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REGION



CM CALLS UPON PEOPLE TO START A MASS MOVEMENT FOR WRITING ALL THE SING BOARDS **IN PUNJABI**



MP CM SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN IN BENGALURU TO SHOWCASE THE FUTURE READINESS OF STATE TO POTENTIAL INVESTERS



ACTOR RANDEEP HOODA'S 'CAT' EXPOSES HOW DRUG **CARTELS PENETRATED PUNJAB**

Center Govt claims tax collections to cross budget estimates in current fiscal



FW DESK

Union govt claimed domestic tax collections will exceed the budget estimate by nearly Rs 4 lakh crore in the current fiscal owing to higher income tax, customs duty, and GST collections, the government said on Wednesday.

AAP will win in Gujarat with

a thumping majority: Punjab

GUJARAT: Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday

said that the Aam Aadmi Partv

will win this assembly elections

with a thumping majority in the

Gujarat and they will eliminate

unemployment, corruption and

poverty after forming the gov-

ing of people in his road shows

ernment in the state.

CM Bhagwant Mann

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj was quoted as saying that the growth in tax revenues will continue to be higher than the

GDP growth, owing to better compliance. Tax collection target for the current fiscal is pegged at Rs 27.50 lakh crore. Bajaj also that the direct tax

collections consisting of per- lakh crore.



and GST would be close to Rs 14 lakh crore, he said, as per reports. The total tax collection is expected to be about Rs 31.50 lakh crore in 2022-23, the Revenue Secretary said.

Tax collection target

for the current fiscal

is pegged at Rs 27.50

lakh crore. Bajaj also

collections consisting

that the direct tax

of personal and

The budget had pegged direct and indirect tax collections at Rs 14.20 lakh crore and Rs 13.30 lakh crore for current fiscal, taking the total figure to Rs 27.50

Bhagwant Mann Govt has failed to take action against those trying to vitiate atmosphere of Punjab: Majithia



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) said that AAP Government led by Bhagwant Mann has miserably failed to take action against those handful elements who are trying to vitiate the atmosphere by trying to polarize thoughts of people on religious lines and disturbing peace and communal harmony of the state.

Addressing a press conference, Former Minister and Senior SAD (Badal) leader Bikram Singh Majithia said that people of the state were worried about these elements who are spitting venom against religion of others and trying to disturb peace

of the state. He said that the bond between Hindu and Sikh Community has to be protected.

He alleged that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was adopting double standards in taking action against such elements. He said that though Sandeep Singh Sunny has been arrested in murder case of Sandeep Suri but no action has been taken against those elements who set ablaze shop of Hardeep Singh brother of Sunny and spitted venom against Sikh community. He said that law of the land was equal for everyone and there can't be two set of

laws for one community or the other. He said that protection should be given to everyone and

not on selective basis. He also demanded security for Hardeep Singh and Mandeep Singh brother of Sunny.

He said that Hardeep Singh had filed a complaint on November 10 against those elements who set on fire his shop and destroyed everything, but no action has been taken against culprits till date. He said that Hardeep Singh has no involvement in murder of Suri but still he has not been given justice by the Police because Bhagwant Mann Government has told Police to not to take action

against such elements. The SAD leader said that there is CCTV evidence of Saurav Setia and Manish Kapoor pelting stones at shops and Rahul using petrol of a bike to set fire on shop, he used foul language against Sikhs and also beat up youth on the spot, but no action has been taken against them.

He said that a team of both Sikh and Hindu community advocates were representing Sunny in the court because they want peace and harmony in the state.

Khalsa Vaheer : 'Waris Punjab De' president Amritpal Singh begins march from Amritsar to Anandpur Sahib



in Puniab, and that the matter

The Khalsa vaheer, during

which Amritpal Singh will ad-

dress gatherings in over a dozen

towns in Punjab, began with an

Ardas at the Akal Takht — one

of the five Takhts of the Sikhs -

located within the premises of

the Sri Darbar Sahib in Amrit-

sar, and will end at the historical

gurudwara at Anandpur Sahib

in the last week of December.

tion of Sikhism, as part of which

dharam prachar is done in the

sacred presence of Maharaj (Guru Ĝranth Sahib). The va-

heer will stop at various places where hymns will be sung and

stories will be told from lives

of the Gurus," Amritpal Singh

told to media. "We will not be

allowing mobile phones inside

the samagam (meeting) halls

where every ritual and rite will

be done with traditional sacred-

the aim of the Khalsa vaheer is

to bring the youth of Punjab

closer to religion so that they do

not move towards drugs.

According to Amritpal Singh,

ness," he added.

"Khalsa vaheer is an old tradi-

was of "concern".

FW DESP Amritsar

> President of the 'Waris Punjab De' and Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh Wednesday started a month-long 'Khalsa vaheer', or Khalsa march, across Punjab, invoking an age-old tradition of spreading Sikhism. This march, though, includes supporters sporting automatic weapons and bullets. This comes at a time when the central government has raised questions about the Khalistan ideologue's "track record" in Dubai from when

Amritpal Singh has been adseparate homeland for Sikhs.

over Amritpal Singh's sudden rise in Punjab, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri had Tuesday said there was a need to look into the reason behind his rise. "We all know that he is from Dubai but has anyone checked his track record there? Do find out," said Puri.

Amritpal Singh, originally Puri was talking to media from Punjab's Amritsar dispersons in Chandigarh "It trict, was living in Dubai for should not happen that such 10 years and working at his a phenomenon is encouraged family's transport business. He because of our own weakness. returned to Punjab earlier this I am hopeful that this will be year and took over as the leader handled with utmost maturity," of pressure group Waris Punhe said, adding that the central jab De' formed by actor turned government was keeping a close Khalistan ideologue Deep Sidhu, watch on the other se deteriowho died in a car ac

after ruining its villages: Harjinder Singh Dhami JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsa Reacting to effort made by Hary-

ana Vidhan Sabha speaker Gian Chand Gupta, demanding land for separate Haryana State Legislative Assembly in Chandigarh during a meeting with Punjab Governor Banwari Lal Purohit vesterday, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh Dhami said on Sunday that only Punjab has the right over Chandigarh, the city established after ruining dozens of villages of Punjab and no one will be allowed

Addressing a massive gatherto rob this right. weaken Punjab>s right over Chan-He said in a statement issued digarh by demanding land for a here in Nazar, the Chief Min- here today, the rights of Punjab separate Punjab Vidhan Sabha ister said that there is a wave are being neglected by adopting like Haryana from the Union. Due to the conspiratorial role being SGPC President said that it is played by Punjab CM Bhagwant



sad that Punjab Chief Minister

Bhagwant Singh Mann is also tak-

of representing the state.

over Chandigarh, established after ruining its villages: Harjinder Singh Dhami

Raise objection to Haryana speaker>s demand for land in Chandigarh for separate Vidhan Sabha

ing an anti-Punjab stand instead Singh Mann, the Centre govern-«Punjab CM»s tweet (on July ment is constantly diminishing the rights of Punjab from Chandigarh», 9, 2022) is proof of his anti-state stand, in which he has tried to said Dhami. SGPC President said that Punjab had, still has and will continue to have the right over Chandigarh. He said the Union government has already did many sses on Puniah and no more

Only Punjab has right

Only Punjab has right over Chandigarh, established Mamata Banerjee to attend PM-convened meeting in New Delhi on December 5

mata Banerjee will attend a meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 5 with chief ministers of all states to discuss the preparatory process for the country hosting the G20 Summit in 2023.

According to state secretariat sources, the chief minister might use the opportunity of her

visit to New Delhi to have a separate meeting with the Prime Minister on the occasion, where she can again raise the demands on the pending central

ment. However, no confirmation has reached the state secretariat as yet on whether the separate ng will happen or

West Bengal Chief Minister Ma- Banerjee went to New Delhi, had a separate meeting with her counterpart Arvind Kejriwal and requested him to clear the pending central dues under two heads namely state' share in goods & services tax and pending funds under Mahatma Gandhi National **Rural Employment Guarantee** Act (MGNREGA).

Although in the meantime, the Centre has released funds under centrally-sponsored schemes, the state's dues on account of MGNREGA are still pending. Recently, at

dues to the West Bengal govern- a public meeting, the chief minister also aired his grievance in this matter and questioned whether she will now have to touch the feet of the Prime Minister for the

he was living there. For the past several months

dressing gatherings at various places in Punjab, openly espousing the cause of Khalistan, a Answering media questions

as people of Guiarat are so fed-up of the failed BJP government that they are themselves saying that they want to give a chance to AAP for the next 5 years to bring a revolution in Gujarat like the AAP did in Delhi and Punjab.

He further said that the this time people will oust venal and tyrant BJP leaders from the Gujarat, which have pushed the state's economy by decades due to its ill advised policies.

Clash between medical students and govt of Haryana



SATISH HANDA

Clash between MBBS students in government medical colleges in Haryana state and state government is rising due to a bond agreement between the students and the government in which students admitted in a government medical college in the state will have to serve in government hospitals in Haryana state for a period of minimum seven years after completion of study. According to information, student during complete MBBS course have to spend expenses worth Rs 40 lakh and most of the students desire to become a doctor remain unfulfilled in the absence of financial arrangements for which state government introduced a bond based agreement to arrange financial assistance for the study of a MBBS student in government medical college in case of filling up a bond to serve in a government hospital in the state for a minimum period of seven years, failing which the student will have to refund entire amount to the government along with interest which is not acceptable to students started agitation against this decision.

Demonetisation was deeply flawed, P. Chidambaram tells SC

NEW DELHI: Senior advocate and Congress leader P. told the Supreme Court that demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes was deeply flawed".

A five-judge bench, headed by Justice S.A. Nazeer and being "deeply flawed". comprising Justices

B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bo-panna, V. Ramasubramanian, and B.V. Nagarathna, is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging

the Centre's 2016 decision on demonetisation.

Chidambaram, representsubmitted that demonetisation impacted every citizen of the country and questioned Centre's power to invoke Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India Act to demonetise currency notes.

He said the Centre cannot, on its own, initiate any pro-Chidambaram on Thursday posal relating to legal tender, which can only be done on the RBI's central board recommendation and further argued that the decision-making process should be struck down for

> This is the most outrageous deci-

sion-making process which makes a mockery of the rule of law, "he said, adding that the RBI has the

right to regulate the issue of bank notes

Chidambaram said over ing one of the petitioners, 2, 300 crore currency notes were demonetised against the backdrop of 300 crore notes per month capability of the government's printing presses, and this would mean it would take several months to print notes.

the same will be tolerated.

GOVERNMENTS SHOULD

OBSERVE MARTYRDOM

DAY OF SAHIBZADAS AS

SAHIBZADE SHAHDAT

DIWAS & NOT AS VEER

The Shiromani Gurdwara Par-

bandhak Committee (SGPC)

in its today's executive com-

mittee (EC) meeting presid-

ed over by SGPC President

Harjinder Singh Dhami has

decided that the signature

campaign to be launched from

December 1, 2022, demanding

release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh

political prisoners) will be held

It was the first meeting of

the SGPC EC which was newly

elected on November 9, in

BAL DIWAS

nationwide.

Amritsar

JAGMOHAN SINGH

which many important deci-

the meeting, SGPC President

Harjinder Singh Dhami said

that the active campaign under

the struggle for the release of

Sikh prisoners will be taken

forward from December 1,

2022. He said a signature cam-

Speaking to the media after

sions were taken.

Few months back, Mamata pending central funds.

rating law and order situation February.

SGPC plans nationwide signature campaign for **Retired IAS officer Arun Goel takes** release of Sikh prisoners: Harjinder Singh Dhami charge as new mittees besides Punjab", said

Dhami. He said that the center of this campaign will be the SGPC office in Amritsar, while sub-centres will be established in every district of Punjab and India. The poll body will now Sikh missions outside Punjab.

"Especially in Punjab, proformas will be filled by setting up camps at Gurdwaras, educational institutions, railway stations, bus stands, cities, towns and important intersections" said SGPC President.

He said that after completing the work of filling the proformas, a one-day protest will be held by all SGPC members at Chandigarh, after which, the filled proformas will be handed over to the Governor of Punjab. He also said that besides filling the proformas, its entire written and digital record will also be maintained paign will be launched, under Gurdwara management com- simultaneously.

After Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra retired in May this year giving charge to Rajiv Kumar, the poll panel has been a two-member body only. Goel, a retired IAS officer from Punjab Cadre of the 1985 batch, was appointed to the post

by President Droupadi Murmu on November 19 "The President is pleased to appoint Arun Goel, IAS (Retd.) (PB: 1985) as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission with effect from the date he assumes the office, " read an official communication from Ministry of Law and Justice issued on Monday.

Wasn't Twitter supposed to die by now or something, asks Élon Musk

Elon Musk on Wednesday shrugged off the #RIPTwitter hashtag again, saying that the micro-blogging platform under him is actually growing and is not going to die as projected. Despite too much criticism from several quarters, Musk said Twitter is where the "opinion leaders are". "Wasn't Twitter supposed to die by now or something?' Musk tweeted to his more than 118 million followers.

UP ministers ready to cross shores for Global Investors' Summit

Uttar Pradesh ministers will travel to 19 cities across 17 countries between December 9 and 19, ahead of the Global Investors' Summit (GIS) scheduled early next year.

The road shows will work in simultaneous mode which means that more than one road show will take place per day.

Sources said the schedule had been verbally approved by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who may travel separately closer to the event in January. The required paperwork for visa and other things has been initiated by the partner industry bodies.

Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce



and Industry (FICCI) have been engaged for the event that eyes to attract an investment of over Rs 10 lakh crore to the state.

As per the schedule, state finance minister Suresh Khanna will travel alone between December 9 and 15 and lead roadshows in London, New York and San Francisco. Cabinet minister for indus-

tries and infrastructure development Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' and PWD minister Jitin Prasada will travel between December 9 and 14 to lead roadshows in Frankfurt, Brussels and Stockholm.

On the same dates, Speaker UP Vidhan Sabha and former minister for industrial development Satish Mahana will travel to Canada to hold roadshows in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. He will be accompanied by Dharampal Singh, cabinet minister for animal husbandry, dairy development, political pension, minority welfare, Muslim waqf and haj and civil defence departments.

False narrative against Article 370, 35A exposed, Dr Farooq Abdullah

which, proformas will be filled

besides spreading awareness

among the Sangat about the

cases of Sikh prisoners and the

"In order to make this move-

ment nationwide, an approach

will be made for filling profor-

mas to different states through

the SGPC's Sikh missions and

punishments served.

FW DESK

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said that the failures of the incumbent administration on all fronts had exposed the BJP's narrative against Article

370 as fake. . Addressing a party convention in Samba. Abdullah said that the facts on the ground tell a different story. "The ruling dispensation misled people across the country that the abrogation of articles 370,35-A will draw militancy in J&K ter unfolded by ruling BJP in



to a close. Has it happened?' Abdullah asked. "Targeted killings of non-locals, Kashmiri Pandits, local Muslims, Cops have brought back the horror of the 90s. Mass migration of Pandits, who had stayed back in Kashmir over the past thirty years is another reality of the post abrogation chapKashmir. Today Kashmir is marked by uncertainty.

Abdullah also highlighted the soaring unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir? Didn't BJP promise 50,000 jobs for our youth when they were banging the drum for articles 370,35-A abrogation. Where are those jobs?" he asked. Why are our educated, skilled and talented youth on the roads?

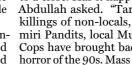
Abdullah added that unending job search has taken a toll on the mental health of our promising youth in Jammu, Pir Panjal and Chenab. **Election Commissioner** Retired IAS officer Arun Goel on Monday took charge as the new Election Commissioner of

lent in



after the third post of Election Commis sioner had been been





REGION

CM calls upon people to start a mass movement for writing all the sing boards in Punjabi Khatter & Vij to monitor rising, wipe out drug addiction in Haryana SATISH HANDA Drugs snuggling as well as fast

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Reiterating the firm commitment of his government to promote Punjabi language and culture, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday exhorted Punjabis to come forward for starting a mass movement for putting all the signboards on the private and public buildings across the state in Punjabi language.

Addressing a gathering dur-ing a state level function to mark Punjabi language month here at the Guru Nanak Dev University, Chief Minister cited the examples of states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and others where people show lot of respect to their mother tongue by putting all such signboards on their shops and commercial establishments in their native language. He said that the time has come when Punjabis should also come forward for adopting this noble practice. Mann exhorted Punjabis to make sure

prominently in Punjabi with other languages as a mark of respect to the mother tongue.

The Chief Minister said that people should ensure that the signboards in Punjabi are put before International Language Day coming on February 21. He underscored the need for making this a mass movement tongue. He said that the wise Punjabis will adopt this before

that all the signboards are put will be made to toe the line of government after that.

The Chief Minister also called upon the Punjabi community settled in India and different parts of the world to promote Punjabi language and culture in a big way. He said that it is fact that no one can survive by detaching themselves from their rich culture and mother as a mark of respect to mother tongue. He pointed out that undoubtedly English was universally accepted world over as a February 21 and remaining one link language, but this language

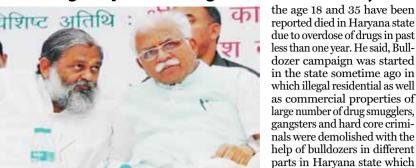
should not be promoted at the cost and status of our mother tongue

The Chief Minister said that rather every Punjabi should feel proud of the glorious cultural heritage inherited by them. He said that Punjab is the land of great Gurus, saints, seers and martyrs adding that since ages it has been a torchbearer to mankind. He said that Punjabis have carved a niche for themselves across the globe by their hard work and dedication.

The Chief Minister said that it is a curse if anyone forgets his/ her mother tongue but unfortunately in fad of English and other languages the Punjabis are drifting away from their mother language. He said that this trend needs to be reversed as it is an undeniable fact that a man can communicate and express well only in his mother tongue. He said that due to mental slavery we still believe in superiority of English language whereas the fact is that Punjabi is the best language for every one of us.

Drugs smuggling as well as fast increasing addiction of drugs among youths, aged and even women residing in urban as well as rural areas in Haryana is a matter of concern for state government and both Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter and Home & Health Minister Anil Vij has now decided to monitor this fast growing is-sue jointly to make Haryana drugs-free state. About a year ago state government formed Narcotic Control Bureau in the state to control smuggling and sale of drugs, especially in youths but satisfactory results could not be obtained as such both Khatter and Vij has now decided to undertake monitoring of the same themselves. Information reveals, a meet-

ing comprising of officers from as many as 17 government departments in the state including education, excise & taxation, agriculture, mediin which illegal properties of large number of drug smugcal. higher education, forest, drugs control, forensic science laboratories, jails, CID, legal and police was held at



going to take stern action against such criminals playing with the life of young generation involved in criminal activities under the influence of drugs. Vij said, under State Action Plan government is going to strengthen Narcotic Control Bureau network in the state with the addition of new IPS officers, 29 Scorpio vehicles, 33 Pulsar bikes already handed over and a software helpful to wipe out drug smuggling and supplies in the state.

Chief Minister said that as glers in the state, hard core criminals and gangsters were many as 84 persons between

Guru Nanak Dev University,

Amritsar delivered academic

lectures in the Guru Granth

Sahib Auditorium of the Uni-

versity. While welcoming

the eminent scholars, Prof.

Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice

Chancellor presented the re-

port about the development

of the University since its in-

all drug smugglers and suppliers in the state apart from pushing them in jails as per law. Chief Minister told that state Narcotic Control Bureau in the state has been able to seize as well as destroy huge stocks of drugs in past few months. He told that complaints have been received as regard availability of drugs in few drug de-addiction centers in the state and decision has been taken that SDMs in districts will supervise the functioning and visit these drug de-addiction centers and take strict action against irregularities.

brought good results and many

criminals went underground

and decision has been taken to

attach or demolish properties of

BJP leader Sunil Jakhar opposed Haryana govt demand for separate space for VS in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: Reiterating that there should never be any doubt in anyone's mind over Punjab's full ownership of its capital city Chandigarh, veteran Punjab leader and former Member Parliament (MP) Sunil Jakhar on Sunday urged both Haryana and Punjab Chief Ministers to show



existant issue; and utilise our historic Vidhan Sabha on rotational basis.

Referring to the demand made by Haryana Speaker for separate space for state Vidhan Sabha in Chandigarh, Jakhar while cautioning leaders of both states to avoid any spectre mongering for political gains over this highly sensitive issue which could be misused by vested interests to foment strife in the border state termed this demand as outrightly illogical and baseless which should not have been raised in the first place.

I still have not understood as to why Bhagwant Mann ji as Punjab Chief Minister

48 mobile phones recovered in a month from prisoners at Ambala central jail



SATISH HANDA Ambala

A couple of days ago during search operation going on inside Ambala central jail by newly transferred Superintendent jail security staff recovered another 16 mobile phones from the prisoners lodged in this jail, most of the mobile phones were found hidden inside bath rooms and three mobile phone sets were recovered kept in an empty 'Bournvita' box. Information reveals, with the recovery of 16 mobile phones the total number of mobiles phones recovered from the prisoners in past one month reached 48 along with accessories including mobile phone chargers, cables, ear phones and sim cards now raising a question mark over the performance of previous security staff in this central jail in which hard core criminals, killers, gangsters and many VIPs as well as senior government officers either undergoing sentence or having cases under trial against them are lodged in jail.



Amritpal Singh, head of 'Waris Punjab De' along with other Sikhs offers prayers at the Akal Takht , in Amritsar on Wednesday before departure of Khalsa Vaheer PHOTOS: PRABHIOT GILL

MSME provided employment opportunities to 19 lakh youths in Haryana SATISH HANDA operation in concerned govern-

ment offices although usually On the directions of Haryana claimed by the government that Chief Minister Manohar Lal all facilities are available under Khatter, in a review meeting a roof which is merely on papers held at Chandigarh Chief Sec- only they said.

retary Haryana Sanjeev Kaushal Most of the young entrepreeurs willing to st told that getting various permissions from the government to start a industry which include obtaining a production license, permission from municipal corporation or committee, getting power supply from electricity department, obtaining no objection certificate from different government departments like industry, state pollution control board, fire department and getting financial support from banks and other institutions was too difficult and most of the youths after moving from in the state but had to drop the one table to another in these government offices for a long time in the absence of coopera-

the picture. turnover up to Rs 50 crore on the investment of Rs 5 crore

in case of a small industry and Rs 250 crore turnover on investment up to Rs 50 crore in case of a medium industry. Sanjeev Kaushal told that there v 9.53 lakh micro in dustry units in Haryana state at present providing maximum sources of employment to youths in the state and in case of Haryana Udham Memorandum (HUM) nearly 45,844 industrial units are registered in the state and 4,14,000 units are registered under under uniform rules for collection (URC) which include 3.90 lakh micro units. 21.164 small and 1893 medium units manufacturing products including automobile, food, instrument, textile, leather, wooden, paper, metal, engineering, Chemicals, pharmaceuticals, petro-chemical, rubber and electronics.

After probe Police cancel FIR registered for promoting gun culture on Social media

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Police station Kathunangal falls under the jurisdiction of Amritsar Rural Police has registered FIR against the four persons for allegedly glorifying gun culture through social media websites by holding gun in hands and wearing strap containing bullets on shoulder.

According to the FIR avail-able with PTI, Police registered the case against four persons as Bhupinder Singh his son (name not mentioned in the FIR due to minor age group) Vikramjit Singh, Visarat Singh.

As per FIR, a case was registered against Bhupinder Singh for giving his own gun in the hands of his minor son and hanging leather belt containing bullets on his Shoulders and rest of the accused were also seen in

Guru Nanak Dev University celebrates 53nd Foundation Day with great enthusiasm



Amritsar Guru Nanak Dev University celebrated 53nd Foundation Day with great enthusiasm

ception. Prof. Hardip Singh, here today. Academicians, Dean Academic Affairs prescholars, students and sented vote of thanks. Prof. eminent personalities Anish Dua, Dean Student>s participated in these Welfare conducted the procelebrations and had Guru Ka ceedings. Prof. Sandhu also honoured guest speakers Langar. Folklore exhibitions, Painting exhibitions and with mementos on behalf of book exhibitions were the University. On this occasion Prof. Dr. Karanjit Singh organized in front of Bhai Kahlon and a large number Gurdas Library and in the Gallery-History & Dreams of dignitaries, employees and at the University campus. students were present.

Dr. Yogesh Kumar Chaw-Dr. Chawla in his academic lecture said that the philola, Former Director, Post sophical aspects and teach-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research

SCHOLARS SAID LOW **COST NEED BASED RESEARCH COULD BE SOLUTION TO ALL SUFFERINGS OF MANKIND** FW DESK

Chandigarh presided by Chief demolished to wipe out crime. Minister to review this burn-He said, government is now

ing issue when a State Action Plan was also constituted by both Chief Minister and Home &Health Minister. Khatter told that state government is very serious in this regard and further strengthening Narcotic Control Bureau to deal the situation strictly and take stern action against drug smugglers as well as suppliers in the state. Chief Minister told that state government introduced Bulldozer Scheme in the state

Kanugo nabbed red handed for taking bribe Rs. 10,000



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its campaign against corruption on Thursday nabbed revenue Kanugo Om Parkash, posted at circle Thathi Sohal, in Tarntaran district red handed for accepting a bribe of Rs. 10,000. Disclosing this here today a spokesperson of VB said the above said Kanugo was caught red handed on the complaint of Bhalwinder Singh, resident of village Jhabal, district Tarntaran. Giving details he informed that the complainant approached the VB and alleged that the above said revenue official was demanding a bribe of Rs. 25,000 for providing him demarcation report of his relative and the

deal was struck at Rs. 10,000. After verifying his complaint a VB team laid a trap and the accused was caught red handed accepting a bribe of Rs. 10,000 and tainted money was recovered from him in the presence of two official witnesses.

He informed that a case under prevention of corruption act has been registered against the accused at VB police Amritsar and further investigation was under progress

ew meeting with the officers of Haryana state industry department, HSIIDC and Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSME) told that more than 19 lakh vouths in the state have been offered employment in MSME units in the state and directed all present to implement beneficial schemes offered by the state government to those willing to set up new industry in the state. A general survey by media persons in this regard reveals that many youths are willing to make investment and start their own industrial units idea due to lengthy government procedures as well as lack of co-



tion in these offices lost interest in making investment in setting up a industry and started looking for job.

Chief Secretary Haryana directed all those government officers present in the meeting to extend full cooperation to visitors in their office and also to submit a report of last quarter of this year desiring industry investment up to Rs 1 crore to provide assured turnover up to Rs 5 crore in case of a micro industry, similarly

(PGIMER), Chandigarh and Dr.Sarbjinder Singh, Dean Faculty of Humani- in our day-to-day activities is ties and Religious Studies the need of the present day.

igs of Guru Nanak Dev i could lead the welfare of whole humanity, to implement this

while responding to his Haryana counterpart's demand for separate space had raised a similar demand.

Govt should pay attention to removal of encroachment from roads leading to Sri Darbar Sahib & haphazard traffic in Amritsar: Grewal

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has expressed concern over the haphazard traffic management of the Guru Nagri (Guru's city) Sri Amritsar, encroachment by



shopkeepers on the roads leading to Sachkhand Sri Harman-

dar Sahib and overcrowding of auto/cycle rickshaws and e-rickshaws. SGPC General Secretary Gurcharan Singh Grewal has asked the Punjab government and the Amritsar district administration and municipal corporation to take immediate necessary steps in this regard.

in targeted killing case

Punjab Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) on Sunday arrested the sixth shooter involved in the targeted killing of shopkeeper Pardeep Singh after a brief encounter in Jaipur, officials said.

In a conspiracy hatched by the Canada-based terrorist Goldy Brar, Pardeep Singh was killed by six shooters outside his shop in Kotkapura on November 10. Director General of Police Punjab Gaurav Yadav identified the arrested accused as Ramjan Khan, alias Raj Hooda. He said police teams have also arrested his two accomplices -- Happy Mehla (19) and Sahil Mehla (18), both resident of Hanumangarh in Rajasthan.

The police have also recovered two pistols, including a Chinesemade Star .30 caliber and .32 caliber, from their possession, he added. The development came three days after Punjab Police

had arrested three persons --Manpreet Singh, alias Mani, Bhupinder Singh, alias Goldy, and Baljit Singh involved in the targeted killing. DGP Yadav said acting on intelligence, teams from Jaipur.



AGTF headed by ADGP Pramod Ban under the supervision of AIG Sandeep Goel followed the trail of the accused Khan. After collecting vital clues, the police teams of AGTF led by DSP Bikram Brar and DSP Rajan Parminder managed to trace his location in a building at Vinayak Enclave Colony in Jaipur, where he was holed up with his two accomplices in a rented accommodation. The DGP said in a well-coordinated operation with central agencies & Rajasthan Police, the AGTF team

has managed to zero in Khan at his rented accommodation. "When police teams tried to arrest Ramjan, he opened fire at the police party and in retaliatory firing, he got injured, " said the DGP, adding the accused has

Punjab Police arrest sixth shooter Rejuvenation project of the Tung Dhab drain in Amritsar to be designed on the lines of Buddha Nullah-Nijjar

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Punjab government has decided that a rejuvenation project of the Tung Dhab drain in Amritsar will be designed on the lines of Buddha Nullah

Presiding over an important meeting of urban and rural area committees formed to clean the drain, the Local Government Minister Dr. Inderbir Singh Nijjar said, in order to make the state pollution-free, more attention towards cleanliness of the rivers, streams and seasonal drains is the need of the hour. Focusing on various aspects to clean the Tung Dhab drain, he said that cleaning project should be divided into three parts for dealing with industrial, dairy and domestic waste separately, said in a release issued here today.

The cabinet minister was apprised that 39 industries are situated along the 20 km long drain passing through the city. Of which 19 industries are water polluting and discharging 28 MLD polluted waste into Tung drain. been admitted to a hospital in Similarly, the domestic Sewerage of 17 villages is falling into drain.



Apart from this, 176 dairies discharging about 550 KLD waste, throwing livestock dung and other animal waste into the Tung Dhab drain. He instructed the officials of Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) to strictly prevent the industrial waste containing toxic chemicals from falling into the drain and to ensure constant checking of the industries. He said that Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) should be set up in industrial areas as per the requirement. The Minister directed the officials of Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC) to initiate action to immediately deliver land to PPCB for setting up CETP.

Similarly, he also asked the officials of the Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board to initiate the process of expansion of the two sewage treatment plants (STPs) of the city

He directed the officials of the MC Amritsar and Rural Development department to collect cow dung and other waste from the dairies in and outside the city periphery to prevent the dairies from falling waste into the drain. He said that simultaneously. prepare a proposal for setting up a biogas plant so that cow dung and other waste from dairies could be utilised and the usage of the gas produced from this plant, can be ensured.

Hartek Power bags 220 KV substation order from Madhav KRG Group

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Mohali

Hartek Power Private Limited, the Power System and T&D Business unit of Hartek Group and one of India's largest and fastestgrowing EPC companies, has bagged a significant order from the largest steel manufacturing enterprise in the region Madhav KRG Group. Madhav KRG Group is a fully integrated, high-end steel manufacturing organization and is one of the leading TMT bars, Galvanized Rebars, MS pipes, Tempcore TMT Rebars, and Tube manufacturers in India. Being named among India's top 10 most promising EPC companies, Hartek Power bagged the

order of 220/33 KV from Madhav KRG Group. The scope of work includes Design, Supply, Construction, Project Management, Testing, and Commissioning of the entire 220/33 KV switchyard on a turnkey basis. The Project value is around INR 222 million.



Speaking on this occasion, Sanjeev Gupta, CEO, Hartek Power, said, "we feel proud to bag this key order and to be associated with the steel industry giant Madhav KRG Group. This will be the first 220 KV substation built in the private sector by an EPC in Punjab. This order gives us yet another opportunity to showcase our expertise in 220/400 KV projects." Hartek Group is India's one of the leading power and renewable infrastructure companies of India with its global headquarters in Mohali, Punjab. The group operates through its five strategic business units - Power Systems, Rooftop Solar, Power Distribution Products, Fuel, and Smart Cities having major business interests right through the power sector value chain. Founded in 1991, HARTEK has grown to become one of India's most admired brands in the Power sector.



NATION

Constitution Day celebrations : PM Modi to launch various new initiatives under e-court project

FW DESK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the Constitution Day celebrations in the Supreme Court on 26th November, 2022. The day has been celebrated as Constitution Day since 2015, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

During the programme, the Prime Minister will launch various new initiatives under the e-court project. The Project is an effort to provide services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary through ICT enablement of courts. The initiatives being launched by the Prime Minister include Virtual Justice Clock. JustIS mobile App 2.0, Digital court and S3WaaS Websites.



India-Gulf Cooperation Council

Trade Agreement Negotiations

decide to pursue resumption of Free

Virtual Justice Clock is an initiative to exhibit vital statistics of the justice delivery system the Court level giving the details of the cases instituted, cases disposed and pendency of cases on day/week/month basis at the Court level. The effort is courts accountable and transpar-

ent by sharing with the public the status of case disposals by the court. Public can access the Virtual Justice Clock of any court establishment on the District Court's website. JustIS Mobile App 2.0 is a

tool available to judicial offito make the functioning of the cers for effective court and case management by monitoring pen-

REE TRADE AGREEMENT

LAUNCH CEREMONY & JOINT PRESS CO

dency and disposal of not only his court but also for individual judges working under them. This App is also made available to High Court and Supreme Court Judges who can now monitor pendency and disposal of all the States and Districts under their jurisdiction. Digital court is an initiative to make the court records available to the judge in digitised form to enable the transition to Paperless Courts.

S3WaaS Websites is a framework to generate, configure, deploy and manage websites for publishing specified information and services related to district judiciary. S3WaaS is a cloud service developed for government entities to generate Secure, Scalable & Sugamya (Accessible) websites. It is multilingual, citizen friendly and divyang friendly.

Experts optimistic about India's growth, says Prime Minister Narendra Modi

With rising inflation and the weakening rupee causing concern, even as geopolitical situation remains fluid, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday sounded a note of optimism, saying that economists see India as a bright spot.

"Even as experts in developed nations fear a major crisis, economists say India has golden opportunity to display economic capability, " he said while virtually addressing a ing the youth. "Rozgar Mela", where 71,000 appointment letters were issued to newly inducted recruits. Modi also launched the Kar-

mayogi Prarambh module -- an online orientation course for all new appointees -- on the occasion. "Experts around the world are optimistic about India's growth and confident



that it is set to become global Minister said further. manufacturing hub, "the Prime ated for the youth at the global Minister added further.

Modi said.

ing in mission mode to provide

government jobs, the Prime

On the Karamyogi Bharat level due to the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, Modi technology platform, he said it has several online courses and said that as per experts, India this will greatly help in upskillhas become a major force in the service sector and soon it Youth is the biggest strength will be the manufacturing hub of the country and the govern-

of the world too. While initiatives like PLI will ment is giving top most priority to ensure that their talent play a huge role in this, the main foundation will be the youth is utilised in nation building" and the skilled manpower of Today's Rozgar Mela shows the country, he added. that the government is work-

The PLI scheme is likely to create 60 lakh jobs, the Prime Minister informed.

Touching upon the crisis cre-

Aaftab has never confessed in court of law he killed Shraddha, says his lawyer



NEWDELHI: Aaftab Amin Poonawala has not yet confessed to killing his live-in-partner Shraddha Walkar in the court of law, his lawyer said on Tuesday. "I spoke to Poonawala for five-seven minutes today. When I spoke to him in the morning, he appeared relaxed and was very confident. He did not show any signs of aggressiveness," said Defence Counsel Abinash Kumar, who is representing Poonawala. The lawyer said when he asked Poonawala if he is able to follow the legal proceedings in the case and if he was satisfied with the defence, he replied in the affirmative "He has never confessed in the court of law that he killed

Walkar," Kumar told to media.

Mangaluru Auto explosion an act of terror : Police



ARUN KUMAR RAC Mangaluru

Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood on twitter Sunday confirmed the explosion in coastal Karnataka mangalore in the moving autorikshaw was not accidental, but an act of terror. "It's confirmed now. The blast is not accidental but an ACT OF TERROR with intention to cause serious damage," Sood tweeted. The Karnataka police is probing deep into it along with central agencies, he added. Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra also confirmed that the incident was an act of terror in a video message. He said, "Yesterday afternoon in Mangaluru, an explosion was reported in the moving autorickshaw. Injured driver in the mishap is undergoing treatment, and not in a position to speak now. After the investigation, the Karnataka Police confirmed it as an act of terror." Full details of explosion will be known in a day or two, the minister said and suspected that there could be involvement

of terrorist organisations. Home minister Araga Jnanendra also large number of terrorist activ

FW DESK Both sides agreed to expedite conclusion of the requisite le-Piyush Goyal, Minister of Comgal and technical requirements merce and Industry, Consumer for formal resumption of the Affairs, Food, and Public Dis-FTA negotiations. The FTA is envisaged to be a modern, comprehensive Agreement with substantial coverage of goods and services. Both sides emphasized that the FTA will

tribution and Textiles, Government of India, and Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, Secretary General, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held a Joint Press Conference, in New Delhi create new jobs, raise living today, to announce the intent standards, and provide wider to pursue negotiations on the social and economic opportu-India-GCC FTA nities in India and all the GCC countries. Both sides agreed With forward-looking and

solution-oriented deliberations, bilateral engagements witnessed significant progress on all matters of mutual interest across the entire gamut of bilateral economic relations between India and the GCC nations.

Vice President describes India and Africa as neighbors across the Indian ocean

FW DESK

Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar underscored the civilizational connect and shared historical bond between India and Africa, and said that "we are neighbors across the Indian ocean".

Addressing the valedictory session of UNESCO-INDIA-AFRICA (UIA) Hackathon at Greater Noida today, the Vice President said that the event reflects close relations cherished by India and its African counterparts and embodies the spirit of collaboration - bringing them together to solve problems for the betterment of humankind. "This global Hackathon conveys the message that youth can come together to make a

better world," he added. The 36-Hours Hackathon, involving young entrepreto significantly expand and dineurs from India and 22 African countries was organized versify the trade basket in line with the enormous potential by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education, (Govthat exists on account of the complementary business and ernment of India), the AICTE economic ecosystems of India and UNESCO at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida.



Nearly 600 young innovators come together to find solutions for social, environmental and technical problems during the event.

In his address, Dhankhar referred to Mahatma Gandhi Ji's close relationship with Africa and said that our age old civilizational ethos of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" continue to guide India's engagement

with the world. Describing India as a favoured global destination for opportunities and investments. the Vice President said that a new culture of innovation based

entrepreneurship is taking roots in India. Mentioning various initiatives such as Start-up India, Digital India, Bharat Net, PM Gatishakti Mission, the Vice President commended the Government for creating an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and innovation to thrive.

Observing that technology has truly democratized governance by ushering in transparency and accountability in the system, Dhankhar said that it helps us in achieving the ideal of inclusive and sustainable growth.

MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar Inaugurates Digital Índia Startup Hub at STPI, Davanagere in Karnataka

FW DESK

Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar today inaugurated a Digital India startup hub at the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centre at Davanagere, Karnataka. Speaking on the occasion, Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "The STPI, Davangere will soon usher in new opportunities for jobs and entrepreneurships for the people in the region. It is our PM Narendra Modi Ji's vision to ensure that every Young Indian gets an opportunity to participate

in the India Techade initiatives taken by the Government.'

He said the Government's emphasis has been on the growth of IT/ITES/ESDM Industry in the newer cities. and that it should not be confined to the metropolitan centres.



This is the 63rd STPI centre in the country and the fifth in the Karnataka. Stating that India has the fastest growing innovation system with more than 80,000 Startups and over 107 Unicorns, the Minister said the world today looks at India with awe and respect. "We have assumed the presidency of the G20, a league of world's largest economies and also the GPAI an international initiative on Artificial Intelligence. It is the fastest growing major economy that has surpassed the UK to emerge as fifth largest economy, receiving its highest ever FDIs of \$83Bn.'

BKI activist smuggling arms, RDX and drugs from Pakistan dies

SATISH HANDA

gence Headquarters in Mohali Khalistani activist Harvinder in May this year as well as hand Singh alias Rinda involved in grenade attack at CIA staff ofre at Nawanshe

and the GCC.



scale cross-border smuggling of Authorisation and Capacity Regulations drugs and weapons. He was a most-wanted 'A' plus category FW DESK gangster when he was in Punjab lso wanted in many cases in Maharashtra, Chandigarh, Haryana and West Bengal. According to police record, Rinda had migrated from Sarhali village in Tarn Taran district in Punjab many years ago to Nanded in Maharashtra, entered the world of crime in 2008 when he allegedly killed a man due to personal enmity in Tarn Taran. Rinda was also involved in the killing of Satnam Singh the Sarpanch of Hoshiarpur in Chandigarh in a sensational

lerate the developmen

and one tariff. LOOSO TIN for implementation of Unified tariff, industry committee has been constituted.

Ministry of Petroleum amends Natural Gas Tariff,

To simplify the implementa-

said that probe also has been initiated in similar incidents that took place in the coastal region of the state in the last few years. "The truth will be revealed soon," the minister added. CCTV footage posted on social media yesterday had gone viral. The video purportedly depicts the autorickshaw going in flames and then exploding, resulting in both the driver and the passenger who was carrying a bag suffered burn injuries and were admitted to hospital in mangaluru.

ties working for Pakistan based Information reveals, Rinda

ISI agency to spread terrorism suffering from Kidney problem died in Pakistan on Saturday in Punjab, Haryana and other where he was admitted to a part of country supplying arms, explosive material and drugs hospital in Lahore suspected died due to drugs over dosing. mainly heroine from Pakistan He was a member of the banned through drone to be delivered at Indo-Pakistan border areas Khalistani outfit Babbar Khalsa in Punjab with the help of his International working for local network in India. Rinda was gangsters as well as on the tips involved in nearly one and half of Pak based agency ISI and Canada based terrorist Lakhdozen criminal cases registered against him most wanted by bir Singh Landa. The 35 years Punjab police in few murder old criminal Rinda was also cases including the RPG attack involved in recovery of hand



granades. IED and timer at village Saddopur near Haryana-Punjab border at Ambala and also recovery of RDX at Karnal, Kaithal and at Shabad in Kurukshetra district. Rinda was also charge- sheeted in a case related to seizure of arms and explosives from a vehicle in Haryana some time back. Rinda was involved in large-

broad day light incident.

of the natural gas infrastructure and usher rapid growth of natural gas market in the country, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has brought out amendments in its three regulations namely Natural Gas Pipeline Tariff, Authorisation and Capacity Regulations. These amendments will act as stepping stone for implementation of Unified Tariff regulations which will be effective from 1st April 2023. To address the settlement issues

The objective of these changes is to provide access of natural gas in the far-flung areas at the competitive and affordable rates to achieve the long-cherished objective of one nation one grid

Integrated natural gas pipeline tariff has been introduced in the said regulations which will act as a building block for unified tariff at national level. Further to protect the overall interest of consumers in different regions number of unified tariff zones have been increased from two to three.

In addition, other amendments like allowing unaccounted gas, moratorium period, ramp up in capacity, etc., have been incorporated.

Mumbai Terror attack 26/11: slain fishermen's kin still struggling for full compensation

It is said that it's the darkest before dawn, but for the families of the crew members of MV Kuber, the sun that set on November 26, 2008, has not risen even after fourteen years

After 12 long years of a legal battle four crew members were declared dead by the court and their families paid partial compensation of Rs 5 lakh in the form of fixed deposits. They were only allowed to withdraw the interest every three months.

Dharmistha Natubhai Rathod from Vansi Borsi village of Navsari district in South Gujarat, was 23 years old then and the mother of four year old son Nitin and seven month old Asmita, when the sky fell on her. On November 27, 2008 morning she learned that her husband Natubhai was missing, the boat Kuber on which he had sailed for fishing had been hijacked by terrorists, tandel (captain) Amarsinh's body had been found, while Natubhai and others were missing.

Talking media, Dharmistha said, "I am illiterate, but with her son Nitin grew up, started the help of the Vansi Borsi



panchayat sarpanch and social workers first we fought to get a missing certificate or death certificate which neither the

Maharashtra or the Gujarat governments were ready to issue." Left with little hope, but with the help of a NGO a petition was moved in the court to direct the state to issue the death certificate. It took almost ten long years, she said and added that it was only in 2019 that the court declared them dead and directed the state government to release the compensation. For all these years Dharmist-

ha worked as a maid in the village trying to make the two ends meet. During that time, working as a labourer and

shared the financial burden. However, this did not last long, she lost her son seven months ago after a brief illness.

She, along with the other three families, received Rs five lakh as compensation in 2020, which is in a fixed deposit form, so only the interest is allowed to be withdrawn. Every three months she gets Rs 3000 as interest, from which she has to meet the expenses of herself and her daughter Asmita who is studying in class 10. Even a maid's job is not easily available as the village is small and most of the villagers are middle class families. She is hardly paid Rs 50 to Rs 100 per day, but does not get to work for all 30

days in a month.

Maharashtra CM highlights measles vaccinations, redevelopments in State

MAHARASHTRA NEWSLETTER

DOMINICK RODRIGUES Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde recently announced a massive vaccination drive by the Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Health Department in the Megapolis of Mumbai in a bid to prevent the outbreak of measles here.

Around 12,000 children were vaccinated by the Municipal Corporation as a preventive measure, Shinde said during his visit to patients undergoing treatment for measles and also reviewing safety measures with the concerned medical officers.

Talking to media later, he said it was assumed that lack of vaccination had caused the measles outbreak in children and therefore an alert had been sounded among the concerned health and municipal officials.

While efforts to increase the vaccination rate was on, emphasis was also being laid on the children being given vitamins to boost their immu-



nity, besides also coordination among the entire health system in these situations, he said.

Shinde said that the Maharashtra Government is also focusing on the policy of Mumbai city being clean, beautiful and healthy, where the Dharavi slums area will be undergoing redevelopment and the near future will be witshapes that will attract global attention

Meanwhile, the search is on for a developer to redevelop the region, besides his Gov-

education, health, road and development of other amenities in Mumbai, he said.

The Chief Minister dedicated the +Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackerav Apla Dawakhana+ scheme in Mumbai through the Mumbai Municipal Corporation and assured that this scheme would be also started in the State's nessing such colonies taking rural areas. About 52 hospitals were dedicated through video-

conferencing in this regard. Maharashtra Education Minister and Guardian Minister of Mumbai city Deepernment also emphasizing on ak Kesarkar, and Guardian

Mangal Prabhat Lodha were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the businesses of 60 entrepreneurs started under the "Chief Minister **Employment Generation Pro**gram" by giving them the keys to their food vans and taxis.

District cooperative banks in 14 Maharashtra districts have been included in this program. While earlier it was mandatory to take loans only from nationalized banks, the Maharashtra Government has expanded the scope of this program.

Around six candidates selected through the Maharashtra Public Service Commission of the Maharashtra State Industrial Development Corporation were provided appointment letters in symbolic form.

Maharashtra will invest between Rs 30,000 and 40,000 crores to generate employment to thousands of people, State Industries Minister Uday Samant said while recently

Minister of Mumbai suburbs inaugurating the Maharashtra Pavilion at the Indian International Trade Fair 2022 in Delhi -- where the theme was "Vocal

for Local, Local to Global." Noting that the State Government will frame suitable policies and window clearances in order to boost industrial investment. Samant also disclosed to the media the State Government's plans to hold a +mega-event+ in Delhi in February 2023 for which global businesspersons and industrialists would be invited.

Meanwhile, Khadi's global popularity has begun drawing even India-based Ambassadors of other countries including Thailand's Ms. Pattarat Hongtong and Oman's Mr Issa Alshibani.

The two Ambassadors had visited the Khadi India Pavilion at IITF 2022 and also clicked selfies with the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and Narendra Modi there, while appreciating the sheer variety of the products and exquisite craftsmanship of Khadi artisans.

EDITORIAL COPINION

Covid-19: Time to ease norms but caution required

s the third winter begins in India after the COVID-19 pandemic began in January 2020, fresh daily infections of the novel coronavirus – there was a small spike in July and August – have been dipping since the third wave peaked in late January 2022. Daily new cases nationally dropped below the 1,000-mark after November first week, and below 500 in the last few days. The test positivity rate and the number of hospitalisations due to moderate to severe COVID-19 disease are at a low level – a far cry from the peak of the second wave in 2021. COVID-19 deaths too have been very low, with many States not reporting any for days together; Kerala has been reporting some backlog deaths on certain days but nil fresh deaths on many days. Nationally, the case fatality rate has been 1.19%. The situation in India is vastly different from what it is like in a few other countries where the daily infections are witnessing a sharp spike. Even the extremely high transmissive Omicron sub-lineages and recombinant lineages have only caused a small spike in fresh cases but no concomitant increase in hospitalisations or deaths in India. A week ago, India made mask wearing optional for air passengers precisely because of the improved ground situation. It is only in hospitals and health-care settings that mask wearing should remain mandatory. The low level of infection notwithstanding, it is advisable that the vulnerable population including the elderly and those with comorbidities at least wear a mask to reduce the risk of infection. Long COVID is real and poses a risk even to otherwise healthy people. The virus is evolving, and the emerging variants of concern will, by default, be even more highly transmissive. Their lethality cannot be predicted as transmission happens prior to disease onset and so the selection pressure is for higher transmission and not disease severity.



e Co

ndia is a country full of diversity, but it has now got the distinction of being a country with the largest number of youth in the world. The country is bubbling with 440 million youth. No other nation in the world has such a huge young population. These include young people who were born between 1981 and 1996. In the US style, they are termed as Millennials. Most of these boys and girls have been born in the midst of the technological transformation of the country and almost all of them are aware of the new lifestyle associated with the smartphone and fast speed automobiles, be it the youth of the rural areas or the townsfolk. Of course, the urban youth use all kinds of gadgets. Social media is the superconnector and it keeps them busy all the time, whether it's work or leisure time. There may be many shortcomings in the new generation, but the merits are also not less. Whatever progress is being made in today's era and new technology is coming, behind it all is the innovative thinking of the new generation. Google (Alphabet) CEO Sundar Pichai is very impressed with this quality of the youth, and says that "the new generation is leading the changes in the world".

Google is a company with lots of young employees and a positive thinking envi-



A nation of youth India is full of hope

The first 10 hobbies that emerged, in order of preference for engineering youth include - learning new things, watching online documentaries, traveling, reading, gardening, painting, cycling, cooking, online games, and photography...

ronment where they only talk about the possibilities. It has a culture of looking at the positive side of things and never losing hope. Actor and filmmaker Satish Kaushik also said in one of his interviews that "the new generation filmmakers work on new themes and they understand the value of time". However, engineering students are

least interested in sports. This fact has come out from the latest survey. Sports and gym are not even mentioned in the top 10 hobbies of these students. The Stanford University of USA conducted a survey of the hobbies of students from 167 technical institutes in the US, China, Russia, and India, in which new information about engineering students came to the fore. A similar survey was also conducted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). About 90 thousand students took part in it. Their top three hobbies include learning something new, reading, and watching documentary films on YouTube.

The first 10 hobbies that emerged, in order of preference for engineering youth include - learning new things, reading, watching online documentaries, gardening, tourism, painting, cycling, cooking, online games, and photography. Meanwhile, Tennis champion Rafael Nadal said on the Australian Open TV stage that "After every tournament, I try to discover myself, and for this, I often go on sea voyages. I find immense peace and energy in the midst of the ocean. When I come back after spending some time in the sea, I find it easier to balance life. I have to save my energy for practice. That's why I don't waste my energy by getting entangled in useless things. To get success, it is necessary to put your energy in the right place. I find my energy in the ocean, you can find it somewhere else. Find the source of energy and put it in the right place, your success is certain".

Narvijay Yadav is a senior journalist and columnist. Views are personal

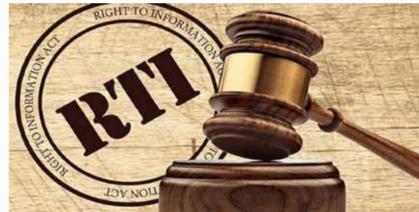


Losing cherished right to know

e most vital mandate of the Central Information Commission, the apex body under India's transparency regime, is to decide whether certain information sought by a citizen ought to be disclosed or not. Its primary duty is to decide the disclosure or the non-disclosure of information. But the commission has seemingly relinquished this primary duty in cases of larger public importance.

Citizens can file applications under the Right to Information Act with any public body and are guaranteed a reply from the public information officer of that public body within 30 days. In case of a no reply or dissatisfaction with the response, the citizen can file an appeal at the departmental level and then a second and final appeal with the Information Commission. Each State has its own State Information Commission to deal with second appeals concerning State bodies.

At the centre, it is the Central Information Commission (CIC). Until the 2019 amendment to the RTI Act. Information Commissioners (ICs) appointed to the CIC were equal in status to the Chief Election Commissioner, and that of a Supreme Court judge. They had a five-year xed term and terms of service. After the amendments of 2019, the Centre gave itself powers to change and decide these terms whenever it wished, thereby striking at the independence of the commission and those who man it. The CIC was a functioning institution until four years ago. It had passed orders seeking transparency in many cases of public importance — from boldly pro-nouncing that political parties were under the RTI Act's ambit, and hence accountable to the public, to ordering disclosure of the current Prime Minister's education qualifications and the Reserve Bank of India's list of willful defaulters of loans. The commission acted as a strong proponent of transparency in public life.



walking dead institution, where records will show that not a single order for disclosure has been forthcoming in matters of public importance. The present set of Information Commissioners have together adopted a new jurisprudence that has created additional hurdles in a citizen's quest for accountability.

Cases at the CIC come up for a hearing roughly after a two year wait. If the matter is not already infructuous or lost its significance, one can look forward to mmission deciding on in matters of public importance, such as cases seeking disclosure of files related to the national lockdown during COVID-19, or the case seeking disclosure of data pertaining to phone tapping orders passed by the Home Ministry, the Commission has adopted a new way of delegating its mandate — to decide cases — to the Ministry before it (the very same party that stands accused of prohibiting transparency). In most cases, the Ministries reiterate their earlier stand of non-disclosure, most often under vague grounds of national interest. More worryingly, after these public authorities pass fresh orders, which are usually a reiteration of their earlier stand against disclosure, the CIC refuses to accept any further challenge to such orders,

therefore, refusing to do its duty of deciding the cases. One of the cardinal rules of natural justice is that no one should be a judge in their own cause. However, the commission now allows, or rather wants, the very Ministry that stands accused of violating the RTI Act to act as the judge in their own cause and decide whether a disclosure is necessary.

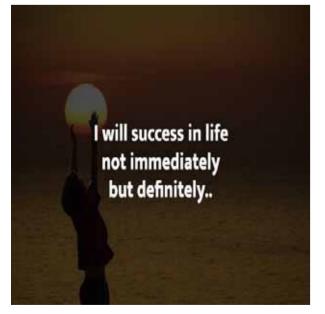
A similar situation arose when the CIC refused to hear the Internet Freedom Foundation's challenge to the fresh nondisclosure order passed by the Home Ministry in the phone tapping case. The organisation had the resources to challenge this before the Delhi High Court and enforce their right to a fair hearing before the Commission. But many do not, in a country where a small percentage of the populace has the access and the resources to justice redress. And it is not as though the Information Commissioners were not made aware of this problem with their orders. They were. Hence, the need to strongly protest such conduct on their part which continues.

seeking disclosure of documents relating to the making of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019, the commission has resorted to keeping the matter pending for final order for more than three months now, something which is unheard of. Unlike court cases, RTI matters do not involve complex legal arguments and are fairly simple to adjudicate. In another case related to disclosure of nonperforming assets and top defaulters of a co-operative bank, the matter was listed out-of-turn to issue a "stay" order against the Bank's First Appellate Authority's order for disclosure. A stay order is unheard of and there is no provision in the RTI Act for the same.

One cannot help but ask whether actions or inactions such as these are meant to deliberately frustrate citizens who dare to seek answers from the powers that be, and reduce the efficiency of the RTI Act. The effects are already being felt. It is getting more difficult, if not impossible, to extract any information of importance under the present dispensation. Bureaucrats reject RTIs with glee with no fear of facing penal provisions outlined in Section 20 of the RTI Act, knowing fully well that they have a free hand under the Information Commis

LETTERBOX

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THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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

Now, the CIC has become more like a

BOOKS: REVIEW

Fairly simple to handle

More recent examples from CIC cases do not instill confidence about where India's information regime is headed. In a case

To even think of the possibility of the very institution mandated to guard India's transparency regime to be responsible for its downfall should set alarm bells ringing as far as civil society and citizens who care and dare to question are concerned. Dark clouds surround India's transparency regime. Citizens have to mount intense pressure on authorities to act and appoint commissioners of integrity. Lawyers have to help willing citizens take matters to court and seek justice. If there is a failure to do so, India will lose its cherished right to know

> Saurav Das is an independent investigative journalist and a transparency activist

in Assamese traditions. The king

wanted to check Lachit's sense of

self-worth and his reflexes. The

young man leapt from his knees.

unsheathed his sword and rushed

to cut off the head of the errant

attendant, who had by now safely

plonked himself at the king's feet

fied by this act and he formally

installed Lachit as his general

"The king was deeply satis-

seeking his shelter.

New book explores heroic exploits of bravehearts

achit Barphukan was a master tactician and war strategist whose military zeal infused a sense of immense responsibility in his army, says a new book on the Ahom general of Assam who led his force to victory over a numerically larger and superior Mughal army.

In his book "Bravehearts of Bharat: Vignettes from Indian History", historian Vikram Sampath profiles 15 unsung heroes and heroines of India from varied time spans who fought to uphold the tradition and culture of their land.

The book comes at a time when the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit is being celebrated in the national capital from November 23 to 25 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to attend the valedictory function.

In the chapter on Barphukan, the author describes how Assam's "man of destiny" stood up to be

counted and to create history for himself and his clan.

Sampath also goes on to give a brief overview of the Ahom kingdom, which, he says, was highly regimented in its structure.

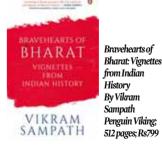
The Barphukan was the military and civil commander of the Ahom army. Assam was invaded several times by the Delhi Sultanate up to the 16th century, but this met with no success. The inhospitable and inaccessible terrain, and the warrior spirit of the people who fiercely guarded their independence enabled them to maintain their dogged resistance against all attacks.

By December 1636, Kamrup was occupied by the Mughals. According to the Treaty of Asurar Ali, enacted in 1639 CE between the Ahom general Momai Tamuli Borbarua and the Mughal commander Allah Yar Khan, the whole of western Assam, beginning Guwahati, passed into Mughal hands. A most humiliating

The book comes at a time when the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit is being celebrated in the national capital from November 23 to 25 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to attend the valedictory function

treaty was concluded in January 1663 at Ghilajhari Ghat according to which the Ahoms were forced to give up western Assam to the Mughals. But there was a revival after Chakradhwaj Singha became the king. Lachit, born in 1622 CE, was the youngest son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua. He was first made the Soladhara Barua, the scarfbearer of the king, a position akin to that of a private secretary.

In due course, Lachit also held various positions like Ghora Ba-



rua (in charge of the royal stable), commander of Simalugarh Fort and later the Dolaksharia Barua (Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards) to Maharaja

Chakradwaj Singha. During Mir Jumla's invasion, Lachit had engaged in his limited capacity with the enemy at Dikhowmukh and earned considerable success. Sampath cites an anecdote of a test that Lachit underwent before being formally anointed as the Barphukan.

Lachit was asked to present himself in the royal court before the king, and as he knelt before him, in a planned move, an attendant rushed from behind and snatched away Lachit's headgear. "This was, and still is, considered as a grave affront to a

man's dignity and self-respect,

and Barphukan, presenting him a gold-hafted sword and the customary paraphernalia of regal distinction," the book, published by Penguin India, says. The author also mentions that among those engaged by Lachit was a person named Bagh Hazarika, whose real name was Ismail Siddique. "The Ahom spies had managed to render several of the Mughal

cannon as unworthy by filling water in their muzzles. This was led by one Bagh Hazarika, whose real name was Ismail Siddique, and so called because he had once killed a tiger barehanded. When the Ahoms attacked, the Mughals realized to their horror that their cannons were all rendered utterly useless," he writes.

CORPORATE **GINDUSTRY**

ments sector, respectively.

ARUN KUMAR RAO

Bengaluru

the job market.

He added.

Sekar Garisa, CEO found.it (pre-

He said, "We have been

privileged to witness the tal-

over the last three decades, giv-

ing us an unparalleled depth of

platform of the future needs

to cater to highly dynamic job

agement out comes'

MP CM Shivraj Chouhan in Bengaluru to showcase **Gujarat has become the first state** the future readiness of state to potential investers **to get 'True 5G' across all districts** wherein 60 plus prominent in-

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Bengaluru to showcase the future readiness of Madhya Pradesh to potential investors . He is leading a high-level delegation in a roadshow organized by MPIDC -Madhva Pradesh's apex industries development body in coordination with MP State Electronics Development Corporation. The roadshow was for two days

till 24th with one-to-one meetings with key industry captains which included Ajay Vij, MD Accenture, Narendra Goenka, AEPC, Ashish Kumar, Arvind Mills, Vinod Yadav and Padmanabhan of Shahi Exports amongst and many others.

The Chief Minister chouhan hosted a networking dinner

Self-Made Orphan Seeks **Redemption and Her True Calling in Immersive Story** of the Deep South

CHAPEL HILL. NC: Few things can cause distant memories to bubble to the surface faster than music, and when Mary "Myra" Boone hears the soulful, gravelly voice of Ray Charles Robinson, she is instantly transported to a time when she was her mother's greatest miracle - before her

own actions left her an orphan. In Goodlife, Mississippi, Eileen Saint Lauren plunges readers into 1950s and '60s Mississippi, where young Myra grapples with complex feelings of guilt, loss and segregation. By age 12, she's already had to persevere through a lifetime of experiences — from watching a housefire of her own making consume her parents, through enduring the prejudices of having been born questionably biracial, to the supernatural religious experiences in the Piney Woods.

Keeping her afloat is her dream of one day meeting Ray Charles Robinson, who had been a friend of her daddy's, and finding her natural sense of place in the grand scheme of life: her true calling.

Saint Lauren weaves historical truths with magical realism through the constant threading of the ordinary with the extraordinary and supernatural

FW DESK Though Myra's scars - inside and out — will remain. New Delhi s a voung

IT / ITES SECTOR dustrialists from across industry segments participated. They represented sectors like textiles, garments, IT and ITeS, electronics, entertainment, and manufacturing. Over the dinner HCM interacted with them and invited them to explore investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Chouhan chaired two sector-specific roundtables focusing on IT, ITeS and ESDM sectors and the Textile and Gar-

facilitate them through its various During the IT, ITeS and ES initiatives for IT and Start-ups.

the peaceful labour dynamics and The round table on textile and enhanced ease of doing business garments was attended by inand ease of living which make dustry leaders from Karnataka Madhya Pradesh an ideal destinaand Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. tion for the sector. He appealed to Many investors commended youngsters from the state working the garment sector policy and in Bangalore to come work in competitive incentive package provided by the state. HCM also Madhya Pradesh. He emphasized that the GoMP is committed to assured investors that Madhya

Pradesh will develop the required infrastructure for wet processing in the state.

After the roundtable, HCM also held a session on Investment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh which saw the participation around 500 senior industry leaders. This session detailed out the world-class infrastructure, availability of

skilled labour at competitive rates and lucrative incentive packages available in the state for future investors. He held detailed discussions with 15 industry leaders including, K Ullas Kamat, Director, Wonderla Holidays Limited, Nagaraj, Managing Director, Wistron Infocom Manufacturing., Krish Gopalakrishnan, Co-Founder (Infosys) &, Chairman, Axilor Ventures, Suresh Nair, National Head, Air Asia Airlines, Sameer Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, Jackson Group, Kamal Bali, President & Managing Director Volvo Group India, Manu Gupta and other investors from Indian Toy sector, PPK Paramasivam, Managing Director,

SCM Group (Chennai Silks) amongst others to explore and discuss potential investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh.

Reliance Jio on Friday said Gujarat has become the first state to get 'True 5G' in each of the 33 district headquarters. With this, Jio 'True 5G' is now present in 10 cities/ regions in India (including

Delhi-NCR). As a model state, Jio will launch a series of True 5Gpowered initiatives across education, healthcare, agriculture, Industry 4.0 and IoT sectors in Gujarat, and then extend it

across the country. To begin with, Reliance Foundation and Jio will digitise 100 schools in Gujarat as part of an initiative called

'Education-For-All'. "Gujarat is now the first state to have 100 per cent district headquarters connected with our robust True 5G network. We want to showcase the

real power of this technology to the Jio Welcome Offer, to and how it can impact a billion experience unlimited data, at lives, " said Akash M Ambani,

Chairman, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited. Jio earlier announced that 'True 5G' will now be available in Pune, offering unlimited 5G data at speeds of up to 1Gbps. Starting November 23, Jio users in Pune will be invited do so.

no additional cost.

Last week, Jio provided True 5G' services across the entire Delhi-NCR region, including Delhi, Gurugram,

Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and other major locations, becoming the only operator to

Foxy launches digital-first store for GenZ; brings internet-first brands to stores in Bengaluru

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

Foxy - India's first hyper-personalized, beauty e-commerce destination has announced the launch of its first immersive retail store in Koramangala, Bengaluru. This store is designed with GenZ buying behavior in mind. Some of the key features of the store are Fully digital Store for an Internet First generation, Category and Ingredientfirst store aligned to GenZ preferences

As GenZ today dominates consumer trends and spending



Nikhil Gilani, Co-founder & CBO of Foxy said, during the Launch "GenZ, as digital-first shoppers, prefers an extensive buying experience i.e. online window shopping, the

store, the Foxy app enables them to do all of the above while the store allows you to touchand0-feel the products and talk to an expert." GenZ is used to browsing at its own pace and dislikes the sales pressure in most beauty stores. Here, the store is also browsing-friendly. For instance, one can find 2 colored baskets – Red and Green, where Green indicates the requirement of an expert's help, and Red implies you want to shop on your own. At Foxy stores, one can touch and feel the best of online brands at ease, without any pressure to buy.

The Foxy store enables a hassle-free shopping experience and one can also make contactless payments via the app do a self-checkout. In addition, they can have the products delivered home. Or they can buy online and pick it up in-store.

Foxy store is the first of its kind beauty store, where products are displayed by categories and ingredients. This is in line with GenZ's online shopping patterns, where they search for the latest products in the category of their interest. This enables qui comparisons by price ingredients and usage for an informed choice. This also allows for a high density of products similar to the online offering.



fundamentally changed the way Quess has been known for its we work and the way we hire. service led offerings that have won the confidence of its associates and custormers alike. As on institution, steadfast on our ent ascuisition landscape evolve commitment to formalise jobs in India, we have been focusing on building a product-led portfolio insights in to recruitment. The that can help democratise access to formal employment across white, Bulue and Grey collar market, skill-based hiring and workers.

changing exdpectations from He said, "We acquired Moncareers. We are exicited to unveil ster APAC & ME with a vision a new direction for Monster to transform while-collar talfrom simply facilitating job and ent acquisition. Over the last candidate discovery to enabling couple of years, organisations significantly better talent manexperienced everything from the Great Resignation and the Great Aiit Isaac, Founder and Non-Regret leading to mass hiring Executive Chairman of Quess at an unprecedented pace. But Corp and Monster (now foundit. now as the market settles, hirin) said, "Over the laslt 15 years, ing is going to be a lot sharper,

because we are embarked

upon trade -opening poli-

focused and skill based. Such precision can only be achieved through the combination of human ingenuity and technology and this is what we have offer our recruiters and job seekers through Foundit.in" he added.

Quess Corp acquired Monster Worldwide's APACC & ME IN 2018 as strategic investment to strengthen its HR services portfolio, and has been operating in India, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia UAE and Saudi Arabia. In 2021 Monster raised rs 137.5 crore in funding round led by investors Akash Bhanshali of Voirado Venture Partners and Mohandas Pai of Meridian Investments to fuel its product led offering and market expansion.

Bob Iger returns as Walt Disney CEO, Bob Chapek steps down

The Walt Disney Company has announced that Robert A. Iger (Bob Iger) is returning to head the company, as Bob Chapek has stepped down as CEO amid the company's plans to reduce workforce to navigate the rough global

last year, after spending more than four decades at the company, including 15 years as its CEO, has agreed to serve as Disney's CEO for two years. He will work closely with the Board in developing a successor to lead the company at the completion of his term, Disney said in a statement late on Sunday. "We thank Chapek for his service to Disney over his long career, including navigating the company through the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, "said Susan Arnold,

Chairman of the Board. "The Board has concluded that as Disney embarks on an increasingly complex period of industry transformation, Bob Iger is uniquely situated to lead the company through this pivotal period, " she added. The change at the top comes

Jeep India launches the iconic Grand Cherokee at an introductory price of ₹ 77.50 Lakh

the iconic nameplate continues to build or

as facing slow revenue growth. Disney has reportedly planned to reduce its workforce and freeze hiring. According to an internal leaked memo from Chapek, the company is "limiting headcount ad-

as possible. "I am extremely optimistic for the future of this great company and thrilled to be asked by the Board to

from 2005 to 2020, Iger helped build Disney into one of the world's most successful and admired media and entertainment companies with a strategic vision focused on creative excellence, technological innovation and international growth.

habits, the Foxy store is designed to match GenZ's shopping habits and brings focus to the Internet brands for this Internet-savvy segment.



ditions through a targeted hiring freeze". The outgoing CEO also advised executives to only take necessary business travels. Virtual meetings should be conducted as often

return as its CEO, " Iger said. During his 15 years as CEO,

conditions. Iger, who left the company

compassion with a self-forged faith in the underlying goodness of the universe and her value in the world.

Water-borne diseases impacts around 37.7 million Indians annually says health experts in a webinar organized by ASSOCHAM

NEWDELHI: The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (AS-SOCHAM), an apex body, organized a webinar on 'Water Borne Diseases-Prevention & Symptoms (Jal, Jeevanu aur Jeevan)" with the paramount objective to cascade awareness and disseminate knowledge about Water Borne Disease, to lead a healthier, happier, and prosperous life. The webinar, which is a part of the Illness to Wellness initiative, highlighted about the pathogenic microbes spread via contaminated water leading to water borne illnesses.

Viruses and bacteria among other microscopic organisms that are ingested through contaminated water can induce conditions known as waterborne infections. Many diseases can be spread when bathing, washing, drinking, or eating food that has come into contact with contaminated water. Typhoid, hepatitis A, jaundice, and diarrhoea are a few of the most prevalent waterborne illnesses in India.

Anil Rajput, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council. in his welcome address said, "Water stands out to be the most essential element in our lives as human body constitutes 60% of water". Highlighting the high burden of water borne diseases, he said, "80% of the global diseases are water borne which arise out of consumption of unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene practices

Goyal for proactively follow-Indian products, services and investors wider global reach, ASSOCHAM today said, ratification of the India-Australia Free Trade Agreement by the Australian Parliament is testi-

for exporters: ASSOCHAM

mony to our growing impor-"The Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi's government is aggressively following policies including the economic coopquite a courageous glidepath and engineering.

Congratulating Commerce a clamour in some parts of and Industry Minister Piyush the world to look inward. It is a reflection of the inhering policies aimed at giving ent strength of the Indian economy. For us AtamNirbhar Bharat is reaching out to the world," ASSOCHAM Secretary General Mr Deepak Sood said.

a time v

India-Australia FTA to offer big opportunities

He said, the India-Australia FTA which is fast nearing tance as an economic partner. the implementation stage, would lead to enhanced trade and investment between the two major economies of the world, scaling opportunities eration and trade agreements, for increased employment in commonly known as FTAs for several job-oriented sectors ensuring greater market access such as textiles, leather, gems for Indian businesses. This is and jewellery, sports goods



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

The Jeep brand introduced the all-new Grand Cherokee by recreating the iconic moment when the SUV was launched 30 years ago, driving

through a glass window at an Auto show in Detroit. Since then, the Grand Cherokee has set an industry benchmark and quickly became synonymous with upscale design and uncompromised capability. Today, the 5th generation of to the luxury segment.'

the most awarded SUV ever, with its all-new exterior and interior design, world-class craftsmanship and first-tomarket technologies.

Commenting on the launch of the all-new Grand Cherokee in India, Roland Bouchara, CEO and Managing Director, Stellantis India, said, "As promised, the Jeep Grand Cherokee is the fourth model to be Made in India. With the all-new Grand Cherokee, adventure lovers will have a distinctive blend of luxury, fortified with segment best features, innovative technology, and composed driving dynamics elevating the brand position

Zomato plans to lay off 3% of its workforce



FW DESK

3 per cent of its workforce on

account of cost-cutting efforts

media sites announced layoffs.

will be based on regular per-

formance. "There has been a

Zomato stated that layoffs

and to turn profitable.

spokesperson.

The company currently has nearly 3, 800 employees.

In May 2020, Zomato laid off about 520 of its employees, or 13 per cent of its staff, in response to a slump in business following the Covid pandemic.

Meanwhile, Zomato's co-The decision comes after founder Mohit Gupta quit the many tech giants and social organisation on Friday.

Moreover, the food delivery platform announced earlier this week that Rahul Ganjoo had ended his 5-year tenure as Head of New Initiatives.

Earlier in the month, Zomato's Vice President for global growth Siddharth Jhawar announced his departure as well.

Online food delivery platform Trident Realty launches Trident Hills Luxury Township in Panchkula Zomato on Saturday said it is planning to lay off nearly plans to foray into Tier-2 Real

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Panchkula

Trident Realty launched its luxury residential project -Trident Hills in Panchkula. real estate developer in India, has acquired a 200-acre plot of land and plans to invest Rs 3,000 crore to develop an integrated luxury township.

estate Market with the launch The company, a pioneering Trident Realty, said, «We are

of Trident Hills. The initial development of 125-acre land will include plots and low-rise floors. S K Narvar, Chairman, excited to launch Trident Hills set amidst Panchkula>s scenic surroundings. Luxury homes are witnessing high demand in Tier-2 cities because of the

With its sizeable presence in aspirational upper middle and NCR, and MMR, the company upper class. The company is considering the remarkable realty sector in the last 2-3



in an expansion mode and growth momentum of the

year, we are convinced that the time is apt to foray into Tier-2 markets like Tri-city (Chandigarh), Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal, Punjab, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Goa and Pune as these places are brimming with opportunities due to rapid infra development.

Located in the foothills of regular performance based the Shivaliks, Trident Hills is churn of under 3 per cent of an urban living space that ofour workforce, there's nothing fers a lush, green landscape in more to it, " said a Zomato a pristine environment.

Teledyne DALSA announces its new line of high-performance X-ray detectors at RSNA 2022 NBA Legend Jumps Into Functional Foods Game as Industry Profits Soar

FW DESK

WATERLOO, Ontario: DAL-SA is pleased to announce its presence at the RSNA 2022 Technical Exhibition with a new offering of X-Ray detectors based on Indium Gallium Zinc Oxide (IGZO) in addition to their premium line of CMOSbased detectors. The show takes place November 27 - December 1, Chicago, IL. Teledyne will exhibit its full line of detectors in booth #3709.

Teledyne will introduce its RSNA 2022. The new Axios flat



breakthrough line of X-ray de- panel detector series, designed and manufactured entirely by tectors that narrows the gap between amorphous silicon Teledyne, are based on an inand CMOS-based detectors at novative IGZO technology, proprietary new image chain and

use the highest performance components. The Axios product line is engineered to deliver an unprecedented balance of

addressing the needs of the most demanding real-time applications for diagnostic and interventional imaging like orthopedics, vascular cardiology and surgery. The high image quality performance of the Axios detectors will enable better diagnosis of medical anomalies and better

Kudo, The Good Conscience Snack Co., entered the functional foods market in 2022 with a product line that features 100 percent whole grain kettle-popped protein popcorn, protein "krisps" and nutritional gummies.

Functional foods are whole, fortified, enriched or enhanced foods that provide health benefits beyond the provision of essential nutrients (e.g., vita-

mins and minerals). It's an industry that was valued at \$189 billion globally in 2021 and is projected to reach \$285 billion in 2030, according to research by Spherical Insights & Consulting. Founder and CEO Ryan Lewis created Kudo to address a gap he found in the snacking marketplace. "Healthy snacking always seemed like a never-end-

ing obstacle. There just didn't seem to be any good options that were healthy, convenient and great tasting," Lewis said. He had already launched

two successful start-ups in the supplement and food industry before landing on the idea of infusing a perennially favorite snack - popcorn - with protein.

"I've never been more excited about a line of products," Lewis said. "These products taste good. Without that, all the nutrients in the world won't sell a product."

NBA legend Fred Brown joined the Kudo team as a board member and adviser after meeting with Lewis and learning about his product.

....

performance and value, while procedure outcomes, resulting in reduced treatment costs.

FW DESK New York

BANKING **S**FINANCE

FinMin Nirmala Sitharaman chairs Pre-Budget Binod Kumar appointed as Executive Union Govt releases Rs. 17,000 crore consultation with Finance Ministers of States



FW DESK

Union Finance Minister held the pre-budget consultations with the Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories (with Legislature). The meeting was attended by Union Ministers of State (Finance), Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Finance Ministers, Ministers and Senior Officers from the States

Union Territories and the rowing limits, providing two Union Government.

The Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, welcomed all the participants to the meeting and informed the importance of this particular consultation for the ensuing Budget.

Most of the participants thanked the Union Finance Territories by enhancing bor-

The country's largest lender

State Bank of India (SBI) has warned customers against in-

stant loan apps and even sug-

gested measures to safeguard against the menace.

on suspicious links or giving

your information to a company

posing as a Bank or Financial

Company. Report cybercrimes

at cybercrime.gov.in, " the

Instant loan apps, especially

those originating from China

have been a menace as the gov-

ernment as well as the Reserve

Bank of India (RBI), have

received several complaints

against them. Their prolif-

eration has led to increased

cases of cyber crime and also

extortion of hapless borrowers.

India may record a growth in the

range of 6.5 per cent to 7.1 per

cent during the current financial

vear 2022-23 mainly due to ris-

ing inflation and expectations

of a global slowdown, Deloitte

Sharing some safety tips, the

bank tweeted.

FW DESK

FW DESK

Victoria

'Please refrain from clicking

advanced devolution installments and through Special Assistance for capital expenditure. The participants also gave numerous suggestions

to the Union Finance Minister for inclusion in the Budget Speech. Union Finance Minister thanked the participants for their inputs and sugges-Minister for financially sup- tions towards Budget 2023-24 porting their States/Union and assured to examine each of the proposals.

loan apps:Country largest lender

KULBIR SINGH KALSI New Delhi

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Binod Kumar as the Executive Director of Punjab National Bank with effect from 21st November 2022 for a period of three years.

Binod Kumar, a Graduate in science from Ranchi University and holds Post Graduate Diploma in Banking & Finance from NIBM, Financial Risk Manager (FRM) from GARP (USA) and a Certified Associate Member of Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB). Kumar started his banking

journey in Punjab National Bank as Management Trainee in the year 1994 and has served the bank for last 28 years. He has rich and diversified banking experience of over 28 years, ranging from Branch and Administrative Office to Risk Management,



Credit etc. He has also headed BO: DIFC as Chief Executive Officer and was previously heading the Corporate Credit Division, Head Office of Punjab National Bank as Chief General Manager

Kumar has also served as the Nominee Director on the Board of PNB Housing

SAN FRANCISCO: Alpha-

bet, Google's parent company, is reportedly gearing up to lay off about 10, 000 "poor per-

forming" employees, or 6 per

cent of its workforce, in the

Big tech layoff season kicked off by Meta, Amazon, Twitter,

Salesforce and more amid the

rough global conditions.

Finance Limited and ISARC (India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Limited). He has diploma in Treasury Investment & Risk Management, Banking & Finance by IIBF and has also done

Leadership Skill Development Program from IIM Bangalore

of GST compensation to States FW DESK

Union Government released an amount of Rs. 17,000 crore to states on 24.11.2022 towards the balance GST compensation for the period April to June, 2022 (State-wise details as per Table below). The total amount of compensation released to the States/UTs so far, including the aforesaid amount, during the year 2022-23 is Rs.1,15,662 crore. This is despite the fact that

total Cess collection till Oc-

tober, 2022 is only Rs.72,147

crore and the balance of Rs.

43,515 crore is being released

by the Centre from its own

resources. With this release,

the Centre has released, in

advance, the entire amount

of Cess estimated to be col-

lected this year till March-

end available for payment of

compensation to States. This

decision was taken to assist

the States in managing their

resources and ensuring that

their programmes especially



the expenditure on capital is carried out successfully during the financial year.

Even in May this year, the Central Government had released Rs. 86,912 crore as provisional GST compensation to States for the period Feb-May'2022 despite the fact that there was only about Rs. 25,000 crore in the GST Compensation Fund, by making arrangement of funds of around Rs. 62,000 crore from its own resources

Twitter's alternative Hive

seen a boost in new sign-ups

since users started switch-

platforms after Elon Musk's

takeover of the micro-blog-

Due to the ongoing dete-

rioration of the situation at

Twitter, Hive is currently

Founded in 2019 by

Generation Z-focused social

platform which combines

social-media applications,

including Facebook, Twit-

The platform allows users

ter, Instagram, and even

MySpace.

ideas from many other

ing to other social media

ging platform.

sees surge in new users

Wheat prices being closely monitored: Government



The government on Wednesday said that wheat prices are being closely monitored and their rise since the ban on exports in May this year has only been 7 % in retail. Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said while addressing media persons that the

ban on wheat exports has led to a rise in stock availability. Wheat prices, Chopra said, have gone up only by 7 per cent in retail. However,

he added that if the hike in MSP is considered then the price rise is only around 5 per cent. He further said that wheat and rice stocks position is comfortable and much above the government's buffer requirements.

Government had banned exports of wheat in May this year to boost domestic supplies and control prices. Subsequently its wheat prol to 187.92



better to check the authenticity the SBI said. of an app before downloading.

Check the app permission There are lots of illegal apps settings to secure your data that may trap users and siphon from getting stolen and in case off money from their accounts. of theft, such matters should Customers should not click be reported to the local police on suspicious links and discreauthorities, the bank cautioned tion should be used to avoid further.

According to a report in The Information, Google plans to ease out 10, 000 employees through a new ranking and performance improvement plan. "A new performance management system could help

SBI warns customers against instant Google's parent company Alphabet

managers push out thousands of underperforming employees starting early next year. Managers could also use the ratings to avoid paying them bonuses and stock grants, the report mentioned.

Under the new system, managers have been asked to categorise 6 per cent of employees, or roughly 10, 000 people, as low performers in terms of their impact for the business.

The new system also reduces the percentage of employees that can score a high rating.

Reports earlier surfaced that Alphabet was giving some workers 60 days to apply for could use the ratings) avoic new role at



puting. But it's important "to be smart, to be frugal, to be scrappy, to be more efficient".

care of our employees. I think we're just working through a tough moment macroeconomically and I think it's important we as a company align and

work together, " said Pichai. Earlier, addressing the gathering at the Code Conference in the US, Pichai said that the more the company tries cent to \$69.1 billion, amid global slowdown and recesto understand the macroecosion fears. The company's CEO nomic conditions, it feels very Sundar Pichai aims to make uncertain about it.

"The macroeconomic performance is correlated to ad spend, consumer spend and so on, " he told the audience.

Google has suspended hirig new emplo and re-

Alphabet has a workforce of nearly 187, 000 employees. The median compensation for an Alphabet employee last year was around \$295, 884, according to a US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filing. Alphabet reported a net profit of \$13.9 billion in the third quarter (Q3), down 27 per cent from a year earlier,

Alphabet 20 per cent more efficient, hinting at job cuts.

Additionally, the new performance system at Alphabet

🍅 Hive Social SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter alternative Hive has

"We're committed to taking

ranked among the top 20 in the US App Store, reports TechCrunch. Kassandra Pop, Hive is not a Twitter clone but a

to browse their interests across a range of topic-based

communities, like Science, Tech, Cars, Music, Fashion, Gaming, and many o



India likely to grow at 6.5% to 7.1% in current fiscal: Deloitte

India said in a report. Deloitte expects "India to post damentals." India's gross dogrowth during 2022mestic product (GI



which has remained above RBI's

tolerance limit of 6 per cent for

e past 10 month

tonnes in 2022-23 marketing year from 434.44 lakh tonnes due to fall in domestic output and aggressive purchase by private parties.

Chopra further said that the government wasn't considering any further steps like stockholding limits and open market sale scheme to check wheat prices. In September, the government had also banned exports of broken rice due to an anticipated fall in production of rice. The Secretary said that an inter-ministerial committee is monitoring the prices of essential commodities on a weekly basis. On edible oil prices, Chopra said that international prices were coming down, so domestic retail rates are also likely to fall.

23 and 5.5-6.1 per cent the following year contingent on the revival of the global economy global economic uncertainties repo rate four times in the last and improving economic fun-

8.7 per cent in 2021-22. "The seemingly unending saga of has begun to negatively impact six months.

concern for the Government, despite the central bank raising

You Can Now Mint XEN Crypto for Free on OKC

been a

paying bonuses and stock grants, according to the report. Alphabet has yet to comment on the report.

their jobs are set to be cut. portedly told some existing Pichai had said the company employees to "shape up or is "still investing in long-term ship out" if expectations are projects like quantum com- not met.

Additionally, it allows users to like, comment and repost the shared content, just like other platforms.

Former Twitter users seeking a new home are likely to feel more at ease with Hive because of the application's simple and familiar set of navigation options.

It features tabs for accessing the profile, the main timeline or feed, a "Discover" section for browsing the social network, and a tab for notifications. Hive gives users the option to pay to unlock extra slots on their profile which allows them to

display more of their favourite music. The second slot costs \$0.99, and the third or fourth are priced at \$1.99, the report said.

for the masses, based on the first principles, delineated by Satoshi Nakamoto in the Bit-OKC (OKX Chain), the coin Whitepaper and realized EVM and IBC compatible chain backed by OKX – the XEN, it aims to empower the world's second-largest crypto individual with no pre-mint exchange by trading volume for investors and founders. - today announced an inte- an immutable contract with gration with XEN Crypto, the no admin keys, and proof of fastest-growing community participation protocol. in the crypto space. Now, us-

ers can mint and stake XEN dresses have engaged with the XEN ecosystem since

XEN Crypto is a fair crypto launch. Staying true to first

by Jack Levin, the founder of "Over 60 million wallet ad-



principles of Crypto, XEN fastest-growing engagements has experienced one of the with its users. We are pleased to be welcomed by the OKX for our users, and one that could also inspire innova-Crypto Ecosystem, bringing the friendliest, lowest barrierto-entry Crypto Project to its new playground," shares Levin.

while revenue increased 6 per

"There is no better project that we could work with, considering the fair launch nature of XEN, reiterating why we are all here in the first place. The OKC team is always looking for the next XEN project's latest developproject that could provide ments through OKC's Twitter channel (@okcnetwork). better utility and experience

tion within the ecosystem – we're happy to have XEN integrated with us," Chai Li, Head of OKC Ecosystem elaborates.

OKC users can mint XEN tokens and stake to mint more XEN with OKX Web3 wallet or Metamask. Users can stay updated with the

Assocham Global Insurance Summit: data should be the DNA of an insurance company: Saurabh Mishra MUMBAI: Insurance is one have like a developed country it's a moment of pride for will be mayhem across the

of the defining factors of a developed country. An insured country & citizens will help us move decisively and irreversibly towards a developed society, says Saurabh Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, GoI. He was speaking at the 14th Assocham **Global Insurance Summit** and Awards, held at Mumbai.

"Insurance is not just one of those high-ended glam black jacketed investment banking product, it is a product for each one of us. If every eligible citizen, everv eligible asset is insured, I think we move decisively towards becoming a society which is a developed society from all stretch of imagination," says Joint Secretary, " Data should be the DNA of an insurance company from the way he drives the customer, analysing the customer. If you are able to do that, another important sign that will be-

delivering and consuming insurance.

tokens on OKC.

Addressing the summit, Thomas M Devasia, Member-Non-Life, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India said, "We are working on certain broadbased initiatives towards affordability and availability of insurance, and one of them is be associated with this inalready in the news is the big infrastructure initiative with a social safety net product being developed by the industry and we have received some

good feedback." In his speech, Anuj Mathur, Chairman, ASSO-CHAM National Council for Insurance and MD & CEO,

Co. Ltd. Savs. "India is set to become the 6th largest insurance market with an average growth of 14% over the next 10 years. We are at the cusp of becoming the 5th

all of us. Today the business environment is very positive. Insurance regulator IRDAI is the insurance penetration at an accelerated pace, and the year 2047 is where the government and IRDAI are aiming at insurance for all." "I am extremely excited to

dustry at this point of time which is looking at disruption as well as inclusiveness. We are going to witness more global players with the government's favourable FDI

policy and I think things have really changed in the last 2 years for the flexibility it has shown, and investors Canara HSBC Life Insurance are really looking at India as an investment destination." He added.

BC Patnaik, MD, Life Insurance Corporation of India said, "For an insurer, data is sacrosanct and unless we largest world economy and have a sanctity of data, there

country. India is a country which is underpenetrated and there is a lot of scope really focused on increasing in returns in terms of absolute terms in life insurance premium itself and there is a potential to reach 10 lakh crore at any point of time. For health, we are just at the tip of the iceberg at just 1%, some days we should be reaching around 5-6%.

G Srinivasan, Advisor, AS-SOCHAM National Council for Insurance & Director, National Insurance Academy said, "There is a mission to increase insurance penetration in our country. However, insurers are still to reach a large number of people and I think we still have a long way to go to deepen the insurance penetration. I think the customer experience is still a challenge. What we really need to do is to capture the imagination and mind space of customers.



tion will come from technology and data, which will really play a very important role in

"The next level of penetra- ality can really help in risk inspections, loss assistance. There's no need for people to go and assess losses. Blockachieving present customer chain can help in developexperience. Augmented re- ment insurance along with

technology known solutions action. The 30 crore, 40 crore and better customer experiences." He adds.

Addressing the gathering, Sarbvir Singh, CEO, Policy Bazaar said, "We are a unique country and when you think about it, insurance is the best possible solution compared to relatively higher income countries which have social security, but for India it is the most logical and a brilliant concept. It is actually cheaper in India compared to other countries globally, may it be Health Insurance, Term Insurance or any other insurance product it is much more affordable. So, terms are cheaper in India compared to Singapore. Health insurance is an amazing product and is relatively affordable. It

is completely networked till

the last step. In my opinion

products are not the prob-

lem. Actual problem is not

for better claims settlement or 50 crore population have the wallet, but still, they are not buying the volume they should have, for their own individual reasons. One of the first things that strikes you is awareness, there is always a concern that there is not enough awareness but in my opinion the awareness is only the surface, actual problem is not awareness actual problem is action. Action issue vs awareness issue. The only solution you have is to find ways to approach people in a segment of one.

Murali Urs, SecOps Leader, ServiceNow India said, 'In the insurance industry we are contributing in a very big way, we figure in the top 10 in every category of insurance but there is a great deal of risk, as all of data including Aadhar card, Pan card can be misused, and hence protection of the data is very awareness, the problem is important."

INTERNATIONAL

India receives wide praise at UNSC for counter-terror leadership, guiding 'Delhi Declaration' Germany relaxes Schengen visa rules for Indians

India has received wide praise for its leadership of the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and for guiding the adoption of the Delhi Declaration on fighting terrorists using emerging technologies at its special meeting in New Delhi.

"We welcome the adoption of the forward-looking Delhi Declaration and appreciate that it will serve as a non-binding benchmark for countering the new narratives of terrorists, " Security Council President Harold Adlai Agyeman said on Wednesday

"We thank the chair of the Committee and the government of India for hosting the committee's special meeting in October with a focus on countering new and emerging technologies for

Slain Indian-origin teen's father regrets moving to Canada



TORONTO: The father of 18 vear-old Mehakpreet Sethi, who was stabbed to death at a parking lot of a school in Surrey, has told a news channel that he regrets moving to Canada along with his children.

Sethi died in the hospital after being attacked with a knife by a 17 year-old student of Tamanawis Secondary School in the Newton area, on Tuesday.

"When I went to the hospi tal, the doctors told me that the weapon directly pierced his heart, which is why he died, " Harshpreet Sethi, Mehakpre-

et's father, told Omni Punjabi. The family moved from Dubai to Canada eight years back. They hail from Punjab's Faridkot district, the channel reported. "I came to Canada with the hope that my children will have a better future, they will be safe ... Now I am regretting why I came to this country along with my children, " Harshpreet said. Fighting back his tears, Harshpreet told the local TV channel that the attacker could have slapped him, hit his arm or legs, instead of taking his son's life. Police said



day meeting in Mumbai and terrorist purposes." The sentiment was echoed by representa-New Delhi -- a rare session away tives of several countries across the geographic and diplomatic spectrum, who spoke after the CTC chair, India's Permanent Representative Ruchira Kamboj, briefed the council on the

from the UN headquarters -where the Delhi Declaration was adopted. Held on the theme of fighting

terrorists' use of new and emerging technologies, the session focused on drones, financing and information and commu-

declaration set out measures countries should take to counter these developments.

China's Deputy Permanent Representative Geng Shuang said" "India as the chair of CTC hosted a special session this October and adopted the Delhi Declaration, thereby giving impetus to member states' efforts in better tackling the new counter-terrorism challenges."

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Deputy Permanent Representative Mohamed Abushahab said the Delhi Declaration "is a crucial contribution to our collective response to the threats discussed during the special meeting, including terrorists' deployment of unmanned aerial systems". The UAE ex-

nications technologies, and the presses "sincere gratitude" to India "for ensuring the committee's engagement on a wide range of regional and thematic issues, including

evolving threats", he said. Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative Anna Evstigneeva said the New Delhi meeting of the CTC 'was outstanding in terms of organisation". She said the array of experts at the meeting succeeded "in providing support to tackle the multifaceted tasks on the agenda of the committee and the council as a whole in counter-terrorism".

A delegate representing France said that through the special CTC session in New Delhi India "provided an opportunity to reflect on the evolutions of the terrorist threat".

Germany has relaxed its Schengen visa appointment rules with the country centralising its short-term visa processing at its centre in Mumbai.

"As a result of centralisation of Schengen visa (short term visa) processing in German Visa Centre Mumbai, we are pleased to inform about... relaxation regarding appointment bookings, "the German embassy said in a statement.

A short-stay Schengen visa allows one to visit Germany and other Schengen countries for a maximum of 90 days within a 180-day period.

This visa is issued in the form of a sticker affixed to the passport of the traveller. Appointments can be

booked and Schengen visa applications can be submit-

ted in all Visa Application Centres run by VFS Global all over India, regardless of your place of residence, " the Mission statement read.

"If the Application Centre closest to your home town is already fully booked, please feel free to check for available appointment slots in one of the other major Indian cities, it added.

The relaxation, however, does not apply to applications for national visas (D-visa cat-

The 53rd International Film Fes-

tival of India (IFFI) got off to a

panoramic start on November

Goa Governor P S Sreedharan

Pillai, while inaugurating the

IFFI 2002 at the Dr Syama

Prasad Mookerjee Indoor Sta-

dium, recalled the late Vice-

President S. Radhakrishnan's

words during the second IFFI

where he declared that the film

festival's two important objec-

tives were "national integration

Union Minister for Informa-

tion and Broadcasting, Youth

Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh

Thakur said the focus is on mak-

ing India a +powerhouse+ of

film content creation, especially

regional cinema by scaling up

regional festivals, in the coun-

try's transition from "Amrit

Mahotsav to Amrit Kaal" on

completion of its 100th year of

Earlier, M/s Signe Baume,

Director of the Latvia/USA/

Luxembourg animated feature

film "My Love Affair With Mar-

riage", noted that making this

film - a parody with sarcasm

-- provided her the opportunity

to use +science as a tool+ in

highlighting the story which is

e built 3-D sets and a

partly "fiction/life truths."

Independence.

and artistes' solidarity.'

DOMINICK RODRIGUES

Panjim

Goa

IFFI off to Panoramic Start with Global films

ployment or family reunion visas, the embassy stated. A Schengen visa application form may be submitted three

> travel date. The German Schengen Visa costs 80 euros (Rs 6, 700) for adults and 40 euros for minors, while work permits (or visas)

months prior to the intended

cost 75 eoros. Visa fee is waived for chil-

dren under six years of age. Earlier this year, the German National Tourist Office (GNTO) observed a 214 per cent year on year increase in Indian tourists arriving in Germany.

It said that the country accounted for 9 per cent of European trips of Indians, adding that 55 per cent of Indians visit Germany for leisure while 38 per cent travel for business.

Australia clears free trade agreement with India

Australia on Tuesday cleared the free trade agreement (FTA) with India as its Parliament has

The CTC held a special two-

committee's work.

approved the pact. Taking to Twitter, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said: "BREAKING: Our Free Trade Agreement with India has passed through Parliament."

The pact is likely to be implemented on a mutually agreeable date.

Government of Pakistan ap

pointed General Asim Munir

as new Army Chief, with the

appointment of the new Pakistan

Army chief General Asim Munir,

his predecessor General Qamar

Javed Bajwa's contentious six-

year tenure has come to an end.

The latter's last year as chief will

always be remembered for the

ouster of Imran Khan as prime

minister and the political turmoil

that followed it culminating in an

assassination attempt on Khan.

Pakistan and it would be inter-

esting to see how General Munir

would seek to resolve it. And

whether he would act neutral

in the true sense of the term in

The turmoil still prevails in

According to Australian law, Cooperation and Trade Agree-



tion by that country's parliament

The pact will enable duty-free the India-Australia Economic access for Australian products ment (AI-ECTA) needs ratifica- leather goods, jewellery etc.



before its implementation.

in India in sectors like textiles,



Union Commerce and Tex-

Australia on its part would offer zero duty access to Indian products, which currently attract customs duty to the tune of 4 to 5 per cent in that country.

Meta denies Mark Zuckerberg is set to resign next year

Meta (formerly Facebook) has denied reports that its founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg is resigning next year amid slow growth and massive layoffs at the social network.

The Leak portal first reported, citing its source privy to plans at Meta, that "Zuckerberg is set to resign next year". The report claimed that

tweeting that "This is false".

Despite serious concerns raised by investors and industry experts, Zuckerberg is determined to aggressively push his Metaverse dream. Earlier this month, in one

of the worst lay-offs ever in the tech industry, Zuckerberg sacked more than 11,000 employees -- about 13 per cent of the global workforce -- and extended hiring freeze through Q1 2023.

The company posted another quarterly revenue decline as investors begin to lose faith in its loss-making, billion-dollars

metaverse dream. In the third quarter (Q3), Meta's revenue declined 4 per cent year over year to hit \$27.7 oillion net income of \$4.39

down from \$9.194 billion year its "mojo back".



over year This decline was due to Meta's huge losses in Reality Labs, Meta's virtual reality division, which lost \$3.672 billion in Q3.

"There's still a long road ahead to build the next computing platform. But we're clearly doing leading work here. This is a massive undertaking and it's often going to take a few versions of each product before they become mainstream, "Zuckerberg had said

Meta CFO David Wehner, however, said that some of the revenue decline is due to inflation.

Meta investors have called on the company to reduce its workforce by at least 20 per cent and stop making investments in metaverse.

In a sharp criticism of Zuckerberg, Altimeter Capital Chair and CEO Brad Gerstner had said that the social network needs to reduce more billion. The company posted a headcounts and stop spending too much on me



Island of Lost Girls Thrills Adventurist Viewers

A unique entry at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2022 is "The Island of Lost Girls"—an adventure film that draws viewers into the marine environment to witness a struggle for survival by humans amidst nature's wild creatures. "Our film +The Island of Lost Girls+ is an film that highlights human and nature interacting in an adventurous manner with the girls struggling for survival amidst sea lions, elephant seals and other marine and land wildlife," said the U.S-based filmmaker couple Anne-Marie Schmidt and Brian Schmidt – parents of six rambunctious

in the rooms," she said while noting that this was a laborious process that involved the use of about 60,000 drawings. Urging for more personal stories to be highlighted in Indian films, Baume noted that such films needed to show



in August 2019 New Delhi revoked Article 370 that granted J&K an autonomous status under the Indian constitution within eight months, on the in-- albeit, it did raise diplomatic sistence of then Prime Minister ante which, in turn, achieved nothing. Pakistan also didn>t Imran Khan. So General Munir escalate militancy in Kashmir, is expected to not be sympathetic to Khan and rather be more as many analysts had warned. inclined to continue supporting A year after in a dramatic turn Shahbaz Sharif's government. of events Pakistan engaged in a back-channel dialogue with But under the circumstances when Khan has emerged as the India and by February 2020 the fight between the current most popular Pakistani leader, the two countries re-affirmed coalition government and Khan such an approach would mean

the 2003 ceasefire agreement who is currently leading a march continuing instability in the along Line of Control.

Zuckerberg has decided to step down himself and it will not "affect metaverse", his multi-billion dollar project. Andy Stone, Meta's Communications Director, refuted the report late on Tuesday,

Sethi and a 17-year-old boy that ended with the teen being stabbed. The suspect has been taken into custody after being identified by the witnesses. "What kind of upbringing his parents have given him (suspect)?" Harpreet asked, adding that it is not easy to bring up children for 18 years, and then lose them in an incident like this.

broke out

'Ordinary' Voice Shares **Untold Story of North Korean People**

San Francisco, November 22. 2022 — Humanitarian, movie producer and successful entrepreneur Joon Bai offers readers a rare glimpse inside the borders of North Korea in his engaging new memoir, Promises, in which he shares his extraordinary life story and the lessons he learned about courage, challenges and hope. From his early childhood

vears in what is now North Korea, Bai lived through the devastation of World War II and the Korean War, before finding his way to America as an exchange student. After earning his engineering degree and embarking on a successful career in business, he eventually opened his own factory in rural Pennsylvania, buoyed by the support of his beloved wife, Kyuhee, and his mother. Hard-won success at hand, Bai returned to North Korea to help farmers and children devastated by the country's ongoing famine, spending millions of dollars and

against the government To predict General Munir's future moves won't be easy but knowing where he comes from would certainly help. General Munir has been a close aide of General Javed Bajwa ever since he commanded troops in the Force Command Northern

Areas as a brigadier under the outgoing army chief, who was then Commander X Corps. He was later appointed Military Intelligence director general

in early 2017, and in October next year was made the Inter-Services Intelligence chief. However, his stint as the top

be the shortest ever, as he was replaced by Lt Gen Faiz Hamid the first aerial dogfight between status.

country in the run up to next year's national election. Khan, who sees his ouster as part of a regime-change conspiracy encouraged by the United States, has been demanding an early election.

However, beyond what General Asim does to resolve Pakistan's ongoing turmoil, it would be interesting to see his approach towards India and also vis-a-vis the situation in Kashmir. During Bajwa's term in office, Pakistan largely exercised restraint in its dealings with India. This despite the fact his term witnessed the 2019 intelligence officer turned out to Pulwama attack that killed over

passengers from both sides.

There are approximately 950,

spell of bonhomie between the two countries. Both the then Pakistan prime minister Khar and the Army chief Bajwa called for dialogue and resolving Kashmir in a peaceful manner. Bajwa even said that it was time for the two countries to "bury the past," and move on. India, however,

remained cool to these overtures. Pakistan wanted to place Kashmir at the front and centre of its dialogue with New Delhi which is unacceptable to the government in New Delhi led by prime minister Narendra Modi. Islamabad was also reported to asked India to restore Article 40 security personnel leading to 370 that granted J&K its special

Poland will receive support from the European Union recovery fund: PM Mateusz Morawiecki

WARSAW: Poland will receive support from the European Union (EU) post-pandemic recovery fund within a year and a half, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said.

"Our side is in ongoing talks and in ... a year or a year and a half, we will receive this money, which is why we have already started on certain projects which are being prefinanced by the Polish Devel-opment Fund, "Xinhua news agency quoted Morawiecki as

saying to the local media on Thursday

"Everything is going accord-

ing to plan, " he added. The prime minister also said Plan, which outlines how the Polish government will spend

photos whose characters moved to be a man or woman.'

that Poland and Hungary were in "completely different places when it comes to negotiating for EU funds", and were not working together on the issue.

Both countries are deeply euro-sceptic, and have been frozen out of the fund due to their respective disputes with Brussels

In early June, the European Commission (EC) approved Poland's National Recovery

the recovery fund. The approval opened the way for Warsaw to receive 23.9 billion euros (\$24.9 bil-

lion) in grants, and 11.5 billion euros in loans from the bloc's post-pandemic Recovery and Resilience Facility.

However, the EC has refused to grant Poland access to funding until it meets several conditions regarding the country's application of the rule-of-law.

Canadian MPs request for direct flights to Amritsar cancellations forced the federal

Given the demographic dominance of Sikhs and Punjabis in Canada, Conservative MPs have called upon the the country's flag carrier to establish direct flights between their country and Punjab state.

In a letter addressed to Air Canada, MPs Tim Uppal, Jasraj Singh Hallan, Bradley Vis and Mark Strahl called for direct flights between Canada and Amritsar to bolster tourism connected. "As Canadian MPs representing vast and diverse communities, we write to highlight the significant economic and social value in establishing direct flights between Canada and the state of Punjab, " the MPs wrote last week.

and empower families to stay ritsar, India, requiring travellers arduous". Canada recently announced an expanded air transport deal with India, allowing designated airlines to operate an unlimited number of flights between the two countries. But the pact gives Canadian

According to estimates, as many as five lakh passengers travel annually from India to Toronto alone, the majority of them Punjabis. The MPs stated that "direct flights between Canada and Amritsar would symbiotically bolster tourism, trade and empower families to

stay connected". There are currently no direct flights between Canada to Am-

family, friends and businesses to make multiple stops along, in Punjab. India is Canada's making the journey "lengthy and fourth-largest international air-

port market, and hundreds of thousands of Punjabis travel to the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Over 14, 000 Canadian citizens and permanent residents

joined an official parliamentary petition this year calling for the airlines access to Bengaluru, creation of a direct flight from Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Canada to Amritsar, the letter Kolkata and Mumbai, excluding noted. Amritsar, despite demands from

The MPs said that the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the significant need for flights from Amritsar directly to Canada.

000 Punjabis in Canada, accounting for roughly 2.6 per At the time of initial pancent of the country's population, demic lockdowns, when 30, as per the 2021 census. Many of 000 Canadians were in Inthese families have direct ties to dia, border closures and flight

government to instate 37 repatriation flights -- many directly out of Amritsar's Sri Guru Ram The Australian High Com-Das Ji International Airport to Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

"The pandemic has shown us that direct flights from Amritsar to Canada is both feasible for airlines and met by a high demand for travellers, "the letter read.

"So many of my constituents and Canadians have been asking our office for flights like these for vears. This will help our seniors, those most in need and parents of small children with access to direct flights, "MP Hallan, one of the signatories of the letter, wrote on Twitter.

According to media reports, Canadian Transport Minister Omar Alghabra has raised the issue with Indian counterparts. In India, MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney has also written a letter to Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia requesting him to commence direct flights

rant. under The

from Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal to Amritsar and Mohali airports.

Rajwinder Singh, the key suspect in 2018 murder of Australian woman, arrested in Delhi

FW DESK

mission had informed the declaration of reward of One Million Australian Dollars on the arrest of one Rajwinder Singh, an Indian-origin

Australian citizen, who had committed the gruesome murder of an Australian lady on 21/10/2018 in Queensland, Australia, and had been absconding ever since. INTER-POL had issued Red Corner Notice (RCN), Control No. A-2639/3-2021 regarding the said accused; the CBI/ INTERPOL, New Delhi had got issued a non-bailable war-

Extradition Act, against his name from the Patiala House Court on 21/11/2022. On 25/11/2022 at 06:00 hrs, based upon inputs shared by CBI/INTERPOL and Australian counterparts, in an intelligence-based operation, the accused was apprehended from near GT Karnal Road and arrested by Special Cell u/s 41(1) Cr PC. The accused and be subject to extradition proceedings to Australia.

The man was believed to be avoiding apprehension in the Punjab region in India since travelling to the country on 23 October, 2018. In March 2021, an extradition request was approved by the former Australian Attorney-General and presented to the Government of India who accepted the request. On 3 November, 2022, a \$1 million reward was announced by QPS and Police Minister Mark Ryan for information leading to the arrest of this man. Between 27 October and 8 November, 2022 QPS officers travelled to India and in conjunction with AFP New Delhi had direct engagement with Indian Law enforcement to share information with the intent to arrest the man.

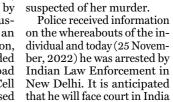
AFP Commander Transnational Operations Richard Chin said AFP investigators worked tirelessly with their state and international counterparts to ensure the man was apprehended to face extradition back to Australia.



is being produced before the concerned court as per law for

further proceedings. The joint media release with Australian Federal Police and Queensland Police Service The AFP in partnership with Queensland Police Service (QPS) has assisted Indian Law Enforcement in the arrest of a man wanted for the murder of a Queensland woman on 22 October, 2018.

The AFP Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (FAST) and AFP New Delhi have been actively assisting QPS in the search and arrest of the man





saving countless lives.

Actor Randeep Hooda's 'Cat' exposes how drug cartels penetrated Punjab

MUMBAI: Actor Randeep Hooda, is set to bring an intense and authentic story from Punjab with his upcoming crime thriller series 'Cat' This will be Randeep's second venture in the streaming space after 'Extraction, ' in which he shared the screen with Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth.

The trailer of the series was unveiled on Friday and it shows Randeep's character of Gurnam Singh, a simpleton, who is compelled to infiltrate the drug cartels of Punjab as he works for the police in a bid to save his brother.

While Gurnaam is not new to this, the stakes are high. this time around. He finds himself plunged into the dark world of politics, corruption and crime. The trailer is laced with drama, gore, thrill and brings together the world of

Indian men's hockey team faces Australia test ahead of World Cup



ADELAIDE: The Indian men's hockey team will get another chance to reassess its strength and weakness ahead of the World Cup when it squares off against world number one Australia in a fivematch series, starting here on Saturday. It has always been a herculean task for India to challenge the might of the Australians, who are dominant force in World hockey. It will be the first time they meet since Australia thrashed India 7-0 in the CWG final in Birmingham. World No.5 India will clearly start as underdogs against the Kookaburras though Graham Reid's team has been a force to reckon with since winning a historic bonze in the Tokyo Olympics last year. India are coming into the match after two victories against New Zealand and mixed results (1W, 1L) against Spain in Bhubaneswar in the fresh FIH Pro League season. Both Spain and New Zealand are lower-ranked sides -- at eighth and ninth respectively -- and facing Australia at home will be an altogether different proposition for the Indian side. Talking about the series. India head coach Reid said. "There is no better place to come than Australia for preparation for the World Cup.



Punjab's underbelly, politics, police and drug lords.

Commenting on the occasion of trailer release, Randeep said: "Gurnaam Singh is fierce yet calm, he is strong yet fragile

and while you will find a familiarity with this character, you will not be able to guess his next move. I am thoroughly excited with 'Cat' and that Balli

as a story of relationships - be it family, friendship or deceit! It's a story set in Punjab and explores two timelines as well as the underbelly and its complexities through well defined characters. "We've shot in over 80 locations across Punjab to bring

authenticity and flavour to the fore. Working on 'Cat' has been a rewarding journey and I can't wait for the audience to experience it, " he added. (Balwinder Singh Janjua, the

Ready to return to directing, Bollywood actor Anupam Kher

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher, whose this year's credits include successful Indian films - 'Kashmir Files', 'Karthikeya 2' and 'Uunchai', says he is ready to return behind the camera. Speaking to 'Variety' on the

side-lines of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Kher said, "I would love to direct. After a long time, a story has come to me. My niece is autistic and I have a story about a grandfather and his autistic granddaughter who live to-

gether. I have a rough structure already. Once I write the script,

KULBIR SINGH KALSI

Chandigarh



year or next year.

Such a move would come twenty years after his feature directing debut, 2002's 'Om Jai Jagadish', reports Variety.

TAC Security CEO Trishneet Arora meets

of Tamil horror 'Connect' (De-I may start by the end of this cember 2022), in which Kher Canada and India, "Kher said.

US Vice President Kamala Harris

plays a priest conducting an exorcism via Zoom.

creator) has brought authenticity and genuineness to each

Created and helmed by filmmaker Balwinder Singh

Janjua, the series goes beyond

the romanticised version of

Punjab and puts forth a story

of a brother's love, remission

winder Singh Janjua shares, "Cat' is a very unique story

and I am glad we could col-

laborate with Netflix to bring

this story to life. As a writer

and director, I will define 'Cat'

Speaking about his foray into direction, creator Bal-

and every scene.'

and espionage.

He's also on board to start shooting Canadian filmmaker Eisha Marjara's 'Calorie', which was in the Co-Production Market at Film Bazaar in 2016.

Produced by Joe Balass of Compass Productions and Filmoption International, it is an inter-generational story of three women whose past lives collide during an emotionally-packed summer trip to India. "It's a very good script. Unfortunately, it has been delayed, but I will shoot for that. It will be filmed in

POTPOURRI

SGPC did not give permission to run **Dastaan-E-Sirhind** film

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has clarified that no approval has been given by the Sikh body to run a film namely Dastaan-E-Sirhind SGPC spokesperson Harbhajan Singh Vakta issued an official statement saying that the SGPC takes a decision only after a thorough review of every aspect of any film related to Sikh history, hence no approval has been given to run the film Dastaan-E-Sirhind. He said the matter of Dastaan-E-Sirhind film is connected to the religious sentiments of Sangat, therefore, the SGPC is mindful. The SGPC statement has

been issued after receiving some questions about whether the Sikh body has given any approval to the said film or not.

Season 2 of school drama 'Crushed' to have more twists and turns



drama 'Crushed' announced on Thursday promises more twists and turns as teenagers come to grips with adulthood.

Amazon miniTV - Amazon's free video streaming service is set to stream the second season of the series from December 2. Created by Dice Media (Pocket Aces), the series will feature showrunner Akshata Samant, Aadhya Anand, Naman Jain and Urvi Singh, among others. Directed by Mandar Kurundkar and written by Tatsat Pandey, Abhinav Vaidya, Sankalp Raj Tripathi, Akshata Samant being the showrunner, Dice Media. The show will take everyone through the lives of Aadhya (Aadhya Anand), Jasmine (Urvi Singh), and Prateek (Naman Jain)

The second season of school lows of adolescent love. In the second season of Crushed, these youngsters will be facing their future and evolving as individuals as fate presents new challenges in their lives. Facing roadblocks that challenge their friendship, love, and all other relationships they build. Season 2 of Crushed promises high entertainment and drama throughout. Commenting on the launch of Crushed Season 2, Aadhya Anand shared, "The last season was incredibly successful and got so much love and adulation from the audiences. The second season of Crushed will show how our characters evolve as individuals while preparing for the board exams. I hope that the viewers will love the new season just a little more than they loved

164 64 sec-6-secure, 2 168 64 de, with 8 geber 14e years

Urvashi Rautela's airport look along with a Fendi Sunshine Tote Bag



Urvashi Rautela, Bollywood's to enhance her looks. The acyoungest superstar is welltress was wearing a gorgeous known for her fashion choices. outfit that let her long, toned The stunning actor is widely adored for her brave and edgy sensational and radiant in her sartorial choices. She has unglamorous outfit as she strikes questionably established the most stylish example for Gen Z women. Recently, the gorgeous celebrity was sighted at the Mumbai airport, where she once more won the hearts of her admirers with her fashionable clothes.

Urvashi was seen wearing a body-hugging, full-sleeved, black iki chicstylish mini dress with a square neckline and silver tassels at the bottom. The garment cost about 30, 000. Urvashi selected a straightforward cosmetic style

a candid pose. She paired her look with a Fendix Versace Gold Baroque & FF Motif Fendace Sunshine Tote Bag worth 5 lakhs. She wore a Chanel bracelet, earrings, and sunglasses to complete the ultra-chic set, with the accessories alone costing 3 lakhs. the entire airport look costed worth 8.5 lakhs. There is

egs stand out. Urvashi looks

no question in our minds that she looks amazing and amazes us. She welcomed her admirers and the photographers in a very beautiful and happy manner. Anupam Kher, Kay Kay Menon

It was a heart- warming moment for 29-year old Trishneet Arora, the founder and CEO of TAC Security, when he met Indian origin US Vice President Kamala Harris in Albuquerque recently. Two iconic personalities with common Indian roots discussed ways and means to tackle cyber security challenges effectively. TAC Security has

its corporate office at Mohali in other parts of India and US. He tweeted, "Glad to have them.

met the Vice President Kanear Chandigarh and offices mala Harris during my recent visit to the United States. @ The young entrepreneur VP is empowering women expressed his joy through a across the world and stands tweet after meeting Harris. as a strong inspiration for

dent of the United States of America. She is empowering women across the world and stands as a strong inspiration for them. I shared my vision to deal with the menace of cyber security with her, which has snowballed into a serious global challenge with US Vice President Kamala Harris," said Trishneet. Talking about cyber chal-

lenges, he said that as the world is going through a larger shift to digitalization, cyber security is at the centre stage of it. Global cyber security concerns are even more profound now.

"I am profusely honoured to have met the Vice Presi-

and enjoyed the last one.

Actress Khushboo Atre credits her obsession with sports as her secret to fitness

Cinema and sports go hand in love, which is 'Sports'. hand in more ways than one, of Bollywood actors indulge

Khushboo has worked in and there is no denying the many series and movies and fact that one activity that a lot will be next seen in the movie, "Cansule Gill. ' working along



highly active and sportsoriented. She also served

criticise Richa Chadha's 'Galwan says hi' tweet

NCIAL WORLD

Read & Lead

as captain of her college's cricket team. We would love MUMBAI: Actors Anupam Kher, i sports enthusiast are the latest cine personalities in a sports film. On the work front, to criticise Richa Khushboo has had promi-Chadha over her nent roles in movies and comment on the series like Criminal Justice 2020 deadly Galwan Valley clash. season 2, Raazi, Illegal, Shamitabh, and Vodka Di-Chadha, in her now deleted tweet, had written "Galwan aries. Currently, the actress s shooting for Bollywood says hi" in response to the Northern films, and she just com-Army Commander Lt General Uppleted the shooting for one endra Dwivedi's statement that the of them, which is Capsule Indian Army is "waiting for orders Gill along with Akshay Kufrom the govt (sic)" in reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

as they experience the highs and

Before that, he will close out this year with the release



Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit confers a degree to students in presence of Vice Chancellor Dr Jaspal Singh Sandhu during the 48th annual convocation of Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar on Friday. PHOTO: PRABH.IOT GILL

in is sports. Fitness plays a key role in every B-town actor's life, indulging in sports is a great source of fitness and a medium for them to improve their personal and interpersonal values. Many Bollywood celebrities are currently keen sportspersons, one of whom is Khushboo Atre. The actress is known for her character Ratna in criminal justice. And now she talks about her second

with Parineeti Chopra and Akshay Kumar. The actress now shares her thoughts about her second love, besides acting. She says, "As actors, we have long sched-ules and hectic days at work; and playing a sport is also an extremely effective stressbuster. "Fitness is a crucial component of a healthy lifestyle, as we all know. I view sports as a healthy way of life

is a voyage of self-control, relaxation, and mental peace." Khushboo has also been

an avid sportsperson since and believe in staying fit. It she was in school. She was

Kashmir and Bollywood -A never ending love story

SRINAGAR: The love story between Kashmir and Bollywood began way back in 1949 when Raj Kapoor shot parts of his film 'Barsaat' in the Valley, taking its beauty to a wider audience. Ever since, the Kashmir Valley became the focus area of many film producers.

In the 60s and 70s, several Bollywood films, including 'Kashmir Ki Kali' (1964), 'Jab Jab Phool Khile' (1965) and 'Bobby' (1973), among many others, were shot in Kashmir. The songs of these films remained favourites for generations to come.

Not only this, there are many places in Kashmir which are known by movie names or characters, like the landmark 'Bobby Hut' in Gulmarg, where the song of the super hit movie 'Bobby' -- 'Hum tum ek kamray main...' -- was filmed, or the 'Betab Valley' in Pahalgam where the Sunny Deol-Amrita Singh starrer 'Betaab' was shot.

This beautiful relationship between Kashmir and Bollywood lasted until Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 'Khamosh' in 1985, after which the unfortunate



circumstances that ensued due to terrorism in the region brought a temporary end to this love story. Bollywood made a jaan", and Zaira Wasim, who comeback to the Valley post acted in Aamir Khan's "Dangal" 2000, when films like 'Mission and "Secret Superstar", among Kashmir' and 'Haider' were shot others. Film screening also got a in Kashmir. This relationship is boost in the region this year with also unique because this time Lieutenant Governor Manoj the subject of these films was Sinha inaugurating cinema halls not the beauty of the Valley, in Srinagar, Shopian and Pulwama districts. Also, a new film but Kashmir itself. policy has been implemented in

During the last few years, many popular Bollywood films and web series have been shot in Kashmir, while many local actors also rose to prominence. of the UT.

Notable among them are Mir Sarwar, who acted in films like "Qaisari" and "Bajrangi Bhai-

Nawazuddin said that after graduating from a college, he worked as a chemist in a petrochemical company for a short while. However, to fulfil the dream of becoming an actor, he got associated with theatre. Eventually, he got admitted to the National School of Drama Kashmir, besides the announce-(NSD) in Delhi.

ment by Sinha about opening Responding to a question on how 'Gangs of Wasseypur' cinema halls in every district turned out to be a turning point

Nawazuddin Siddiqui: Initially accepted small roles for survival **PANAJI**: While recalling

the journey of becoming ac tor, Nawazuddin Siddiqui on Tuesday said that initially, he accepted small roles for survival as he had no other alternative. He was speaking on the topic

- 'Journey as an Actor' in International Film Festival of India, underway in Goa.

"I was offered small roles which I accepted for survival then. I had no other alternative. But I never got disappointed. It is the difficult time that makes you strong, " he said. He said "if you have to begin from zero, you have to first unlearn what you have learnt". Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who has appeared in some of Bollywood's major films such as 'Black Friday', 'New York', 'Peepli Live', 'Kahani', and 'Gangs of Wasseypur', spoke about struggles and challenges

in his acting career, he said that the movie made him believe in himself. "I was confident that my struggles will get over after this and people will appreciate

this movie, "he said. Nawazuddin also shared his experience of working in web-series on Netflix and other OTT platforms. He said that initially he was

hesitant to work in series on OTT platforms as he had no idea about them. However, Anurag Kashyap

convinced him for working on these platform. It is to be noted that Sacred Games web-series turned out to be a big hit on Netflix.

Nawazuddin also shared his words of wisdom on playing versatile roles in biopic 'Manto', where he played role of prominent Urdu author Saadat Hasan Manto, and 'Thackeray', in which he played the role of Bal Thackeray.



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mar and Parineeti Chopra. A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

