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REGION



RS 870 CRORE BUDGET APPROVED FOR HYDROGEN POWERED TRAINS ON KALKA-SHIMLA RAILWAY TRACK

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY



ECOLINE CLOTHING: THE BRAND BEHIND PM NARENDRA MODI'S **TRENDING JACKET**

POTPOURRI



KALI JOTTA RUNNING SUCCESSFULLY, THE **ENDLESS WORDS OF APPRECIATION**

Punjab CM appealed to the people Parliament reiterated its demand for a probe into the Adani Group by the Joint Parliamentary Committee to lift the roadblock at Behbal Kalan

that the state government is fully committed to ensuring justice in Behbal Kalan and Kotakpura incidents, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday appealed to the people to lift the roadblock at Behbal Kalan to avoid any inconvenience to the commuters.

In an appeal, the Chief Minister said the firing incidents at Behbal Kalan and Kotakpura in 2015 along with the sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib in Bargari had bruised the psyche of every human being especially the Sikh community

He said justice will prevail

RBI hikes repo rate

by 25 bps to 6.5%

in both these incidents and the crimes will not be spared at any perpetrators of these heinous cost. The government is already

leaving no stone unturned for this noble cause and those involved in these crimes will be soon behind the bars.

The Chief Minister said due to road blockage at Behbal Kalan a lot of inconvenience is being created to the common people. He said this harassment of the masses should be avoided, adding he appealed to the 'sangat' to lift the roadblock in larger public interest.

Lashing out at the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Congress, Mann said both these parties have connived with each other to save the guilty of these incidents. The Chief Minister said that,

while the unfortunate incidents of desecration and firing on innocents took place during the Akali regime, the Congress actively shielded the perpetra-tors of these crimes during its tenure.

Mann said the Akali-Congress nexus that was shielding the accused had been broken with the AAP government coming into power, which is already making efforts to nab the perpetrators. He said his government is firmly committed to bring the guilty to book and ensure justice in both these cases to assuage the sentiments of the people.

JPC or SC Monitore obe on ABANI SCANDA **NEW DELHI:** The Opposition sloganeering during the Opposition MPs' address in the House. Slogans such as "Modi-Modi" on Friday in the Parliament re-

iterated its demand for a probe into the Adani Group by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The group has been of the commotion, lashed out accused by a US firm in its report of stock manipulation and Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, sayaccounting fraud.

As soon as the proceedings began on Friday at the Upper House, the Opposition MPs started raising slogans.

Both the Opposition and and raised slogans when their Treasury benches indulged in demands were not met

The Vice President also appealed to the MPs to return to their seats, while calling out several Congress parliamentarians, including K.C. Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala, Deepender

Hooda, among others. Naming the MPs, Dhankhar wanted them to be kept out of the proceedings of the House. However, the Congress MPs eventually went back to their respective seats following the V-P's appeal.

The Congress MPs who sought inclusion of excerpts of its national party president Mallikarjun Kharge's speech in the proceedings walked out of the Upper House when their demand was not accepted.

Addressing Dhankhar, the Congress president said: "I will definitely speak my heart out even if my membership (of the House) is cancelled. We are upset with the government ... not you."

India's cotton production

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday announced an increase in the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.5 per cent as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted in favour of repo rate decision by 4 votes to 2.

In his post meeting address **RBI** Governor Shaktikanta Das said that it aims to expand scope for TReDS platform to help improve cash flows of MSMEs.

"MPC also voted to continue focus on withdrawal of accommodation and in favour of stance decision by 4 votes said Das

a front running industrial state in the country: CM to industrialists **INVITES INDUSTRIAL CAPTAINS TO BE PART OF INVEST PUNJAB SUMMIT**

Political stability & quick decision making mechanism to make Punjab

AMRITSAR: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday said that current political stability and quick decision making mechanism along with out of box ideas will soon make Punjab a front running industrial state in the country.

The Chief Minister, while interacting with the industrialists here today during the run up for progressive Punjab Investment Summit scheduled to be held on February 23-24 at Mohali, said that Punjabis are born to be number one as they have traits of hard work and dedication in their blood. He said that due to this spirit the Punjabis have

always excelled in every sphere adding that the entrepreneurs from the state have carved a niche for themselves across the globe. Bhagwant Mann said that the

FISME thanks RBI for agreeing to issue Guidelines for Banks on Penal Interest



day is not far when Punjab will be on the high growth trajectory of Industrial growth.

Announcing a major boost to the Tourism industry across the state by harnessing the immense potential of this sector, the Chief Minister said that the state is blessed with several natural resources which can be developed into international tourist

the holy city will be further developed into a hub of religious and patriotic tourism. He said that no stone will be left for this noble cause and every effort will be made for the promotion of the tourism sector. Bhagwant Mann envisioned that the day is not far when the state will attract tourists from across the globe.

The Chief Minister assured the local industrialists that while promoting the tourism sector preference will be given to the local industry. He said that rather than inviting the big players from within the country and abroad priority will be given to the local industrialists for developing these tourism spots. Mann said that this will allow the local industrialists to flex their muscles in the sector and emerge Punjab as a hub of tourism.

PM Modi replied to the motion of thanks on President's Address

Aman Bhutani of GoDaddy to lay off of 8 % workforce amid increasingly challenging

NEW DELHI: Aman Bhutani, CEO of global web hosting platform GoDaddy, has announced to lay off of 8 percent of the workforce amid increasingly challenging macroeconomic conditions.

In an email to employees, Bhutani said that most impacted roles are in the US. affecting multiple levels in the company and every division.

"The planned impacts also include ongoing work to more deeply integrate three of our brands -- Media Temple, Main Street Hub and 123 Reg into GoDaddy, "he wrote.

Impacted team members received a meeting invite from their leadership to learn the tinued core benefits coverage. details of their transition, members will be eligible for aligned with local employment processes.

"Media Temple customers ance per year worked (with and team members are al- a minimum of four weeks), ready aware of the transition extended healthcare benefits. as well as outplacement and to GoDaddy infrastructure as we work to sunset the brand, immigration support to help and team members will receive a meeting invite today ing to GoDaddy CEO.



NEW DELHI: The production of cotton in India has increased from 312.03 lakh bales in FY22 to 341.91 lakh bales in FY23 so far, informed Union Minister of State for Textiles, Darshana Jardosh in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Citing the Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption and Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Uttar Pradesh, the minister shared that the production of cotton in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is 80.25 lakh bales, 0.065 lakh bales and

15.19 lakh bales respectively. The consumption

TUTE OF MANAGEMENT



Some roles in 123 Reg

may not be required longer

term and "we will notify any

impacted team members by

March 1, 2023". The com-

pany is offering the impacted

employees a transition pack

age, in line with local laws

and customs. In the US, this

will include 12 weeks of paid

administrative leave with con-

In addition, departing team

two additional weeks of sever-

and "We want JPC" were raised.

at Aam Aadmi Party's Rajva

ing his behaviour was "under

The MPs of the Opposition

parties, including the Congress,

reached the Well of the House,

the scanner".

Dhankhar, who disapproved

The standing deposit facil- New Delh; While presenting ity rate now stands at 6.25 ing facility rate stands at 6.75 percent.

The central bank has predicted inflation to remain above 4 per cent target and FY24 GDP growth is seen at 6.4 per cent

Das spoke about how monetary policies across the world have been put to test due to the unprecedented events of the last few years.

"Emerging market economies are facing sharp tradeoffs between supporting economic activity and controlling inflation while preserving policy credibility," he noted

the Monetary Policy, RBI Govpercent and marginal stand- ernor Shaktikanta Das has conceded the divergence of views in regulated entities on penal interest on advances.

"At present, Regulated Entities (REs) are required to have a policy for levy of penal interest on advances. The REs, how-

ever, follow divergent practices on levying of such charges. In certain cases, these charges are founded to be excessive", he noted. "To further enhance transparency, reasonableness and consumer protection, draft

guidelines on levy of penal charges will be issued to obtain comments from stakeholders", **RBI** Governor announced

Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)

> The issue of penal charges has been consistently raised by Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME). A large complaints have been reported to the national Federation mostly pertaining to Private Sector Banks. "We are grateful to RBI for

standing up for the micro and small units who have been the victim of excesses of Banks",

ernment amended the export

policy of wheat from free to

prohibited category on May

says Neeraj Kedia, Chairman, Banking Committee of FISME.

points. He said that the state

government is coming up with a

concrete proposal for developing

Ranjit Sagar Dam, Chohal Dam,

Nurpur Bedi and others into state

of the art tourist destinations.

Bhagwant Mann said that these

tourist spots have huge potential

to put the state on the roadmap

The Chief Minister said that

of international tourism.

According to FISME, while ICICI Bank had been categorical that no-prepayment charges would be levied, most other Banks continued the mal-practice of imposing penal charges to the tune 2~4% on the entire loan amount.

"This is in spite of the Bankers' Code for MSMEs which allows prepayment of loans without penal charges", Neeraj Kedia added

The official communique of FISME has hoped that besides the penal interest, the draft Guidelines would also suggest a transparent mechanism for non-compliance charges

Jailed for raising national

flag in Jammu and Kashmir

Punjab Government has decided to offload 30 lakh metric tons of wheat under Open Market Disposal Scheme



rising prices of wheat and atta, the government has decided to offload 30 lakh metric tons of wheat under Open Market Disposal Scheme (OMSS) and sales to state governments, Kendriya Bhandar, National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), State Cooperatives/Federations etc., to cool down the prices of wheat

and atta. Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and

With a view to cooling down the Public Distribution, Sadhvi on export of wheat. Niranjan Jyoti, in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Friday, said that the government takes various steps from time to time to augment domestic availability and control increasing food prices.

These steps include releases from the buffer to cool down prices, imposition of stock limits. monitoring of stocks declared by entities to prevent hoarding, and also requisite changes in trade policy instruments like rationalization of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on



FW DESK

13, 2022 for restricting export of Indian Durum Wheat, and Union Youth Affairs and Sports from July 12, 2022 the export Minister Anurag Thakur on of atta (wheat) is subjected to Tuesday said that he was once the recommendation of Interjailed for raising the national Ministerial Committee (IMC) flag in the Union Territory while asserting that there is To augment domestic availno restriction in Kashmir to ability and moderate the prices hoist the national flag after the of pulses, import of tur and urad abrogation of Article 370..

"I was longest serving BJP have been kept under 'Free Category' till 31.03.2024 and Youth Wing President, from import duty on masur has been 2010 to 2017. I took a yatra reduced to zero till 31.03.2024. from Kolkata to Kashmir to To prevent hoarding and hoist the national flag. I was restrictive trade practices in put in jail to hoist the national respect of tur the Government flag in Jammu and Kashmir.' Thakur said while speaking at has issued a directive to all the states and UTs to enforce stock the first Y20 meeting under disclosure by stockholders of G20 India at IIT Guwahati. "Totur under the Essential Comday, I see Jammu and Kashmir modities Act, 1955 and to also is a different state with no such monitor and verify the stocks. restrictions'

in the Lok Sabha



NEW DELHI: A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi replied to the motion of thanks on President's Address, Congress MP Manickam Tagore on Thursday gave an adjournment notice in the Lok Sabha seeking "details of the PM's foreign travels with Adani". The notice says, "Discussion on Prime Minister's foreign travel with industrialist Gautam Adani and the benefit the group

received in foreign tenders." The Prime Minister on Wednesday did not touch the subject, but attacked the opposition for terming India weak on one side and while stating that the country has become powerful and was

presurrising other nations. Congress MP Manish Tewari also moved an adjournment notice on the China-Line of Actual control (LAC) issue demanding discussion. In the notice, he said, "Since April 2020, China has engaged in what can only be described as a steady land grab. Till 16 January 2023, seventeen rounds of Commander level talks have taken place between India and China with little success. "All the while China continues to build significant infrastructure. including bridges, roads and

accommodation for its troops. China is attempting to unilaterally change the status quo. "The clashes in the Tawang Sector in Arunachal Pradesh

were another indication of China's steady aggression aimed at changing the status quo on the border. What is more, such aggression is no longer limited in territorial scope as is evidenced by the clashes that took place in Arunachal Pradesh, around 2000 kms away from the place of clashes

has dropped from 334.87 in with their transition, accord-FY21 to 313.77 in FY22, revealed the data shared by MoS textiles.

CM Khattar invites SCO member countries to invest in Haryana

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar has invited the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to invest in the state, terming it as the key investment destination in the country.

During a meeting with the SCO members at the Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad, the chief minister assured the member countries of full cooperation from the state government in setting up their business ventures in Haryana. The representatives of various countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and other dignitaries were present during the meeting, an official spokesperson said. CM Khattar pointed out that



an investment of USD 5.22 billion, while the state's export has also increased to USD 2.17 lakh crore. "The participation of various countries of the Shanghai Co-

operation Organization in the

as artists of every country are proudly displaying their unique culture and are showcasing the best of its heritage in the form of handicrafts and performing arts," he said.

Punjab Police and Chandigarh Police meeting held for coordination



CHANDIGARH: In order to ensure better synergy between both the forces, a coordination meeting between Punjab Police and Chandigarh Police was held under the Joint Chairmanship of Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav and Union Territory Chandigarh Praveer Ranjan at Punjab Police Headquarters here on Friday. ADGP Law and Order Punjab Arpit Shukla, Inspector General of Police(IGP) Ropar Range Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, Senior Superintendent of Po-

Border Security Force seized above 3 k.g heroin, pistols and cartridges

lice (SSP) Chandigarh Manisha Chaudhary and SSP SAS Nagar Sandeep Garg also attended

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held to formulate a strategy and Action Plans against gangsters & criminals who have been operating in these states.

Stressing the need to develop an internal mechanism for maintaining better coordination between both forces, DGP Gaurav Yadav proposed that quarterly or bi-monthly meetings shall be conducted between the District PoliceChiefs and SSPs of the neighboring states to discuss activities of the gangsters and criminal gangs operating in the region as so many of the issues and crime patterns are similar and inter-related.

Border Security Force (BSF) have seized drugs and ammunition which was smuggled to India from the Pakistan side. In a statement issued here

today, official stated that on 09th Feb, during night hours, troops deployed at the border heard the buzzing sound of a suspected flying object (drone) entering from Pakistan into Indian territory in the area near Village - Mianwala, in District - Tarn-Taran.



the meeting.



Amritsar

REGION

ic multiple unit trains on this

railway track instead of rail

motor car it was announced

by Railway Minister Ashiwni

Vaishn said that Northern

Railways has proposed to run

India's first hydrogen train

on the Kalka-Shimla nar-

row gauge railway track - a UNESCO World Heritage Site

In recent Central Railway

Budget declared on February 1,

amount worth Rs 2247 crore as

been sanctioned for Haryana,

Rs 4762 crore for Punjab and

Rs 1838 crore for Himachal.

These trains will be modified

versions of the steam engines

from the 1950s and '60s and

will be called 'Vande Metro.

According to the railway min-

ister Vaishnaw, the first pro-

totype of a hydrogen-powered

train is in development at the

Northern Railway workshop.

The design could be ready by

June. He said, in comparison to

oil or electricity, hydrogen cell

fuel is cheaper and pollution-

free as well as more economical

and environment-friendly thus

these trains are the most fea-

sible emission-free on narrow-

gauge rail tracks as compared

to electric trains. Railway Min-

ister said that other Indian

Railwavs' heritage tracks to

run hydrogen-powered trains

in the future include the Dar-

eeling Himalayan Railway,

Kangra Valley, Matheran Hill

Railway, Bilmora Waghai,

Marwar-Devgarh Madriy,

by December 2023

CM pats girl students of Amritsar school for manufacturing chip for ISRO

HANDS OVER CHEQUE WORTH RS 3 LAKH TO **STUDENTS FOR THEIR EXPENSES TO SRI** HARIKOTA

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday felicitated the girls students of Government Senior Secondary school (Girls) of the city for making a chip which has been installed in a Satellite produced at ISRO.

The Chief Minister congratulated these students of the school for the rare feat and extended them best wishes for the future. He said that the rare accomplishments of these

Syngenta, loTech join hands to deploy drones in agriculture



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

In a significant move, driven by the vision of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi of large-scale use of drones in agriculture, Syngenta India Pvt Ltd (SIPL) has partnered with IoTechWorld Avigation for facilitating introduction of drone spraying across India. Under this agreement, the two companies will work on creating employment opportunities for rural youth by training and preparing them for using drone technology.

Both parties agree to work together to harness their strengths to promote spray of Syngenta approved chemicals using drone technology of IoTechWorld, in different territories of India. "In the first phase, 200 rural youth will be trained and employed for spraying. Large-scale trials over 400 acres were conducted and data submitted to regulators for 20 crops", informed Susheel Kumar, MD & Country Head Syngenta India. Io-



students will inspire the other be channelized well.

students in the coming future to The Chief Minister said achieve such goals. Mann said that the bright students of that this is a proud moment for this school have proved that the entire state and its people there is no dearth of innovaadding that it has once again tion and expertise amongst the reflected that Punjab has imstudents of Punjab. He said mense talent which needs to that given a platform these

Nitin Gadkari assures Badal to start work on Ferozepur byepass

committee are also owners

the mainstream. The mem-

given many representations

for revoking the policy to

senior officials in the health

the guidelines promulgated

177th martyrdom day of the great general of the Sikh community,

Sham Singh Attariwala, was

celebrated today at the Attari

Samadh by the state government.

On the occasion of the state level

martyrdom ceremony, Cabinet

Minister of Punjab Kuldeep

Singh Dhaliwal was the Chief

Guest and Jaswinder Singh Ram-

das Constituency MLA Attari as

a special guest. On this occasion

Ranike, Deputy Commissioner

Harpreet Singh, Colonel Kuldeep

It was informed that as per

one such humble effort. The Chief Minister envisioned that these schools will groom the students for the future competitions as per their own interests. He said that this will help the students excel in the field of their choice and enable them to compete with their convent educated peers globally. Bhagwant Mann also

students can excel in any field

due to which the state govern-

ment will make every effort to

encourage them. Mann said

that the 'Schools of Eminence'

being set up by the Punjab

government across the state is

handed over a cheque worth Rs 3 lakh to the students to bear the expenses for SriHarikota adding he said that no stone will be left unturned to facilitate the students for such noble cause.

Rs 870 crore budget approved for hydrogen powered trains on Kalka-Shimla railway track



SATISH HANDA Chandigarh

Indian Railways has decided to run indigenously developed hydrogen-powered trains on the heritage Shimla-Kalka railway track by the end of this year currently being run by diesel and electricity-fuelled trains setting up hydrogen fuelling stations at Shimla, Barog and Kalka. Senior railway officials have already carried out a survey of the Shimla-Kalka rail section. Divisional Railway Manager at Ambala Mandeep Singh Bhatia while talking to media persons told that the hydrogen powered trains use hydrogen fuel cells which produce electricity by converting hydrogen and oxygen, which is then used to power the train's motors. He said that in comparison to diesel-propelled rail engines, hydrogen cell fuel is cheaper and pollution-free.

hydrogen trains are the most feasible emission-free alternative in the tougher heritage tracks where electrification of narrow-gauge rail tracks is difficult and economically unviable

DRM told that the Indian railway has decided to run India's first hydrogen powered train on the Heritage Shimla-Kalka track likely to be started by December end this year and would help railways to reduce the emissions to zero in the most economical way. Bhatia told that the production of these trains has been started at the integral coach factory Chinnai and every train will cost amount worth Rs 80 crore whereas amount worth Rs 70 crore will be spent on setting up hydrogen filling stations at Shimla, Barog and Kalka on Kalka-Simla railway track. According to information, there is fast increase in passengers on

AAP Pushed back Punjab into age of darkness by bankrupting power utility and not giving incentives to industrial Sector-Sukhbir to run self propelled hydrol



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

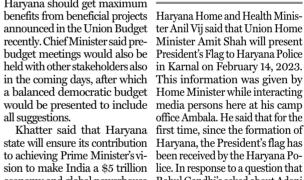
SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal blamed the Aam Aadmi party was pushing Punjab back into the age of darkness by bankrupting the state power utility besides refusing to give any incentive to the industrial sector

Addressing a press conference here today, the SAD president said the AAP government had not generated a single unit of power during its tenure. "It is simultaneously not paying subsidy due to PSPCL which is bankrupting the power utility". Asserting that part of the power needs of the state were being served by two thermal plants of Rajpura and Talwandi Sabo which Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had announced to close, he said ' these thermal plants supply power to the State @ Rs 2.80- per unit. The shortfall in demand is being filled by purchasingpower at Rs 8 to 10 per unit he said adding the situation would get worse in summer. "This will threaten the paddy crop besides dealing a crippling blow to the industrial sector".

Amit Shah will present President's Flag to Haryana Police in Karnal: Anil Vij

Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will present President's Flag to Haryana Police in Karnal on February 14, 2023. This information was given by Gandhi lies as far as I know Rahul

Union Home Minister Ambala



media persons here at his camp office Ambala. He said that for the

Centres facing closure OVER 2000 PEOPLE SET TO LOSE JOBS IF POLICY ENFORCED

Chandigarh Punjab Drug Rehabilitation Centres Union (PDRCU) has issue. The members of the sought the immediate intervenof rehab centres and mostly tion of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to free them from the ex-addicts who have joined regressive policy enacted during the Congress regime due bers said that PDRCU has to which the drug rehabilitation centres being run in the private sector are on the verge of closure. PDRCU wants CM department. Mann to review the policy and hold its implementation, pend-

KULBIR SINGH KALSI

CHANDIGARH: Shiromani

Akali Dal (Badal) president

Sukhbir Singh Badal today

thanked union road transport

and highways Minister Nitin

Gadkari for assuring to start

construction of the Ferozepur

bypass as well as the Ferozepur

Kanwarjit Singh Barkandi,

Joginder Singh Jindu, Vardev

Singh Mann and Harpreet

Road road.

Sri Muktsar Sahib – Malout

ing its review. Members of a special com- of the Hon'ble High Court, ittee set up by PDRCU to



though the Ferozepur bypass ministry. "Gadkari assured had been sanctioned and land us today that all clearances had would start soon".

It is more economical and environment-friendly as such this world heritage rail track as such railways has decided Punjab's Private drug Rehabilitation Special focus on youths & women self-employment, agriculture

and welfare of weaker sections in Haryana budget: Khattar SATISH HANDA

Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had meeting with cabinet ministers and senior bureaucrats in the state as regard pre-budget consultation. He said that the focus of the 2023-24 Haryana budget will be on economic and social welfare of weaker sections. farmers, and labourers apart from promoting industries in the state, further improvements in health and education sectors, besides creating self-employment opportunities for youths and women. Chief Minister said that the main focus of the state budget on February 23 will be based on economic and social in 2011 on the intervention uplifting of every section, especially of weaker sections, farmers, and

the state's first budget of Amrit Kaal. Khatter said, we aim is to present a budget that ensures holistic development in the state while ensuring everyone's participation in this regard when he was talking to media persons after having meeting with his cabinet ministers and

government bureaucrats. While interacting with the media after the pre-budget meeting, Khattar said, efforts will be made on implementing more schemes for the welfare of the youths and

nurseries especially in rural areas. He decision will be taken to develop a wholesale fish market in the SATISH HANDA state like in Delhi. Khatter said, Harvana should get maximum benefits from beneficial projects announced in the Union Budget recently. Chief Minister said prebudget meetings would also be held with other stakeholders also in the coming days, after which

would be presented to include all suggestions. Khatter said that Haryana first time, since the formation of state will ensure its contribution Haryana, the President's flag has to achieving Prime Minister's vi- been received by the Harvana Posion to make India a \$5 trillion lice. In response to a question that economy and global powerhouse Rahul Gandhi's asked about Adani for which there is need to increase from Modi government in the Lok growth in every sector with special Sabha Vij made a verbal attack on emphasis on expanding Micro, Rahul Gandhi and said that "Rahul all and Medium Enterprises

and Nilgiri Mountain Railway. Asserting that the State industry was on a downward spiral, Badal said, industrialists are already leaving the State as they were fed up with gangster culture and open extortion. He said the failure of the AAP government to address the concern of the industry through the new industrial policyhad compounded matters. "No new incentive has

been given in the new industrial policy as neighbouring States are providing more incentives Punjab industry is shifting to Uttar pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir" he added. Badal said in Stark contrast during erstwhileSAD government the industrial sector received a fillip by creation of the Invest Punjab department as well as concrete incentives like 100% refund on GST. He said the manner in which the State had been madepower surplus alongwith creation of worldclass road and



Agribot is being spray services and products.

abilitation ce press meeting here about the in-house counsellors.

bourers. Khattar said that on th used across all of Syngenta's address the problem held a required to have the facility of lines of the Central government schemes like fish farming, devel-

budget, Haryana will also present oping milk dairies and hi-tech

as well as exports in order to bring Gandhi has a very good relation tenure had given confidence to prosperity in the state. with the Adani family".

air network during the SAD the Punjab growth story.

Lovely Professional University's fashion design students receive coveted placements



NEARLY 95% OF ITS STUDENTS FROM THE 2022-23 BATCH HAVE BEEN PLACED WITH SOME OF THE **LEADING FORTUNE 500** COMPANIES

FW DESK Jalandhar

Lovely Professional University (LPU) has once again proven its mettle in providing quality education and skill development in the field of fashion design. Nearly 95% of its students from the 2022-23 batch have been placed with some of the leading Fortune 500 companies. This is a testament to the university's commitment to equipping its students with the necessary skills and industry knowledge to succeed in the competitive world of fashion design.

One of its students, Aditya Gidhuri is placed as a 'design merchandiser' at Simba Fashions with a salary package of Rs 20.50 lakhs. This is a Rs 1500

crore group that has marketing offices in New York, and Hong Kong with massive production facilities in Bangladesh. Aditya shares: "It has been a tremendous learning curve for me at LPU. Not only do I now understand the im- AMRITSAR/ATTARI: The portance of product development for buyers but also the huge canvas of sourcing that is available in the international market."

Similarly, Fortune 500 sportswear giant PUMA, a German brand, has recruited many LPU students with great packages. Another student Tushita Tripathi has joined the Fortune 500, Japanese conglomerate 'Uniqlo' at an initial package of nearly 10 lakhs. Professor & Dean Dr Bhaskar

Mitra says: "LPU's fashion design program has been designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the industry, covering all aspects of fashion design, from conceptualization to production. The program provides

students with hands-on experience through various projects and internships, allowing them to apply their knowledge in real-world situations.



Anandpur Sahib MP and former Union Minister Manish Tiwari inaugurated an open gym at Punjab Engineering PHOTO: KULBIR SINGH KALS College

Research process for fast increasing cases of cancer in Haryana: Health Minister

SATISH HANDA

A research process will be started in Haryana in view of fast increasing cases of cancer disease in the state, addressing media persons State Health cum Home Minister Anil Vij said that a committee will be formed soon for cancer research in the state. He said, this committee will record the history of cancer patients and study research will be done on it. Vij was replying a question asked by media persons regarding increasing cases



of cancer on the occasion of World Cancer Day. He said that there will be research on cancer by experts at Atal Cancer Care Centre Ambala Cantt as well as in PGIMS at Rohtak. The Health Minister said that

keeping this dreaded disease

in mind, it is growing very fast and spreading its wings, state government has built a stateof-the-art cancer Care Centre in Civil Hospital Ambala Cantt and people are getting a lot of benefits from it. He said, so far around 125 operations have been successfully done in this hospital and patients from the neighboring states are also coming here for treatment of this dreaded disease free of cost and supply of free medicines. Vii told that from Feb 15, for the post of director a senior doctor

of AIIMS will also join duty. Haryana police solved triple

murder mystery in a week SATISH HANDA

Bhiwani police in Haryana solved a triple murder case in within a week in which three members of a family including a handicapped teacher Jitender, his wife Sushila and 14 years old daughter Himani residents of Nai Basti Bhiwani were found lying dead on a bed in the



room on Januray 27 morning. Sushila's father visited the house in the morning when saw three lying dead with foam coming out from their mouth informed the neighbors as well as police arrived immediately and Started investigations. The family had

gone to Rohtak on 26th January along with Vijender the younger brother of deceased Jitender in his car and returned late evening.

Talking to media persons, SP Bhiwani Ajit Singh Shekhawat told media persons that police solved triple murder mystery with the arrest of two persons the younger brother of deceased Vijender and his friend Pradeep also involved in murders conspiracy for the sake of property worth over Rs 3 crore including four acre land, house and cash owned by the elder brother Jitender. Police investigating team observed that the death of three occurred due to suffocation during night since police found burnt coal in a pot in the room and foam coming out from the mouth of three lying dead on a bed in the room.



Gen. Sham Singh Attari's village will be made

former Minister Guljar Singh first smart village of Punjab. He also announced to give 10 lakh Harpreet Singh Sudan, SDM. rupees to the village from his discretionary funds. He said that Singh Sidhu, Colonel Harinder Sham Singh Atariwala has been Singh Attari paid tributes to a great general of the Sikh com-Shaheed Sham Singh Atariwala. munity whose martyrdom will be a beacon of light for the new while paying tribute to General Sham Singh Atariwala, generation. He said that martyrs Cabinet Minister Dhaliwal ando not belong to a family, they nounced that Attari, the village are the capital of the nation. He of Great General Sham Singh said that The bravery with which Attariwala, will be made the Sham Singh Atariwala fought

the British forces in the war of brothers on 10th February 1846 is an example in itself. Dhaliwal further said that the Punjab government pays homage to the martyrdom of this great martyr who sacrificed his life for the nation.

He said that the martyrdom of General Sham Singh Atariwala became a source of inspiration for the coming generations, who breathed their last after the

HIGHLIGHTS

- Announced to give 10 lakh rupees to Attari village,
- A state level event of General Sham Singh Attari will be celebrated every year
- level event was held on the occasion of 177th Martyrdom Day

British rule was thrown out of the country. He said that Attari village will be given a new look so that the pilgrims who come to see the retreat can come to Attariwala's samadh and tell their children about his martyrdom. He appealed to the people to participate more in such events and also make their children aware of history.

NATION

PM inaugurate 'India Energy week 2023' and Largest Helicopter manufacturing hub of HAL

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'India Energy Week 2023' in Bengaluru on Monday and said that it is the first major energy event in India's G20 presidency calendar. The India Energy Week (IEW) 2023 in Bengaluru will be held from February 6-8 and is aimed to showcase the country's rising prowess as an energy transition powerhouse at Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).

Modi began addressing the India Energy week announced all possible help to the earthquake victims in Turkey, He said, "At this time we all have our eyes fixed on the devastating earthquake in Turkey. There are reports of many tragic deaths and extensive damage. The of 140 crore people of the india are with



were behind it including, a earthquake victims" he added. Modi said," Bengaluru a city stable, decisive government, filled with the energy of techsustained reforms and socionology, talent and innovation. economic empowerment at Just like me, you too must be the grassroots." He added. the twin-cooktop model of Indian feeling the young energy here. This is the first major energy Oil>s indoor solar cooking sysevent in India's G20 presidentem- a revolutionary indoor socy calendar. I welcome everylar cooking solution that works one to the India Energy Week on both solar and auxiliary event." "Whatever the external energy sources simultaneously. circumstances, due to internal

PM also Launched the twinresilience, India overcame all cooktop model "Solar cooktop" challenges. Multiple factors model of Indian Oil's indoor

solar cooking system a revolutionary indoor solar cooking solution that works on both solar and auxiliary energy sources simultaneously and said it will give a new dimension to cooking in India.

He said, India is moving towards a target of 20 pc ethanol blending with petrol. Rs 10 lakh crore capital expenditure in Budget for 2023-24 will boost to green hydrogen, solar power and road sectors. Rs 18,000 crore PLI scheme has been launched for producing batteries for EVs. National Green Hydrogen Mission will give new direction to country in 21st century he added.

He said, India Energy Week 2023 first major event of G20 under India's presidency. India has fourth-largest crude refining capacity in the world India's gas pipeline network will expand to 35,000 km in next four-five years from 22,000 km presently.

India is working on increasing refining capacity from 250 MMTPA to 450 MMPTA, he added. Meanwhile, Petroleum Minister, Hardeep Puri, said, "Event India Energy Week was born out of the longstanding vision of PM for India's role in the global energy transition

while ensuring India's energy security, affordability & accessibility to our citizens.' Modi also flagged off the 'Green Mobility Rally', a rally witnessing participation of vehicles running on green energy sources to create public aware-

ness for green fuels. Later Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's largest Helicopter Factory of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and unveiled Light Utility Helicopter in Tumakuru. Defence minister Rajnath Singh and CM Basavaraj Bommai were present on the occasion

against eviction drive

Kharge's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe in the Adani case in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI: Taking a jibe at Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday if the JPC is allowed in an individual's case, then it can also probe the source of the Louis Vuitton scarf that the leader of the opposition was wearing.

Goyal was replying to Kharge's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe in the Adani case in Rajya Sabha. "In 2014, PM Modi said na khaunga na khane dunga. Now I want to ask why he is letting some industrialists 'eat'. The wealth of one of the closest friends of PM Modi increased by 12 times in 2.5 years. In 2014, it was Rs 50, 000 crore while in 2019 it became Rs one lakh crore. I don't know what magic happened that his assets touched Rs 12 lakh crore in just two years, " Kharge said amid protests from the BJP MPs. The Leader of Opposition Kharge added further, "That's

ing to Kharge, Goyal said, "He is talking of a purported wealth that does not have any merit. That is a share market calculation. The Joint Committee is formed when the allegations are proved like in

why we are demanding that there

should be a JPC probe in the case

so that everything will be clear

before the country." However,

the chair said that "the discourse

can't be on allegations that you

can't substantiate. I cannot allow

this House to be a platform of

freefall of information." Reply-

the case of coal-gate or the 2G scam or when there are any allegations against the government."

Modi said that true secularism is ensuring that the benefits in RS



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that true secularism is ensuring that the benefits of different government schemes reach all the beneficiaries.

"We have transformed the working culture with the power of technology. Our focus is on increasing speed and enhancing scale, "Modi said in Rajya Sabha while replying to the Motion of Thanks to President's address in the Upper House.

To ensure that cent per cent beneficiaries avail the welfare schemes, and that cent per cent benefit reaches them, we chose a path of 'saturation'. Our government marches on such a path of honesty that 'saturation' is the true 'secularism' for it, " the Prime Minister said.

"Achieving 'saturation' means no discrimination whatsoever. as the discrimination breeds corruption.

We have committed to 'saturation' where we want the benefits of every scheme to reach 100 per cent of the beneficiaries. This is true 'secularism', and we are working honestly towards achieving it, " the PM added.

Modi further said that the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme has enabled transfers worth Rs 27 lakh crore to the accounts of the beneficiaries.

The transparency brought has saved Rs 2 lakh crore of the nation from seeping into the 'wrong ecosystem'. The Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity has been truly transformative, " he said.

Modi said that the BJP govnotices to thousands of people in the union territory occupying ernment has transformed the government land asking them working culture with the help of the power of technology to vacate or else face eviction.

National Waterways Development to Promote Inland Water Transport

NEW DELHI: As informed by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, National Waterways are developed to promote environment-friendly, cost-effective and location-specific alternate mode of Inland Water Transport (IWT) supplementary to existing Rail and Road transport, wherever feasible.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) an autonomous body under that Ministry is responsible for regulation and deopment of National waterways (NWs) for sh ipping and navi gation and develops navigation channel in the deepest portion of the river in 35 to 45 m width for 2 to 3 m depth for operation

Farmers' movement is likely to gain momentum again as the Samyukta Kisan Morcha **NEW DELHI:** The farmers'

movement is likely to gain momentum again as the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella organisation of various farmers' unions, has announced that it will hold a 'maha panchayat' in Delhi regarding their unfulfilled demands on March 20.

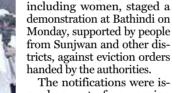
The decision of organising the mahapanchayat was taken in a meeting of the SKM, held in Haryana's Kurukshetra on Thursday, where office-bearers of the farmers' organisations from many states including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab participated.

According to sources, the government has not yet fulfilled the promises made to the farmers during the farmers'



movement in 2020. Earlier, the farmers had

agitated for a long time and had raised some demands in from all over the country will front of the government. The organise the mahapanchayat government had then pacified in the national capital to rethem. Office-bearers of the mind the government of its SKM said that they have been unkept promises



JAMMU: People in Jammu

sued as part of an ongoing anti-encroachment campaign in Jammu and Kashmir to reclaim state territory. forced to agitate again as their

The people gathered here, holding national flags, and petitioned the government to regularise their colony, as it had done with other illegal colonies in the past. Officials from the government arrived on the scene and attempted to persuade the

and eviction drive is inhumane. demonstrators that notifications by Democratic Azad Party led

People in Jammu protest

had been issued.

by Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Over the last two weeks, the administration has been serving

Earlier, there were similar protests in Chenab Valley led



Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday said that only farmers' rule can put an end to suicides by farmers and improve their

demands remain unmet.

condition.

They added that farmers



CJI Chandrachud administers

oath of office to five new SC

judges, strength rises to 32

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court of India on Monday got five new judges. Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud administered the oath of office to Justices Pankaj Mithal, Sanjay Karol, P.V. Sanjay Kumar, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Manoj Misra as judges of the Supreme Court.

With this, the number of the apex court judges rose to 32 as against the sanctioned strength of 34 judges. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Supreme Court judges, lawyers, and family members of the new judges. Amid the long-drawn tussle between the Centre and the judiciary over the appointment of judges, the Centre on Saturday cleared the names of five judges for appointment to the Supreme Court.

Recently, constitutional functionaries, including Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, have questioned the collegium system for the appointment of judges, which was seen as the government's bid to have a larger say in the appointment of judges.

ing of his Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) at Nanded - the first meeting outside Telangana after Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) turned to BRS to expand its activi-ties nationally, he said that the BRS is the first party to raise the slogan of "Ab ki baar

Kisan sarkar". KCR, as Rao is popularly known, said it was unfortunate that Maharashtra accounts for the highest number of suicide in the country. He urged people to ponder why this was happening. country, " he said.

He said this was not politics but a question of life and death. "Why should we die. Have we been born to commit suicide?" he asked.

The BRS chief said the farmers should rule the country to make laws to change their destiny. He pointed out



that farmers constitute 42 per the resources, "he said.

cent of the country's popula-The BRS blamed both the Congress and BJP for the tion. "There are 16 crore farm families. With agriculture current situation. "Congress workers working in fields, ruled for 54 years and BJP we are more than 50 per cent. ruled for 16 years. Both the We don't need more than this parties are responsible for to form the government in the this situation. One blames the other for scams..." he said.

KCR called on people to Slamming Prime Minister think why the country had Narendra Modi, KCR said his not achieved the desired scheme Make in India has become a joke in India. "Where development even after 75 vears. "Think why there is no is Make in India. You find water for drinking, no water China bazaar in every small town of the country. Manja for irrigation and there is no electricity despite having all for kites, colours and divas for

ment in Telangana during

Deepavali, Ganesha idols and

even our national flag come

KCR listed out the schemes

implemented by his govern-

from China, " he said.

He claimed that Telangana is the only state providing 24 hours free electricity to farmers and drinking water to every household. He also mentioned schemes being implemented for the welfare of farmers.

He promised that if BRS is

voted to power at the Centre, it would ensure a bright India with 24 hour quality electricity supply to every nook and corner within two years.

Referring to Rythu Bandhu, he said his government was providing Rs 10, 000 as investment support for every acre per year. The farmers in Telangana are also covered under an insurance scheme. If any farmer dies, the government pays Rs 5 lakh to his family within four days. The government also procures the entire agricultural produce.



ful to reduce transportation cost.

Further, to promote Inland Water Transport in the country, 111 Inland Waterways (including 5 existing and 106 additional Waterways) spread over 24 states have been declared as National Waterways (NWs) vide National Waterways Act, 2016. The list of these NWs is annexed. Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, has prepared a National Framework on Sediment Management (NFSM) for comprehensive and holistic management of sediment by the State Governments/Project Authorities/ Other Ministries. The framework inter alia highlights provisions on dredging and desilting in national waterways.

Gulmarg to host Khelo India Winter Games

FW DESK

Srinagar

Gulmarg will host the third edition of the Khelo India Winter Games. The big sporting event is set to begin on February 10, and is projected to draw over 1500 participants.

Anurag Thakur, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, and Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of J&K. recently inaugurated the 3rd Khelo India National Winter Games Anthem, Mascot, and Jersey.

They termed Gulmarg a and Gulmarg. The inaugural "Sports City," saying the resort event in India was held to prowould be able to welcome the largest number of 1500 players from across the country.

The first "Khelo India Winter Games" were held in Feb-



ruary and March 2020 at Leh hockey, figure skating, and speed skating.

Prime Minister Narendra mote winter sports such as Modi in February 2021 virtuskiing, Alpine skiing, Nordic ally inaugurated the second skiing, snow rugby, ice stock edition of the "Khelo India sport, snow baseball, climb-Winter Games" held at Guling, snowshoe running, ice marg.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind President condoles the huge loss of life and destruction by earthquakes in Turkey-Syria

THE INCIDENT **REMINDS US OF THE HELPLESSNESS OF HUMANITY BEFORE THE ALMIGHTY GOD**

NEW DELHI: The Jamaate-Islami Hind (JIH) President, Syed Sadatullah Husaini, has expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the huge loss of life and destruction caused by the deadly earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes that struck Turkey and Syria early Monday (February 6, 2023) morning.

According to the latest report, more than 16,000 persons, including 12,973 in Turkey and 3,162 in Syria have died in this natural calamity.

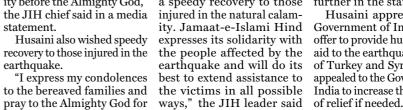
"The incident reminds us of the helplessness of human-



ity before the Almighty God," the JIH chief said in a media statement.

Husaini also wished speedy recovery to those injured in the earthquake.

'I express my condolences to the bereaved families and



a speedy recovery to those further in the statement.

Husaini appreciated the Government of India's quick offer to provide humanitarian aid to the earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria. He also appealed to the Government of the victims in all possible India to increase the quantum

The JIH leader also appealed to the Indian public to contribute generously to the relief if the Indian government makes a provision for the general public to contribute to humanitarian assistance for the earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria.

Rate hike aims at ensuring durable price stability

he Reserve Bank of India's decision to raise its benchmark policy rate yet again, albeit by a smaller quarter percentage point, reflects a welcome resolve in staying committed to ensuring durable price stability. Given that the Monetary Policy Committee's primary mandate is to steer retail inflation towards a 4% target, and that core price gains have stayed stuck above or almost at 6% for 20 months, the rate setting panel voted by a 4-2 majority to continue tightening policy. Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasised the significance of the MPC's unwavering focus on inflation when he noted that medium-term growth prospects would be best strengthened by 'keeping inflation expectations anchored and breaking the persistence of core inflation'. That inflation remains the key risk to the growth outlook, notwithstanding the easing in the headline print for retail price gains over November and December, was stressed by the MPC. The MPC's decision to raise rates by a marginally smaller 25 basis points (bps) this time following its December decision to temper the tightening to 35 bps after three straight half percentage point increases, shows it is cognisant of the growth-retarding challenges that rising credit costs could pose to the ongoing post-pandemic recovery. Still, the fact that the Indian economy has proved more resilient, underpinned by a rebound in domestic demand especially for contact-intensive services and discretionary spending, has provided a degree of comfort to monetary policymakers. The unequivocal assertion of Das that monetary policy must be "tailored to ensuring a durable disinflation" rightly echoes a recent blogpost by three IMF economists who warned that central banks need to stay resolute as any 'premature loosening' of policy risks a sharp resurgence in price gains that could leave countries susceptible to further shocks. Ultimately, price stability is and must remain the bedrock for a durable

K.R. SHYAM SUNDAR EXPLORES WHY UNIONS FAIL TO INSTILL CONFIDENCE AMONG EMPLOYEES

Labour unions in emerging sectors

nere have been many reports of lay-offs in the last few months, especially in emerging sectors. Lav-offs have been taking place not only in India, but in major economies like the U.S. too. Large, medium and small enterprises as well as start-ups have let go of dozens or even thousands of workers. In 2022, start-ups including Byju's, Ola, Unacademy, Vedantu, Chargebee, WhiteHat Jr, Udaan and CityMall announced lay-offs. Their reasons included restructuring, costcutting, automation, financial constraints, performance rating, adverse economic conditions and changes in the business model. At the global level, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Twitter and Apple, among others, have let go of employees. Amazon cited an uncertain economy and rapid hires in the past as reasons for retrenchment.

At the same time, unionisation attempts in these giant companies have caught our imagination. Amazon workers at the warehouse at Staten Island called JFK8 succeeded in forming the Amazon Labour Union under the leadership of Chris Smalls, who had been fired from the company. Amazon reacted by filing numerous objections with the National Labour Relations Board, the federal body that protects the rights of private sector employees to join together. On the other hand, employees at the warehouse near Albany voted overwhelmingly against unionisation in October 2022 as many of them were sceptical of the bargaining power of a union vis-à-vis a giant like Amazon.

In India, Amazon shut down Amazon Food and Amazon Academy. It retrenched workers in the Indian facility in a gradual manner. The Nascent Information Tech-



nology Employees Senate, which works for the welfare, rights, justice and empowerment of IT (Information Technology), BPO (business process outsourcing) and KPO (knowledge process outsourcing) professionals in India, has alleged that Amazon violated labour laws. It also complained to the Union Labour Minister, seeking his Ministry's intervention. The Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner in Bengaluru served a notice seeking information from the company. But it is well-known how seriously employers, especially multi-national corporations (MNCs), take labour departments; they ignore conciliation meetings more often than trade unions. NITES President Harpreet Singh Saluja vows to fight Amazon, but this will not be easy.

The Hirschman model

The question we can then ask is whether

collective action can be taken in emerging enterprises. Start-ups hardly have trade unions in their facilities and so retrenchments in these companies go uncontested. Compared to conventional industries

such as manufacturing, public utilities, and conventional financial sectors such as traditional banking and insurance, forming unions in modern and emerging sectors is much more difficult. Long ago, Freeman and Medoff examined the effect of trade unionism on the exit behaviour of workers in the context of the 'exit-voiceloyalty' model of Albert Hirschman. I use this with some modifications to explain my point.

On the demand side, the IT and ITenabled Services employees felt no need for trade unions as unions are typically associated with manual labour, while IT employees are associated with "elitism" and "professionalism". It is believed that IT employees do not need trade unions as they have competitive compensation pay packages, supposedly good conditions of work and a mechanism to address grievances. And so, they stay on and are loyal to the company and the industry. If these conditions are violated, they switch to other organisations as they have the required skill sets (exit); hence, labour turnover in this sector has been rather high. They do not collectively bargain or strike or resort to legal action as middle-class employees who go to court would be stigmatised (voice). And many survive by simply keeping quiet (loyalty).

Despite this, announcements of massive lay-offs, such as by Tata Consultancy Services in 2015, have led to the birth of labour unions in this sector in India. Bad human resource policies and practices, too, have provoked or prompted workers to unionise. But the rate of formation of unions and the union activities in this industry (on the supply side) do not instill confidence in the minds of employees.

A huge ask

EDITORIAL

COPINION

Unions in the IT sector have to deal with both Indian and Western behemoths, which s a huge ask. The state obviously needs MNCs to stay on in India. Start-ups don't have the ideal conditions for unionisation. Employees would rather accept low-paying jobs than unionise. Further, trade unions are fighting on multiple fronts. They are struggling to retain historical labour rights, ecure social security for the millions of informal workers and fight the adversities created during and after COVID-19. Industrial accidents, too, are frequent. Many garment and electronics industries, for nstance, which have wide supply chains, violate labour rights. Unions have sometimes succeeded in securing marginal rights. But there is only so much that they can do. The Amazon story is going viral in the 500 million labour market in India where hardly 10% of the total workforce is unionised.

However, this is not to brush aside the fact that unions need to be encompassing of all workers and be the vanguard of workers' mobilisation. After all, they are the only historically tested collective labour institutions

K.R. Shyam Sundar is Professor, XLRI, Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur. Views are personal

HARISH S. WANKHEDE HIGHLIGHTS HOW HINDI CINEMA HAS CLEVERLY AVOIDED DEPICTING CASTE-BASED VIOLENCE Struggle on to find screen space for Dalit-Bahujan cinema

n 2022, the box-office debacle of bigbudget populist Hindi films (Cirkus, Laal Singh Chaddha, Dhaakad and Samrat Prithviraj) offers a clue that cinemagoers are rejecting the 'masala-clad' mindless cinema and are looking for newness and artistic calibre. Though there were other releases such as Gangubai Kathiawadi, Jhund, Anek and Salaam Venky that have engaged with serious issues of marginalised communities, sadly, these films have not emerged as a popular genre, making it a new alternative in Bollywood cinema. Cinemagoers still find meaning mainly in the conventional slapstick entertainment and often ignore the socially relevant films.

E al

The recent arrival of a small but impressive genre of Dalit-Bahujan cinema is a welcome attempt to change the taste of cinema goers. This cinematic mode wishes to entertain the audience with creative narratives, clubbed with the values of realism and social responsibility. However, it too early to suggest that this 'responsible and meaningful' genre will bring in radical change. Therefore, a conscious and intelligent audience, especially Dalit-Bahujan viewers, has to promote this new initiative for more nuance to cinematic narratives. There are almost no studies about the demography of the Hindi cinema audience. It is well known that Hindi mainstream cinema as well as experimental or art-house cinema often cater to the cultural taste and social interest of the middle-class social elites. Popular cinema hardly represents the aspirations and values of the Dalit-Bahujan social groups. In the post-liberalisation phase, especially with the arrival of multiplex theatres, the middle class and elite



audience may have emerged as the main patrons of films and theatres, relegating the Dalit-Bahujan audience to the sidelines.

If one looks at the advent of cinema in India, one finds that artists and technicians from Maharashtra, Punjab had an influential role in the Hindi film industry. In the post-Partition period larly from the erstwhile Punjab province) moved to Bombay, subtly dominating the film business. Popular actors and directors (Prithviraj Kapoor, Dileep Kumar, Raj Khosla, Vijay Anand, and Dharmendra) became the leading figures who defined the foundational norms of Hindi cinema. Their cinema celebrated the values of secular nationalism and socialism and narrated stories that resonated with the poor classes. Importantly, the dynamic presence of Parsi and Muslim film-makers such as Firozshah Mistry, Ardeshir Irani, Sohrab Modi, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, Mehboob Khan, etc. established the 'Muslim social' genre as the integral part of Hindi cinema.

Parsi and Muslim film-makers have led to the creation of a secular audience for cinema - their stories revolved around the social and cultural issues of the Muslims (Pakeezah), the poor migrant working class (Awaara) and women (Bandini), making cinema a responsible art form for social change. However, the caste and Dalit question often remained peripheral during the ʻgolden age

In the mid-1970s, art-house cinema further enriched Hindi cinema with its nuanced depiction of urban poverty (Chakra), issues of migrant labour (Disha), unemployment (Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro) and patriarchy (Nishant). The social questions of feudal exploitation (Manthan), caste violence (Damul) and Dalit repression (Giddh) too gathered momentum in this phase. Unfortunately, the parallel cinema movement failed to create an audience that could make meaningful cinema more popular among the Hindi cinema, in the later i divorced itself from socially relevant cinema and emerged as a pillar of the entertainment industry, by often serving the base emotions and patriarchal values of filmgoers. As the article, Dalit Representation in Bollywood, and other pieces by critics highlight, the long history of Hindi cinema mostly revolves around the representation of the upper caste identities, Brahmanical cultural rituals, and Hindu aesthetics as the natural assets of the protagonist. It cleverly avoids reflecting on the issues of caste-based violence, social discrimination, and emerging Dalit aspirations. Instead, in most cases, it imposes a structured narrative meant to address the emotive and psychological concerns of the Hindu social elites. Hindi

films are often written, directed, and produced by social elites that overtly celebrate populist and non-artistic banal cinema. Even film critics, historians, and scholars have studied cinema as popular art that is disconnected from rugged conflicting social realities. Bollywood, in the most visible way, s devoid of creative freedom, honesty, and the passion to break conventional norms which can eventually produce a radical art form that is closer to the aspirations and the interests of the Dalit-Bahujan mass.

The task ahead

With the box-office success of films such as Sairat, Kabali, Masaan, Jai Bhim, Article 15, and, recently, Kantara, it was expected that cinema-makers would adopt Dalit-Bahujan narratives as a mainstream mode of film-making and engage the general audience. And, technicians, artists and producers who belonged to the Dalit-Bahujan communities would also contribute in bringing newer nuances in film narratives and democratise the hegemony of the social elites. However, for this to happen, a critical and sensitive Dalit-Bahujan audience will have to emerge as an intellectual audience. critically engaging with the the entertainment business. A discerning Dalit-Bahujan cinema audience will have to endorse a cinematic alternative that represents its social, cultural and political aspirations without diluting much of the entertainment quotient.

economic recovery.

LETTERBOX

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"I never dreamed about success -I worked for it."

Estee Lauder, co-founder of Estee Lauder

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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EDITOR* ABDUL WASEY

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

BOOKS: REVIEW

The rich contributions by the Punjabi,

Harish S. Wankhede is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Book uncovers investment opportunities in water sector

he goal of the new book - Water Governance Standard -- is to catalyse competitive dynamics in rural communities which uncover promising water investment opportunities that can deliver sustained benefits to communities and investors alike, a press statement said.

WOTR and W-CReS, with support from IDH, are proud to announce the official release of their ground-breaking book, 'The Water Governance Standard: Making Water Everybody's Business.' The book, introduces a path breaking rating and certification methodology that could drive effective water management at scale by assessing communities and giving them a "water score" which characterizes how they access and manage water, much as a "credit score" reflects the creditworthiness of a person. The book and standard was

officially released on Friday, February 3 2023, at a webinar with the theme 'Water Governance

Standard: Towards an Investment Smart Rural Water Sector'. The webinar featured keynote addresses by dignitaries including Mukund Govind Rajan, Chairperson, Environment Committee at FICCI; Amit Chandra, Managing Director at Bain Capital India; Mark Smith - Director General at IWMI and Adrian Sym, CEO at Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) and a power packed panel discussion around the theme, Towards a Water Smart Rural India', moderated by Alok Sikka, IWMI Representative-India that included Jasmer Dhingra, Director of Programs in India at IDH: Eshwer Kale, Thematic Lead of Water Resources Development & Governance at WOTR; Royston Braganza Co-founder & CEO at Grameen Impact and Paul Raja Rao, Founder Secretary and Executive Director at Bharati Integrated Rural Development Society.

"I congratulate WOTR and W-CReS for producing this very valuable document. Many busi-

'As a partner to WOTR and funder for the **Water Governance** Standard, we are very happy with this framework that can be applied for what we think is potentially transformational for water management at scale'

nesses and corporates are going to find it extremely helpful in the pursuit of a more water resilient future," said Mukund Govind Rajan, Chairperson, Environment Committee at FICCI

"As a partner to WOTR and funder for the Water Governance Standard, we are very happy with this framework that can be applied for what we think is potentially transformational for water management at scale,² said Jasmer Dhingra, Director of Programs in India at IDH

The Water Governance Stan-



locally. Importantly, it gives a new kind of rationalisation for private sector engagement, not just in water management but in governance. It, therefore, has the potential to incentivise all actors to align in really new ways and introduce new drivers for those governance shifts," said Mark Smith - Director General, IWMI According to a report by NITI

Aayog, 600 million Indians face dard (WGS) aims to incentivise and nudge rural communities high to extreme water stress and and investors alike to adopt water-smart attitudes and behaviours, while also channelising the necessary financial and technical resources to these communities.

"While ensuring that everyone has access to water is an important objective, long term water management and conservation greatly depends on the community's ability to sustainably maintain its water resources through behavioural change. This is the most interesting aspect of the Water Governance Standard," said Amit Chandra, Managing Director, Bain Capital India

"I see the Water Governance Standard as a tool for activating change by taking the required incremental steps of governance,

since independence, freshwater per capita has decreased by 70% (NITI Aayog, 'Composite Water Management Index,' June 2018). For India to meet its population's water needs sustainably, there is a need to change behaviour and attitude toward water. "We believe that the Water Governance Standard, if cus-

tomised to local contexts, has the potential to transform India's rural water sector by incentivising behaviour change and creating appropriate conditions for significant financial and investment inflow into the water sector," said Crispino Lobo, Co-Founder and Managing Trustee at WOTR and lead author of the book.

For more information and to access the book, please visit www. wotr.org/wgs.

CORPORATE **GINDUSTRY**

Ecoline Clothing : The Brand Behind PM Narendra Modi's Trending Jacket

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made headlines yesterday by wearing a sky-blue 'sadri' jacket made out of recycled plastic bottles. The jacket was produced by Ecoline Clothing, a sustainable fashion brand from Shree Renga Polymers, a company leading the way in PET bottle recycling and upcycling to value-added products like garments with end-to-end manufacturing capabilities.

Run by an IITian Mr. K. Sankar and his son Senthil Sankar, Shree Renga Polymers is based in the city of Karur,

SJVN records profit after tax of Rs. 1349.48 cr for three quarters of current financial year



CHANDIGARH: Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director, SJVN, informed that SJVN has recorded Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs 1349.48 crores for three quarters of current financial year which is 37.98 % more than the corresponding period of previous fiscal.

Speaking after the Board Meeting of Company today, Sh. Sharma stated that for the third quarter Profit After Tax increased by 25.06%, which is Rs. 290.98 Crores compared to Rs. 232.67 Crores during corresponding period last year. Nand Lal Sharma lauded

collective efforts and hard work of the employees. "These positive growth percentiles are result of optimum utilization of our operating units, relentless quest to excellence, adopting best financial practices and strategic focus on capacity addition in the portfolio of the company.'

Tamil Nadu. The company has evolved into a prominent force in the industry through its constant quest for innovation and tech-savvy solutions in recycling polymer products.

"Ecoline Clothing is deeply focused on producing sustainable clothing solutions and offers comfortable fashion wear for men and women. The brand uses a mix of polyester fabrics that provides a comfortable, airy texture and a tailored fit. All products hold

Recycle Standard, OEKOthe Ocean Bound Plastic TEX[®] and ISO certification (OBP) Certification, Global

quality and traceability" claims Senthil Sankar, Managing ensuring top-notch product Partner at Ecoline Clothing.

The product range of Ecoline contribution to creating a posi-Clothing includes a wide range of contemporary designs for casual wear, sports wear, night wear, winter wear and Modi jackets (sadri), catering to men and women. Customers often praise the brand for the quality of its garments, which are both soothing and comfortable.

Ecoline Clothing's products are available for purchase through its exclusive online e-commerce website, ecolineclothing.com. Every time a customer purchases a garment from Ecoline, it is their 'direct'

Samsung Galaxy S23Series gets record pre-bookings impact. The

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has received record pre-booking for the newly-launched Galaxy S23series in India. In the first 24 hours, over 140,000 Galaxy S23series units were pre-booked in India, which is a new record for Samsung's flagship devices. Samsung had opened pre-booking for its new Galaxy S23Series across online and offline retail

"Galaxy S23series is a generational leap, with best-inclass innovation that has a significantly less environmental Business, Samsung India .

Ducab Group set up its India & South East Asia office in Bengaluru to enhances presence in Indian market

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

Ducab Group, one of the biggest end-to-end solutions Providers and manufacturing firm based in the United Arab Emirates, (UAE) announced during the press conference held here that the company has set up its India & South East Asia office in Bangalore to further enhancing its presence in India. As part of this growth plan, further drive the India story. This expansion plan was announced in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign

tive and green environment. Ecoline Clothing is a futuristic fashion brand that has its deepest focus etched on producing sustainable clothing solution. We produce comfortable fashionwear for men, women and children using polyester fabrics with the perfect mix of organic cotton that gives you the desired ease to wear. Our products are ISO certified and hold Global Recycle Standard that reiterate the top-notch product quality and trade stability.

Mayo Clinic opens patient information office in India



MUMBAI: Mayo Clinic has opened a patient information office in Mumbai to assist patients who wish to make appointments at Mayo Clinic ocations worldwide.

The office staff, fluent in Hindi and English, will help patients, their families and physicians who refer patients to make appointments at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona; Jacksonville, Florida; record prebookings in and Mayo Clinic Healthcare the first 24 in London.

"We are pleased to add an hours demoffice in Mumbai to our paonstrate the tient appointment services," excitement savs Mohamad Bydon, M.D., a among Indian consumers with Galaxy S23series' ground-Mavo Clinic neurosurgeon and breaking camera capabilities, executive medical director of future-ready mobile gaming academic affairs and the Euexperience & eco-friendly rope, Middle East, India and materials. The new Galaxy Africa regions. "Mayo Clinic S23series will be manufacseeks to serve as a resource tured at the Noida factory, for patients and health care which shows our commitment providers around the world. to India's manufacturing and Our international patient growth story," Said Ghufran information offices help us provide patients with a seam-Alam, Senior Director, Mobile less experience when seeking

care at Mavo Clinic.³

The Mumbai office staff will assist with travel, lodging, billing and insurance arrangements; provide general orientation to Mayo Clinic; facilitate Mavo review of medical records: and coordinate future appointments. The office does not provide medical attention. Mayo Clinic also has patient

information offices in Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

Mayo Clinic accepts appointment requests directly from patients and patient referrals from physicians. Interpreters are available at no cost to assist with communication between health care providers and patients whose primary language is not English. Mayo Clinic is ranked the best hospital in the world by Newsweek and the No. 1 hospital in the U.S. by U.S. News & World Report. Mayo Clinic serves roughly 1.4 million people from 139 countries everv year.

tional Economic Partnerships'. He added.

Mohammad Almutawa Group CEO of Ducab said "Ducab considers India its new home. This set up in Bangalore in the state of Karnataka is another example of the significant commercial and international cooperation between the two countries. Ducab Group employs around 1000 Indians. This is an opportunity for us to explore new prospects in the Indian industry, as well as to benefit from the new advantages under the CEPA trade agreement building on the existing achievements and close ties

global provider of high-quality ing. The Comprehensive Ecointegrated energy solutions. nomic Partnership Agreement Commenting on this, Dr. Thani (CEPA) signed in 2022 has further Bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Miniscatalyzed business relations beter of State for Foreign Trade, tween the two countries, enabling UAE said, "The new office by Dubusinesses to invest and expand cab Group, one of the National their operations as well as drive that bind Ducab to the Indian ompanies in the UAE order trade and build new cros and constructive partnerships on a genuinely global scale. This is in line with one of the five top government priorities the UAE has outlined for 2023, namely 'Expanding the UAE's Interna-

Scindia highlights Scrap usage growth in primary steel production by 2047 DOMINICK RODRIGUES

Kochi

Union Minister for Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia has urged for the inclusion of the informal sector also in the development of the steel sector in line with 'Vision of 2047", which highlighted percentage of scrap for production of steel rising to 50% from barely 13% at present and being only 50% dependent on iron ore.

The Minister was speaking at the International Indian Material Recycling Conference #10thIMRC2023 held by the Material Recycling Association of India recently in Bolgatty,

Expressing India's total commitment to the circular economy, India's recycling sector and increase per capita consumption of steel, he said that 22% of the country's steel is produced through recycling but the informal sector also needed to be included for the development of the sector as

India's commitment to Net Zero by 2070 called for viewing short term goals by using energy efficiency tools by 20% by 2030, he said, adding "It is our commitment that, by 2030, we should reduce



the current 2.85 to 1.4 CO2/ ton of crude steel produced.

"Scrap' is a virtuous word Transport and Highways Nithat denotes a green economy tin Gadkari, while speaking on "Role of Sustainability in to sustain Mother Earth in India's Growth Trajectory," the years to come. It is an extremely important source noted that at present the reso that 22% production of cycling industry is one of the scrap from steel needs to be most important industries for increased, as per policy. It is the country and "the other important philosophy which also important to incentivize I always appreciate is converthe unorganized sector so sion of waste into wealth.' that we have volumes towards the commitment of the future of recycling," he said. (IAS), Principal Secretary - Industry & Mines, Maha-

"You are an industry that contributes to the today of India and it needs to be pushed in years to come," he said while also acknowledging the MRAI's flagship campaign *#remadeinindia* for creating CO2 emissions by 50% from awareness on India's SDG's

> Shell Lubricants launches Shell Helix HX8 0W-20 in collaboration with **MARVEL Heroes Unite**

towards climate action.

Union Minister of Road

Dr. Harshadeep Kamble

rashtra State Government,

lauded the MRAI for doing

commendable work as the

Knowledge Partner towards

defining the policy for the

upcoming Circular Economy

parks in Maharashtra.

Uttar Pradesh leads with a 41% share of disputes closed says Rajive Kumar, Chairman-RERA

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

stores in the country

DUKING HIS SPEECH A **ASSOCHAM NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REAL** ESTATE

NEW DELHI: "The demand in Real Estate sector is always high" according to Chief Guest Rajive Kumar, Chairman, Real Estate Regulatory Affairs, Uttar Pradeshat the ASSOCHAM National Conference on Real Estate India " Ease of Doing Business and Affordability for Sustainable Growth" noting that 20% of India's population resides in UP, driving up demand for homes that RERA must oversee and facilitate. Demand for new homes in the state capital is increasing. He said "The impact of RERA led to improvement in accountability which brought financial discipline to the real estate sector

He further mentioned UP accounted for the largest share of dispute resolution with a 41% of share of total cases closed by RERA authorities.

Februa SSOCIAL IN 0 In Con The RERAAct has been stable and is notified in almost all states, he added. The RERA online complaint system, brokers registration, and buyerbuilder meetings have all been launched digitally in an effort to streamline the process and be-

ing technology driven, he added. UP RERA will soon start grading projects and developers based on various parameters like financial quality, organizational structure, certifications, track records, compliance adherence

NECOCHAM and customer feedback. In his special address, Anand Kumar, Chairman, Real Estate

Ease of Bus

Natio

Regulatory Authority, NCT of Delhishared that the real estate sector is the 2nd most significant industry that is essential for building the economy. He estimated that the real estate market would expand at a rate of 9.2% till 2030. The RERA Act's adoption paved the ground for important changes that will benefit stakeholders and homebuyers going forward.

NEW DELHI: Shell, the world leader in finished lubricants, has announced the newest addition to its passenger car motor oils portfolio - Shell Helix SP HX8 0W-20. This fully synthetic, BS VI compliant, engine oil designed for modern turbocharged engines is being launched in an exciting collaboration

between Shell and MARVEL

Heroes Unite. Speaking at the launch, Mr. Amit Ghugre, Automotive Sales and Marketing Manager, Shell Lubricants India, said, "As the world's leading lubricant supplier, we create future-ready products and solutions. We expect the Helix SP HX8 0W-20 segment to become consumers' primary choice in the next few years, based on both OEM recommendations and a need for more fuel-efficient lubricants. With this product launch, we are strategically investing in future demand creation, while bringing an exciting consumer brand collaboration with Marvel

CEO of the Ducab Group, and a number of officials from both countries. The new establish-

Trade, Ahmad Belvouha, Board

Group and

Member of Duca

Mohammad Almutawa, Group builds on the strong bilateral trade and business ties between the UAE and India. The two countries share common interests and have ment is part of the Group's strong resources and capabilities strategic vision to be a leading to develop industrial manufactur-

market It is an extension of the company's ambitions and strategies, which is currently expanding its business in 55 markets around the world, where it exports 60% of its products." He said.

Maharashtra to be India's biggest recycling hub

DOMINICK RODRIGUES Kochi

"Maharashtra is set to be the biggest recycling hub in India,' Dr. Harshadeep Kamble (IAS), Principal Secretary - Industry & Mines, Maharashtra State Government, stated at the recently-concluded Material **Recycling Association of India** (MRAI) 10th edition of IMRC 2023 on the proposed Circular Economy Parks in Maharashtra. "The Government of Maha-

rashtra has already appointed MRAI as the Knowledge Partner for formulation of new policy and development of Circular Economy Parks on Maharashtra," Kamble said, adding "This transition of India from linear economy to circular economy is of Maharashtra is already 15 per aligned with the Prime Minis-



ter's vision to become the largest is 30 per cent and industrial Economy of the world in comproduction is 15 per cent of the national production." ing years."

The focus on the transition of Use, Recycle, Reusetowards Cirrashtra a recycling hub. The cular economy will help achieve highlight of the Circular Econoour Net Zero mission. The GDP my Park will be having smaller hubs and one large park in varicent of the national GDP, FDI ous regions like Nagpur, Vi-

darbha, Marathwada, Mumbai-Pune, Ratnagiri & Kolhapur, after looking at environmental concerns.

The Government of Maharashtra is thus working with stakeholders of various sectors like steel manufacturing, metal manufacturers, solid waste, etc and formulating a very flexible Circular Economy policy." Kamble added.

Sanjay Mehta, President, MRAI, noted that with sustainable development and climate change mitigation considerations, it is important that recycling is given clear focus and strong impetus in the industry sector. "The recycling industry is highly unorganised and is worth about USD50 billion now. There are over 25,000 recycling units in the country," he said.

Renault, Nissan shake up 24-year-old alliance

NEW DELHI: Nissan and Renault have unveiled the details of a major shake-up of their often strained 24-year-old alliance, the media reported.

The announcement comes after months of negotiations between the motor industry giants. In a joint statement, the two firms said they had "rebalanced" their relationship by agreeing that Renault would cut its stake in Nissan, media reported. Under the deal, Nissan will take a stake in Renault's flagship electric car unit Ampere.

The companies also said that they will work together on electronics and battery technology, as well as making savings from joint projects in Europe, India and Latin America.

The agreement will see Re-Japan's Nissan from more than



43 per cent to 15 per cent, the same size as Nissan's stake in its French counterpart.

Nissan will take a stake of up to 15 per cent in Renault's new electric vehicle venture, Ampere.

Christopher Richter from investment group CLSA said the changes were necessary to keep the two-decade partnership alive, the BBC reported.

It's a last ditch attempt to save an alliance where the two nault cutting its stake in the partners don't get along very well, " he told the BBC.

"Hopefully, by equalising their status in the alliance, they can put some of the rancour behind them, and find a limited number of activities where they can cooperate and add value to each other, "Richter added.

huge change for the motor industry as it transitions to electric vehicles and adopts new technology. "We all know that auto The companies also said that firms will be amalgamated into

five or six globally, especially due to the big changes occurring in AI technology, "Seijiro Takeshita from the University of Shizuoka in Japan told the BBC.

"In that context, Nissan and Renault need to find a good partner, and that's what they are, at least nominally. They cannot and do not have the luxury of going alone in this battle, "he added.

XLRI - Xavier School of Management successfully achieves 100% placements MANPREET SINGH

to the consumers".

The move comes at a time of Ranchi

LRI - Xavier School of Management has successfully achieved 100% placements for the outgoing batch of 2021-23 for its flagship programs: Twoyear Postgraduate Diploma in Management - Human Resource Management and the Two-year Postgraduate Diploma in Management -Business Management with all 463 candidates securing offers through the Final Recruitment Process. The Final Placement process was conducted in two stages. The first stage - the



Lateral Recruitment Process (LRP) – was conducted over a week in January 2023 where students with prior work experience were interviewed and were offered higher than entry-level positions. The

recruiters. These also include pre-placement offers (PPOs) which were offered to 43.8% of the batch on the basis of their performance during their summer internships. The students from Jamshedpur and Delhi campuses participated in the placement process.

"The idea is to make Maha-

Father S George, director, XLRI - Xavier School of Management congratulated and appreciated all the students for this achievement, "We have great students who will take greater responsibility in India Inc. as responsible leaders. We are delighted to announce that

tional offers, including 30 new XLRI has achieved the feat of 100% placements in a record timeframe this year amidst tough market conditions. We attribute the outstanding placements as an affirmation by the corporate world of the highly relevant managementcentric education we strive to deliver to our students year after year. This stellar success

is a testimony to our students' resilient calibre in navigating the industry's shifting trends and their future journey as young business leaders of tomorrow and eminent faculty who mould, mentor and accompany their journey.

Recruitment Process (CRP)

- was conducted on a single day in February 2023 where there was no segregation basis of the work experience. The process saw participation from 117 recruiters with 484 second stage - the Campus domestic offers and 3 interna-

BANKING S FINANCE

ASSOCHAM impresses

NEW DELHI: ASSOCHAM impressed upon the RBI Monetary Policy Committee to give

a pause to its rate hike cycle

in view of the inflation taking

a reverse path downward and

businesses facing the pressure

stands out as one of the

fastest growing economies

of the world, a pause in the

policy rate hike would pro-

vide stimulus to the growth

trajectory", ASSOCHAM Sec-

retary General Deepak Sood

said, urging the RBI - MPC

to halt any more increase in

deliberations and is expected

to announce the outcome of the

meeting on February 8, 2023.

already hiked to 6.25 %, re-

The RBI Repo rate has been

The RBI-MPS has begun its

the benchmark rates.

'Ăt a time when India

of high cost of borrowing.

upon RBI to pause policy rate hikes

Paytm launched a special G20 theme QR Code to celebrate India's presidency

NEW DELHI: One97 Communications Limited which owns leading payments and financial services company Paytm, on Friday launched a special G20 theme, QR Code to celebrate India's presidency of the inter-governmental forum and the country's leadership in mobile payments.

The QR code was launched by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways and IT, during the 'Digital Payments Utsav' at the India Habitat Centre here

Paytm has played an important role in the mobile payments revolution in India, as the pioneer of QR code payments. The special commemora-

tive QR Code features logos of MeitY's 'DigiDhan Mission',



along with those of the G20 2023 and 75th year of India's independence.

"India is at the forefront of the mobile payments revolution, and as pioneers of QR code, Paytm is taking UPI to every nook and corner of the country. Financial inclusion is at the heart of G20 that reso-



nates with our mission to bring half a billion Indians into the mainstream economy with our innovative payments solution, said Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Founder and CEO, Paytm.

"Paytm's G20-theme QR Code is dedicated to India's presidency of the premium forum for international eco-

nomic cooperation, which is a landmark moment for the country, " Sharma added.

Under the 'Digital Payments Utsav', Paytm is organising a special drive wherein a branded vehicle will cover various localities across Delhi that have a heavy public presence.

Educational videos on digital payments will be played with the aim to increase awareness and usage of digital payments by the public, said the company.

The company's associate Paytm Payments Bank won MeitY's top award for maintaining one of the lowest average Technical Decline (TD) in BHIM UPI transactions.

Paytm Founder Sharma is also the Chair of the Finance Task Force under 'Startup20'.

The taskforce will provide a framework on best practices for global investors to fund Startups across G20 member nations and help in constructing model frameworks that could be implemented in emerging ecosystems for build-

ing investment capabilities. aytm dominates offline payments with 6.1 million devices deployed. Paytm Payments Bank remained the largest UPI beneficiary bank for 20 months in a row with over 1, 765.87 million transactions in January 2023, ahead of all other banks in the country. With 389.61 million regis-

tered transactions, the bank is one of the top 10 remitter banks for UPI transactions, according to NPCI's latest report.

Govt proposes quick settlement of contractual disputes to promote **RBI projects FY24 GDP** growth at 6.4 pc, in line ease of doing business as announced in Union Budget 2023-24 with Economic Survey

on Wednesday projected India's economic growth at 6.4 per cent for 2023-24, broadly in line with the estimate of the Economic Survey tabled in Parliament last week. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is estimated at 7 per cent in



the National Statistical Office (NSO). The Economic Survey 2022-23 projected a baseline GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in real terms for the next fiscal.

FW DESK **MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank New Delhi

The Ministry of Finance today circulated a draft scheme for consultation with stakeholders. The scheme is aimed at bringing quick finality to certain contractual disputes in which Government of India or its agencies is a litigant. The draft scheme is available on the website of the Department of Expenditure as

well as on the MyGov.in Portal. The draft scheme has been framed in accordance with the announcement made by the had announced that: Union Finance Minister in

To settle contractual disthe Union Budget 2023-24. In putes of government and

wherein arbitral award is under challenge in a court, a voluntary settlement scheme with standardized terms will

be introduced. This will be done by offering graded settlement terms depending on

The Government has appreciated that special efforts are required to clear the backlog of old disputes and litigation. Such cases are not only holding back fresh investment but are also reducing the ease of doing business with the Government. Therefore, after due study of the past cases, the government intends to bring one time settlement scheme called "Vivad se Vishwas II (Contractual

ASSOCHAM believes it is a last rate by RBI as inflation keeps declining

NEW DELHI: CHAM said it is broadly in line with the assessment of the RBI about resilience of the Indian economy and the challenges ahead but going forward, expects a stimulus to the growth trajectory as projected by the central

bank, by reverting to an accommodative policy stance with regard to benchmark interest rates. "There is no doubt

that moderating inflation in today's challenging global environment should be a priority for the RBI-Monetary Policy Committee and the RBI has done a commendable job with the result that the pace of price rise has reversed. In line with the other broad objective of sustainable growth, we want to believe this is the last rate hike by the RBI," ASSOCHAM Secretary General Deepak Sood said, commenting on the 25 basis points repo rate

hike announced today. Sood further said, "Given the present state of global economic environment, the RBI has struck a right balance between reining in inflation and maintaining the growth momentum. We remain optimistic that with the supply side situation improving along with a promising outlook, inflation should continue to drop giving elbow room to the RBI to reverse the policy stance into accommodative or neutral".

The chamber agreed with the RBI assessment as regards vital macro indicators



about the Indian economy. "Our macros look far more comforting than the peers -be it stability of the Indian currency, current account deficit, external debt-GDP ratio or the foreign exchange reserves. Fiscal prudence coupled with a firm commitment by the government to remain steadfast on its capital expenditure as seen in the Union Budget give us confidence to share the optimism of the RBI projecting a growth rate of 6.4 per cent

ASSOCHAM also welcomed regulatory measures announced by the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. Uniform penal interest regime would be a significant customer-centric move. Expanding scope of Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) would immensely help MSMEs, while permitting inbound foreign travellers to use UPI would deepen India's digital drive, leaving global footprints. The guidelines on the green deposits, framework on climate-related financial risks and stress testing for the banks would further make India future ready in an environment of global energy transition.



On the other hand, the project cost of new investment is increasing because of the heightened interest rates. Besides, service of the existing debt is also exerting pressure on the corporates. "We need to keep accelerat-

ing both consumer demand and investment for sustainable growth in the fiscal year beginning April. While the Economic Survey has projected the growth for FY'24 as 6.5 % it is lower than the estimates of the current fiscal. Growth deserves a continuous stimulus," the ASSOCHAM Secretary General said.

SBI launches its third dedicated branch to support startups in Gurugram





Speech, Nirmala Sitharaman

pendency level of the dispute.

pending disputes.

50 per cent fewer ads in their home timeline. With Blue checkmarks, Twitter Blue features offer subscribers a way to enhance and customise their Twitter experience -- which include -- custom app icons, custom navigation, top articles, undo tweet, longer video upload, and more.

Musk has now said that all legacy verified accounts will soon lose their Blue badges as those are 'deeply corrupted'.

The micro-blogging platform has also launched a new service called Twitter Verification for Organisations, which is a service for business entities on Twitter that adds a gold checkmark to

HelpAge India rolls out 'Project Surakshit' on-ground to train 50,000 elders in Digital Safety





NEW DELHI: Twitter will charge Rs 650 per month for its Blue service with verification on the web and Rs 900 on Android and iOS mobile devices in India, the company has confirmed.

Twitter Blue has now been extended to India, Brazil, and Indonesia. Elon Musk-run Twitter is also offering a discounted annual plan of Rs 6, 800 per year in India, which translates to approximately Rs 566.67 per month

With India launch, Twitter Blue is now available in 15 global markets including the US, Canada, Japan, the UK



form Twitter expanded its Blue and \$11 for iPhone owners per service subscription service to month globally. six more countries.

Twitter has now begun al-In December last year, Twitlowing Blue subscribers in the ter relaunched its Blue subscrip- US to create long tweets of up tion service with verification to 4,000 characters

Disputes)" to effectively settle

aim to provide end-to-end support to startups, the State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday inaugurated its third specialised branch for startup in Gurugram.

third highest number of unicorns in the nation after Bengaluru and Mumbai, SBI said in a statement.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said, the primary aim of this branch is to provide end-toend support to startups at every stage of their journey, Funds (AIFs).

GURUGRAM: With the starting from the formation of the entity till their IPOs and FPOs

As per reports, apart from providing regular banking services to startups, the branch will also act as a one

Gurugram houses the stop shop in providing investment banking, treasury/ forex, advisory and other ancillary financial services through the bank's subsid-Addressing the occasion, iaries. The startup branch will also to cater to the requirements of private equity (PE), venture capital (VC)

and Alternative Investment

NEW DELHI: The 5G smartphone shipment share in India increased to 31 per cent in 2022, with 5G shipments growing 74 per cent (year-on-year), a report

> showed on Tuesday. 5G smartphones worth \$20 billion (in value) were shipped in the country in 2022. Samsung led the 5G segment with 23 per cent market share, followed by OnePlus with 15 per cent YoY, "said Menka Kumari, cent market share. "Driven by a resilient consumer appetite to switch and upgrade, the premium smartphone market continued to gain traction. In fact,

month, the micro-blogging plat- costing \$8 for Android users Blue subscribers will also see official business accounts. \$20 bn worth 5G smartphones shipped in India in 2022 at 74% growth

the uber-premium smartphone

segment (Rs 1, 00, 000 and

above) grew a whopping 95 per

Analyst- Industry Intelligence

Group, CyberMedia Research

(CMR). However, the overall

overall smartphone market conin H2 2022, "Kumari added. On a quarterly basis, the smartphone shipments declined by 28 per cent in Q4 2022. However, the Premium

2

smartphone segment and the super-premium smartphone segment saw shipments increasing by 12 per cent and 41 per cent YoY, respectively.

mobile market in India declined Xiaomi (21 per cent), Sam-17 per cent YoY in 2022 and

smartphone shipments declined per cent) captured the top three 8 per cent YoY. "All said, the spots in the smartphone market, spots in the smartphone market, followed by realme (14 per cent) tinued to post a decline, driven and OPPO (10 per cent). The by the tough market conditions overall feature phone segment declined by 34 per cent YoY, driven by the weak consumer sentiment, owing to high device prices. "We anticipate the tough macroeconomic conditions to persist in the first half of the vear. The silver lining continues to be the growth in 5G smartphone shipments. It will be a big year for 5G in India, " said Shipra Sinha, Analyst-Industry sung (19 per cent) and Vivo (14 Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR.

Mumba

HelpAge India initiated its nation-wide programme, Project Surakshit, with grant support from Google.org, with the aim to digitally secure senior citizens so they can protect themselves from online fraud and scams. Marking 'Safer Internet Day' on February 7th, HelpAge India initiated a series of Digital Safety workshops across 16 states, to simultaneously train over 1000 senior citizens.

A first-of-a-kind event in the country, the workshops, organized in coordination with Senior Citizens Associations, offer seniors essential training on digital safety, equipping them with critical skills to navigate the internet safely and securely and seek the benefits

HelpAge aims to drive more awareness among this vulnerable community so that elders are informed and prepared to identify and address common online scams. The workshops include a customized curriculum which covers 7 modules, giving guidance on various online safety topics such as: Creating a Strong Password, Staying Safe while Banking Online, Safely Paying Utility Bills Online, Protecting your Device, Spotting an Online Scam, Staying Safe on WhatsApp and Booking a Cab Safely

Online. With the rapid advancement of digital services such as online payments, ordering daily wares, banking and shopping, the vulnerability of the elderly population has increased.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches 'Hello Ujjivan'-India's first Voice, visual, vernacular banking app

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched "Hello Ujjivan" India's first mobile banking application with - voice, visual, vernacular-enabled features - to provide banking access to individuals who have limited reading and writing skills. The app is designed to instil banking habits in Micro Banking and Rural customers who are digitally challenged. Hello Ujjivan, co-created with Navana.AI, is accessible by voice in eight regional languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, Oriva, and Assamese. Customers can speak to the app in their native language to perform banking transactions and access services such as paying loan EMIs, opening FD and RD accounts,

transferring funds, checking account balance, and updating passbooks, among others.

During Launch pressconference officials explained that The app's intuitive AI and machine learning capabilities enable it to comprehend customers' unstructured banking requests and provide the desired result. The application engine adapts to the various dialects of the user and has the capacity to learn and respond to their particular dialect. The app also provides a visual representation, along with a aspirations, and behaviours recorded voice guide in the user's preferred language at every step, allowing them to transact without fear or reliance on others, thereby removing the anxiety associated with online banking transactions. As per our research,

the app addresses the digital divide on the banking needs,



of the Micro Banking and Rural customers. Ujjivan SFB is utilising its 600 branches and close to 9000 Micro banking and Rural Banking staff to educate the customers on using the "Hello Ujjivan app.".

In its initial phase, Hello

customers. In the subsequent phase, the company will continue to add more languages and banking features and solutions, such as opening new customer accounts, paying utility bills, availing repeat loans, mobile and DTH recharge.

Speaking on the launch, Ujjivan will be available to B A Prabhakar, Chairman its existing Micro Banking of Ujjivan Small Finance

the mobile app represents a significant advancement in our efforts to provide our Micro Banking and Rural customers with the advanced technology and the high level of convenience and security. We are confident that we will be able to empower our customers, towards meeting their banking needs. This application also demonstrates our dedication to promoting financial literacy and independence across all social strata." , He added.

Speaking on the launch, Ittira Davis, MD & CEO, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, said, "The introduction of "Hello Ujjivan" reinforces our commitment to promote financial and digital inclusion throughout the nation. As a mass market bank, we are confident that this innovation will further simplify INR 23,203 cr.

Bank, said, "The launch of the banking experience for individuals who are digitally inclined, but challenged.

He also stated that "We will continue to focus on deploying innovative technology solutions to empower the un-served and under-served customers to achieve financial independence," he added. Ujjivan SFB has developed a comprehensive digital strategy to simplify banking services throughout India. Our digital strategy of the bank is built to bridge the digital divide between metro vs semi urban and rural customers, who are often left out. The bank currently serves over 72 million customers through its 600 branches across 25 states and union territories in India. As of December 31, 2022, the gross loan book is valued at INR 21,895 cr. and the deposit base is valued at

price has surpassed the target prices pegged by Morgan Stanley and YES Securities, while is just inches away from the targets set by Bank of America, CLSA, and JM Financial Services. In a span of four trading

Paytm's share price has rallied more than

NEW DELHI: After receiving buy ratings from all the top

global and domestic brokerage and research firms, Paytm stock

36 percent reclaiming the 700-mark

days, Paytm's share price has rallied more than 36 percent, reclaiming the 700-mark.

The analysts turned bullish and raised target price on Paytm stock after the company achieved an operating profitability milestone with EBITDA

before ESOP cost at Rs 31 crore, significantly ahead of its guided timeline of September 2023.

In the last one month, One97 Communications (Paytm) scrip has surged 30 per cent, and nearly 40 per cent so far in 2023.

Morgan Stanley and YES Securities had pegged Rs 695, and Rs 600, respectively, as target price for Paytm.

While BofA, CLSA, and Bandhan Bank gave Rs 730, Rs 750, and Rs 750, respectively, as target prices.

The fintech giant's revenue from operations increased 42 per cent (year-on-year) to Rs 2, 062 crore, driven by growth in its core payments business and sustained growth momentum in credit business and commerce business

Paytm in its business operating performance for January 2023, registered consistent growth in total merchant payments value.

INTERNATIONAL

European states dispatch rescue teams to Turkey, Syria after deadly quakes Search and rescue teams have been dispatched from ten European states indexpression, seismic expertise, and accumentation, seismic expertise, and accumentation seismic expertits seismic expertise, and accumentation sei

pean member states in the wake of two devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, which have left at least 3, 500 people dead.

The European Commission said on Monday that teams from Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania had been sent to the earthquake-stricken areas, Xinhua news agency reported. "Speed is of the essence because so many people are still trapped under the rubble, " said Janez Lenarcic, EU Commissioner for Crisis Management. "The rescue teams will continue

to work for as long as necessary." Other European countries

and equipment, as well as to house people displaced by the disaster.

Leaders across the European Union have expressed their solidarity with the areas hit by the massive quakes. French President Emmanuel Macron said that France "stands ready to provide emergency aid to the population on the ground".

In Italy, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said she was closely monitoring the situation in Turkey and Syria, and expressed her solidarity with the people affected. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that Germany "mourned with the relatives and feared for those buried"



In Greece, the closest European Union member state to the areas impacted by the quake, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said he was "heartbroken" by the televised scenes

and the US have also expressed their sympathy and support, and offered to send help. Both Italy and Greece tem-

porarily closed some coastal

the earthquake.

struck Turkey's southern province of Kahramanmaras at 4:17 a.m. local time. It was followed by a magnitude-6.4 quake a few minutes later in the country's southern province of Gaziantep and a magnitude-7.6 earthquake at 1:24 p.m. local time in the Kahramanmaras Province.

Buildings were levelled, bridges collapsed, and other essential infrastructure was destroyed. Hours after the quake, rescue workers were still finding survivors amid the rubble.

Officials said they expected the death toll to continue to rise in the coming days.

ne earthquake. A magnitude-7.7 earthquake millions of Americans The number of individuals in the US who applied for unemployment benefits early this month climbed to 196, 000, an increase of 13, 000, according

to government figures. New unemployment applications edged up from 183, 000 in the previous week, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the Labor Department, this was the first increase in claims since December 2022.

Economists in a Wall Street Journal survey had predicted that new jobless claims would amount to 190, 000 for the

seven days before February 4. Meanwhile, inflation continues to hurt the wallets of millions of Americans

Polls find that 50 per cent of Americans said they are financially worse off than a year ago.

PM Modi speaks to the HAL Hands over Advanced Light Helicopter to Govt of Mauritius Israeli Prime Minister



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has spoken to the Prime Minister of Israel, His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister said;

"Spoke with PM @netanyahu and discussed ways to strengthen the multifaceted India-Israel friendship, deepen our focus on innovation partnership, and our ongoing cooperation in defence and security.'

SGPC offers

affected

ARUN KUMAR RAO

Bengaluru Hindustan Aeronautics limited (HAL) successfully handed over an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) to the Government of Mauritius at Helicopter Division benaluru on friday.

Nikhil Dwivedi, General Manager, Helicopter Division handed over the Certificate to A K Dip, Commissioner of Police, Mauritius Police Force (MPF) in the presence of Mr E P Jayadeva, Director (Operations), HAL, Mr S Anbuvelan, CEO (HC) and

others Speaking on the occasion. Javadeva said HAL has hand-



is in line with the Govt. of tween both countries. The India's vision to boost defence ALH Mk III helicopter will exports to Friendly Foreign meet the operational requirements of Mauritius Police Countries. The handing over ed over the helicopter way of export helicopter has fur- Force. The helicopter with its ahead of schedule. This order ther bolstered the ties be- state of the art equipment will

further enhance the operational requirements of MPF, he said.

Dip opined that the induction of a new helicopter into the stables of Mauritius Police Force will enhance the aerial capabilities of Mauritius Police. The helicopter will contribute immensely in ensuring the territorial integrity and enhancing the speed and effectiveness of the police intervention during critical incidents and disasters.

Anbuvelan said HAL & Govt. of the Republic of Mauritius share a strong business relationship spanning over three decades, with HAL manufactured helicopters already being operated in Mauritius. HAL would provide all the necessary techni- of the helicopter.

cal, logistic, and maintenance support for ALH Helicopters in Mauritius.

HAL had signed a contract with Govt. of Republic of for export of one ALH Mk III to Mauritius Police Force. ALH Mk III is a multi-role, multi-mission versatile helicopter in 5.5 tonne category. It has proven its mettle in various utility roles, including numerous lifesaving missions during natural calamities in India and abroad. More than 335 ALH has been produced till date logging a cumulative of more than 3,75,000 flying hours. HAL also ensures technical assistance and product support to the customer to ensure healthy serviceability

The Akashic Records Lend Metaphysical Twist to The Karma Factor

Mauritius in January 2022 LOS ANGELES: Forced to straddle alternative realities, a blue collar cop must evolve beyond his badge, overcoming his own dark past in The Karma Factor, a work of visionary fiction that explores the boundaries of human consciousness against the backdrop of a classic suspense thriller from author, poet and musician Thomas Lane. With a purpose that transcends the genre, Lane expertly weaves the novel's wider message in a ground-breaking, white-knuckle ride between worlds, as characters set out to make karmic amendments, right wrongs and re-establish the power of choice.

Haunted by a nameless guilt, tired of running from his demons, NYPD detective James Early decides to end his life. Taunting an armed suspect into blind fury, he makes himself an easy target. But the bullets fired at point blank range are mysteriously diverted. There is no blood and no wounds. Instead of the end, Early finds himself, miraculously, at the beginning of a long and arduous quest to solve the riddle of the missing bullets and the search for meaning: "If I've been given some kind of reprieve ... what in God's name am I supposed to do with it?"

The Karma Factor flips the good-versus-evil theme on its side as it traverses the ages, interlacing past lives with present, on a hero's quest for redemption. Lane juxtaposes veteran city detectives and an elusive serial killer with a visionary monk sequestered in an abandoned monastery in the Tibetan Himalayas.

I WANTED TO CAPTURE THOSE CONTRASTING **ELEMENTS, SHOW** THEM AS PARTS OF A WHOLE WHEN VIEWED **THROUGH A LENS THAT** IS VAST AND KIND AND TIMELESS

When protagonist Early sets out to uncover the mysterious force that saved his life, he discovers that, in his previous lifetime, he had been part of a secret mission. Led by a Tibetan sage, a team of advanced thinkers had gained access to the Akashic Records, a repository of every soul's thoughts, deeds and actions through time. Their

goal? To use these records to locate key individuals' unhandled karma in the past –– and help those souls be accountable for their misdeeds. The mission's ultimate challenge would be to restore an awareness of possibilities, unburdened by the past, to a world engulfed by denial and fear.

Lane adds a unique perspective to the genre: "I see the world as a place of grit and suffering and magic. I wanted to capture those contrasting elements, show them as parts le when viewed through a lens that is vast a and timeless. Although the story revolves around a cop and a serial killer, the book is fundamentally about hope -- a hope that understands both bullets and prayers, and the path that goes beyond.

SGPC pays tribute to those who lost lives humanitarian aid during earthquakes in Turkey & Syria to earthquake



AMRITSAR: The Sikh body, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) today paid tributes to the people who ost lives during devastating earthquakes in Turkey and the community side. On this areas should go there. He said Syria. Ardas (Sikh prayer) was occasion, SGPC general sec- that going to other countries ffered for the departed souls retary Bhai Gur Grewal said that at present the and for quick recovery of those who are injured, after reciting entire humanity sympathizes the holy verses of Sikh scripwith the people of Turkey and Syria including the Sikh body tures at the SGPC headquarter SGPC. He said that Sikhs alin Amritsar. Notably, SGPC President ways pray for the welfare of Harjinder Singh Dhami also humanity and SGPC is ready wrote letters to the governto perform all kinds of humanitarian services in the current ments on Tuesday offering humanitarian aid in the earthnatural calamity.

Accordingly, a congregation was organized at the SGPC office today to offer Sikh prayer expressing condolences to the families of departed souls from aran Singh

provals. He said that is the time to stand with the suffering people and all the humanitarian people and organizations who can easily reach the affected to do re work depends or the approval of the concerned governments and therefore the government should make necessary arrangements to send the helping organizations and people. Present on this occasion included SGPC member Sarvan Singh Kular, secretary Partap Singh, additional secretary Bijai Singh, assistant secretaries Gurdial Singh, Jaswinder Singh Jassi, Prof Sukhdev Singh, superinten-SGPC will be able to carry out dent Malkeet Singh, and other key officials.





The Senate unanimously passed H.J.R (House Joint Resolution) 4, a resolution highlighting the history and significant contributions of the Sikh

Amritsai

JAGMOHAN SINGH

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh Dhami expressed grief over the loss of lives and property due to earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and offered assistance from Sikh body SGPC.

Dhami expressed solidarity and condolences after writing letters to Firat Sunel, Ambassador of Turkey in India; Dr Virander Paul, Ambassador of India in Turkev: Bassam Siefeddin Alkhatib, Ambassador of Svria in India: and Surender Kumar Yadav, Chargé d'affaires of Indian Embassy in Syria.

SGPC President wrote that in Sikh faith 'Vand Chhakna' (sharing) and 'Sarbat Da Bhala' (Welfare of All), are important principles taught by Sikh Gurus (masters) and in light of the same, the Sikh body offer humanitarian aid to the earthquake affected areas of Turkey and Syria. He said the SGPC works in light of Sikh principles to help those in need.

He said that the SGPC has always been active to serve humanity during natural calamities and has been providing clothes, ration, food and other necessary items as assistance to the needy as per the requirement.

He said the Sikh body is extremely pained to learn about the loss of lives and damage to property from devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. He said that he shares the suffering of the people at such a time and appeals to the concerned ambassadors and governments to coordinate with the SGPC, by offering humanitarian aid from the Sikh body to the affected people.

quake affected areas of Turkey SGPC President Harjinder and Svria. The SGPC wants to Singh Dhami has written help the victims of this natural letters to the concerned govcalamity following the teachernments and it is hoped the ings and philosophy of Sikh Gurus (masters). relief work after getting the ap-

community. We were joined by members of Utah's Sikh community as well as those from India and other parts of the world

HOUSTON: The Legislature in week, Kutv reported. the US state of Utah has unanimously passed a resolution honouring the Sikh community for their contributions and service to humanity despite facing "oppression and discrimination throughout the world".

The resolution was introduced by Representative Angela Romero and Senator Luz Escamilla and passed last

"The Senate unanimously passed H.J.R (House Joint Resolution) 4, a resolution highlighting the history and significant contributions of the Sikh community. We were ioined by members of Utah's

Sikh community as well as those from India and other parts of the world," a tweet from the Utah Senate read.

Neharwali Haveli: Pervez **Musharraf's Delhi connection**



Pak Cricketers spitting venom against India

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Cricketers from Pakistan are the finest at defaming this admirable sport. Instead of assuming a constructive role, they are demonstrating their talent by spreading contempt and animosity towards other nations, religions, and individuals both on and off the field. They are loudmouths who forget to maintain decency while claiming to be peace ambassadors to other countries, particularly India, and Javad Miadad is no exception. The Indo-Pak relationship policy is unaffected by his viewpoint. But his statements reveal a pervasive issue

in Pakistani society. Miadad was enraged that the Indian team would not visit Pakistan to play in the Asia Cup, despite the fact that India and Pakistan have a critical relationship. Since the 2009 Mumbai terrorist tragedy, bilateral cricket matches have been put on hold. Only ICC competitions still feature matches between the two sides.

The former Pakistani great, who has a family relation with India's most wanted man, Dawood Ibharhim, had hit out at India and said "India can go



viewed as an act of jihad.

to hell" in response to India's decision not to visit Pakistan for the upcoming Asia Cup. In the meantime, the BCCI made it clear that the Indian team would not be travelling to Pakistan at the recently held meeting of the Asian Cricket Council. The reason for this is that they will not receive the necessary clearance from the Indian government to travel to Pakistan due to the ongoing diplomatic tensions between the two countries.

Furthermore, the misbehaving Pakistani players repeatedly demonstrated their animosity and intolerance towards people

against India in T- 20 world of other faiths as well as the cup 2021. He said "..... The best spread of the Jihadist ideology off the field. Mushtaq Mohamthing, what Rizwan did, he ofmad, a Pakistani cricketer at fered the Namaz on the ground surrounded by Hindus, that was the time, described a 1978 test something very special for me," series victory over India as "a victory of Muslims all over the

Former Pakistani cricketer world over the Hindus." Imran Sohaib Akthar, a self-claimed Khan, a former cricketer who is advocate of peace between two now a politician, has used the countries, exposed his fanatiword "jihad" since the 1980s. cism mindset against India. Ad-According to him, every game ditionally, he caused controversy when he was heard discussing Pakistan plays against India is "Ghazwa-e-Hind" in a video. Former Pakistani player and He claimed that they will first conquer Kashmir and subsecommentator Waqar Yonius also triggered a controversy quently India, as it is written after Pakistan won the match in their holy book.

Pakistani players do not hesitate to express their religious activities on the field. They even ask other non-Muslim players to convert to Islam. In 2014, during an ODI against Sri Lanka, Pakistani cricketer Ahmed Shehzad was caught on camera asking Lankan batsman Dilshan to convert to Islam or burn in hell.

Meanwhile, hatred for India is not limited to the sports community; even Pakistani artists who have made a name for themselves in India spit venom at the country. Notorious comedian Umer Sharif asked Pakistanis not to lose hope after they lost a match against India. He said, "After all, the Somnath Temple had been destroyed after 17 failed attempts.

Hatred of India by Pakistan extends beyond cricket. Other sports were also influenced by this conflict. Those who remember India's poorest World Cup performance was a tenthplace finish in the 1990 Hockey World Cup in Lahore, where fans pelted rocks at Indian players. In Pakistan, especially for those who pursue a public life, hating India is an essential component of existence.

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's former military dictator and President Pervez Musharraf, who passed away in a Dubai hospital on Sunday, had an old connection with Delhi where he was born in 1943

The former Pakistani ruler was born at Neharwali Haveli, which is located in Pratap Gali in Gol Market in old Delhi's Daryaganj area, and spent the initial four years of his life here before his family moved to Pakistan after Partition.

It was bought by Musharraf's grandfather, Qazi Mohtashimuddin, a government official in Punjab following his retirement from service. Musharraf's father Sved Musharrafuddin, who graduated from Aligarh Muslim University, moved to Pakistan and got a job in the Foreign Ministry while his mother became a teacher in Pakistan.

The Haveli, which has changed from its original structure, currently has over 15 families currently staying in it, including some of Musharraf's relatives, who chose to stay in India.

A part of the Haveli forms part of Daryaganj's famous Golcha cinema. People say that the original mansion was built on top of a huge complex spread over Kucha Sadullah Khan in the congested Faiz Bazar area. This four-storey complex, built in the Mughal architecture style was spread over 700 square yards.

The Haveli has now been converted into a residential complex that includes shops, houses, and commercial premises.

In 2005, Musharraf's mother Zarin also paid a visit to their ancestral house along with her son Javed and Musharraf's son Bilal.



Kali Jotta **RUNNING SUCCESSFULLY,** The endless words of appreciation

Forever Lata Mangeshkar'



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

On the occasion of the first death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Nightingale Lata Mangeshkar, a musical evening dedicated to her 'Alive Forever Lata Mangeshkar' was organized at Tagore Theater in which Bollywood actor Ranjeet was the celebrity guest. In the program, many singers enthralled the audience by singing more than one song sung by Lata. Teen singer Tarun Chandel won a lot of applause by singing Radhika in Madhuban. The program was organized by Musical Waves in collaboration with Rotary Chandigarh Midtown and Patheos Welfare League, in which Ravi Bhagat, IAS, Special Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Punjab, was the chief guest.

Giving information, senior advocate Salil Bali from Rotary Club Midtown and Param Chandel. Rajesh Ulfat and Vikas Singla from Musical Waves said that Haryana's Special Secretary PWD (B&R) Jagdeep Dhanda, Founder of Organic Sharing Foundation Rahul Mahajan, PGD Rotarian Manmohan Singh and PGD Rotarian Ajay Madan, District Governor of Lions District 321D, Lion Lalit Behl, Rotarian Surjit Singh Mann, Rotarian Ameen Sinha, Chairman, Anaheim Education Society, Ms. Manjnik, Head, PGI Nurses Welfare Association, Deputy Registrar, Administration, Health Education, Sandeep Rishi, MD of Sunder Jewelers Mahendra Khurana and General Secretary of North Zone Film and TV Association Dinesh Tundwal were the guests of honour. Music coordinator Suresh Nayak did his job well. Param Chandel, Brijesh Ahuja, Tarun Chandel, Rajesh Ulfat, Vikas Singla, Deepak Garg, Abhijeet, Rani Suman, Sunita Sehgal, Komal Bhardwaj, Guri Kaur, Vaishali, Rutvi Singh, Dr. Swarti are the main singers participating in the program., Dr. Pradeep Bhardwaj and Dr. Mavi were included.

MUSICAL EVENING dedicated to her Alive Nushrratt Bharuccha wraps filming on 'Chhorii 2'

MUMBAI: Actor Nushrrat Bharuccha on Wednesday said she has finished shooting for Chhorii 2", the sequel to her 2021 hit of the same title.

The 37-year-old actor shared the news on her Instagram page, where she teased co-actor Soha for Chhorii 2," Nushrratt wrote. Ali Khan's first look from the upcoming horror drama.

An exclusive sneak peek of the second chapter of the film, @Sakpataudi serving chills which released on streaming from the sets of #Chhorii2. service Prime Video in Novem-And on that note it's a wrap ber 2021.

Gurujas Kaur Khalsa wins Grammy Award 2023 for her album 'Mystic Mirror' containing shloks from Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji

Sikh woman Gurujas Kaur Khalsa of the White Son has won the Grammy Award for her chants in the album 'Mystic Mirror'. Gurujas won the Best New Age Album for 'Mystic Mirror' at the 65th iconic Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles's premiere ceremony.

The album contains shabad from Guru Granth Sahib. White Music while announcing the amazing feat issued a statement writing, "We just won a GRAMMY for our

album "Mystic Mirror" in the New Age, Ambient or Chant Category. We want to thank the @recordingacademy not only for the beautiful awards ceremony but also for all the amazing work they do on behalf of music creators." Three to bring love and kindness to



KULBIR SINGH KALSI

CHANDIGARH: Satinder Sartaaj, Neeru Bajwa, and Wamiqa Gabbi's dramatic emotional narrative Kali Jotta presented by Neeru Bajwa Entertainment, U&I Films and VH Entertainment has established itself as a fantastic start for Punjabi cinema this year, the movie has unquestionably contributed a significant impact on expand-ing the vision of the Punjabi movie plots.

Every seat is taken! There are goosebumps all throughout the audience! The magic that has spread across the city through its ageless music is evident in the tunes that can be heard in every passing car and on the radios playing in every nook and corner; Nonetheless! The Filmmakers, Sunny Raj, Sarla Rani, Varun Arora and Santosh Subhash Thite are all in awe of the positive feedback and adoration the film has received. The praise does not stop there; some people refer to it as a "masterpiece," "excellent direction," or "a moralistic film," while others describe it as a "heart-wrenching cinematic performance.'



Gippy Grewal's Punjabi film 'Honeymoon^{*} completes 100 days in cinemas

CHANDIGARH: Singer-actor us. The efforts and hard Gippy Grewal is elated with his Punjabi film 'Honeymoon' completing a 100 day run in the theatres. The family entive of it. tertainer has achieved a remarkable feat as it's very rare for films to stay in cinemas for such a long period of time given the influx of content on OTT and in theatres. Gippy said: "It's a milestone.

A Punjabi film garnering so much love from the audience is truly a blessing, it's indeed an exciting moment for all of

work are all worth We are really it when the audience is appreciaglad that the audiences across the Directed

country have loved this by Amarpreet crazy roller-coaster ride GS Chhabra, 'Honeymoon' of a film and continue is a romanticdoing so comedy that fol-

lows the story of a 'Honeymoon' has been newlywed couple whose honeymoon plans turn into a produced by T-Series Films crazy roller-coaster ride. and Baweja Studios Produc-Actress Jasmin Bhasin extion.

POTPOURRI

pressed her happiness, saying: "I am extremely elated that

'Honeymoon' has completed 100 days in the cinema. It

makes me feel proud that the

audiences are still showing

their undying love and support to this film. This would not

have been possible without the collective effort and hard

work of the entire team which

is why I am very thankful to

them." Producer Bhushan Ku-

mar added: "It is a moment of

pride and excitement for all of

us. 'Honevmoon' being a

Punjabi language film

has stayed in the

cinema for 100

days. We are re-

ally glad that the

audiences across

the country have

loved this crazy

roller-coaster ride

of a film and con-

tinue doing so."

Siddharth-Kiara wedding: Guests to feast on 100 dishes from 10 countries

More than 100 dishes from 10 countries will be served to the guests at the wedding of Bollywood stars Kiara Advani and Siddharth Malhotra, which will be held on February 7 in Jaisalmer's Suryagarh palace.

The menu includes Italian, Chinese, American, South Indian, Mexican, Rajasthani, Punjabi, and Gujarati cuisines. Jaisalmer's Ghotwan Ladoo will be among the

sweets Punjabi boy Siddharth has taken special care of his guests from Punjab and Delhi and has made arrangements for spicy food for them.

evieve Advani, brother Mishaal Advani, aunt Sumita Advani,

uncle Harish Advani, grand-

mother Valerie Advani, aunt

Shaheen Agarwal were pres-

Sidharth's family included

father Sunil Malhotra, moth-

er Rima Malhotra, brother

Harshad Malhotra, sister-in-

law Poornima, nephew Adhiraj Malhotra, uncle Jaideep

Bhalla, aunt Eraceli, grand-

mother Harcharan Bhalla,

niece Avani, aunt Ambika

Hora, uncle Ashok Hora,

cousin Rohan Malhotra, Mo-

mina Noor, Ishita Bhardwaj,

Vaibhav Bhardwaj, aunt's

ent.

Bollywood stars Kiara Advani Sidharth Malhotra tied the knot in Jaisalmer

PEOPLE OF THE GROOM'S SIDE WORE PINK AND THE **BRIDE'S WORE GOLDEN COLOURED SAFA. KIARA WORE A PINK COLOUR** LEHENGA AND SIDHARTH A WHITE COLOUR SHERWANI.

JAISALMER: Film actress Besides the actor, filmmaker Vishal Furia is also returning for Kiara Advani and actor Sidharth Malhotra tied the knot on Tuesdav

Kiara-Sidharth took 'pheras' in a place called as Bavdi situated at Suryagarh Hotel in Jaisalmer at 6.30 p.m.

the mandap at the hotel was decorated with exotic flowers. There was a reception held after the wedding. Late night the wedding photos of both Kiara and Sidharth came to the fore where the former wrote on Instagram: "Now our permanent booking is done.

Earlier, a procession was taken out with bandbaje. Sidharth had left with the procession sitting on a white mare. Karan Johar, Shahid Kapoor and Kiara-Sidharth's families danced in it. Sidharth's father was sitting on a wheelchair. A Jiya band was specially called from Delhi for the procession

OUR HEART

ARE WITH



which was taken out with Punjabi dhol and music.

On reaching the procession, Kiara-Sidharth's varmala took place. Both garlanded each other with white rose flowers.

At the same time, Malaika Arora reached Jaisalmer at 7 p.m. to attend the reception. People of the groom's side wore pink and the bride's wore golden coloured safa. Kiara wore a pink colour lehenga and Sidharth a white colour sherwani.

PRAYERS

The theme for the Haldi ceremony was yellow. The workers were also seen in vellow clothes to tie the yellow turban. Both the bride and groom were smeared with turmeric by their friends and family women.

The famous Ghotuwan laddoos of Jaisalmer were also served to the guests. There was activity outside and inside the hotel since Tuesday morning

Security was also main-

tained as hotel staff members, guards and drivers were also being given entry only after thorough checking. Three checking points were made from main gate to the reception. Kiara-Sidharth took pĥeres' in the hotel's Bawdi which was built only for the ceremony of special rounds.

There was a mandapa in the centre and seating for the guests all around. From Kiara's family: father

son Arjun Hora, Arjun's wife Zoya Hora, nephew Adhiraj Malhotra had reached the vedding. Fashion designer Manish Malhotra, filmmaker Karan Johar, actors Manish Malhotra, Armaan Jain, Shahid Kapoor and his wife Mira Rajput, Juhi Chawla and her husband Jai Mehta. Makeup artist Swarnlekha Gupta, hairdresser Amit Thakur, wedding film shooter Vishal Punjabi, DJ Ganesh, Hari and Sukhmani and Jonki for music, Isha Ambani with husband Anand Piramal were key guests

Jagdeep Advani, mother Genin the wedding.

Pathaan becomes the all-time highest grossing Hindi film worldwide in just 10 days!

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

With this insane result, all films of YRF's Spy Universe - Ek Tha Tiger, Tiger Zinda busters! Pathaan has become

Yash Raj Films' Pathaan, di- Hai, War & Pathaan are blockharth Anand, is

team Adam Berry, Gurujas

and Harijiwan -- appeared on the stage at the Grammy awards decked in their signature white outfits. Elated with the remarkable achievement Gurujas said, "Thank you so much to the Academy; I'm going to cry. Thank you to everyone who helped create this album, and thank you to our producers. Standing with you guys is such a privilege and honour. With that comes more responsibility artists from the White Music's Planet Earth."

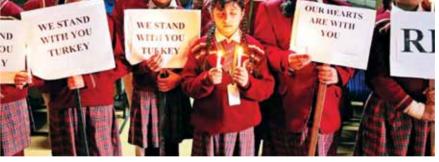


for 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan

MUMBAI: Bollywood superstar Salman Khan on Wednesday announced a wrap on his upcoming film "Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan" The Hindi-language action

film, directed by Farhad Samji, is set to be released in theatres on April 21 on the occasion of Eid.

Instagram account to share the Salman took to his official update on the movie.



PRAYLRS

FOR

Amritsar School Students hold candles and placards to pay tribute to Turkey's earthquake

PHOTO:PRABHJOT GILL

creating history at the box of- a must watch theatrical en-

fice every tertainer passing which is day. The being celfilm is on ebrated a historic across the run at the nation. Pathaan, domestic is part of and over-

seas box office and now becomes the Chopra's ambitious spy uniall-time highest grossing Hindi film worldwide in just 10 days! Pathaan is the highest gross-

Aditya verse and has the biggest superstars of the country Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Paduing film of YRF's Spy Universe! kone and John Abraham in it.

Aditya Chopra's DDLJ. the longest running film in history, to get a wider release this Valentine's Day!



confirms.

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Aditya Chopra directed Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ) is the longest running movie in the history of Indian cinema. The alltime blockbuster catapulted Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol to become superstars of the country and is one of the biggest IP's emerging from the history of cinema, has become Indian film industry. DDLJ synonymous to romance for cultural impact"

India and Indians for generations since it's historic release. We are constantly requested by the audience and fans, through the year, for a wider showcasing of the film so that they can again and again watch this milestonesetting film with their friends

and family in theatres! This year, on the occasion of Valentine's Day, we are making their wish come true. DDLJ will be screened across India, starting Feb 10, for a period of one week only!"

DDLJ will be released in 37 cities across India, including Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Lucknow, Noida, Dehradun, Delhi, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Indore, Chennai, Vellore, Trivandrum.

Interestingly for audiences, they can get a taste of Shah

Rukh Khan as Raj in DDLJ shaped pop culture for India and as Pathaan in theatres over this Valentine's Day period. and Indians over the gen-Pathaan is currently wreaking erations. This year, on the occasion of Valentine's Day, havoc at the box office as it has DDLJ will see a wider release become the all-time highest across India, Yash Raj Films grossing Hindi film ever worldwide! Rohan says, "YRF & SRK

Rohan Malhotra, Vice are not only synonymous with President, Distribution, delivering Indian cinema's biggest blockbusters but also for YRF, says, "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ), the collaborating on films which longest running film in the have redefined the Indian film industry and have had a lasting

Yami Gautam Dhar is awaiting the release of her upcoming streaming film 'Lost'

MUMBAI: Yami Gautam Dhar, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming streaming film 'Lost', met real-life crime journalists during the course of the film's shooting in which she essays the role of a crime reporter in the hot pursuit of a story.

The actress told to media, "I didn't meet any crime journalists prior to the shooting but yes, I did meet them while we were shooting, and they were very senior. They were very kind."

"It was a pleasure meeting them because if they hadn't told me who they were, I would never know their significant body of work. I wouldn't have known their background. They were extremely warm. They watched us shoot and perform. That's all about it, there was no particular journalist that I had in mind while preparing for the role".

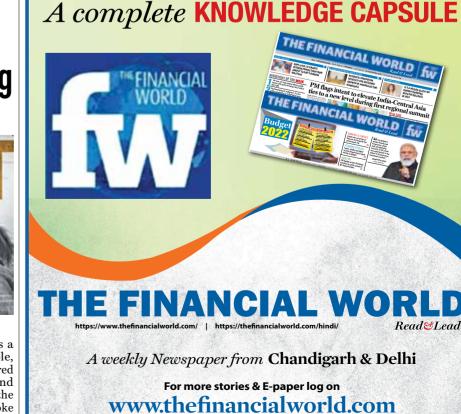
The actress also shared why she feels that cinema is one of the most respected profes-



sions in the world.

She said, "Cinema has a large influence on people, which is why it is considered one of the most loved and respected professions in the world. It manages to evoke a beautiful bag of emotions within you. It has the capacity to entertain and engage you as an audience and that's what I call success. I am hoping 'Lost' can give the audi-

ence that kind of experience." 'Lost' is set to drop on the OTT platform ZEE5 on February 16.



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