

REGION

2



HEALTH MINISTER OF PUNJAB ORDERS 108 AMBULANCE COMPANY TO MAKE SERVICES MORE EFFICIENT

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

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EXPORT OF CARPETS MANUFACTURED IN INDIA IN 70 COUNTRIES HAVE 40 PER CENT SHARE

POTPOURRI

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CM MANN HONOURS LPU STUDENTS WITH TROPHY AT PUNJAB'S INTER-UNIVERSITY YOUTH FESTIVAL

Punjab government puts brakes on Badal family buses

CHANDIGARH: Taking another important decision to root out the private bus mafia from the state, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government has ended the monopoly of private buses owned by Badal family and other private bus mafia on the inter-state routes. Transport Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, while confirming the development on Tuesday, informed that the 'Punjab Transport Scheme-2018', which was formulated by the Congress government to give benefits to Badal family and other private bus mafia, has been amended. Under this scheme, the entry of private Volvo buses into Chandigarh was made intact, which led to the sheer loot of the state exchequer at a large-scale. "The Badal family during its government's two tenures from 2007 to 2017, created various schemes to fulfill their personal interests, in which the Congress government also helped the Badals in running their transport businesses smoothly, including one of inter-state



movement of their AC buses to Chandigarh," said Laljit Singh Bhullar. The Transport Minister said, "Punjab Transport Scheme-2018" has been amended to "Punjab Transport (Amendment) Scheme-2022". With the amendment of Serial No: B in Clause No-3

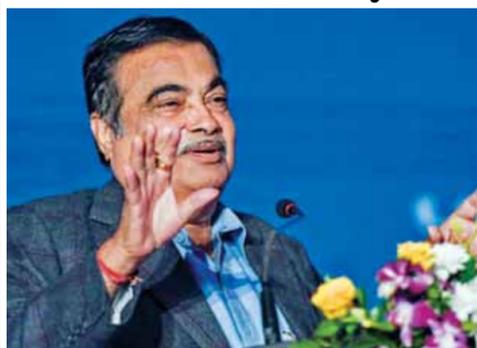
of the scheme, now only state transport undertaking buses can enter Chandigarh with their 100 per cent share. The insertion titled with "Inter-State Route" in the Gazette notification reads, "With the seating capacity of 39 or more, with the further condition that air-conditioned stage carriages shall be run

only by the state transport undertakings only out of their overall share in each category." Cabinet Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, while training guns at Badal family for plundering the state exchequer for their personal gain and providing benefits illegitimately to their associates

The Badal family during its government's two tenures from 2007 to 2017, created various schemes to fulfill their personal interests, in which the Congress government also helped the Badals in running their transport businesses smoothly, including one of inter-state movement of their AC buses to Chandigarh"

by forming Schemes arbitrarily, asserted that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann-led government will not allow to fulfill the vested interests of Badals and their powerful associates at the sake of state exchequer.

By 2024, Indian Roads to match US Standards, says Nitin Gadkari



Union Road Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said that logistics cost, which is 16 per cent of GDP presently, will fall to single digits, by 2024. "It is going to help us get more exports", the Minister said, adding that now is the time to increase our business and presence in the international market. The Minister further stated that before 2024 ends, India's road infrastructure would be equal to the US standards. The Minister was addressing the annual convention and 95th AGM of FICCI. Gadkari said that India is the fastest growing major econo-

my in the world and is all set to achieve \$5 trillion GDP by 2024-25. He said India is on the path to building an inclusive Bharat by following the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi by boosting investment, economic growth, and employment creation to achieve sustainable development. However, "we need to have cooperation, coordination and communication between all stakeholders", he said. In addition, Gadkari noted the research in battery chemistry and said, "We should be the leaders in the sector". He added that the government aims to double the automobile sector to Rs 15

lakh crore. "This will create new jobs and make India one of the biggest automobile manufacturers in the world." Moreover, underscoring the importance of sustainability in the construction sector, he noted, "We are trying to minimise the use of cement and steel in construction work by adopting substitutes like fly ash, oil slag, waste plastics, demolition waste." Minister Gadkari invited FICCI to prepare a comprehensive growth plan for the next fifty years for all sectors. On the occasion, Sanjiv Mehta, President, FICCI, noted that the "all-inclusive, all-pervasive, and all-round development initiatives" of the government are transforming India, with each step bringing the nation closer to Aatmanirbhar Bharat. He added that the National Logistics Policy would be instrumental in creating an integrated pathway towards economic development. Moreover, he said, "the increased spending on infrastructure development is leading to a multiplier effect in rejuvenating the aggregate demand in the economy." "Infrastructure construction alone has the potential to contribute 25 per cent of incremental growth in non-farm jobs by 2030", he added.

Jammu and Kashmir introducing unique IDs for each family

The Jammu and Kashmir administration will allot the families in the union territory a unique alpha-numeric code. According to the officials quoted by the PTI, the database called JK Family ID will be used to determine eligibility of beneficiaries of various social welfare schemes. "Once the data in the JK Family ID database is authenticated and verified, a beneficiary will not be required to submit any more document to avail a service," Prerna Puri, the commissioner secretary of the Information Technology Department of Jammu and Kashmir, told PTI. The move is part of the "Digital J&K Vision Document" unveiled by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The Bharatiya Janata Party has hailed the move but the other parties have raised privacy concerns.

Defeat forces bent on breaking Sikh institutions: Sukhbir Badal

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today appealed to the Sikh community to defeat forces bent on breaking Sikh institutions and wresting control over them by installing their puppets at top positions. Talking to media after participating in the 102nd anniversary of the SAD during the course of which he participated in the 'Ardas' (prayer) following completion of Akhand Path at Gurdwara Shaheed Baba Gurbaksh Singh ji in the Sri Akal Takht Sahib complex, the SAD (Badal) president said it was unfortunate that the centre wanted to install its rubber stamps as heads of Sikh institutions. He asserted that no one should interfere in the internal matters of the community. "We have a right to religious freedom. It should be respected". He stated that the SAD had always trodden the path shown by the Guru Sahiban and would continue to work on the maxim of 'sarbat da bhal'. "We know there can



be progress in Punjab only if there is respect for all religions and communities and we are committed to taking everyone together to achieve this". Answering a query, he said the law and order situation had collapsed completely and that the SAD was holding a meeting of its core committee tomorrow to decide on the next course of action to force the AAP government to wrest control of the State from the hands of gangsters. He detailed how he had visited many families affected by the recent spate of extortions and killings and been told that the police force was completely ineffective. "Investment has already stopped coming into Punjab. Even ordinary businessmen are shifting base to Haryana. Extortion calls have become a norm and people are too afraid to go to the police. Such a state of affairs has never been

witnessed in Punjab". In reply to another question, he said it was shameful that Transport minister Laljit Singh Bhullar had referred to all transporters as mafia. He said Punjabis had excelled in the transport sector in the country and even abroad. "They have done so by the dint of their hard work". He said it was condemnable that they were being tagged as 'mafia', a word associated with criminals. Speaking about the utterances of the Transport minister against the transport companies of the Badal family, he said "our family has been working in the transport sector since independence. Never have we been accused of any illegal activity. Attempts have been made by the erstwhile Transport minister Raja Warring and the present government also to stop our buses from plying but we have got relief from the High court. Now also we will serve a legal notice to the Transport minister for implying we are indulging in illegal activity and follow all legal remedies to ensure justice it done to us.

Congress wants discussion on clashes with China in RS, LS

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday moved notices in both Houses of Parliament on clashes with Chinese PLA at Arunachal border. Party MP Manish Tewari has given an adjournment notice in the Lok Sabha while Syed Naeer Hussain has given notice for a short duration discussion in the Rajya Sabha. Tewari in the notice said, "I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the grave border situation with China emerging from the Tawang sector in Arunachal Pradesh. These clashes took place at a nullah along the LAC near a point called the Yangtze in Eastern Tawang." "At least 6 of our soldiers have been reportedly injured and taken to Guwahati for treatment. There are also concerns about major gaps in military deployment in certain border areas of Arunachal Pradesh. These clashes are in addition to what has been happening in Eastern Ladakh where, despite multiple rounds of talks, 16 in total till 30 November 2022, China has vehemently refused to vacate areas it reportedly occupied after the



major clash on May 5, 2020. The crises in areas such as Depsang and Demchok remain unresolved. Locals that had hitherto travelled to the Charding La-Nilung Nalla Junction have been denied access by the Chinese." The notice says, "China has, in the meantime, built substantial military infrastructure all across the Line of Actual Control. China is unwilling to restore the status quo ante in Eastern Ladakh, a situation that puts India at a massive disadvantage. I, therefore, urge the Government to inform the House of the situation in Tawang Arunachal Pradesh and the overall border situation with China because it concerns India's sovereignty and independence.

Chinese troops approached the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh last week, but Indian troops firmly contested their way, leading to a clash between the two, sources said on Monday. Although no loss of life or major injuries were reported, some Indian and Chinese troops received minor injuries during this clash, a source said. It is the first physical clash between the two armies since August 2020 in eastern Ladakh. There was another incident in October 2021 at Yangtze, 35 km northeast of Tawang, where the Chinese attempted to get access to the top of 17,000 feet peak was thwarted and the area is now under snow and will remain so till March.

Drug smuggled from Pak seized



JAGMOHANSINGH
Amritsar

Border security Force has seized heroin at Indo-Pak border which was smuggled to India from Pakistan side. In a statement issued here today, BSF official stated that on 14th Dec at about 2125 hrs, Border Security Force troops deployed at border heard buzzing sound of drone entering from Pakistan into Indian Territory in the area falling near Village - Daoke in District - Amritsar. As per drill, the troops tried to intercept the drone by fire. The whole area was cordoned and Police and concerned sister agencies were informed. Further, during search BSF troops recovered 01 Packet of contraband suspected to be heroin (Gross wt - 4.490 kg) wrapped with yellow tape near Village - Daoke. Further detail search of the area is in progress.

Raghuram Rajan Ex-RBI Governor joins Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Rajasthan



JAIPUR: Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan on Wednesday joined Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Rajasthan. Rahul Gandhi had a more than half-an-hour discussion with Rajan during the yatra, which resumed this morning from Bhadoti of Sawai Madhopur. Rajan is known for keeping a frank opinion on economic issues. Both put forth their views on the economic issues for a documentary. Raghuram Rajan was the Governor of the Reserve Bank

of India during the second term of the UPA and the initial years of the Modi government. Officials confirmed that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra will have a week-long break after crossing the Rajasthan-Haryana border. There will be a break in travel from December 24 to January 2. Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said that on December 16, on the completion of 100 days of the yatra, Rahul Gandhi will go to Jaipur. All the passengers will participate in Sunidhi Chauhan's music event there.

No separate law yet to regulate digital media, says IT Ministry

NEW DELHI: There is no proposal yet to enact a separate law to regulate the digital media, and the matter is currently under consideration, said the Ministry of Electronics and IT on Friday. To help achieve the aim of making Internet Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable and to regulate the intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, and in exercise of powers conferred by the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Central Government has made the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, said the Ministry in a written reply to Rajya Sabha on Friday. These rules cast specific obligation on intermediaries to observe diligence and provide that if they fail to observe such diligence, they shall no longer be exempt from their liability under law for third-party information or data or communication link hosted by them, it said.



Such diligence includes informing the said rules to their users to make reasonable efforts to cause the users not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share, among others, information, including information published by digital media on the intermediary platform or such information shared on it by other users, which is unlawful, prohibited by law in relation to India's sovereignty and integrity, security of the State, public order, contempt of court etc., upon receiving actual knowledge in the form of an order by a court or being notified by the government under the provisions of the IT Act.

It also includes to not host, store or publish any information, including information published by digital media on the intermediary platform or such information shared on it by other users, which is unlawful, prohibited by law in relation to India's sovereignty and integrity, security of the State, public order, contempt of court etc., upon receiving actual knowledge in the form of an order by a court or being notified by the government under the provisions of the IT Act.

Delhi HC reserves order on plea opposing permission to Sikhs to carry kirpans on flights

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday reserved its order on a plea opposing the permission given to Sikhs to carry kirpans while travelling on civilian flights in India. The plea, filed in a form of public interest litigation (PIL) by lawyer Harsh Vibhore Singh, challenges the Centre's notification issued on March 4 allowing Sikh passengers to carry kirpans having blade length of no more than six inches and total length of no more than nine inches while travelling anywhere in India. A division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramoni Prasad said: "Arguments heard. Order reserved. We will pass an appropriate order." "How can we interfere with such a policy decision? We can't interfere. It is a policy decision of the government of India," it said. The petitioner claimed that a committee of stakeholders should be constituted to apply its mind to the issue. At this, the court said: "Your mind might not be the government's mind. Therefore when



the government has applied its mind and has come with a policy, we ought not to interfere unless it is so arbitrary." The court also refused to entertain submissions by certain parties as their applications were not on record. The plaintiff said that he is not questioning the rights of Sikhs but only wants the stakeholders to examine the issue. He said: "I admit that Article 25 allows the carriage of a kirpan. But when you are flying, the regulator must apply its mind. I want a constitution of a committee of stakeholders to examine the issue. If the committee feels that the notification is good, so be it. Not a problem." Defending his argument, he added that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has not formulated the policy but was only following what the government has said.

Haryana Chief Minister approves merger of 20 departments to improve its efficiency

SATISH HANDA

In a meeting held at Chandigarh on Wednesday Haryana cabinet led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter approved to reorganize merging as many as 20 departments to 10 for improvement in government efficiency. According to a spokesman of state government the action is being taken in a bid to bring synergy in functioning of various government departments and streamlining of the work. It was decided to merge and re-organize some departments having similar nature of work in order to improve administrative efficiency. Haryana Cabinet led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter approved this re-organization and merger of various departments on Wednesday.

However, no staff cadres will be merged at present to avoid



legal complications of seniority of some of the officers as well as staff members in various departments. The government spokesperson said that as per the decision the departments of New and Renewable Energy will be merged with Power department and will be renamed as Department of Energy. Similarly, the decision

was taken to merge Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, Social Justice and Empowerment Department now to be name as a new department as Department of Social Justice, Empowerment, Welfare of SCs and BCs and Antyodaya. Decision was taken as regard Department of Higher Education,

Technical Education, Science and Technology to be merged into a single department named as Department of Higher Education in which portfolios of few ministers in the state including Chief Minister himself, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chauhan and Home Minister Anil Vij may be changed on the suggestion by Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal. As regard Archaeology and Museums Department has now been merged with Tourism Department now to be renamed as Department of Heritage and Tourism. As per decision Forests and Wildlife Department and Department of Environment and Climate Change have been now merged into a single department to be known as Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife. Similarly, Art and Culture Department has been merged with Information, Public

Relations and Languages Department renamed as Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department. Youth Affairs component of the Sports Department has been merged with the Skill Development, Industrial Training Department and Employment Department to be renamed as Department of Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship. Meanwhile, Department of Electronics and Information Technology has been dissolved and the electronics manufacturing and private IT have been merged with the Industries and Commerce Department. The existing work of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology has been allocated to different departments whereas the work related to the IT Industry has been reallocated to the Industries Department.

Corrupts in govt officers, staff in Haryana on SVB, CID & CM's radar for action

SATISH HANDA

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter during 'Jan-sanvad' program held at Sonapat recently while listening to the public grievances received large number of complaints about officers as well as staff working in different government offices in the state either taking no action or delaying the same for one reason or the other unless their demands for bribe are fulfilled as such he took a serious view saying that that such corrupt officers as well as staff working in government offices in the state will not be spared at any cost. Chief Minister said that officers and staff demanding bribe and should be informed for taking action against such corrupts. On a complaint against an assistant working in Additional Deputy Commissioner office chief minister suspended him at the spot. Expressing deep concern Chief Minister took action in several cases at the spot while listening to the complaints against government employees when he was told by few complainants that junior staff working in government offices usually say that the bribe amount has to be remitted to senior bureaucrats as well as up to chief minister.

When talking to media persons, Chief Minister said that stern action will be taken against officers and staff working in government offices involved in corrupt practices or are in the habit of delaying public cases for self vested



interest for which Shatrughit Kapoor chief of State Vigilance Bureau and Alok Mittal chief CID in the state have been directed to take strict action against such corrupts harassing public unable to fulfill their demand for bribe. Khatter told media persons that State Vigilance Bureau and CID have already prepared a list of corrupt officers and the staff working in government offices to take action against them and push behind bars.

Chief Minister disclosed that nearly half dozen IAS, IPS officers as well as large number of employees working in government offices in the state and the mobile phones of suspected persons involved in corrupt practices are on the radar of State Vigilance Bureau as well as CID have been authorized to take strict action against them and in case of senior bureaucrats take action against them after seeking permission from Chief Secretary Haryana. Khatter told media persons that complaints as regard brokers are active and mushrooming in few government offices and police stations, especially in industrial towns Faridabad, Gurugram and Panipat and a list of such agents has also been prepared in these districts along with other districts in the state for taking action against them.

Chandigarh Lit Fest, Literati22 on 16-18 December



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

The 10th edition of Literati, the Chandigarh International Literature Festival, begins on Friday, 16th December Lake, in collaboration with the Chandigarh Administration, Chandigarh SahityaAkademi, Haryana SahityaAkademi, and Haryana Government.

Dr. Sumita Misra, chairperson of the Chandigarh Literary Society (CLS) said that nearly 35 authors with English, Hindi, and Panjabi sessions featuring some of the celebrated authors from India and abroad including the well-known author and former CEO of Procter & Gamble, Gurcharan Das; South African author of Indian origin, Aman Singh Maharaj; Bollywood actor Divya Dutta; Rasheed Kidwai, renowned Panjabi Poet Surjit Patar; Chandigarh SahityaAkademi Chairperson Madhav Kaushik, writer Neelesh Kulkarni, award-winning poet Sudeep Sen, writer Rana Safvi and Vikram Sampath among others.

The CLS Literati 2022 shall begin with a mega kavisammellan at the Indraprastha Auditorium Panchkula on the evening of 16th December, which shall be inaugurated by the Hon'ble CM, Haryana. The event, which is being organized with the support of Haryana SahityaAkademi and the Directorate of Public Relations and Cultural Affairs, Haryana, will be led by the famous poet and humorist Surender Sharma and several other noted Hindi poets with the aim to celebrate Haryanvi culture through the region's literature, humor, and wit.

Four officers of HUDA arrested accepting bribe



SATISH HANDA Karnal

Team of State Vigilance Bureau Karnal busted a racket of four officers including a female working in Haryana Urban Development Authority at Karnal allegedly accepting bribe for issuing completion certificate of building structures. The four arrested by the vigilance team were identified as in-charge Property Officer, a Junior Engineer Pardhuman Singh and a female officer Shashi Bala arrested by the police on August 31 this year while accepting Rs 50000 bribe at the residence of Junior Engineer in Sector 13, Karnal when issued completion certificate. During search police recovered amount worth Rs 20 lakh from his residence collected as bribe in several cases. On the statement of Junior Engineer police registered a case against Property Officer and female officer also.

State Vigilance Bureau team on a clue on Tuesday arrested Architect Varun Dutt working in the office of Haryana Urban Development Authority at Karnal on Tuesday on whose report completion certificates of buildings were issued while accepting bribe with the involvement of Deed Writer. Investigation by State Vigilance Bureau revealed that the racket of four in the office used to get bribe amount between Rs 30000 to 40000 for issuing a completion certificate to be shared by all alleged accused.

7 held for beating, parading man nude on roads at Sirsa



SATISH HANDA Sirsa

It was shocking when a youth Vishal resident of Mela Ground Sirsa was mercilessly beaten, stripped paraded him nude all over on the roads by a group of seven persons led by a youth Sanju mastermind in the case running hair dressing saloon at Parslu Ram Chowk at Sirsa over some old dispute on Tuesday late evening. Surprisingly, in-spite of policemen standing nearby no one came for rescue the victim. A case was registered against seven persons involved in beating the victim already arrested identified as the prime accused Sanju, Yash, Gagandeep, Kamal, Jashan, Bhavdeen and Karan presently under police custody. Meanwhile SP Sirsa Dr Arpit Jain suspended in-charge police station and sent him to line. The investigation in the case was handed over to Sadhu Ram DSP. Seven people were arrested on Wednesday on charges of thrashing and parading 24-year-old man naked in busy market over an some old dispute, DSP said, the accused made the video of the incident and the same went viral.

Self-help groups of Punjab, Himachal and Chandigarh got recognition in PITEX

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The women's self-help groups at the ongoing Punjab International Trade Expo in Amritsar has got a new identity. Currently, self-help groups of women from Punjab, Chandigarh and Himachal have reached Pitex with the help of SIDBI. Women belonging to these groups are selling their own products.

RS Sachdeva, Chair, Punjab Chapter, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in a statement to media here today that 30 stalls have been booked for the first time with the support of SIDBI, where women self-help



groups have brought their products. Harjinder Kaur, President of Udan Self Help Group Gurdaspur, said that earlier, while women were limited to house hold work, now rural women are

coming forward as entrepreneurs, her group is making handmade items of Phulkari and Woollen. Neelam Verma from Solan (Himachal) who runs RS food product group, said that her

husbands always wanted her to be financially independent, she not only made her husband's dream come true but also made other women independent. She arrived in Pitex with chutney, marmalade, pickles etc.

Sunita, who arrived here from Chandigarh with jewellery made of stone. She and her women associates are making and selling stone ornaments as per the demand. On this occasion, SIDBI

General Manager Balbir Singh and Assistant Manager Himanshu Sharda Jaiswal said that workshops are being organized to make women and men groups self-reliant through self-reliance fairs organized by SIDBI.

Four drug smugglers arrested with heroine worth, Nigerian drug smuggler sentenced imprisonment, fine

SATISH HANDA Ambala

CIA Staff-2 as well as ANC teams of Ambala police arrested four drug smugglers at different places and recovered from them 222 gm heroine of value worth over Rs 1 crore. All arrested were produced in the court for police remand to investigate case further. CIA Staff of police while patrolling near Shastri Nagar cut on G.T. Road got secret information about the drug smugglers the prime accuse Brajesh Chadha resident of Ram Nagar Ambala Cantt involved in drug smuggling and sale along with his companions Malkiat Singh alias Bhura resident of Babyal in Ambala cantt and Ramandeep Singh alias Dhillon resident of Dyal Bagh Ambala Cantt.

Addressing media persons SP Ambala Jashandeep Singh Randhawa told that the arrested accused are earlier involved in cases registered against them under NDPS Act when heroine was recovered from them. He told that three cases under NDPS Act against Ramandeep Singh were earlier registered at Mahesh Nagar and Parao Police Stations, whereas three cases have also been registered against Malkiat Singh in past. SP told that alleged were involved in supply of drugs in the area since a long time and investigation during police remand would reveal all.

Randhawa told that CIA-2 staff got information that Brajesh Chadha travelling in I-20 car is coming from Delhi along with heroine when police held a barrier near 'Kusht Ashram' on G.T. Road and arrested



tree accused Brajesh Chadha, Malkiat Singh and Ramandeep, and during search recovered heroine from dash board in the car. Police seized RC of vehicle, two mobile phones. In another case, ANC team recovered 12 gm heroine Arvind Kumar alias Matru a resident of Indira Colony Ambala Cantt near Civil Hospital Ambala cantt and registered a case against him under NDPS Act.

Additional District Session Judge Ambala Sanjay Sandhir sentenced a Nigerian drug smuggler David a resident of Dwarka at Delhi 10 years imprisonment and Rs 1 lakh fine in a case under NDPS Act and another 10 years sentence along with fine under Foreign Act since he was in the country without permission or having a Passport arrested by Ambala police on Railway Road Ambala Cantt on 23rd January 2016 when police on a secret information that a Nigerian smuggler carrying heroine was in the town and police suspecting a foul smell stopped him at the junction of Railway Road and Staff Road Ambala Cantt and the Nigerian smuggler seeing police attempted to flee but was nabbed by police team recovered heroine from him kept in a bag,

Health Minister of Punjab orders 108 ambulance company to make services more efficient

CHANDIGARH: In an effort to reach out to its employees through their families and recognize their work, Zikitza Healthcare Limited has launched the Ambulance Access for All Foundation to help meritorious students in their higher studies and sports training and they have been provided annual scholarship grant. With this programme, Zikitza Healthcare has honored 108 ambulance staff children for their outstanding academic and sporting performance in the year 2021-22.

In this scholarship program-2022, 13 students were awarded for their excellent performance in academics and sports. A cheque of Rs.50000/- was given to each of the first winners in both the categories. A cheque of Rs.25000/- was given to each of the second place holder and third prize holder was honored with a cheque of Rs. 10000/- . ZHL also felicitated the crew staff of all the clusters of Punjab. 13 pilots and



13 EMTs were awarded with certificates, trophies and cash vouchers.

The chief guest in this event Chetan Singh Jauramajra, Health Minister, Punjab also felicitated the staff of the regional office. Kuljit Singh Randhawa M.L.A., Dr. Neelima, IAS, MD, Punjab Health System Corporation, Jatinder Sharma, Head, Government Business, Zikitza Healthcare Ltd and Manish Batra, Project Head, were the among other personalities present on this occasion.

On this occasion, Health Minister of Punjab Chetan Singh Jauramajra, while sharing his views, said that despite Covid and other difficulties, students have proved that they can face any challenge collectively.

Over 4.5 lakh civil cases are under trial in High Court delaying justice

SATISH HANDA

Information reveals that more than 4.5 lakh civil cases including vehicle accident claims are lying pending in Punjab and Haryana High Court Chandigarh delaying justice especially to accident victims or their families which include more than 12000 cases yet pending under trial in the court since past 20 to 30 years, about 59407 cases lying pending



under trial in the court since past 10 to 20 years and 57612 cases yet under trial in the court for

Meet Hayer okays revamp plan of Printing & Stationery Dept

CHANDIGARH: Following the guidelines of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to strengthen the government departments, Printing and Stationery Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer has given instructions to revamp the printing and stationery department which has been neglected by the previous governments.

By purchasing new machines, it should be ensured that the printing work of all government departments and institutions is get done from the government press. In a high-level meeting of the department here today, Meet Hayer said that with the invention of new technologies of printing in the modern era, new machinery is needed, for which the department should purchase new hi-technology machines for Government Press located in Patiala and SAS Nagar.

To raise the standard of printing, multi-color digital machines and offset machines should be purchased with an amount of Rs.1.40 Crore besides going in for the state-of-the-art



machines, in the next budget session. He gave a green signal to the plan of restructuring the department and said that technology experts should be recruited as per the need.

It was also decided in the meeting that the land of the Government press at Patiala be transferred to the PUDA under OUVGL scheme and in lieu of it, the PUDA would frame a proposal for providing funds in order to set up new machines at press building Patiala and S.A.S. Nagar press building apart from the renovation of the press building at S.A.S. Nagar and that of some quarters, 3

acres of land and press building at Patiala. During the meeting, it was also decided that the best practices of other states of the country in which the printing and stationery department is working better, should be studied and implemented in Punjab. Meet Hayer said that all the work of the department must be done as per the provisions of the Printing and Stationery Manual-1975 but in the modern era the modernization of press and technology has advanced enough for which there is a dire need to update the manual. Besides, an interactive website should be created.

50 Crore corpus proposed for setting of 25 centres of excellence in Punjab: Vikramjit Singh Sahney

1000 JOB LETTERS HANDED TO THE YOUTH, FIRST EVER BIGGEST RECRUITMENT DRIVE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PUNJAB

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Handing over the job letters to the skilled youth, Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Speaker Punjab Vidhansabha said that its very noble work which is being done by Vikramjit Singh. In today's time to give skills and then jobs to youth of Punjab is very appreciable. Sandhwan appealed to Vikram-

jit Singh, MP Rajyasabha to carry on this employment drive in the whole of the state and whatever the assistance is needed from the Punjab Government, Bhagwant Mann chief minister Punjab and his entire cabinet is there to support such a noble cause. The unemployment triggers youth towards drug menace. Speaking on the law and order situation in Punjab, Sandhwan said that nobody is above the law and the culprits who so ever will not be spared at all.

Joining in the job letter handing ceremony Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal Cabinet Minister Punjab said that this is historic moment that today in the holy city of Amritsar 1000 youth of Punjab is

being employment by Vikramjit Singh. This initiative will stop the migration of our youth to foreign lands and save our young minds for the development of Punjab. He also offered land to Vikramjit Singh for opening more skill centres across the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Inderbir Singh Nijjer, Cabinet Minister Punjab said that multi skill is the requirement for jobs of the youth of Punjab but we are actually going away from the skill development. Going ahead with his endeavor to provide jobs to the youth of Punjab, Vikramjit Singh Sahney Member of Parliament Rajyasabha said that a corpus fund of 50 crore is being proposed



with Govt of Punjab which would be spent on the creating 25 centre of excellence across the state. My goal is to give 50000 jobs to the trained students in these ITIs. All the present ITI would

be upgraded to the world class skill centre with latest machinery according to the present industry standards and training as per the industry needs. 20 crore will be given by Govt. of India under a

scheme called STRIVE (Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement), 10 Crore has been already provided by the state govt for renovation of ITIs and one more instalment of 10 Crore will be released by the Finance minister for ITIs on my request. Balance amount of 10 Crore will be released by myself through my MPLAD fund and my personal contribution. These centres would be having the advanced facility for the placements of the students and the professional industry connect.

Vikramjit Singh said that its my dream that I want to see the youth of Punjab to be employed and self-sustained because unem-

ployment gives encouragement to many other serious problems in the society. Today we are handing over 1000 job letters to the skilled students from our centre in Amritsar and the students are placed locally in different sectors like industry, call centres, hotels, hospitality and hospitals. We have been running short term courses in Pitter, solar panel technician, Graphic designer, Nursing, Food and Beverage, Sales executive, Customer care, Data entry, Electrician, Welder, technician, fashion designing and artisans. We have also started training for Army recruitment also so that the youth of Punjab gets into the defence forces.

Far from doubling farmer income, Centre doubles input costs: Harsimrat Badal

NEW DELHI: Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Tuesday said far from doubling farmer income as promised, the Union government had presided over the doubling of the input costs of farmers even as minimum support price (MSP) on food grains was hiked by two to five per cent annually during the last eight years.

Speaking in Lok Sabha, she emphatically asked how much of the additional spending of Rs 4 lakh crore grant being sought by the government would reach the farmers.

Asserting that farmers wanted to be 'atmanirbhar' and did not want to live on doles, the Bathinda MP said: "What is needed is guaranteed crop procurement on MSP as well as fixation of MSP as per the Swaminathan formula to ensure a 50 per cent profit to farmers on the total cost of production of a crop".



She said the first step in this direction was reconstitution of the MSP committee as per the written assurance given to agitating farmers when they lifted their protest one year back.

"The government should also make MSP a legal right as promised to farmers to ensure

its aim of doubling farmer income can be achieved."

Giving facts, Harsimrat Kaur said while the price of diesel had almost doubled during the last eight years, the prices of fertilisers like urea had increased from Rs 175 per 50 kg bag to Rs 270 for a 45 kg bag. She said similarly the price

of DAP had increased from Rs 1,125 per bag to Rs 1,350 per bag. She also detailed how pesticides and seeds were attracting a GST of 18 and 12 per cent respectively and tractors that of 28 per cent.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader also spoke on how Punjab was being discriminated against.

She said an attempt was being made to snatch away the river waters of the state by passing the riparian principle which gave Punjab exclusive rights over its river waters.

"A sinister conspiracy has also been unleashed to dilute Punjab's right over Chandigarh as its state capital."

She said this was being done despite the fact that the Central government had reiterated Punjab's right over Chandigarh in 1970 and the Rajiv-Longowal accord had also been ratified by the Parliament.

PM Modi Inaugurates Mopa Airport in Goa



THE MOPA AIRPORT COMPRISES A SOLAR POWER PLANT, GREEN BUILDINGS, STATE-OF-THE-ART SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WITH RECYCLING FACILITIES AND OTHER BEST-IN-CLASS TECHNOLOGIES

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Panjim

"India has become the world's third-largest aviation market and the last 8 years have witnessed 72 new airports compared to 70 airports in earlier 70 years," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while inaugurating on December 11

the Rs 2,870 crore Greenfield International airport in Mopa Goa.

The foundation stone for this airport — which has been named after the late Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar — had been laid in November 2016 and the Mopa airport is expected to cater to around 4.4 million passengers annu-

ally, while later expanding to a saturation capacity of 33 million passengers per annum.

With the Dabolim airport, the presence of two airports has created new opportunities for Goa as a cargo hub. The Mopa airport comprises a solar power plant, green buildings, state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant with recycling facilities and other best-in-class technologies.

Describing India as the global centre of attraction, the Prime Minister lamented the "dark time of slavery" faced by India which transformed the image and perspective toward the country, even though the culture and traditions remained the same.

Noting that many foreigners today are narrating India's rapidly-changing story on digital platforms, he said that modern technology is being used to make monuments more attractive and journeys to places of pilgrimage and monuments is being facilitated via special trains.

BJP starts preparation for 2024 election in Uttarakhand, calls MPs meeting

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janta Party had started preparation for 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with its Uttarakhand in charge Dushyant Gautam calling a meeting of all MPs of the hill state in Delhi on Monday for discussions, sources said.

"In-charge Dushyant Gautam will hold a meeting with all the MPs of Uttarakhand in Delhi tomorrow (Monday). Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama will also attend the meeting. The meeting will be held at the house of former CM Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' before 8 p.m., a party source said.

On the agenda of the meeting, he said: "Brainstorming will be done regarding the programmes decided in the recently-held national office bearers meeting regarding the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections."

After landslide win in the Gujarat Assembly election, the BJP has started staking claim to win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The saffron party has also started preparations for the Assembly elections to be held in 2023, as these will determine which party may have an edge in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Tamil leaders, activists support SGPC signature campaign for release of Sikh prisoners



AMRITSAR: The 'Naam Tamar Katchi' (NTK) of Tamil Nadu, which is raising its voice in favour of human rights, has supported the signature campaign launched by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) for the release of the Bandi Singhs (Sikh prisoners). Today, the NTK party leaders who visited Sachkhand Sri Harmandar Sahib, to pay obeisance, participated in SGPC's signature campaign by filling proformas and demand release of Sikh prisoners.

On this occasion, the NTK leader and United Nations (UN) speaker Jeeva Dawning appreciated the efforts being made by the SGPC for the release of Sikh prisoners and termed the release of the Sikh prisoners as their constitutional right. He said that the 'Naam Tamar Katchi' will support the SGPC on this matter. In this regard, a voice will be raised within the state and the matter will also be taken to the UN.

On this occasion, SGPC member Bhagwant Singh Sialka said that the cooperation of the 'Naam Tamar Katchi' for the release of Sikh prisoners will further intensify this movement. He said that the signature campaign started under the guidelines of SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhama is progressing continuously and the voice of millions of people will open the closed ears of the government. He honoured the leaders of NTK with a photo of Sachkhand Sri Harmandar Sahib and religious literature.

Present on this occasion included Dal Khalsa leader Bhai Kanwarpal Singh Bittu and Angad Singh and NTK leaders MU Kalanjyayam, T Pakkiyaraj, Muthu Pandi, Jeeva Dawning, information officer of Sri Darbar Sahib Randhir Singh and others.

PM launches three new AYUSH Institutes at Ayurveda Valedictory ceremony



DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Panjim

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 11 virtually inaugurated from Goa three National AYUSH Institutes of eminence in Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani. These include: the All India Institute of Ayurveda in Goa, National Institute of Unani Medicine in Ghaziabad, and National Institute of Homoeopathy in Delhi.

The Prime Minister was participating in the valedictory ceremony of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress at Panjim (Goa). The

four-day Ayurveda event had provided a global platform for national and global stakeholders, industry leaders, practitioners, traditional healers, educationists and manufacturers for engaging in intellectual exchange to strengthen the Ayurveda sector. "Our medical data research and journals have to be brought together to verify every claim on modern scientific parameters," Modi said while noting that more than 30 countries have recognised Ayurveda as a traditional medicine system that was not just about treatment but also promoted wellness.

5 dead, thousands find refuge in shelter homes

With heavy rain pounding many parts of Tamil Nadu after Cyclone 'Mandous' touched the land, five people were left dead and 10,000 people were lodged in shelter homes.

Tamil Nadu revenue department officials told to media that around 300 houses were damaged in the rain after Cyclone 'Mandous' struck, and 169 shelters have been set up in Chennai and its suburbs.

The red alert announced in Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu continued for Sunday also. The Tamil Nadu government is likely to declare a holiday for the schools and other educational institutions, including colleges on Monday also considering the heavy damages caused by the cyclone.

CYCLONE 'MANDOUS' EFFECT

More than 500 trees were uprooted during the cyclone and the Greater Chennai Corporation officials removed them by Sunday morning. The Hindustan Petroleum Outlet on Pantheon Road, Chennai was damaged after a huge banyan tree crashed on it. However, workers were unhurt as the banyan tree crashed on the outlet just after the workers had closed the pump and left.

The Greater Chennai Police were also involved in clearing the trees that were uprooted during the cyclone.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin told the media persons that proper preparation and planning for the Cyclone 'Mandous' has led to the concerned departments swinging into action and thus reducing the damage.



Manish Tewari's 4th adjournment notice in LS on Chinese transgressions



NEW DELHI: Despite being denied discussion on the Chinese transgressions, Congress MP Manish Tewari on Friday again moved an adjournment notice in the Lok Sabha on the issue.

This is his fourth notice in the last as many consecutive days.

"We have had the Hon'ble Defence Minister give a statement. However, there are crucial questions that need to be asked: Why are these clashes happening, first Galwan and now Yangtze? What do the Chinese want? Is the Government aware of Chinese mal-intentions? Have we lost any territory to the Chinese as a result of these aggressions, if so, how much and how does the Government plan to get it back?" the notice said. The notice said a detailed discussion was required on the grave situation at the border with China in the Tawang sector in Arunachal Pradesh. "This is the first physical clash between the two armies since August 2020 which took place at Rinchin La in eastern Ladakh. Bilateral trade with China is at an all-time high. Between 2020 to the present, imports from China have nearly doubled from \$27.3 billion to \$52.4 billion.

"That the Chinese are attempting to come inside the Indian territory is a portentous sign. From Eastern Ladakh, the Chinese seem to be eyeing Arunachal and the 2,500 KM Eastern Sector of the LAC. Reports suggest that China has built massive infrastructure and there is additional troop buildup on the LAC. At least three additional PLA brigades are reportedly deployed at the LAC. "These clashes are in addition to what has been happening in Eastern Ladakh where, despite multiple rounds of talks, sixteen in total, China has vehemently refused to vacate areas it reportedly occupied after the major clash on May 5, 2020.

Gurdwara committees of Calcutta pass resolution against move to break SGPC

VOICE RAISED FOR RELEASE OF SIKH PRISONERS IN CALCUTTA, PROFORMAS FILLED UNDER SGPC SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

All the Gurdwara management committees of Calcutta have expressed their commitment to stand with the Supreme Sikh body, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) at all levels by passing a resolution against the moves to weaken and break SGPC.

This resolution was passed during a special Gurmat congregation held at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Calcutta, which was approved by the Sangat resonance of Bole So Nihal Sat Sri Akal, stated in the press statement issued by the SGPC Amritsar here today.

On this occasion, SGPC General Secretary Bhai Gurcharan Singh Grewal and executive member Paramjit Singh Khalsa were present, who thanked the Sikh lead-



ers of Calcutta for the special resolution in support of the SGPC to strengthen it.

In the resolution passed during this event, it has been said that the SGPC is the Supreme Sikh body of Sikh community, all the Gurdwara management committees are committed to its strengthening. The resolution said any effort to weaken SGPC is a move to weaken Sikh community and therefore, the management committees and Sangat of Calcutta are with the SGPC.

On this occasion, all the gurdwara managements also expressed their commitment to participate and propagate the signature campaign started by the SGPC for the release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh prisoners) in the entire state.

Addressing on this occasion, SGPC general secretary

Gurcharan Singh Grewal said that the commitment of the Sangat of Calcutta towards SGPC, was of great importance, for which he was grateful. He said that along with the great participation in India's freedom struggle, Sikhs have rendered important services for human welfare all over the world, but it is a pity that the governments do not pay attention to the issues of Sikhs. The governments of the country are adopting a negative attitude towards the Sikhs. He said that the most important Sikh issue of the present time is the release of Sikh prisoners, towards which India and the respective state governments are not doing justice. He said that now a mass movement has been started in the entire country and the governments will listen to the demand.

Ayurveda Expo Congress highlights Ayurvedic Success

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Panjim

The recently-concluded four-day Ayurvedic Congress witnessed COVID-19 successful treatment being the most highlighted alongside other diseases at the Expo by many companies.

Dr Manjiri Walinjkar, Ph.D, Jamnagar, in a poster case report, noted that the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported 20% to 30% of Covid patients suffered from persistent lung damage due to SARS-COVID invading and forming residue that damaged 'alveoli' and capillaries in the lungs.

A 57-year-old COVID patient with high BP and smoking and tobacco-chewing habit — who gave up allopathic treatment and turned to homoeopathy in September 2021 — experienced improved health till date, she added.

Homoeopathy too was highlighted at the Expo, where Dr Avijit Shee Burman of NIH (National Institute of Homoeopathy), Kolkata noted that 3 out of 5 medications — Arsenic Alba 30 (in winter), Bryonia Alba 30 and Gelsemium 30 (summer) tested in Uttar Pradesh during COVID-19 in



2020 had "Fantastic" results.

Burman said that homoeopathic preventive medicines given during COVID-19 in India and abroad witnessed not a single death of those taking the prescribed dose (once morning for three days) from 2020 to 2022.

Dr Annapurna of NAMMA Homoeopathy highlighted a new invention in homoeopathy, that successfully treated over one lakh cases — involving diabetes, varicose veins, asthma, psoriasis, arthritis, thyroid, PCOD, piles, sexual problems — through "Immunogenic Miasmatic 6th Generation Homoeopathic Treatment."

Dr Neha of Dr, Basu Eye Hospitals (Delhi and Bareilly) pointed out Jagat Pharma's 42 years successful legacy in providing holistic Ayurvedic body wellness solutions including its signature product

- Isotone eyedrops — treating initial stage diseases like cataract, myopia, diabetic retinopathy, color blindness, glaucoma without any operations.

Dr Mahanya Neerpaday of Hassan, Karnataka, narrated an 'uncommon' poster case about "Chronic Pancreatitis" in a 13-year-old female patient. "The girl's mother took some medicines during her pregnancy that disturbed her 'digestive fire' (Jathar Agni) and affected her baby's digestion while causing pain from abdomen to lower back," she said, adding that the child was now 80 to 90% healed.

Dr Kishan Senjalig, 2nd year PG, Ahmedabad, highlighted the complete recovery in a case study of "Ascites" (Liver Cirrhosis) of a 59-year-old patient undergoing "Anti-Tubercular" treatment before being treated through Ayurveda.

Health experts explains why joints are crucial for overall mobility of human body in ASSOCHAM Webinar

NEW DELHI: The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), an apex body, organized a webinar on "Healthy Life in Winter: Taking Care of Joints" With the paramount objective to cascade awareness and disseminate knowledge about taking care of joints during winter, to lead a healthier, happier, and prosperous life. The webinar, which is a part of the Illness to Wellness initiative, highlighted about how Joint pain can be caused by many types of injuries or conditions.

Joint pains are symptoms of an injury or an underlying health condition. However, cold weather does create joint pains. During cold months, joint pain



complaints become more frequent than in other season of the year. Stiffness, aches, and pains are often associated with changes in weather.

Dr John Ebnezar Dr. BC Roy National Awarded Orthopedic Surgeon said, "Healthy joints play a very important role in mobility. Mobility is

extremely important for a healthy life, and it is aptly said 'Mobility is life and Life is Mobility'. It keeps us healthy and fit. Reduced mobility can give rise to various health problems especially in the elderly. It may exacerbate diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases, obesity etc.

Srinagar records coldest night of season again at minus 3.4 degree Celsius

FW DESK
Srinagar

The summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded coldest night of season once again at minus 3.4 degrees celsius while the mercury also settled below freezing point at other stations of the Valley.

The intense cold conditions tightened its grip in Kashmir as the dry spell continues in most parts of the Valley while the weatherman has predicted no significant change in weather conditions till the end of this month. As per the details available, Srinagar recorded coldest night of season at minus 3.4 degree celsius. Similar temperature was recorded on December 05, 2022. Pahalgam in South Kashmir was coldest at minus 5.3



degree celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort recorded a low of minus 4.0 degree celsius. Kupwara saw a low of -2.8 degrees Celsius throughout the night, while Qazigund saw a low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius.

According to the forecast, the weather will continue mainly dry through the end of this month. Winter is the timer when the Valley witnesses surge in tourist inflow from across the country. The tourists mainly come to see snowfall which is a novelty in the mainland India.

Priyanka Gandhi to lead all-women march in each state capital

NEW DELHI: Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will lead an all-women march in each state capital and read out a women's manifesto' as the Congress gears up to take Bharat Jodo Yatra to booth level.

The party will start its preparatory meetings for this from December 15 at the state level and then district and block level.

Apart from Priyanka's women march, the Bharat Jodo Yatra will start at the booth level in one month's time. The yatri will distribute a letter written by Rahul Gandhi and a charge sheet against the BJP government to every person. After the Yatra, a block level convention will be held in each district to be attended by the state president and senior state Congress leaders. After all the districts in the state have convened the meet-



ings, there will be a state level workers' convention followed by rallies in each state to be addressed by the state Congress President and former Congress President.

The party's 'haath jodo' programme will start from January 26 for the next two months as the party has called the plenary session in Raipur in February. The Congress programme will

be telecast live on giant screens and will be shown at important places across each state.

The UP Congress has begun the 'Bharat Jodo Yatras' to mobilise the cadres for party leader Rahul Gandhi's yatra, which is scheduled to enter the state early January, party sources said.

The yatra will begin from Barabanki on Sunday and will reach Lucknow on Monday.

Solar power won't offer solutions to all energy needs

At the core of India's energy transformation is its bet on solar power. Based on a commitment to address the global climate crisis, India has promised to source nearly half its energy from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and, in the shorter term, source of at least 60% of its renewable energy from solar power. However, a disclosure in Parliament by the Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy suggests that India faces a significant headwind in this quest. A key central policy to source solar power is facilitating the establishment of large solar parks; small solar power projects usually translate to higher per-unit production costs. And so, in 2014, the Centre announced the 'Solar Parks and Ultra-Mega Solar Power Projects' policy to facilitate the creation of large parks. The initial plan was to set up 25 parks capable of generating at least 20,000 MW by 2019. In 2017, the Government scaled this to 61 parks with a target of 40,000 MW. It emerges, however, as of 2022, that only a fourth of the capacity has been achieved as projects worth 10,000 MW have been commissioned. Four projects have been cancelled due to tardy progress. The roadblocks, in the Centre's estimate, have been challenges in acquiring land with a clear title, setting up the infrastructure necessary to transmit power produced at these parks to the grid and, in an unusual disclosure, "environmental issues" in Rajasthan and Gujarat, where projects have been halted because their transmission lines encroach upon the habitat of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard. Notwithstanding its claims on international podiums that it is on track to meet renewable energy targets, it is no secret that India is lagging behind. Also, solar power may be a valuable tool in India's energy transformation story, but it cannot be the panacea for all requirements.

LETTERBOX

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BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE
IS GOING TO DO IT
FOR YOU.**

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN EXPLAINS HOW THE CENSUS OF INDIA HELPS IN FLAGGING THE ROADBLOCKS LYING AHEAD

Census: A mirror of past & present

A recent study of India's experience under colonial rule by Dylan Sullivan and Jason Hickel concludes that data from the Census of India reveal that between 1880 and 1920 approximately 100 million Indians died due to British policy in India. Their method is to calculate the excess mortality, being the difference between the actual deaths and the deaths that may be expected on the basis of some benchmark. While they used Census data for actual deaths, the duo arrived at the deaths to be expected using two alternative benchmarks - the mortality rate for India in 1880 and that for England in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The assumption implicit in the choice of the latter as a benchmark is that before colonial rule, the mortality rate of India is unlikely to have been very different from that of contemporary England. The resulting estimates for excess deaths during 1880-1920 are 50 million in the first case and 160 million in the second one, respectively. The authors settle for the midway figure of approximately 100 million for the deaths caused in India due to colonial policy. For perspective, they point out that this figure is greater than the death from famine in "the Soviet Union, Maoist China, North Korea, Pol Pot's Cambodia, and Mengistu's Ethiopia". In their view, this provides a direct assessment of the consequences of the Raj for India.

Attempts to quantify the impact of colonial rule in India have mostly relied on the change in national income. But reliable income data for the nineteenth century are almost non-existent. Population figures, though, are available from the time of the first Census of India in 1871. The age-wise population distribution in the census has been used to estimate the mortality rate, which Sullivan and Hickel utilise to draw conclusions about the evolution of economic conditions in colonial India. Their figure for excess deaths is of course only as good as the benchmarks chosen, and the mortality rate itself is the result of estimation and not enumeration, for the registration of births and deaths became established practice in India only much later on.

Subject to these caveats, the Sullivan-Hickel study does draw attention to something not so widely recognised. The mor-



tality rate in British India is seen to rise steadily after 1881, recording an increase of close to 20% by 1921. As it is unusual for the mortality rate of a country to rise continuously due to natural causes, this suggests that the living conditions worsened during this period. The mortality rate dipped in 1931, which was the last census conducted in British India, but the last famine recorded in the country was yet to come. It took place in Bengal in 1943, in the last five years of the close to two centuries of British colonial rule.

Recurring famines

British arguments for the empire, including "English forms of land tenure, the English language, banking, the common law, Protestantism, team sports, the limited state, representative assemblies, and the idea of liberty", have been advanced by the Harvard historian Niall Ferguson. But in this statement, there is no mention of the famines which started almost at the onset of rule by the East India Company in Bengal, the de-industrialisation of India in the nineteenth century, the drain of wealth, or the worsening food security as India's peasants were forced to grow commercial crops for export so that Britain

could balance its trade. Indian economic historians have recorded and astutely analysed these developments. Yet, by drawing our attention to a sustained rise in the death rate at the height of the Raj, the Sullivan-Hickel study vindicates Dadabhai Naoroji's claim of the immiserisation of India under British rule.

The belief that British policy in India caused repeated famines is bolstered by the fact that there has not been a single famine since 1947. This is despite a population explosion following a sharp fall in death rates. The decline in the mortality rate surely signals improved living conditions. The Census shows that in the 1950s, life expectancy at birth of Indians increased by more than it did in the previous seventy years.

A double-edged sword

But the Census, from which we know all this, can be a double-edged sword in the hands of nationalists. The population numbers recorded after 1947 point to the extent to which the lives of Indians improved since the end of colonial rule in dimensions other than mere income. However, the mirror it holds up is not always flattering to us. It points to worsening gender inequality in India. A simple

indicator of this would be the ratio of females to males in the population. It is believed that in the absence of factors that lower the life chances of women, including foeticide, this ratio would tend to one. The Census of India shows that we have not attained that level in our recorded history, except in pockets within the country.

While this is disturbing in itself what is more so is that this ratio has steadily declined after 1947. After declining for four decades from 1951 it started inching up in 1991. But in 2011, it was yet lower than what it was in 1951. So, even though life expectancy increased soon after Independence, in the early years at least it increased faster for men than it did for women. So, though India became free of foreign rule, some Indians grew more free than others. As India chants Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam at the G-20, implying that the nations of the world are a family, it behooves us to ensure that all the persons in our own family enjoy the same freedoms.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Economics, Ashoka University and Senior Fellow, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode. Views are personal



INSECTS AND MOTHS USED TO BE THE BASIC FOOD OF MOST BIRDS. OBVIOUSLY, THE NUMBER OF BIRDS THAT SURVIVE BY FEEDING ON INSECTS HAS ALSO DECREASED. THIS HAS HAPPENED DUE TO THE EXCESSIVE USE OF PESTICIDES IN AGRICULTURE FIELDS.

75 per cent of insect species wiped out

NARVIJAY YADAV

Have you ever noticed that there are very few species of birds seen now around us? The number of avian species that we used to witness three-four decades ago has decreased to an alarming level. Many species of birds have disappeared from the urban surroundings completely. One of the major reasons behind this change is the declining number of insects and moths, as a heavy amount of chemical fertilizers and insecticides are used in farming. This trend is seen as a global phenomenon. It is estimated that 75 per cent of insect species have been wiped out from the agriculture fields. These insects and moths used to be the basic food of most birds. Obviously, the number of birds that survive by feeding on insects has also decreased. This has happened due to the excessive use of pesticides in agriculture fields. This practice not only killed the pests but also deteriorated the quality of agricultural soil.

Sadhguru Jaggi, the founder of the Isha Foundation, traveled to many countries to create awareness about the deteriorating condition of the soil early this year. His 'save soil' movement has gained wide ac-



ceptance globally. He says that due to overuse and exploitation of agricultural land soil has been losing its quality. The greedy tendency of humans has played a big role in spoiling the state of the environment. In the name of development, more than 1.3 million square miles of forest were cut in the last 25 years. The World Bank estimates that humans have destroyed 10 million square miles of forest since the

beginning of the 20th century, which has also destroyed biodiversity and is the reason behind the increase in the temperature on Earth. During the pandemic period (2020-21), nature in many ways attracted the attention of humans to the point that if the earth is harmed, then nature has to balance in its own way.

From individuals to companies, governments, and nations, efforts have to be made

at every level to save the environment. For this, the Sustainable Development Goals have been issued by the United Nations. Information about this has been given in the latest report of Hurun India. According to the report, 29 of India's top 50 companies that have taken measures in this direction include ITC, Infosys, Cipla, Adani Port, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Zinc and Tech Mahindra. Inspired by this list, other companies can step up their efforts. Many companies are constantly turning to such energy sources, which cause the least harm to the environment. For this, water recycling plants and solar energy plants are being set up. Adani group has planned to set up a huge air turbine in Gujarat, higher than the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The turbine is believed to generate electricity enough to light up a few hundred villages in the state. By taking the green steps, not only will the environment be safe, but the cost of companies will also be reduced....-The writer is a senior journalist and columnist., views are personal

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



BOOKS: REVIEW

New book tries to explore friendship, love, grief

Author Nilanjana S Roy's new offering "Black River" is a fast-paced police procedural which explores themes of friendship, love and grief.

In the village of Teetarapur, a few hours from Delhi, Chand's peaceful life is shattered as he is forced into a dangerous quest for justice. The body of his eight-year-old daughter Munia was found hanging from a tree.

Chand was the world to Munia. She used to talk only to her father - telling him everything, the conversations she overhears, stories she has made up.

Quiet with strangers and with family, Munia was an explorer at heart, fond of illicit excursions, absorbed in the games she invented, and played with birds and insects.

Chand was left shell-shocked

when he saw his daughter "with a rope around her neck, her feet dangling far above the earth, hanging from the jamun's thickest branch".

He tries to call her but his mouth is dry from shock and from the heat. He forms the syllables of his daughter's name and whispers it into the heavy air.

Kneeling on the ground, his white salwar streaked with dust and mud, he holds on to Munia's limp feet, crying like a child, his breath rasping and hard.

"The girl's eyes are closed, her lashes resting lightly on her cheeks, purple stains on her curled fingers. She could be holding her breath, except for the tilt of her neck, the coil of rope, the swing dangling at a crazy angle, a heavy wooden counterweight. She will open her eyes, her father thinks, she will smile at me and

'The older residents say proudly that their village is not known to have inspired a line in a film song or even a 'mithai', has never produced so much as a celebrity or a famous politician. They cherish its anonymity, though the younger generation would have preferred a more rousing history'

put out her arms to be helped down, and then I will carry my Munia inside one more time," the book says.

At the police station house whose jurisdiction extends to Teetarapur and the neighbouring villages, sub-inspector Ombir



Black River
By Nilanjana Roy
Context
330 pages; Rs799

Singh, who has known Munia since she was born, wrestles with his conscience and the vagaries of his personal life as the increasingly murky case unfolds under the watchful eyes of the 'Delhi boy', SSP Pilania.

Meanwhile, in the rough by-lanes of Bright Dairy Colony, Chand's old companions Rabia and Badshah Miyan fight for their right to home and country as the politics of religion threaten to overwhelm their lives.

According to Roy, there is nothing Teetarapur is famous for.

"The older residents say proudly that their village is not known to have inspired a line in a film song or even a 'mithai', has never

produced so much as a celebrity or a famous politician. They cherish its anonymity, though the younger generation would have preferred a more rousing history," she writes in the book, published by Context, an imprint of Westland Books.

Nilanjana S. Roy is a novelist and a columnist on books and the reading life for the Financial Times.

Her first two novels, The Wildings and The Hundred Names of Darkness, are award-winning works of fantasy for young adults.

Black River grew out of her years of reporting on gender from New Delhi and the surrounding states for the New York Times, and from four years of exploring the capital and the Yamuna river on long walks.

She has edited several anthologies on subjects ranging from the freedom movement to Indian food. She has lived in New Delhi, Kolkata and Goa.

Black River is her first novel for adults. She is working on her next, which explores power and greed in Delhi.

Export of carpets manufactured in India in 70 countries have 40% share

SATISH HANDA

According to information carpets manufactured in India are having much demand all over in the world. While having a look over Indian carpet industry spread across several states in the country including Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telgana and Odisha doing annual business of value worth Rs 61.9 Arab Dollar in exports to nearly 70 countries in world and as per data available for year 2021 have nearly 40% share in exports in world market, which include 57% export to USA alone and the exports can be further increased to 73.9 Arab Dollar by the year 2026 in case this industry gets government support. The entrepreneurs in carpet manufacturing industry said that carpets manufactured in India are in much demand, especially in hotels all over the world. Information reveals that carpet industry in the country providing employment to nearly 25 lakh people.



While talking to few carpet manufacturers at Panipat they told that this industry was having good support by the government as such flourished in past years but at present facing severe crunch due to burden of taxes and lack of support by the government. According to Aslam Mehmood member of CEPC dealing with export of carpets in the country, government of India has withdrawn merchandise exporters from India scheme (MEIS) in which exporters used to get refund on tax up to 7% on exports of carpets which has adversely affected export business in the country.

Aslam Mehmood said, carpet manufacturers in the country are facing severe financial crisis unable to expand their business and should be provided loans at reduced rate of interest enabling to stand on their feet to boost this handicraft business having much demand in export markets. He said that carpet industry having slump since past couple of year due to spread of epidemic outbreak all over in the world, frequent lock down declared by the government in the country, followed by war between Russia and Ukrain adversely affecting exports to large number of countries in Europe and United States

having much demand of carpets manufactured in India. Mehmood demanded that government should arrange special training programs for youths and women for manufacturing machine made carpets since the artisans and workers in this industry lack knowledge of new techniques in manufacturing carpets and compete in export markets.

Having a look at the exports on which this industry in the country is dependant since past five years has been recorded as nearly Rs 11028 crore during year 2017-18, Rs 12365 crore during year 2018-19, Rs 11799 crore during year 2019-20, Rs 13810 crore during year 2020-21 and Rs 16640 crore during year 2021-22. Meanwhile, the president of Panipat Industry Association Preetam Sachdeva told that yarn industry of Panipat facing acute shortage of raw material at present and most of the industrial units in the area are manufacturing yarn on open end machines facing severe crisis since cotton prices in the market are too high being sold at the rate Rs 172 per kilogram.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Announces the Inauguration of its first Regional Stockyard in Faruknagar in Haryana



ARUN KUMAR RAO

Bangalore 2022:- In line with its Customer-First philosophy of enabling easy access to products and services to its customers, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced the inauguration of its first regional stockyard at Faruknagar in Haryana company statement here said.

Ensuring a leaner and efficient distribution network across the region, the strategically located stockyard will reduce delivery time from the current 6-8 days to a maximum of two days for dealers in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir. This development by TKM will also benefit customers in the region who will now have speedier access to their favourite Toyota vehicles as a regional stockyard will ensure deliveries in the shortest possible time to dealers, considering proximity and availability to vast stock of all Toyota vehicles, statement added.

The five-acre stockyard which has a parking capacity

of 900 vehicles, is the second such for TKM, following the launch of its first regional stockyard in Guwahati in 2020. The Faruknagar stockyard will aid in speed, flexibility, cost reductions and more importantly CO2 reduction for, as dispatches from the TKM plant to the stockyard will be maximised through trains journeys. Currently, 60% of total TKM dispatches take place through trains and our aim is to increase the same to 80%, while being able to deliver 5,000 vehicles

per month. Commenting on the inauguration, Mr. V. Wiseline Sigamani, General Manager, TKM, said, "We are elated to announce the inauguration of our first regional stockyard in Haryana. The Northern part of India is a very important market for us and the strategic location at Faruknagar, will further enable us to cater to the customer base in this market with ease, keeping our objective of customer-first approach. As a pioneer in green mobility solutions, Toyota is leading the way towards a better tomorrow and has always put an emphasis on environmentally sustainable solutions in everything we do, be it material sourcing, manufacturing, or sales & services. By being in close proximity to our patrons through the regional stockyard, we are not only able to reduce transit costs but also reduce CO2 emissions significantly in the process, through reduced logistics".

TKM's current product line-up in India includes the all-new Innova Hycross & the Urban Cruiser Hyryder, a compact SUV that appeals to the young and discerning customers. Apart from being present in the premium segment with the Camry Hybrid & the Vellfire, both the Innova Hycross as well the Urban Cruiser Hyryder will be available with Toyota's Self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric variant, thereby reiterating TKM's efforts towards "Mass Electrification", as well as providing more options for customers to choose from. TKM also offers the Innova Crysta, Fortuner and Legender in the Indian market, and these flagship models have been enjoying leadership position in the MPV and SUV segments.

OYO launches 'Super OYO' in more than 70 cities in India



Global travel technology company OYO has launched a programme to recognise hotels that provide the most consistent and high-quality customer experience. The category called 'Super OYO' constantly analyses each hotel's performance on multiple parameters such as customer ratings and reviews, keeping maximum rooms operational consistently, smooth check-in experience, among others, said the company.

Consumers can now see hotels marked 'Super OYO' while booking through the OYO App. Currently, there are around 200+ Super OYOs available on the site and the company will encourage other hotels on its platform to work towards achieving this highly selective moniker and becoming a part of this exclusive category. In line with the company's mission to double down on trusted and best-in-class customer experiences, 'Super OYO' is one of the multiple programmes OYO is working on to help customers find choices for the kind of stay they are looking for, provide relevant information to make an informed choice and ensure comfortable and hassle-free stays at highly competitive prices. 'Super OYO' is now available to all app users in India and is set to be launched across key global markets in 2023. OYO customers can easily access the Super OYOs category from the home screen by clicking on the Super OYO banner that leads to a dedicated 'Super OYO' store, select their destination city and browse all available hotels.

IRCTC share price: Share crash atop 5% after govt. declare stake for OFS



IRCTC share prices of the Indian Railway sector companies seem to be chugging fast on the stock bourses track.

The major listed companies catering to the railway sector are Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC), Container Corporation of India Ltd, Indian Railway Finance Corporation, IRCON International Ltd, Texmaco Rail and Engineering Ltd, BEML Ltd, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd and RailTel Corporation of India Ltd.

At the floor cost of Rs 680 an offer, the offer of 4 crores partakes in IRCTC would get about Rs 2, 700 crore to the exchequer. The floor cost is at a markdown of 7.47 percent from Wednesday's end cost of Rs 734.90 IRCTC on the NSE.

Twitter Elon Musk has suspended Accounts for Mastodon, several prominent journalists



FW DESK

Twitter CEO Elon Musk has suspended the accounts of several prominent journalists on the micro-blogging platform, Mastodon and including Donie O'Sullivan from CNN and Drew Harwell from The Washington Post as they covered the "exact real-time location" of Elon Musk. When a Twitter user posted screenshots of suspended accounts of several journalists, Musk said on Friday: "Same doxing rules apply to several journalists as to everyone else." They posted my exact real-time location, basically assassination coordinates, in (obvious) direct violation of Twitter terms of service." The user's post also included journalists Ryan Mac from The New York Times and Aaron Rupar from the Independent. Several users expressed their thoughts on Elon Musk's tweet.

While one user commented, "Most regular users come here for the journalists. Once they're gone, so is your audience", another said: "When are you going suspend @weatherchannel & @JMichaelsNews for doxing the real live locations of all these tornado survivors in Gretna, Louisiana? You promised a dedication to free speech & now you are the suppressor."

Meanwhile, the micro-blogging platform also suspended the official account of Mastodon, a platform for people seeking a Twitter-like alternative.

Huge scope of jobs for youth if industry, farmers work together- Dhaliwal

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER OF PUNJAB VISITED PITEX

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar



Punjab Rural Development and Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said that if progressive farmers and industrialists work together, many employment opportu-

nities can be created for the youth in the state Cabinet Minister Dhaliwal was talking to Media after visiting the 16th PITEX organized by the

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said that farmers and industrialists are two sides of the same coin. A farmer plays an important role in rural development, while an industrialist strengthens the province economically and creates employment for the youth. If these two work understanding each other's needs, then many problems of the region will be solved.

OPPO showcases family health monitor, new Assisted Reality glass at 'INNO DAY 2022'

Global technology brand OPPO on Wednesday organised its annual technology event called 'OPPO INNO DAY 2022' and unveiled the first product under its 'OHealth' brand called the 'OHealth HI' family health monitor, along with other innovative products.

The company also showcased its latest Assisted Reality glass called OPPO Air Glass 2. Weighing nearly 38 grams, OPPO Air Glass 2 features a super-lightweight, robust design that includes the world's first "resin SRG-diffractive waveguide lens" developed by the company.

These lenses will support vision correction and further customization, making them almost indistinguishable from regular glasses.

Themed 'Empowering a Better Future', the event showcased the company's determination to enrich its four smart initiatives -- smart entertainment, smart productivity, smart health and smart learning -- to deliver more innovation for good and build an inclusive and more positive future for all.



"When facing the type of challenges that the technology industry is currently coming up against, we believe that the only way forward is to continue innovating and breaking new boundaries," said Pete Lau, Senior Vice President and Chief Product Officer at OPPO.

"Under our brand proposition of 'Inspiration Ahead', OPPO will continue to bring users superior products and technology that build smarter lives for all. We will also work with more partners to empower a better future through Virtuous Innovation, creating more possibilities in smart connected experiences," Lau added. The 'OHealth HI' combines six health data monitoring functions intended for family use into a single device, including measurement of blood oxygen, ECG, heart and lung auscultation, heart rate, body temperature and sleep tracking.

Demand for air purifiers clocks 1.4x growth in November over last year with the onset of winter: Flipkart Insights



FW DESK

With the air quality index touching alarming levels across several cities in the country, consumers have been increasingly investing in air purifiers online. While the demand for air purifiers as a category remains highest in the north owing to the increase in pollution, however with the rise in health-conscious consumers the demand for air purifiers is stretched around the year where air purifiers are needed for allergies.

According to the latest insight from Flipkart, the air purifier segment has grown by 1.4x in

November as compared to the same period last year. Air purifiers are witnessing three times more demand in November as compared to the previous months on the platform.

From a demand standpoint, both metros and large cities such as New Delhi, Bangalore, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, some parts of Mumbai, and tier 2 cities such as Chandigarh and Ludhiana have been witnessing significant demand for air purifiers. Delhi and Gurugram alone contributed to 50% of demand in the month of November where customers are leveraging next

day delivery from Flipkart. Air purifiers as a category have multiple use cases depending on the geography. While the demand may surge in the North because of pollution and crop burning during the last few months of the year, cities like Bengaluru on the other hand may see year round demand to counter pollen or pet dander which consists of microscopic flecks of skin shed by pets with fur or feathers and can cause allergies.

Hari G. Kumar, Vice President - Large Appliances, Flipkart, said, "Over the last few years, customers are increasingly investing in health and wellness products which enable them to lead a healthy lifestyle. In this regard, air purifiers have become a popular choice among households across metros and tier-2 cities who are witnessing a degradation in air quality index. We are working with our seller partners to bring the widest selection of Smart and intelligent air purifiers to fulfil customers' evolving requirements."

Lexicon Management Institute of Leadership and Excellence & Wolters Kluwer host a 'Leadership Conclave- Building Day Zero Professionals'

FW DESK New Delhi

Lexicon Management Institute of Leadership and Excellence in collaboration with the renowned global information company Wolters Kluwer, recently hosted a 'Leadership Conclave - Building Day Zero Professionals' at the Lexicon MILE, Wagholi campus. This conclave aimed to build Day Zero Professionals and inspire students to sharpen their skills and hone their talents which are essential to thrive as successful future professionals in the corporate world. The Leadership Conclave witnessed the presence of esteemed professionals who shared industry insights, personal experiences and anecdotes with students.

Lexicon MILE's approach to building exclusivity in students through robust evaluation methods, innovative induction practices, motivational workshops and conclave gives them a hands-on learning experience, preparing them to be industry-ready through such academic and extra-curricular exposures. "At Lexicon MILE, we believe



in preparing students to be industry-ready and ensure their 360° development through our holistic approach to education. We strive to equip them with the right set of skills, which enable them to adapt and thrive in the face of real-world challenges and events, while also emphasizing the importance of professional values and ethics in achieving sustainable success. The Leadership Conclave inspires a managerial mindset in our students which is an essential part of transforming

into Day Zero Professionals. We look forward to hosting many such events in the future", said Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Group CEO, The Lexicon Group of Institutes, MultiFit & EduCrack. Panel members for The Leadership Conclave consisted of acclaimed personalities which included, Dr. Sandeep Sacheti, EVP, Customer Information Management & Operational Excellence, Wolters Kluwer Governance, Risk & Compliance, Dr. Parag Kalkar, Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Man-

agement, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Dr. Devidas Golhar, Principal, MMCC member, NEP Task Force, Govt. of Maharashtra, Ajit Thatte, Visiting Faculty at Business Schools, Nasir Shaikh, Group CEO, The Lexicon Group of Institutes, MultiFit & EduCrack, and was moderated by Anup Sheth, Director-Placements and Corporate Connect, Lexicon MILE. In the opening address, Dr. Sacheti shared valuable insights and anecdotes from his personal life. He also spoke

about the importance of recognizing one's strengths and leveraging them to succeed professionally.

The robust panel discussions touched upon crucial topics such as the importance of budding professionals adopting a manager mindset even before they step into the corporate world, promoting unconventional thinking among students, self-nurturing curiosity, and enhanced teaching pedagogy. "It was an absolute pleasure to have had the opportunity to interact with the students at Lexicon MILE. Sharing experiences from my professional journey with these ambitious and determined students is an absolute joy. The students displayed a great eagerness and that is what made this conclave interesting. I wish them all the success for their future endeavours and look forward to visiting the campus in the future for many such events", said, Dr. Sandeep Sacheti, EVP, Customer Information Management & Operational Excellence, Wolters Kluwer Governance, Risk & Compliance.

Practo adds 9000+ new clinics and hospitals to its appointment booking network



FW DESK Delhi

Practo's appointment booking business that makes it easy for patients to find and book in-person consultations with doctors, has today announced an addition of 9000+ new clinics and hospitals in the last two years. With this new addition across 750+ pin codes, the total number of partner hospitals and clinics in its appointment booking network stands at close to 80,000. More than 94% of new pin codes added were in Tier 2 cities, indicating the company's growing focus and presence beyond metros.

In addition to that, Practo has also onboarded 12,000+ new healthcare professionals across specialties to its network. With this Dentistry, Dermatology and General Practice are now the top three specialties with respect to the total number of healthcare professionals.

This Industry-first technology that powers Practo's appointment booking business 'Prime' was introduced in 2018. It aggregates healthcare providers' appointment inventory enabling real-time online scheduling for patients. In the process, it has helped:

- Increase in the total value driven* for the provider network by over 30%
- Increase ease of access to patients by assisting 23% more patients book appointments online

Increased no. of appointment booked with premier institutions like Max Super Speciality Hospital, Apollo Hospital, CK Birla Hospital, BLK Super Speciality Hospital, Aster, Motherhood, Fortis, Cloudnine and Manipal Hospital, by 25% Rowel Coelho, Business Head - Primary Care, Practo said, "In all these years, our north star has remained intact - empower patients to make informed choices. Three key levers to solving this are access, quality and affordability. The fundamental problem of getting access to doctors still exists and hence we continue

to expand our core business. We're now geared to solve for quality at primary care; in a similar fashion we did with secondary care through PCS, maybe with greater ownership. Coming months are going to be very exciting as we foray into ventures that deepen our quality efforts."

Dr Alexander Kuruvilla, Chief Strategy Officer, Practo, "Practo's journey as a facilitator of changes in India's healthcare system has been phenomenal. And this expansion in the network is a reflection of the need to further improve and strengthen fundamental healthcare services. While these services have been the building blocks of Practo's overall business and they continue to grow, we are equally excited to work on more complex problems involving service delivery that enables better quality and help us make all information available to patients transparently. I am very optimistic of what lies ahead and the impact we are going to deliver to a billion+ Indians."

Practo Prime is a technology product for clinics and hospitals which helps them provide an exceptional visit experience to patients with assured benefits. Prime focuses on helping patients book appointments that offer quality and convenience. Launched in 2018, today, thousands of hospitals and clinics use it to not just provide offline appointment booking convenience to their patients, but for online consultations too.

With Prime, healthcare professionals are able to provide patients with benefits such as low wait times at clinics and hospitals, instant online appointment confirmation 24*7, assured consultation with the booked doctor and free follow-up consultation via chat after the first consult. By bringing convenience, predictability and quality together, Prime has forever changed the landscape of doctor appointments in the Indian healthcare ecosystem.

'1ST Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD)' under #G20 India meeting underway in Bengaluru

THE G20 FINANCE TRACK, LED BY FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS OF THE MEMBER NATIONS, FOCUSES ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

ARUN KUMAR RAO
Bengaluru



"1st Meeting of G20 Finance Track under #G20 India. The three-day meeting which marks the start of discussions on Finance Track agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency began in Bengaluru jointly hosted by the Union Minister of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting with an aim of forging a common path on global priorities through the theme

of "The World is one Family". The G20 FCBD meeting that began is co-chaired by Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Dr Michael D Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI. The G20 Finance Track, led by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the member nations, focuses on economic and financial issues. Their coun-

terparts from G20 member countries, and from several other countries and international organisations invited by India, are participating in the meeting. According to officials statement Discussions will focus on the agenda for the Finance Track under the Indian G20 Presidency, including reorienting international financial

institutions to meet the shared global challenges of the 21st century; financing cities of tomorrow; managing global debt vulnerabilities; advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains; financing for climate action and SDGs a globally coordinated approach to unbaked crypto assets; and advancing the international taxation agenda. Meanwhile, the First Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting will be held from February 23-25, 2023 in Bengaluru.

Official release said, The G20 Finance Track discusses key issues of relevance for the global economy, encompassing the global economic outlook, the international financial architecture, infrastructure development and financing, sustainable finance, global health, international taxation and financial sector issues, including financial inclusion.

Nov retail inflation rate may be down, battle continues

NEW DELHI: With core inflation continuing to be high, credit rating agencies like Acuite Ratings & Research and CARE Ratings do not expect any significant downtrend in the retail inflation for the next few months.

"It is a pleasant surprise to see the headline CPI inflation print at 5.88 per cent in Nov-22 from 6.77 per cent in Oct-22 since most market participants estimated it to be above 6.0 per cent. This is an eleven-month low figure and is clearly driven by the faster-than-expected decline in food inflation which stood at 5.1 per cent in the previous month," Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer said.

According to Chowdhury, the fall in retail inflation has been due to the quick drop in vegetable prices which is a seasonal phenomenon apart from the continuing softness in edible oil prices.

"Nevertheless, the core inflation figure remains high for



RBI's comfort and has in fact moved up further to 6.29 per cent in Nov-22 from 6.23 per cent in Oct-22; on a MoM basis, the core inflation went up by 0.43 per cent, highlighting the embedded nature of the current inflationary environment," Chowdhury said.

The moderately healthy, if not strong, momentum in domestic demand is leading to the holding up of the core inflation.

Also, the base factor was

relatively an advantage for the Nov-22 print which may not be the case for Dec-22. Therefore, we don't expect any significant trend downward for the CPI inflation for the next few months, Chowdhury said.

"Given the core inflation trajectory, we continue to forecast an average figure of 6.7 per cent for CPI inflation in FY23. We also continue to expect another round of modest hike in Feb-23 which will take the terminal rate to 6.5 per cent or higher," Chowdhury said.

Prices of Petrol & Diesel have not been increased by public sector OMCs since 6th April 2022, despite record high international prices says Puri



FW DESK

India imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements. Therefore, the prices of Petrol and Diesel in the country are linked to their respective prices in the international market. The retail prices of Petrol and Diesel depend on various factors viz. crude oil purchase price, exchange rate, shipping charges, inland freight, refinery margin, dealer commission, central taxes, state VAT and other cost elements. While the average price of Indian basket of Crude oil increased by 102% (from \$43.34 to \$87.55) between November 2020 and November 2022, the retail prices of Petrol and Diesel have increased in India by only 18.95% and 26.5% during this period.

We are confident of achieving textile export target of USD 100 billion by 2030: Piyush Goyal



FW DESK
New Delhi

Union Minister of Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal said that India was confident of achieving textile export target of USD 100 billion by 2030. He was interacting with media persons during the two-day 'Kashi Tamil Samagam' in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh today. The Minister announced that a unique, one of its kind exhibition, 'VIRAASAT' will be organized in New Delhi to celebrate 75 handwoven saris of India. He said that in the festival 'My Sari My Pride' handwoven saris ranging from Patola, Banarasi, Paithani, Kanjivaram and others will be exhibited. He added that weavers from across the country will participate in the festival which will start from December 16th at Janpath Haat, New Delhi. Goyal noted the profound connection that Kashi had with Tamil Nadu and said that he is reminded of Dev Deepavali firecrackers burst in Kashi which must have been produced in Sivakasi.

IREDA inks Rs. 4,445 crore loan agreement with SJVN Green Energy Ltd. for 1,000 MW Solar power project



FW DESK

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed a historic loan agreement for Rs. 4,444.71 crore with SJVN Green Energy Ltd. (SGEL, a subsidiary of SJVN Ltd.) today, for a 1,000 MW Solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

The IREDA funded project will connect to 400/220 KV substation Bikaner-II (near Bikaner). SJVN has bagged the project through the tender floated by IREDA under the CPSU Phase-II (Tranche III) Scheme for development of Grid connected Solar PV Power Project through competitive Bidding Process based on VGF support.

Speaking on the occasion, CMD, IREDA said: "We are pleased to sanction IREDA's highest loan amount to SGEL for development of 1,000 MW Solar project. We will be able to support Govt. of India to achieve its targets of 50% share of energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030 through this kind of cooperation. Also, this partnership will encourage green investment and generate both direct and indirect employment opportunities."

"We are pleased to sanction IREDA's highest loan amount to SGEL for development of 1,000 MW Solar project. We will be able to support Govt. of India to achieve its targets of 50% share of energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030 through this kind of cooperation"

In the presence of Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA and Nand Lal Sharma, CMD, SJVN, Pradipta Kumar Roy, DGM (IREDA) and S. L. Sharma, CEO (SGEL) signed the loan agreement at the corporate office of IREDA. Chintan Shah, Director (Technical), IREDA, A. K. Singh, Director (Finance), SJVN, Dr. R. C. Sharma, CFO, Smt. Debjani Bhatia, GM (TS), IREDA and other senior officials also graced the occasion.

Ministry of Textiles working towards GI Tag to weavers and inclusion in FTAs says Nirmala Sitharaman

FW DESK

Ministry of Textiles is working towards including GI Tag to weavers and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) which sends a strong message that the Government of India is supporting our weavers and their families, said Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister while inaugurating 'VIRAASAT, Celebrating 75 handwoven saris of India', an exclusive weave-based Handloom Sari Festival "My Sari My Pride" here today.

She said that the Ministry of Textiles has taken unique step by organizing such an event in the Central Delhi which exhibits country's weavers and India's tradition. She further said that the Ministry has sourced 75 handwoven saris which are exhibited in the exhibition here.

FM Sitharaman said that the Prime Minister in 2014-2015 gave the vision of 5 F, from Farm to Fibre to Fabric to Fashion to Foreign. This vision has become a principle objective of the Ministry of Textiles under which this exhibition is organized and weavers are promoted to display their work.

Sitharaman applauded that to provide information about these saris, a touch screen display has been put to impart information about the traditional significance of handwoven saris and the weavers involved in making these exquisite pieces.



FW DESK

ing these exquisite pieces. She said that while women parliamentarian are present during the inauguration, she invited all men parliamentarian as well to get introduced to the weavers and witness the traditional handwoven saris of the country terming the exhibition as My Handloom Sari, My Sari, My Pride.

Present on the occasion was DarshanaJardosh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textileswho enumerated the traditional handwoven saris that are displayed in the exhibition. Coinciding with the 75 years of Independence, "AzadikaAmritMahotsav" there will be an exhibition-cum-sale of Handloom Saris by 75 handloom weavers belonging to 16 States/UTs. The festival is being organized in two phases from 16th to 30th December 2022 and 3rd to 17th January 2023 (11AM to 8 PM) at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi.

Handloom sector is a

symbol of our country's rich and varied cultural heritage, besides being one of the key sectors providing employment to a large number of people, especially women. With a view to showcase the Handloom heritage of India, a Handloom Saree festival is being organized by the Ministry of Textiles.

The handloom sector of India engages more than 35 lakh persons. The art of handloom sari weaving has traditional values attached to it and each region has exquisite saris varieties. The uniqueness of saris such as Paithani, Kotpad, Kota doria, Tangail, Pochampally, Kancheepuram, Thiruvananthapuram, Jamdani, Santipuri, Chanderi, Maheshwari, Patola, Moirangphee, Banarasi Brocade, Tanchoi, Bhagalpuri Silk, BawanButi and Pashmina Sari Sari etc. to name a few attracts customers across the globe with exclusive art, weaves, designs and traditional motifs.

BharatPe CEO enjoying life with money I raised but fails to grow company: Ashneer



FW DESK

Despite Delhi High Court's order to restrain from making defamatory statements against the company and its executives amid the ongoing Rs 88.6 crore fraud case, former BharatPe Co-founder and Managing Director Ashneer Grover on Monday took a serious dig at CEO Suhail Sameer, saying the CEO allegedly spent money on personal expenditures that he raised, but is unable to help the fintech firm grow.

In a tweet, Grover alleged that Sameer allegedly spent money raised by him to travel to Australia for the recently-concluded T20 World Cup. "Suhail (CEO) -- bahut aish kar li Ashneer ke raised funds pe. Ladkiya bhi ghuma li Australia. Par hai to hum nalle - hiring, product, tech, UNITY bank, PA license, mkt share -- kuchh nahi hil raha humse. Kya kareng? (Had a gala time with money Ashneer raised in Australia but I am unable to help the company on the hiring, product, tech, UNITY Bank, payment aggregator (PA) license and market share fronts, what to do?)" tweeted Grover.

Grover then targeted Sumeet Singh, a partner with Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas who joined BharatPe as its general counsel (GC) last year. "Sumeet (GC): Case kareng ! case kareng ! Case kareng ! (But Sumeet went ahead to file case (against me), Grover further posted. The Delhi High Court last week issued notice and summons to BharatPe's former Managing Director and his kin in a plea filed by the company, seeking orders to restrain them from making defamatory statements against the company. In April this year, Grover had threatened legal action against CEO Sameer and the board for his comments on professional networking platform LinkedIn against his sister Ashima Grover, along with seeking a resignation from Chairman Rajnish Kumar.

Grover last week attacked the fintech platform's co-founder Shashvat Nakrani, saying he once asked him to bunk office for a whole year in order to complete his IIT degree while remaining on the payroll. He also alleged that his book "Doglapan" created panic among BharatPe executives and this is the reason the fintech company had apparently filed cases against him.

Raise IT exemption limit to Rs 5 lakh and pluck low hanging fruit : ASSOCHAM urges Govt in pre-Budget recommendations

FW DESK
New Delhi

In its pre-Budget recommendations, ASSOCHAM has said the government should increase the exemption limit for income tax to at least Rs 5 lakh so that more disposable income is left in the hands of consumers and the economy gets a consumption boost and further leg-up in the recovery. Without accounting for rebates, the present exemption limit is Rs 2.5 lakh for the assessee.

In a media interaction, ASSOCHAM President Sumant Sinha said buoyancy in both the direct and indirect taxes should give enough elbow room to the government for raising the income tax exemption limit.

The government must respond to the proactive steps other nations are doing to support the production of green hydrogen as India strives to become a major energy producer. Attention should be given to sustainable and green industries to promote job growth and a green economy. Economy security bigger than manufacturing security, he said. Advancing the green economy, achieving energy independence, making

investments in green industries, and reducing the use of fossil fuels are all steps for Atmanirbharta.

"Boosting consumption by leaving more money in the hands of the consumers, is a low hanging fruit for a further recovery in economic growth," said Deepak Sood, Secretary General ASSOCHAM.

The chamber said along with the consumption, the other path to a sustainable growth would be further promoting investment. In this direction, the ASSOCHAM said that 15% corporate tax rate for new investments in manufacturing can be extended to all sectors, including services.

Suggesting another relief measure, it said the interest for late payment of the GST should be reduced to 12 per cent from 18 per cent. "The penal interest rate of 18 per cent is too high, particularly for the MSMEs."

Measures like Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, with an outlay of around Rs 2-lakh crore for 13 sectors, were introduced in 2021. PLI has done much to boost domestic manufacturing, investment as well as job creation. It is therefore advised that the government should continue to focus on



it. Reports suggest proposals are in works to extend the Rs 35,000 crore PLI scheme to various sectors.

While exporters are asking for credit at affordable rates, MSMEs are asking for restructuring of existing loans, giving them room for a fixed term of one year of moratorium and two years additional timeline to repay term loans. They have also asked for extension of the NPA (non-performing assets) classification period to 180 days from 90 days as they struggle to get timely payments from their buyers, leading to defaults in payments.

There is also a need to identify new sectors in MSMEs, like the travel and tourism industry. By prioritizing tourism infrastructure development, it will lead to employment creation as well as growth

of MSMEs. In addition, opportunity, innovation, new tech goods, and leveraging tech solutions to the global market should be used for increasing economic activity and employment.

It is necessary for MSME to be more connected to the world. What is needed is a transparent, paperless, end-to-end system to facilitate on-time payment, which will not only inject liquidity into the market but also encourage businesses to reinvest. This is part of a collective effort to popularise and increase acceptance for the "Make in India"

In an environment of global challenges like recession looming large over several major economies of the world, high inflation, supply disruptions caused by a protracted Ukraine-Russia war and uncer-

tain and volatile energy prices, India remains resilient helped by pragmatic government policies, food security, financial stability and the never-say-die spirit of our people.

The IMF has projected that more than one-third of the global economy will contract in 2022 or next year. Economies such as the US have seen inflation unprecedented for several decades. The US inflation is well above seven per cent, forcing the Federal Reserve to revise interest rates several times, keeping upward of 4 per cent. This had implications for the emerging economies including India which have been witnessing flow of global funds to the US dollar as an asset class. The recent pressure on the Indian rupee was a result of these developments, but the RBI rose to the occasion managing the situation pretty well.

The INR is quite stable now; in fact the fund flow is reversing inward again, taking all the components together. So, our macro economy remains not only stable but also growing upward of six per cent. According to the latest RBI estimates, the Indian economy is projected to grow by 6.8 per cent for the FY'23. We largely agree with the RBI assessment,

with an upward bias.

As for inflation, while the signs of peaking have started appearing for the major economies as well, these are still tentative. However, as the drop in CPI to 11 month low of 5.88 per cent for November shows, inflation in India is more likely to have peaked, though remains above the RBI comfort level of 4 per cent. But it has come down below the RBI upper end of 6 per cent.

The 6.3 per cent GDP growth for the second quarter of the current financial year had a large contribution from the catch-up recovery in services like trade, hotels and transport in the post-Covid period. However, there was a contraction in manufacturing by 4.3 per cent. The contraction in manufacturing continues even in the latest numbers of industrial production for October.

Manufacturing contracted by 5.6 per cent in October 2022 over the corresponding month of the previous year. While the government has extended several schemes like PLIs, extension of lower corporate tax 15 per cent up to March 31, 2024, global disruption in supply chain, rising prices of raw material would have made an impact on the manufacturing.

INTERNATIONAL

India has to counter 'radicalisation' at home

FW DESK

The G20 Presidency offers India a rare opportunity of rising as a leading contributor to the global recovery from the Covid pandemic, as an advocate of collective action in tackling environmental challenges and climate change, and as an active participant in the efforts to pull the world out of economic stagnation in general and the food and energy crisis caused by the Ukraine-Russia military conflict in particular.

India's sane voice on various global issues has been heard and appreciated by the world community and there is little doubt that while steering the G20 Presidency through the year ahead, India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi would further strengthen its position as a major world power and as a trustworthy global counsel.

The country's handling of economic development has served our national interests well, however, a major challenge is to safeguard our internal security against the threats of terrorism and radicalisation.

Although the democratic world is united against the new faith-based terror, India is left on its own to strategise against the threats posed by the Sino-Pak alliance working specifically against the country. Even the US is not excessively bothered with



the added threat of terrorism from the Pak-Afghan belt after the return of Taliban Emirate at Kabul - following the withdrawal of American troops from the war-torn Afghanistan - or with the adverse impact of the consolidation of strategic links between China and Pakistan in a situation where geopolitical hostility between US and China was coming to the fore.

The two adversaries of India are our neighbours as well, and apart from the mischief they can cause on the borders, they have every intention of using an opportunity of disturbing India's internal peace and cohesion. India has to take preventive measures on multiple fronts to deal with this situation. India

is now militarily prepared to respond to any Chinese aggressiveness on LAC particularly in eastern Ladakh and is an active partner in the US-led Quad to work for 'rules-based order' in the Indo-Pacific and strategically counter Chinese designs against India on the marine front.

In regard to Pakistan, India wields the deterrent of a 'surgical strike' against any Pak mischief on LoC or International Border. Pak ISI is now more determined to encourage 'radicalisation' for instigating communal militancy in India and fomenting faith-based terrorism as its upshot. China is extending full support to Pakistan in the latter's covert operations in

Kashmir and Punjab. To deal with the likely accentuation of the threat from Islamic radical outfits of Pak-Afghan belt, India has among other foreign policy initiatives, struck close bonds with Central Asian Republics (CARs) through meetings held by our NSA with his counterparts from these countries, at Delhi. These neighbours of Afghanistan, with predominantly Muslim population are firmly opposed to radicalisation and extremism and want to strengthen India's hands in countering the spread of terror in the name of Islam.

Apart from the global initiatives, however, India needs to take comprehensive steps to strengthen our internal se-

curity. Many of these suggest themselves.

First, mobilisation of leaders and institutions of the Muslim minority is required to get them to expressly declare that in democratic India - run on the triple guarantee of 'one man one vote', equal opportunity to everybody for economic development and the same protection of law for all citizens - there was no room for advocacy of Jihad for solving any problem facing the community or looking for support from outside of the nation for that purpose.

India can follow up on the statement of R20- the forum launched by Indonesia at Bali in the run up to G20- that favoured inter-faith dialogue, presented Islam as a religion of peace and sought to promote inter-religious harmony and respect for all faiths. This meet firmly rejected radicalisation.

The timely initiative of India's NSA to convene the bilateral security dialogue with his Indonesian counterpart at Delhi, to which Ulema and spokespersons of other religions from both sides were also invited, has laid the turf for a concerted effort in India - to get institutions like Darul Uloom Deoband and Nadwatul Ulema Lucknow to call for inter-faith harmony, highlight the commitment of Islam to peace and disapprove of radicalisation and terrorism.

World not 'stupid' when it comes to recognising Pak as 'epicentre' of terrorism: Jaishankar

The world is not stupid, the world is not forgetful" when it comes to recognising Pakistan as the "epicentre" of terrorism, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said.

Pakistan, therefore, has to clean up its act and take up the global agenda of development instead of terrorism, he said on Thursday at a news conference outside the UN Security Council chamber where he had just wrapped up a special session that heard briefings on counterterrorism.

Responding to a question from a Pakistani TV journalist about how long would it take for terrorism to end in South Asia, Jaishankar said: "You're asking the wrong Minister!" "It is the minister of Pakistan who will tell you how long Pakistan intends to practice terrorism," he said.

Pakistan cannot confuse anyone any longer because "people have figured it out" that is the "epicentre" of terrorism, the Minister added.

"So my advice is, please clean up your act to be a good neighbour. Please try and contribute to what the rest of the world is trying to do, which is economic growth, development." Jaishankar added that



he hoped to get this message across through the journalist's TV channel.

Asked about Pakistani Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah preparing a dossier on what he called India's involvement in terrorism, Jaishankar said it is ironic he should be making the claim.

It is because about a decade ago when Rana was a Minister, Hillary Clinton who was visiting Pakistan warned him about terrorism and said that if you have snakes in your backyard, you can't expect them to bite only your neighbours because eventually, they will bite the people who keep them, Jaishankar said.

But Pakistan is not good at taking advice, he added. At the time of the visit by

Clinton who was then US Secretary of State, Rana was Law Minister of the Punjab province.

Jaishankar said that at the end of Thursday's meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement that affirmed that any act of terrorism or crime is unjustifiable regardless of the motivation and who committed it.

The statement also stated that "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes the most serious threats to international peace and security", he said.

A presidential statement is adopted by consensus and although it does not have the power of enforcement like a resolution, it carries moral authority.

Canada's immigration backlog shrinks to 2.2 mn: IRCC



Canada's immigration backlog came down to just over 2.2 million from last month's 2.4 million, according to new data revealed by the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

With this, the citizenship inventory stands at 3,14,630 applicants as of November 30, compared to 3, 31, 401 on October 31, CIC News reported.

The permanent residence inventory stands at 5,12,342 people as of December 2, compared to 5, 06, 421 as of November 3.

The biggest reduction was seen in the temporary residence inventory, which stood at 14, 16, 125 people on December 2, compared to 15, 37, 566 persons as of November 3.

As of December 2, there are 43,326 applications for Express Entry programs waiting in the queue -- an increase of over 3, 500 since November 3 data, which stood at 39, 589.

The inventory for all family class immigration programs has dropped slightly to 1, 27, 091 compared to November 3 when it was 1, 28, 112.

The Spouses and Partners sponsorship program is among the largest inventories among all lines of business, at 62, 106, a minimal increase compared with November 3.

The Parents and Grandparents Program (PGP) has an inventory of 53, 770 persons compared to 55, 653 persons waiting for decisions in November.

September 30 data showed that there were 1.5 million applications in the backlog, meaning that IRCC cleared over 3, 50, 000 applications from the backlog.

This comes while the number of applications in inventory has risen for permanent residency, CIC News reported.

IRCC says that between January and October 2022, they produced 4.3 million final decisions for permanent residents, temporary residents and citizenship compared to 2.3 million final decisions in the same period last year. The Canadian citizenship body says it wants to have a less than 50 per cent backlog across all lines of business by the end of March 2023.

Indian-American duo to pay over \$420,000 to settle kickback charges

NEW YORK: An Indian-American couple has agreed to pay \$422, 789 to resolve allegations that they received illegal kickbacks in return for referring patients for laboratory testing.

Dr Vijesh Patel and his office manager and wife Laju Patel of Texas, received kickbacks in violation of the Anti-Kickback Statute in return for the doctor's referrals to three laboratories in New Jersey, Texas and South Carolina.

The Anti-Kickback Statute prohibits offering, paying, soliciting, or receiving remuneration to induce referrals of items or services covered by Medicare, Medicaid and other federally funded healthcare programs.

From December 2016 to July 2018, Vijesh allegedly received thousands of dollars in payments from a purported management service organisation (MSO) named Indus MG LLC in return for ordering laboratory tests from True Health Diagnos-



tics LLC, a clinical laboratory in Frisco, Texas.

The Indus MSO's payments to Vijesh allegedly were disguised as investment returns but in fact were based on, and offered in exchange for, his referrals to True Health, a Department of Justice statement read.

From August 2018 to August 2021, Vijesh allegedly received thousands of dollars in kickbacks disguised as investment returns from a purported MSO named Avior Group LLC in return for ordering laboratory tests from New Jersey-based RDX Bioscience, Inc.

In addition, from December 2018 to August 2022, his wife

Laju allegedly received kickbacks from RDX in the form of commercially unreasonable fees to purportedly collect urine specimens for testing that Vijesh referred to RDX.

Vijesh also allegedly received hundreds of dollars per month from August 2019 to December 2021 in return for ordering laboratory tests from Labtech Diagnostics LLC (Labtech), in Anderson, South Carolina.

"Kickbacks can undermine a physician's medical judgment, result in unnecessary testing, and increase health care costs borne by taxpayers," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian M Boynton, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division, in a statement.

"We will continue to pursue physicians, laboratories, and others responsible for schemes that violate rules intended to safeguard the integrity of federal health care programmes," Boynton added.

UK economy rebounds in Oct but recession still looms



The British economy is estimated to have grown by 0.5% between September and October, statistics showed, but a lengthy recession is still expected in the UK.

October's rebound followed a fall of 0.6% in September, which was affected by the extra bank holiday for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, Xinhua news agency quoted the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as saying on Monday.

Car sales rebounded after a very poor September, while the health sector also saw a strong month, said ONS director of economic statistics Darren Morgan.

Meanwhile, construction continued its strong trend over the last year and stands at its highest level on record, with new housebuilding driving growth, he added.

At least 0.3 percentage points of the rise was due to a return to the normal number of working days in October after September's bank holiday, making the economy look stronger than it really is, said Ruth Gregory, senior UK economist at Capital Economics consultancy.

However, aside from this factor, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) probably rose by 0.2 percent month on month, so it appears that GDP growth had more momentum at the start of the fourth quarter than previously thought, Gregory added.

Despite the monthly rebound, concerns mounted. Looking at the broader picture, the UK's GDP fell by 0.3 per cent in the three months to October compared with the three months to July. A decline was also seen across services and manufacturing, Morgan noted.

"The trend still is downward sloping," said Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics consultancy. Tombs noted that activity indicators from S&P Global, Lloyds and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), as well as the extremely low level of GfK's consumer confidence index, are all consistent with falling GDP.

The S&P Global / CIPS Flash UK PMI Composite Output Index posted 48.3 in November. It has registered below the crucial 50.0 no-change value for four consecutive months.

Netherlands taps into gas reserves as cold wave boost heating demand

Dutch energy firms have been forced to tap into the country's gas reserves as the cold wave is boosting demand.

Temperatures in the Netherlands have hovered around or below freezing since early December, and the cold spell is expected to continue at least until the end of this week. As a result, the gas consumption of Dutch households and companies has risen significantly recently and the country has had to resort to its stored gas reserves to satisfy demand, a spokesperson for Dutch energy network operator Gasunie told Xinhua news agency on Wednesday.

Gasunie estimated that the Netherlands consumed 1.5 billion cubic meters of gas over the last cold week, more than doubling the average weekly usage of about 0.61 cubic meter this year until the end of November. Hence the



need to tap into the reserves. "It is normal at this time of the year and therefore not alarming," the Gasunie spokesperson told Xinhua.

Despite the cold, the Dutch have used less gas than they normally would in cold weather in order to save costs. About 20 percent less gas was used than in previous years under the same winter conditions. "This applies not only to regular consumers, but also to companies," the spokesperson said.

"Everyone feels it in their wallet and thinks twice before turning up the heating. Instead of 20 degrees Celsius at home, the temperature



Musk sells Tesla stock worth \$3.5 bn amid Twitter overhaul

Elon Musk has sold over 20 million more Tesla shares worth about \$3.5 billion and did not provide any reason for selling more stock in the electric car company.

Since November 2021, Musk has sold more than \$39 billion of Tesla shares.

After the fresh share sale, according to a form filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Musk now owns about \$66 billion worth of Tesla stock.

In April this year, the new Twitter CEO sold off \$8.5 billion worth of Tesla stock while in August, he offloaded another \$7 billion shares.

The share sale comes at a time when Tesla investors have raised concerns over Musk's \$44 billion Twitter acquisition, saying his 24/7 involvement with the micro-blogging platform is "detrimental to Tesla," reports TechCrunch.

Tesla stock has nosedived 60.8 per cent since January this

year, and traded at \$156.80 after hours on Wednesday. According to industry analysts, "the fresh stock sell is Musk's answer to some of the high interest debt he's paying on his \$44 billion Twitter deal". Twitter took on \$13 billion in debt as part of that deal, including about \$3 billion of unsecured debt on which Twitter pays an interest rate of 11.75 per cent, said the report.

Meanwhile, Musk, who saw his net worth tumble by more than \$100 billion in 2022, has been replaced by Bernard Arnault, the chief executive of luxury brand Louis Vuitton's parent company LVMH, as the world's richest man.

Seven British-Indians win 2022 Young Dentist Award in UK



LONDON: Seven British-Indians have received the Young Dentist Award in recognition of their excellence in dentistry across the whole of the UK.

The 2022 Dentistry Awards, feted as 'dentistry's biggest party', took place late last month at The Athena in Leicester.

While Kiran Shankla and Rohit Keshav Sunil Patel won from the South East, Sorabh Patel and Vishal Patel won from London. Viraj Patel and Paavan Chouhan from the North West and Chetan Sharma from Midlands won along with 20 others who were honoured in the Young Dentist award category.

There were a total of 13 categories in the award, including Dental Laboratory of the Year, Therapist of the Year, Young Dentist, Hygienist of the Year, Dental Nurse of the Year, and

more. To be considered for the award, the young dentists had to give 750-word answers to a list of questions, provide supporting evidence of their work and their participation in the local community. "It's amazing to be recognised at such a high level. All the hard work and sacrifices made over nine years came down to this one moment," Kiran Shankla, who works at Wood Lane Dentistry in Berkshire, told Henley Standard. Shankla, 32, graduated from the University of Birmingham. Her areas of interest are minimally invasive dentistry, treating young children and cosmetic dentistry. "When the awards first started 22 years ago there were just five entries. This year there were over 900 entries," said James Goolnik, founder of Bow Lane dental group, and one of the long-standing judges of the awards.

NZ logs over 40,000 new Covid cases last week

New Zealand recorded 40,098 new community cases of Covid-19 and 35 more deaths from the pandemic over the past week, the country's Ministry of Health said on Monday.

On average, new cases per day reached 5,721 in the last week. The country has seen the number of daily cases going down steadily from over 10,000 cases nationwide in early July, Xinhua news agency reported.

With the fresh cases, New Zealand has reported 2,019,685 confirmed cases of



Covid-19 and 2,257 Covid-19-related deaths since the pandemic hit the country in early 2020, the ministry said.

Currently, 514 Covid-19 patients are being treated in hospitals in the country, including 14 in intensive care units or high dependency units, according to official data.

Cambodia marks 30 years of Angkor inscription on Unesco world heritage list

Cambodia on Wednesday held events here to mark the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the Angkor Archaeological Park on Unesco's World Heritage Sites list.

Speaking to hundreds of participants at the "Angkor Thanksgiving" ceremony, one of the events planned to be held for three days, Deputy Prime Minister Men Sam An said that 30 years after the inscription on December 14, 1992, the Angkor Archaeological Park has been well protected, preserved and developed, and has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the region and beyond, reports Xinhua

news agency. "Currently, visits to the Angkor have returned to normalcy under the shade of peace and political stability as well as the successful control of the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

"This event is to promote our cultural potential and tourism to the world." Minister of Culture and Fine Arts Phoeurung Sackona said the celebratory events would provide an opportunity for the public to visit and learn about the work of protection, preservation and development of the Angkor.

"It is a message to our compatriots to join in safeguarding and preserving the Angkor and other



national heritage for common interest," she added.

According to the event organiser the APSARA National Authority (ANA), over the course of three days, visitors will enjoy

free art performances and films at some designated temples.

Also, they will be given free tours of several sites and museums so that they can learn more about the work of conservation

and development of the Angkor, the ANA said.

Situated in northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province, the 401-sq-km Angkor Archaeological Park is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian country.

Prior to the pandemic, the ancient site attracted up to 2.2 million international tourists in 2019, generating a gross revenue of \$99 million from ticket sales, according to the state-owned Angkor Enterprise.

From January to November 2022, the site received more than 225, 000 foreign tourists, earning \$9 million in revenue, the Angkor Enterprise said.

CM Mann honours LPU Students with trophy at Punjab's inter-university youth festival

FW DESK
Jalandhar

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab Bhagwant Mann honoured Lovely Professional University (LPU) students with 2nd Runner-Up trophy for Punjab's inter-university youth festival. More than 3,000 students from 30 varsities across the state had participated in the competitive event. Winning a huge haul of 19 medals, including 3 Gold, 10 Silver & 6 Bronze; LPU students are awarded with the trophy for exhibiting versatile talent for 'Punjab & Punjabiyat'.



"WE ALWAYS GUIDE OUR STUDENTS TO PROMOTE THE MYRIAD CULTURE OF THE RESPECTIVE STATE AND THE COUNTRY. THUS, WE KEEP ON PROVIDING THEM WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE WELL VERSED IN TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND MUSIC WITH THEIR ACADEMICS"

It was announced again and again from the fest's podium that LPU is the only private university of the state to be among top three for upholding and promoting Punjabi culture at its campus. Other winners included Punjab University at first place and Punjabi University, Patiala at 2nd place. Including most of the Punjabi folk items at the fest, the toughest competition of LPU was with other teams of GNDU Amritsar and PAU Ludhiana. The Punjab State's Department of Sports and Youth Services had organized a three-day inter-university youth festival, at Punjabi University in Patiala City of the Punjab. The objective of the festival was to provide the youth an opportunity to showcase their art, and to get them connected with their roots & heritage. Initiated in 2013; this fourth edition in

2022 helped state's initiative in realising perfectly the dream of 'Rangla Punjab'. LPU Chancellor Dr Ashok Kumar Mittal congratulated the winning students' teams and their mentors on grand success. Dr Mittal also especially praised various students of other states and territories who imbibed 'Punjabiyat' to

the core and brought laurels to LPU. Continuing Dr Mittal shared: "We always guide our students to promote the myriad culture of the respective state and the country. Thus, we keep on providing them with ample opportunities to be well versed in traditional sports and music along with their academics." Dean, Division of Student Affairs at LPU, Dr Sorabh Lakhani informed that LPU teams won three gold medals in the competitions for Elocution; Rangoli and Mitti de Khidone; ten silver medals for, On the spot Painting, Folk group song, Lok Geet, Debate, Russa bunai, Caroshia, Nella making, Classical Vocal; one each in both Classical instrument percussion & non-Percussion competitions; and, six bronze medals in Peedi making, Gudiyaan patole, Chhiku making, Cartooning, Clay modelling and Rivaaiti pehrawa.

The fest not only raised awareness about the great glory, traditions, and culture of Punjab; but it also awakened youth as a whole against drugs, gun culture and allied ills.

'Besharam Rang' row: Take back song or face boycott, says Sri Rama Sena in Karnataka

BENGALURU: The Sri Rama Sena in Karnataka on Thursday urged the production house of Shah Rukh Khan-Deepika Padukone starrer 'Pathan' to roll back the "Besharam Rang" song or face a boycott. Pramod Muthalik, founder of the Sri Rama Sena, stated on Thursday that these are not like old times. Change and awareness have come. The boycott calls on Bollywood movies have worked. If the Besharam song is not withdrawn, a boycott 'Pathan' campaign will be launched, he warned.



Meanwhile, veteran south Indian actor Prakash Raj has reacted angrily to the controversy surrounding Hindi film industry superstar Shah Rukh Khan and popular actress Deepika Padukone's new release 'Pathan's 'Besharam Rang' song.

"#Besharam Bigots.. So it's okay when Saffron clad men garland rapists.. give hate speech, broker MLAs, a Saffron clad swamiji rapes Minors, But not a DRESS in the film?? #justasking," Prakash Raj's tweet reads. Pramod Muthalik has questioned Prakash Raj on his remarks. "It is Hindus who are showing patience and tolerance though they have been attacked," he said. The Besharam song has become an instant hit after its release, crossed 2 million views in two hours and has now crossed 42 million views. The Hindutva activists across the country have raised objections to the song and stated that the attire of actors encourages love jihad. They had objected to the dance sequence where Shah Rukh Khan is wearing a green colour shirt and Deepika is flaunting a saffron outfit.

Muthalik stated. He said that the Hindi movie PK showed Hindu Gods in a distasteful manner. "Let them show burqa clad people dancing or a dance in the church. These kind of films set mindsets for living together, love jihad, rape and kidnaps. The censor board must take it seriously," he said.

Let them show burqa clad people dancing or a dance in the church. These kind of films set mindsets for living together, love jihad, rape and kidnaps.

He charged that the 'Besharam Rang' song is indecent and vulgar. The song says the saffron colour is shameless. Bollywood is in the hands of Dawood Ibrahim, communists and atheists. They have been targeting Hindus and attacking their belief system,

'Reputation being tarnished': Nora Fatehi files defamation suit against Jacqueline Fernandez



NEW DELHI: Bollywood actor Nora Fatehi has filed a defamation case in a court here against actor Jacqueline Fernandez, alleging that the latter made defamatory allegations against her for "malicious reasons" and to destroy her career.

According to Fatehi, Fernandez sought to criminally defame her in order to destroy her career to further her own interests, since they are both working in the same industry and have similar backgrounds, amongst other reasons. Contending that her image is being tarnished, Fatehi, stressing that artistes' career is solely based on their reputation, alleged that defamatory



Indian-British singer & songwriter RAVEENA MEHTA tied the knot with SAKET MEHTA

KULBIR SINGH KALSI
Chandigarh

Indian-British singer and songwriter Raveena Mehta recently tied the knot with Saket Mehta (US Based Investor). The wedding was at-

tended by famous celebs from the Bollywood film industry such as Govinda, Jackie Shroff, Janhvi Kapoor and Boney Kapoor.

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The wedding was attended by famous celebs from the Bollywood film industry such as Govinda, Jackie Shroff, Janhvi Kapoor and Boney Kapoor.

Indian-British singer and songwriter Raveena Mehta, who recently tied the knot with the love of her life, Saket Mehta, has joined the list of those tying the knot this year. Couple has grand wedding at Rambagh Palace in Jaipur. Raveena Mehta has shared a series of beautiful pictures of her Royal Wedding with Saket Mehta from her Instagram handle.

Raveena Mehta is from Belgium, while her groom Saket Mehta is from the United States. However, the couple wanted to honor their heritage, so they decided to get married in India. Their wedding was attended by their family and close friends. Famous celebs from the Bollywood film industry such as Govinda, Jackie Shroff, Janhvi Kapoor and Boney Kapoor attended their wedding.

POTPOURRI

Asees Kaur all set to 'lighten-up' the mood with her romantic song 'TU TAN MAIN'



Ace singer Asees Kaur talks about her latest romantic track 'Tu Tan Main' in collaboration with Luvdeep Saini.

It features Rumman Ahmed and Luvdeep. Asees, who became popular for her songs such as 'Raatan Lambiyar' from 'Shershaah', 'Tere Bin' from 'Simmba', 'Bolna' from 'Kapoor&Sons', says she hopes to get positive feedback for the song which brings out a romantic chemistry between two lovers and how they enjoy every moment of togetherness.

Bobby Deol wraps up shoot of Kunal Kohli's 'Shlok - The Desi Sherlock'



Actor Bobby Deol, who has had an eventful year with his performance in the OTT world with 'Ashram Season 2', has wrapped up shooting for his upcoming film 'Shlok - The Desi Sherlock', which he had announced earlier this year. 'Shlok - The Desi Sherlock' is directed by Kunal Kohli and marks the debut of Ananya Birla in Bollywood. Bobby now has taken to his official social media account to announce the wrap-up of 'Shlok'. The actor said: "And it's a wrap for #Shlok. Had a wonderful time working with

the A-team, some of the most amazing people I've worked with. 'Shlok - The Desi Sherlock' is a spy thriller and Bobby will be taking the audiences by surprise as this is the first time we will see him on screen in this avatar. Apart from 'Shlok - The Desi Sherlock', Bobby will be soon seen in Ranbir Kapoor's 'Animal', 'Ashram' Season 3 and 'Penthouse'. The actor was last seen on screen in the thriller film 'Love Hostel'. It also stars Vikrant Massey and Sanya Malhotra. It is directed by Shanker Raman.

'The Kashmir Files' helmer Vivek Agnihotri starts shooting 'The Vaccine War'

Director Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri, who tasted massive success with his 'The Kashmir Files' this year, has started shooting for his next project titled 'The Vaccine War' in Lucknow. The director took to his social media on Wednesday to share the update with his followers.

He shared a picture of the script of the film with a clap from the mahurat shot on his social media. He wrote in the caption, "GM. We live for new things. New happiness. New



laughters. New challenges. Yet, we feel comfortable in the old & established and stick to it. This contradiction gives suffering. Fastest and surest way to find happiness: Jump into uncertainty. The unknown. #CreativeConsciousness (sic). A few days back, Vivek had

shared a glimpse of the research work of the film. 'The Vaccine War' pays tribute to the endless support and dedication of the medical fraternity and scientists during the uncertain times of the Covid-19 pandemic. The director has shared earlier that it took around one year to research the subject and present the correct facts to the audience. The story of the film is written on 3200 pages and 82 people worked on the story day and night.

"Indian Female Cricketers aroused a very special place in my heart forever": Actress Kashika Kapoor

"Indian Female Cricketers aroused a very special place in my heart forever", says actress Kashika Kapoor who presented the Player of the Match award at the 3rd T20 India Women VS Australia Women Cricket Match. Kashika Kapoor was just 19 when she stepped into the world of glamour, and since then the actress has had no way of looking back. Kashika Kapoor is one such star who is climbing the ladder of success and has established her

name and place in the entertainment field with her back-to-back power-packed performances that garnered the audience's affection. Last night, Kashika Kapoor attended the India Women vs. Australia Women 3rd T20 Match at the stadium, and the actress presented the player of the match award to the winning Australian female cricketer, Ellyse Perry. Ellyse Perry helped Australia set a target of 173 runs, and her innings were also filled with nine

fours and three sixes. Talking about Kashika Kapoor's look, the actress looked gorgeous in complete formal attire, giving us complete boss lady vibes; the actress donned a white shirt, which she paired with formal pants and shoes. Kashika made sure to keep her look very simple yet very elegant. On presenting the award to the Indian Female cricketer, Kashika Kapoor couldn't be more proud than anything else the actress says,

Taapsee calls up 'Blur' director after watching his 'Section 375'

MUMBAI: Actress Taapsee Pannu, who is receiving a lot of positive response to her recently released streaming movie 'Blur', "badly" wanted to work with the film's director Ajay Bahl, who is known for films like 'B.A. Pass' and 'Section 375'. Taapsee, as once mentioned by director Anurag Kashyap, is known for chasing projects with potential and putting them together - 'Badla', 'Dobaaraa' and 'Blur' are some of the examples. For 'Blur', the actress approached Ajay through her co-producer Vishal Rana and asked him to work on 'Blur' as a director with herself serving as the co-producer.



was the first time I managed to do it because now I am in the capacity of a producer. I am so glad he gave it a nod because he was my top choice for this kind of a film." The film presents the story of a woman, Gayatri (played by Taapsee), who finds out about the untimely death of her twin sister, who was visually impaired. She then tries to uncover the mystery behind the death while struggling with her own eyesight. While the film presents an intense narrative, it was Taapsee's co-actors in the film which kept her cool allowing her some downtime and not being overwhelmed with the emotional impact of the role and also her duties as a producer. She shared with media, "I think the rest of the cast in-

cluding Gulshan Devaiah are the people who actually made it lighter for me. While I was doing intense stuff in front of the camera, they really helped me reduce my anxiety because there was so much happening in my head being the producer along with this dual role." "There was so much intensity in front of the camera, I really needed some happy moments off screen and Gulshan and my supporting cast did help me bring about that off the camera", she added. When asked what sensibilities did she have to keep in mind for 'Blur' as a producer, she replied, "I just wanted a good quality film because firsts are always special. You never get a chance to do 'the first' again so when people talk about your first film they should remember it for years."

Urvashi Rautela Looks Gorgeous In This Wild, Animal Print Airport Look!



Urvashi Rautela, the youngest Bollywood superstar wearing Wild, Animal Print Airport Look!, the actress usually attracts attention due to her alluring appearance and charm. she is the celebrity whose airport looks are always on point and yet once again she makes a dazzling appearance at the airport with these high-end brands which will definitely make your jaw drops looking at this scintillating beauty. Urvashi Rautela is famous for her airport look but recently she was Looking Gorgeous In her Wild, Animal Print Airport Look. Urvashi Rautela got captured

in the eyes of paparazzi at the International Airport in Mumbai, on her way headed out of the city for a shoot. The actor donned a cowl neck leopard print long dress with a cut that flaunted her toned legs, and she paired the look with Louis Vuitton shoes and also accompanied her look with a Fendace handbag worth \$600 which is INR 50 thousand and Fendace passport keeper, keeping the look basic with soft curls and minimal makeup, looking absolutely chic as she spared some time to pose for the cameras. Can we just say Urvashi Rautela has the best airport looks in the industry!!! no doubt she is a fashion icon and continues to amaze the audience with her looks and appearances.

On the work front, Urvashi has signed a deal with Pushpa 2 producer to co-star with Chiranjivi, a South Indian icon in the action comedy "Waltair Veerayya". "She will appear in a movie with actor Ram Pothineni. In "Inspector Avinash", Urvashi will appear with Randeep Hooda. Along with Michele Morrone, who starred in 365 Days, she is also making a significant Hollywood debut. The film will be produced by Tomasz Mandes, Barbara Bialowas, and Netflix.

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