the cost of borrowing to above 5 per cent, arguing that the prospect of a two-year recession meant it was likely to take a much less aggressive stance.

Andrew Bailey, the Bank's Governor, said: "We can't make promises about future interest rates, but based on

where we stand today, we think the bank rate will have to go up by less than currently priced in financial markets."

The last time UK rates rose by more than 0.5 per cent was in 1989, reports the Guardian.

John Major's government was forced into a 2 per cent rise during the exchange rate mechanism crisis in 1992, though for less than 24 hours before it was scrapped.

Indian car makers drove good sales in Oct



With the festive season on, car makers, leading with Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, closed October with good sales numbers.

However, the shortage of electronic components had put brakes on the overall sales.

According to Maruti Suzuki, it had sold a total of 167, 520 units (domestic 143, 250 units, sales to other car makers 3, 822, exports 20, 448 units) in October 2022 up from 138, 335 units (domestic 112, 788 units, sales to other car maker 4, 225 units, exports 21, 322 units).

Hyundai Motor India Ltd sold 58, 006 units (domestic 48, 001 units, exports 10, 005 units) last month as against 43, 556 units (domestic 37, 021 units, exports 6, 535 units) sold in October 2021.

Utility vehicle major Ma-

hindra and Mahindra Ltd said it had sold 32, 298 passenger vehicles last month in the domestic market, up from 20, 130 units sold in October 2021.

On the other hand, Tata Motors Ltd said it had sold 45, 423 passenger vehicles last month (34, 155 units sold in October 2021).

Interestingly for Nissan Motor India, exports outnumbered its domestic sales last month. The company had sold a total of 10, 011 units out of which exports were 6, 950 units and domestic sales were 3, 061 units.

Other car makers like Toyota Kirloskar Motor said it had sold 13, 143 units last month (12, 440 units), Honda Cars India Ltd last month sold 11, 221 units (9, 855 units) and MG Motor India, 4, 367 units.

NIIT acquires US-based St. Charles Consulting Group for \$23.4 mn



Global skills and talent development corporation NIIT Ltd on Saturday announced it has acquired US-based St. Charles Consulting Group for \$23.4 million.

Headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois, St. Charles Consulting Group is a leading provider of consulting, design, and implementation solutions for strategic learning programmes to professional services firms and Fortune 500 companies.

The acquisition will help NIIT add significant presence in the professional services and management consulting sectors while strengthening its growing learning consulting practice.

"St Charles Consulting Group brings deep expertise and experience in building strategic learning programs which are in high demand across our customer base," said Sapanesh Lalla, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, NIIT Limited.

"The acquisition of St. Charles Consulting Group will give our customers access to an expanded capability of consulting, designing, and implementing strategic learning programme," said DJ Chadha, Chief Customer Officer, NIIT Ltd.

"As a result of the current business climate, St. Charles has experienced incredible growth over the last few years, helping our clients in this new frontier of learning," Chadha added.

Proptech firm Opendoor lays off 550 employees amid challenging market

Proptech platform Opendoor has laid off nearly 550 employees, or 18 per cent of its workforce, as the real estate technology company navigates through "one of the most challenging real estate markets in 40 years."

The company's CEO and Co-founder Eric Wu said in a blog post that prior to the fresh firing round, they scaled back their capacity by over 830 positions -- primarily by reducing third party resourcing -- and

eliminating millions of fixed expenses.

"We've made the difficult decision to reduce our team by 550 people across all functions -- approximately 18 per cent of the company," Wu said late on Wednesday.

The affected employees will get 10 weeks of severance pay, with an additional two weeks of pay for every full year beyond two years of tenure.

"All current healthcare benefits will remain active for the



rest of the month, then we will pay for three months of health insurance," said Wu.

the SPAC Social Capital Hedosophia Holdings II.

The company was last valued at just \$1.56 billion, down from a valuation of \$8 billion in 2021. Opendoor said it will offer job transition support and launch an opt-in talent directory to help departing team members connect with new opportunities.

The company last raised \$300 million at a \$3.5 billion pre-money valuation in March 2019.

Indian Railways, Bhutan discuss trade collaboration



The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) and Bhutan have discussed undertaking trade collaborations between the NFR and the neighbouring country, supporting the logistics avenues for future linkages, officials said on Tuesday.

NFR's Chief Public Relations Officer Sabyasachi De said that a business development meeting was held recently in the NFR's Alipurduar division and delegations from Bhutan government's foreign ministry, trade bodies and chamber of commerce were attended the meeting.

The visiting delegations visited Hasimara railway station where an infrastructure is being strategically developed by the NFR for enabling trade with Bhutan.

The CPRO said that a plan to build a siding along with a warehouse in collaboration

The Alipurduar division relayed to the delegates of Bhutan Government, the vision of railways as the prime eco-friendly mode of transportation for goods logistic

with the Central Warehousing Corporation is underway to promote logistic trade with Bhutan.

In fact, Indian Railways has already delivered its first consignment of goods to Bhutan through a multi-modal route consisting of 75 utility vehicles.

The vehicles were transported from Chennai to Hasimara railway station by New

Modified Goods (NMG) rake -- a rake specially designed to transport light motor vehicles (LMV), that reached Alipurduar division on October, 28 and then the consignment was taken to Bhutan by roadways.

The delegation intends to visit Changrabandha station in the near future.

Discussions related to movement of automobiles, cement, stone commodities and augmenting people to people connection and tourism development were also held.

The Alipurduar division relayed to the delegates of Bhutan Government, the vision of railways as the prime eco-friendly mode of transportation for goods logistic and as a sustainable option for mass movement in the country and also in South-East Asia, De said.

NFR officials explained to the Bhutanese delegations the cost competitiveness and strategic abilities to transport goods in bulk and expeditiously to markets across India and Bhutan.

Indian Railways already undertook new projects for cross-border linkages by laying a broad-gauge railway track from Kokrajhar (Assam) in India to Gelephu in Bhutan, the CPRO stated.

Indian professionals to benefit from Hong Kong's new talent scheme



The vast Indian talent pool in fintech, logistics and banking sectors is set to benefit from Hong Kong's new visa scheme, which was announced recently to stem a brain drain that has risked the city's status as an international financial centre.

With the city's workforce shrinking by about 140, 000 people over the last two years, Chief Executive John Lee announced the "Top Talent Pass Scheme" this month, which includes incentives for high earners and top university graduates.

The scheme grants a two-year visa to individuals who earn no less than HK\$2.5 million (US\$318, 000) annually, and graduates of the world's top 100 universities with at least three years' working experience over the past five years.

There are more than 42, 000 Indians in Hong Kong, and nearly 33, 000 of them hold Indian passports, says a July 2022 update on the web-

site of Consulate General of India in Hong Kong.

"Increasingly, a large number of Indian professionals are coming to Hong Kong, working in the service industry, banking and finance, information technology, shipping, among others," it said.

As per the government data, Hong Kong approved 1, 034 visa applications from Indians under its general employment policy in 2021, and 560 applications in the first six months of 2022. Prior to the pandemic, 2, 684 visas were issued to Indian nationals in 2019 under the same general employment policy.

As far as the Indian talent pool in Hong Kong is concerned, the city has largely been able to retain it, as a result of which it remains a popular destination for prospective Indian workers who wish to move, industry insiders told South China Morning Post.

ASSAM: In first pvt funding for govt medical college, firm pledges Rs 150crore



GUWAHATI: The Assam government on Friday joined hands with Mumbai-based Bright Star Investments for the construction of an upcoming medical college in the state capital, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

After signing the memorandum of understanding, Sarma said this is the first time that the state government is partnering with a private player to develop the infrastructure of a medical college.

"We have tied-up for the second medical college in Guwahati. Bright Star Investments will put in Rs 150 crore to build the academic block, UG and intern hostels of the institute," he said.

Main congregation of 100 year centenary of Saka held at Gurdwara Panja Sahib, Pakistan

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

The main centenary congregation of Shaheedi Saka (martyrdom massacre) Panja Sahib that took place 100 years ago, was organised at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Pakistan on Sunday, which was attended by many Panthic personalities.

In a press statement issued by the SGPC here today said that in this centenary event organised jointly by Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (PSGPC) and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Jathedar of Akal Takht Sahib Giani Harpreet Singh said in his address that the martyrs of Saka Panja Sahib were committed to the Sikh beliefs, who sacrificed their lives for strengthening Sikh institutions.

Jathedar said that after the partition of the country, many Gurdhams (Sikh shrines), including Gurdwara Panja Sahib, were left in Pakistan, towards which the Sikh community has deep reverence and devotion. He said Sikhs should have an open opportunity to visit these shrines which were separate from the community.



"The governments of both India and Pakistan should make arrangements to grant on-arrival visas to the Sikhs wishing to visit the shrines on either side, so that the pilgrims can visit their shrines without any inconvenience and pay obeisance", said Giani Harpreet Singh.

Jathedar said that the Sikhs want smooth relations between the two countries, because whenever there is bitterness in the relations between both the nations, the movement of Sikh jathas is affected firstly. Jathedar said that it is not right to keep the train service stopped for the pilgrims coming to Pakistan. "Because of the closure of affordable train service, there is a financial burden on the common pilgrims. I urge the governments of both the countries to pay attention

to this important issue and restore the long running train service", said Giani Harpreet Singh.

Jathedar Akal Takht Sahib also mentioned the issue of non-release of Sikh prisoners during his address. The Jathedar also asked the government and the Sangat to pay special attention to strengthen the Sikh organisations.

He appealed to the Sikhs to take inspiration from the lives of the martyrs on the occasion of the centenary Saka Panja Sahib.

Meanwhile, SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhaliwal paid tribute to the martyrs of Saka Panja Sahib and said that this history of struggle of the Sikh community is priceless, which the Sangat will remember for ages. He said that martyrs are the heritage of the community and his-

tory is a source of inspiration. Saka Panja Sahib is an important example of Sikh spirit, which will always maintain its influence.

He said that the footsteps laid by of Sikh martyrs Shaheed Bhai Karam Singh and Shaheed Bhai Pratap Singh, 100 years ago will continue to represent the community.

On this occasion, Harjinder Singh Dhaliwal said that the government should show generosity for the open pilgrimage to Sikh shrines left in Pakistan. He appealed to the present officials of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), Pakistan to pay special attention to the problem faced by the pilgrims at the time of getting visas. He said that recently to attend the centenary congregation, the visas of many important personalities of the SGPC were rejected, which has caused a lot of inconvenience. He demanded that long-term visas should be arranged for pilgrims and especially the preachers, raagi jathas so that they continue to visit Sikh shrines in Pakistan from time to time. SGPC President appealed to abolish the condition of passport for the Sangat crossing to pay obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Narowal via Kartarpur Sahib Corridor.

SGPC President visits Bhatti family who had donated 18500 acre land to Gurdwara Nankana Sahib



JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh Dhaliwal who returned India October 30 from Pakistan after attending the centenary congregation of Shaheedi Saka (martyrdom massacre) Panja Sahib said that during the stay in Pakistan he visited the Bhatti's family at their residence.

Talking to PTI Bhatti from Lahore said that he was thankful to SGPC for installing the portrait of Nawab Rai Bular Bhatti at the Central Sikh Museum situated in the complex of Golden Temple fortnight back on October 15. "Rai Bular Bhatti Sahib

Bular Bhatti where the SGPC president along with other SGPC members visited his house.

Dhaliwal said that he along with other SGPC members honored him at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Pakistan with robe of honors, replica of Golden Temple, woolen shawls and set of Sikh religious books, thereafter they visited the Bhatti's family at their residence.

Talking to PTI Bhatti from Lahore said that he was thankful to SGPC for installing the portrait of Nawab Rai Bular Bhatti at the Central Sikh Museum situated in the complex of Golden Temple fortnight back on October 15. "Rai Bular Bhatti Sahib

was a staunch follower of Baba Guru Nanak Peer. The Bhatti family had donated 18500 acre land to Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of founder Sikhism Guru Nanak", Dhaliwal informed.

Dhaliwal said that SGPC had invited the Bhatti's family to attend the event on October 15 when program was scheduled to install the portrait of Nawab Rai Bular Bhatti at the Central Sikh Museum but visa was denied by the Indian Authorities, the reason best known to them. He said that SGPC was thankful to Bhatti's family for their contribution to Sikh community.

Expressing his sadness for not granting visa to him and his family to attend the event arranged by SGPC Rai Saleem Bhatti said, "I along with my family longing to pay obeisance at the holiest Sikh Shrine Golden Temple. I am sure one day Baba Nanak would shower His grace from heaven while paving way to visit India and would create soft corner in the hearts of people sitting in the Indian Embassy", he quipped

Italy's GDP expands 0.5% in Q3



ROME: Italy's economic growth streak continued in the third quarter of this year, with the country registering 0.5 per cent growth from the previous quarter, the government's main statistics agency reported.

According to the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), it was the seventh three-month period in a row that Italy's economy expanded, reports Xinhua news agency. This growth started in the first quarter of last year, as the country began to recover from the worst part of the Covid-19 pandemic. ISTAT's preliminary data also showed that Italy's gross domestic product (GDP) was 2.6 per cent larger at the end of the third quarter than it was at the same point last year. However, the Italian economy slowed over the second half of this year, with higher energy prices and global supply chain issues sparked by the war between Russia and Ukraine exerting a prolonged impact. According to the government's Economic and Finance Document released in late September, annual GDP growth this year is estimated at 3.3 per cent, implying negative growth in this year's final quarter.

UK PM Sunak makes U-turn, says will attend Cop27 climate summit



LONDON: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirmed he will attend the Cop27 environmental conference in Egypt next week, the media reported. The UK PM had initially indicated he would not travel to North Africa despite the UK hosting the previous event in Glasgow last year, Daily Mail reported. The change came after Sunak's predecessor Boris Johnson confirmed he would attend, having made the environment a key plank of his premiership. Writing on Twitter, Sunak said: "There is no long-term prosperity without action on climate change. There is no energy security without investing in renewables." He had previously said he had to focus on Britain's 'depressing domestic challenges' but faced growing pressure to join other world leaders at the conference next week.

Canada approves 2nd bivalent Covid booster targeting Omicron variants

Health Canada has authorised an adapted version of the Moderna Spikevax Covid-19 vaccine that targets the Omicron BA.4/BA.5 sub-variants.

Health Canada approved the bivalent vaccine for use as a booster dose in individuals 18 years of age or older, say-

ing on Thursday that clinical trial results showed it triggers a strong immune response against both Omicron (BA.4/BA.5) and the original SARS-CoV-2 virus strains, reports Xinhua news agency.

This adapted vaccine has a similar safety profile to the previously approved Moderna



Spikevax boosters, with the same mild adverse reactions that resolved quickly, Health Canada said.

Keeping Covid-19 vaccinations up-to-date, including getting booster doses as recommended, will help protect an individual against serious illness and other complica-

tions of the infection, Health Canada said.

The number of total Covid-19 cases and deaths have now reached 4,336,860 and 46,389, respectively, according to the weekly update issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

According to the agency,

the cumulative people who had received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine in Canada was 83 per cent.

However, those who had in the last six months completed the primary series or received a booster dose with a Covid-19 vaccine in Canada was only 17.2 per cent.

Australian Police announces \$1 million reward to nab Indian suspect in murder case

A \$1 million reward has been announced to help nab an Indian man, who according to police may have murdered an Australian woman on a beach before fleeing to India.

Pharmacy worker and animal shelter volunteer Toyah Cordingley, 24, was killed while walking her dog on Wangetty Beach in October 2018. Her body was found the following morning by her father, the Guardian reported.

Three Queensland police detectives have travelled to India and are working with authorities to find Rajwinder Singh, 38, who worked as a nurse in Innisfail, but fled the country



two days after the murder, leaving behind his job, wife and three children in Australia, news.com.au reported.

An investigation centre has also been established in

Cairns and police officers from across the state who can speak both Hindi and Punjabi have been flown in, according to the police.

Police have also released

images of Singh at the Cairns Airport on October 23, 2018, from where he flew to Sydney before travelling to India.

In March 2021, Australian authorities made a request to extradite Singh, who is originally from Buttar Kalan, Punjab.

His brother-in-law Harpreet Singh previously told The Courier Mail that the timing of his return to his hometown of Amritsar in Punjab was a coincidence.

"Raj is not capable of murder... He is too quiet, too afraid. He was under a lot of tension from his work," Harpreet Singh had said.

Joe Biden: US can't take democracy for granted any longer

Just a week ahead of the November 8 midterm elections in the US, President Joe Biden has urged Americans to unite in opposition to "political violence" and warned that "we can't take democracy for granted any longer".

In a televised address to the nation on Wednesday evening from the Union Station in Washington D.C., the President said: "As I stand here today, there are candidates running for every level of office in America -- for Governor, for Congress, for Attorney General, for Secretary of State who won't commit to accepting the results of the elections they're in. "That is the path to chaos in America. It's unprecedented. It's



unlawful. And it is un-American." In his address, he blamed his predecessor Donald Trump, whom he did not name, but referred to as "the defeated former President" of "cultivating a lie that has metastasized into a web of conspiracies that has already resulted in targeted violence", reports CNN.

"This intimidation, this violence against Democrats, Republicans and non-partisan officials just doing their jobs, is the consequence of lies told for power and profit, lies of conspiracy and malice, lies

repeated over and over to generate a cycle of anger, hate, vitriol and even violence. "In this moment, we have to confront those lies with the truth, the very future of our nation depends on it. American democracy is under attack because the defeated former president...refuses to accept the will of the people," Biden added.

The President also made sure to note that most Americans, and even most Republicans, would not resort to violence, adding that those who would have outsized influence. "I believe the voices excusing or calling for violence and intimidation are a distinct minority in America," CNN quoted the President as saying. "But they're loud and they are determined."

Former Pak PM Imran Khan sustains bullet injury on leg after shots fired at rally

Chaotic scenes broke out near PTI's reception camp at Allah-wala Chowk in Gujranwala after gunshots were fired at party chief Imran Khan, media reports said.

According to Geo News, the former Prime Minister sustained bullet injuries on his leg, but is reported to be safe. According to the police, the suspect who opened fire on Khan's container has been arrested.

Several other people, including PTI leader Faisal Javed, also sustained injuries, Geo News reported. Khan is leading PTI's march towards Islamabad which kicked off from Lahore's Liberty Chowk on October 29. This is the PTI chief's second long march this year.

Khan, along with his supporters, is expected to stage a sit-in in Islamabad against the Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government at the end of the march.



PTI has not yet confirmed the date of arrival in Islamabad. According to Khan, the protest march will continue till the date for elections is announced, The News reported.

Earlier, the plan was to reach Islamabad by November 4. It was later revised to November 8-9 and then again revised to November 11. PTI leader Faisal Javed then

announced the party will keep changing the date to "tire the government out". The political instability in Pakistan has also fuelled economic uncertainty, with international rating agencies questioning if the current government can maintain difficult economic policies in the face of political pressure and looming elections, The News reported.

'I only wanted to kill Imran and no one else', says attacker

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan survived a deadly attack on Thursday after an assailant reached close to his container and opened fire targeting Khan during the party's long march in Gujranwala.

Nabbed by the police, the attacker later said that he only wanted to kill Khan and no one else.

The shooter opened a burst of bullets which hit PTI leaders standing next to Khan and also injured the former premier who got shot in the leg.

According to PTI leaders, Khan is presently 'out of danger'.

As per sources, senior PTI leaders, including Senator Faisal Javed Khan, former Sindh Governor Imran Ismail and Ahmed Chatha, were injured in the firing.

Immediately after the attack, Khan was taken inside the container, after which he was rushed to the local hospital from where he was shifted to the Shaukat Khan Hospital in Lahore.

Other than the PTI top leadership, at least six others have been injured in the attack, one of whom is in

a critical state. As per reports, at least one person has died in the attack.

The attackers, numbering two, were nabbed by the supporters of PTI present in the march before being handed over to the police.

As per details, one of the attackers is named Faisal Butt, while the other has been identified as Mohammad Naveed. Faisal said he wanted to kill Khan ever since the latter started his long march from Lahore on October 28.

"I got angry with Khan for spreading hatred and misleading the people. I only wanted to kill Khan and no one else," said Faisal.

"I did this on my own will and no one told me to do so. I just got angry on Khan and wanted to kill him," Faisal added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took immediate notice of the incident and ordered the Interior Ministry to submit a report on the matter.

"I condemn the incident of firing on PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the strongest words. I have directed the Interior Minister for an immediate report on the incident. I pray for the recovery and health of

the PTI Chairman and other injured people," Sharif said.

"The government will extend all the necessary support to the Punjab government for security and investigation. Violence should have no place in our country," Sharif added.

Punjab Chief Minister Perwaiz Elahi has also ordered an immediate inquiry into the firing incident.

The attack on Khan came at a time when the slow pace of the long march was being criticised for not having an impact on the government officials, who have stated that the government will not bow down to any of the demands of Khan, which he aims to achieve with the long march.

The march has been moving at a snail's pace since with a travel time of about four hours or less in a day.

Khan himself had said earlier that time will define if his fight for revolution in the country against the current leadership will be achieved peacefully or through bloodshed.

It is also a fact that Khan is far the most popular leader in the country at present, and any attempt to assassinate him is bound to trigger widespread chaos and angry protests.

Two-thirds of Australians have had Covid: Report



Two nationwide surveys revealed on Friday that at least two-thirds of Australians have been infected by Covid-19 since the outbreak of the pandemic in early 2020, including children and adolescents.

The national paediatric serosurvey, led by the Paediatric Active Enhanced Disease Surveillance (PAEDS) network and the National Center for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS), tested two types of antibodies in the blood samples of children aged 0-19, collected between June and August 2022, reports Xinhua news agency.

The first type, antibody to the nucleocapsid protein of the virus, indicates past infections while the other type, antibody to spike protein, indicates past infection and/or vaccination.

The study found that about 79 per cent of unvaccinated children aged from one to four have been

infected with the virus, while 67 per cent of children aged from five to 11, many of whom have been vaccinated, have the past infection. Among the adolescents aged from 12 to 19, about 70 per cent have been infected by the virus. "Overall, this study tells us that at least two-thirds of children in Australia have had Covid-19. This is more than double the number of cases reported based on nose and throat swab testing for the virus," said Archana Koirala, infectious disease specialist at NCIRS. "This is expected, since many children have either mild or no symptoms and are therefore not tested for the virus." Another adult survey, jointly conducted by the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and NCIRS, was based on 5,005 de-identified residual blood donation specimens received between August 23 and September 2 this year.



Actress Jasmin Bhasin: Honeymoon is more about the person than destination

MUMBAI: 'Bigg Boss 14' fame Jasmin Bhasin shared her view on honeymoon and said that for most people, it is about the

place they are travelling to, but for her, it is more about the accompanying person. She is seen in the film 'Honeymoon'

opposite Gippy Grewal. The 32-year-old actress is quite famous for her role in 'Tashan-e-Ishq' and 'Dil Se

Dil Tak'. She was initially seen in South movies including Tamil film 'Vaanam', Telugu films 'Veta' and others. Jasmin often makes headlines for her relationship with Aly Goni post their stint in 'Bigg Boss 14'.

While talking about the film and what 'Honeymoon' means to her, she said: 'People always talk about a fancy destination or a long blissful holiday when it comes to the term 'Honeymoon'. Personally for me, when it comes to a honeymoon it's not the destination but the person you're with that matters.'

Directed by Amarpreet Chhabra, 'Honeymoon' is about a young couple that decides to go for a honeymoon but the story takes a hilarious and interesting turn when their family joins them as they are unaware of its literal meaning.

Directed by Amarpreet G. S. Chhabra, the Punjabi film stars Gippy Grewal and Jasmin Bhasin as lead actors. The movie is written by Naresh Kathooria. The music is given by B. Praak and it is produced by T-Series Films and Baweja Studios Production.



Actress SARGUN

unveils her character post the leap in 'Yeh Hai Chahatein' plot

MUMBAI: "Yeh Hai Chahatein" actress Sargun Kaur Luthra has thrown light on her character Preesha post three months leap and how she has become bold and emotionless in the show because of the death of her husband Rudra, played by Abrar Qazi. In the most recent episode,

Rudra is shown as dying in a car explosion, and a grieving Preesha sets out to seek justice for her husband by putting his killer in jail. Now after the leap, it is shown that Rudra is saved but Preesha is unaware of the reality and both have different love interests. Sargun said that after the

death of Rudra, Preesha changed completely. Earlier, she was very loving and caring but now she has become more strong, bold, and daring.

"I'm thrilled that the show has taken a leap since my fans will now have the opportunity to see a different side of me. Preesha has always been a lovely, down-to-earth person, but since Rudra's passing, she has taken on a more aloof, emotionless demeanour," revealed Sargun.

As the plot has become more intriguing with the new twist in the show, the actress hopes that audiences will like it more. "The audience will be intrigued to learn why Prisha made such a drastic change and what lies ahead for Preesha and Rudra," she said.

It will be interesting to see how Rudra and Preesha unite again in the show and also how they try to find out the culprit, who separated them. "Yeh Hai Chahatein" airs on Star Plus.

POTPOURRI

RICHA CHADHA, Ali Fazal's maiden production venture 'Girls Will Be Girls' goes on floor



MUMBAI: Bollywood Actor-couple Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's first project as producers, "Girls Will Be Girls", has started production.

The two actors are producing the project through their banner Pushing Buttons Studios. Debutante filmmaker Shuchi Talati is directing the movie from her own script.

In a statement, the makers said the film started shooting in Uttarakhand. Actor Kani Kusruti is essaying the lead role in the movie, which is described as a coming-of-age story.

Vicky Kaushal to birthday boy SRK: There's no one like you



Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan is receiving a lot of love from across the world and the Hindi film fraternity on his 57th birthday. In the long list of actors and film personalities wishing the actor on social media, Vicky Kaushal too made an appearance as he wished the 'Chak De! India' star on his Instagram.

Taking to the story section of his Instagram, Vicky shared an image of the megastar greeting his fans with an angelic yellow light behind him almost giving an appearance of a God with a halo behind him.

Vicky wrote on the picture, Happy birthday to you sir. There's no one like you @iamsrk".

A few days ago, Vicky's father, renowned action choreographer Sham Kaushal, had shared a throwback picture of Vicky and his brother, Sunny, posing with SRK. The picture is from the sets of the 2001 movie 'Asoka'. Sham Kaushal also wrote a long note about how "nobody ever imagined" that one day Vicky would join Bollywood.

'Shershaah' director Vishnuvardhan, and Vicky's actor-brother Sunny Kaushal, were also a part of the picture Sham posted on Instagram.

SONAKSHI Took me two months to gain weight, a year to lose it

In order to play a voluptuous woman in her latest release 'Double XL', Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha took two months to gain weight but the toughest part was losing those extra kilos.

'Double XL', which also stars Huma Qureshi, is a film based on self-love and body positivity, is directed by Satram Ramani. The film hit the screens on November 4.

Talking about her body transformation for the film, Sonakshi in a conversation with IANS said: "It took me two months to put on weight which was not a big deal but it took me a year to get rid of the weight I had put on. There are two ways to do it. You either do it the healthy way or the



unhealthy way. However, I went the healthy way."

Life is a full circle for Sonakshi, who started off as a costume designer before making



her debut in acting in the year 2010 with the Salman Khan-starrer 'Dabangg', as she plays Saira Khanna, a fashion designer in the movie.

She calls the film her "life story". The 35-year-old actress also shared her mantra to deal with trolls and body-shamers. "Whether you are short, tall, thin, fat, dark or fair, you are likely to get body shamed. People say what they want to say just ignore it. Don't waste your energy," said the daughter of veteran star Shatrughan Sinha.

Talking to IANS, the actress, who launched her own beauty brand in 2022, shared that 'Double XL' is a very personal film for her. "It's a very personal film for me and I want to remind everyone that women are slammed for many things, but don't let anyone pull you back," added the actress, who released her debut single 'Aaj Mood Ishqholie Hai' in 2015.



Nushratt Bharuccha kickstarts preps for 'Chhorii 2'

Bollywood star Nushratt Bharuccha has kick-started the preparation for the next 'Chhorii 2'.

Taking to social media, Nushratt shared a picture of herself reading the script of 'Chhorii 2'. She shared a picture of her laptop and one can see her kitten Noah hiding behind it too. She writes: "Noah is scared too??" 'Chhorii' is directed by Vishal Furia and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Vikram Malhotra, Jack

Davis, Shikhaa Sharma and Shiv Chanana.

A remake of the Marathi-language film 'Lapachhapi' (2017), the film features Nushratt in the lead role, alongside Mita Vashisht, Rajesh Jais and Saunabh Goyal. The film premiered on Amazon Prime Video on November 26, 2021. Her latest release is 'Ram Setu' starring Akshay Kumar. Meanwhile, she has an interesting lineup of films like 'Selfie' alongside Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi.

Selena Gomez reveals she had a wardrobe malfunction at the 2022 Emmys

Actress-singer Selena Gomez shared the unexpected style hiccup she experienced at the 2022 Emmys, telling Kelly Clarkson on her daytime talk show, "A lot of people saw something they didn't want to see."

During a November 2 appearance on The Kelly Clarkson Show, the Only Murders in the Building actress recalled having issues with her white sequined Celine gown at the September 12 awards show, reports online.com.

"My dress was actually riding up the entire time," Selena told host Kelly Clarkson about



her wardrobe malfunction.

"So a lot of people saw something they didn't want to see."

Despite having a fashion hiccup at the 2022 Emmys, the Rare Beauty founder handled

it like a total pro. After all, wearing head-turning looks has become second nature for Selena, who recently wowed at the world premiere of her new documentary Selena Gomez:

My Mind & Me. For the momentous occasion on November 2 at the 2022 AFI Festival, Gomez wore a vibrant asymmetrical fuchsia slip dress.

While the silk satin Rodarte design may have looked simple with its uncomplicated silhouette, it actually packed a major punch with its eye-catching details.

The one-shoulder strap featured a massive bow and elongated ribbons that draped down to her arms. Plus, the noticeably asymmetrical seams on the neckline and waistline added dimension to the overall look.

Despite injuring her leg during fight sequence, Kamyra Punjabi keeps shooting

Popular TV actress Kamyra Panjabi recently suffered an injury to her right leg on the sets of 'Sanjog' while doing a fight sequence with her co-actor Shefali Sharma.

During a physical fight between the two, she had a hairline fracture around her knee and has been advised by her doctor to wear a full support bandage but despite that she didn't stop the shoot.

She shared: "The sequence was very dramatic because Shefali and I were supposed to get into a proper physical fight which is seen very rarely in the TV industry. But, despite all the safety measures and precautions that were being taken, I suffered injury in my right leg."

Kamyra, who has done a number of TV shows, reality shows such as 'Bigg Boss 7' and movies like 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai', 'Koi... Mil Gaya' and others, is currently seen playing



the role of a banjaran, Gauri.

She briefed about the sequence and added: "I fell and suffered hairline fracture in right leg." "However, that hasn't stopped me from shooting because the show must go on, right?", she said.

She expressed her gratitude for the support she is getting

from the entire cast and concludes with: "The cast and crew is very supportive, they are taking very good care of me, and we all are managing to shoot very well with the much-needed rest and medication. I am really grateful to know so many people care for me and wish me well."

Arjun Kapoor to sister Janhvi: Your growth as an actor, as a star is phenomenal

Actor Arjun Kapoor has penned a heartfelt note for his younger sister Janhvi Kapoor upon the release of her latest film 'Mili'. He praised her and said that her growth as an actor and a star is just phenomenal. Arjun took to Instagram, where he shared three pictures. The first features a childhood picture of Arjun and



Janhvi posing for the camera. The second image seems to be



the latest one as the pose for a photoshoot. Arjun also shared

a poster of Janhvi's survival-thriller 'Mili'. He wrote: "You continue to make me prouder @janhvikapoor! Your growth as an actor, as a star is phenomenal... And you are just getting started which is really, really exciting!!! You are brilliant in 'Mili' - what a spine-chilling act! I wish it does phenomenally well and

you get all the love that you truly deserve. Love you lots!" 'Mili' is directed by Mathukutty Xavier and produced by Boney Kapoor. The film stars Janhvi, Sunny Kaushal and Manoj Pahwa. A remake of the director's own 2019 Malayalam film 'Helen', it follows a woman stuck in a freezer fighting to stay alive.

AP Dhillon, Imagine Dragons and Cigarettes After Sex to perform at Lollapalooza India 2023



As the popular global music festival Lollapalooza is all set to make its debut in India in January 2023, popular names such as AP Dhillon, Imagine Dragons and Cigarettes After Sex would be seen performing.

Taking stage are the meteoric music giants Imagine Dragons and indie rock legends and global headliners making their India debut. The Strokes who will headline the inaugural festival, while American classic rock geniuses Greta Van Fleet, electronic dance music's global heavyweight and pioneering dance music producer

Diplo, Grammy nominee and revolutionary EDM artist Zhu, Indo-Canadian Punjabi music and pop-star AP Dhillon, Dream-pop artists Cigarettes After Sex, will also perform at Lollapalooza India 2023 in its debut edition for the Asian continent.

Over 40 artists, four stages and over 20 hours of live music, art and culture.

ablanca, Apashe, Raveena, The Yellow Diary, Bloodywood, Sandunes, Aswekeepsearching, The F16s, Kayan, Tejas, House of Hashbass, Madboy/Mink, T.ill APES, Kumail, Kavya, Mali, Tanmaya Bhatnagar, Easy Wanderlings, Abhi Meer, Bombay Brass, Parimal Shais, Siri, Tracy De Sa, Aadya - for an unforgettable start to 2023 in the Asian subcontinent.

Lollapalooza is all set to breach a new frontier in the eighth destination of the festival in India marking its inaugural, first-ever edition in Asia. It brings its multi-genre music experience along with its brand of unique, diverse and exciting flavours from the world of music to Indian shores in a two-day musical extravaganza at Mahalaxmi Race Course, in the heart of Mumbai on January 28-29.

BookMyShow, India's leading entertainment destination, is spearheading Lollapalooza India as the promoter and co-producer for the festival's Indian edition along with global producers, Perry Farrell and C3 Presents.

Janhvi Kapoor: The first promotional outfit that I selected was for 'The Kapil Sharma Show'



Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor is looking forward to her upcoming film 'Mili' and she is quite occupied with the promotional events of her movie also starring Sunny Kaushal and Manoj Pahwa.

Recently, she visited 'The Kapil Sharma Show' and discussed her film which is all about a woman stuck in a freezer and it is a remake of a Malayalam film 'Helen'.

Apart from sharing behind the camera moments, she also told the host that for so long, she was planning to visit the show but because of the lockdown nothing could happen. Now, finally appearing on the show made her feel special.

She said: "The biggest achievement seems to be that today I have finally come on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'. Today it seems that maybe I have come one step closer to becoming a star after appearing on this show."

Kapil, who is all set for his next project 'Zwigato' in which he is playing the role of a food delivery boy asked the 'Mili' actress if she decided to come on his show only when he would be doing a serious film, she replied: "Sir you only weren't giving me a date. When 'Gujan Saxena: The Kargil Girl' was about to release at that time there was a lockdown going on so I couldn't make it."

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