

**REGION**

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**STUBBLE BURNING: UNDER-UTILISATION OF CRM MACHINES A CONCERN**



## 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

**BANKING & FINANCE**

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**INDIAN RUPEE'S DEPRECIATION ESSENTIALLY DUE TO STRENGTHENING OF DOLLAR INDEX: SBI CHIEF**



## Traffic snarls in Delhi as Diwali shopping peaks

NEW DELHI: Traffic snarls were seen in several parts of the city as people thronged markets on Friday to make purchases ahead of Diwali. According to the police, they received over 40 calls about traffic congestion in various parts of the national capital. Calls were received from Dhaula Kuan, Khajuri Khas, Raghbir Nagar, Naraina flyover, Mangolpuri, Palam, Dwarka, Kanjhawala, Karala, an official said. Sakshi Mahajan, who was commuting from Sarojini Nagar to central Delhi, said, "The traffic movement was very slow. There were many vehicles on the road. It took me one hour to reach the destination in central Delhi." A video was circulated on social media in which Sarhaul border at Delhi-Gurgaon expressway was seen choked with vehicles. An ambulance was also seen stuck in the traffic.

**POTPOURRI**

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**SHRUTI HAASAN TO STAR IN INTERNATIONAL MOVIE 'THE EYE'**



## 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 Singing 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.

**Forex reserves fall USD 4.5 bln to USD 528.37 bln**

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves dropped by USD 4.5 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

**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.

**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 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

**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

**Finance Ministry to challenge Ex-CJI Ramana's verdict on Benami Property Act as govt losing thousands of crores**

The Union Finance Ministry is readying a review petition to challenge erstwhile Chief Justice of India N V Ramana's judgment against the Modi government's 2016 amendment to the Benami Property Act, which has resulted in the national exchequer losing income-tax claims to the tune of several thousand crores of rupees. It has also enabled tax evaders to go scot-free. Why Act was amended The amendments to the Benami Property Act were necessitated as originally the 1988 Act had many infirmities that allowed a lot of people with unaccounted money to invest and buy immovable property in the name of some other persons or a non-existent person or a fictitious person or a Benami person. The amendment was predominantly an anti-black money measure under which any

**Recent survey identifies over 7000 unrecognised madrasas in UP**

LUCKNOW: Over 7000 unrecognised madrasas have been identified in Uttar Pradesh in a recent survey carried out by the state government. The survey is being done to provide recognition to unrecognised madrasas once they meet the government mandated requirements. The final list of unrecognised madrasas will be released only after the district magistrates submit their reports by November 15. Ifikhar Ahmed Javed, Chairman, Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education said that the process to identify the actual numbers will still take time, but we have estimated around 7,500 such madrasas which were surveyed by teams in 75 districts by Thursday evening. "In Uttar Pradesh, there are 16,513 recognised madrasas, out of which 560 are given government grants (salary to employees, including teaching and non-teaching ones). There

**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 deficiencies 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.

**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 party's 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.

**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.

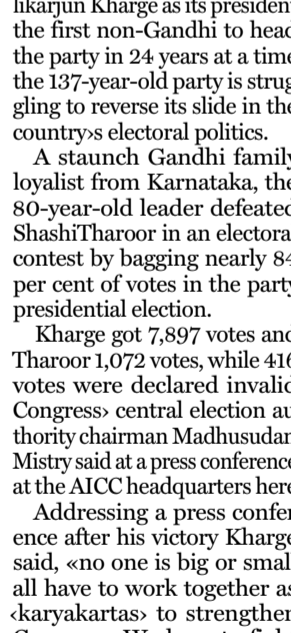
**Kashmiri Pandit killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian**

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.

**Calcatta High Court order**

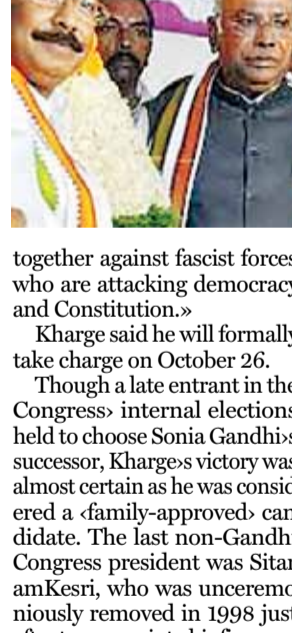
The order of the Apex court bench had germinated from a judgment of the Calcutta High Court in the case of M/s Ganapati Dealcom Pvt Ltd dated December 12, 2019, which gave benefit to the petitioners on the ground that the amendments cannot be implemented with retrospective effect and would be prospective. The order of the Calcutta High Court was challenged in the Supreme Court by the government and the court stayed the operation of the order in favour of the government.

**FW DESK**



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.**



are 350 madrasas with less than 15 students. The teaching staff of 560 madrasas have pay scales similar to those in central government-run secondary schools...," he said. Under the madrasa modernisation scheme, 744 madrasas are given grants for shiksha mitra, and a scholarship is given to meritorious students of all registered madrasas. The unrecognised madrasas will now be recognised by the Board of Madrasa Education once they meet government mandated requirements such as providing basic facilities for running madrasas, such as a classroom, table, bench, chairs for students, proper lights fans, toilets, and others.

**Transaction which is Benami was illegal and the property could be confiscated.**

The Prohibition of the Benami Property Transactions Act (PBPTA) 1988 was a toothless law as no rules were framed for 26 years for taking action against Benami transactions. Hence, the law was amended to cover all Benami transactions with retrospective effect from the year 1988 onwards. CJI Ramana's judgment The bench headed by the



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# Stubble burning: Under-utilisation of CRM machines a concern

**NEW DELHI:** Delayed delivery of Crop Residue Management (CRM) machines in Punjab and Haryana came up as a major concern in the inter-ministerial meeting held on the issue of crop residue burning.

Amid the poor air quality situation in Delhi and surrounding cities, the meeting under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Environment and the Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry was held in the national capital.

Discussions were held regarding the status of implementation of the respective action plans of the NCR states and NCTD, utilisation of machinery for management, extensive use

of bio-decomposers for in-situ management of paddy straw and other related issues.

The Minister of Agriculture in his brief presentation highlighted that the status of Parali management in Haryana is significantly better than that in Punjab. Nine out of 22 districts in Punjab and 4 out of 22 districts in Haryana are major contributors of stubble burning in these states and these 13 districts need to be focused upon more. Till October 15, the trend for fire events was less as compared to last year but now it has started growing rapidly, especially in Punjab.

Early harvesting is the reason for high fire counts in Amritsar



and Tarn Taran. It was also appraised that the coverage of land for the application of Pusa decomposer is less in Punjab which needs to be promoted and enhanced.

The representative of the Ministry of Power said it has mandated 5 per cent blending of biomass pellets with the coal for co-firing in Thermal Power Plants (TPPs). The co-firing also helps to prevent CO2 emissions. Till now, 0.1 million MT CO2 emissions have been prevented.

The Chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said they have prepared a detailed framework for management of 'parali' and the states have been advised to implement the same to contain stubble burning. It was mentioned in the meeting that in spite of several meetings and efforts by CAQM, the steps taken by Punjab are inadequate.

# Delhi Police intensifies patrolling ahead of Diwali



**NEW DELHI:** Ahead of Diwali, the Delhi Police has intensified patrolling, enhanced its presence and carrying out anti-sabotage checks in heavy footfall areas of the capital,

heavy footfall during the festive season, they said.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda said, "In view of festive season, we have intensified our patrolling in market areas, extra police pickets have also been installed and personnel have been deployed.

"From the anti-terror point of view, anti-sabotage checks are being done to ensure that no anti-social or anti-national elements carry out activities that can harm anybody's life," the officer said.

"We have strong police presence during the festive season. For women's safety, we have also deployed women personnel on the ground," he said.

All preventive measures are being taken by the police to ensure a smooth Diwali which falls on October 24.

# Deputy CM Manish Sisodia leaves CBI office after day-long grilling



**NEW DELHI:** The Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, left the CBI headquarters here late on Monday evening after being grilled for the whole day in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, in which he has been named as accused number one in the FIR filed by the central probe agency. Sisodia joined the investigation at around 11:15 a.m., when he reached the CBI headquarters along with scores of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers who raised slogans against the BJP. According to sources, Sisodia can be summoned again to join the investigation in the future. On Monday, the CBI asked him about 50 questions related to the excise policy and the alleged bribe which was reportedly paid to government officials by private liquor businessmen.

# Increasing pollution in rivers worry Haryana govt



**SATISH HANDA**

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar 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

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 Dharuheda in Rewari district recorded as 286 MG/SM).

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar 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 Khattar 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 first-hand 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 improvements, 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

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



**SATISH HANDA**

Since past few years twin city Ambala known as a 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 include 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.

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. During preliminary investigation arrested youth admitted often bringing drugs from an African from Delhi and supplying in the area.

# DCW chief Swati Maliwal claims attack on her residence



**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Commission For Women chief Swati Maliwal on Monday alleged that a man forcibly entered her residence and vandalised two cars, while she was not present at home. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a tweet in Hindi said, "In the last few months, the law and order situation is in a bad state. Even the chairperson of Delhi Commission For Women is not safe. Murders are happening in broad daylight. I hope that LG sir will spare some time to repair the law and order situation." The DCW chief said she has complained to the Delhi Police over the issue.

# 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 Swim-



ming 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 multipurpose halls and new stadiums at 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.

# Delhi's air quality remains poor



**NEW DELHI:** Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 17 degrees Celsius, a notch below the normal for this time of the year, the India Meteorological Department said. The maximum temperature is likely to settle around 33 degrees Celsius. Delhi's air quality continued to be in the poor category for the fourth consecutive day and any improvement is unlikely over the next few days.

The air quality index (AQI) stood at 241 at 9 am. At least seven out of the 35 monitoring stations in the city recorded the air quality in the "very poor" category.

# 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



for the visitors from all over the world.

Vij said, during inspection the issue of separate feeder and water drainage for the Samarak has been discussed with the officials and a letter has also been written to include the historian of Ambala in the team of historians that has been prepared to display the history in the memorial. A book has been written by the historian exposing many new facts acquired from a book written by an English author. He said, whatever information comes to us will be displayed in the Samarak significantly dedicated to the 1857 revolution being constructed in Ambala Cantonment.

# 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.

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

**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 pre-

sided 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.

# 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 company 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 the 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, Mylesia and Thailand.

# 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 Road-



ways 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.



## 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](mailto:fwletters@gmail.com). We will publish them on this page.

You only fail when you stop trying.

—Albert Einstein

## THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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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 '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 politics; 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.





## 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.

Remember, a month and a



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.

## 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.

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

## 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-

## 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 Fadnavis, 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.

## 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): A group of Ugandan activists launched a legal challenge on 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.

## 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.

## 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.



# SHRUTI HAASAN to star in international movie 'The Eye'

**MUMBAI:** Actor Shruti Haasan will be headlining the international feature film «The Eye», to be directed by Daphne Schmon. The psychological thriller, which hails from Fingerprint Content, will feature actor Mark Rowley of «The Last Kingdom» fame opposite Haasan, reported entertainment news website Deadline. Haasan also shared the news in a post on Instagram. «Super stoked to be a part of «the eye» with the loveliest team !!! Storytelling is my fave thing in this whole world and to be a part of this one is pure...» Haasan earlier featured in American series «Treadstone», which was set in the same universe as Matt Damon's «Bourne» film series. «The Eye has a screenplay by Emily Carlton. The story centres on a young widow who travels back to the island where her husband died, to spread his ashes. Upon learning the true nature of what may have claimed his life, she is tempted by a dark choice that could bring him back. The cast also includes Anna Savva, Linda Marlowe and Christos Stergioglou. The movie will start shooting in Athens and Corfu later this month. Haasan will next be seen in filmmaker Prashanth Neel's upcoming directorial «Salaar», co-starring Prabhas.

## 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'.

## 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.

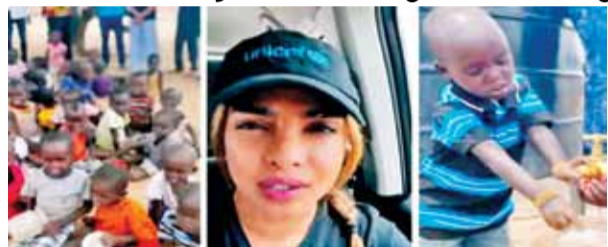
### Karan Deol pens an emotional note as his father Sunny turns 65



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.

### Good digestion defines your overall health says experts while focusing on balanced diet



repair. When we talk about digestive health, we're referring to the proper functioning of the system. The wellness of human body reflects with a good digestion. In his welcome address, Anil Rajput, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council said without the proper digestive system, the food cannot break down and body cannot absorb nutrients from the food like amino acids, fatty acids, protein and sugars that provide energy to the human body. A healthy gut leads to improved overall health. It will eradicate the consequences of having stomach ache, liver diseases, bowel problems and so on.

### 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 WRAPP for the bahadur!!! 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 RSVPMovies, 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

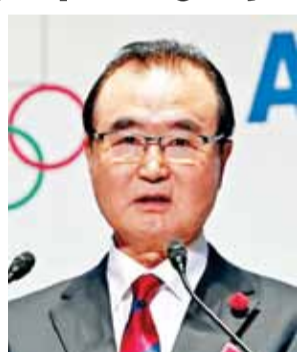
Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has unfollowed comedian-actor Hasan Minhaj on social media. Minhaj had earlier mocked the Nobel Peace Prize winner and female education activist Malala Yousafzai for following him on Instagram. Recently, Hasan shared a video, of what looks like a promotion of his upcoming 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.



### Bribes scandal continues to sully Tokyo Olympic legacy

**TOKYO:** The bribery scandal tied to the Tokyo Olympics won't go away, sully the legacy of the organising committee as Japan continues in talks with the International Olympic Committee to land the 2030 Winter Olympics for Sapporo. On Wednesday, a former advertising executive at the center of a widening scandal tied to Olympic sponsorships was arrested for the fourth time on suspicion of receiving bribes; this time from a Japanese advertising company ADK Marketing Solutions. Japanese media reports said prosecutors raided the offices of ADK and Tokyo-based doll maker Sun Arrow, which produced the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic mascots named Miraitowa and Someity. Haruyuki Takahashi has been arrested and re-arrested and earlier charged with accepting bribes from officials at three other companies:



Aoki Holdings, a clothing company that dressed Japan's Olympic team; major Japanese publisher and entertainment company Kadokawa, and Daiko Advertising Inc. Takahashi has been in custody since August. Takahashi is a former executive at Japanese advertising giant Dentsu, which helped land the Games for Tokyo and then lined up record domestic sponsorship of more than USD 3 billion. This was at least twice as much as any previous Olympics.

### Rihanna reportedly records 2 new songs for 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'

It has been rumoured that singer Rihanna will contribute to the soundtrack of 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'. According to reports, the Barbadian beauty has recorded two new songs for the upcoming Marvel superhero picture. The new songs she's dropping reportedly include the end credits song, but this should be taken with a grain of salt as neither Marvel nor Rih has confirmed her involvement in the potential blockbuster, reports aceshowbiz.com. Further fueling the speculation of her new music, Rihanna has just changed her TikTok profile picture. The 34-year-old updated her page on the video-sharing platform with an image of her wearing a bright yellow sweatshirt along with sporty sunglasses. The avatar shows the new mother with her long dark hair arranged over one side of her shoulders.

### 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 Rajshri 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.

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

**KULBIR SINGH KALSI 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.



### Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology, Mohali presents 23th

**KULBIR SINGH KALSI 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 Ganesh Vandana .Mr. Vishav Bandhu , Joint Director, PIU, Department of Industries and commerce Punjab-cum-Director NIIFT, Dr. Poonam Aggarwal Thakur, Principal NIIFT Mohali/Ludhiana,



.Later on senior students came up with their unique ramp walk. The mercury began to rise, the dance floor was left open for some unbridled energy. Then the modelling session for the fresher's and there were about 19 participants all of them were impressive in their own way of this great evening came up with their unique ramp walk in pairs. Then solo singing performances by some of the best singers of second year. The excitement augmented to a joyful high as performances graced the stage. Joy and happiness could be seen among students of each and every course at the college.

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

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