

REGION

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OPD SERVICES OF OBSTETRICS, PEDIATRICS SET TO LAUNCH AT AMBEDKAR NAGAR HOSPITAL

BANKING & FINANCE

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PAYTM LAUNCHED A SPECIAL G20 THEME QR CODE TO CELEBRATE INDIA'S PRESIDENCY

POTPOURRI

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PATHAAN BECOMES THE ALL-TIME HIGHEST GROSSING HINDI FILM WORLDWIDE IN JUST 10 DAYS!

Global Investors Summit 2023 : India's top industrial houses announced investment in UP

LUCKNOW: Top industrial houses, including Reliance, Birla, and Tata, on Friday, announced investment proposals for Uttar Pradesh on the first day of the three-day Global Investors Summit 2023 being held here.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited, announced an investment of Rs 75,000 crore in UP in the coming four years. About one lakh new jobs are expected to be created by this investment.

Speaking at the event, Ambani said that the state would become a trillion dollar economy within the next five years.

Reliance is expected to set up a 10 GW of renewable energy



capacity in UP, which will be the biggest renewable energy project in the state so far.

The company also announced foray into bio-gas energy business in UP, on which Ambani said that bio-gas will not only

improve the environment, but will also benefit the farmers and guarantee the farmers becoming energy providers along with being food providers.

Ambani said: "Uttar Pradesh has become the centre of hope for new India."

Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, while speaking at the inaugural session, said that the group will invest Rs 25,000 crore in the state in the fields of cement, metals, finance services and renewable energy, among others.

Birla said that India is the fastest growing economy in the world, in which UP has made a crucial contribution.

He said that unprecedented development has taken place in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, including a network of highways, metros and airports being built in the state.

Birla lauded the state government's 'Nivesh Mitra' initiative and said that UP ranks second in 'ease of doing business'.

He said that the state had issued a new policy for investment, under which \$1.1 billion had come in the state as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the last three years till September 2022, the highest in the last two decades.

Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran thanked Adityanath for the improved law and order condition and strong infrastructure in the state.

He added that Tata group shared a long history with UP and has more than 50,000 employees in the state.

It seems I have become equal to Modi, says Sisodia on snooping allegation



NEW DELHI: After Delhi BJP leaders on Thursday staged a protest near the Delhi Secretariat seeking the removal of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia over the allegations of 'snooping' on politicians by the Aam Aadmi Party's Feedback Unit (FBU), Sisodia said that "it seems I have equalled Modi."

In a tweet in Hindi Sisodia said, "BJP people have brought a new allegation against me that I have been spying on them since 2015. Such big people, whose existence is dependent on getting CBI, ED, Pegasus to conspire against

FBU formed through a Delhi cabinet decision on September 29, 2015 indulged in gathering political intelligence.

Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday gave his approval to the CBI to file a case against Delhi Deputy Chief Sisodia and six others over allegations that the AAP government created a Feedback Unit under the vigilance department to collect political intelligence.

"From the careful perusal of the note, it can be unambiguously observed that there was a concerted effort by the state Government to create an agency that was outside its mandate and not within the constitutional scheme of Governance. There seems to have been a well conceived attempt to establish an extraneous and parallel covert agency with overarching powers of snooping and trespass, without any legislative, judicial or executive oversight whatsoever", LG Saxena has observed in his order.

RBI hikes repo rate by 25 bps to 6.5%



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 to 2," said Das.

The standing deposit facility rate now stands at 6.25 percent and marginal standing 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.

Delhi government has decided to set up an Optometry training wing at the Guru Nanak Eye Care Centre

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government has decided to set up an Optometry training wing at the Guru Nanak Eye Care Centre in the national capital to offer a four-year Bachelor of Optometry degree for medical students.

"Eyes are a very delicate and crucial part of the human anatomy. In this digital era, many people are suffering from chronic eye diseases due to the excessive use of electronic devices. As there is a growing demand for Optometry experts everywhere, Arvind Kejriwal government is setting up an Optometry training wing to provide basic eye care services by trained optometrists to the citizens of Delhi," Deputy



Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

The four-year Bachelor of Optometry degree will be offered by the Optometry Training Wing at Guru Nanak Eye Centre, which is a training institute for graduate programmes, affiliated with the Maulana Azad Medical College and Delhi University.

The objective of the institute is to provide quality eye care services to the people of Delhi by training students and providing support to carry out screening activities

for community programs, as well as national programmes.

Sisodia said that the degree is a graduate course in Optometry which includes a one-year internship as part of a 4-year course program with a focus on eye care services.

Currently, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmology in Delhi is the only government institute besides the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Government Medical College, Chandigarh to offer a four-year degree course in Optometry.

Those students who have studied and graduated from the Science stream in class 12th can apply for admission to the Optometry course.

Parliament reiterated its demand for a probe into the Adani Group by the Joint Parliamentary Committee



NEW DELHI: The Opposition on Friday in the Parliament reiterated its demand for a probe into the Adani Group by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The group has been accused by a US firm in its report of stock manipulation and accounting fraud.

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

Both the Opposition and Treasury benches indulged in

pealed 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."

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

NEW DELHI: While presenting the Monetary Policy, RBI Governor 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, however, 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.



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",

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

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 Organization and other dignitaries were present during the meeting, an official spokesperson said. CM Khattar pointed out that



since 2019, the state has received 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 Cooperation Organization in the

ED made its eighth arrest in the Delhi excise policy scam, says Rajesh Joshi



NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday made its eighth arrest in the Delhi excise policy scam. A man named Rajesh Joshi was arrested by the ED, who is said to be connected with an advertising agency, sources said. Further details were awaited.

ED sources also said that he was close to charge-sheeted

accused Dinesh Arora.

"Joshi got money from Arora for the Goa elections. This money was the proceeds of crime generated through the excise policy scam," said the source.

The source said that Joshi will be produced before the Rouse Avenue District Court. The ED source said that they will seek his two-week custodial remand.

The ED on Wednesday arrested Punjab-based businessman Gautam Malhotra, who was later remanded to its custody till February 15.

The source said that they wanted to confront Joshi with Malhotra. Joshi is the eighth accused arrested by the ED in the case. The ED has filed two charge sheets in the case.

Jailed for raising national flag in Jammu and Kashmir once: Anurag Thakur



FW DESK

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Tuesday said that he was once jailed for raising the national flag in the Union Territory while asserting that there is no restriction in Kashmir to hoist the national flag after the abrogation of Article 370.

"I was longest serving BJP Youth Wing President, from 2010 to 2017. I took a yatra from Kolkata to Kashmir to hoist the national flag. I was put in jail to hoist the national flag in Jammu and Kashmir," Thakur said while speaking at the first Y20 meeting under G20 India at IIT Guwahati. "Today, I see Jammu and Kashmir is a different state with no such restrictions"

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-

lice (SSP) Chandigarh Manisha Chaudhary and SSP SAS Nagar Sandeep Garg also attended the meeting. 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 Police Chiefs 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 seized above 3 k.g heroin, pistols and cartridges



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

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.

OPD services of obstetrics, pediatrics set to launch at Ambedkar Nagar Hospital

YOGESH KANT
New Delhi

With a motive to give a boost to Delhi medical infrastructure, the national capital government is all set to launch a multi-specialty centre. This medical set up will provide focused medical services to women and children and will also run outdoor-patient department (OPD) services of obstetrics, gynaecology and pediatrics at Ambedkar Nagar Hospital in Dakshinpuri.

"The OPDs will have specialist doctors and provide round-the-clock services, the government statement said. "Currently, ICU (Covid),



flu clinic, pharmacy, and IPD (indoor-patient department) services are being provided to patients here and now OPD services for obstetrics and gyn-

aecology and paediatrics will be started at the Ambedkar Nagar Hospital," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who holds the health portfolio, said.

"This will benefit lakhs of people in south Delhi. In the future, other specialised healthcare services will also be added to the hospital in a phased manner," he said.

Sisodia said the inauguration of the new OPD for women and children at the Ambedkar Nagar Hospital will ensure that they do not have to travel far to avail of services.

"The hospital will not only have specialised services to take care of pregnant women but will also be equipped to provide medical facilities for children and women with gynaecological issues," he said.

The Delhi government's aim is not only to make its hospitals better than private hospitals but also to make its hospitals the best in the country, Sisodia said.

"New hospitals in Delhi have been made fully air-conditioned. Besides this, by making necessary changes in the existing hospitals, they are also being made air-conditioned," he said.

More specialised healthcare services are being introduced in hospitals according to demand. The Delhi government is working on the principle of providing quality and equitable health facilities to the people of Delhi, Sisodia said.

Education ministry had proposed abolition of 244 school Principals posts: Delhi LG office

FW DESK
New Delhi

Delhi's Education Ministry under Manish Sisodia had proposed to scrap 244 posts of school principals and these were "deemed abolished" as they could not be filled for five years, the lieutenant governor's office said Tuesday, days after the AAP leader alleged the LG was withholding appointment on these posts.

LG VK Saxena's also said contrary to the claims made by the deputy chief minister, he did not agree with the proposal, and instead advised the education department to get conducted a study on the abolition or creation of posts of principals.

It also rejected charges levelled against VK Saxena by Manish Sisodia, terming them "patently false, bereft of facts, wrong, deliberately misleading and in utter disregard of constitutional provisions and orders of the High Court of Delhi".

Mr Sisodia had told a press conference on Sunday that they had ensured the file for the appointment of 370 principals was sent to the LG office, but only 126 were approved and the LG was withholding appointments of 244 posts on "flimsy grounds". He had also accuse the LG of taking over the services department unconstitutionally.

The LG office rejected these claims. "In fact, the Education Department, under Manish Sisodia, submitted a proposal for the revival of 126 posts and abolition of 244 posts of principal, for approval of Lt Governor," it said.

According to a ministry of finance memo dated April 12, 2017, these posts were



"deemed abolished" as the education department could not fill them for over five years, the LG office the said.

It said the finance ministry memo provides that a post falling in the category of "deemed abolished" cannot be filled without permission of the competent authority. The finance ministry memo also provides that posts remaining vacant for five years may be abolished immediately, it said.

Out of the total 370 vacant posts of Principal, 126 posts were vacant for more than two years and 244 posts were vacant for more than five years bringing them within the purview of "deemed abolition" as per the finance ministry memo, it said.

Contrary to the claims made by the deputy chief minister, the LG did not agree with the proposal of the education department for abolition of 244 posts, said the LG office.

The LG, instead, advised the education department to submit a suitable proposal for abolition/creation of posts of principal/deputy education officer after getting the comprehensive study conducted from the Administrative Reforms Department, it said. It may be noted that the services department had also advised the Administrative Reforms Department that it may carry out comprehensive study in one go regarding 244 posts of principal proposed for abolition and keeping in view the requirements of the education department, it added.

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



SATISH HANDA
Ambala

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 Home Minister while interacting media persons here at his camp office Ambala. He said that for the first time, since the formation of Haryana, the President's flag has been received by the Haryana Police.

In response to a question that Rahul Gandhi's asked about Adani from Modi government in the Lok Sabha Vij made a verbal attack on Rahul Gandhi and said that "Rahul Gandhi lies, as far as I know, Rahul Gandhi has a very good relation with the Adani family". He said that "Adani himself has said in one of his interviews that the first boost I got was done by Rajiv Gandhi".

Vij said that they (Congress) have a government in Rajasthan, they have tied up with Adani, they have a government in Chhattisgarh, they have tied up with Adani. Raising questions on the Congress, Vij said that "if Adani is so wrong then why have your (Congress) governments entered into agreements". The Home Minister said that I think they have a family dispute which they want to make into a national dispute.

Close shave for commuters as DTC bus catches fire



NEW DELHI: Passengers on a low-floor DTC bus had a close shave after the vehicle suddenly caught fire in Kanjhawala area on Delhi's outskirts on Monday afternoon, officials said. According to information, the bus was of route number 106, plying between Old Delhi Railway Station and Qutubgarh. The Fire Department said that they got a call of the incident at around 2 p.m. "We got a call that a low floor DTC bus caught fire near Ladpur village in Kanjhawala area. A tender was sent but by then the fire had been extinguished, " a fire official said. A local police team also reached the spot. The cause of the fire is not yet known but a short circuit is said to be the reason. No one was hurt in the incident.

Nearly a dozen protesting Panchayats in Haryana move to High Court against e-tendering decision

SATISH HANDA

Nearly a dozen village Panchayats in Haryana have moved to Punjab and Haryana High Court challenged state government decision to curtail Sarpanches power up to Rs 2 lakh for initiating development in the area instead of Rs 20 lakh earlier and developments of value over Rs 2 lakh conducted by e-tendering by the government in order to finish corruption as well as bring transparency. According to information High Court has issued notices to Additional Chief Secretary of Village Development & Panchayat Department as well as Chief Engineer to submit reply in view of state government issued orders on January 19,



2023, against which protests by Sarpanches all over in the state are going on and large number of incidents of clashed between the protesting Sarpanches and the police have been reported when protestors attempted to hold 'dharna' outside Deputy Commissioner offices close down BDPO offices and not allowed ministers and MLAs to enter the village. According to information,

large numbers of protesting Sarpanches were arrested by the police at several places in the state, later released at a distant, deserted place.

While interacting media agitated Sarpanches opposing the government's recent decision of curtailing spending powers of village councils by imposing new rules of e-tendering of developmental projects beyond Rs 2 lakh is an insult to to newly elected

village heads by ruling BJP-JJP government in the state thus curtailing the spending powers of Sarpanches compelled them to launch a stir against the government and will continue till the decision is not rolled back by the government and ban the entry of ruling party leaders in their villages. The newly-elected village heads held a meeting at Fatehabad's Tohana, the constituency being represented by development and panchayats minister Devender Babli and . The Sarpanches also demanded Rs 25,000 per month salary. Information reveals according to few protestors if the government does not consider their demands the Sarpanches will jointly submit resignation from their post.

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 uplifting of every section, especially of weaker sections, farmers, and labourers.

Congress holds protest outside SBI & LIC offices demanding probe into Adani row



SATISH HANDA
Ambala

Large number of Congress workers at Ambala launched protests outside the office of State Bank of India at Agarsen Chowk and LIC office near Vijay Theatre in Ambala City led by Devinder Verma Deligate State Congress Committee demanding a probe into the stock rout of Adani Group companies. Information reveals, Congress party is holding country wide protests in front of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) offices and State Bank of India branches Bishan Das Saini MLA was chief guest in the protest rally at Ambala. Verma demanded immediate investigation into alleged scam suspecting threat to huge amount of money deposited with the LIC and SBI by the people in the country.

Congress workers demand a Joint Parliament Committee (JPC) or Supreme Court-monitored probe into allegations raised by US short-seller Hindenburg Research against Adani Group. Saini said, it was an World's biggest financial scam in the country posing threat to the investment of nearly 39 crore LIC policy holders and nearly 45 crore State Bank of India account holders in which ruling BJP government now trying to shelter Adani group by dumping the issue in which entire money of the people deposited with banks and LIC has been alleged handed over to Adani group by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi near and dear to Adani which is likely to be country's biggest corporate fraud but people in the country will not allow such mis-happen in the country at any cost.

3335 power thefts detected in 13675 raids during surgical strike in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

It is not joke but truth that 256 teams comprising of five to six members in each of Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam (HVPN) conducted surprise raids at about 13675 domestic as well as commercial electricity consumers all over in the state, which continued from early morning till late night in which 3365 electricity thefts were detected and amount worth over Rs 3crore was collected towards fine from those involved

in power thefts. It was disclosed to media persons by State Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala who told that raiding teams disconnected power connection of large number of consumers where theft of electricity was detected. Chautala told that it was 8th surgical strike against those involved in power theft in the state in past two years organized in a highly secret way in which even the members of raiding teams were unaware of the same. Chautala said that such raids



against power theft in the state would continue in future also. He disclosed that earlier such types of surgical strikes against power theft were also held three times in past couple of months in which electricity theft of value worth crores of rupees was de-

tected. Chautala said, raiding teams detected large number of power connections where power supply was available but in official record these electric connections were shown disconnected long ago thus suspecting involvement of officers and staff of electricity department involved in embezzlements and investigation in this regard is going on and action will be taken against those involved in embezzlements, he warned.

According to information, apart from chief minister and

electricity minister only a handful of senior bureaucrats of Haryana state government including V. Umashanker Chief Secretary, P.K. Das Secretary Power Supply Department, Alok Kumar Mittal Chief CID and P.K. Aggarwal DGP Haryana were aware of this surgical strike. Ranjit Chautala said that due to such search operations HVPN has witnessed much reduction in line losses and all four electricity companies earlier facing losses have earned profit nearly Rs 2000 crore.

1116 criminals, drug smugglers arrested in a day in 'Operation Aakraman' in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Haryana police during fourth campaign in past sometime in 'Operation Aakraman' launched against criminals and drug smugglers in Haryana state on Sunday launched a drive by 1327 police teams comprising of 7109 police men all over in the state arrested 1116 criminals including drug smugglers and registered 573 cases in the state under NDPS Act, Excise and Arms Act and recovered from them stocks of drugs, 50 illegal weapons and



25 cartridges. Addressing media persons at police headquarter Panchkula. Director General Police Haryana P.K. Aggarwal said the police recovered stocks of drug including 301 kg ganja, 159 gm heroine, 49 kg poppy husk, over 1 kg opium, 34 gm smack, 83 gm sulfa, 3 gm cha-

ras, 108 intoxicated tablets and intoxicated injections.

DGP told that police also arrested 12 most wanted criminals, three hard core criminals having reward for their arrest, 188 declared history sheeters, 15 bale jumpers and 288 anti-social elements from whom recovered two gold chains, 28 mobile phones, 38 stolen vehicles and Rs 3.80 cash. State Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Chief in the state Shrikant Jaghav ADGP Ambala told that state government has set up 17 special units in the state.

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 state-of-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. Vij told that from Feb 15, for the post of director a senior doctor of AIIMS will also join duty.

In response to a question regarding teaching 'Ayurveda' in the MBBS course, Vij said, we have formed a committee to find out its possibilities and modalities and are in the process to take permission from the central com-



mittee seriously to start this process. Health Minister said that some people insist that all other treatment methods have failed, but it cannot be so because the alternative systems and medicines in our country also have its own importance. He said that instead of creating discussions over this issue we should work jointly over alternate 'Pathies'. Vij said, if someone is cured by allopathic treatment will also be cured by Ayurvedic pills. He said, surgeons, doctors and experts in allopathic also take Ayurvedic medicines for the treatment in many cases, the spices that are put in vegetables are also having Ayurvedic medicines effect, which everyone take.

Dr. Yash Pal Verma SMO told that Atal Cancer Care centre set up inside the Civil Hospital Ambala Cantt during Month June 2022 presently having monthly between 1200 to 1500 OPD of cancer suspected patients visiting from Haryana as well as neighboring states Punjab, Himachal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Delhi has registered 11424 patients in past about eight months suffering from mouth, neck, lungs, uterus and breast cancer and also conducted more than 213 surgical operations, 2024 kemo-therapies, 316 Radio-therapies and braki-therapies in this period.

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. It is more economical and environment-friendly as such 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 Chennai 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.

Unusual case: Nine year old suffers from seizures after application of 'Mehndi' on her hand

FW DESK
New Delhi

Ever heard someone suffering from seizures due to mehndi? Doctors at a leading private hospital on Tuesday said they have reported an "unusual" case of a nine-year-old girl who suffered epileptic seizures triggered by the smell of " mehndi" applied on her hand.

The case study has been published in the January 2023 edition of the Clinical Neurophysiology, the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said in a statement. The department of neurology at the hospital recently reported "an unusual case" of a nine-year-old girl who was suffering epileptic seizures after application of "mehndi", it said. When she had suffered her first convulsion after application of "mehndi", she had "abrupt loss of consciousness, leading to fall and convulsions



for 20 seconds", doctors at the hospital said. Recently, she was brought to the hospital for further check-up, they said. "Mehndi" is the art of making designs on someone's hands with "henna", a reddish-brown herbal dye.

According to Dr (Col) P K Sethi, senior consultant, department of neurology at the hospital, "This was an unusual case of reflex epilepsy, where epileptic seizures are consistently induced by identifiable and objective-specific triggers as against other epileptic seizures which are usually unprovoked. " "In our reported case, seizures were consistently induced by the application of 'mehndi', Sethi said. In the hospi-

tal settings, "mehndi" was applied to the right hand of the patient. "Henna" has a very distinctive earthy smell and as soon as the "mehndi" applied on her hand was brought near to the chest of the patient, she started having seizures, doctors said.

"Video-electroencephalography revealed an organised background with a posterior rhythm of 9 hz. The patient became restless which were followed by seizures," the hospital said in the statement. "In our patient, seizures were not triggered by mere application of 'mehndi' on hands and feet, rather it was the fragrance which acted as the stimulus leading to stimulation of functional anatomic networks," Sethi said.

The patient was prescribed sodium valproate and parents were advised to avoid exposure to "mehndi". The patient is stable now with no reported case of seizure, doctors said.

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 January 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.

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



earthquake victims" he added. Modi said, "Bengaluru a city filled with the energy of technology, talent and innovation. Just like me, you too must be feeling the young energy here. This is the first major energy event in India's G20 presidency calendar. I welcome everyone to the India Energy Week event." "Whatever the external circumstances, due to internal resilience, India overcame all challenges. Multiple factors

were behind it including, a stable, decisive government, sustained reforms and socio-economic empowerment at the grassroots." He added, the twin-cooktop 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. PM also Launched the twin-cooktop model "Solar cooktop" 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 per cent 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 MMTPA, 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 awareness 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.

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



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." Replying 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 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' 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 government has transformed the working culture with the help of the power of technology.

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 front of the government. The government had then pacified them. Office-bearers of the SKM said that they have been

forced to agitate again as their demands remain unmet. They added that farmers from all over the country will organise the mahapanchayat in the national capital to remind the government of its unkept promises.

People in Jammu protest against eviction drive

JAMMU: People in Jammu, including women, staged a demonstration at Bathindi on Monday, supported by people from Sunjwan and other districts, against eviction orders handed by the authorities. The notifications were issued as part of an ongoing anti-encroachment campaign in Jammu and Kashmir to reclaim state territory. 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



demonstrators that notifications had been issued. Earlier, there were similar protests in Chenab Valley led by Democratic Azad Party led by Ghulam Nabi Azad. Over the last two weeks, the administration has been serving

notices to thousands of people in the union territory occupying government land asking them to vacate or else face eviction.

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 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.

Only Kisan sarkar can end farmers' suicide: KCR in Maharashtra

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday said that only farmers' rule can put an end to suicides by farmers and improve their condition. Addressing a public meeting of his Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) at Nanded - the first meeting outside Telangana after Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) turned to BRS to expand its activities 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. 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 cent of the country's population. "There are 16 crore farm families. With agriculture workers working in fields, we are more than 50 per cent. We don't need more than this to form the government in the country," he said. KCR called on people to think why the country had not achieved the desired development even after 75 years. "Think why there is no water for drinking, no water for irrigation and there is no electricity despite having all

the resources," he said. The BRS blamed both the Congress and BJP for the current situation. "Congress ruled for 54 years and BJP ruled for 16 years. Both the parties are responsible for this situation. One blames the other for scams..." he said. Slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi, KCR said his scheme Make in India has become a joke in India. "Where is Make in India. You find China bazaar in every small town of the country. Manja for kites, colours and diyas for

Deepavali, Ganesha idols and even our national flag come from China," he said. KCR listed out the schemes implemented by his government in Telangana during the last eight years. 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.

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 (IWA) an autonomous body under that Ministry is responsible for regulation and development of National waterways (NWs) for shipping and navigation 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 of 200 T vessels. More water, thus made available, in the waterway helps to improve the Least Available Depth (LAD) which makes navigation smooth and it is directly helpful 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 "Sports City," saying the resort would be able to welcome the largest number of 1500 players from across the country. The first "Khelo India Winter Games" were held in February and March 2020 at Leh and Gulmarg. The inaugural event in India was held to promote winter sports such as skiing, Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, snow rugby, ice stock sport, snow baseball, climbing, snowshoe running, ice



hockey, figure skating, and speed skating. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2021 virtually inaugurated the second edition of the "Khelo India Winter Games" held at Gulmarg.

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 Jamaat-e-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 humanity 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 pray to the Almighty God for a speedy recovery to those injured in the natural calamity. Jamaat-e-Islami Hind expresses its solidarity with the people affected by the earthquake and will do its best to extend assistance to the victims in all possible ways," the JIH leader said



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 India to increase the quantum of relief if needed. 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.



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 India to increase the quantum of relief if needed. 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

The 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 economic recovery.

LETTERBOX

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

Estee Lauder,
co-founder of Estee Lauder

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

Labour unions in emerging sectors

There have been many reports of lay-offs in the last few months, especially in emerging sectors. Lay-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, cost-cutting, 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-voice-loyalty' model of Albert Hirschman. I use this with some modifications to explain my point.

On the demand side, the IT and IT-enabled 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

Unions in the IT sector have to deal with both Indian and Western behemoths, which is 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, secure 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 instance, 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

In 2022, the box-office debacle of big-budget 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.

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 is 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, artists (particularly 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 Ferozshah Mistry, Ardeshir Irani, Sohrab Modi, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, Mehboob Khan, etc. established the 'Muslim social' genre as the integral part of Hindi cinema.

The rich contributions by the Punjabi,

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 'golden 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 masses. Hindi cinema, in the later phase, 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, is 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.

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

BOOKS: REVIEW

Book uncovers investment opportunities in water sector

The 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," said Jasmer Dhingra, Director of Programs in India at IDH



The Water Governance Standard: Making Water Everybody's Business
By Crispino Lobo
WOTR and W-CReS
Ebook

standard (WGS) aims to incentivise and nudge rural communities and investors alike to adopt water-smart attitudes and behaviours, while also channelling 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.

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 high to extreme water stress and 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 customised 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.

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made headlines yesterday by wearing a sky-blue 'sabri' 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,

Tamil Nadu. The company has evolved into a prominent force in the industry through its constant quest for innovative 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 the Ocean Bound Plastic (OBP) Certification, Global



Recycle Standard, OEKO-TEX® and ISO certification ensuring top-notch product quality and traceability" claims Senthil Sankar, Managing Partner at Ecoline Clothing.

The product range of Ecoline Clothing includes a wide range of contemporary designs for casual wear, sports wear, night wear, winter wear and Modi jackets (sabri), 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, ecoline-clothing.com. Every time a customer purchases a garment from Ecoline, it is their 'direct

contribution to creating a positive 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 reiterates 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 locations worldwide.

care at Mayo Clinic."

The Mumbai office staff will assist with travel, lodging, billing and insurance arrangements; provide general orientation to Mayo Clinic; facilitate Mayo 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 every year.

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."

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, Kerala.

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 well.

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 CO2 emissions by 50% from



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

"Scrap" is a virtuous word that denotes a green economy to sustain Mother Earth in the years to come. It is an extremely important source so that 22% production of scrap from steel needs to be increased, as per policy. It is also important to incentivize the unorganized sector so that we have volumes towards the commitment of the future of recycling," he said.

"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 awareness on India's SDG's towards climate action.

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, while speaking on "Role of Sustainability in India's Growth Trajectory," noted that at present the recycling industry is one of the most important industries for the country and "the other important philosophy which I always appreciate is conversion of waste into wealth."

Dr. Harshadeep Kamble (IAS), Principal Secretary - Industry & Mines, Maharashtra 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

DURING HIS SPEECH AT 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 Pradesh at 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.



The RERA Act has been stable and is notified in almost all states, he added. The RERA online complaint system, brokers registration, and buyer-builder meetings have all been launched digitally in an effort to streamline the process and being 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

and customer feedback.

In his special address, Anand Kumar, Chairman, Real Estate Regulatory Authority, NCT of Delhi shared 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.

Shell Lubricants launches Shell Helix HX8 OW-20 in collaboration with MARVEL Heroes Unite

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 OW-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 OW-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 to the consumers."

"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.

The move comes at a time of huge change for the motor industry as it transitions to electric vehicles and adopts new technology. "We all know that auto firms will be amalgamated into five or six globally, especially due to the big changes occurring in AI technology," Sejiro 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
Ranchi

LRI - Xavier School of Management has successfully achieved 100% placements for the outgoing batch of 2021-23 for its flagship programs: Two-year 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

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 Maharashtra has already appointed MRAI as the Knowledge Partner for formulation of new policy and development of Circular Economy Parks in Maharashtra," Kamble said, adding "This transition of India from linear economy to circular economy is aligned with the Prime Minister's

global provider of high-quality integrated energy solutions.

Commenting on this, Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE said, "The new office by Ducab Group, one of the National Champion companies in the UAE, builds on the strong bilateral trade and business ties between the UAE and India. The two countries share common interests and have strong resources and capabilities to develop industrial manufac-

ing. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed in 2022 has further catalyzed business relations between the two countries, enabling businesses to invest and expand their operations as well as drive cross-border trade and build new 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-

ter's vision to become the largest Economy of the world in coming years."

"The focus on the transition of Use, Recycle, Reusethroughs Circular economy will help achieve our Net Zero mission. The GDP of Maharashtra is already 15 per cent of the national GDP, FDI

darba, 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 Renault cutting its stake in the Japan's Nissan from more than



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

The companies also said that 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 partners don't get along very well," he told the BBC.



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 second stage - the Campus

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 domestic offers and 3 interna-

national offers, including 30 new 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 Jamshepur and Delhi campuses participated in the placement process.

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

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 management-centric 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.

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 Vaishnav, 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 commemorative 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-

nomics 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-

nomics 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 building investment capabilities.

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

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

NEW DELHI: ASSOCHAM 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

ASSOCHAM impresses upon RBI to pause policy rate hikes

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 of high cost of borrowing.

"At a time when India stands out as one of the fastest growing economies of the world, a pause in the policy rate hike would provide stimulus to the growth trajectory", ASSOCHAM Secretary General Deepak Sood said, urging the RBI - MPC to halt any more increase in the benchmark rates.

The RBI-MPC has begun its deliberations and is expected to announce the outcome of the meeting on February 8, 2023. The RBI Repo rate has been already hiked to 6.25 %, resulting in impact on EMIs in housing loans and personal loans impacting the consumer demand. The rates have been raised by 25 basis points in the fiscal 2022-23 in view of the global money tightening and inflationary pressures.

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 accelerating 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.

RBI projects FY24 GDP growth at 6.4 pc, in line with Economic Survey

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank 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 2022-23, according to the first advance estimate of 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.

Govt proposes quick settlement of contractual disputes to promote ease of doing business as announced in Union Budget 2023-24

**FW DESK
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 Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2023-24. In



Para 67 of the Union Budget Speech, Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that:

To settle contractual disputes of government and

government undertakings, 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 pendency level of the dispute.

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 Disputes)" to effectively settle pending disputes.

SBI launches its third dedicated branch to support startups in Gurugram



GURUGRAM: With the 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.

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

Addressing the occasion, SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said, the primary aim of this branch is to provide end-to-end support to startups at every stage of their journey,

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 stop shop in providing investment banking, treasury/forex, advisory and other ancillary financial services through the bank's subsidiaries. The startup branch will also cater to the requirements of private equity (PE), venture capital (VC) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

Elon Musk-run Twitter is also offering a discounted annual plan of Rs 6,800 per year in India

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 and Saudi Arabia. Earlier this month, the micro-blogging plat-



form Twitter expanded its Blue service subscription service to six more countries.

In December last year, Twitter relaunched its Blue subscription service with verification, costing \$8 for Android users

and \$11 for iPhone owners per month globally. Twitter has now begun allowing Blue subscribers in the US to create long tweets of up to 4,000 characters. Twitter Blue subscribers will also see

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 official business accounts.

\$20 bn worth 5G smartphones shipped in India in 2022 at 74% growth

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 market share. "Driven by a resilient consumer appetite to switch and upgrade, the premium smartphone market continued to gain traction. In fact,



the uber-premium smartphone segment (Rs 1,00,000 and above) grew a whopping 95 per cent YoY," said Menka Kumari, Analyst - Industry Intelligence Group, CyberMedia Research (CMR). However, the overall mobile market in India declined

17 per cent YoY in 2022 and smartphone shipments declined 8 per cent YoY. "All said, the overall smartphone market continued to post a decline, driven by the tough market conditions in H2 2022," Kumari added. On a quarterly basis, the smartphone shipments declined by 28 per cent in Q4 2022.

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

Xiaomi (21 per cent), Samsung (19 per cent) and Vivo (14

per cent) captured the top three spots in the smartphone market, followed by Realme (14 per cent) and OPPO (10 per cent). The 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 year. 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 Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR.

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



**FW DESK
Mumbai**

HelpAge India initiated its nationwide 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

of online digital conveniences.

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, Oriya, 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 press-conference 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 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,



aspirations, and behaviours 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 Ujjivan will be available to its existing Micro Banking

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, B A Prabhakar, Chairman of Ujjivan Small Finance

Bank, said, "The launch of 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, Uttira 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

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 INR 23,203 cr.

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

NEW DELHI: After receiving buy ratings from all the top global and domestic brokerage and research firms, Paytm stock 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 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 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 Jacek Lenarcic, EU Commissioner for Crisis Management. "The rescue teams will continue to work for as long as necessary."

Other European countries have offered help with logistical information, seismic expertise, 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 from the affected areas. India and the US have also expressed their sympathy and support, and offered to send help.

Both Italy and Greece temporarily closed some coastal

areas as a precaution against a potential tsunami caused by the earthquake.

A magnitude-7.7 earthquake struck Turkey's southern province of Kahramanmaraş 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 Kahramanmaraş 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.

Unemployment in US : Inflation continues to hurt the wallets of 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 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."

HAL Hands over Advanced Light Helicopter to Govt of Mauritius

ARUN KUMAR RAO
Bengaluru

Hindustan Aeronautics limited (HAL) successfully handed over an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) to the Government of Mauritius at Helicopter Division Bengaluru 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, Jayadeva said HAL has handed over the helicopter way ahead of schedule. This order



is in line with the Govt. of India's vision to boost defence exports to Friendly Foreign Countries. The handing over of export helicopter has further bolstered the ties be-

tween both countries. The ALH Mk III helicopter will meet the operational requirements of Mauritius Police Force. The helicopter with its 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-

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

HAL had signed a contract with Govt. of Republic of Mauritius in January 2022 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 of the helicopter.

The Akashic Records Lend Metaphysical Twist to The Karma Factor

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 of a whole when viewed through a lens that is vast and kind 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."

Neharwali Haveli: Pervez Musharraf's Delhi connection



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 Syed 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.

SGPC offers humanitarian aid to earthquake affected



JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar

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

Dhani expressed solidarity and condolences after writing letters to Firat Sunel, Ambassador of Turkey in India; Dr Virander Paul, Ambassador of India in Turkey; Bassam Siefeddin Alkhatib, Ambassador of Syria in India; and Suren 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.

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



AMRITSAR: The Sikh body, Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) today paid tributes to the people who lost lives during devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Ardas (Sikh prayer) was offered for the departed souls and for quick recovery of those who are injured, after reciting the holy verses of Sikh scriptures at the SGPC headquarter in Amritsar.

Notably, SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhani also wrote letters to the governments on Tuesday offering humanitarian aid in the earthquake affected areas of Turkey and Syria. The SGPC wants to help the victims of this natural calamity following the teachings and philosophy of Sikh Gurus (masters).

Accordingly, a congregation was organized at the SGPC office today to offer Sikh prayer expressing condolences to the families of departed souls from the community side. On this occasion, SGPC general secretary Bhai Gurcharan Singh Grewal said that at present the entire humanity sympathizes with the people of Turkey and Syria including the Sikh body SGPC. He said that Sikhs always pray for the welfare of humanity and SGPC is ready to perform all kinds of humanitarian services in the current natural calamity.

SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhani has written letters to the concerned governments and it is hoped the SGPC will be able to carry out relief work after getting the ap-

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 areas should go there. He said that going to other countries to do relief work depends on 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, superintendent Malkeet Singh, and other key officials.

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 Ibarhim, had hit out at India and said "India can go



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

of other faiths as well as the spread of the Jihadist ideology off the field. Mushtaq Mohammad, a Pakistani cricketer at the time, described a 1978 test series victory over India as "a victory of Muslims all over the world over the Hindus." Imran Khan, a former cricketer who is now a politician, has used the word "jihad" since the 1980s. According to him, every game Pakistan plays against India is viewed as an act of jihad.

Former Pakistani player and commentator Waqar Yonus also triggered a controversy after Pakistan won the match

Utah Legislature passes resolution honouring Sikh community's contributions



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

HOUSTON: The Legislature in 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

week, Kutv reported.

"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 joined 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.

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 tenth-place 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.

against India in T-20 world cup 2021. He said "..... The best thing, what Rizwan did, he offered the Namaz on the ground surrounded by Hindus, that was something very special for me."

Former Pakistani cricketer Sohaib Akhtar, a self-claimed advocate of peace between two countries, exposed his fanaticism mindset against India. Additionally, he caused controversy when he was heard discussing "Ghazwa-e-Hind" in a video. He claimed that they will first conquer Kashmir and subsequently India, as it is written in their holy book.

Don in 117 countries

JAMSHED

“DON which was born in 2019, is now available in 117 countries of the world. I was not aware that I will receive so much of Respect and honour because of DON, that too in a short span of time. In Covid time also, DON got the maximum respect. Today DON has become a household name”. This is Mehmoood Ali for you. A renowned film writer, distributor, film producer and now owner of an OTT platform, digital online network [DON] for you. Mehmoood Ali while talking to Tehelka said that he has spent 25 years in Mumbai film industry. When he planned to start OTT platform DON, people advised him that it is very expensive business, require 50 to 100 crore to start OTT platform. But Mehmoood Ali said that he was determined to start OTT, because he thinks future is of digital platforms, so with the help of his friends, Mehmoood Ali launched DON OTT platform and in no time it became a successful venture for him, add Mehmoood Ali.



Mehmoood Ali who hails from Bandra, Mumbai started his career as an Assistant writer with an epic Mahabharat. He assisted Mr Rahi Masoom Raza, the dialogues writer in Mahabharat, in translating Hindi into Urdu and vice versa. After that Mehmoood Ali never looked back. His first film “Saazish” as a writer, starring Mithun Chakravorty was released in 1998. And till date he has written scripts for 67 films. He mostly worked with renowned Bollywood actor late Mr. Kadar Khan. Mehmoood Ali’s honeymoon with Bollywood was not restricted as a writer. He went on to become film producer and distributor. According to Mehmoood Ali, so far he has produced 29 films and distributed 200. He said on IMDB he is ranked as the second in top ten film distributors of India. Mehmoood Ali told Tehelka

that actor Shah Rukh Khan is a lucky mascot for him. It was Shah Rukh Khan movies through which he has earned good money as a distributor. Mehmoood said that he has distributed DDLJ, Dil to pagal hai, Kuch Kuch hota hai, Main hoon na etc SRK movies and have earned good money. Mehmoood Ali is a Nepal distributor of SRK latest film “PATHAAN” which he bought in two lakh dollar, adds he. Mehmoood Ali has just returned from London after completing his Bhojpuri film “Dulhania London Wali. And going to London again for his

next hindi film shoot, “ANA” both as a producer. Mehmoood revealed to Tehelka that he is also planning three Hindi web series for the OTT platforms.

While talking to Tehelka about “DON”, Mehmoood Ali said that today on OTT, content is the King. People want to see the content about which they have only heard but have not seen. “Tehelka became Tehelka because of one story. The subject which people only heard off not seen”. Said Mehmoood Ali. According to Mehmoood Ali, his only focus is on the content of his OTT “DON”. According to Mehmoood Ali, today more than 1800 foreign projects are on his OTT radar. Out of which 800 film makers are from Iran, known for their best film making are in talks with him for supplying content for DON.

According to Mehmoood, his OTT DON is making revenue from subscription and from advertisement. For the content he is mainly relying on outsourcing. People with good scripts are welcome on his platform. when his team like the script he commissioned the project, and sometimes he buys the ready projects from the producers. His OTT also carry good documentaries films. Said Mr. Mehmoood. He further told Tehelka that Netflix famous series “Jaamtaara” was initially rejected by the Netflix, when producer approached the platform with the script. But later on when the producer approached Netflix with the shoot.

POTPOURRI

BCCI and PCB locked horns over the Asia Cup

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Sports ties, specifically cricket ties, between India and Pakistan are getting worse due to the ongoing tussle over the Asia Cup. The BCCI had announced that India would not travel to Pakistan to take part in the upcoming Asia Cup. In response, the PCB said that Pakistan would also boycott the World Cup, which is scheduled to happen in India this year in October-November.

The BCCI and PCB locked horns over the Asia Cup. While Pakistan is determined to host the Asia Cup, India is unwilling to send a team. Notably, Pakistan will host the 2023 Asia Cup in September, but the Indian squad won't likely go if the PCB doesn't give up the hosting rights. According to some media reports, the PCB also made it clear that if the BCCI cannot get clearance from its government for the Asia Cup, Pakistan will also not travel to India for the ODI World Cup.

While India is blamed for not keeping sports apolitical, Pakistan exposes itself, as it



has a dark history of making sports a political matter. Their own politicians have done it in the past. Who can forget when Pakistan won a match against India in the T-20 world cup in 2021, and the then Pakistan interior minister Sheikh Rashid said that Pakistan's win against India was a “victory of Islam.”

The world knows their hatred against Israel and Jews. Earlier in 2000, Aisam Ul-Haq Qureshi of Pakistan teamed up with Amir Hadad of Israel, which triggered a massive controversy in Pakistan. The Pakistani establishment had asked him to break his pair with his Israeli counterpart due to the bloodshed in the Middle East. The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) threatened to impose a ban on him and asked him to ditch his buddy as his doubles partner.

During the Soviet Afghan

War, in protest against the Soviet Union's military invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan also abstained from the 1980 Moscow Olympics like other NATO nations.

Previously, in the late 1970s, Pakistan supported a ban on South Africa because of its apartheid policy. But when it comes to imposing a ban on Pakistan's players and artists in India over their policy to support terrorism against India, they said sports, art, and culture are the tools of peace between two neighbouring countries.

Much before the terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab, a Pakistani politician and former player had threatened India in the late 1960s. The first hockey world cup was set to be held in Pakistan in 1969, and Abdul Hafeez Kardar, a former cricketer turned politician, protested India's participation in the Hockey World Cup. This incident delayed the World Cup for a year. The Federation of International Hockey had to shift the venue from Pakistan to Spain, and the tournament was held in 1971.

Animated fantasy comedy 'Encanto' bags 3 honours at 65th Grammy Awards



LOS ANGELES: American computer-animated musical fantasy comedy film 'Encanto' clinched 3 honours at the 65th edition of the Grammy Awards. The album won Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media, Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media and Best Song Written for Visual Media for the song 'We Don't Talk About Bruno'. The film's music was done by Germaine Franco. Franco became the first woman to score a Disney animated feature film with 'Encanto'. Franco, who is of Mexican American descent, began composing as a student at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, where she graduated in 1984. 'Encanto' follows a multigenerational Colombian family, the Madrigals, led by a matriarch whose children and grandchildren, except for Mirabel Madrigal, receive magical gifts from a miracle that helps them serve the people in their rural community called the Encanto.

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



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Yash Raj Films' Pathaan, directed by Siddharth Anand, is creating history at the box office every passing day. The film is on a historic run at the domestic and overseas box office and now becomes the all-time highest grossing Hindi film worldwide in just 10 days! Pathaan is the highest grossing film of YRF's Spy

Universe! With this insane result, all films of YRF's Spy Universe - Ek Tha Tiger, Tiger Zinda Hai, War & Pathaan are blockbusters! Pathaan has become a must watch theatrical entertainer which is being celebrated across the nation. Pathaan, is part of Aditya Chopra's ambitious spy universe and has the biggest superstars of the country Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham in it.

Nushratt Bharuccha wraps filming on 'Chhorii 2'

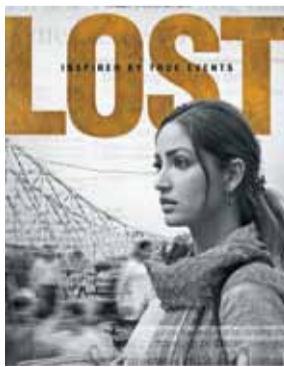


MUMBAI: Actor Nushratt Bharuccha on Wednesday said she has finished shooting for “Chhorii 2”, the sequel to her 2021 hit of the same title. The 37-year-old actor shared the news on her Instagram page, where she teased co-actor Soha Ali Khan's first look from the upcoming horror drama.

“An exclusive sneak peek of @Sakpataudi serving chills from the sets of #Chhorii2. And on that note it's a wrap for Chhorii 2,” Nushratt wrote. Besides the actor, filmmaker Vishal Furia is also returning for the second chapter of the film, which released on streaming service Prime Video in November 2021.

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 professions

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

Bollywood stars Kiara Advani Sidharth Malhotra tied the knot in Jaisalmer

JAISALMER: Film actress Kiara Advani and actor Sidharth Malhotra tied the knot on Tuesday.

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

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

The famous Ghotuwan lad-dooos of Jaisalmer were also

served to the guests. There was activity outside and inside the hotel since Tuesday morning. Security was also maintained 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 'pheras' in the hotel's Bavdi 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 Jagdeep Advani, mother Genevieve Advani, brother Mishal Advani, aunt Sumita Advani, uncle Harish Advani, grandmother Valerie Advani, aunt Shaheen Agarwal were present.

Sidharth's family included father Sunil Malhotra, mother Rima Malhotra, brother Har-

shad Malhotra, sister-in-law Poornima, nephew Adhiraj Malhotra, uncle Jaideep Bhalla, aunt Eraceli, grandmother Harcharan Bhalla, niece Avani, aunt Ambika Hora, uncle Ashok Hora, cousin Rohan Malhotra, Momina Noor, Ishita Bhardwaj, Vaibhav Bhardwaj, aunt's son Arjun Hora, Arjun's wife Zoya Hora, nephew Adhiraj Malhotra had reached the wedding.

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. Make-up 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 in the wedding.

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

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Aditya Chopra directed Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ) is the longest running movie in the history of Indian cinema. The all-time blockbuster catapulted Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol to become superstars of the country and is one of the biggest IP's emerging from the Indian film industry. DDLJ shaped pop culture for India and Indians over the generations. This year, on the occasion of Valentine's Day, DDLJ will see a wider release across India, Yash Raj Films confirms.

Rohan Malhotra, Vice President, Distribution, YRF, says, “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge

(DDLJ), the longest running film in the history of cinema, has become synonymous to romance for 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 milestone-setting 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 and as Pathaan in theatres over this Valentine's Day period.

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

Sikh woman Guruja Kaur Khalsa of the White Son has won the Grammy Award for her chants in the album 'Mystic Mirror'. Guruja won the Best New Age Album for 'Mystic Mirror' at the 65th 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 artists from the White Music's team Adam Berry, Guruja and Harijwan – appeared on the stage at the Grammy awards decked in their signature white outfits.

Burj Khalifa boulevard was shut down for the first time ever for any film in the world : SRK

MUMBAI: The brutal battle that superstar Shah Rukh Khan's character Pathaan has with John Abraham's, the anti-hero Jim in Dubai was possible because the entire Burj Khalifa boulevard was shut down for the first time ever for any film in the world.

Director Siddharth Anand reveals, “The toughest action to execute in Pathaan - one is on top of a moving train, one is mid-air with planes, one is in Dubai which takes place in the boulevard around the Burj Khalifa which no Hollywood



film has been able to do this.” “To shoot this sequence in Dubai, it just looked impossible. But the Dubai police and the authorities made it happen for us.” He adds, “My friends, who live at the Boulevard, came and told me that they got circulars saying on this day between this

time, you will not be able to access the boulevard so please plan your days. And they were amazed that - oh my god... that's for my film!”

Siddharth further states, “I said I can't believe it and this wouldn't have been possible if they hadn't agreed to our vision and supported us wholeheartedly. So I want to thank the Dubai police and the authorities in Dubai.”

'Pathaan' released on January 25. It also stars Deepika Padukone, John Abraham, Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana.

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.

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

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

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