

REGION

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'KHEDAN WATAN PUNJAB DIAN': CM MANN ATTENDS CLOSING CEREMONY, VOWS TO RESTORE PRISTINE GLORY OF STATE IN SPORTS



CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

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HERO ELECTRIC ANNOUNCES 1ST EDITION OF BENGALURU 'ONE RACE' AND 8TH EDITION OF TOUR OF KARNATAKA IN BENGALURU



POTPOURRI

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FASHION DESIGNER AMAN SANDHU UNVEILS 'LOOK BOOK', WILL SHOWCASE COLLECTION ON NOV 19



Punjab Cabinet approves implementation of old pension scheme

FW DESK Chandigarh

Eyeing Gujarat elections, the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government on Friday approved the notification for implementing the old pension scheme (OPS) in Punjab, directly benefitting more than 1.75 lakh government employees. A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of the council of Ministers held under the leadership of the Chief Minister here. Disclosing this here today, a spokesperson for the Chief Minister's Office said the government has approved the OPS for its employees currently covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), fulfill-



ing a long-pending demand of employees of the state. This will directly benefit more than 1.75 lakh employees currently covered under NPS. In addition to this, 1.26 lakh employees are already covered under the existing OPS. The scheme is aimed at safeguarding the future of government employees and recognising their contribution towards the state. In order to ensure that the scheme being introduced is financially sustainable for the exchequer in the future also, the government will be contributing proactively towards creation of a pension corpus which will service the pension in future to the beneficiaries of the scheme. This contribution towards the pension corpus will be Rs 1,000 crore per annum initially and will gradually increase in future. Besides, the current accumulated corpus with NPS is Rs 16,746 crore for which the state will request Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of the government of India to refund this amount for effective utilisation at its end.

India creates history, first private built rocket Launched

ARUN KUMAR RAO Sriharikodta

India created history by successfully launching its first private-sector rocket "Vikram-S", a suborbital vehicle developed by Skyroot Aerospace. Vikram-S crossed the target of 80 km above sea level and peaked at an altitude of 89.5 km. The rocket began its descent soon after and safely splashed in the Bay of Bengal, about 130 km away from land. The rocket was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on Friday carrying three Cubesats at 11.30 am under the mission named "Prarambh" (the Beginning). The successful launch marked the foray of the private sector into the country's space industry, dominated by the state-run ISRO for decades. Skyroot Aerospace became the first private company in India to give a boost to



the Indian space programme, after the central government opened the sector to private players in 2020. The launch vehicle has been named so as tribute to the father of the Indian Space programme, the Late Vikram Sarabhai. Vikram-S is single-stage fuel rocket meant to test most systems and processes in Skyroot Aerospace's project ahead of the launch of Vikram-1 scheduled for next year. The launch is also a sub-orbital one, meaning the vehicle will reach outer space, it will not remain in orbit around the Earth, with the flight time being less than five minutes.

Terror funding increasing through social media: NIA

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has claimed to have strong evidence about increasing cases of money being raised for terrorist activities through crowdfunding on social media platforms. Director General of the NIA, Dinkar Gupta said that measures to curb such cases of terror funding would be discussed in the 'No Money for Terror' ministerial conference, being held in Delhi on November 18-19. He added that the funding of Khalistanis in Punjab and terrorist organisations in Kashmir had become a major issue for the country. He said the funds reached the organisations through hawala and other channels namely, cash couriers and crowdfunding. Representatives of 78 countries are said to be participating in the two-day conference which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

SKM urges farmers to continue struggle till all demands are met

Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Thursday exhorted the farmers to join the nationwide "March to Raj Bhawans" programmes and submit a memorandum to the President through the respective Governors on November 26. Earlier, on November 14, SKM's National Council held a meeting at Gurudwara Rakabganj and strongly condemned the Modi government for betraying the farmers by not implementing the written assurances made on December 9, 2021 for legally guaranteed MSP, withdrawal of the Electricity Bill, among other demands. The meeting resolved to advise all constituent organisations to be prepared to further intensify the struggle across the country. "March to Raj Bhawans" marks the beginning of the next phase of the farmers' protest. Also, it appealed to farmers across the country to join continuous and committed nationwide struggles till all the demands including



"Karz Mukti - Poora Daam" (Freedom from Indebtedness and Full Remunerative Price) are fulfilled by the government. Legally guaranteed MSP for all crops and freedom from indebtedness are the major demands for which the farmers have been fighting since the rollout of neo-liberal policies that aggravated the agrarian crisis and peasant suicides. Since 1995, more than 4 lakh farmers have died by suicide in India and around 68 per cent of the peasant households are in debt and financial distress. These demands, along with the demands of repeal of three pro-corporate Farm Laws and the Electricity Bill

Farooq Abdullah resigns as National Conference president

FW DESK

National Conference president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, 85, has reportedly resigned as National Conference president; citing health reasons. The party is now holding fresh election for the party president on December 5. It is speculated that National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah will take over the party. Abdullah reportedly announced his resignation at the party's provincial office bearers meeting held in Srinagar. He is reported to have urged party leaders to take control of the situation and work towards strengthening the party. "I will not be contesting for the post of president any longer," Abdullah is reported to have said. "The elections for the post will be held on December 5. It is time for the new generation to take over the responsibilities."

Some countries support terrorists as part of their foreign policy: Modi



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the third edition of the 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Modi said, "certain countries support terrorists as part of their foreign policy." "They offer political, ideological and financial support

forms to end global terrorism. The PM stressed on 'proxy' wars being dangerous and said that organisations and people who sympathized with terrorists need to be isolated, adding that, "all terrorist attacks deserve equal outrage and action." He said that India considered that, "even a single attack is one too many, even a single life lost is one too many." "Our country saw the dark face of terror long before the world took serious note of it," said Modi. He added that India lost thousands of precious lives, but fought terrorism bravely. The PM said that, "we will not rest until terrorism is uprooted." Representatives of several countries and multilateral organisations will discuss ways to deal with terrorism and financing of terrorism at the conference.

DGP Punjab orders quarterly inspection of gun houses



CHANDIGARH: Close on the heels of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann directing review of all arms licenses to check the gun culture, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav on Friday ordered a mandatory statewide inspection of shops, premises, and stocks of all gun houses on a quarterly basis. The DGP issued directions to all police ranges, authorising gazetted officers of the police to inspect the shops, premises, and stocks of all licensed manufacturers and dealers under the Arms Act. Apart from this, the District Superintendent of Police is required to conduct at least one inspection each year, he added. Punjab has only two per cent of India's population, while it has nearly 10 per cent of the total licensed weapons which stand at nearly 4 lakh, or 13 gun licenses for every 1,000 persons in the state. There is a huge influx of illegal weapons from across the international border and the inter-state borders from states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Although the weapons are illegally procured by anti-social elements, the ammunition is mostly pilfered from local gun houses of Punjab. The DGP said there is an urgent need to enforce the basic policing practice of inspection of gun houses by gazetted police officers for which they are empowered as per the rules, so as to keep a check on the stocks and plug the pilferage of ammunition and misuse of licensed arms.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind condemns the gruesome Delhi murder of Shraddha Walkar

FW DESK New Delhi

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) has condemned the gruesome murder of Shraddha Walkar in Delhi. In a statement to the media, the Vice President of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Prof. Salim Engineer said: "We are shocked

and numb to read the news about the gruesome murder of Shraddha Walkar in Delhi. We condemn it and demand the harshest punishment for her killer. We share the grief of her father, relatives, and friends. The heinous manner in which her dead body was disposed of is so chilling and barbaric that we are



at a loss for words to express our disgust and revulsion. Two issues need serious introspection by so-

ciety. One is the rise in domestic violence and physical abuse of women. In many instances, this is leading to femicide and needs to be debated and all attempts must be made at the level of society and the government to put an end to this disturbing trend. Secondly, a physical relationship without marriage (live-in) is not

only traumatizing for women but also hazardous to her safety in many instances as this particular case of Shraddha Walkar shows. We urge the government and civil society to take the lead in debating these issues and come up with holistic solutions so that we don't lose our daughters to femicide and domestic violence."

Drone infiltration from Pak doubled in 2022: DG BSF



FW DESK

About 266 attempts of drone infiltration have been made by Pakistan so far this year in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir which is more than double the number recorded last year, Director General of Border Security Force (BSF) Pankaj Singh said. Singh said at a programme in New Delhi that the BSF identified 79 incidents of drones flying in 2020 and

the number and the number of incidents increased to 109 in 2021. Singh added that 215 and 22 cases of drone infiltration were reported along Punjab border and Jammu respectively. He also revealed an increase in the smuggling of narcotics, arms and ammunition, counterfeit notes etc. across the border through drones. "The BSF is vigilant and has successfully shot down many such drones," Singh said.

Farmers blocked Kathunangal Toll Plaza in support of their demands

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Commuters on Thursday moving from Amritsar to Jammu, Pathankot Road had a harrowing time as they got stuck in long traffic jams here following a protest by a group of farmers led by the Bharti Kisan Union (Sidhupur) in support of their demands. Farmers had blocked the Kathunangal Toll Plaza whereupon commuters were forced to adopt jig-jag routes through Chawinda, Devi Village via thickly narrow

rough roads full of dust. It was also a tough time for the tourists who were here in Amritsar to continue their journey towards hill stations Srinagar and Himachal Pradesh. The protesting farmers were demanding more compensation for the land acquired for national highway projects, compensation for crop damage on account of inclement weather and cancellation of cases against some farmers, among others. The protesters blocked the Toll Plaza, which is an important link to connect Jammu, Srinagar, Himachal Pradesh,



by parking their tractor trolleys on the Toll Plaza, police said.

A four-kilometer-long traffic jam could be seen due to the blockade, forcing commuters to get stuck in traffic snarls for several hours at Chawinda Devi village which is another nearby route to bypass the toll plaza. Private Taxi and bus service were also badly affected. Some tourists, who came from other states to further, go HP or J&K were also harassed. A tourist along with luggage was going to the railway station on foot after leaving his cab three kilometers behind due to the blockade.

MGNREGA: will I have to touch feet of PM to get funds: Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday questioned whether she will have to touch the feet of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to get the dues of the state government on account of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme. "To get the Central funds for the 100-day job scheme under MGNREGA scheme is our right. I personally met the Prime Minister and spoke to him in the matter. Will I have to touch his feet now?

The Union government will have to pay our dues at any cost. Else the positions of power have to be vacated," the Chief Minister said while addressing the birth anniversary celebration of iconic tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda at Jhargram on Tuesday afternoon. Incidentally, Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal assembly, Suwendu Adhikari has filed a public interest litigation seeking a CBI probe and an audit by the CAG in the implementation of MGN-



REGA scheme in the state. Without directly referring to that development, the Chief Minister said that some leaders from West Bengal are constantly appealing to the Union government so that the Central funds to the state government are blocked. "What do they want? Do they want to conspire with the Union government to keep the people of West Bengal starved? I would request the people of the tribal community to hit the streets with bows, arrows and traditional

musical instruments in protest," the Chief Minister said. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that besides MGNREGA, the Union government is also not providing the funds for the housing schemes. "Construction of over 50 lakh houses is being held back because of the lack of funds. This is not a charity that the Union government is making to us. This is the genuine dues to the state government as the Union government is also not giving

us the state's share in goods & services tax," she said. Reacting to the chief minister's statements, BJP national vice-president and party's Lok Sabha member, Dilip Ghosh said that it has been over 11 years that Mamata Banerjee has become the chief minister. "So, what she has been doing for so many years. Actually, these are lame excuses on her part as she had understood that the tribal vote bank is slowly moving away from Trinamool Congress," said Ghosh.

'Khedan Watan Punjab Dian': CM Mann attends closing ceremony, vows to restore pristine glory of state in sports

FW DESK Ludhiana

With the promise to meet again next year, the around three months long sporting extravaganza 'Khedan Watan Punjab Dian' culminated here on Thursday at the local Guru Nanak Stadium as the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann vowed to restore the pristine glory of the state.

Addressing the gathering after digitally transferring cash amount worth Rs 6.85 crore in the bank accounts of 9961 players who had bagged Gold, Silver and Bronze medal at the state level during games, the Chief Minister congratulated all the players for their stupendous success. He said that Rs 10,000 cash award has been transferred in account of winner of Gold medal, Rs 7000 in account of silver medal winner and Rs 5000 has been transferred in account of bronze medal winner. Bhagwant Mann said that these games will be held every year



to promote sporting activity in every nook and corner of state.

Punjab Chief Minister also felicitated the teams of Patiala, Ludhiana and SAS Nagar for bagging first, second and third position in the state level games with 202, 133 and 123 gold medals respectively. He also honoured nine districts including Amritsar, Barnala, Faridkot, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Roopnagar, SAS Nagar and Sangrur for successfully organising state level

games well in their districts. Bhagwant Mann also congratulated the Sports Minister Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer for successful completion of these games.

Announcing the culmination of this around three months long gala sporting event, the Chief Minister said that it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that in this mega event more than three lakh players have participated in different six age groups. He said that these

players have participated in various competitions from block to the state level in 28 sports categories. Bhagwant Mann also announced that the state government will give top priority to recruit the outstanding players in various government departments.

Congratulating the players who had won medals in the games, the Chief Minister urged them not to feel proud of their victory but to stay humble and work hard for more success. He said that the games have got overwhelming response across the state and youth have participated in them with huge enthusiasm. Bhagwant Mann said that he is elated to share that even in some events three generations of families have participated in these games.

Punjab Chief Minister said that he is an avid sports lover due to which he is making strenuous efforts for promotion of sports. He said that his government had felicitated the commonwealth contingent as soon as they had returned from

the games. Bhagwant Mann envisioned that the day is not far when all the first three slots in every game will be bagged by Punjabis both at national and international level.

CM Punjab said that in a path breaking initiative his government has resumed Shaheed Bhagat Singh youth award, which will be bestowed to 46 youth every year for their outstanding contribution in several fields. He said that the award winners will get cash money worth Rs 51,000 along with appreciation certificate. Bhagwant Mann bemoaned that this award was stopped around seven years back but will be resumed now.

Chief Minister also vowed to make Punjab as the front runner state in the country. He said that his government is already making all out efforts for this noble cause. Bhagwant Mann envisioned that the concerted efforts will give desired results and an era of unprecedented progress and prosperity will be ushered in state.

4805 persons died, 8857 injured in 9825 road mishaps during last 10 months in Haryana



SATISH HANDA

A survey reveals that a patients suffering from cancer disease dies in every two hours in Haryana state. Similarly, on an average 13 persons suffering from heart disease die in the state every day. Whereas, the total number of deaths reported due to road accidents daily in Haryana are higher recorded as 15 persons succumb to their injuries during road mishaps and 30 persons seriously injured every day generally due to driving vehicles in high speed, travelling on unfit vehicles, driving under the influence of liquor and lacking security measures on the roads having nearly 1662 black spots on link roads as well as highways in the state.

According to information, nearly 6.5 lakh condom vehicles unfit to ply on roads are moving in Haryana state which cannot be registered and are illegally running on the roads causing death of innocent people. A recent study reveals that more than 75% road mishaps are caused due to over speed and faulty driving. Maximum numbers of road accidents usually take place during night between 1 am to 3.30 am and among

victims 54% include of age below 35. It is observed most of the accident victims die due to delay in treatment.

While having a look at past five years' data as regard number of road mishaps, deaths and injured due to accidents obtained from state police record 9825 road accidents were reported till 30th October 2022 in which 4805 persons died and 8857 sustained serious injuries in Haryana state. Whereas during year 2021 Haryana state witnessed 10049 road accidents in which 4943 persons died and 9595 persons injured. Information reveals that during year 2020 the state had 9506 road mishaps in which 4631 person lost their lives and 8826 persons injured. According to police records 5057 persons died and 9362 persons injured in 10944 road accidents in Haryana state during year 2019. The year 2018 had registered 11238 road mishaps in the state in which 5118 persons died and 10020 persons sustained injuries. During year 2017 state police registered 11258 road accident cases at various police stations across the state in which 5120 persons lost their lives and 11258 persons injured.

More than 3100 crop stubble burning cases reported in Haryana



SATISH HANDA

According to the latest information as regard crop stubble burnings cases during this year till 13th November 2022 more than 3100 burning cases has been reported so far as compared to nearly 5100 crop stubble burning cases reported till this period during previous year 2021 in which Fatehabad district leading in Haryana state recording total number of 677 cases reported so far, followed by Kaithal district recorded 655 crop stubble burning cases and Jind district recorded 411 crop stubble cases ranking at the third place in highest crop stubble burning cases. Whereas, Faridabad district in the state was recorded as having lowest number of only a single crop stubble burning case during current year.

Deputy Commissioner Fatehabad Jagdish Sharma told that total numbers of nearly 800 satellite images of burning crop stubble in open were received, of them during physical investigation 677 crop stubble burning cases were detected. He said, action has been taken not only against 276 farmers fined amount worth Rs 7 lakh allegedly violated government directions not to burn crop stubble in open spreading pollution in the atmosphere harmful for the health but also action has been taken against nearly 270 government employees allegedly involved in carelessness in performing their duty, which included 45 employees in agriculture department 47 Patwari working in revenue department, 44 Gram Panchayat workers and 134 Numburdar besides few employees of agriculture department were also suspended by the government and charge sheeted under Rule 8.

Service books of 2.32 L employees verified: Haryana Chief Secretary

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal on Monday said the government employees will no longer face any problem in matters relating to promotion and holidays as more facilities have been extended for the employees online through e-service books.

Presiding over a review meeting in connection with the Human Resource Management System (HRMS) portal with officials of the Human Resource Department, the Chief Secretary said e-service books of about 2,32,000 employees out of 2,65,000 have been verified on the HRMS portal, adding the remaining about 33,000 employees should also get their e-service books verified latest by November 30.

He said after November 30, the employees whose service books will not be verified may have to face salary-related problems. He also directed the heads of all the departments to strictly adhere to these instructions. All service-related activities and digital service books of the employees of various departments, boards and corporations have been uploaded on the Human Resource Management System portal. On this portal, the e-salary system of Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) along with integrated workflow and information of the employees is available round the clock.

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Orders issued to SPs and CPs to sit daily between 11 to 12 o'clock to redress public problems : Vij

SATISH HANDA Ambala

While addressing media persons here Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij expressed happiness and honour for the country for handing over the command of G-20 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the summit meeting of G-20 countries held at Bali island of Indonesia. Talking with the media persons today,

he said that it is a matter of pride that the Prime Minister of India has been made the President of the G-20 and the G-20 summit will be held in the year 2023 in India which is a matter of concern for every Indian. Vij tweeted on today that "India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi getting the G-20 presidency and the G-20 meeting being held in India in 2023 is a matter of pride for every Indian."



Significantly, on Wednesday, Indonesian President Joko Widodo handed over

the chairmanship of the G-20 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Now India will lead the world's 20 most influential countries from December 1 to next one year. G-20 member countries are India, Britain, America, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey and European Unions included.

Budo Kai Du players win medals at 17th National karate Championship



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

The players of Budo Kai Du Mixed Martial Arts Federation of India were rewarded with medals at the 17th National Karate Championship held in Goa recently.

The teams from the Budo Kai Du Mixed Martial Arts Federation of India showing their enthusiasm and skills managed to win many gold, silver and bronze medals. The players who won the gold included Pardeep Kumar, Jagdeep Singh, Hardeep Singh, Gusewak Singh, Amreek Singh and Jagtaran Singh. The silver winners were: Jaswinder Singh, Sahilpreet Singh, Sukhchain Singh, Prabhjot Singh, Ranjit Singh, Anmolpreet Kaur, Gar-

viya Kaushal, Ekamveer Singh, Sukhjeet Singh Thind, Amandeep Kaur, Parveen, Jaskirat Kaur, Balraj Singh and Harinderpal Singh. The bronze winning team included Gurwinder Singh Atwal, Gusharan Singh, Rajesh Kumar, Simranjeet Singh, Nimrat Kaur, Mohilika Sharma, Gurvinder Singh and Gurjeet Singh.

The winners were congratulated by Coach Suman Lata Sharma, Harpreet Kaur, Munish Kumar, R.P. Sharma, Yashkama Sharma and Puneet Sharma. Similarly, the President of Budo Kai Du Mixed Martial Arts Federation of India, Mr Sharanjeet Singh expressed hope that the day is not far when our children will achieve more and shine in the world of sports.

SGPC demand action against those making provocative & hate speech against Sikhs

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has written to Commissioner of Police, Amritsar, demanding strict legal action against those who made provocative and hate speech against Sikhs

This letter was written by SGPC secretary Partap Singh, which was handed over to Amritsar Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Parminder Singh Bhandal.

Secretary Partap Singh said that a video of a Shiv Sena



leader namely Harvinder Soni from Gurdaspur calling Sikhs as terrorists and threatening to attack Sri Darbar Sahib has gone viral on social media.

"Due to this provocative statement about Sri Darbar Sahib,

the central Sikh shrine, there is a lot of resentment among the community members", said Partap Singh in a statement to the media.

He said in another viral video a person namely Rahul of Am-

ritsar, associated with Shiv Sena has threatened Sikhs of killing them. He said these statements can disturb the peaceful environment of Punjab, which has the tendency to break the mutual brotherhood of people living here, peace, law and order.

The SGPC secretary demanded that strict legal action should be taken against these two persons by registering a case against them under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. He said it should be ensured that in future, if someone makes such hate speech, then the culprit is not spared.

Haryana outclass Punjab to clinch 2nd Balramji Das Tandon Inter State Under 16 Cricket Tournament



FW DESK

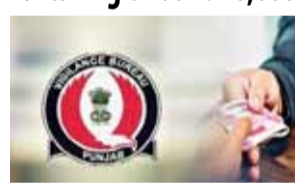
Haryana defeated Punjab by an innings and 16 runs to clinch the second edition of BCCI recognized Second Balramji Das Tandon Inter State Under 16 Multi Days Cricket Tournament being played at Mahajan Cricket Ground, IT Park in Chandigarh.

Punjab was bundled out for 156 on the final day of the match wherein Aditya Sharma (4/42) and Parish Dhillon (4/42) had the major share of the four wickets each. Rahul Sharma (55) was the top scorer for his side. In reply to Haryana's 266 runs in the first innings, Punjab was

reduced to mere 94 runs, followed by 156 runs in the second innings.

The winning and runner-up teams were felicitated by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Advisor to UT Administration Dharampal and BCCI selection committee chairman Chetan Sharma in the presence of UT Cricket Association President Sanjay Tandon and Secretary Devendra Sharma. In his address, UTCA President Sanjay Tandon said that his late father Balramji Das Tandon was always a frontrunner for promoting the talent of children and youth of the region.

Vigilance arrests Police officials, a private person for taking bribe Rs 10,000



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its ongoing campaign on Monday arrested a senior police constable and a private person for taking a bribe of Rs 10,000.

Disclosing this here today a spokesperson of the VB said the above mentioned accused constable Gurdeep Singh (No 1665/Amritsar), posted as Naib Reader in the office of ACP East Amritsar and private person Mayur, resident of Karimpura, Amritsar have been arrested on the complaint of Sucha Singh, resident of Partap Nagar, Amritsar. He further informed that the complainant has approached the VB and alleged that the local police had registered a case against his son and the above-mentioned police official and private person were demanding Rs 15,000 for facilitating a compromise in this regard with the complainant in the police case but deal was struck at Rs 10,000.

After verification of the facts in the complaint and the material evidence, a VB team have arrested the above-mentioned police officials and private person for accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant in the presence of two official witnesses.

Treatment of Parkinson's disease via Deep Brain Stimulation



SATISH HANDA

Addressing a press conference here a team of doctors from Fortis Hospital Mohali comprising of Dr Nishit Sawal, Dr Anupam Jindal and Dr Abhishek Prasad told that treatment of Parkinson disease has been first time introduced in northern part of country in Haryana, Punjab and Himachal states via Deep Brain Stimulation and also produced a 64 years old patient from Kurukshetra district suffering from Parkinson's disease had been exhibiting symptoms such as trembling of hands, arms, head, difficulty in speaking, stiffness of limbs and impaired coordination who had become non-responsive to medicines and his symptoms had been progressing severely impacting his health and daily life.

Suspended, absconding SHO alleged involved in honey trap case trapped in another scandal

SATISH HANDA Ambala

SHO Mahesh Nagar police station Ambala Cantt Subhash allegedly involved in fake honey trap case against Manoj Kumar a resident of Sector 9 Urban Estate Ambala City working in Food Corporation India at Ambala against whom a case was registered at Sector 9 police station Ambala City. During police investigation the complaint lodged by a female Ravneet a member of the gang of three females alleged she was raped by Manoj Kumar and demanding Rs 20 lakh from him. However, during investigation the complaint against Manoj Kumar was found untrue when police arrested three which also included a female Preeti working as manager in a bank and wife of the alleged accuse Manoj presently having a matrimonial dispute with her husband in the court likely to have divorce between both.

Seven arrested allegedly manufacturing fake cancer drugs

SATISH HANDA

Team of crime branch from Delhi accompanied by central as well as Haryana state drug control departments arrested seven persons of a manufacturing company RDM Biotech started producing food supplements at Ganaur in Sonapat district about six years ago in 2016 after obtaining a license from Ayush department Haryana and after two years in 2018 started manufacturing drugs for the treatment of cancer disease under the same li-

cense in a famous foreign brand 'Genowhey' and gradually developed a network for the sale of fake medicines for the treatment of cancer not only in India as well as in abroad thus earning huge amount of money.

Among seven persons arrested by Delhi police were identified as a qualified doctor Pavitra Narain, Shubham Manna a qualified engineer, Prabhat a qualified MBA, Pankaj Singh, Akanksha Verma, Ankit Sharma and Ram Kumar who had initially obtained license to manufac-



ture Ayush food supplements and started manufacturing about 21 Ayurvedic products after obtaining license from

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) also. During raid on a clue police team collected 20 bags raw material as calcium carbide and starch being filled in capsules instead of any useful chemical for the treatment of cancer disease. According to police information, there were only five workers in the factory and all types of mixing of chemicals being done by the seven themselves. Police seized raw material as well as capsule filling machines recovered from the site during raid and sealed the factory.

Hafed Modern Bazar to be set up in 12 Haryana towns

SATISH HANDA

In a review meeting held at Chandigarh, State Cooperative Minister Dr. Banwari Lal said that state government has finalized a proposal to develop nearly a dozen Hafed Modern Bazar in Haryana at Hisar, Bhivani, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Palwal, Gurugram, Rohtak and few other towns yet to be decided to make available all quality essential commodities under a roof. He said, state government has also decided to set up cooperative milk societies and dairy sheds in every village across the state to provide ample

sources of self employment to youths and women in the state for which nearly 5000 villages have already been identified by the government. State Minister said that those do not have places to keep milk producing animals as well as facilities to arrange finance government will provide those entrepreneurs place for the animals and also arrange loans from the bank according to Chief Minister Family Welfare Scheme. Dr Banwari Lal said that the places where Hafed cattle feed centers will be opened the organizers will also provided animal credit cards to run the organization.

RSS & BJP should stop interference in Sikh affairs: Gurcharan Singh Grewal

SGPC GENERAL SECRETARY WRITES LETTER TO RSS CHIEF MOHAN BHAGWAT

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) General Secretary Gurcharan Singh Grewal today wrote a letter to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Shri Mohan Bhagwat, asking to him to stop unnecessary interference of RSS and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) into Sikh affairs. In a letter written on the

foundation day of SGPC, Grewal wrote in strict words that SGPC came into existence after great sacrifices and the struggle started for its establishment laid the foundation for the country's independence. «But sadly, BJP ruled Centre government and BJP leaders are interfering directly to complicate SGPC affairs. An example of this interference came to fore during annual election of office-bearers of SGPC on November 9», said Grewal. He said that BJP (political wing of RSS) ruled Indian government, BJP ruled Haryana government and BJP leaders



on constitutional posts, directly interfered in SGPC election. This organisation has completed its 102-year glorious journey, during which it has done exemplary work for managing Gurdwara Sahibs, as well as for preaching of Sikh faith, health-education and humanitarian work. SGPC has also responsibly pursued Sikh issues time and again.

Grewal wrote to Bhagwat that, «If it (interference) is happening without your knowledge then you should immediately intervene and if it is with your knowledge then it is the right time for your organisation (RSS) to think upon your ideological approach as this is creating a rift in mutual religious relations in this multi-cultural and multi-religious society, which I fear will deepen in future. This phenomenon will create instability in the minds of Sikhs which is not good for the country.» He said that path on which RSS and its political wing BJP are walking, the anti-Sikh Con-

gress class used to interfere in such manner. Today, on the historical Foundation Day of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Sri Amritsar we suggest you that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the BJP should stop interfering in Sikh issues. We hope that you will think deeply about this and stay away from the activities of the Sikh organisations and the activities that complicate the issues of Sikhs in the future. In his letter, Grewal said SGPC has completed its 102-year long glorious journey, during which it has done exemplary

work for managing Gurdwara Sahibs, as well as for preaching of Sikh faith, health-education and humanitarian work. He said during its century-long history, the SGPC has never interfered with into affairs of any religion/belief and has worked for Sarbat Da Bhala (welfare of all). SGPC General Secretary suggested that RSS and BJP should stop interference into Sikh affairs and it should deeply think over its approach besides refraining from getting involved in the activities done to complicate Qaumi (community's) issues.

Amit Shah's visit to Chennai boosts morale of TN BJP cadre



The whirlwind visit of Union Home minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah to Chennai and the pep talk he has given to party cadres have boosted the morale of the state unit of the party. BJP Tamil Nadu president K. Annamalai told reporters that Amit Shah had asked the party leaders to focus on strengthening the party in the state. Amit Shah, according to BJP leaders, told them that after the demise of two towering leaders of the state and former Chief Ministers, M. Karunanidhi and J. Jayalithaa, the field was open and that BJP had a high chance of gaining ground. A senior leader of the BJP, who was part of the meeting at party headquarters, Kamalalayam and privy to developments in the state unit, told to media, «Amit Shah means business. He has a clear roadmap to success and has the blueprint ready. He is a leader who micromanages party affairs and has asked us to build the party from the grassroots level.»

Modi virtually Inaugurates '25th Bengaluru Tech Summit' with pre-recorded video message

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India is using technology as a weapon in the war against poverty. «Under the Svamitva scheme, we are using drones to map lands in rural areas. Then, property cards are given to the people. This reduces land disputes. It also helps the poor to access financial services and credit,» he said in a pre-recorded video message at the inauguration of Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022. PM Modi who is attending the G20 meet in Indonesia, appeared virtually to kickstart the Bengaluru Tech Summit in its silver jubilee year. He addressed Indian startups from 16 states and 600 innovators displaying their concepts and investments at the event. Over the course of three days, about 20 new product launches are also scheduled for the summit, to unveil tech that consumers can expect in future. Modi said «During Covid-19, many countries were struggling with a problem. They knew people needed help. They knew benefit transfers would help. But they did not have the infrastructure to benefit people. But



India showed how technology could be a force for the good.» From ranked 81st in 2015, India has jumped to the 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index this year, Modi said. «The number of unicorn startups in India has doubled since 2021. We are now the third largest startup hub in the world. We have over 81,000 recognised startups. There are hundreds of international companies that have R&D centres in India. This is due to India's talent pool,» he said. In India, technology is a force of equality and empowerment, which is mirrored in the world's largest health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat that provides a safety net for about 600 million people. «This programme is run based on a tech platform,» he said. Modi said the central government is successfully running its ecommerce platform called Government e-MarketPlace (GeM) for small businesses and traders, who fulfills the government's needs. «Technology has helped small businesses find a big customer. This has accelerated projects and boosted transparency. It has also hit a procurement

value of Rs 1 trillion last year,» he said. PM Modi said India is no more a place known for red tape, but known for red carpet for investors in terms of FDI reforms, liberalization of drone rules, steps in the semiconductor sector, production incentive schemes in various sectors, or the rise of ease of doing business. «India has one of the largest online repositories of open courses. There are thousands of courses available across different subjects. Over 10 million successful certifications have happened. This is all done online and free, India's data tariffs are among the lowest in the world,» the PM said. While in his inaugural address Infosys Co-Founder Kris Gopalakrishnan expressed confidence that the IT industry will be recruiting at least 2 lakh people in the near term, despite several challenges including moonlighting faced by it. «I am confident that the industry will face challenges including moonlighting. The industry will grow and continue to recruit. And in the near term the industry will be recruiting at least 2 lakh people in the near term,» he said.

PM congratulates ISRO and IN-SPACe for successful launch of India's maiden private rocket Vikram-S



FW DESK

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and IN-SPACe for the successful launch of India's maiden private rocket Vikram-Sub-orbital developed by Skyroot Aerospace. In a series of tweets, the Prime Minister said; «A historic moment for India as the rocket Vikram-S, developed by Skyroot Aerospace, took off from Sriharikota today! It is an important milestone in the journey of India's private space industry. Congrats to @isro & @INSPACEIND for enabling this feat.» This accomplishment bears testimony to the immense talent of our youth, who took full advantage of the landmark space sector reforms of June 2020.»

Synthetic drugs smuggled from Pakistan being sold in 10 states

SATISH HANDA

Information reveals, consumption of synthetic drugs being illegally smuggled from Pakistan via Punjab has witnessed nearly 18% increase in past some time in nearly 10 districts in the country including Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Utter Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar. Synthetic drugs are manufactured in laboratories with mixing chemicals like in case of medicines and the demand of such drugs fast increasing with much increased profits in this illegal business. A survey reveals that opium has much demand and consumption in Haryana state as compared to other drugs being supplied from the states Rajasthan, Utter Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Whereas, drugs like heroine and charas are in much demand in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Utter Pradesh states. Ganja is widely used in Haryana state especial in much demand in rural areas being smuggled from various states including Utter Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan. Narcotic Control Bureau led by a senior IPS officer Shrikant Jaghav was set up in Haryana state some time ago with the efforts of Home Minister Anil Vij when the state become a hub



of drugs in North which arrested large number of drug smugglers and suppliers in the state in past one year and seized huge stocks of drugs including opium, heroine, charas, ganja poppy husk, intoxicated tablets, capsules and injection from drug smugglers. State government took a decision to introduce bulldozer scheme in Haryana and demolished large number of industrial and commercial structures built illegally in the state with the earning from sale and smuggling of drugs by hard core criminals and gangsters in order to wipe out drugs completely from the state. According to information by Narcotic Control Bureau information nearly 460 cases have been registered in the state in which 4683 drug smugglers, suppliers were arrested. Shrikant Jaghav told that Haryana state police during year 2022 till November 8 has registered 3350 cases under NDPS Act as compared to 3975 cases registered during year 2021 in the state.

BJP will sweep Gujarat Assembly polls: Shah



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday exuded confidence that BJP will once again romp to power with a thumping majority breaking all records in next month's Assembly polls. Till now, Congress holds the record of winning the maximum number of seats ever. In 1985, under Chief Minister Madhavsinh Solanki's leadership, it bagged as many as 149 seats in the 182-member Assembly. Home Minister Shah, accompanied party's Naranpura candidate Jitendra Patel, Ellisbridge candidate Amit Shah and Sanand candidate Kanu Patel while they filed their candidature forms before the election officer. In a veiled attack on AAP, he said people of Gujarat have never voted for a third party and this party's candidates will lose its deposits. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel the state has continued to grow on a development path, achieving new heights in development, said Shah. According to party sources, the Union Minister is busy clearing hurdles on complicated seats. Still the party is yet to finalise four candidates for Manjalpur and Raopura of Vadodara city, Mansa (Gandhinagar) and Kheralu of Mehsana district. He is also busy placating workers and local leaders who are upset over selection of candidates.

Indian Army poised for major modernisation, says Vice Chief of Army Staff



ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General BS Raju addressing during the inauguration of a Regional Technology Node (RTN-B) of the Army Design Bureau (ADB) at ASC Centre & college bengaluru, said that the Indian Army is poised for major modernisation in the coming decades and that there is substantial scope for Indian industry to harness the market to develop indigenous capability especially in high technology areas. Lt Gen Raju called the collaborative efforts of Army, academia, industry, angel investors and state government a momentous occasion. Emphasising the importance of self-reliance in the defence sector, he said meeting the Army's defence requirement is a strategic necessity. He said «Make in India» and «Atmanirbhar Bharat» initiatives from Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a game changer, Lt Gen Raju said that the initiative has given a major impetus in defence procurement. He said that the Army Design Bureau (ADB), which was established in Delhi to engage with industry and academia for development of niche technology for the Army, is bearing fruits and the establishment of the Regional Technology Nodes (RTN) will further increase its reach. Lt Gen Raju stated that it is a right step in the right direction for ushering technology infusion in the Indian Army and congratulated the Commandant ASC Centre and College and his team for establishment of RTN-B at ASC Centre and College.

No intention to privatise Singareni Collieries: PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday made it clear that the Centre has «no intention» to privatise Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). Without naming Telangana Rashttra Samithi (TRS), he said that some political forces were spreading rumours for their political interests. The Prime Minister stated that there is neither a proposal under consideration for the privatisation nor the Centre has any intention to do it. He was addressing a public meeting after inaugurating or laying the foundation stone of various projects at Ramagundam in Telangana's Peddapalli district, one of the districts which have mines of SCCL. Prime Minister Modi said that the «lie of those spreading rumours has been

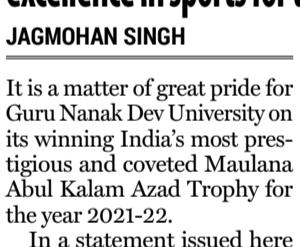
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy-2022 for Guru Nanak Dev University for overall excellence in sports for the record 24th time



of several thousand crores in the coal sector but for the last eight years there has been transparency in auction of coal mines and the profit from this is reaching local people. Prime Minister Modi also remarked that due to his visit to Telangana and the massive turnout at the public meeting, some people in Hyderabad were having sleepless nights. The Prime Minister inaugurated fertilizer plant at Ramagundam and dedicated Bhadrachalam Road- Sattupalli rail line to the nation, which has been built at a cost of around Rs 1,000 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for Medak-Siddipet-Elkathurthy section of National Highway 765DG; Bodhan-Basar-Bhainsa section of NH-161BB; Sironcha to Mahadevpur Section of NH-353C.

It is a matter of great pride for Guru Nanak Dev University on its winning India's most prestigious and coveted Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for the year 2021-22. In a statement issued here today said that this trophy is awarded every year by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India to the best performing university of the country in the field of sports. Guru Nanak Dev University has obtained this distinct honour of winning Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for overall excellence in sports for the record 24th time. Prof. (Dr.) Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University congratulated Dr. Kanwar Mandeep Singh, Director Sports, all the players, their coaches, Principals and all other supporting technical officials for their sincere hard work in winning this prestigious award. The President of India will award this prestigious trophy to Prof. (Dr.) Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice-Chancellor alongwith Dr. Kanwar Mandeep Singh, Director Sports on 30th November, 2022 at RashtrapatiBhavan, New Delhi.

HAL Hands Over 16th ALH Mk III, Gets Lol for 9 More from Indian Coast Guard



HAL handed over the last of the 16 ALHs (Mk-III, Maritime role) contracted with the Indian Coast Guard at a program here today to DG Coast Guard V S Pathania in the presence of senior officials from CG, Defence and HAL statement from HAL said. DG Cost Guard V S Pathania said «We are proud to be associated with HAL and happy to issue a Letter of Intent (LoI) for nine more helicopters. Despite COVID-19, HAL delivered all the helicopters at the shortest time with seamless production activities and this allows us to strengthen India's Maritime security.» The CG had signed a contract with HAL for supply of 16 ALH Mk III in March 2017. C B Ananthkrishnan, CMD, HAL, said a unique feature of the contract has been the Performance Based Logistics (PBL) – the one stop solution for maintenance of these helicopters by HAL.

but also signing a mercy petition «out of fear» for his release. Gandhi on Thursday waved and read out a letter written by the revolutionary to the British government, saying he (Savarkar) wanted to be a servant of the colonial rulers. Citing the letter, the Congress MP said that Savarkar wrote «I beg to remain, sir, your most obedient servant» in the letter, as he was «scared» of the British rulers.

ABORTION LAWS IN INDIA: PAST VS PRESENT

Rest the Case, an online legal aggregator platform expresses its views on amendments in Abortion laws

FW DESK

Since the preface of the MTP Act in 1971, abortion laws in India for rape victims, unmarried women, and married women were varied. Legal or illegal, many people have asked questions about the abortion policy in India. The Supreme Court landed its rendition of the MTPA to the heart of constitutional rights. It specified a woman's 'decisional liberty' to exercise 'close personal preferences' as a 'self-governing' person. The court even accepted the very significance of bodily duty set on women by an avoided

pregnancy and the 'cascading effects' of such pregnancies on their Mental well-being, Education and Career. Abortion was made legal by the MTP Act in 1971, we will look back at the history of numerous decisions passed and debated to allow women to have their take on Abortion. Until the 1960s, Abortion was banned in India and was actionable as per the law. Section 312 of the IPC states that a female can face three years of jail and a fine. Section 312 of the IPC could outline the wilful inducing miscarriage if it were not done in good faith to save the child. In 1964, the Committee urged the relaxation of abortion laws that would help lessen unsafe abortions and reduce maternal mortality in the country. In August 1971, a medical ending bill was presented in Rajya Sabha, and Lok Sabha and was passed by Parliament. The MTP Act came into force on April 1, 1972. However, it was changed in 1975

to make it less critical. The abortion law was amended in 2002 in brief to allow the use of the then-new medical abortion pills. In March 2020, both the Houses of Parliament gave the MTP revision bill. It was one of the last bits of laws to be given prior to the lockdown. This act signified the main core of the previous show and is an improved and liberal interpretation. It raised the time limit of abortion from 20 weeks to 24 weeks. This act also let unmarried women abort their pregnancies depending on the loss of contraceptives. The medical academy could only show the de-

tails about abortion to a qualified person. The MTP amendments law is more inclusive of Minors, Rape survivors, Victims of incest, differently abled and so on. Rest the case is a legal aggregator that makes legal information and services available to everyone digitally. The CEO of the platform Shreya Sharma said, «It is a huge win for women and the judiciary with this judgment passed by the Supreme Court. However, a lot of work still needs to be done in terms of making sure the laws are implemented on the ground level.» The law admits shifts in the marital status of a pregnant



In 1964, the Committee urged the relaxation of abortion laws that would help lessen unsafe abortions and reduce maternal mortality in the country. In August 1971, a medical ending bill was presented in Rajya Sabha, and Lok Sabha and was passed by Parliament. The MTP Act came into force on April 1, 1972. However, it was changed in 1975

Shrinking exports with high deficits cause of concern

For the first time since February 2021, India's goods exports shrank this October, dropping 16.7% from last year (and 16% from September 2022) to slip below \$30 billion after a 20-month-streak above that mark. Most sectors were hit hard: engineering goods, pharmaceuticals and chemicals and employment-intensive gems and jewellery, textiles and handlooms. Just six sectors recorded an uptick, with electronics goods being the only manufacturing segment. Imports grew 5.7% year-on-year, expanding the country's trade deficit over 50% to \$26.9 billion. This is the fourth straight month of a \$25 billion-plus goods trade deficit that hit a record \$30 billion in July. To be sure, imports have now been moderating sequentially for four straight months and dropped 7.3% from September to an eight-month low of \$56.7 billion. But a marginal dip in petroleum imports, along with a 10.3% shrinking of non-oil, non-gold imports from September, can also be construed as a sign of slackening domestic demand. India's trade deficit so far this year is now over \$175 billion, from \$94.2 billion a year ago. However, there is no need to be 'overly depressed' as India has a very low share of global trade which can only grow. A new Foreign Trade Policy to replace the current one from 2015, was recently deferred yet again till April 2023 for reasons that included waiting out the current global turmoil. If anything, the tumult in trade flows will be much worse by then. Policymakers must stop dithering and be more pro-active in recalibrating their stance — for instance, the steel export duty amid lower global prices has triggered higher imports, while exports, including those of engineering goods, have collapsed. The Finance Ministry recently identified external pressures as a key challenge — with a depreciating rupee making imports pricier and slowing global demand hurting exports. More actions are needed to match these concerns.

LETTERBOX

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"Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results."

Willie Nelson

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ASIM ALI HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS TO CHECK GROWING BLACK HOLE OF POLL BONDS

Opaque financing hurts democracy

The discourse around political finance in India usually revolves around the issue of corruption. We see this in the political contestation over the introduction of electoral bonds. It is either presented as a pious instrument for 'cleansing' politics, by routing funding through legal channels, or as a murky mechanism for legitimating 'institutionalised corruption'.

Thus, the corruption frame locks the issue of political funding into a superficial binary of 'clean' versus 'dirty', expressed in moral or legal terms. This framing precludes any focus on the structural relationship between the nature of political funding and the shape of our political system — conveniently so, for the relationship implicates almost every political party, whether it is ruling or in the Opposition. Corruption is merely one symptom of this structural relationship, rather than being a driving factor.

In any country, the nature of political finance is an important determinant of the structure of political competition. The structure of political competition can be studied around three axes: institutional (the regulation of competition between ruling and Opposition parties); organisational (the regulation of competition within a party); and ideological (the role of ideas in determining competition between parties).

All the three axes of political competition are substantially influenced by the nature of political finance. One, the degree of transparency of political funding informs the efficacy of institutional safeguards. For example, the inherent opacity of electoral bonds renders the power of the Election Commission of India (ECI) irrelevant in terms of ensuring a level-playing field. Meanwhile, the information asymmetry between the ruling and the Opposition parties gnaws at the fairness of electoral processes.

Second, the extent to which political funding is centralised within a party de-



termines whether power in the party is drawn from organisational structures or exercised in a personalistic manner. For example, membership-funded parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Bahujan Samaj Party of an earlier era were highly organised parties where leaders wielded power in a responsive, programmatic manner. Similarly, we can chart the transformation of the Labour Party in the United Kingdom over the course of the 20th century, from an organisationally-driven mass party to a centralised elite party, as (among other factors) the balance of party funding shifted from Labour unions to corporate houses.

Third, the political financing regime also shapes the role of ideas in grounding political competition. Admittedly, this relationship can proceed in varied ways according to the contingencies of different political contexts. But, as a general matter, when political finance is anchored to a narrow concentration of economic capital, the ideological basis of political competition tends to become severely corroded.

Bonds as advantage to ruling party

Having constructed this framework of analysis, let us come back to the issue of

electoral bonds. How do we expect the rise of electoral bonds, as a major source of political finance, to affect the prevailing patterns of political competition? At the outset, one must note the remarkable speed with which electoral bonds have colonised at least the declared sphere of political funding. Within two years of its introduction, electoral bonds were said to cover 52% of the total income of national parties and 53% of the total income of regional parties, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

There are two salient features of electoral bonds we must consider to gauge its impact on political competition.

One, the design of electoral bonds, perhaps more than any other instrument of political finance, leans to the advantage of the ruling party. It is not surprising that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2019-20 got over 75% of the total electoral bonds sold, as opposed to the meagre 9% share of the Congress, according to ECI data. As the political scientist, Milan Vaishnav, has written, electoral bonds invert the concept of transparency and openness in political funding, whereby only the government, and presumably the ruling party, have access to the transaction trails. The information

asymmetry and barriers to institutional scrutiny thus created considerably skews the channel of electoral bonds towards the ruling party. Second, electoral bonds centralise political funding towards the national units of political parties, further entrenching the leverage of national leadership over the State and local units. As a reply to a Right To Information (RTI) query revealed, out of the 5,851 crore of electoral bonds sold in 2018-19, 80% of the bonds were redeemed in Delhi. Electoral bonds were introduced alongside significant legal amendments, such as the removal of erstwhile limits (7.5% of net profit) on corporate donations. These changes in the legal architecture of political finance enable the prospects of an alliance of national political elite and big business conglomerates squeezing the space for both local elites and regional capital.

These two features of electoral bonds signal an important break, harking back to another turning point in the history of political finance brought under the Indira Gandhi regime. As Mr. Vaishnav and Devesh Kapur have written in their book, *Costs of Democracy: Political Finance in India*, Indira Gandhi banned corporate donations in 1969 in order to limit the growth of the Swatantra Party and the Jana Sangh, who she feared were increasingly attracting corporate backers. These changes in political funding melded well with her wider strategy of tightening the grip of the state (and hence the ruling party) over big business through the project of dialling up licence/controls and nationalisation of key industries. At the same time, the Indira Gandhi regime also cultivated personalistic relationships with big business elites in order to marginalise the regional strongmen which had till then controlled the organisational structure of the Congress party.

Asim Ali is a political researcher and columnist. Views are personal.



Sustainable Development Goals and Haryana

Haryana has been ranked as the fastest-growing state in the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goal Index 2020-2021 but the situation is grim in Haryana in the area of health and nutrition.

The fact sheet of NFSH (National Family Health Survey)-5 (Haryana) provides information on key indicators and trends for Haryana. This survey is the most comprehensive survey to date on the health and nutrition indicators of India's men, women and children. In Haryana information was gathered from a sample of 18,229 households, 21,909 women, and 3,224 men.

According to NFSH-5, the sex ratio has improved in Haryana from 876 (2015-16) to 926. The fertility rate has declined from 2.1 to 1.9 in NFHS-5 which is better than the national average. Infant and child mortality rate has improved. About 80% of women and 91% of men are literate (refers to women/men who completed standard 9 or higher and who can read a whole sentence or part of the sentence.). In the case of women empowerment, 87% of females usually participate in household decisions and 39% of women are owning a house or land in their name and 73% of women are having a bank account that they themselves use. About 50% of women are having their mobile phones and 18% of women have ever experienced spousal violence.

Although in the above indicators Haryana is ahead national average there is also a black side of the picture. About 70% of children up to age 6 are anaemic in Haryana which is greater than the national average which is 67.1%. The infant mortality rate (35.2) has improved if we compare it with NFHS-4 but the prevalence of anaemia is chronic in Haryana and it is among the top 5 states in India as for as the extent of anaemia is concerned. The more alarming thing about the national average is the 8 percentage



points rise in the fraction of children suffering from anaemia from 59% in NFHS-4 to 67% in NFHS-5. About 27.5% of children are stunted and 21.5% are underweight in Haryana in the age group of 0-5 years. According to a report, anaemia is found more chronic in women in comparison to men. In India, About 59% of females are anaemic in the age group of 15-19 and 57% in the age group 15-49, whereas in Haryana 62% of women are anaemic in the age group of 15-19 and 60.4% are anaemic in the age group of 15-49.

While the results of the NFHS are usually mixed, and improvements in certain sectors ride along with stagnation and deterioration in other sectors, this year, there have been radical improvements in maternal and child health, sex ratio and population control. A greater proportion of births than ever before is now happening in institutions, more children in the 12-23 months age group have received their vaccinations, and, most interestingly, the Fertility rate in India as well as in Haryana is decreasing. In Haryana it is 1.9 which is below the national average (2.0), indicating that India has

contained the population explosion. Policies, as in the case of the family planning sector, seem to have borne fruit, years after they were implemented. While the gender ratio has, for the first time, recorded more women per 1,000 men, gender ratio at birth in the last five years still underlines the persistence of a deep-rooted son preference especially in middle-class Haryana, one that has to be countered, through policy and law. The initiative of the central govt. increasing the marriage age from 18 to 21 years will definitely improve the health and nutrition levels in the near term by putting more girls in college and enabling women to achieve greater financial independence in the long run in India including Haryana and other states.

Still, malnutrition and anaemia is the biggest challenge for the economy in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of ending all forms of malnutrition among children under 5. Poor public health is always the most important hurdle in development. The major reason behind malnutrition and anaemia is poverty among the lower class and the unhealthy lifestyle of the middle

class. Mortality rate and longevity of life have improved because of health facilities but still, there is a need for a targeted distribution system of healthy food for poor people in the state. Mid-day meal schemes should include nutritious food. A health slogan of 'food should be medicine and medicine should be food' should be started in near future. Although only 8% of people are below the poverty line in Haryana according to NITI Aayog's multidimensional poverty measures but the poverty among this small section is severe. NFHS-5 is national and sub-nationally at the state and district levels representative, so its findings on children's nutritional status can help policymakers identify critical areas where better policy can provide course correction. Since India has the most malnourished children in the world, it's worth analysing what NFHS-5 has to say about India's progress towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.2.

Haryana has reported considerable improvement in the sex ratio reflecting the effective implementation of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015.

A 57-point rise in the sex ratio at birth in the last five years (females per 1,000 males) has been recorded in Haryana, as per the National Family Health Survey-5 (2020-2021).

The sex ratio witnessed an increase from 876 (NFHS-4 2015-16) to 926 in NFHS-5 while the sex ratio at birth recorded an increase from 836 to 893 (2020-21). Chief Minister Manohar Lal has congratulated the officers involved in this campaign and said that the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao campaign will continue and the State will soon reach the 950 mark in gender ratio at birth (girl child).

Dr. Harvinder Kaur, S.D. College, Ambala, Views are personal

BOOKS: REVIEW

Book tells story of humanity from prehistory until today

Award-winning historian and novelist Simon Sebag Montefiore takes the road less travelled for his new book, *The World: A Family History*, as he tells the story of humanity from prehistory to the present day through the one thing that all humans have in common: family.

The two-part book, published by Hachette India, claims to capture the story of humankind in "a ground-breaking, single narrative that will forever shift the boundaries of what history can achieve".

It is scheduled to release on November 21.

Beginning with the footsteps of a family walking along a beach 9,50,000 years ago, Montefiore takes the readers on an epic journey through the families that have

shaped the world, including the Caesars, Medicis, Incas, Ottomans, Mughals, Bonapartes, Habsburgs, Zulus, Rothschilds, Rockefeller, Krupp and Churchills.

"This is world history on the most grand and intimate scale — spanning centuries, continents and cultures, and linking grand themes of war, migration, plague, religion, medicine and technology to the people at the centre of the human drama," said the publishers in a statement. Montefiore, the internationally bestselling author of prize-winning books, has been published in 48 languages.

Besides the award-winning "Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar" and "Jerusalem: The Biography", he is also the author of "Written in History: Letters That Changed

"This is world history on the most grand and intimate scale — spanning centuries, continents and cultures"

the World and Voices of History: Speeches That Changed the World". His soon to be out "The World: A Family History" has already received endorsement from the likes of former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and noted English historian Simon Schama.

"In this work of astonishing scope and erudition, Montefiore interweaves the stories of the servants, courtiers and kings, pioneers, preachers and philosophers who have made history. A brilliant syn-



The World: A Family History By Simon Sebag Montefiore Knopf 1344 pages

thesis that will impart fresh insight to even the most learned readers," wrote Kissinger in his praise for the book.

Around 950,000 years ago, a family of five walked along the beach and left behind the oldest family footprints ever discovered.

For award-winning historian Simon Sebag Montefiore, these poignant, familiar fossils serve as an inspiration for a new kind of world history, one that is genuinely global, spans all eras and all continents, and focuses on the family ties that connect every one of us.

In this epic, ever-surprising book,

Montefiore chronicles the world's great dynasties across human history through palace intrigues, love affairs, and family lives, linking grand themes of war, migration, plague, religion, and technology to the people at the heart of the human drama.

It features a cast of extraordinary diversity: in addition to rulers and conquerors, there are priests, charlatans, artists, scientists, tycoons, gangsters, lovers, husbands, wives, and children.

There is Hongwu, the beggar who founded the Ming dynasty; Ewuare, the Leopard-King of Benin; Henry Christophe, King of Haiti; Kamehameha, the conqueror of Hawaii; Zenobia, the Arab empress who defied Rome; Lady Murasaki, the first female novelist; Sayyida al-Hurra, the Moroccan pirate-queen. Here too are moderns such as Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher, Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin, and Volodymyr Zelensky.

BYD India announces the Price of BYD-ATTO 3

ARUN KUMAR RAO
Chennai

The world's leading new energy vehicle manufacturer BYD announced the price of India's First Sporty Born E-SUV, BYD-ATTO 3, available at INR 33.99 Lakhs (All India, Ex-showroom). BYD-ATTO 3 has received overwhelming response from customers and is close to the 1,500 mark since booking began on October 11. BYD-ATTO 3 is available in 4 colors: Boulder Grey, Parkour Red, Ski White, and Surf Blue company statement said.

Official Statement said, vehicle Equipped with the ultra-safe Blade Battery and the born EV platform (e-Platform 3.0), BYD-ATTO 3 features fast charging from 0% to 80% in 50 mins, a range of 521km according to



ARAI tests with a higher battery capacity of 60.48kWh, and a 0-100km/h acceleration time of 7.3s. With a sporty, powerful exterior and rhythmic interior, BYD-ATTO 3 also features the L2 Advanced Driving Assistance System (ADAS) BYD Dipilot, 7 airbags, a panoramic sunroof, a 12.8-inch (32.5cm) adaptive

rotating Screen, 360° holographic transparent imaging system, NFC card key, and a Vehicle to Load (VTOL) mobile power station, making this car an extremely competitive EV offering. BYD-ATTO 3 also boasts features such as mobile phone wireless charging, a one-touch electric control tailgate,

an 8-speaker audio system, electric seat adjustment, voice control, LED headlamps, LED rear lights, multi-color gradient ambient lighting that responds to music rhythm, PM 2.5 air filter, CN95 air filter, etc.

BYD-ATTO 3 offers a 7kW home charger and its installation service, a 3kW portable charging box, a 3-year free 4G Data subscription, 6-year roadside assistance, and 6 free maintenance service. Besides, BYD-ATTO 3 offers a warranty of 8 years or 1.6 Lakhs kilometers (whichever is earlier) for the traction battery, 8 years or 1.5 Lakhs kilometers (whichever is earlier) for the motor & the motor controller, 6 years or 1.5 Lakhs kilometers for the vehicle, and warranty details of other components.

BYD-ATTO 3 is on display

at every BYD India dealership showroom & Customers can now book the vehicle at any authorized BYD India dealership. Local dealership location

The first batch of deliveries of the BYD-ATTO 3 will begin in January 2023.

Sanjay Gopalakrishnan, Senior Vice President of Electric Passenger Vehicles of BYD India, said, "We are delighted at the overwhelming response from our customers and thank them for joining the EV journey towards a sustainable future. We are happy to announce the price of our much-acclaimed electric SUV BYD-ATTO 3 in India at INR 33.99 Lakhs (All India - ex-showroom). We are eager to introduce BYD-ATTO 3 to the world and plan to expand its availability in the future."

Hero Electric announces 1st edition of Bengaluru 'one race' and 8th edition of tour of Karnataka in BengaluruARUN KUMAR RAO
Bengaluru

Naveen Munjal, Managing Director, Hero Electric today announced "1st Edition of Bengaluru One Race in Bengaluru and the 8th Edition of tour Karnataka during press conference in Bengaluru.

Munjal addressing Media said "Hero Electric is Thrilled to announce the first edition of One Race along with 8th season of TOK in Bengaluru, We are in our seventh and third year association with one Race and TOK, respectively, with the vision of working toward the good of society and uplifting the human spirit. Both events in the city will reinforce the excitement of running to bring



india one step closer to living a healthy and sustainable life. Hero Electric will continue to support the spirit of sportsmanship in the country and promote well-being among the people " he said.

TOK is cycling tour conducted by Cadence90 every year in

November. Spread over four days, cyclists ride through scenic, serene routes of Karnataka soak in its beauty. Cyclists challenge themselves across different terrains (mountain coastal) and weather conditions while experiencing local traditions and culture. The 8th edition of TOK starts on Nov 22, 2022, with 106 riders and this growing tribe of TOK cyclists will ride distance of 523 km. The first edition of the Bangalore race is scheduled to be February 2023, and registrations for the run will be open for individuals who can register by visiting the One Race official website. The Bangalore run will consist of 5 KM, 10km, and the most popular half Marathon race, a biker, and a certified pilot.

Can have petrol and diesel under GST if all states agree, says Hardeep Puri



NEW DELHI: Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri on Monday said that if states are ready, then the Centre can bring petrol and diesel under the GST regime. Puri, who was in Srinagar, told media persons that for bringing petrol and diesel under GST, the states need to have a consensus. So if the states are ready, then the Centre would also be prepared as it has been ready for it all along, he added, as per reports. At the same time though, he noted that how would be implemented, is another issue altogether, and this should be addressed to the Finance Minister. Puri also expressed doubts whether states would agree to bringing petrol and diesel under GST, as per the reports.

IL&FS commences interim distribution payout



The Group has completed distribution of Rs 623.38 crore, on an interim basis, to the secured lenders/secured financial creditors of RMGL comprising Union Bank of India, Bank of India, Indian Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank and Indian Overseas Bank. The total claims of these lenders was Rs 715 crore. This distribution on an interim basis, thus, translates in a recovery of around 83 per cent to these creditors. Disbursement of additional amounts to the unsecured financial creditors and unsecured creditors is also under process. IL&FS Board had approved this interim distribution at its board meeting held on November 2. This is the first pay-out by IL&FS under the Interim Distribution framework wherein it is proposed to distribute an aggregate amount of Rs 16,361 crore across select Group companies.

Procter & Gamble Health Announces First Quarter results



FW DESK
New Delhi

Procter & Gamble Health Limited announced today its financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2022. The company has recorded a strong performance with sales of Rs 292 crores, up 9% vs a year ago behind strong off-take on key brands supported by extensive consumer awareness and HCP engagement efforts. The Profit After Tax (PAT) was Rs 63.7 crores, up by 15% vs a year ago backed by improved product mix and productivity initiatives. Milind Thattai, Managing Director, P&G Health India, said, "We have delivered a very productive quarter with strong profit growth over last quarter, as well as over last year. For the first time ever, our domestic sales for India, for the month of September, crossed Rs 100crores.

66-year-old African Woman gets a new lease of life post Successful Knee Replacement via "Mako Robotic Surgery"

ARUN KUMAR RAO
Bengaluru

A 66-year-old African patient suffering from multiple comorbidities gave a new lease of life treating via "Mako Robotic Arm-Assisted Technology" at Fortis Hospital bannegetta bengaluru. The patient had been suffering from knee pain for past 15 years and faced immobility successfully performed the bilateral total knee replacement surgery on the patient. Dr. Narayan Hulse, Director - Department of Orthopaedics, Bone & Joint Surgery, addressing press-conference said.

"we operated on both knees of the patient individually with a gap of 3 days. Mako Robotic Technology helped us create a 3D virtual model of the patient's damaged knee and plan the corrective surgery. During surgery the Robotic-Arm assisted in resecting the bone in an appropriate angle,



personalised for this patient. Unlike routine knee replacements", he said.

This particular case patient needed additional implants like stems and augments to reinforce the weak bone, he said

"While traditional knee of hip replacement surgeries have considerable improved patients'

quality of life over the past three decades, Mako has significantly increased the accuracy, aided precise planning and bone-cut, faster recovery, quicker discharge, and less blood loss. This technology has completely transformed how joint replacements are being carried out," Dr Hulse added.

Panasonic launches its new 'I - Class Modular kitchen range' in India

ARUN KUMAR RAO
Bangalore

Panasonic Life Solutions India, one of the largest domestic manufacturers of electrical construction materials, housing, and diverse electronics technologies, announced the launch of its exclusive "I-Class Modular Kitchen range." During the pressconference on in bengaluru on Friday. This new range will be a one-stop shop for homeowners looking to customise their kitchens using a combination of Japanese technology and Indian production, as well as customisable aesthetics for users seeking affordable luxury options. The new range will be available in 23 cities across India via 25 retail stores.

Addressing pressconference Yoshiyuki Kitazaki, Assistant Director of Kitchen Furniture, Bathroom & Sanitary Fittings Business Division of Panasonic



Housing Solutions Co., Ltd. said, This new I-Class Kitchen range is a great combination of best-in-class material sourced across India and the latest technology from Japan. It boasts of an array of highly customizable features including 100% smart storage to provide maximum space utility for Indian households. The countertops are reinforced by crosspiece which offers solid durability and resilience, he added.

He said, The entire cabinet which is made of plywood comes with smart and functional features such as SS matt and rubber strips that provide soft down technology and unique storage shifting technologies, elevates the entire kitchen experience. The "I-Class range" enables the customers to customise options of cabinet doors in hundreds of colours and patterns in varied materials and finishes. Panasonic Life Solutions India also

promises a 10-year replacement guarantee on the new range. Thus, replete with innovative technology solutions and elegant streamlined designs, the I-Class Kitchen range is testimony to the Panasonic trust and brand ethos.

Dinesh Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director, Panasonic Life Solutions India added, "With the economic growth, India is witnessing a paradigm change in user expectation, design and utility of kitchen spaces. After having received a very positive response in India to the luxurious Panasonic I class kitchens that were launched in 2018; the Panasonic I-Class kitchens range now being introduced combines functional superiority of the L class and our in-depth learnings from Indian market about the site challenges of civil construction, specific storage needs in the kitchen across different regions of our country and ergonomics.

Cellebrite Endpoint Inspector Empowers Organizations with Remote Collection of Workplace Applications

CELLEBRITE NOW OFFERS A COMPETITIVE DIFFERENTIATOR BY OFFERING THE ABILITY TO COLLECT REMOTE MOBILE DATA, REMOTE COMPUTER DATA, AND CLOUD APPLICATION DATA IN A UNIFIED PLATFORM

FW DESK

A global leader in Digital Intelligence (DI) solutions for the public and private sectors, today announced the launch of the cloud workplace app collection, a new Cellebrite Endpoint Inspector capability aimed at improving

organizations' investigation and eDiscovery capabilities by enabling them to collect remote mobile and computer data and cloud workplace application data in a unified platform.

The addition of the cloud workplace app collection to Cellebrite Endpoint Inspector should help reduce the time and cost associated with the collection of data from applications such as Office365, Google Workspace, Slack, and Box by allowing examiners to initiate multiple collections for custodians from the largest sources of employee work-related data. With our unified collection capability, and now adding cloud workplace app collection to Endpoint Inspector, custom-



ers will be able to have one tool for all their collection sources.

The cloud workplace app collection aims at enabling examiners to research and consolidate data, build a comprehensive picture, surface actionable insights, and uncover the truth. Additionally, the cloud workplace app collection uses smart collection capabilities to gather only necessary data from workplace applications while ensuring data security and privacy are protected at each step of the process.

Ken Basore, Enterprise Solu-

tions General Manager at Cellebrite, said: "In today's world, it is imperative that organizations in every industry and of every size can access employee work-related data in a secure and efficient way. Cloud workplace app collection is transforming how organizations collect data associated with corporate investigations and the eDiscovery process. We are proud to be the only company that offers a unified platform for remote mobile and computer collection and now from the most widely used cloud workplace applications - with our revolutionary capability, companies across the private sector can boost efficiencies while maintaining data security."

Entrepreneurship through Cooperative Movement Programme as a part of National Cooperative Week Celebration

MUMBAI: Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI), Ahmedabad in collaboration with AMUL and IFFCO celebrated the National Cooperative Week on Friday at EDII Campus. The inaugural event of the programme, 'Promoting Entrepreneurship through Cooperative Movement' was graced by Chief Guest, Shri Anil Kumar Bayati, General Manager, AmulFed Dairy, Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Guest of Honour, Shri P M Meva, Chief Manager (Marketing), IFFCO, Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat and Special Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Rana Singh, Director, Chandragupt Institute of Management Patna (CIMP), Patna, Bihar. EDII, on this occasion, also entered into an MoU with this Institute.

The event saw participation of



over 300 professionals championing the cause of cooperatives and the cooperative movement, students from universities including the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Udaybhansinhji Regional Institute of Cooperative Management, Gandhinagar, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Gwalior, Udaan Trust of Social Work, Vishwakarma Government Engineering College, Ahmedabad, startups, academia, entrepreneurs and policy makers.

Anil Kumar Bayati, General Manager, AmulFed Dairy, Gandhinagar, Gujarat traced the genesis of Amul. He said, "It is a role model for cooperative Dairy Development. In a bid to transplant the spirit of Amul to other places, the 'National Dairy Development Board' was set up and the model was successfully replicated. Amul symbolizes the faith in the cooperative system which places the instruments of development in the hands of farmers."

Building a Safer Delivery Universe for Swiggy's Women executives

FW DESK

We have been on a long journey to encourage more women to join us as delivery executives. The path since we onboarded our first delivery woman in 2016 has not been a linear one. During this time we have learned a lot about the cultural, societal, and delivery challenges that prevent more women from taking up gigs with us. Our learnings led to new initiatives and we are even stronger in our resolve to create a delivery universe that encourages



more women delivery executives to join Swiggy.

As women executives join us, regular pulse checks and internal and external audits give us a view of the gaps that prevent more women from taking up gig work. We reflected on what we

had learned—and started taking systematic action. In 2021 Swiggy became the first platform to offer paid period time off to our women delivery executives. We launched practical initiatives that included access to hygienic restrooms and access to vehicles. The safety of our delivery executives, regardless of gender is a top priority. The Swiggy delivery executive app has an SOS button that provides round-the-clock support and connects executives to an ambulance, the local police station, or the Swiggy helpline as the need arises.

Walmart Foundation announces new grant to PRADAN to support the growth & development of women-led FPOs

FW DESK
New Delhi

To improve rural livelihoods of small and marginal farming households, especially women farmers in the tribal regions of eastern states of the country, Walmart Foundation and PRADAN today announced the implementation of the 'PROFIT' project. PROFIT, that stands for the 'proress

of organized resources & women-farmers for transforming FPOs into independent institutions', intends to support 60 women-led Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) over a period of 30 months.

The project will be supported by a grant of \$2 million from the Walmart Foundation, and will aim to empower nearly 120,000 women to create viable small-holder businesses with a total



cumulative annual turnover of \$32 million. As part of the project, the FPOs will receive assistance to develop business plans, build necessary systems and processes, and implement governance systems for their ventures. In addition, they will also be provided technology and financial support through

access to service partners and linkages with relevant national or state government programs to avail complementary aid. For example, under the Government of India Scheme 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs', 29 FPOs from the project will be able to benefit with access to improved technology, credit, better input, and more markets to enhance quality and value realization of their produce.

Global Edtech Leader Simplilearn Raises USD 45 million in a New Funding Round Led by GSV Ventures

SIMPLILEARN WITNESSED A GROWTH OF OVER 60% IN THE PAST YEAR, AMIDST THE SLOWDOWN IN THE EDTECH INDUSTRY, AND EMERGED AS A STRONG, DIFFERENTIATED GLOBAL EDTECH LEADER

MUMBAI: Simplilearn, the world's leading online Bootcamp for digital skilling training, announced its fresh round of fundraising from a consortium led by GSV Ventures, a multi-stage venture capital firm. In addition to GSV Ventures, Clal Insurance, and DisruptAD, ADQ's venture platform, are also participating in this round. The current investment brings in USD 45 mm into the company, further boosting its growth across the globe. This round of funding comes at a time when the technology funding ecosystem and the edtech market, in general, are witnessing volatility. The edtech major has seen

significant growth in the past year and has added more than 1,20,000 paid B2C learners, and 1,00,000+ enterprise learners on its platform. This is in addition to the 2 million+ free learners that it adds to its SkillUp platform every year.

As a homegrown, global edtech company, Simplilearn continues to play an instrumental role in bridging the persistent digital skills gap across the globe. It offers digital skilling programs for professionals, enabling learners to upskill and get certified in fast-growing digital domains. Simplilearn creates these programs in collaboration with renowned



educational institutions such as Caltech CTME, MIT Schwarzman College of Computing, UMass Amherst and the Isenberg School of Management, Purdue University, Wharton

Online, IIT Roorkee, and IIT Kanpur, and companies such as IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, and KPMG.

Post the Blackstone investment in August 2021, Simpli-

learn has strategically deployed funds enabling exponential yet mindful growth over the past year. Speaking on this round of funding, Krishna Kumar, Founder & CEO, of Simplilearn, said, "We continue to witness the accelerated need for digitally skilled workforce across industries and Simplilearn continues to be focused on bridging the digital skill gap. Continuing on our path of mindful growth, we are grateful for how far the company has come today. The Blackstone investment last year came at an ideal time to boost our growth globally, and further strengthen our customer-centric approach. Today, we are excited

to partner with GSV Ventures, a globally recognized investor with a strong track record in the education sector, along with a strong set of co-investors in Clal Insurance and DisruptAD. This funding came at a time when the industry is going through turmoil and stands as a testimony to our steady, profitable growth."

He added, "We believe GSV Ventures, Clal Insurance, and DisruptAD will bring value to our company given their experience, scale, and global network which will further enhance our efforts towards growing Simplilearn and sustaining our leadership, globally. We also thank our

existing investor, Blackstone, for their resolute support and trust in our journey of becoming a market leader."

Deborah H. Quazzo, Managing Partner, GSV Ventures said, "With immense experience investing and working with education firms around the world, it is certain that the demand for knowledge-gain and upskilling is omnipresent. Like many other sectors, technology is disrupting education, and edtech has been a key focus area for us. Simplilearn is a unique player in the digital skilling space with premium content and partnerships with various marquee universities and enterprises.

Trading of electronic gold receipts is planned to be made available on the platform of the National Stock Exchange

FW DESK
New Delhi

At the 14th International Gold Economic Forum organised by ASSOCHAM V S Sundaresan, Executive Director, Securities and Exchange Board of India stated in his keynote address that gold is one of the most essential assets and that India has amassed more than 20,000 tonnes of gold over the years. India's global market accounts for 25% of global demand, and since less than 1% of supply is acquired from mining, imports are mostly used to fill the gap. We need to tap the quality assurance and price standards. With the right market regulator, people will have more acceptance and comfort of dealing with the product.

to V S Sundaresan, Executive Director at Sebi, "we hope that this product would undoubtedly gain acceptance over a period of time." In order to use this product, physical gold must be deposited in a vault. The vault manager will then issue an electronic receipt, which will be credited to the investor's demat account and can be traded on the stock exchange. Accordingly, the gold will remain in a vault but will produce some form of income, and V S Sundaresan noted that the gold that isn't being used can be put to good use.



EGR trading was started on the Bombay Stock Exchange's platform, he noted. Mrugank Paranjape, Chairman, National Council on Commodity Markets, ASSOCHAM & Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, NCDEX e Markets Limited (NEML), "The domestic market is supported by cultural, wedding, and holiday demand, which opens up a wide range of prospects. The industry is currently focusing on product offers that deliver both value and variety to India's diverse cultural and demographic customer base as a result of the competitiveness engendered by such rapid expansion."

increased by up to 80%. The government has put in place the Gold Monetization Scheme, Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme, and Hallmarking Scheme to safeguard consumers when they purchase gold of the appropriate purity, boost export competitiveness, and promote India as a significant global market for gold jewelry.

Wholesale inflation eases to 8.39%, consumers may not benefit

India's wholesale price inflation (WPI) in October fell to a 20-month low 8.39% year-on-year, since March 2021. It was also less compared to 10.70 per cent in September, mainly due to a slide in commodity prices. This was also the first time that the WPI fell below a double-digit mark in 18 months. The WPI had soared to 15.88 per cent in May 2022. In October 2021, it was 13.83 per cent. "Decline in the rate of inflation in October 2022 is primarily contributed by fall in the price of mineral oils, basic metals, fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment, textiles, other non-metallic mineral products minerals etc," an official statement said.



Reacting to the numbers Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CARE Ratings told to media "In line with our expectations, WPI inflation fell to single digit in October after a gap of 18 months. The easing of WPI inflation was aided by softer global commodity prices and a favourable base." She said, with significant correction in prices of fuel, metals and chemicals in the past five months, WPI inflation has been on a downward trend. "Imported inflation due to weaker rupee and high food inflation (for items like cereals and vegetables) will continue to put some upward pressure on WPI inflation. Nevertheless, we expect the wholesale inflation to ease further and scale below the CPI inflation by the fourth quarter of FY23," Sinha added.

Adoption of new technology necessary for transparent accounting system: FM Nirmala Sitharaman



MUMBAI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that adoption of new technology is necessary for a transparent accounting system. Transparent accounting is also so essential for sustainable economy and transparency cannot be ensured without trust and ethical accounting practices, she said. Sitharaman, who is also in charge of the corporate affairs ministry, was speaking at the 21st World Congress of Accountants that is being jointly organised by the International Federation of Accountants (IFCA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

War against drugs : Punjab police destroys 151kg heroin, 11 qtls poppy husk worth Rs 800cr



CONTRABAND WAS DESTROYED BY HIGH-LEVEL DRUG DISPOSAL COMMITTEE IN AMRITSAR
FW DESK
Punjab Police have destroyed over 151Kg heroin and 11 quintals of Poppy Husk, valued at over Rs 800 crore in the international market, by burning them in a furnace in Amritsar on Tuesday. The process of destruction was completed by the High-Level Drug Disposal Committee of contraband under the chairmanship of IGP Counter Intelligence Rakesh Agrawal. Members of the High-level Drug Disposal committee including AIG SSOC Amritsar Sukhminder Singh Mann, AIG SSOC Fazilka Lakhbir Singh, AIG CI Amritsar Amarjit Singh Bajwa and DSP SSOC Harwinderpal Singh were also present on the occasion.

Crypto.com mistakenly sends Ethereum worth \$400 mn to another exchange

Crypto.com has admitted that it mistakenly sent over \$400 million in Ethereum digital coins to another crypto exchange called Gate.io.

posed to send 320,000 cryptos to one of its offline wallets, but accidentally sent it to a "whitelisted" address belonging to the corporate account at Gate.io.



address, but was sent to a whitelisted external exchange address. We worked with Gate team and the funds were subsequently returned to our cold storage. New process and features were implemented to prevent this from reoccurring, " Marszalek acknowledged. The Crypto.com CEO said the transfers that generated so much speculation on Twitter "were made over three weeks ago, on October 21 to Crypto.com's whitelisted corporate account at Gate.io."

Anti-money laundering efforts will be accelerated by new AI tools & legislation from the govt says Justice M N Bhandari

AT ASSOCHAM CONFERENCE ON MONEY LAUNDERING AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSE "EMERGING TRENDS, PREVENTION, DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION"



NEW DELHI: Solving the Issue of money laundering has become an international effort and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 is a tool for active enforcement to fight against this criminal offence according to Hon'ble Justice M N Bhandari, Chairman, Appellate Tribunal, PMLA, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance Government of India who spoke at ASSOCHAM 2nd India International Conference on Money Laundering and Collective Response.

Chief Guest, Justice M N Bhandari, noted that combating the issue of money laundering continues to be a major task for all countries and financial institutions in the world. Administrative stability and economic stability are harmed by financial crimes. The Indian government has taken a number of actions in the past to stop money laundering. Justice Bhandari added stating that, «these steps are intended to prevent financial crimes and to ensure that the administrative and economic stability of the country is maintained.»

intended to prevent financial crimes and to ensure that the administrative and economic stability of the country is maintained. Guest of Honor, Justice Yashwant Varma Judge, Delhi High Court shared his perspectives on the theme and said, "Money Laundering is an economical and financial menace and needs to be eliminated with the collective response from stakeholders". They pose immense challenges in terms of income disparities, conflicts between rich and poor, developed and underdeveloped and therefore financial intelligence units have created anti-money laundering standards. "With the advent of growing tech, it becomes challenging to monitor digital transactions therefore cross border monitoring is required", he noted.

Income Tax Department conducts search actions in Karnataka

FW DESK



Income Tax Department initiated Search & Seizure actions on 20.10.2022 and 02.11.2022 on certain individuals who had executed Joint Development Agreements (JDAs) with various real-estate developers. The search action covered more than 50 premises spread across Bengaluru, Mumbai and Goa. During the course of the search operations, a large number of incriminating evidences, in the form of documents and digital data have been found & seized. Evidences regarding the sale agreements, development agreements and occupancy certificates (OCs) have also been seized. These evidences revealed that the land owners had not disclosed income accrued to them from capital gains on transfer of the land given for development through JDAs to various

developers, even after issue of the OCs from the authorities. It was also unearthed that in many instances, the land owners suppressed income from capital gains for various years by artificially inflating the cost of acquisition & various other costs, and by not disclosing full value of consideration on transfer of land. It was also found that some of the land owners didn't even file their ITRs for various years, where capital gains income had accrued to them. When confronted, the assesses concerned admitted their lapses and agreed to disclose income from capital gains detected in their respective cases, and pay due taxes thereon.

Indian-origin Nishad Singh under scanner for crypto exchange FTX crash



Indian-origin Nishad Singh, is being scrutinized for financial practices that caused the collapse of FTX, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges. He lived with the FTX founder along with 9 others. Singh was in the inner circle of FTX's 30-year-old founder, Sam Bankman-Fried. "Gary Wang (Chief Technology Officer), Nishad and Sam control the code, the exchange's matching engine, and funds," said a person familiar with the matter. Beleaguered crypto exchange FTX recently admitted that "unauthorised transactions" have drained hundreds of millions of dollars from its wallets, saying the company has moved many digital assets to a new "cold wallet custodian". FTX, which last week filed for bankruptcy in the US, did not reveal how much it lost in unauthorised transactions but reports claimed the amount could be as high as \$600 million.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates of 3 NH projects worth Rs 1,206 Crore in West Bengal

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 3 national highway (NH) projects worth Rs 1206 Crore in Siliguri on Thursday.



Addressing the gathering, Gadkari said that the inaugurated projects include 2-lane ROB in replacement of Level Crossing at km 615.5 of NH-31 (Oodlabari) and would give significant boost to international connectivity and ROB in lieu of Level Crossing at km 661.100 on NH-31 (Maynaguri). He said that it would help reduce accidents due

to improved safety features and bring down travelling time and distance. Gadkari said that the development of these projects will lead to industrial and economic growth in West Bengal as well as in the eastern parts of India with significant inroads towards the agriculture sector. Giving a major fillip to traffic decongestion in Siliguri, the foundation stone was laid on Thursday for the development to 4/6-laning of NH-31 (New NH-10) with both side service roads from km 569.258 to km 581.030 (end of AH-02 project on NH-31 near Shivmandir to Sevoke Army Cantonment). It would boost connectivity to North Eastern India & neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

Canter govt lays out action plan to promote millet export

India is going all out to celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. To promote shipment of nutrients, the India's Commerce and Industry Ministry, through its apex agricultural export promotion body, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), has prepared a comprehensive strategy to promote Indian millets exports across the globe, commencing December 2022. For exports of Indian millets, the Indian government has planned to facilitate participation of exporters, farmers and traders in 16 international trade expos and Buyer Seller Meets (BSMs).



organising B2B meetings and direct tie-ups. In addition, Ambassadors of Foreign missions in India of the targeted countries and potential importers would also be invited to showcase various millet-based products, including Ready to Eat millet products and facilitate B2B meetings. The APEDA has planned to organise millet promotional activities in South Africa, Dubai, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Sydney, Belgium, Germany, the UK and the US by facilitating participation of different stakeholders from India in some of the significant food shows, Buyer Seller Meets and roadshows.

Trident Group Chairman Emeritus Padmashree Rajinder Gupta honoured by Income Tax Department



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Income Tax department today... felicitated... Trident Group Chairman Emeritus Padmashree Rajinder Gupta in recognition of being the highest taxpayer (Textile Sector) of North West Region for the Assessment Year 2022-23 and in acknowledgement of his contribution towards nation building. The Income Tax department has given Gupta a Samman Patra, an honour certificate. The Award was presented to him in a function organized today at Chandigarh by Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Parneet Singh Sachdev (IRS). Rajinder Gupta is presently also designated as Chairman, Board of Governors - Punjab Engineering College (Deemed to be University), Chandigarh, Chairman of Advisory Council of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Himachal Pradesh of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Vice Chairman, Punjab State Economic Policy & Planning Board in the Rank of Cabinet Minister. He has been serving in the Cleveland Clinic International Leadership Board.

Rural Livelihood Summit 2022, Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh



Grant Thornton Bharat LLP in association with Punjab State chapter of PHD Chamber organized Punjab Rural Livelihood Summit 2022 at PHD House, Chandigarh on 16, November 2022 to focus on disseminating knowledge and enabling an ecosystem for Rural-based Livelihoods. This summit included more than 200 delegates including stakeholders such as policymakers from the State Governments, institutions, input-credit-insurance-markets providers, members of FPOs and SHGs to share their views and experiences. Chief Guest at the Session Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of Punjab expressed his appreciation for PHD Chamber & GT Bharat for taking the initiative for uplifting and promoting the rural women entrepreneurs, self-help groups and FPOs. Hon'ble Minister said that the Agriculture sector is one of the key focus areas of the Government. He mentioned that women represent 50% of the total workforce in Punjab. He summed up saying that strengthening the women entrepreneurs in agriculture sector would lead to the Nation's progress. He inaugurated the event and unveiled the book "Scope of silage industry in Punjab."

As Yellen seeks closer US-India economic ties, India dropped from currency monitoring list

United States has removed India from its currency manipulation monitoring list and made the announcement while Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was in New Delhi to boost economic relations between the two countries.

The Department conveyed the decision in a report to Congress that said India had met the criterion for removal from the list that monitors whether countries manipulate the rate of exchange between their currency and the US dollar to gain unfair competitive advantage in international trade or to exploit balance of payments adjustments.



three criteria for dropping from the list over two reporting periods making it eligible for removal, as did the four other countries. A coincidence as it was because others were also dropped, the release of the report came during Yellen's India visit to tighten the trade bonds as the US seeks global economic and manufacturing realignment after facing problems from overdependence on China. Yellen spoke of the concept of "friendshoring" - bringing supply chains to friendly countries. She said: "In a world where supply chain vulnerabilities can impose heavy costs, we believe it's important to strengthen our trade ties with India." "India is one of our trusted trading partners," she said. The three factors considered in putting a country on the monitoring list are the size of the bilateral trade surplus with

the US, current account surplus, and persistent one-sided intervention in the foreign exchange market. In addition, it also considers currency developments, exchange rate practices, foreign exchange reserve coverage, capital controls, and monetary policy. The report did not specifically say what criteria India had met, but it mentions New Delhi's performance in the related fields. The report said that India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$526.5 billion at the end of June, which is 16 per cent of the gross domestic product. It said that India, like other countries covered in the report, continues to maintain "ample - or more than ample - foreign currency reserves based on standard adequacy benchmarks". It also had a \$48 billion trade surplus with the US, according to the report.

Two Indian-origin community helpers in Australia win \$672,805 mn grant

Two Indian-origin achievers are among 20 inspiring Australians who have won A\$1 million grant (\$672,805) for creating sustainable and innovative solutions to address community issues.

New South Wales-based Amar Singh and Rishi Verma have won the grant under the Tomorrow Maker program by Sydney-based AMP Foundation.

Singh, the 41 year-old founder and president of Turbans 4 Australia, has been awarded for community service, and promoting multiculturalism and religious tolerance.

Singh, who experienced ethnic slurs because of his beard and turban, realised that there was no better way to teach others about the Sikh community and faith than connecting with the community through charity work.

It was then that he founded his charity organisation in 2015



to assist people facing financial hardship, food insecurity, homelessness and those impacted by natural calamities.

He also won the prestigious 2023 New South Wales Australian of the Year Award recently for supporting the community during floods, bushfires, drought and the pandemic.

Verma, an ophthalmologist, aerospace engineer and entrepreneur, has created an innovative portal ophthalmoscope to

and place, "Verma, currently a doctor at NSW Health, said.

Before studying medicine, he was a space engineering intern at NASA and completed his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Wollongong.

"Current economic conditions are impacting everyone but are disproportionately impacting our First Nation people and disadvantaged communities across Australia. We know that climate change and environmental issues threaten our very existence; and the global pandemic has highlighted the fault lines in our society -- all very big issues," Nicola Stokes, General Manager of AMP Foundation, said.

"I am pleased to let you know that our 2022 Tomorrow Makers are not afraid of taking up challenges or tackling what are dubbed awicked problems', those social issues thought too difficult and complex to solve," she added.

help solve diabetic retinopathy, which is the leading cause of blindness amongst indigenous and rural populations of Australia.

Born and raised in Lidcombe, he is also the co-founder and CEO of Stethy, an AI assistant providing diagnostic tools to physicians.

"Stethy started to create a world where everyone has access to instant, affordable and safe medical care at any time

International Film Festival of India 2022 begins Nov 20 in Goa

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Panjim

Come November 20 and the theatres of Goa will resound for a week with the sight and sounds of Indian and International films, while Indian and foreign film delegates grace the shores of Goa with their esteemed presence in sharing their films.

The occasion is the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) being held in the erstwhile Portuguese state of Goa, where -- with an estimated Rs 40 crore budget support from the Centre and State Government -- the colourful extravaganza highlighting the visual memories of the years gone by promises to be a treat for movie-goers and tourists alike. The opening film will be an Austrian film "Alma and Oscar" by Dieter Berner, while the closing film will be "Perfect Number" by Krzysztof Zanussi of Poland.

Eminent Spanish filmmaker Carlos Saura will be presented the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the IFFI 2022 at IFFI. Total 339 feature films



(in 23 languages and dialects) and 248 non-feature films (in 24 languages and dialects) will be presented alongside the "Indian Panorama Official Selection" 25 feature films and 19 non-feature films in the IFFI event. A special "Retrospective" section will witness Dadasaheb Phalke Award winner Asha Parekh's choice of three films -- Do Badan, Kati Patang and Teesri Manzil -- being screened on the occasion.

Manipuri Cinema is celebrating its golden jubilee with a specially-curated package of its 5 feature and 5 non-feature films being screened at IFFI.

Indian Panorama will be

Tandon, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, Pratap Pothan, Sawan Kumar Tak, Salim Ghouse, KK, Krishnam Raju and Nipon Goswami.

The IFFI International Jury comprises: CHIRPERSON Nadav Lapid (Israel filmmaker), Film Producer Jinko Gotoh (USA), Editor Ms Pascale Chavance (France), Filmmaker & Critic Javier Angulo (Spain) and National award-winning filmmaker Sudepto Sen (India).

A total 183 international films are scheduled to be screened including a "Tribute" section highlighting a collection of films to mark the centennial celebrations of Pier Paolo Pasolini and the filmography of Jean Luc Godard. Eight films have been confirmed by the French Embassy and UNI FRANCE. As many as 118 international film celebrities have confirmed their present at IFFI, which will also include 221 India film celebrities like Ajan Devgan, Prabhudeva, Sunil Shetty, Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Mani Ratnam, A R Rehman, Paresh Rawal, Kalki Koechlin, Yami Gautam, Illeana D'Cruz, R Balki, Anupam Kher, among others.

Modi and Biden meet in Bali, review ties



On the sidelines of the ongoing G20 Summit in Bali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden on Tuesday reviewed deepening of ties between the two countries, including cooperation in several sectors like critical and emerging technologies. They expressed satisfaction about close cooperation between India and US in new groupings such as Quad and I2U2, sources from the Ministry of External Affairs said. Both Modi and Biden discussed topical global and regional developments, the sources added. The Prime Minister thanked Biden for his constant support for strengthening India-US partnership. In his meeting with Biden, Modi expresses confidence that both sides would maintain close coordination during India's forthcoming G20 Presidency, the sources said. India is all set to assume presidency of G20 from December 1 till November 20, 2023.

Indian-origin paediatrician is Victoria's Australian of the Year

Indian-origin paediatrician Angraj Khillan from Victoria state has been honoured with 2023 Australian of the Year award for delivering key healthcare and health education to several Australian communities.

Khillan, 56, is the co-founder of Health Awareness Society of Australia (HASA), which dispels myths, taboos and misinformation about health through forums in a range of languages. HASA delivers forums and virtual sessions in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and Arabic on topics from mental health to Covid-19 vaccinations. "It is an honour, and privilege at the same time it brings a lot of responsibility to me to work harder to cater for the needs of Australian multicultural communities," Khillan told The



Australia Today. As a student in India, he sold offerings outside a temple to fund his medical education. After moving to Melbourne in 2010, Khillan worked to raise awareness of domestic violence and dowry abuse.

He has played a pivotal role in delivering key healthcare and

health education to culturally diverse communities in Victoria, a government release note stated.

"Congratulations to paediatrician Dr Angraj Khillan, 2023 Victorian Australian of the Year. Dr Khillan has changed lives by delivering healthcare and health education to culturally diverse

communities across Australia," Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, tweeted. Having been associated with the Royal Darwin Hospital in 2004 as a paediatrician, Khillan, also known as 'Dr Raj', has tirelessly worked for the remote Aboriginal communities. He has also been raising funds for philanthropy in India, East Timor, Australia, apart from being a member of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and founder of Doctors Against Domestic Violence Group. He has several awards to his credit, including the 2019 Small Business Champion Awards, 2019 India Australia Business and Community Awards, 2017 Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence and 2019 Wyndham Business Awards, among others.

President and Prime Minister extend best wishes for IFFI-53



President of India Droupadi Murmu has conveyed her best wishes for the success of the 53rd edition of IFFI, the International Film Festival of India.

Extending warm greetings and felicitations to the organizers and participants of one of Asia's oldest film festivals, the President underlines the contribution of IFFI in promoting international relations. By so doing, the festival has been serving as a crucial engagement platform in South Asia, enabling filmmakers, artists, industry professionals and cinephiles to exchange ideas and share enriching experiences, says the President.

The President points out the value of cinema as a medium of creativity and entertainment. Cinema being a medium which offers a dynamic array of visual, acoustic and storytelling techniques, the President says she is sure that the 53rd edi-

tion of IFFI will deliver unique cinematic experiences for all festival delegates.

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi said that IFFI, the International Film Festival of India, promotes an invigorating synergy between delegates from different nations and societies, united by cinema. Describing IFFI as the biggest film festival of India, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that "the interactions within this mini-world congregating at Goa will facilitate deeper understanding and new learnings in the world of art".

In his message, the Prime Minister observes that IFFI and Indian cinema have carved out a niche for themselves on the global stage. "Films in different Indian languages are reaching out to a larger international audience and are being increasingly appreciated across the world."

Sweden's annual inflation hits 9.3% as food, fuel prices surge



STOCKHOLM: In October, widespread price increases continued in Sweden for products such as food, in particular vegetables, and non-alcoholic beverages as the country's CPI (Consumer Price Index with fixed interest rate) 12-month inflation rate stood at 9.3 per cent, down from 9.7 per cent in September, according to official figures. Statistics Sweden said on Tuesday that the country's CPI (Consumer Price Index) reached 10.9 per cent in October as "increased interest expenses contributed with about 1.8 percentage point to the inflation rate", reports Xinhua news agency. "The inflation rate according to CPI was higher than according to CPIF because of the increased interest rates of mortgages. This effect is eliminated from CPIF," Caroline Neander, price statistician at Statistics Sweden, explained. Fuel, electricity, food and non-alcoholic beverages were among the biggest contributors to the October inflation rate. These products were 32.7 per cent, 25.6 per cent and 17.2 per cent, respectively, more expensive than in the same month a year ago. In the category of food and non-alcoholic beverages, the increases in the price of meat, milk, eggs, cheese, bread and cereal were the most noteworthy.

United Sikhs Team meets Ukrainian Members of Parliament

KULBIR SINGH KALSI

United Sikhs team met Ukrainian Members of Parliament in Washington DC this week. They discussed the humanitarian situation in the wake of the escalation of the Russian attacks in Ukraine, and the resulting humanitarian challenges that lie ahead.

United Sikhs has been providing humanitarian assistance along the borders and interiors of Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion nine months ago.

The teams also pointed out the need for bracing up for harsh winter conditions in the coming months from a humanitarian standpoint. They feared that the winters would be more difficult this



year. Power infrastructure has been damaged heavily during the Russian attacks which might cause electricity shortages and difficulties in keeping homes warm.

Speaking about it, Sarandeep Singh United Sikhs Trustee said, "Our volunteers are aware of the immediate humanitarian relief require-

ments on the ground and they continue to serve. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibilities to work further with the Ukrainian government to maximize the reach of humanitarian assistance in the most vulnerable areas of Ukraine."

Appreciating the work of United Sikhs, Ukraine

MP, Yevheniia Kravchuk said, "Ukraine is growing to triumph through these unprecedented times. We value the humanitarian work United Sikhs has been doing in Ukraine. Contribution of organizations like United Sikhs should be recognized and celebrated globally for standing up for humanity."

Time to invest in Indian, South Asian languages: UK MP

Asserting that there has been a steep decline in British students learning South Asian languages, UK MP Gareth Thomas has said that it's time to invest in languages like Gujarati, Hindi and Tamil, to bolster bilateral relations.



"There has been a steep decline since 2015 in the number of UK students studying Gujarati, Urdu and other languages prevalent across South Asia at GCSE level," Thomas, a Labour-Cooperative Party parliamentarian for the Greater London constituency of Harrow West, tweeted.

"It's time to invest in the languages of South Asia," he said. The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is a qualification normally taken by most UK students at the end of compulsory education.

According to the UK's Department of Education, there were no students taking Hindi GCSE from 2019 to 2022, whereas in 2015, 19 students had sat for this exam. Between 2015 and 2021, the number of students entering GCSEs in Bengali, Gujarati, Persian, Punjabi, and Urdu drastically came down, with Gujarati seeing a 77 per cent fall in entries, followed by Bengali, which saw a 66 per cent drop, Punjabi a 45 per cent, and Urdu a 37 per cent decline.

The MP's comments come at a time when India's economy has overtaken the UK's in terms of size, making it the fifth biggest.

An IMF forecast says India is expected to leap further ahead of the UK up to 2027 - making the South Asian nation fourth largest economy, and leaving the UK behind as sixth. Now, with a seven per cent growth forecast for 2022, Thomas believes that "being able to communicate in the languages used to do business in these markets is crucial to delivering long-term economic growth across the United Kingdom".

"If we want stronger trade links with India and other South Asian countries, and if we want stronger cultural and security ties too then investing in

school and community teaching of South Asian languages like Gujarati, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil Hindi, etc is overdue," the Harrow West MP said in a press statement.

The UK government recently invested millions to support the teaching of Mandarin and Latin. The British Council also identified that Spanish, Mandarin, French, Arabic, and German are the top five priority languages to improve the UK's skills, security and influence in the world.

The ethnic minority population of Harrow has a large and established Gujarati Indian community, who originally settled in large numbers after their expulsion from Uganda in 1972. "We need to do more to build on similar links across the UK, between diaspora communities here and the great trading nations of South Asia," Thomas said.

Meanwhile, some British Asians rue that the languages are not taught in the schools due to a lack of qualified and trained teachers. "I'm a British Bengali who is fluent but illiterate in my mother tongue. Sadly they didn't offer it as a subject at my school Eton College, so instead I have GCSEs in ancient Greek and Latin," Dr Brijesh, a twitter user, wrote in response to the tweet by Thomas.

World Diabetes Day and Children's Day: Health Experts highlight the rising cases of Diabetes in youngsters

FW DESK
New Delhi

Observing World Diabetes Day and Children's Day, The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), an apex body, organized a webinar on "Diabetes Free India" in response to the growing cases of diabetes in children. Eminent experts shed insights on ways to tackle this issue. The webinar, which is a part of the Illness to Wellness initiative, highlighted the growing risk of being obese and diabetes in children.

Diabetes being a chronic condition characterized by high blood glucose levels cause several metabolic abnormalities and a variety of organ damage, including kidney failure, heart attacks, strokes, blindness, and lower limb amputation. These days, diabetes in children is rather frequent and can start at any age. Anil Rajput, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council, in his welcome address said, "Diabetes is one of the fastest growing health risks in India. Our country is home to nearly 80 million diabetics and this number is expected to rise to a staggering 134 million in the next 25 years. Therefore, it is imperative that all stakeholders should come together and



focus on addressing this challenge head on" Highlighting the risk factors for diabetes, he said, "sedentary lifestyle of adults, and in particular, children brings with it a host of health risks. Therefore, it's the duty of individuals, parents and caregivers to take requisite steps and provide adequate care for healthy weight management which includes daily exercising, eating a nutritious diet along with proper sleep and mental stimulation."

Padma Shri Dr. Anoop Misra, Chairman, fortis- C-DOC centre of Excellence for Diabetes, metabolic Diseases and Endocrinology, Chairman, National Diabetes, Obesity and Cholesterol Foundation (N-DOC),

President, Diabetes Foundation (India) DFI shared his insights on how the goal towards Diabetes Free India should be below 5% cases. Focusing on children and primordial prevention will cut down the prevalence. Educating and creating awareness is the need of the hour for a better tomorrow and prevention, he noted. All stakeholders should join together for multi component intervention to improve insulin levels in all diabetic patients, he added. According to Dr. Brij Mohan Makkar, Senior Diabetes & Bariatric Physician and Director, Dr. Makkar's Diabetes and Obesity centre, New Delhi, Insulin is the life saving drug in terms of diabetes and the impact is physiological, he said.

Energy prices drive up Italian inflation to 11.8% in October

Consumer prices in Italy rose by 11.8% in October compared to a year earlier, the government's statistics entry said.

Energy-related impacts continued to play an oversized role, according to the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT). It said the final data for the consumer price index in October is lower than the 11.9-per cent estimate released last month, reports Xinhua news agency. However, it is still a record since Italy's adoption of the euro currency in 1999.

The last time prices rose so sharply in one month was in June 1983, when inflation hit 13 per cent during a period when Italy was still using the lira currency. In September this year, prices were 8.9 per cent higher than a year earlier. Soaring energy prices continue to drive up other prices, ISTAT said, with prices for energy goods increasing by 71.1 per cent in October compared to a year



earlier. In September, the year-on-year increase was 44.5%.

Food prices, which are influenced due to costs for transportation, mechanisation, and fertilizer, also rose dramatically, increasing by 13.3 per cent compared to October 2021. This was faster than the 11.4-per cent increase recorded in September. ISTAT said that the country's "core" inflation rate -- a calculation that excludes energy and food costs -- still came in at 5.3 per cent in October, an increase from 5 per cent a year earlier. Over the first 10 months of the year, prices rose by 8 per cent, ISTAT said, while the "core" rate increased by 3.7 per cent over the same period.

Israel launches plan for generating solar electricity in agricultural lands

Israel has announced a plan to optimise agricultural land use by integrating clean solar electricity generation.

The plan, at a cost of 17 million shekels (about \$5 million), includes more than 130 pilot programmes, which will be spread over a total area of about 2 square km. Xinhua news agency reported, citing a joint statement from the country's energy and agriculture ministries. The programmes will include facility deployment for solar power generation in agricultural plots throughout Israel, using various technologies and crops.

The programmes will also include research and develop-



ment, for examining the effects of solar power generation on agricultural production, the statement said.

The plan follows a government decision to increase the target for electricity production from renewable energies in Israel to 30 per cent by 2030 while maintaining the continued output of profitable agricultural produce and optimising the use of agricultural land, the ministries said.



Fashion designer AMAN SANDHU unveils 'Look Book', will showcase collection on Nov 19

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Region's eminent fashion designer Aman Sandhu who runs fashion studio's in Mohali and Amritsar, will be organizing an exclusive Fashion exhibition at The Hyatt, Chandigarh on November 19, 2022, to exhibit the latest collection. This programme is being organised to mark completion of a 20

year journey by the label Aman Sandhu.

The Aman Sandhu label is offering a flat 20% off on in-stock designer wear for the very first time on 19th November.

What's more there will be a giveaway contest winner announcement which has already been initiated on social media.

Aman Sandhu held a press meet and unveiled a unique Look Book which

offers a peep into the designer's collection with the key designs of her journey of 20 years since 2002. Talking about the Look Book, Sandhu said, "The designs of each look represents the timeless heritage of Punjabi Sabhyata. The floral motifs, hand embroidery, beaded embellishments and intricate patterns on each attire mirrors the true dedication of craftsmanship. Designs and styles in this catalogue shall be available throughout years and every season for the consumers to get an idea and choose the best one for their special day."

DESIGNS AND STYLES IN THIS CATALOGUE SHALL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT YEARS AND EVERY SEASON

Yuvraj, Harrdy Sandhu hit gedi spots, face off in cricket match at PUMA store launch in Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH: Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh and renowned singer and actor Harrdy Sandhu entertained fans with their swag as they drove through popular gedi (hangout) spots enroute to the launch of PUMA store in the city on Saturday. The Punjabi stars also bowled over the crowd by facing off in a cricket match before showcasing their karaoke and dancing skills at the celebratory event.

The sports brand has expanded its offline footprint by adding yet another destination to its ever-growing network in the country. Celebrating this occasion, Yuvraj and Harrdy locked horns in an exciting

two-over exhibition match. To everyone's surprise, Harrdy, who has represented India at the U-19 level, displayed his cricketing skills as the fans also joined them during an interesting action. With a new and improved store at Chandigarh's Nexus Elante Mall, PUMA elevates the shopping experience of its consumers by offering select merchandise from its global collaborations and performance collection for adults as well as kids. A has always lived up to the expectations and has been a trend-setter. I am sure this store will become a shopping destination for the people of Chandigarh," Harrdy concluded.

POTPOURRI



Bollywood actor Anupam Kher pays his respects at the Sri Harmandir Sahib on Thursday. PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL

Kriti Sanon used to sing 'Tu Kitni Achi Hai' for her mom as a child



'Bhediya' actress Kriti Sanon said that she used to sing 'Tu Kitni Achi Hai' for her mother during her childhood days. The 'Bareilly Ki Barfi' actress also called her mother a 'superwoman' as she always stood by her and motivated her to grow in life.

After witnessing the performance of Debosmita Roy on the iconic song 'Tu Kitni Achi Hai' from the 1968 film 'Raja Aur Runk', the 32-year-old actress got emotional and talked about the importance of her mom Geeta Sanon and her words always inspires her.

Kriti said: "Your voice is so beautiful Debo, it has a purity. I was just looking at your mom and she is quite emotional. What I feel is internally she is very much strong and I think every mother is a strong lady which we never notice. During my childhood days, I used to call my mother a 'Superwoman'."

Kriti is coming along with

her 'Bhediya' co-star Varun Dhawan to promote her film which is a comedy horror film. The story revolves around Bhaskar, played by Varun, who turns into a wolf on full moon nights. While the star cast enjoyed performances by the contestants on 'Thank You Maa' special episode, Kriti Sanon also shared memories associated with her mother and how she used to sing the same song for her mother.

She added: Wherever I go, whether it was my school exams, she used to make sure I am reaching school on time, she took me to dance classes, and she could do anything and everything for me and I used to always think of where she gets so much energy. The way you sang took me back to my childhood. When I was a child, my sister and I used to sing this song for our mother. "Indian Idol 13" airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

Rasika Dugal recollects her first day as Beena Tripathi from 'Mirzapur'



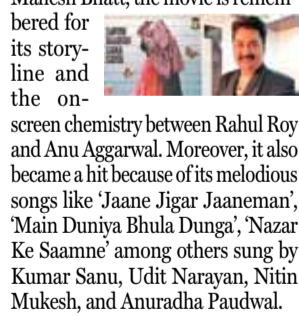
Actress Rasika Dugal, who is known for her work in OTT shows 'Delhi Crime' and 'Mirzapur', recently shared her journey of becoming Beena in 'Mirzapur' as the crime drama show clocked four years since the release of its first season.

Walking down the memory lane, the actress spoke about her first day on set: "On my first day of being Beena I was, of course, excited but nervous too - I had never done a role as sassy as this one. It turned out to be easier than I had imagined though. The directors were always encouraging and we have a powerhouse cast which gets only better with every season."

Expressing her gratitude to the director and the casting director, Rasika further mentioned: "I am so thankful that the directors and the casting directors at Casting Bay thought out of the box and imagined me in a role so different from who I am and so different from the other roles I had played till then."

32 years after 'Aashiqui', Kumar Sanu reveals the idea behind film's poster

As the romantic musical hit film 'Aashiqui' completes 32 years, singer Kumar Sanu, who sang some of the melodious tracks of the movie recalled how the poster of the film was finalised and why the faces of the lead cast were not revealed in it. Directed by Mahesh Bhatt, the movie is remembered for its storyline and the on-screen chemistry between Rahul Roy and Anu Aggarwal. Moreover, it also became a hit because of its melodious songs like 'Jaane Jigar Jaaneman', 'Main Duniya Bhula Dunga', 'Nazar Ke Saamne' among others sung by Kumar Sanu, Udit Narayan, Nitin Mukesh, and Anuradha Paudwal.



Teaser of Deepthi Ganta's 'Meet Cute' anthology released

CHENNAI: The teaser of director Deepthi Ganta's upcoming anthology 'Meet Cute', has been released. Deepthi Ganta, who is the sister of Telugu star Nani, is making her directorial debut with this anthology.

Nani is venturing into the streaming arena by turning presenter of the anthology. Sony Liv has acquired the rights of the series and will soon start streaming it on the platform.

The teaser shows a cute co-incidental meeting between strangers, some pleasant conversations and a rollercoaster of emotions.

Hockey India names 23-member Indian Men's Hockey Team for the Tour of Australia

ARUN KUMAR RAO New Delhi

Hockey India named the 23-member Indian Men's Hockey Team for the upcoming Tour of Australia, set to begin from November 26th in Adelaide. The Indian team will play five matches against Australia as they prepare for the upcoming FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar-Rourkela 2023, set to begin from January 13th.

Experienced dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh has been named the Captain of the team, while Amit Rohidas has been picked as the Vice-Captain for the upcoming matches. In the forward line, Mandeep Singh has been included along with Dilpreet Singh, Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh.

Gurjant Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Mohd. Raheel Mauseen, Rajkumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsheer Singh, Hardik



Singh, Manpreet Singh, and Sumit have been included in the midfield line-up for the tour.

In the defence, Varun Kumar makes a return to the team after missing out on action during the FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2022/23 matches against New Zealand and Spain at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, and Nilam San-

jeep Xess form the remaining defence line-up.

Speaking about the team, Indian Men's Hockey Chief Coach Graham Reid said, "The upcoming tour to Australia is a good opportunity for us to test ourselves against one of the top contenders at the upcoming FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar-Rourkela 2023. We have picked a solid line of experienced players who we believe can help us in getting

INDIAN MEN'S TEAM

GOALKEEPERS: 1. Krishan Bahadur Pathak, 2. Sreejesh Parattu Raveendran.

DEFENDERS: 3. Jarmanpreet Singh, 4. Surender Kumar, 5. Harmanpreet Singh (C), 6. Amit Rohidas (V/C), 7. Jugraj Singh, 8. Mandeep Mor, 9. Nilam Sanjeep Xess, 10. Varun Kumar.

MIDFIELDERS: 11. Sumit, 12. Manpreet Singh, 13. Hardik Singh, 14. Shamsheer Singh, 15. Nilakanta Sharma, 16. Rajkumar Pal, 17. Mohd. Raheel Mauseen, 18. Akashdeep Singh, 19. Gurjant Singh.

FORWARDS: 20. Mandeep Singh, 21. Abhishek, 22. Dilpreet Singh, 23. Sukhjeet Singh.

Cricketers and Comedians are on the same stage!!



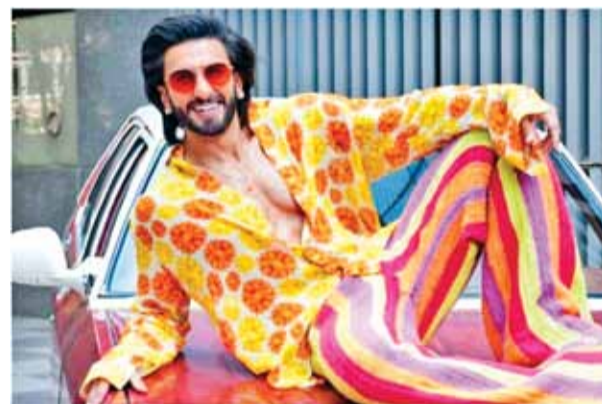
KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Zee Punjabi will surely be a life saviour this weekend as cricketers Shubman Gill and Gurkeerat Mann and famous comedians of Punjabi cinema Gurpreet Ghuggi and Karamjit Anmol are coming to mesmerise with humour and hilarity on the sets of Dil Diyan Gallan Season-2 this weekend.

Shubman Gill and Gurkeerat Mann, two cricket players,

will be on the Dil Diyan Gallan Season 2 sets this Saturday night to change the game zone. When these two cricket players discuss their setbacks, successes, and failures as well as some of their best stage moments, this episode will become even more memorable. In the promo, Shubman is already seen having a good laugh regarding his love affairs. This Saturday, you'll get to know what they enjoy doing besides playing cricket.

Cinema is a unifying force: Ranveer Singh



Bollywood livewire star Ranveer Singh, who was honoured at the 2022 Marrakech International Film Festival, where he represented Indian cinema on global platform, is elated to receive so much love and recognition in Morocco. He took to Instagram and shared a string of pictures on receiving the award dressed in an embellished maroon sherwani.

Ranveer shared pictures on receiving the Etoile d'or Award and captioned it: "Cinema is a unifying force! I feel immensely honoured that my work has transcended cultural and geographical boundaries, and has

earned me such love and recognition in beautiful Morocco. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude!"

"Thank you to the Marrakech International Film Festival for bestowing me with the prestigious Etoile d'or Award! Proud to be an ambassador for my culture and represent Indian Cinema on the world stage! @marrakechfilmfestival." Marrakech has a long history of celebrating Indian cinema. The festival previously honored Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan and in 2012, it ran a special sidebar to mark 100 years of Indian cinema.

Harbhajan Singh in AAP's star campaigners' list for Gujarat polls

Cricketer-turned-politician Harbhajan Singh is one of the star campaigners of the Aam Aadmi Party for the Assembly elections in Gujarat, to be held in two phases on December 1 and 5.

AAP's list of star campaigners for Gujarat comprises 20 names, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Maan, Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha, among others.

The list also has the name of Deputy CM of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, who was recently under the radder of central probe agencies in connection with the



alleged irregularities in Delhi's liquor policy. Political parties including the BJP, Congress, Samajwadi Party and few others, have submitted their list of star campaigners to the Election

Commission for the upcoming Assembly polls in Gujarat.

The BJP's list of 40 star campaigners include PM Narendra Modi, party chief J.P. Nadda and many senior ministers,

including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and others.

Similarly, Congress' list also has 40 names, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ashok Gehlot, Bhupesh Baghel and others. Samajwadi Party's list of 20 star campaigners include party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Jaya Bachchan and others.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has also submitted its list of 40 star campaigners, including Mayawati, Akash Anand and others. Polling will be held on December 1 and 5 in Gujarat, while counting of votes will be taken up on December 8.

Bollywood couple Bipasha Basu, Karan Singh Grover welcome baby girl



MUMBAI: Bollywood couple Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover have become proud parents to a baby girl.

As per media reports the couple have welcomed their first bundle of joy - a baby girl. The star couple officially announced that they are expecting their first child together on August 16.

Taking to Instagram, Bipasha penned a post announcing her pregnancy: "A new time, a new phase, a new light adds another unique shade to our prism of life. Making us a little more whole than we used to be. We began this life individually and then we met each other and from then we were two. Too much love for only two seemed a little unfair for us to see...so soon, we who once were two will now become three. A creation manifested by our love, our baby will join us soon and add to our glee," she wrote. Bipasha and Karan first met on the set of Bhushan Patel's film 'Alone' in the year 2015, and they tied the knot after one year of dating in April 2016.

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

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