

REGION

2

GENERAL MEETING TO ELECT SGPC PRESIDENT & OFFICE-BEARERS ON NOVEMBER 9



Punjab CM and Hardeep Puri dedicates india's largest bio energy plant to people

FW DESK

Bhuttal Kalan (Sangrur): Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, along with Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri, today dedicated India's largest Bio Energy plant constructed at a cost of Rs 230 crore over 20 acres of land.

Describing it as a red letter day for the state, the Chief Minister said that this step will go a long way in wiping out the menace of paddy straw burning from the state. He said that Verbio Group has strong association with state as its Indian subsidiary Verbio India Private Limited as this is largest biofuel (Biomethane/ Bio-CNG) production units in India with 33 TPD (tons per day) and 550 TPD per year of Bio-CNG capacity adding that this Bio-CNG project of 80,000 m³/day capacity will produce biogas by anaerobic digestion process and is a great way to solve the problem of stubble burning. Bhagwant Mann said that the annual straw consumption in this unit will be 1.30 lakh ton adding that it will help



in solving the vex problem of paddy straw burning. Punjab Chief Minister said that set up over an area of 20 acres of land this unit will contribute to an annual reduction of 1.50 lakh Metric Ton of pollutants and 20,000 MT of fly ash currently produced due to paddy straw burning. He

further said that this unit will also give employment to 1000 youth and affect more than 5,000 families. Bhagwant Mann said that the acreage of soil enriched from Biomethane will be 2150 acres.

Chief Minister Punjab further said that the verbio group has evinced keen interest in setting up more such plants in the state. He said that once successful the verbio group will set up 10 more such plants in the state. Bhagwant Mann said that the target is to make Punjab free from the menace of paddy straw burning.

Punjab CM said that with the intense cropping pattern of wheat and paddy, Punjab is facing the problem of disposal of crop residues particularly the paddy straw and stubble which have no other usage.

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

5



ITC INVESTS IN MOTHER SPARSH, BABY CARE BRAND LOOKS TO RAISE RS 100 CRORE

Punjab Cabinet approves restoration of Old Pension Scheme for employees



CHANDIGARH: In a historic decision aimed at well-being of the government employees, the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday approved restoration of the Old Pension Scheme for the employees of the state government.

Divulging the details, a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said that a decision to this effect was taken in meeting of Cabinet held under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister here at the Punjab Civil Secretariat I. The

spokesperson further said that the employees will be given option for adopting the Old Pension Scheme or the New Pension Scheme. It may be recalled that Old Pension Scheme for employees was discontinued in year 2004 and ever since then the employees are being given New Pension Scheme. However the employees have been since long demanding the restoration of Old Pension Scheme. Keeping in view the well being of the lakhs of employees the Cabinet has decided to restore

the Old Pension scheme in the state. The implementation of the scheme is likely to give major relief to the employees of the state. Realizing that employees are the backbone of the government, the state government has taken this historic decision which is likely to benefit all the employees of the state government. Punjab to give 6% DA to govt staff & pensioners from October 1, 2022. Meanwhile in significant decision, the Cabinet has also decided to give 6% Dearness Allowance (DA) to government employees and pensioners, with effect from October 1, 2022. The decision, which will benefit lakhs employees and pensioners, was approved by the Cabinet. The Council of Ministers opined that the employees were a critical segment of the state administration and safeguarding their interests was the government's top priority.

POTPOURRI

8



GIPPY GREWAL, JASMIN BHASIN SHARE THEIR SHOOTING

CM Bhagwant Mann bats for strong ties between Punjab, Nigeria



CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday batted for strong collaboration between Nigeria and the state in several fields.

The chief minister while interacting with Nigerian High Commissioner to India Ahmed Sule said there was a huge scope of mutual benefit for both Nigeria and Punjab.

Strengthening of ties between Nigeria and Punjab is need of the hour to ensure that both script a new success story, said Mann, according to an official statement here.

Mann advocated that Nigeria and Punjab should explore more feasibility of opening new vistas of mutual cooperation amongst them.

The chief minister said Punjab is an agrarian economy and his single point agenda is to make agriculture a profitable venture by reducing the input costs. He said his government is already making strenuous efforts to supplement the income of farmers and added that no stone is being left unturned for this noble cause.

Bhagwant Mann further said efforts are also afoot to reduce the ever increasing costs of agriculture so as to bail farmers from the crisis.

He said efforts will be made to enhance mutual collaborations in the field of import-export of agriculture implements.

Kashmiri Pandit killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian



FW DESK

Militants shot dead one more Kashmiri Pandit in Kashmir on Saturday while he was on his way to the orchard at Choudhary Gund in South Kashmir district of Shopian. Security forces swung into action and launched a manhunt to nab the killers. The victim, identified as Puran Krishan Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit. Bhat was rushed to a hospital for treatment where he succumbed to his injuries. "Terrorists fired upon a #civilian (minority) Shri Puran Krishan Bhat while he was on way to an orchard in Chowdari Gund #Shopian.

Three die in Army helicopter crash in Arunachal Pradesh



ITANAGAR: Three persons were killed in an Army helicopter crash in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh on Friday morning, a defence official said.

The advanced light helicopter, carrying five Army personnel, was on regular sorties, he said. The incident took place at 10.43 am at Singging near Migging, around 25 km from district headquarters Tuting. "There were five Army personnel onboard. Three of them died. Two bodies have been recovered, while one has been sighted. Two others are yet to be spotted," the defence official said.

A rescue team reached the spot and search operation is underway, Tezpur based defence spokesperson Lt Col AS Walia said. Two choppers, one each of Army and India Air Force, have been deployed for the search and rescue operation, he said. Upper Siang SP Jumar Basar had earlier said the crash site is a mountainous region, and it would take time for the search and rescue team to reach the spot.

Cong Prez polls : Sonia Gandhi & Priyanka Gandhi cast their votes



NEW DELHI: Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Monday cast their votes in the party's polls to elect new congress president. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also accompanied her mother Sonia Gandhi to cast her vote. When asked by reporters about the polls, Sonia Gandhi said she had been waiting for this for long. Voting began on Monday in the Congress presidential polls as senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor face-off for the post of AICC chief.

Over 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates form the electoral college to pick the party chief in a secret ballot.

Voting began at 10 am at the AICC headquarters here and at parties polling booths in state offices across the country.

Kharge is considered the favourite for his perceived proximity to the Gandhis and backing by senior leaders, even as Tharoor has pitched himself as the candidate of change.

Forex reserves fall USD 4.5 bln to USD 528.37 bln

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves dropped by USD 4.50 billion to USD 528.37 billion for the week ended October 14, the RBI said on Friday.

The overall reserves had increased by USD 204 million to USD 532 billion in the previous reporting week, which was the first weekly increase in the kitty since August this year.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

Foreign Currency Assets



(FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, saw a drop of USD 2.828 billion to USD 468.668 billion during the week to October 14, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Three operatives of Landa-Rinda terror module held from Amritsar, AK-47, three pistols recovered

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Commissionerate Police and Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) in a joint operation with Delhi Police has arrested three operatives of a terrorist module and recovered one AK-47 Assault Rifle and three pistols along with ammunition from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Friday. The module is being jointly handled by Canada-based terrorist Lakhbir Singh alias Landa and Pakistan-based terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda.



In an official statement issued here today, said that those arrested have been identified as Balraj Singh of Bhikhiwind in Tarn Taran, Aatish Kumar and Avinash Kumar, both resident of village Sarhali Kalan in Tarn

Taran district. All the three accused persons were working as security guards at a Tile Factory in Gujarat.

The development came days after the Delhi Police had arrested Harminder Singh of Kot Isse Khan in Moga, who

revealed that he had picked a consignment of one AK-47 and three pistols on the directions of Lakhbir Landa and handed over to Balraj, Aatish and Avinash. DGP Gaurav Yadav said that following the inputs from Delhi Police, a manhunt operation was launched in the Amritsar and Police teams led by DCP Detective Amritsar Mukhwinder Singh Bhullar have arrested the trio accused from a Hotel at Ghee Mandi area on Thursday after recovering three pistols including one 9mm along with 22 live cartridges and two .30 bore with 9 live cartridges from their possession.

EU leaders avoid deep rift on gas price cap at energy summit

BRUSSELS: European Union leaders struggled to find immediate practical solutions on how to deal with the energy crisis but avoided an open rift between Germany and France on Friday that would have exposed a divided bloc as it confronts Russian President Vladimir Putin over his war in Ukraine.

After daylong talks in Brussels dragged well into the night, the 27 EU leaders papered over divisions between some of the biggest member states and at least agreed to continue working on ways to impose a gas price cap in case of big price increases. French President Emmanuel Macron highlighted his work with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to create a veneer of unity after talks that started early Thursday. He said that together with close technical advisers, I will see Chancellor



Scholz in Paris next week so that we can move forward, with our teams, on all the issues.

Scholz said the main issue was curbing spikes in gas trading that may last only a few hours but still send prices excessively upward. He said measures to counter that should be further examined. How can we avoid these spikes? There is still a lot of concrete work to be done. But we must look at ways to contain it, which certainly makes sense, Scholz said. When the axis between Paris and Berlin is aligned, usually the rest of the EU follows.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches special cleanliness drive



NEW DELHI: Union minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday launched a special cleanliness drive at Chandni Chowk here as part of the Swachh Bharat campaign, which aims to collect 1 crore kg of plastic waste across the country.

The Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Sports and Youth Affairs had launched the month-long campaign, being conducted across 744 districts of the country, at Prayagraj on October 1 through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme affiliated institutions.

Kharge elected as Cong President, first non-Gandhi in 24 yrs

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Wednesday elected Mallikarjun Kharge as its president, the first non-Gandhi to head the party in 24 years at a time the 137-year-old party is struggling to reverse its slide in the country's electoral politics.

A staunch Gandhi family loyalist from Karnataka, the 80-year-old leader defeated Shashi Tharoor in an electoral contest by bagging nearly 84 per cent of votes in the party presidential election.

Kharge got 7,897 votes and Tharoor 1,072 votes, while 416 votes were declared invalid, Congress' central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said at a press conference after the AICC headquarters here.

Addressing a press conference after his victory Kharge said, «no one is big or small, all have to work together as #karyakartas» to strengthen Congress... We have to fight



together against fascist forces who are attacking democracy and Constitution.»

Kharge said he will formally take charge on October 26.

Though a late entrant in the Congress' internal elections, held to choose Sonia Gandhi's successor, Kharge's victory was almost certain as he was considered a «family-approved» candidate. The last non-Gandhi Congress president was Sitaran Kesri, who was unceremoniously removed in 1998 just after two years into his five-year

term. While former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the president was the «supreme authority» and would decide on the way forward for the party, it will be a challenge for Kharge to send a clear message that he is the one in the driving seat and not a proxy of the Gandhis.

Kharge's election also comes at a time the party is reeling under internal rumblings and high-profile exits after a series of electoral debacles and has been reduced to a shadow of its former formidable self.

PM Modi offers prayers at Kedarnath, Badrinath temples in Uttarakhand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered prayers at the famous Kedarnath and Badrinath temples in Uttarakhand on Friday.

After performing a «puja» at the Kedarnath temple in Rudrapur district, the prime minister arrived at the Badrinath temple in Chamoli in a helicopter.

During his two-day tour of the state, Modi will inspect various ongoing development projects and lay the foundation stones for some new ones.

The prime minister performed the «puja» at the temples wearing a white traditional attire of the hill people with a swastika embroidered on it.

At Kedarnath, he also laid the foundation stone for the



9.7-km Gaurikund-Kedarnath ropeway project. Using the ropeway, devotees will be able to reach the temple from Gaurikund in 30 minutes.

The priests who performed the «puja» prayed for strength to the prime minister to take



the country forward. Modi also visited the Samadhi Sthal of Adi Guru Shankaracharya at Kedarnath and spent some time there.

At Badrinath Dham, he will review the progress of the development projects along the riverfront.

In the afternoon, Modi will lay the foundation stones for road and ropeway projects worth Rs 3,400 crore for the Kedarnath and Badrinath temples, and address a gathering at Mana village. He will also review the progress of the beautification project of the

Arrival Plaza and the lakes in the area.

The prime minister will spend the night at Badrinath.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister was received by Governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Union minister Ajay Bhatt on his arrival at the Jolly Grant airport in Dehradun in an Indian Air Force (IAF) plane.

This is Modi's sixth visit to Kedarnath and second to Badrinath as the prime minister.

Security has been tightened around the two famous hill temples in view of the prime minister's visit. Both the temples have been decorated with quintals of flowers.

Terror Financing : Pakistan taken off from FATF's grey list after 4 years

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has been taken off from the grey list of the FATF, the global watchdog on terror financing and money laundering, four years after the country was put in the infamous categorisation.

Significantly, for the first time, the FATF put Myanmar in the «high risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action», often referred to as the watchdog's black list.

In a statement, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) said it welcomes Pakistan's significant progress in improving its anti-money laundering, combating financial terrorism (AML/CFT) regime. The decision was taken by the FATF in its plenary held in Paris on October 20-21.

«Pakistan has strengthened the effectiveness of its AML/CFT regime and addressed technical deficiencies to meet the commitments of its action plans regarding strategic defici-



cies that the FATF identified in June 2018 and June 2021, the latter of which was completed in advance of the deadlines, encompassing 34 action items in total. «Pakistan is therefore no longer subject to the FATF's increased monitoring process. Pakistan will continue to work with APG to further improve its AML/CFT system,» the statement said. With Pakistan's exit from the «grey list», Islamabad may now try to get financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union (EU), to boost its cash-strapped economy.

General meeting to elect SGPC president & office-bearers on Nov 9

SGPC FILES REVIEW PETITION IN SUPREME COURT IN HSGMC ACT CASE: DHAMI

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The general meeting to elect office-bearers including President of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and members of executive committee will be held on November 9. This was announced by SGPC

President Harjinder Singh Dhami on Tuesday.

The general meeting will be held at SGPC's headquarters Teja Singh Samundri Hall at 1 pm, in which, president, senior vice-president, junior vice-president, general secretary and 11 executive members will be elected.

Addressing the press conference at SGPC office in Amritsar, SGPC President said the office-bearers of SGPC are elected in the month of November every year, and this year, the general



meeting will be held on November 9.

He said that the SGPC being the representative Sikh body,

always strives to manage Gurdwara Sahibs as per the Panthic code of conduct besides making efforts to pursue issues of com-

munity and it is performing its duties diligently.

"Most important issue at this time is the release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh political prisoners), about which the SGPC is serious. In this regard, a five-member panel of senior lawyers has been formed, which will work to take the whole matter forward from legal aspects. A meeting of Sikh scholars and senior lawyers will also be convened soon", said he.

He said that the issue of separate Gurdwara management

committee for Haryana will also be discussed in a meeting with the scholars and lawyers.

"Yesterday, the SGPC filed a review petition in the case related to Haryana Sikh Gurdwara (Management) Act, 2014 and today, SGPC member from Kurukshetra Harbhajan Singh Masanan has also filed a review petition on his behalf", said Dhami.

He said centenary congregation dedicated to Shaheed Saka (martyrdom massacre) Panja Sahib is being organ-

ised at Gurdwara Manji Sahib Diwan Hall in Amritsar on October 27, and the issue of Bandi Singhs and separate Haryana Gurdwara committee will also be discussed in a Panthic gathering on this day. Maximum Sikh organisations and Panthic intellectuals should participate in this congregation, so that future programs can be announced.

Dhami said that to assist the Bandi Singhs in their cases and support their families with aid, the SGPC has so far spent Rs

1.37 crore. Similarly, an aid has been provided of Rs 2.85 crore to the families of farmers who lost their lives and got injured during year-long farmers' protest, Rs 8.85 crore for Dharmi Faujis (those who left Army jobs in protest against 1984 military attack on Sri Darbar Sahib), Rs 31.91 crore for cancer patients, Rs 2.42 for Sikhs lodged in Jodhpur jail, Rs 1.15 crore for Jammu & Kashmir flood victims, and Rs 14.79 crore to needy under Dharam Arth (religious cause) Fund.

Punjab ex-minister Arora arrested, 3 IAS officers also under lens in industrial plots scam

Former Punjab Industries Minister Sunder Sham Arora has been arrested by the Vigilance Bureau, three serving IAS officers who headed the Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC) from time to time have also come under the scanner. The

VB is looking into the role of the ex-Minister in scams to the tune of hundreds of crore rupees pertaining to the sale of 25 acres of prime land in Mohali to a coloniser at a throwaway price and the fraudulent sale of 300 industrial plots in Mohali, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Dera Bassi, Bathinda, Khanna and Goindwal.

Dr. Nijar handed over the modern aerial ladder hydraulic platform machine to the fire brigade department



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

To upgrade the fire brigade department of the MCA Dr. Inderbir Singh Nijjar, Local body Minister has handed over the Aerial ladder hydraulic platform machine to MCA in the presence of Mayor Karanjit Singh Rintu. In an official statement issued here today, On this occasion, Minister Dr. Inderbir Singh Nijjar said that the total cost of this project is Rs. 8.50 crores, including operation and maintenance of the machine for 7 years and the training of the officers and employees of the fire brigade department for the first 6 months will be done by the manufacturing company.

He said that by connecting the water browser tender with this machine, which is already received by the Fire Brigade Department under the Smart City Mission, it will be possible to control the fire up to a height of about 70 meters. With this machine, rescue can be done easily even by going up to a height of 52 meters outside the building during an emergency.

PSCST bags National Intellectual Property Award for Punjab



CHANDIGARH: Punjab State Council for Science & Technology (PSCST) has received National Intellectual Property Award for 2021 & 2022 in the Category of Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TIISC).

The award instituted by the Office of Controller General of Patents Designs & Trademark, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India was conferred by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal on Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora, Executive Director, PSCST during National IP Conference organized on the birth anniversary of the Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President of India. The Science Technology & Environment Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer has appreciated the efforts of the Council towards building innovation and the IPR ecosystem in the state and to further augment the same, the Punjab government has recently allocated a grant of Rs.3 Crores to the Council.

Punjab Governor flags of Rotary Diwali sweets for jawans

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Banwarilal Purohit, Governor of Punjab and the Administrator UT Chandigarh, flagged off trucks loaded with sweet greetings and blessings from Rotarians at Punjab Raj Bhawan in the presence of Past Rotary International President Rajendra K. Saboo, District Governor VP Kalta, Past District Governors Madhukar Malhotra, Praveen Chander Goyal, President Vinod Kapoor of Rotary Club Chandigarh, and members of Inner Wheel and many other senior Rotarians.

Every year the number increased and this year, the



participation of the Rotarians beyond Chandigarh had been tremendous and on a call from Rajendra K Saboo, and the District Governor V P Kalta of District 3080, the response was manifold and this year

Rotarians and Inner wheel members, have managed to send seven tones of pure desi ghee sweets worth Rs.35 lakh to the forward areas.

Rotary President Vinod Kapoor informed that the project

was conceived five years back in 2016 by Usha Saboo wife of former world president of Rotary International Rajendra K Saboo, and the Rotary Club of Chandigarh made it to an annual feature.

'Aap Hain to Hum Hain' is the essence with which the sweets are sent to the jawans in forwarding areas to acknowledge their dedicated service to the nation.

Current Rotary District Governor V P Kalta, expressed gratitude to every Rotarian in Rotary District 3080 which comprises Chandigarh, parts of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, UP and Uttarakhand for their overwhelming response to the project.

Portraits of Nawab Rai Bular Bhatti, Bhai Balwinder Singh Jatana, Jathedar Joginder Singh Panjra & Harinder Singh Ranian displayed at Central Sikh Museum

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) today displayed the portraits of Nawab Rai Bular Ahmed Bhatti, a devotee of Guru Nanak Dev, Bhai Balwinder Singh Jatana, former SGPC members Jathedar Joginder Singh Panjra and Harinder Singh Ranian at the Central Sikh Museum situated in the complex of Sri Darbar Sahib. In a statement issued by SGPC said the portraits were unveiled during a ceremony by SGPC President Harjinder Singh and Granthi of Sachkhand Sri Harmandar Sahib



Giani Rajdeep Singh in the presence of prominent personalities.

Addressing this occasion, SGPC President said that the Central Sikh Museum is an important source of Sikh history and heritage and Qaumi (community's) honour is given here to those who make sacrifices for the community by displaying their portraits.

He said Nawab Rai Bular was

a true devotee of Guru Nanak Dev, who had identified the divine light in the Guru at a young age and gave him great reverence. Expressing his devotion to the Guru, Rai Bular had offered him a big share of his property. SGPC President raised objection to the governments that the SGPC had sent several invitations to the descendants of Nawab Rai Bular Bhatti in Pakistan, requesting them to attend the ceremony of installation of his portrait, but they could not attend due to non-grant of visas. The SGPC wanted Bhatti's descendants to be present on this occasion.

Gangster's shopping complex reduced to debris in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Nearly 400 policemen led by Vipin Kadian DSP along with District Town Planner and Duty Magistrate Amit Kumar SDM arrived at the shopping complex illegally constructed on Panchayat land by gangster Kala Jathedi alias Sandeep presently lodged in Tihar Central Jail at Delhi and demolished his shopping complex situated adjoining Industrial Area Jathedi in Sonapat district having six shops, an automobile service station and a RO plant with bulldozers.

About 12 years ago, Sandeep presently known as gangster Kala Jathedi was a cable operator at Jathedi when he was indulged in anti-social activities due to bad accompany in 2009, committed first robbery at Rohtak followed by another crime in the year 2010 at Gohana in Rohtak district and after this never looked behind. He committed large number of crimes accompanied by his girl friend staying with him, later arrested by the police during a raid at his house. Meanwhile, Kala Jathedi came in contact with gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Raju Bishnoi having support of large



number of shooters and started working for their gangs moving far ahead in crime world presently having more than 37 cases of murders, robberies, ransom demand and encounter with police registered against him when he was arrested by the police and lodged in Tihar jail at Delhi. In February 2021 Kala Jathedi along with other members of his gang attacked a police van but escaped and after the incident he left the country for Dubai, Myleisa and Thailand.

Meanwhile, CIA Staff of Karnal police has demolished two shops and a service station with bulldozers and JCB crane illegally constructed by a drug smuggler Gulzar and his wife Kiran in Prem Nagar area at Karnal on Saturday when Inspector Mohan Lal in-charge CIA Staff was seriously injured when during demolishing operation JCB crane hit at his head and immediately rushed to a private hospital.

Sports hub Haryana having 1.3% share in the country won 50 percent of the medals in Olympics: Vij

SATISH HANDA

Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij while addressing media persons said that Haryana is the hub of sports having maximum sports activities held in the state with 1.3 percent share in country's the players won 50 percent of the medals in the Olympics. He said, there is a hunger for medals among the players of Haryana state, they need to be provided better sports infrastructure.

This expression was also made by the Home Minister in his address as the chief guest at the inauguration of State Championship swimming competitions at War Heroes Stadium, Ambala Cantonment on Saturday. On this occasion, the officials of the Federation and District Swimming Association felicitated the chief guest by presenting him a bunch of flowers and a memento.

While inaugurating the swimming competitions at all weather international level



swimming pool in War Heroes Stadium Ambala Cantt, Vij said that state level swimming competitions are starting here and he hopes the players achieve mastery in these competitions which is our goal and Haryana players usually win more and more medals in the International Championships..

Vij who was also sports minister in the state earlier said that in past seven years state government did much to provide better sports infrastructure to the players and spent amount worth Rs 454 crore to construct multi-purpose halls and new stadiums in all places in the state. Vij said that a sports hostel to accommodate sportsmen and coaches visiting from all over the states as well as country

has been constructed opposite the stadium.

Home and Health Minister said, when he was Sports Minister Haryana he had formulated a new sports policy for the players in the state, which is being appreciated all over in the country. Vij said, other states are following this sports policy and the players are also getting the benefit of Haryana's sports policy.

While talking to media persons Vij said, the biggest thing and what he thinks is that if we want to win the Olympics, national and international sports competitions, then we have to participate in sports since childhood for as such our state government has started sports nurseries all over in the state. He told that about one thousand sports nurseries have already been opened in schools as such from schools itself children will participate in sports competitions according to their interests. Vij said, we cannot come up in sports unless there are sports nurseries in schools.

Twin city earlier known as hub for drugs now turns to crime city

SATISH HANDA

Since past few years twin city Ambala known as an hub for smuggling and sale of drugs now turning to a crime city. If we look at past couple of days twin city Ambala has witnessed large number of crimes of these few prominent in-

clude recovery of drugs, police raid at a Spa centre running flesh trade, recovery of mobile phones and its accessories from prisoners inside Ambala central jail, snatching cases, rivalry attacks, recovery of bodies, large number of thefts, road mishaps claimed several lives, recovery of children from



a beggar and many more having a long list.

Padma Yozna & Business Summit to increase industrial growth & exports in Haryana

Jashandeep Singh Randhawa SP Ambala while talking to media persons told that CIA Staff Ambala police on a clue arrested a youth identified as Tej Partap Singh alia Twinkle a resident of Pooja Vihar carrying 310 gm heroine having international value worth Rs 1.25 crore.



SATISH HANDA

Haryana government has approved a project 'Padma Yozna' in the state to develop micro and small industrial units in 4000 acre area in 143 blocks in 14 states across the state on which amount between Rs 25 to 30 thousand crore will be invested, which will be linked with 'one block one product' scheme already approved earlier in month February this year. This project will not only increase industrial growth but also likely to provide employment opportunities to nearly three lakh persons in the state directly or indirectly.

Recently, a business summit was organized by Haryana state government at Gurugram presided by Anand Mohan Sharan Additional Chief Secretary Industries Haryana in which large number of industrialists in the country and abroad as well as Indian Ambassadors from seven countries were also invited to participate in summit to discuss opportunities as regard increase in production and growth in exports in the country at present when business opportunities for India are favorable in world markets.

Increasing pollution in rivers worry Haryana govt



SATISH HANDA

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter had a review meeting with Haryana state government officers expressing worry over fast increasing pollution in state's prominent Yamuna and Ghaggar rivers flowing across the state causing severe harm to the health of residents in the state. In review meeting in which all senior concerned officers were present stating that rivers are the important assets to the state Chief Minister directed the officers to make plans in order to make Yamuna and

Ghaggar rivers water pollution free and take stern action against those throwing garbage, sewerage water and industrial wastes in it at places where it passes. On the basis of ground water quality report by National Green Tribunal (NGT) to Haryana State Pollution Control Board the water samples were collected at as many as 141 places at various catchment areas in Yamuna canal at Yamunanagar and Ghaggar canal at Panchkula and it was worrying for state government to find that water at most of the places was

Increasing pollution in Haryana, situation turning adverse in NCR

SATISH HANDA

Information reveals, Haryana government has done remarkable work in the field of stubble management as a result of which there has been a decline in the number of stubble burning incidences in the state. However, thirteen districts of Haryana fall under National Capital Region (NCR) covering around 47% area of Haryana state where the situation of pollution in the air increasing as compared to rest part in Haryana state. Air Quality Index (AQI) in most of districts in Haryana state has started rising except Panchkula district recorded minimum as 34 Microgram per

square meter (MG/SM) AQI has been recorded maximum in the state at Dharuveda in Rewari district recorded as 286 MG/SM). Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter said, Haryana is geared up to handle stubble burning issue ahead of the winter season in the state. Addressing a meeting attended by ministers and senior officials of various departments in the as well as from Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh Khatter said Haryana government has taken steps for improving air quality by using bio-decomposer technology for stubble burning management seems bringing satisfactory result.

to create new policies so that the surrounding states also adopt similar policies and apart from this, there is need towards re-using treated water with the installation of treatment plants.

Truck scanner installed at Indo-Pak border defected as not useful-Aujla



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Member Parliament Amritsar Gurjeet Singh Aujla here today rejected the full body truck scanner by saying it was not useful at the Indo-Pak International border.

Aujla, a member of parliament, visited the Indo-Pak Attari border to inspect the basic infrastructure keeping in view the national security aspects besides to have firsthand experience about the problems being faced by the officials of Border Security Force, Customs department and incoming and outgoing passengers to Pakistan.

He along with senior BSF and Custom officials inspected passenger facilities and im-

provements, renovation and development of infrastructure at ICP, parking issues, farmers and border fence issues, highway projects etc.

He held meeting at JCP Attari with the officials of Landport Authority of India, Indian Customs, Border Security Force of India, National Highway Authority of India regarding the development works being carried out at JCP (Joint Check Post) and ICP Attari including the installation of high mast flagpost and beautification works at JCP, rejected truck scanner, passenger facilities and improvements, renovation and development of infrastructure at ICP, parking issues, farmers and border fence issues, highway projects etc.

SC employees of Haryana Roadways to boycott Diwali, threaten of mass resignation



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Manoj Chahal, State President of Roadways SC Employees Sangharsh Samiti of Haryana, today alleged that following caste discrimination and oppressive policy towards the organization and employees, former GM of Rohtak Depot, on the behalf of Transport Director, Haryana, conspired against the office bearers of the Sangharsh Samiti and implicated them in false cases. Hundreds of Scheduled Caste employees of Haryana Roadways announced to boycott of the festival of Diwali in protest against the oppression. They also threatened to tender mass resignations to the Chief Minister of Haryana if their demands were not met.

In a press conference at Chandigarh Press Club, the leader said

that on the call of Roadways SC Employees Sangharsh Samiti of Haryana, the scheduled caste employees of roadways remained on duty to run the buses in the interest of the government and public, during the strike on 28-29 March. As a result of which the striking employees of the Sanjha Morcha humiliated the SC employees by putting strings of shoes around their necks, while in Palwal, due to the bus operation, the striking employees tried to burn these drivers alive by pouring diesel on them. Criminal cases were registered by the police in these cases. But, now some leaders of Sanjha Morcha, in connivance with the director, are pressurizing the representatives of Roadways SC Employees Sangharsh Samiti of Haryana to withdraw the case or face the false cases.

Shahid Samarak' near to completion will take visitors back to year 1857: Anil Vij

SATISH HANDA

Talking to media persons Haryana Home & Health Minister Anil Vij said that

Samarak being constructed in Ambala Cantonment in the memory of those unsung heroes who were martyred in the first war of independence in 1857 is almost complete likely to be inaugurated shortly. He told that history will be

displayed in the best and lively manner in this Samarak and efforts in this Vij's dream project have been made that people reach back to 1857 from 2022 when the bugle of independence was sounded from Ambala. Vij was interacting with the media persons on Saturday afternoon after inspecting the Samarak being constructed on 22 acres of land on GT Road in Ambala Cantonment where history will be shown live in the Samarak.

Lakhimpur Kheri case: SC grants UP 2 weeks for response on Ashish Mishra's bail plea

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday granted two weeks to the Uttar Pradesh government to file its reply on the bail plea filed by Lakhimpur Kheri violence case prime accused Ashish Mishra, the son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Tani.

A bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna said it will hear the matter on November 7. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Mishra, submitted that notice was already issued in the matter.

On July 26, the Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench declined to entertain Mishra's bail plea. On April 18, the Supreme Court had cancelled the bail granted to Mishra and directed him to surrender within a week. A bench headed



by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana (retired now) and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli asked the Allahabad High Court to examine afresh whether Mishra should be granted bail or not.

«Instead of looking into aspects such as the nature and

gravity of the offence, severity of the punishment in the event of conviction, circumstances which are peculiar to the accused or victims, likelihood of the accused fleeing, likelihood of tampering with the evidence and witnesses, and the impact that his release may have on the

trial and the society at large, the High Court has adopted a myopic view of the evidence on the record and proceeded to decide the case on merits, « the top court had noted.

It had said that the high court had shown «tearing hurry» in passing the February 10 order, granting bail to Mishra, denying a fair and effective hearing to the victims.

Mishra was arrested on October 9 last year in the case. On October 3, 2021, eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri in clashes during a farmers' protest.

The family members of the farmers, mowed down by a car belonging to Mishra, in Lakhimpur Kheri had moved the top court challenging bail granted to him.

Modi Govt on denial mode on Global Hunger Index ranking says P. Chidambaram

NEW DELHI: Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has alleged that the government was in a denial mode on the poverty and hunger index rankings.

He said on Tuesday, «Sadly, the Modi government is in denial mode as was evident when it rejected India's 107 ranking in the Global Hunger Index.»

«The UNDP and the Oxford HDI have confirmed what we have said several times: that the UPA government had the best record in lifting people out of poverty. The Report released on 17-10-2022 has confirmed that 27.39 crore were lifted out of poverty in the 10 years of the UPA government.»

«Yet, it is a stern warning to India that 16.4 per cent of the population (22.8 crore) was still poor in 2019-20. That



number got worse in the subsequent two years because of the pandemic and the lockdowns. The first task of any government is to overcome the challenges of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, « he added.

The Centre on Saturday said misinformation seems to be the hallmark of the annually released Global Hunger Index.

The Global Hunger Report 2022 released by Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, Non-Government Organisations from Ireland and Germany, respectively, has ranked India at 107 among 121 countries.

Helicopter services to Kedarnath resume



RUDRAPRAYAG: Helicopter services to the Uttarakhand's Kedarnath temple resumed, two days after a chopper crash in the area killed a pilot and six pilgrims.

On Wednesday, a day after the accident, various aviation companies resumed helicopter operations and 981 pilgrims were taken to Kedarnath, according to officials.

Aryan Aviation, the company

to which the ill-fated helicopter belonged, also resumed the service from Masta-Guptkashi to Kedarnath.

An Aryan Aviation official said on Thursday that a team from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) inspected the company's helipad at Masta. He said after the completion of their inspection and investigation, the helicopter services restarted.

Drone from Pak intercepted in Amritsar sector



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The patrolling party of Border Security Force (BSF) has intercepted a drone which entered Indian Territory from Pakistan.

In a statement issued here today, a BSF spokesperson said that on October 16th, the BSF troops during patrolling heard the buzzing sound of a suspected flying object (drone) entering Indian territory from Pakistan. The spot of incident was at borer village Rannia of Amritsar sector.

Spokesperson said that as per drill, BSF troops tried to intercept the suspected flying object by gun fire. Bullet hit the drone and fell it down on the ground. The whole area was cordoned and immediately the concerned sister agencies and police were informed.

Gangster-terror nexus: NIA raids underway across nation



NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) raids are underway in more than ten locations across the nation in connection with gangster syndicates matter. According to sources, the raids, which started on Tuesday morning, are being carried out in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi-NCR region. «We have decided to uproot the emerging nexus between gangsters, terrorists and narcotic dealers. They were working together, « they said. The case relates to involvement of criminal gangs in different kinds of criminal activities, including killings, to terrorise the people to extort money for running and promoting their criminal syndicates and activities.

Indian art market clocks USD 75.8 million, in turnover

The Indian art market is on course to have its best-performing year ever based on the first six months of FY23. Having a turnover of USD 75.8 million as of 30 September 2022, according to Indian Art Investor's Indian Art Market

Report for H1FY23, FY23 may exceed FY22. The first six months of FY23 have been able to produce more than the yearly turnover of 34 of the 39 years of prior auction data held by IAI. The study states that a total of 468 artists - or 57 per cent of the works sold in FY22-have contributed to this accomplishment through the sale of 2, 053 pieces.

Modi releases 12th installment of Rs 16,000 crore to eligible farmers under PM-KISAN

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday released the 12th instalment of financial benefit worth Rs 16,000 crore to over 11 crore eligible farmers under the flagship PM-KISAN scheme, ahead of Diwali and ongoing rabi sowing.

With this, the total amount transferred to the beneficiaries is expected to cross Rs 2.16 lakh crore. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 each every four months. The fund is directly transferred



to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

The scheme was launched in February 2019 but is being implemented with effect from December 2018. The Prime

Minister released the 12th instalment at a two-day event «PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022» being held at the Pusa campus in the national capital. Union Agriculture Minister

Narendra Singh Tomar and Chemicals & Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya were also present at the programme.

More than 13,500 farmers from across the country and around 1,500 Agri-startups are participating in the event.

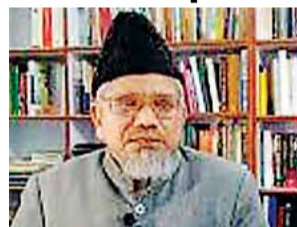
Researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders too are attending the event.

PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme with 100 per cent funding from the central government. The state government and UT administration identify the farmer families that are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind condemns MHA's consent to release Bilkis Bano rapists

FW DESK New Delhi

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) has condemned the Ministry of Home Affairs's consent to release Bilkis Bano rapists. In a statement to the media, the Vice President of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Prof Salim Engineer said: «We condemn MHA's consent to release Bilkis Bano rapists. By agreeing with the Gujarat government under its amended remission policy for the release of 11 men convicted of gangraping a pregnant Bilkis Bano and murdering 14 members of her family, including her 3-year-old daughter in the post-Godhra violence in 2002, the MHA has given the impression that it sides with criminals and rapists and not with the victim. This exposes its hollow claims to be the defender of women's rights and empowerment. It has not only hurt Bilkis Bano and members of her family but also the deprived sections of our country. It is very unfortunate



that in our system rapists are being honoured as was seen in the case of Unnao, Kathua and Hathras. It seems that reaping political dividends by appeasing a particular vote bank is more important for the ruling dispensation than justice. We condemn the decision and hope the apex court intervenes in the matter to reverse this grave injustice carried out under the guise of official government policy.»

The JIH Vice President said: «It has come to light that the Superintendent of Police, CBI, Special Crime Branch, Mumbai, and the Special Civil Judge (CBI), City Civil and Sessions Court, Greater Bombay had opposed the early release of the prisoners.

Cong slams Kejriwal for comparing Manish Sisodia to Bhagat Singh

NEW DELHI: The Congress hit out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday for comparing those accused of corruption in connection with the liquor policy for the national capital to freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, saying it was unfortunate and a «cheap political act.»

Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit said this after Kejriwal compared his deputy Manish Sisodia to Bhagat Singh, after the CBI questioned the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor scam.

Dikshit also said Sisodia should give evidence in support of the allegation raised by him that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attempted to poach AAP MLAs under «Operation Lotus» and asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to bring out the video-recordings once the investigation is concluded.

«It is very shameful that AAP ministers are being accused of corruption relating to the



liquor policy. Those accused of corruption are being compared to Bhagat Singh, who inspires every Indian. It is very unfortunate and sad. Rarely has there been a cheap political act than this. We strongly condemn this,» Dikshit told reporters.

He accused Kejriwal and his party of adopting all kinds of low tactics in politics and said they have now fallen to a new low by taking the name of Bhagat Singh along with those accused of corruption.

The statement should be withdrawn, Dikshit said.

The former MP said Kejriwal used to say privatisation of anything amounts to corruption and yet, he handed over the entire liquor business in Delhi from the government to the private sector.

Prashant Kishor slams PM over price rise

PATNA: Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor on Friday launched a stinging attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issues of price rise and lack of industrial development in states like Bihar.

Kishor, who is on a state-wide padayatra of his home state, was addressing villagers in Narka-

tiaganj, a subdivision of West Champaran district, about 300 km from the state capital.

A video clip of his speech, in fluent Bhojpur, was shared on social media by «Jan Suraj», his initiative that is likely to evolve into a political party upon completion of the state-wide tour.



«We chanted Har Har Modi, Ghar Ghar Modi and

he became the Prime Minister. What we got is a jump in the price of cooking gas, from Rs 500 to Rs 1,300 per cylinder.... If he gets elected for yet another term in office, the price may reach Rs 2,000 per cylinder,» said Kishor whose first claim to fame was handling Modi's poll campaign in 2014.

CCI to set up a dedicated Digital Markets & Data Unit for addressing complexities in the digital sector: Chairperson Gupta

COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA (CCI), GOVT OF INDIA GAVE INSIGHTS ON THE JOURNEY OF COMPETITION REGULATOR AT THE 7TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY ASSOCHAM

FW DESK New Delhi

«The birth of CCI was in response to a transition that India was witnessing where markets were central to economic growth, the premise being, that while markets can achieve several economic public policy goals, there can be market failures,» said Ashok Kumar Gupta, IAS,

Chairperson of Commission of India (CCI) at the 7th Annual International Conference. He stated that in the last 13 years, the competition regulator has reviewed over 1200 antitrust cases, 965 combination filings and held over more than 1200 advocacy events. «However, more than what the numbers reveal, the Commission through these years, has developed a sound body of jurisprudence across diverse sectors of the economy by engaging with various stakeholders,» he said, adding, «Some of the major sectors in which interventions have been made by the Commission are cement, tyre, real estate, pharma, entertainment, coal and digital markets.»

The 7th international conference, themed: Competition Law:



Enforcement in India - The Past, The Present and The Future, was organised by CCI and the apex industry body, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

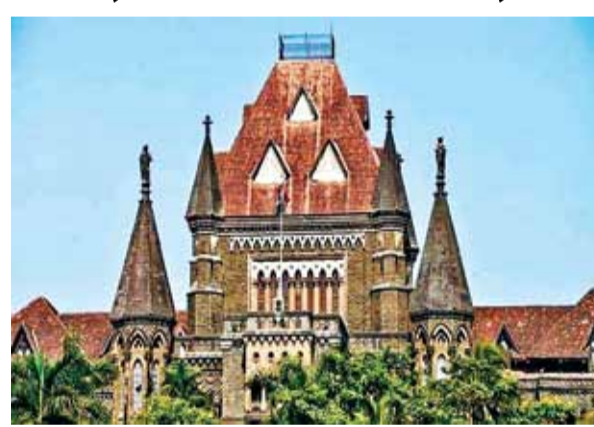
Gupta, who was the chief guest at the international conference, touched upon the various initiatives undertaken by CCI as well as the challenges in front of them,

which includes the rising cases from technological markets. «The Commission is constantly honing its antitrust and merger toolkit to meet these challenges and, in doing so, benchmarking itself with best global practices,» he said, adding, «In view of the number of cases and complexity in the digital sector and the increasing need for data and technology

skills, CCI is in the process of setting up a dedicated Digital Markets and Data Unit (DMDU) in CCI. In addition to our staff from the law, economics and finance streams, we plan to staff the unit with new professional profiles such as data scientists, algorithm experts etc.»

The Chairperson of CCI said that the Indian Competition Act encourages mutual meaningful relationship between competition and corporate governance. «The Honble Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Annual Day address, stressed on the importance of FAQs and urged the Commission to prepare them for the benefit of stakeholders. CCI recently put together FAQs covering aspects of its enforcement provision under the Act.»

Bombay HC grants bail to rape accused, says he will have to marry victim within one year



MUMBAI: Bombay High Court has granted bail to a 26-year-old man arrested in a rape case, but set a condition that he would have to marry the victim, who is currently untraceable, if she is found within a year.

The man, however, would not be bound by this condition beyond one year, a single bench of Justice Bharati Dangre said in the order passed on October 12.

The court said the accused and the 22-year-old woman were in a consensual relationship, but a rape and cheating case was registered when the man started avoiding her after learning that she was pregnant.

The woman lodged a complaint with the Mumbai Police against the man in February 2020 after which he was arrested.

In her complaint, the woman claimed they were in a relationship since 2018 and that their families were aware of the same and had not objected to it.

In 2019, the woman realised she was pregnant and informed the accused, but he started avoiding her. The woman left her house as she did not want to reveal about the pregnancy to her

family members. On January 27, 2020, she delivered a baby in a city hospital.

On January 30, the woman abandoned the baby in front of a building. A separate FIR was then lodged against her for abandoning the child.

Justice Dangre in her order said this «may be a possible reason why she is fleeing from the course of justice.»

The accused assured the HC that he was willing to marry the woman and accept paternity of the child.

However, the police informed the court that the woman was not traceable and the baby, who was admitted to a child care centre, has already been given in adoption.

«In such circumstances when the incident was reported, the victim was major and she has already stated that the relationship was consensual,» the HC said.

«I deem it appropriate to release the applicant on bail subject to compliance that if the victim is traced within a short while and say in a period of one year, he shall solemnise marriage with her, but he shall not be bound by the statement beyond one year,» the order said. The court granted bail to the man on a bond of Rs 25,000.

Tough roads ahead for new Congress President Kharge

As foretold, Mallikarjun Kharge has won the contest to become the Congress president. He will take charge on October 26. The challenge of the contest would not have prepared him for his innings at the helm of the country's oldest surviving party. The party desperately needs new disruptive energy, but Kharge embodies stability at the cost of dynamism. His ageing shoulders have to carry the burden of expectations of not only the Congress workers but also of all those in India who hope the wobbling party finds its feet soon. Kharge will have to shake off the tag of being a representative of the establishment, and his starting point should be the Udaipur declaration of the party that vowed to curtail the prevalent practice of a handful of families cornering numerous political positions and open up the party to younger, diverse sets of people. His first photographs after winning the election had his son, a Congress politician, in the frame, which was bad optics. The Congress must have a fair and more balanced representation for various castes, genders, regions and professional and social backgrounds in order to be able to challenge the totalising politics of the Bharatiya Janata Party. As the new president, Kharge will have to get the Congress in fighting shape and also reach out to potential partners and the wider public by articulating a refreshed ideological and moral purpose of the party. The three members of the Gandhi family will remain the last word in the Congress and Kharge's election is itself the latest proof of that, though an original plan to install Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at the helm went awry. While the Congress can take pride in the fact that it raised the standards of inner party democracy, attempts by several officials of the party to tilt the scale in Kharge's favour were unmistakable.

LETTERBOX

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

You only fail when you stop trying.

—Albert Einstein

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

RNI NO. CHAENG/2001/03736

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY SWINDER BAJWA ON BEHALF OF FW MEDIA

PRINTED AT JAGJIT PUBLISHING CO. PVT LTD D-12, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-1, MOHALI, PUNJAB 160059

PRINTER & PUBLISHER SWINDER BAJWA OWNER* : FW MEDIA

PUBLISHED AT: PLOT NO-F5, IT PARK, CHANDIGARH CHANDIGARH 160101; PHONE: 9888040061

EDITOR* ABDUL WASEY

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



LAGGING BEHIND MOST SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES, INDIA HAS RANKED 107TH ON GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2022 OUT OF 121 COUNTRIES RANKED.

Global Hunger Index and India

With a score of 29.1, the level of hunger in India has been rated as 'serious' by European NGOs, Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, the publishers of the Global Hunger Index in India slipped six places from its 2021 ranking of 101 among 116 countries. Last year, the country's score was 28.2. Almost all of India's neighbours fared well with Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Myanmar ranking 99, 64, 84, 81, and 71, respectively. With a score of less than five, China has topped the chart with 16 other countries.

Those who ranked below India are Afghanistan, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Niger, Haiti, Central African Republic, Yemen, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Timor-Leste, Guinea-Bissau and Madagascar.

Malnutrition has been prevalent for decades in India and is the primary cause of poverty and economic fallout. 22.4 crore people in India have considered undernourished India's rank in the Global Hunger Index is near the bottom.

According to the NFHS-5 data, there is more stunting in rural areas (37.3 per cent) as compared to urban centres (30.1 per cent), owing to the poor socio-economic situation in rural areas. Anaemia among children under five has worsened, with a prevalence of nearly 67.1% compared to 58.6% recorded in the NFHS's 4th round, while 57% of women of reproductive age are anaemic. 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 far 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. Poorest Indian states have infant mortality rates higher than those in sub-Saharan Africa. India accounts for 17% of global maternal deaths, and 21% of deaths among children below five years.

The Global Hunger Index scores are determined based on the values of four component indicators — child mortality, child stunting, child wasting and undernourishment. The Index, published annually, tracks hunger globally as well as by region and country.

There is already enough food to feed everyone in the world; those going hungry just lack access. Global trade moves food grain from where it is produced to where it is consumed, keeping people fed. Russia and Ukraine are two of the world's largest agricultural producers, whose food exports account for some 12 per cent of

total calories traded in the world. The war is ruining a quarter of the global grain trade. Some 50 nations that rely on Russia and Ukraine for the bulk of their wheat imports—including Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, and Türkiye—have been trying to find alternative suppliers. In March 2022, global food prices jumped to their highest levels ever recorded. Compared with the previous year, prices for cereals were up 37 per cent; cooking oils, 56 per cent; and meat, 20 per cent. As of July, prices have fallen slightly since March, but in June they were still 27 per cent higher than in June 2021 (FAO 2022c). The global hunger situation as reflected in the 2022 GHI is grim. The overlapping crises facing the world are exposing the weaknesses of food systems, from global to local, and highlighting the vulnerability of populations around the world to hunger. Despite the "Zero Hunger" target articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals, the progress that has been made is being lost, and the situation is worsening in too many countries. It is critical to act now to halt and reverse the forces driving hunger and undernutrition and to take steps to build a more resilient, just, and sustain-

able world where hunger is a thing of the past. There can be no more excuses. At the same time, we must reduce food loss and waste. Currently, close to a third of all food produced around the globe—enough to feed about 1.26 billion people a year—is lost or wasted at some point in the food supply chain (FAO 2022f). If we could cut food loss and waste in half, the food supply would contain enough fruits and vegetables to cover the recommended amount of 400 grams per person per day. Inefficiencies along the food supply chain and food waste from the wholesale to the consumer level also have a major impact on the environment. The wastage culture has been bad news for decades in India which produces some of the world's best rice, grains, tea and spices. In 2021-22, total food grain production was estimated at 315,72 million tonnes, while as per estimates, 225-230 MT is needed to feed its population in a year. Still, the country is struggling to feed its own.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that more than 40 per cent of food produced is wasted in India, and its costs could be as high as US\$14 billion (12.42 billion euros) every year. Limiting food loss and waste can therefore help to both fight hunger and reduce environmental harm. Achieving "Zero Hunger" was always going to be an enormous challenge. This is because ending hunger is not a simple matter of producing more food. Hunger cannot be eradicated unless we tackle the structural drivers that cause it: war, climate change, and recession. If current conditions continue, there would still be at least 670 million, undernourished people, among us in 2030. We may not be able to end hunger by then, but we can stop heading in the wrong direction. The world will not end in 2030. Nor should the fight against hunger.

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



BHARGAV KRISHNA EXPLAINS WHY THE ISSUE CAN'T BE ADDRESSED IN A SILO AND USING SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS

Dealing with north India's burning issue sustainably

The monsoon has receded, and North India is bracing for a smoggy winter. And with that the feverish focus on crop stubble burning has returned to India's public discourse. Like each year, discussions have begun on how bad this year's stubble burning season will likely be and what potential ad hoc techno-fixes could solve the issue — in the short term.

We will soon read in-depth analyses of satellite image-derived counts of the number of fires observed on each day, and source apportionment studies that determine the exact contribution of stubble burning to poor air quality. The purportedly apathetic farmer who cares little about the well-being of Delhi's urban citizenry will be held to a high standard of environmental stewardship, and the inevitable political mudslinging will follow soon. However, this heated public discourse adopts an unhelpful adversarial frame to a complex challenge. The problem is a historic one that cannot be fixed with short-term, unsustainable solutions.

The root cause of stubble burning can be traced back to the 1960s-70s, when to meet the urgent challenge of feeding its rapidly growing population, India introduced several measures as part of its Green Revolution. The Green Revolution transformed the way agriculture was practised, especially in Punjab and Haryana. The economics of high-yielding varieties of paddy and wheat, supported by a guaranteed buyer (the government) and minimum support prices led to a crop duopoly oriented solely around increasing caloric intakes, supplanting the earlier diversity of crops grown in the region.

Further policy moves in subsequent de-



cadres, which included the introduction of subsidies for electricity and fertilizers, and ease of access for credit in agriculture only served to cement this duopoly. But this transition to a two-crop agricultural praxis, while filling godowns and feeding mouths, has been depleting the water table, increasing pesticide and fertilizer use exponentially. It has also led to the consolidation of small farms into larger landholdings.

In an attempt to address the growing water crisis, the Punjab and Haryana governments introduced laws around water conservation, encouraging farmers to look to the monsoon rather than groundwater to irrigate their crops. The shortened harvesting season that arose resulting from a not clearly thought-out policy move brought about the need for farmers to rapidly clear their fields between the kharif and rabi crops; the quickest of these ways was to burn off the remaining stubble post-harvest.

The repercussion of stubble burning is felt all through the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP)

airshed, where what is burned in Punjab and Haryana has an impact on air quality all the way down to Bihar and West Bengal. With studies showing a large contribution of stubble burning emissions on winter air quality in the National Capital Region, the demand for governments to act on this seemingly avoidable practice translated initially into a criminalisation of the act.

No significant improvement

More recently, however, with concerted focus on the subject, a series of short-term ex-situ and in-situ solutions have been rolled out by the Union and State governments. In-situ solutions include happy seeders and bio-decomposers, while the ex-situ solutions include collecting and using stubble as fuel in boilers, to produce ethanol, or to simply burn away alongside coal in thermal power plants. Economic incentives to reduce burning have also been tested with limited success. With crores invested in these solutions over the last five years, we

have yet to see any significant improvement in the situation.

Driven largely by short-term thinking, these techno-fixes or alternative uses work at the margins, without addressing the root cause. As pointed out in a recent article, the entire value-chain of agriculture in the region needs to change if air quality, water, nutrition, and climate goals are to be addressed. In practical terms, this means substantially reducing the amount of paddy being grown in the region and replacing it with other crops that are equally high-yielding, in-demand, and agro-ecologically suitable such as cotton, maize, pulses and oil seeds. It will also require building trust with farmers to ensure they are seen as partners (rather than perpetrators) and providing them the financial support necessary.

At a policy level, it also requires recognising that agriculture, nutrition, water, the environment, and the economy are all deeply intertwined in the era of the Anthropocene. One cannot be addressed in a silo without having second and third order effects on the other. Therefore, taking the long view on this would also mean establishing a mechanism for intersectoral policymaking that aligns our goals for sectoral policy within the broad frame of sustainable development we wish to follow.

A transition at this scale has not been witnessed since the Green Revolution, but it is what is required if we are to address stubble burning in the long run. Fostering the conditions necessary for such a transition is complex. Whether our institutions have the right mix of political will and professional skill to do so remains to be seen.

Bhargav Krishna is a Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research. Views are personal.



BOOKS: REVIEW

SENSEX OF REGIONAL PARTIES

There has been a continuous emerging of cults out of other cults in our country. This is also seen in the fragmentation of political parties and the rise of new parties from them. Academics consider the rise of regional parties to be a complex and multi faceted phenomenon, which in fact is also the result of the interrelationship between the regional consciousness that emerged in the country in the 19th century and the post-independence social, economic and political developments. Even prior to independence, there were political parties in abundance throughout the country, but then their sole aim was to obtain freedom from

the imperialism of the British rule. Political parties also emerged from social reform movements.

Movements with their own political dominance of Hindus and Muslims also sprang up, which later established themselves into political parties. Formation of regional parties as a result of the dominance of democratic politics in a federal system is not unusual. Also, the differences in a diverse society also cast their effect on the regional politics, which gives rise to new parties. Aaku Srivastava, has played a long innings in journalism and authorship, his new book *Sensex of Regional Parties*; may not delve any deep from the

The success of the book underlines it. It is very interesting to know when a particular party was formed, what circumstances led to its formation and how it is functioning now

point of view of sociological or political science, but the detail in which regional parties operate in the country — their what, when, how and now — makes it an important document. For those preparing for competitive exams and media persons, this book is not only a one-stop useful reference material but also a ready reckoner. The presentation of the subject is



very appropriate for the overall depiction of the subject. The subtitle written on the cover of the book *Sensex of Regional Parties*; A comprehensive account of regional parties that altered the course of Indian Politics; signifies this. The success of the book underlines it. It is very interesting to know when a particular party was formed, what circumstances led to its formation and how it is functioning now.

This is first book of its kind in English which caters to all these curiosities. Although the

book is a discussion of regional parties, by going beyond the topic and also recording the history of new parties formed by the splits in the Congress, it has become more relevant.

The rise of regional parties undeniably changed the nature of India's *Sensex*; electoral politics. After the unprecedented rise in the status of regional parties in the late 1990s and early 1990s, a new balance of power emerged in the electoral competition at the national level that caste and community politics lapped up soon. There, regional parties registered their strong presence not only in their respective states but also in national politics. And now the voters who vote for their favorite regional party within the state change their attitude in the Lok Sabha elections. Underlining this new trend, interesting stories from regional parties are in this book.

ITC invests in Mother Sparsh, baby care brand looks to raise Rs 100 cr

NEW DELHI: Multi conglomerate ITC Ltd has further invested Rs 13.50 crore in D2C baby care brand Mother Sparsh, which is in advanced discussions with other investors to raise Rs 90-100 crore in Series B funding.

The direct-to-consumer (D2C) brand on Wednesday said it is in advanced discussions with investors for securing Rs 90-100 crore in Series B funding, with ITC infusing Rs 13.5 crore in this.

ITC in a late-night regulatory filing on Tuesday said that after the deal, its shareholding

in Mother Sparsh will go up from the existing 16 per cent to 22 per cent.

"The Company has entered into an agreement to acquire further 1,000 Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares of Rs 10 each of Mother Sparsh. The said shares, once acquired, will take the Company's shareholding in Mother Sparsh to 22 per cent," the filing said.

The acquisition is in line with the company's continued interest in the fast-growing D2C space in the personal care category, ITC added.

In November last year, Mother Sparsh raised Series A funding from ITC. Mother Sparsh, incorporated in February 2016, registered a turnover of Rs 33.53 crore in FY22.



After Series B funding, the D2C brand intends to enhance its portfolio, especially across

baby skin care and mother-oriented segment. It had recently forayed into the diaper segment.

"Mother Sparsh's objective behind the Series B funding round is to enhance R&D and foster innovation in the critical baby & mom care segment alongside sustained product portfolio diversification," it said.

Mother Sparsh co-founder and CEO Himanshu said: "Our recurrent funding aims to strengthen this mission through R&D in the space and offering one-of-its-kind solutions for the needs of mothers and their little ones".

Pristyn Care, IGF join hands to sponsor cataract surgery of underprivileged



NEW DELHI: Healthcare startup Pristyn Care and Impact Guru Foundation have joined hands to raise funds through crowdsourcing to sponsor cataract surgery for the underprivileged class under the "Save the Sight" campaign, a joint statement said on Monday.

As part of the initiative, IGF will raise funds on the crowdfunding platform ImpactGuru web platform and the surgeries will be performed by Pristyn Care's expert ophthalmologists. "Save the Sight" is an endeavour to restore the sight of over 2 million people who are awaiting cataract surgery but cannot afford it. "Out of the 3.8 million Indians contract cataract annually, 80 per cent suffer from permanent blindness. Our initiative, in partnership with Pristyn Care, is a step towards helping people in the country

to unblur their eyesight and enjoy the beauty around them.

"With cataract being one of the necessary surgeries, we aim to provide our support to maximum individuals," Impact Guru Foundation CEO Sundeep Talwar said. According to the joint statement, India is home to the largest blind population in the world with approximately 8 million blind people. Cataract is considered a significant contributor to this life-crippling ocular condition, with estimates attributing 50 to 80 per cent of bilateral blindness cases in India to cataract, the statement said.

Cataract is also believed to be the most significant cause of avoidable blindness. As per recent statistics from the National Center of Biotechnology and Information (NCBI), over 3.8 million Indians annually contract cataract.

SpiceJet to suspend operations in Sikkim from Oct 30



GANGTOK: SpiceJet, the only carrier that runs daily flights to and from the greenfield airport in Sikkim's Pakyong, will suspend services in the hill state from October 30 due to "operational constraints".

According to a spokesperson of the budget airline, bad weather and low visibility were bottlenecks that led to the decision. "SpiceJet flights to and from Pakyong airport have been temporarily suspended with effect from October 30, 2022, due to operational constraints owing to the bad weather condition and low visibility at Pakyong.

"Pakyong is a VFR (Visual Flight Rules) airport and does not have instrument landing facilities. To avoid inconvenience to our passengers, flight operations have been temporarily suspended. We will share an update once the services resume," the spokesperson said. A notice to this effect has been put up at the reception and the ticket counter of the airport.

Pfizer India expands reach of online programme on antimicrobial resistance for nurses



FW DESK
New Delhi

Pfizer India and AmeriCare India Foundation announced a partnership with the Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) to make TNAI a knowledge, outreach, and certification partner for the OPEN-AMR (Online Platform for Education among Nurses on AMR) programme. This programme is a web-based learning platform to educate nurses on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is one of the world's top 10 global public health threats, according to the World Health Organization. OPEN-AMR was launched in June 2022 in partnership with along with AmeriCare India Foundation, a health-focused relief and development organization.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when microbes, such as bacteria and viruses, begin to resist the effects of the drugs used against them and become increasingly difficult to treat. AMR poses a significant public health threat.

Electronics Mart shares rise nearly 53 pc in stock market debut



NEW DELHI: Shares of consumer durables retail chain Electronics Mart India on Monday made a strong market debut, climbing nearly 53 per cent against the issue price of Rs 59. The scrip made its debut at Rs 89.40, registering a jump of 51.52 per cent on the BSE. At the NSE, it listed at Rs 90, rallying 52.54 per cent. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Electronics Mart India received 71.93 times subscriptions on the final day of the offer on October 7. The IPO had a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 500 crore with no offer-for-sale component. The price range for the offer was Rs 56-59 a share. «Electronics Mart India Limited has debuted at Rs 90. The company's strong listing can be attributed to strong interest from investors, reasonable valuations, and a sanguine growth outlook,» said Praveesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Ericsson partners with Jio to build 5G standalone network

NEW DELHI: Telecom gear maker Ericsson on Monday announced a long-term strategic 5G contract with Reliance Jio to roll out 5G standalone (SA) network in the country.

The announcement follows the allocation of 5G spectrum in the recently concluded auctions in India. This is the first partnership between Jio and Ericsson for radio access network deployment in the country, according to a release.

Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio, said, "We are delighted to partner with Ericsson for Jio's 5G SA rollout..."



We are confident that Jio's 5G network will accelerate India's digitalisation and will serve as the foundation for achieving our nation's 'Digital India' vision". Jio's Standalone 5G network deployment marks a "technology leap" since it modernises

the network infrastructure to deliver a truly transformative 5G experience to consumers and enterprises, the release said.

Borje Ekholm, President and CEO of Ericsson, noted that India is building a world-class digital infrastructure that will drive innovation, job creation and entrepreneurship across the country. "We are happy to partner with Jio in those ambitions, through Ericsson 5G Standalone connectivity, which will be a major catalyst in meeting those digital transformation goals across society, enterprise and industry," Ekholm said.

Positive Planet announces Academy for unemployed & underpaid employees of tri-city

FW DESK
Chandigarh

Positive Planet announced the launch of Positive Academy - a sponsored training initiative in Tri-city (Chandigarh, Mohali & Panchkula) for unemployed & underpaid employees to train them across domains whilst offering them a stipend. They also intend to increase their workforce in the coming year across their 12 companies.

Positive Planet is a CSR initiative built to contribute to & bridge the gap between the growing unemployment & the youth, especially post the pandemic. It is an effort to reconstruct a better and more resilient human capital as an essential investment for a stable future. This skill set development programme will hone raw talent that not just needs training but also certifications that will add value to their resumes & help them get jobs that they aspire for. The stipend given is a motivation to learn while they get industry training, seasoning them to work in demanding, high-pressure environments across the globe. Positive Planet will also be hiring a set percentage of these young resources to place them in various domains within their umbrella. For the first batch, they intend to train 100 participants at their Mohali office.

To contribute to the agenda



HIGH LIGHT

- Positive planet ready to sponsor a free skill development programme to hire & train youth in tier-2 cities
- Plans to hire 500+ employees in the next 1 year

further, Positive Planet also intends to offer more than 500 jobs in the coming year across sectors. The expansion plans of the conglomerate will open further opportunities for employees to garner global work experience (UK). They have just opened 2 new offices in India, taking their total number of offices to 6 globally. They are an equal opportunity employer that is gender neutral, unbiased & empowering. The average age of employees here is 29 years, and this makes it a perfect launch pad for young talent who is offered a global platform to build their careers.

Neeraj Bhatia, CEO & Co-founder of Positive Planet was quoted as saying, "The plans for aligning the group with ESG (Environmental, social, and corporate governance) goals accelerated drastically post the pandemic. We are not just trying to be a mere utility provider in the UK but also contribute extensively to society & environment. As part of our corporate social responsibility, we would like to support the local youth, empowering them with transferable skills and making them employable within various industry sectors."

The Positive Planet is a conglomerate of 12 companies that operate its business in the UK. It is driven by technology, experience, and commitment to bringing efficiencies in business operations. It is a one-stop shop for bespoke solutions across industries that believes in passing on their profits to the customers.

Underground coal mining will help to reduce the import of high-grade coal from foreign sources: M. Nagaraju

FW DESK
New Delhi

M. Nagaraju, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal stated creating awareness on underground coal mining is the need of the hour. "In the last couple of years, the Government of India (GoI) has been trying to encourage underground mining," he said at the conference that was held today on Underground Coal Mining - Challenges, Opportunities & Way.

We actually had put many underground mines out for auction, but not many opted for them as there are equally large numbers of open-cast mines



available for bidding for a very low remuneration. Underground mining, everybody knows, costs higher than open-cast mining, so most businessmen wanting to have more profit opt for the latter," he added.

The conference was organised by the apex industry body,

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) with support of the Ministry of Coal.

Nagaraju, who was the guest of honour at the conference, noted that even though India has a rich legacy of underground mining, somehow it has moved

away from it unlike countries like Chile, Australia, America, Canada and USSR. Extolling the benefits of underground mining, he explained, "Underground mining is more important if you take and compute the costs of environmental and climate change costs. Besides, large tracts of land need to be acquired for open cast mining, which is not the case with underground mining. Also, the surface conditions of the land is not disturbed once the coal has been extracted, it can be closed without damaging the climate. So, it is desirable in terms of environmental as well as social costs."

KFC launches India's first all-digital restaurants

NEW DELHI: In an effort to extend an enhanced, digital-first customer experience, KFC India recently announced the launch of KFC Smart Restaurants across India. A first for the country, the all-digital restaurants are located in Hyderabad, Gurgaon, Chennai and Bengaluru, and are powered with state-of-the-art self-ordering kiosks. Equipped to facilitate multiple payment options, consumers at these restaurants are encouraged to order themselves & pay digitally; thus, making access to their Bucket of KFC Chicken much easier & faster. With an aim to continue build-



ing restaurants of the future, the brand plans to launch 10 more such restaurants by the end of the year.

Telling us more about the brand's foray into building futuristic restaurants, Moksh Chopra, GM, KFC India, said, "Our consumers are increasingly turning to the digital medium - from food to gam-

ing, from their relationships to their careers, or simply to spend free time. According to reports, digital users in India have more than doubled over the last 5 years and millennials are now spending around eight hours per day online. Strengthening our commitment to being easily accessible to our consumers, we have been on a deliberate journey from CX to DX - enhancing customer experience through digital means. Whether it's digitally through our improved KFC App, which is faster & more intuitive, or with our newly launched Smart Restaurants.

Oracle bets big on multi-cloud offerings for Indian govt, public sector



As the Indian government doubles down on modernising its infrastructure in the digital era, Oracle on Thursday said its multi-Cloud offerings, which are fresh out of the oven, can help the public sector and state governments move to the cloud faster and in an efficient manner. Oracle has two multi-Cloud offerings, one is the database service for Microsoft Azure and the other one is 'One MySQL' database service for Amazon Web Services (AWS), which have generated great traction among the private sector. According to Prasad Rai, Vice President of Global Strategic Clients Group at Oracle India, there is a great demand on the multi-Cloud offerings among the government stakeholders as well.

Omega Seiki Mobility opens new state-of-the-art AKS Int'l dealership in Panchkula, Haryana

KULBIR SINGH KALSII
Panchkula

Omega Seiki Mobility, an Anglian Omega Group Company, inaugurates its First State-of-the-Dealership in Panchkula. Omega Seiki Mobility currently have 5 dealerships in Haryana, plans to open 30 dealerships by FY 23-24.

Commenting while inaugurating the dealership, Uday Narang, Chairman, Omega Seiki Mobility said, «We are delighted to launch one of our largest dealership in Panchkula. Each element of this



modern showroom embodies the characteristics of the OSM brand and creates a unique progressive experience. OSM new dealership in Panchkulais a modern reflection of our desire to delight

our customers in every aspect, right from the time a customer steps into the dealership. We are focusing on providing extensive after-sales support to our customers and keep expanding in Haryana market."

Yogeshh Kashyap, Owner of AKS International said, «We are proud to be a partner of Omega Seiki Mobility and to bring the Range of OSM Electric Vehicles to Panchkula. We are witnessing a good growth in Electric three wheeler commercial and passenger segment in Haryana market.

Lifetime achievement award conferred on Padmashree Rajinder Gupta at Centenary Year Celebrations of CAI



KULBIR SINGH KALSII
Chandigarh

Trident Group Chairman Emeritus Padmashree Rajinder Gupta was conferred upon with Lifetime achievement award in recognition of his valuable contributions to strengthening the Indian Textile Industry in the best national interest & outstanding achievements at the Centenary year's commemoration of Cotton Association of India (CAI). The event was held recently at Jio World Center Mumbai.

The award was presented to Rajinder Gupta by Textile Commissioner Roop Rashi on behalf of Hon'ble Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, and Atul Ganatra President CAI. Rajinder Gupta is presently also designated as Chairman, Board of Governors - Punjab Engineering

College (Deemed to be University), Chandigarh, 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.

The Cotton Association of India (CAI), formerly known as the East India Cotton Association, was incorporated on 19 Oct 1921. With over 450 members representing all segments of the Indian cotton and textile industry, 17 Regional Cotton Associations and four Co-operative Marketing Societies representing all upcountry cotton-producing regions of the country affiliated to it, CAI is one of the oldest apex cotton bodies in India.

Afghan refugees craft new life selling handmade products

NEW DELHI: Building a new life in India, the women Afghan refugees living in the national capital have established a full-time career making handmade products and teaching handicraft to other refugee women.

Farida Khair Khwa, 46, an Afghan refugee who arrived in India in 2016, teaches art and craft to at least 60 refugee women and asylum seekers, free of cost in South Delhi's Jangpura. "I teach art and craft to at least 60 women refugees as well as Asylum-seekers free of cost. The shop is situated near Samman Bazar in Bhogal," Farida told to media. The training school for art and crafts was started by

Farida and two of her friends in April, aiming to help the young refugee women in India. "We started this business 6 months ago. We make earrings, key chains, handbags, purses, coasters, traditional clothes, and food as well. Farida, who has always been keen about art and crafts, said that she had a longstanding desire to own a business. "I always wanted to start a business of my own in Afghanistan, but I chose to focus on my family because my children were very young."

"After moving to India, I was looking for a job and gradually started talking about the idea to my refugee friends, who were



equally interested," she said. Farida and her friends received help from 'Silaiwaali' - a social enterprise in New Delhi which up-cycles waste fabric generated by clothing manufacturers for refugees to make handicraft items. She said that the social enterprise not only helped them with materials, but also taught them how to advertise their products and paid them a monthly salary of

Rs 5,000 for five months. "Social enterprise 'Silaiwaali' helped us a lot. They paid us salaries for a certain period of time and also taught us how to advertise our products. To get more students, we went and spoke to the refugee women in Delhi about the idea and surprisingly, a lot of women were interested to learn it," Samira Faizi, 41, who is also a trainer at the art and crafts school for refugees, took shelter in India in 2021. Faizi worked as an artisan and trained other women in Afghanistan from 2014 to 2017, but she had to pause her career when her family decided to move to India in March, 2021.

Indian rupee's depreciation essentially due to strengthening of dollar index: SBI Chief

The Indian rupee has weakened essentially due to the strengthening of the dollar index but it is holding well as compared to currencies of other emerging market economies, State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Khara said.



Depreciation of the rupee is a cause of concern, especially for a country which has significant imports, Khara told PTI in an interview on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank here on Friday.

The rupee closed at 82.19 against the US dollar on Friday amid a firm greenback overseas and sliding crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 82.26 and witnessed a high of 82.12 and a low of 82.43 before settling at 82.19.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.56 per cent to 112.99.

The Indian rupee is doing pretty well, Khara said. "Better than us was only Indonesia, which is generally a commodity economy and Brazil. So, these are the only two currencies which did better than us," he said.

"It is essentially the strengthening of the dollar index... which is the cause of the weakness that we have seen in the rupee," he said.

"I would say that the (Indian) currency has not behaved as volatile as perhaps the rest of the global currencies," he added. Khara said even though the rupee is holding ground, its de-

India unlikely to be hit as hard by global recession

WASHINGTON: The impact of a global recession, which is increasingly being feared by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, is unlikely to be as pronounced in India as compared to other countries, State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Khara said.

With a projected growth rate of 6.8% and inflation "much under control", India is doing reasonably well, Khara told to media the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank here on Friday.

"Majorly, it (India) is an inward-looking economy in terms of demand because a significant component of the GDP is essentially addressed to the domestic economy. So, from that point of view, I think it (global recession) will have an impact but it won't be as pronounced as perhaps (it will be on) other economies which are fully coupled with the globe," he said. "If we look at the beta factor, perhaps the Indian economy's beta factor would be much lower as compared to some of the other larger economies that have a significant component of export," he said.

preciation is a cause of concern.

"It is very much a cause of concern, particularly for an economy which has got significant imports. But... when the dollar is struggling, how much can the rupee hold? Still,

I think in the given situation and circumstances, the rupee is holding well," he said.

Referring to the interventions by the Reserve Bank of India, he said they are ways to check volatility.

Asian shares mixed as investors keep eyes on inflation

TOKYO: Asian shares were mostly lower Friday in muted trading, as investors kept an eye on inflation.

Benchmarks fell in Tokyo, Seoul, Sydney and Hong Kong but rose in Shanghai and Mumbai.

Japan's core consumer prices rose 3.0% in September from a year earlier, according to government data released Friday. That was the highest increase in eight years. It would also have been the highest in more than 30 years if the impact of introducing and raising the consumption tax was excluded.

The Bank of Japan has kept an ultra-low interest rate policy, while the Federal Reserve and other central banks have been raising rates to counter surging prices. Until recently, the Japanese central bank had devoted its efforts to fending off deflation, or the continued downward spiraling of prices.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 150.25 Japanese yen from 150.09 yen, adding to pressure on the BOJ to tweak its monetary policy since a weaker yen amplified rising prices due to the higher costs for imports. The euro was little changed at 97.81 cents, inching down from 97.87 cents. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 declined 0.2% in morning trading to 26,951.59. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.5% to 6,698.60. South Korea's Kospi edged down 0.1% to 2,215.53. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.1% to 16,256.95, while the Shanghai Composite gained 0.5% to 3,048.97. Shares opened 0.3% higher in Mumbai. The overall mood remains cautious, with the pairing of gains in Wall Street and yields trending higher on a more hawkish policy outlook, Yeap Jun Rong, a market strategist at IG in Singapore, said in a report.



Axis Bank shares climb over 6.5 per cent post earnings announcement

NEW DELHI: Shares of Axis Bank climbed over 6.5% in morning trade on Friday, after the firm reported a 66.29 per cent jump in consolidated net profit for the September quarter.

The stock jumped 6.50 per cent to its 52-week high of Rs 879.95 on the BSE.

At the NSE, it rallied 6.53 per cent to its 52-week high of Rs 879.85.

The stock emerged as the biggest gainer on both Sensex and Nifty in morning trade.

The 30-share BSE benchmark climbed 292.97 points or 0.49 per cent to trade at 59,495.87.

Axis Bank on Thursday reported a 66.29 per cent jump in consolidated net profit for September quarter at Rs 5,625.25 crore, driven by a substantial decrease in bad loan provisions and margin expansion.

On a standalone basis, the third largest private sector lender reported a 70 per cent increase in its profit after tax for the July-September period at Rs 5,329.77 crore.



The core net interest income rose 31 per cent to Rs 10,360 crore on the back of a 14 per cent growth in assets and a 0.57 per cent expansion in the net interest margin at 3.96 per cent.

On the asset quality front, there was an improvement in the gross non performing assets ratio at 2.50 per cent as against 3.53 per cent in the year-ago period and 2.76 per cent at the end of the June quarter.

Competition Comm slaps Rs 1,337.76 crore fine on Google



NEW DELHI: The Competition Commission on Thursday imposed a penalty of Rs 1,337.76 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the android mobile device ecosystem. Besides, the fair trade regulator has directed the internet major to cease and desist from unfair business practices. In a release, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it has also directed Google to modify its conduct within a defined timeline.

Remitly Ushers in New Era of Regional Growth in Asia-Pacific

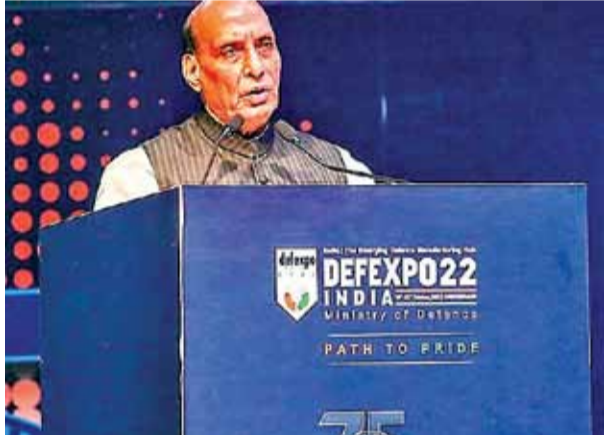
Remitly, a leading digital financial services provider for immigrants and their families in over 170 countries around the world, today announced key business milestones in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. Remitly has expanded its global footprint to include Japan and New Zealand. To date, Remitly has helped customers send \$2.5 billion in remittance volume from APAC, and the company is poised for further growth as access to its trusted platform becomes available to millions of new customers in the region. According to the World Bank, remittances sent from Japan have doubled since 2015 to \$8.25 billion in 2020. Additionally, personal remittances sent from New Zealand nearly quadrupled over the past 20 years, totaling close to \$875 million.

Asian Paints plans Rs 2,650 cr backward integration, including white cement JV in UAE



In a major backward integration move, paint major Asian Paints Ltd will invest about Rs 2,650 crore to manufacture Vinyl Acetate Ethylene Emulsion (VAE) and Vinyl Acetate Monomer (VAM) in India and white cement in the UAE. While the VAE and VAM investment will be made within India the manufacturing of the white cement will be under a 60:40 joint venture in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), with Riddhi Siddhi Crusher & Land Transport (Riddhi Siddhi), Fujairah, UAE, Associated Soapstone Distributing Company Private Limited (ASD), India and others. The outlay for the VAE and the VAM project will be about Rs 2,100 crore and for the white cement, it will be about Rs. 50 crore. The investment will be made over a period of three years, including the land cost for VAE and VAM and over two years for white cement.

MoUs worth Rs 1,53,000 cr signed at DefExpo 2022



GANDHINAGAR: As many as 451 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements worth Rs 1.53 lakh crore were signed during the Defence Expo or DefExpo 2022 at Gandhinagar, a senior official said.

During the valedictory function of the 12th edition of DefExpo at the Mahatma Mandir convention centre, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar informed

Singh and Gujarat Governor Acharya Devrat were among those present on the dais during the function.

"In the last defence expo, which was held in 2020 in Lucknow, 201 MoUs were signed. I am happy to report that today, 451 MoUs and agreements were signed. It involves an estimated amount of Rs 1,53,000 crore," said Kumar.

MoUs and agreements were signed between industry and industry, industry and state governments and industry and central government," he said.

The 12th edition of Defence Expo was the best to date and heralded an era of empowerment for the Indian defence sector, said Union minister Singh.

"This is the beginning of self-reliance in the Indian Defence sector. This expo has shown that the future belongs to India. This expo has also shown that India will become a global defence manufacturing hub," Singh added.

the audience that it had broken previous records in terms of business generation.

"This was the most outstanding defence expo ever. It saw the highest number of exhibitors, which is in addition to tens of thousands of business visitors. The extent of business this defence expo has generated has surpassed all the previous records," said Kumar.

Defence Minister Rajnath

Punjab National Bank Unveils Four Digital Banking Units

KULBIR SINGH KALSI
New Delhi

Following Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement during the Union budget speech for 2022-23 about the establishment of 75 DBUs in 75 districts of the country in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of our country's independence (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) to ensure that digital banking benefits reach every part of the country, Punjab National Bank, nation's leading public sector bank, unveiled four Digital Banking Units (DBUs) on Sunday in Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh), Bongaigaon (Assam), Gomati (Tripura), Aizawl (Mizoram) districts.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) across 75 districts to the nation via video conferencing on Sunday. Hon'ble Union Minister of



Finance Smt Nirmala Sitharaman and Governor of Reserve Bank of India Shri Shaktikanta Das were among those present on the occasion with others, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, State Ministers, Member of Parliaments, Bank Senior Executives and beneficiaries were connected via video conferencing.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar and PNB Executive Director Kalyan Kumar were present at PNB

Digital Banking Unit in Jhansi. Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Cabinet Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble MLA from Bongaigaon Phani Bhusan Choudhury and PNB Executive Director Vijay Dube were present at PNB Digital Banking Unit in Bongaigaon. Hon'ble Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Transport & Tourism Minister of Tripura Pranajit Singha Roy and PNB General Manager Sunil Agarwal along with PNB Agar-

tala Circle Head Shri Anand Kumar were present at PNB Digital Banking Unit in Gomati. Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Mizoram C Lalrosanga and PNB General Manager Shio Shankar Singh along with PNB Imphal Circle Head Manish Debbarma inaugurated PNB Digital Banking Unit in Aizawl.

A Digital Banking Unit (DBU) is a specialized fixed-point business unit / hub offering select digital infrastructure for delivering and servicing banking products & services digitally. At DBUs, banking products and services such as account opening, cash withdrawal & deposit, digital loans, balance enquiry, fund transfer, passbook printing, FD / RD, among others will be offered to customers in two zones - Self Service Zone (which will be open 24x7) and Digital Assistance Zone (where bank officials will guide customers for digital transactions).

GENDER EQUALITY

EIB expands SheInvest initiative & strengthens cooperation with Development Bank of Rwanda



FW DESK

Speaking at the Finance in Common Summit in Abidjan, Thomas Östros, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), announced the extension of the Bank's SheInvest initiative to mobilise another €2 billion of gender-responsive investment across Africa, Asia and Latin America. In less than three years since the launch of SheInvest at the end of 2019, the EIB has mobilised a total of €2 billion of investment to boost gender equality and women's economic empowerment in Africa, together with its partners on the continent and through Team Europe.

EIB Vice-President Thomas Östros said: "I am very proud of what the SheInvest initiative has achieved over the past three years. It has been a game changer in our EIB support for women-led enterprises across Africa. Combining this success with our track record of gender projects in Asia and Latin America as well — ranging from gender-responsive metro projects in India, to access to finance for women entrepreneurs in Brazil — it was a natural next step for us to not only raise the bar in monetary terms, but also geographically expand this initiative."

SheInvest is complemented by a €2 million technical assistance programme, the African Women Rising Initiative, which provides capacity build-

ing and mentoring to women entrepreneurs and supports intermediaries in designing financial and non-financial services tailored to their needs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Under this initiative, the EIB and the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) are today signing a new cooperation agreement that will enable BRD to increase access to finance for women and develop targeted advisory services for women entrepreneurs in micro to small and medium-sized enterprises in the country. The two banks already jointly financed a €30 million long-term facility at the end of 2021 to help companies impacted by COVID-19.

BRD Chief Executive Officer Kampeta Sayinzoga said: "At BRD, we have a saying — 'the best gift you can give a woman, is the gift of choice.' With the African Women Rising Initiative, we are excited to give women-led enterprises the gift of financial choice, by implementing policies and a strategy that provides them with access to finance, capacity building and mentoring. It is, therefore, our pleasure to join hands with the European Investment Bank in this effort to design and offer financial services tailored to women's needs in our region. Championing gender equality and equity in financial services is the direction we are taking for the goals we want to achieve for women empowerment."

DP World's Jebel Ali Port and Free Zone key to boosting India-UAE trade to \$100 billion

India-UAE Trade Bridge event highlighted robust bilateral trade ties between the two nations and efforts to boost trade and investment opportunities

FW DESK

Delhi

DP World recently hosted "The India-UAE Bridge, Dubai — India's Gateway to the World" along with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for key business leaders in Mumbai to showcase the role of Jebel Ali Port and Free Zone in boosting non-oil trade between the UAE and India to \$100 billion over the next five years, complementing the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Trade between the two nations has existed for decades and continues to deepen with the signing of the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement



(CEPA) in February 2022. The CEPA, which officially came into force on 1 May 2022, includes eliminating tariffs on more than 10,000 products and services over the next 10 years, which will have an enormous impact on trade between the two countries and the wider Gulf region. Despite macro-economic and geopolitical headwinds across the globe, India and the UAE have seen an increase in trade, with DP World as a key logistics enabler. As per the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's non-oil trade with the UAE witnessed a 14% increase during the July-August 2022 period, just months after the CEPA came into force.

IMF asks countries to preserve vital foreign reserves amidst appreciating dollar

WASHINGTON: The IMF has urged countries to preserve vital foreign reserves to deal with potentially worse outflows and turmoil in the future, amidst appreciation of the US dollar and depreciation of other major currencies, including the Indian rupee.

In a blog post by the First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF Gita Gopinath and the global lending body's Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, they said that in such a fragile environment, it is prudent to enhance resilience. Although emerging market central banks have stockpiled dollar reserves in recent years, reflecting lessons learned from earlier crises, these buffers are limited and should be used prudently.

Indian Rupee falls to record low of 83 against US Dollar

FW DESK

Indian rupee hit record low of 83 against the US dollar following consistent strengthening of the greenback. Sharp fall in rupee against the US dollar also led to equity markets erasing intraday gains.

Fresh weakness in rupee came after dollar strengthened against all the major currencies of the world after inflation in United Kingdom accelerated to a 40-year high in September as the soaring cost of food squeezed household budgets. The consumer price index rose 10.1%, compared with 9.9% the previous month, the Office for National Statistics said Wednesday. The new data shows inflation returned to the July peak and is once again at the highest since early 1982.



The increase was driven by food prices, which leapt by 14.5 per cent from a year earlier, the biggest jump since 1980, the ONS said. The rise increases expectations that the Bank of England will raise interest rates further and faster as it struggles to return inflation to its 2% target. Pound Sterling weakened on Wednesday after hotter-than-expected consumer price inflation and fears of a deeper recession bolstered expectations of a less aggressive rate hike by the Bank of England in November. AGENCIES INPUTS

Despite global headwinds, Indian economy will stay on course: FM Sitharaman

The Indian economy will stay on course despite global headwinds and is projected to grow at seven per cent in fiscal 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, attributing this to the conducive domestic policy environment and focus on key structural reforms.

Sitharaman's remarks came during her intervention at the plenary session of the international Monetary Finance Committee (IMFC) on Friday.

The meeting itself, she said, is being held at a juncture when the global economic outlook is clouded by key downside risks: growth slowdown in major economies, cross-border effects due to the ongoing geopolitical situation, inflationary pressures led by escalating food and energy prices that have adversely impacted vulnerable economies.

Despite global headwinds, the Indian economy will stay on course and is projected to grow at seven per cent in FY 2022-23.

This is an outcome of the conducive domestic policy environment and the government's focus on key structural reforms to boost growth, she said. She told members of the IMFC that the Indian Government has taken initiatives to protect growth while pursuing inflation management.

The government has ensured the availability of free food grains to more than 800 million vulnerable families for the past 25 months, through the country's massive public distribution network, she said.

Last-mile delivery of financial services to the poor has been a key priority of the government and this has been aided by India's digital public good infrastructure. Today, India is leading the world in terms of digital payments innovations with our transaction cost being the lowest in the world, Sitharaman said. Of the view that the IMF needs to increase resources available for emerging and low-income countries

to safeguard the global financial system, Sitharaman underscored that concluding the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ) by December 15th, 2023 is vital for increasing the voting rights of emerging market economies (EMES) in line with their relative

positions in the world economy. India's quota in the IMF, which determines voting shares in the multi-lateral lending agen-

cy, is 2.75 per cent. China's quota is 6.4 per cent and that of the US is 17.43 per cent.

A general review allows the IMF to assess the adequacy of quotas in relation to both the members' balance of payments in financing needs and the Fund's



ability to help meet those needs. Observing that a key downside risk to global recovery is the exacerbated debt distress

in many low-income countries, Sitharaman said it is therefore important that the IMF provides the necessary support to deal with the balance of payments-related vulnerabilities.

As such she welcomed IMF's recent initiative of a new food shock window to help countries address food insecurity.

On climate change, she emphasised the importance of a multilateral approach with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. India has set out an ambitious climate action path through its updated Nationally Determined Contributions that demonstrates India's commitment at the highest level to decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions.

Transfer of climate finance and low-cost climate technologies from developed to developing countries has assumed critical significance, Sitharaman said.

INTERNATIONAL

Liz Truss resigns as UK PM, opp demands fresh elections

FW DESK

British Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned from her post on Thursday evening. She resigned from her post saying that she is finding herself unable to work further in this position. She has also made the record of becoming the Prime Minister of Britain for the shortest time. Now the opposition in the country has demanded fresh elections for the lower house.



half ago, in the election for the leader of the Conservative Party, she defeated Rishi Sunak of Indian origin in a tough contest.

Now there is a possibility of Rishi becoming the leader of the Conservative Party again and the PM of Britain.

Truss found herself in a very difficult position amid the deteriorating condition of the UK economy, so he tendered his resignation shortly before now. She has also made the record of becoming the Prime Minister of Britain for the shortest time. Now the opposition in the country has demanded fresh elections for the lower house.

UN Secretary General Guterres pays tributes to 26/11 terror attacks victims in Mumbai



MUMBAI: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday paid tributes to the victims of the 26/11 terror attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai on the first day of his three-day visit to India.

Accompanied by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, Guterres placed a floral wreath at the 26/11 attacks memorial in the hotel.

It is the UN chief's first visit to India since his second term in office commenced in January. He had earlier visited the country in October 2018 during his first term at the top office.

Guterres landed in Mumbai on Wednesday shortly after midnight via a commercial flight from London. He was greeted by senior Maharashtra government officials on arrival. He later drove to the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in south Mumbai, where he paid tributes to the victims of the 26/11 terror attacks.

The Taj Mahal Palace hotel was one of the targets of the horrific 26/11 terror attacks in 2008.

Guterres will deliver a public address at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai on the subject -- "India @75: UN-India Partnership: Strengthening South-South Cooperation"

later in the day, before flying to Gujarat.

The UN secretary general will join Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an event relating to the Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) in Gujarat's Kevadiya on October 20. His visit to the country comes more than a week before the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee holds its two-day deliberations in India.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar would hold bilateral discussions with Guterres on issues of global concern, steps to deepen India's engagement with the UN, including through the country's upcoming presidency of the G20.

In Kevadiya, Guterres is expected to pay floral tributes at the Statue of Unity, the MEA said, adding that he will also visit the country's first solar-powered village in Modhera (Gujarat) and other development projects in the area.

The UN secretary general will also visit the Sun temple in Modhera, before departing from Mumbai for Singapore late Thursday night, an official said.

Australia drops recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital



CANBERRA: Australia has reversed a previous government's recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the foreign minister said Tuesday.

The center-left Labor Party government Cabinet agreed to again recognize Tel Aviv as the capital and reaffirmed that Jerusalem's status must be resolved in peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said.

Australia remained committed to a two-party solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, and we will not support an approach that undermines this prospect, Wong said.

Israel's Prime Minister Yair Lapid expressed disappointment in Australia's changed position. «Jerusalem is the eternal undivided capital of Israel and nothing will change that, Lapid said in a statement. Israel's Foreign Ministry said it will summon the Australian ambassador over the issue.

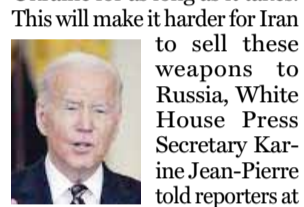
Former conservative Prime Minister Scott Morrison formally recognized West Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2018, although the Australian embassy remained in Tel Aviv. The change followed then-U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to shift the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. President Joe Biden has kept the embassy in Jerusalem as the U.S. steps back from its once-intense mediation between the Israelis and Palestinians, who have not held substantive peace talks in more than a decade.

Wong described Morrison's move as out of step internationally and a cynical play to win a byelection in a Sydney locale with a large Jewish population.

Morrison's Liberal Party ran Jewish candidate Dave Sharma who was defeated in the byelection but won the seat in the next general election.

US to continue imposing sanctions on Russian, Iranian arms trade: White House

WASHINGTON: The United States will continue to vigorously enforce sanctions on Russian and Iranian arms trade, the White House said, asserting that it will stand with the people of Ukraine for as long as it takes. This will make it harder for Iran to sell these weapons to Russia, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference on Monday. There is extensive proof of Russia using Iranian drones to target military and civilian targets in Ukraine, she added. «We'll continue to vigorously enforce US sanctions on both the Russian and Iranian arms trade -- that's what we'll do from here, make it harder for Iran to sell these weapons to Russia. And we'll stand with our partners throughout the region against that Iranian threat,» Jean-Pierre said.



Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledges USD 1.2B to eradicate polio globally

BERLIN: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation says it will commit USD 1.2 billion to the effort to end polio worldwide. The money will be used to help implement the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's strategy through 2026. The initiative is trying to end the polio virus in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the last two endemic countries, the foundation said in a statement Sunday. The money also will be used to stop outbreaks of new variants of the virus. The announcement was made Sunday at the World Health Summit in Berlin. The foundation says in a statement on its website that it has contributed nearly USD 5 billion to the polio eradication initiative. The initiative is trying to integrate polio campaigns into broader health services, while it scales up use of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2.



The group also is working to make national health systems stronger so countries are better prepared for future health threats, the statement said. «The last steps to eradication are by far the toughest.

US, Canada send armoured vehicles to bolster Haiti's police

SAN JUAN (HAITI): The US and Canada sent armoured vehicles and other supplies to Haiti on Sunday to help police fight a powerful gang amid a pending request from the Haitian government for the immediate deployment of foreign troops.

A US State Department statement said the equipment was bought by Haiti's government, but it did not provide further details on the supplies flown on military aircraft to the capital of Port-au-Prince.

A spokesman for the US military's Southern Command said



he could not provide further details on the supplies sent, though he added it was a joint operation involving the US Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force. «This equipment will assist (Haiti's National Police) in their fight against criminal actors who are fomenting vio-

lence and disrupting the flow of critically-needed humanitarian assistance, hindering efforts to halt the spread of cholera,» the State Department said.

The equipment arrived more than a month after one of Haiti's most powerful gangs surrounded a fuel terminal and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry. Demonstrators also have blocked roads in major cities to protest a sharp rise in fuel prices after Henry announced in early September that his administration could no longer afford to subsidise fuel.

UK Parliament celebrates Diwali with prayers, candles

LONDON: Prayers for peace recited by priests from the Hare Krishna Temple and the lighting of candles marked this year's Diwali celebrations in the Houses of Parliament complex in London.

The celebration was held in the State Rooms of the Speaker's House, described as the grandest residence within the Palace of Westminster, on Monday evening. It marked the largest Diwali event of its kind in the Parliament complex, which brought together cross-party parliamentarians, diplomats, community leaders and International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) representatives.

I would like to wish all communities celebrating Diwali



peace and joy, both here and across the world, said Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

Opposition Labour Party Leader Sir Keir Starmer joined Bhaktivedanta Manor ISKCON Temple President Visakha Dasi, veteran Indian-origin Labour MP Virendra Sharma and Liberal Democrat House of Lords peer Navnit Dholakia to light the candles following prayers concluding with Om Shanti.

First lady Jill Biden talks cancer prevention on Newsmax

WASHINGTON: First lady Jill Biden took her husband's unity agenda to an unlikely venue on Monday, when conservative cable station Newsmax aired an interview with her about cancer research.

Curing cancer is a central goal for President Joe Biden, whose eldest son, Beau, died from a brain tumor seven years ago. Last month he urged Americans to embrace a moonshot initiative to reduce deaths, one of several objectives that he hopes crosses party lines in today's divisive political environment. Its not a red issue, a blue issue,» the first lady told Newsmax. «Cancer affects every American.

It was a friendly conversation on a channel that's better known for its excoriations of the presi-

dent and his fellow Democrats. Newsmax is also facing a lawsuit for broadcasting false claims about voter manipulation. The channel has denied wrongdoing. The interview was conducted by Nancy Brinker, who hosts a show on the cable channel and founded the breast cancer organization Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The organization is named for Brinker's sister, who died of cancer.

Biden and Brinker have known each other for years, and they previously teamed up in Palm Beach, Florida, for a June 23 event on cancer screening. They spoke on Saturday at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the interview is being aired during breast cancer awareness



month. Biden said four of her friends were diagnosed with breast cancer in 1993, and one of them died. She said the experience drove her to create the Biden Breast Health Initiative, which educated young girls in Delaware about breast health.

«Early detection is the key, because if you catch it early, you have so much better chance of surviving breast cancer,» Biden said. She encouraged people to

catch up on any cancer screenings that they delayed during the coronavirus pandemic. More people are going back and they're realizing, gosh, I forgot to get my colonoscopy, she said. «I didn't get my mammogram. I didn't get my skin screening,» Biden talked about the impact of Beau's death, describing how the tragedy had shaken her faith.

I didn't give up hope, ever, until he took his last breath, she said. When that happened, I had this empty, angry feeling. Biden said years later, a woman approached her at a church in South Carolina and said, I want to be your prayer partner. She credited that relationship in helping to restore her faith. I felt like it was God's way of saying to me, OK, you come back, Biden said.

UK police probe assault of protester at Chinese consulate



LONDON: British police said on Monday they were investigating the assault of a Hong Kong pro-democracy protester who was beaten up on the grounds of the Chinese consulate in the city of Manchester.

The man, who is in his 30s, told the BBC that unidentified Chinese men from the consulate building dragged him inside the consulate and assaulted him during a protest Sunday.

Greater Manchester Police said its officers intervened and removed the protester from the consulate grounds due to our

fears for the safety of the man.

Around 30 to 40 people gathered outside the Chinese Consulate, and local patrols were in the area to help maintain the peaceful protest, police said. Shortly before 4 pm, a small group of men came out of the building and a man was dragged into the consulate grounds and assaulted.

The protester remained in the hospital Monday for treatment, police said. No arrests have yet been made.

Video on the BBC website showed a scuffle breaking out in front of the consulate after

masked men tore down and took away the protesters' placards. The video appeared to show several men wearing face masks beating up someone who had been pushed to the ground amid the scuffles.

Downing Street said the incident was deeply concerning,» adding that police had stepped up patrols in the area.

The Chinese consulate in Manchester did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters in Beijing that he was not aware of the incident but added the Chinese embassy and consulates in the United Kingdom always abide by local laws.

At a press briefing Tuesday, Hong Kong leader John Lee said he did not have the full details about the case but trusted that the UK government would handle the incident in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and British law.

Russian military personnel based in Crimea have been piloting Iranian drones: US



WASHINGTON: The US has alleged that Russian military personnel based in Crimea have been piloting Iranian drones and asserted that it will pursue all means to expose, deter and confront Iran's provision of these munitions against the Ukrainian people. John Kirby, NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications, also claimed that there was clear evidence that Iranian military personnel were on the ground in Crimea. We can confirm that Russian military personnel that are based in Crimea have been piloting Iranian UAVs, using them to conduct strikes across Ukraine, including strikes against Kyiv in just recent days, Kirby told reporters during a conference call here on Thursday.

Digital activists challenge Uganda's harsh new internet law



KAMPALA (UGANDA): Monday to controversial new legislation criminalising some internet activity in the East African

country. Their petition to the constitutional court argues that the description of computer-related crimes in the bill enacted with President Yoweri Museveni's signature last week violates the right to freedom of expression and criminalises some digital work, including investigative journalism. In presenting their petition at the court in the capital, Kampala, the petitioners were backed by silent protesters who carried multiple placards saying «This law is worth breaking.» The legislation increased the restrictions introduced in a controversial 2011 law on the misuse of computers.

Finance Minister Sitharaman urges World Bank to avoid unidimensional view of subsidies

WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged the World Bank to avoid a «unidimensional» view of the subsidies provided by the Indian government and asserted that it is important to differentiate between «distortive subsidies» and «targeted support» to the vulnerable households.

Speaking at an intervention of the World Bank Development Committee's meeting on Friday, Sitharaman said that subsidies have made a definitive contribution in improving India's performance on several key parameters of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

We urge the Bank to avoid a unidimensional view of subsidies. It is important to differentiate between distortive subsidies and targeted support

to the vulnerable households, Sitharaman said. As an illustration, she said that by providing free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna over the last six years, the Indian Government has ensured that access to clean cooking methods has achieved near saturation for women in India. This has made a definitive contribution in improving India's performance on several key parameters of SDG, she said.

During her intervention, she told the Development Committee members that while the quest for energy and food security necessitates non exclusion of fossil fuels from our energy mix, India has set up its first pure hydrogen producing plant as well as its first 2G bioethanol refinery this year.



Going forward, she suggested three clear opportunities for the World Bank Group.

First, promoting behaviour change to increase energy efficiency and to reduce food losses. Programmes like the Lifestyle for the Environment launched by India on the World Environment Day this June, in which World Bank President David Malpass delivered a wonder-

ful keynote address, can mainstream responsible consumption behaviour, she said. Second is helping all client countries in arranging concessional financing and technology transfer in areas like renewable and green energy. And third is supporting regional integration not only through IDA but also through IBRD, the minister said.

On financing climate and

development goals, the World Bank is uniquely placed to bring together all stakeholders for developing an investment strategy for climate and development finance, she observed.

Yet, we must never lose focus on the internationally agreed basic principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. This necessitates avoidance of a one-size fit-all approach, she told the Development Committee. Mitigation of risks is essential for crowding in private capital. While welcoming the launching of SCALE, we encourage the Bank to increase the share of grants from the current five per cent level and to work below the country level to support projects with huge climate impact beyond the national borders, Sitharaman said.

US shift on Venezuelan migrants fuels anxiety in Mexico



TIJUANA: Jose Maria Garcia Lara got a call asking if his shelter had room for a dozen Venezuelan migrants who were among the first expelled to Mexico under an expanded US policy that denies rights to seek asylum.

We can't take anyone, no one will fit, he answered, standing amid rows of tents in what looks like a small warehouse. He had 260 migrants on the floor, about 80 over capacity and the most since opening the shelter in 2012. The phone call Thursday illustrates how the Biden administration's expansion of asylum

Top UN official decries global trampling of women's rights



UNITED NATIONS: The trampling of women's rights and deeply ingrained misogyny are connected in many ways to today's global challenges, from the proliferation of conflicts to increasing assaults on human rights, the UN deputy secretary-general said on Thursday.

Amina Mohammed told a UN Security Council meeting on women, peace and security that despite decades of evidence that gender equality offers a path to sustainable peace and conflict prevention, we are moving in the opposite direction.

We cannot separate the perilous state of peace in our world from the destructive effects of patriarchy and the silencing of women's voices, she said.



Gippy Grewal, Jasmin Bhasin share their shooting experience for 'Hypnotize'

Gippy Grewal and Jasmin Bhasin, who will be seen sharing screen space in the Punjabi romantic film 'Honeymoon', talk about the song 'Hypnotize' from the movie and also share how it was to shoot for the dance number sung by Gippy along with Shipra Goyal. 'Honeymoon' is a romantic comedy drama which is directed by Amarpreet GS Chhabra and written by Naresh Kathooria. Gippy praises the music composers B Praak and Jaani. He says: "Jaani and B Praak have delivered another fun Punjabi

song that people are going to love. The experience shooting it was amazing and we hope people enjoy it." Jasmin, who rose to fame with 'Bigg Boss 14' says shooting for the song in London in an open-top bus was great fun. She is also known for her role of Twinkle Taneja in the TV series 'Tashan-e-Ishq', and Nayantara in 'Naagin 4'. "We had a blast filming 'Hypnotize' at some amazing locations in London, especially on an open-top bus. It felt like one big party," she adds. Known for his songs such as

'Titliyaan', 'Filhaal' and many more, he also talks about the song and says that it can be heard at any time. Jaani says: "Hypnotize' is a fun, upbeat track that's easy listening with a chilled out vibe. It's a song you can listen to at any time of the day." On the other hand, B Praak, who made his debut as a singer with 'Mann Bharrya', also composed for tracks such as 'Qismat', 'Naah', and others. B Praak says that he is often known for his romantic track but 'Hypnotize' was altogether a different experience.

AMMY VIRK

loves working with director Simerjit Singh

Punjabi superstar Ammy Virk is gearing up for his upcoming film 'Oye Makhna', the trailer of which was released recently. The actor-singer shared that he loves working with the director of the film, Simerjit Singh, with whom he has earlier worked in 'Angrej' and 'Nikka Zaildar'. The makers of the film have also released its poster featuring Ammy and Guggu Gill in very different avatars against the colourful backdrop of wedding celebrations. Talking about his equation with Simerjit, Ammy Virk who has superhits like 'Qismat' and 'Qismat 2' to his credit, said: "Simerjit and I have always enjoyed working together and now with Yoodlee Films on board, we have created a very special film that is straight from our heart."



He also spoke about the response to the film's latest song 'Chad Gayi Chad Gayi': "We are thrilled that our first song 'Chad Gayi Chad Gayi' is such a party rage now and the poster and the trailer too have evoked a great response. We honestly can't wait for the film to be released." Apart from Ammy Virk and Guggu Gill, 'Oye Makhna', also stars leading lady Tania and Sidhika Sharma and is made under the banner of Yoodlee Films in association

with Ammy Virk Productions and Simerjit Productions. The film has been written by Rakesh Dhawan. Director Simerjit Singh, said: "I take the job of entertaining the audience very seriously. It takes a lot to keep an audience engaged and this film has it all. It is a romance, a great family film and a story that audiences of all generations will relate to." 'Oye Makhna' will be released in theatres on November 4.

POTPOURRI

James Corden-starrer 'MAMMALS' to stream on Prime Video next month



Dark comedy drama "Mammals", starring James Corden, is set to premiere worldwide exclusively on Prime Video on November 11. Penned by two-time Olivier and Tony Award-winning writer Jez Butterworth, the UK Original series explores the complexities of modern marriage. According to the streamer, "Mammals" also stars Melia Kreiling, Colin Morgan, and

Sally Hawkins. The six-part series follows the story of Jamie (Corden), a chef whose world implodes when he discovers shocking secrets about his pregnant wife, Amandine (Kreiling). Jamie finds himself hunting for answers with the help of his brother-in-law Jeff (Morgan). Through this hunt, the cracks in Jeff's marriage to Jamie's sister Lue (Hawkins) also widen.

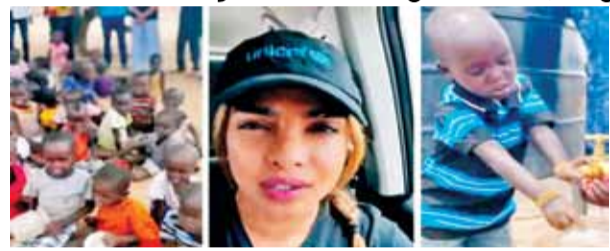
Karan Deol pens an emotional note as his father Sunny turns 65

Bollywood Actor Sunny Deol turns 65, his son actor Karan Deol has shared an emotional note for his father, saying his world revolves around him. He mentioned: "My entire world revolves around you. From taking my first step into this world to taking my first step in the world of cinema, you have been my guide. In this journey of life, you have not only guided me through cinema but also life." Born on October 19, 1956, in the village of Sahnawal in Punjab, Sunny has been part of several movies like 'Ghayal', 'Jeet', 'Damiini', 'Ghatak', 'Border' and 'Gadar'.

"I have always admired how true you are to your art and fans. There's no ladder that can make me reach what you have achieved. But I promise to give everything to make you proud. Happy Birthday to you Dad," added Karan.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas visits Kenya amid hunger crisis, urges people to donate

Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is currently in Kenya, has appealed to people across the world to support UNICEF's efforts against the country's hunger crisis. In a video shared on her official Instagram account on Monday night, the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador said children in the African country are "starving to death" and funds are needed to fight the catastrophe. "Children are starving to death and millions are on the brink of starvation. This is the face of the climate crisis, and here in Kenya it's happening right now. But, there is hope and there are solutions." Over the next few days I'll be showing @unicef's immense efforts



happening on the ground to save lives. BUT in order to reverse this unprecedented crisis, money is desperately needed to ensure the good work continues," Priyanka wrote in the caption. As a new mother, the 40-year-old actor said the urgent situation "hits" her differently. She and singer-husband Nick Jonas (30) welcomed daughter Malti Marie

Chopra Jonas in January, via a surrogate. "I am very uneasy today. My mind is in a million places at one time, I am really feeling on the edge. It's been this way since I boarded my flight from LA. "I am in Kenya with UNICEF to see first hand the severe crisis that is unfolding. And as a new mother, it really hits differently. I know it's going to be tough but I want to take you on this journey," she further said in the video. According to the official UNICEF website, soaring food prices across the world made worse by the war in Ukraine and three failed consecutive rainy seasons have forced families across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia to leave everything behind in search of food and water. "Families cannot cope with higher food prices, their livestock are dying off, and their incomes are drying up. They have nowhere left to turn. Millions of children are fighting severe acute malnutrition, in the worst hunger crisis of our generation," the United Nations agency said.

Two Punjabis in a frame Shehnaaz poses with Vicky Kaushal



MUMBAI: Actress and online sensation Shehnaaz Gill shared a frame with fellow Punjabi boy Vicky Kaushal. Shehnaaz took to Instagram, where she shared a motley of pictures. In one image she is seen hugging Vicky as the two pose for the camera. For the caption, she wrote: "Hun bani na gal...2 Punjabi ek frame vich."

The two were attending producer Ramesh Taurani's Diwali bash, which also saw the who's who of Bollywood including Katrina Kaif, Riteish Deshmukh, Rakul Preet Singh and Shilpa Shetty among many others. On the acting front, Vicky has just wrapped up a schedule for the film 'Sam Bahadur'. 'Sam Bahadur' is the story of India's greatest war hero and first Field Marshal, Sam Manekshaw. Sam Manekshaw's Army career spanned over four decades and five wars. He was the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal and his military victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war led to the liberation of Bangladesh. The film, which features Vicky in the titular role, also stars Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh. 'Sam Bahadur' is set to arrive in theatres in 2023. Shehnaaz, on the other hand, will be seen in Salman Khan-starrer 'Kisi Ka Bhai... Kisi Ki Jaan'.

Vicky Kaushal wraps first schedule of 'Sam Bahadur'



MUMBAI: Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal said he has completed filming for the first schedule of his upcoming film «Sam Bahadur». Directed by Meghna Gulzar, the movie is based on the life and times of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, one of India's greatest war heroes. The film went on floors in August. Vicky, who plays the title role in «Sam Bahadur», took to Instagram to share the update. «After more than 2 months of relentless work across 5 cities... its a SCHEDULE WRAPPP for the bahadurs!!! Few more cities and few more months to go. See you soon Team, to continue our journey of making #SamBahadur @meghnagulzar (@rsvpmovies (sic)), the 34-year-old actor captioned a series of photos from the film sets. Produced by RSVP Movies, the movie also stars Sanya Malhotra as Manekshaw's wife Silloo and Fatima Sana Shaikh as former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Priyanka stands up for Malala, unfollows Hasan Minhaj on Instagram

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has unfollowed comedian-actor Hasan Minhaj on social media. Minhaj had earlier mocked the Nobel Peace Prize winner and female education activist Malala Yousafzai for following him on Instagram. Recently, Hasan shared a video, of what looks like a promotion of his upcoming show, on his Instagram, as he wrote in the caption: "Okay, it's gettin' outta hand @malala!"

The video begins with the title 'Malala claps back' and features Hasan in the video as he says: "On October 4th, I made a joke about Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala. I said she follows me on Instagram and I don't follow her back. Then on October 5th, she retaliated (asking who is this man?). Instead of doing a runoff, she unfollowed me on Instagram. I am sorry Malala, follow me back. I don't know if I'll follow you though. I am



that petty." Now, showing her support for Malala, PC shared a screenshot of Hasan Minhaj's Instagram profile, thereby showing that she has unfollowed the comedian after the incident.

Priyanka wrote: "Same girl same Malala Yousafzai. Guess he prefers petty over funny (sic)." The actress has also tagged Hasan Minhaj. Priyanka's post came hours after the comedian dropped a video on Instagram and asked Malala Yousafzai to follow him back. Hasan's followers too seemed to take Malala's side and also expressed their excitement about the new comedy show he was teasing in the video.

Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology, Mohali presents 23th

KULBIR SINGH KALSII Mohali

The Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology, Mohali presents 23th FRESHERS 2022 at NIIFT campus, Mohali. The students showcased their talent in the field of dance, music, mimicry, etc. The dress code for the junior students was Bollywood as per the theme given by the seniors.



The event started with Ganes Vandana .Mr. Vishav Gawri, Head Cultural Affairs among other heads and faculty members graced the occasion. Students took on the stage in their funny way of attracting the audience towards them and adding cherry to the pie.

The folk dance performances by Khushi, Rishika and Keshav Gupta of first and third year students. Later on, both the anchors went up to the audience and asked them random question which any one would answer. All of them enjoyed a lot. Then the Martial art performed by shikhar khare , Black belt holder, student of final year .Later on senior students came up with their unique ramp walk.

Sooraj Barjatya on directing 'Uunchai': It was liberating for me

MUMBAI: Filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya said he let go of all the "trappings" of his previous films, including naming a character Prem, for his upcoming movie "Uunchai". Popular for star-studded family dramas such as "Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!", "Hum Saath-Saath Hain" and "Vivah", "Uunchai" is Barjatya's first film in seven years. His last release was "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo" (2015).

The director said the COVID-19 pandemic prompted him to accept changing times. "In this film, I have moved away from all my earlier trappings. There once was a charm that if you name (a character) Prem, the film will work. "But I have let go of that. In the pandemic, everything was slipping away, so there was no point holding onto anything," Barjatya told reporters at the trailer launch of "Uunchai" here.



Billed as a drama about four friends, played by Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani and Danny Denzongpa, the Ra-

jsri Productions film marks a lot of firsts for the director. Barjatya said he had never set his movies beyond film studios but for "Uunchai", he travelled to real locations across the country, including Kanpur, Agra, Gorakhpur, and even the snow-capped Himalayas. "It was liberating for me," he added. According to the filmmaker, "Uunchai" is the "most challenging film" of his 35-year filmmaking career.



Punjab Police personnel salute after paying tribute to their colleagues during an event to mark Police Commemoration Day at a police station on the outskirts of Amritsar on Friday. PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL

Short film "REWIND" by Sanjeev Arora MP's Trust giving social message against breast cancer goes viral

KULBIR SINGH KALSII Chandigarh

A short film titled "Rewind" by Krishna Pran Breast Cancer Charitable Trust Ludhiana, supported by Femella has been getting viral on Femella's YouTube Channel. Trust is an initiative by the founders of Femella- Online Women Clothing brand. The short film has specially been produced to create mass awareness about Breast Cancer across the country. It was uploaded on YouTube two days back and since then it has been watched by more than 250000 viewers so far and the number is increasing regularly. In-fact, people considering themselves as "social massagers" and understanding their responsibility towards the society, are sharing this short film on various social media platforms and groups in a large number. As a result, this short film is getting viral. This short film has been retweeted by among other by noted Comedian Kapil Sharma, famous singer Brothers Mika Singh & Daler Mehndi and MP Hans Raj Hans. And, also by some of the leading Dailies. The duration of this short



film is around 3 minutes and its story and screenplay has been written by Loveena Bagga and Nayana Gupta. The movie has been produced by Production House namely Adyah Moving Pictures. And the cast included Dilraj Uday, Mandy Sandhu and Kanwal Preet Kaur. The movie gives an emotional, touching and significant message to every woman to remain vigilant about any possible risk of breast cancer. Krishna Pran Breast Cancer Charitable Trust was formed in 2005 in memory of the parents of Sanjeev Arora, MP (Rajya Sabha). Arora's mother Krishna Arora had left this world at an early age due to late detection of this deadly disease. The main purpose of forming the Trust is to make as many people possible aware of this deadly disease and treat free of cost poor patients down with this disease.

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

THE FINANCIAL WORLD
Read & Lead

A weekly Newspaper from Chandigarh & Delhi

For more stories & E-paper log on
www.thefinancialworld.com

SUBSCRIBE: YOUTUBE CHANNEL
FW News

FOLLOW US
@thefinancialworld @FWMedia_Tweets fw.thefinancialworld