

REGION

2



**CONFLICT LIKELY BETWEEN BJP-JJP ALLIANCE DURING 2024 ELECTIONS IN HARYANA**

## Punjab to construct high-security digital jail near Ludhiana, says CM Mann

**LUDHIANA:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday announced the construction of a high-security digital jail over 50 acres of land near Ludhiana for hearing of cases related to dreaded criminals within the jail complex only.

Addressing a gathering after handing over the appointment letters to the newly recruited Jail Wardens in Ladda Kothi in Sangrur, the Chief Minister said Rs 100 crore has been approved by the Government of India to set up the digital jail.

He said the judges will have separate cabins in the jail. "The Jail Department will also have its ultra modern office in Mohali for which land has been identified," the Chief Minister said.



He said that all-out efforts are being made to modernize the police force on scientific lines. He said Punjab Police are being updated to tackle cyber crime and various new reforms are being introduced.

Mann said high-tech jammers and other equipment are being installed inside the jails to check use of mobile phones from inside the prison.

Likewise, the Chief Minister also announced that anti-drone technology is being introduced in Punjab Police to check the infiltration through drones from across the border.

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

5



**TEXTILES MINISTRY CLEARS 20 R&D PROJECTS WORTH RS 61.09 CRORE**

**“The judges will have separate cabins in the jail. “The Jail Department will also have its ultra modern office in Mohali for which land has been identified”**

Mann said that it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that Punjab Police are the best force across the country. He said massive efforts are being made to transform the police stations by pumping in

a number of resources, adding infrastructure in terms of vehicles, weapons and others are also being spruced up in the department.

The Chief Minister reiterated that Punjab will be soon joining hands with multinational Google to update the state police on modern lines. A comprehensive blueprint has already been prepared and the formal agreement will be signed soon.

CM Mann said it will help in enhancing the efficiency of Punjab Police to tackle any sort of unforeseen challenge in the state.

Likewise, the Chief Minister said several initiatives are being taken for reforming the inmates in jails so that they can learn something in life.

POTPOURRI

8



**DILJIT DOSANJH INSPIRED SONAM BAJWA TO BE MORE ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

## India shows interest in FTA negotiations with African countries

**NEW DELHI:** India is open to FTA (Free trade Agreement) negotiations bilaterally or individually with African countries or Africa as a whole, said Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal on Thursday.

Hosting fifteen Ambassadors from various countries of the Africa region in New Delhi, he said that India and Africa share remarkable friendship across decades and have the potential of becoming the powerhouse of the future. The event aimed at fostering closer economic cooperation, enhancing trade relations and exploring areas of collaboration between India and Africa.

The Minister welcomed the Ambassadors and highlighted the significant value of India-Africa relationship. He emphasized the

## Chargesheet in FIR against outgoing WFI Chief to be submitted by June 15 : Anurag Thakur



**NEW DELHI:** Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday said a Chargesheet in the case into the allegations of sexual harassment against outgoing WFI Chief Brijbhushan Sharan Singh will be filed by June 15.

Addressing a press conference after a marathon meeting with the protesting wrestlers, Thakur also assured that the elections to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will be held by June 30. Noting that the government has accepted every demand of the wrestlers, he said WFI will also have an internal complaints committee, headed by a woman.

Thakur said the wrestlers had also demanded the withdrawal of cases against various academies and sports persons as well as not allowing Singh and his associates to participate in the election process. "All these issues were agreed by consensus," the sports minister said. Asked about the wrestlers' demand for Singh's arrest, Thakur said the investigation into the case will be completed and a chargesheet will be filed by June 15.

## India repatriates two youth to Pakistan



**AMRITSAR:** Kissan Guard party repatriated two youths to Pakistan who had entered Indian Territory inadvertently.

In an official statement issued here on June 6, stated that BSF Kissan Party apprehended two Pakistan nationals ahead of border fence, while they had crossed the International Boundary and entered in Indian territory, in the area falling near Village - Naushera Dhalla under District - Tarn Taran. Both of them were identified as Sabib Khan (25), resident of Panchak, district - Toba Take Singh, Pakistan. Whereas the other was Mohamad Chand (21), resident of - Shadara Pind, district Lahore, Pakistan. During questioning, it was revealed that both the apprehended Pak nationals had crossed over to Indian Territory inadvertently. Nothing objectionable except personal belongings and Pak Currency amounting to Rs. 1000/- (PKR) were recovered from them, said official.

BSF approached Pakistan Rangers and lodged a protest on the matter. Thereafter, on 06th June at about 0100 AM, both the apprehended Pakistan nationals, being an inadvertent border crosser, were handed over to Pakistan Rangers on humanitarian grounds.

## Congress slams Modi govt over Odisha train Accident



**KAVITA SHARMA**  
New Delhi

The Congress party demanded the resignation of Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav over the three train accident in Odisha's Balasore that claimed 288 deaths and 1000 injured, calling it a serious case of negligence. The Opposition parties such as Shiv Sena and TMC were also called upon the Modi government to demand railway Minister's resignation.

Addressing mediapersons in New Delhi Congress MP Shaktishin Govil and senior Congress leader Pawan khera said that the odisha train accident is a case of utter negligence, serious lapses in the system. This is not a natural calamity. This is man-made devastation by utter-negligence, serious lapses, incompetence and a narcissistic sense of know it all attitude by Modi Government. Prime Minister Modi says that the guilty should be punished so he should start from Vaishnav, khera added. We demand the resignation of Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav immediately, senior congress leaders added.

Expressing their condolences to the bereaved families, Pawan Khera added " PM Modi is responsible for a green flagging spree of Vande Bharat Express trains. He himself is responsible for creating this all is well facade in the Indian railways. We demand that despite multiple warnings by the CAG, parliamentary standing Committee, Why did the government not spend on sprucing up railway safety? In the past also when such accidents had occurred, Madhavrao Scindia, Nitish Kumar, Lal bahadur Shastri had given resignations on moral grounds, so Railway Minister Ashwini should take the responsibility and resign from the post. On Saturday West Bengal Chief minister Mamta Banerjee said that the accident could have been averted had the train been fitted with an anti-collision device. The anti Collision system KAVACH is still under development. Ex Railway Minister laloo Prasad yadav have also demanded high level inquiry and action should be taken against the responsible ones... there was major negligence, they have destroyed Railways, RJD chief said in Patna.

## RBI's MPC retains repo rate at 6.5 per cent, projects 6.5% GDP & 5.1% inflation for FY24

Not belying the expectations, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) did not change the repo rate from 6.50 per cent while projecting gross domestic product (GDP) and inflation at 6.5 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively.

Announcing the decision of the MPC after its three-day deliberations, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday that the committee unanimously decided to keep the repo rate at 6.5 per cent.

Das said taking into account the economic factors, the MPC has predicted GDP growth at 6.5 per cent in FY24.

As regards the inflation rate, the MPC forecast was 5.1 per cent for 2023-24 taking into



account the rabi crop harvest/monsoon projections and favourable near term inflation trend. Das also said uncertainty exists due to geopolitical situation, monsoon and others. The MPC met on June 6th, 7th and 8th.

## 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation passed off peacefully amidst the slogans of Khalistan

**JAG MOHAN SINGH**  
Amritsar

The 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Blue star passed off peacefully amidst the slogans of Khalistahn Zindabad raised by supporters and activists of Radical Sikh outfits including activists of Shiromani Akal Dal Amritsar led by Member Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann and his associate former MP Dhian Singh Mand here today at the Akal Takht. Mann was also present on the spot.

Radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa's activists were also seen holding placards bearing portraits of slain militant leader Jamail Singh Bhidnrawala, raising slogans of Khalistahn saying that the foundation of a separate Sikh homeland was ready. Hundreds of Sikh youth led by Dal Khalsa carrying Khalistani flags, photographs of damaged Akal Takhat and Sikh killed Sikh leaders who ere were in June 1984, declared June 6 as a Khalistan Day.

The entire marbled periphery of Golden Temple near Akal Takht rendered with the slogans of Khalistahn Zindabad. Num-



PHOTO: PRABHJOT SINGH GILL

ber of Sikh youth were holding banners and placards of "Khalistahn Zindabad". Jatendar Akal Takht (highest Sikh temporal seat) Gyani Harpreet Singh in his message to Sikh community said need of the hour was Sikh preachers and scholars should visit to village to village to promote Sikhism to apprise the youth with rich Sikh tenets and Sikh history in order the unite them under the banner of Akal Takht. Since, presently youth in the rural Punjab were noticed being inclined to drug addiction. He said that Governments would never help the Sikh community to make them strong.

He said that Sikhs were never scared and panicked as what happened in 1984 with the community, rather all such bad incidents had made the Sikh community more bold and strong and Sikhs would continue their struggle to get justice and would never be scared to stand with truthfulness, he quipped. Jatendar alleged that conspiracies were being hatched to weaken the Sikh community socially, economically and politically. Now the time has come for the community to get united in order to be more powerful, strengthen economically and politically.

## Odisha Train Tragedy: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits train accident site

**ARABINDA MOHAPATRA**  
Bhubaneswar

The death toll in the train tragedy that took place at Bahanaga in Balasore district on June 2 has risen to 288 with nearly 1000 injured and being treated in different hospitals of the state. Efforts are on to identify the bodies, a challenging task.



The accident that took place at Bahanaga bazar railway station, barely 40 kms from Balasore, involved three trains. It all began with the Shalimar-Coromandel Express, which was running towards Chennai, ramming into a goods train that was standing on the same track at the station. The impact of the collision resulted in 15 bogies of Coromandel Express getting derailed and falling on the parallel track.

Things got further complicated as the Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express going towards Howrah was coming on the same track on which the detached and damaged bogies of the Coromandel Express

were lying. The Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express hit the fallen bogies of Coromandel Express and two of its bogies got derailed in the process.

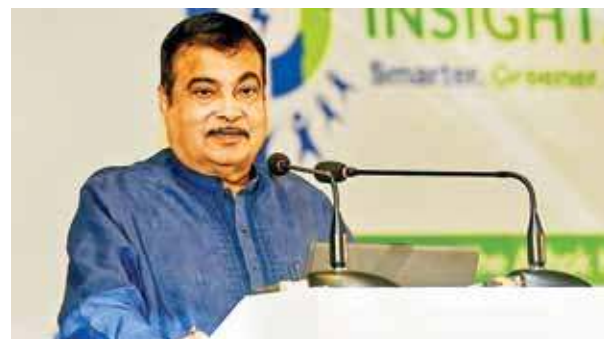
The impact of the collision between these trains was so severe that not only the derailed bogies got smashed and crushed even the railway track suffered extensive damage for a long distance. By June 3 evening 288 bodies had been officially retrieved from the mangled bogies while nearly 1000 injured persons were

## Nitin Gadkari inaugurates two-lane Jaiswal Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the completion of the two-lane Jaiswal Bridge over River Chenab on the Udhampur-Ramban section of NH-44 in Jammu and Kashmir.

The bridge, constructed at a cost of Rs 20 crore, spans 118 meters and is a cantilever bridge. Gadkari took to Twitter to emphasize the significance of this infrastructure milestone, highlighting its dual purpose.

"The establishment of this bridge serves a dual purpose.



Firstly, it will alleviate congestion along the Chanderkot to Ramban section, ensuring smoother vehicular movement.

Secondly, it will facilitate the seamless passage of vehicles and pilgrim traffic during the 'Shri Amarnath Yatra' on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway 44, which is scheduled to commence shortly," he tweeted.

Expressing his commitment to the development of exceptional highway infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, Gadkari praised the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that this transformative development

not only contributes to the region's economic growth but also enhances its allure as a prime tourist destination.

The completion of the Jaiswal Bridge is expected to provide relief to commuters and pilgrims, especially during the Amarnath Yatra, a significant annual pilgrimage in the region. The bridge's strategic location will facilitate a smoother and safer journey for vehicles, ensuring the efficient movement of both local traffic and the pilgrims visiting the holy site.



# Conflict likely between BJP-JJP alliance during 2024 elections in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

It is yet a question if BJP and JJP presently having alliance in running government jointly in Haryana state would continue in coming 2024 Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha polls also. If we look at the past about four years association between both political parties a ray of differences has been witnessed from time to time but the same was overlooked or resolved mutually by the leaders of both parties and alliance between both continued in this past about four years. However, at different occasions BJP as well as JJP leaders have always been claiming that alliance between both would remain alive till last and continue during and after the present tenure. However, Dushyant Chautala Deputy Chief Minister Haryana had given indication a number of times that JJP is preparing to strengthen party's network and in case alliance between BJP and JJP during 2024 Vidhan Sabha polls in Haryana



fails to continue due to any reason JJP may contest coming Vidhan Sabha polls independently in Haryana and Rajasthan states. According to JJP leaders, alliance was need of hour after 2019 Vidhan Sabha polls and BJP had to join hand with JJP to have strength of as many as 10 JJP MLAs to have majority and come to power in the state.

Recently, a comments war has started again between the leader of alliance partners BJP and

JJP when Dushyant Chautala had expressed desire to contest 2024 Vidhan Sabha polls from Uchana constituency from where he had won last Vidhan Sabha polls in 2019. Trouble started when Viplab Deb a former Chief Minister Tripura state appointed Haryana State convener by the BJP highcommand sometime ago and take care of all poll activities in the state and make sure BJP to win majority and form a government in Haryana state third time

in 2024 recently during a public function, as well as in a press conference announced the name of Prem Lata wife of Choudhary Birender Singh a former Union Minister to contest 2024 Vidhan Sabha polls from Uchana on behalf of Bhartiya Janta Party. According to information, Prem Lata had also earlier won Vidhan Sabha polls from Uchana Vidhan Sabha constituency in 2014. Whereas, on the other hand Dushyant Chautala had already started a campaign to contest coming Vidhan Sabha polls from Uchana and the announcement made by Viplab Deb on the public stage as well as in a press conference made him highly disturbed. However, Viplab said that the issue will finally be decided by the BJP high command only.

The controversy between Viplab and Chautala started, when Dushyant Chautala pointed out that being Deputy Chief Minister in the state as well as alliance partner in government in the state he should also been

consulted prior to making a public announcement since he has already started campaign to contest coming election from Uchana seat, Viplab said that all such decisions are to be taken by BJP high command only. Viplab said, while having alliance to form a government in the state, no doubt BJP and JJP are alliance partners to form government in Haryana but BJP too has offered him Deputy Chief Minister's position as well as several important portfolios to JJP MLAs also.

Past scenario of Uchana Vidhan Sabha constituency reveals that during ythe ear 2019 Dushyant Chautala had won this Vidhan Sabha seat. Prem Lata had won this seat in 2014 on behalf of BJP, former Chief Minister Om Parkash Chautala won Uchana seat in 2009 on behalf of INLD, Choudhary Birender Singh won this seat in 2005 on behalf of Congress and Bhag Singh Chatter of INLD had won this seat in 2000.

# In a joint operation of police and BSF drug worth smuggled from Pakistan seized

JAGMOHAN SINGH  
Amritsar

In a joint operation of BSF and Punjab Police succeeded to seize five packets of heroin (drug) with gross Weight of 5.260 Kgs which was smuggled to India through drone from Pakistan.

In an official statement issued here today, BSF official stated that on 09th June at around 0130 AM, BSF intercepted movement of a suspected drone near Village - Rai, District - Amritsar. As per the laid down drill, BSF troops immediately reacted to intercept the drone.

Meanwhile, the depth deployed Police naka party also joined the BSF party and a joint search Ops was launched in the area. During the search, 01 big packet, contraband, wrapped in a yellow-coloured adhesive tape along with one green colour nylon rope and hook attached



**During the search, 01 big packet, contraband, wrapped in a yellow-coloured adhesive tape along with one green colour nylon rope and hook attached with the packet was recovered from the farming field on the outskirts of Village - Rear Kakkar, District - Amritsar**

with the packet was recovered from the farming field on the outskirts of Village - Rear Kakkar, District - Amritsar.

On opening of the big pack-

et, five packets of narcotics wrapped with yellow colored adhesive tape were found. The Gross Weight of 05 packets of heroin was 5.260 Kgs.

# Property of a drug peddler seized in Kashmir



**NEW DELHI:** Property of a drug peddler was seized in Bandipora district of north Kashmir on Monday, police said. The drug peddler has been identified as Khurshed Ahmad Waza alias 'Mandela' under NDPS Act. Reports said that a residential plot measuring 1 kanal 1.5 marlas worth a market value of Rs 44 lakh and two vehicles worth Rs 12 lakh have been seized as illegally acquired property through sale of narcotic drugs.

# 63486 fake mobile phone sim cards blocked in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

In view of fast increasing cases of cyber crimes in Haryana, state police has launched a massive drive in the state and has already blocked 63485 mobile sim cards so far in recent past sometime which were found registered on fake names and other documents. Not only this state police Haryana has also registered 48 FIRs against mobile phone dealers in the state allegedly registered fake sim cards without verification and search is going on for another mobile phone dealers involved in fake conspiracies now spreading cyber crimes not only in the state but also over the country. According to information there are large number of fake casll centres having fake



Sim cards in the state cheating people.

Large number of crooks have been found running scams in which they impersonate customer care executives of various banks and e-commerce sites, and dupe customers. Information also reveals, few of them illegally procured Indian and international Sim cards in bulk, activated them, and then sold them to cyber criminals operating in the state as well as other parts of the country. Sometime ago, Delhi Police Cyber Crime Branch had busted a fake call

centre syndicate in Jharkhand state with the arrest of six persons which led to the recovery of 22,000 sim cards used in the crime. Similarly, Haryana police during raids sometime ago busted nearly a hundred fake call centres functioning in rural places in Mevat area cheating people all over in the country in Nuh district in Haryana state. According to Delhi cyber cell nearly 16,000 sims seized in Jharkhand were of three leading cellular service providers of India, besides International Sim cards seized from countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka were also there. It was observed that apart from the 21,761 used and unused Sim cards recovered in Jharkhand at least 12,500 pre-activated Sim cards were already provided to cyber criminals.

# Tight Security arrangements for June 6 during the Operation Blue Star anniversary in Amritsar— Special ADGP law & Order

JAGMOHAN SINGH  
Amritsar

Keeping in view the forthcoming Ghalughara week (Operation Blue Star Anniversary) ADGP (Special) Law & Order, Punjab Arpit Shukla visited the city to review security arrangements in the city especially around the Sri Darbar Sahib complex where the group of Sikh hardliners are going to assemble to take part in the Ghalughara week.

Talking to media, ADGP (Special) Law & Order, Arpit Shukla said, he was here to hold a meeting with all the police officers in Amritsar in order to maintain law and order situation and to maintain a peaceful



atmosphere in the city. He said in this regard police held a series of meetings with all the Sikh outfits and discussed the various issues to keep the situation under control on June 6 in the Golden Temple.

He said that on June 6, sizable

gathering can be expected in the Sri Darbar Sahib and Akal Takht where operation Blue Star anniversary to be observed. He said that not only in Amritsar but security arrangements all over the Punjab have been enhanced with the deployment of eleven companies of paramilitary forces including BSF and CRPF besides three thousand personnel of Punjab police forces. He said all sensitive and hypersensitive points in the city were covered by the police and keeping a hawk eye on the situation so that June 6 religious congregations in the Sri Darbar Sahib should remain peaceful. Talking about the June 6, Bandh call given by Radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa, he said that it was the prerogative of owners of Shopkeepers and business establishments as nobody will force them to shut their business houses as heavy deployment of police will remain in the city by June 7.

# Village defense committees in six border districts

JAGMOHAN SINGH  
Amritsar

Governor Punjab Banwari Lal Purhoit during his visit in the border Districts of Punjab announced to form village defense committees to stop drug smuggling from Pakistan side.

Addressing the Press Conference here today, Purhoit said that a strong village defense committees being formed at all the six border villages that would be operational within the ten kilometers areas with the help of Punjab Police. He said that these committees would work aggressively on war footing level to stop drug smuggling from Pakistan. He said that during January 26<sup>th</sup> on Republic day such village committees with best output would be honored with Rs. 3 lac award and Rs. 2



lac for the team which stood on second position and Rs. 1 lac for third position in each border district of Punjab. He said that frequent seizure of drones at Indo- Pak border by Punjab Police and BSF have sent shock wave to the Pakistani smugglers.

Purhoit said that his motive to visit in the border districts was to hold meetings with all state and central intelligence agencies to get feedback and

latest updates about the drug smuggling from Pakistan. He said that all the state and central intelligence agencies were told to work in tandem.

Appreciating the BSF personnel and famers of border villages he said due to die hard efforts of forces, smuggling of drugs got severe dent and due to hard labour of farmers the food bowl of the country always remained enriched.



Farmers shout slogans as they burn an effigy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Haryana Chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar during a protest against installation of prepaid smart electricity meters and Haryana government for resorting to lathi charge against farmers who were protesting against their produce of sunflower seeds not being procured at minimum support price (MSP) in Amritsar on Thursday.

PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

# Rice Mill fined Rs 22.80 lakh during CM Flying Squad raid at rice mill

SATISH HANDA

CM Flying Squad during raid at Shri Krishna Rice Mill at village Chandsoli in Naraingarh Sub Division of Ambala district on 7th June 2023 found 6280 quintal paddy stocks of value worth Rs 22.80 lakh short during inspection which were owned by HAFED and sent for milling.

The team of flying squad comprising the Sub Inspector Hitender Gautam and Rajbir along with team of HAFED officers took a serious view and imposed fine for amount Rs 22.80 lakh on mill management. Information reveals, this was the first raid on a rice mill during this year. The officers of the squad warned stern action against such rice mills involved in frauds with the government every year since a large number of such fraud cases are yet under trial in the courts. According to HAFED area manager all such firms cheating government are being blacklisted.

# Sidana Institutes Amritsar holds tree plantation drive to mark World Environment Day



**AMRITSAR:** Expressing concern over the rampant deforestation, the resultant climate change, and its ill effects on the environment and human life, Sidana Institutes Amritsar held a tree plantation drive at their 10-acre campus in village Khiala Khurd to mark World Environment Day.

The institute planted fruit, shady, and flowering trees to urge all human beings to plant as many trees as possible in their own homes as well as in the vacant spaces around them. The event witnessed the participation of eminent Punjab singer Sardul Sikander (Junior), who presented Shiv Kumar Batalvi's famous composition 'Kujh rukh mainu put lagde' on this oc-

casion. Stating that environmental pollution had increased manifold in the past few years, while the changing weather patterns were nothing but an unsavory outcome of the needless, but yet extensive felling of trees in the city, Dr Jeewan Jyoti Sidana, Director, Sidana Institutes Amritsar, urged the government, the district authorities concerned, and the citizens to plant more trees.

"The erratic weather conditions and the extreme temperatures that we are experiencing are nothing, but a result of deforestation. As are the increasing levels of pollution in the atmosphere and the health problems caused by these," she said.

# 538 government schools in Haryana have no toilets for girl students

SATISH HANDA

Shockingly, as many as 538 government schools mostly located in rural areas across the state have no toilets in the schools in Haryana state, causing lot of inconvenience to girl students usually seen searching for a lonely open or thick bushes near the school campus to urinate. Information also reveals, nearly 131 government schools in the state have no facility for drinking water, 236 schools across the state do not have electric connection, nearly 321 schools in the state are without having four walls. Informaion also reveals that there is shortage of nearly 8240 additional class rooms as a result students are forced to sit out side in open and not having 5630 rooms for laboratories, reading rooms, computer rooms and even for the staff.

The importance of a clean and functional toilet in every school cannot be denied. Filthy and unhygienic toilets cause health risks and parents generally demand a stringent action against schools that normalise un-



hygienic practices and lack facilities to their wards require to visualise a scenario where there are no toilets at all in case of as many as 538 state-run schools in Haryana are without toilets for girls, whereas 1,047 schools in the state especially in rural areas do not have urinals even for boys which speaks of the fake, tall talk claims by the government for improvement in the infrastructure of education sector in the state under such appalling conditions as well as for the safety of female students as such many drop out because of menstrual hygiene concerns. Having ill-maintained toilets or none at all in many schools is a problem that is undermining initiatives to ensure quality

education for all. Clean toilets can help improve the student retention rate. The Haryana report is a wake-up call for the authorities to prioritise this vital issue and penalise schools not paying attention to it. Both government and private schools must redouble efforts in this regard.

Dr Anshaj Singh Director Medium Schools Education, Haryana while talking to media persons said that during current financial year decision has been taken to have drinking water facilities in 131 schools, toilets are being constructed in 1585 schools and 236 schools are being provided electric connections for which there is requirement for budget worth Rs 25 lakh. He assured provision for construction of 8240 additional class rooms in such schools, 5630 other rooms for laboratories, computer teaching, libraries and for the staff in schools located in rural areas this year for which budget for amount worth Rs 1784 crore is required, whereas budget for the amount worth only Rs 424.44 crore is available during the year 2023-24.

# Kaithal, Jind & Faridabad s in Haryana declared 'Red Zone' due to increasing HIV (AIDS) disease

SATISH HANDA

State Health department Haryana expressed concern over fast increasing cases of HIV (AIDS) disease in Kaithal district also has been declared as red zone like Faridabad and Jind districts in the state. The information also reveals that the number of patients suffering from this infectious disease have reached to 2800 patients in the district with the arrival of 373 new patients during this year as compared to 253 cases received during previous year 2022. The number of HIV (AIDS) suffering patients in Jind district has been identified as 3100 at present highest in 23 districts in the state.

According to health department in Haryana, there are as many as 13 ART icentres in Haryana state at present providing treatment to patients suffering from HIV (AIDS) free of cost. Information reveals, most of the patients suffering from this dreaded disease have been found between age 20 to 40 years, besides as many as 25 children also detected suffering from this disease in the state. Health department data also reveals that more than 40 patients suffering from HIV (AIDS) have been reported died due to this disease in past four years because of extremely weak immune system in their body. Dr Sachin, PMO ART centre at Kaithal told that HIV (AIDS) is highly infectious disease generally caught due to infection while having sex relationship with a person of opposite sex already suffering from this disease. The other reason for having this disease seen due use of a common syringe by several persons while injecting drugs in the body by injection, usually seen among youths addicted to drugs generally in hostels as well as PG houses. Dr Sachin told that while treating such drug addicted patients we do not stop providing drugs completely but reduce the quantity of drug among victims suffering from HIV (AIDS) but slowly reduce the quantity intake of drug in victim's body who gradually stops taking drugs. He said, awareness for ill effects of drugs among youths is need of hours in the state at present.

# A 20 years old youth arrested for making a hoax bomb call to police control room

JAGMOHAN SINGH  
Amritsar

Amritsar police have arrested a accused here today for allegedly creating panic in the city while giving wrong information to the police as four bombs were planted around the Sri Harmandir Sahib.

This hoax bomb call put the Punjab Police on alert. A bomb disposal squad was rushed to the area and the entire area was comprehensively scanned. Though no bomb was found.

According to Police on June 3 during 1.30 a.m obnoxious call was received in the police control room wherein caller told the police that four bombs were fitted around the Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple). Thereafter, a heavy police force swung into action and a bomb disposal team reached the spot but nothing objectionable was traced out. Police said that the caller initially told the police control room that four bombs were planted near the Sri Harmandir Sahib and cut off the phone. When police attempted to contact the caller, the phone was found switched off.



## Matter of pride that Indians have reached highest positions in Suriname: Prez Murmu

Highlighting the contributions made by people of Indian origin in the development of Suriname, President Droupadi Murmu has said that a "mini India" resides in the country.

She said it was a matter of pride that Indians have reached the highest positions in Suriname.

The president said this during an address to the Indian diaspora at a community reception on Tuesday, where her Surinamese counterpart Chandrikapersad Santokhi was also present.

Murmu concluded her first state visit as the President of India to Suriname on June 6.



"My first state visit after assuming office is to Suriname. It is a privilege for me to be part of the celebration of 150

years of the arrival of Indians in Suriname. It is a matter of pride for us that Indians have reached the highest positions

in Suriname. Indians have been contributing significantly to the development of Suriname economically, socially and culturally," she said.

The president added that India develops permanent relations with friendly nations.

She gave the example of India helping friendly nations by providing vaccines and medicines during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The president later departed for Serbia after concluding her visit to Suriname.

She will be in Serbia on a state visit till June 9, at the invitation of Aleksandar Vučić, the President of Serbia.

## Cong questions PM's silence as Manipur crisis deepens



NEW DELHI: As the crisis in Manipur continues to escalate, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took to Twitter on Wednesday, questioning the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urging him to take proactive steps to address the situation. Ramesh's tweet came in response to the prolonged strife that has plagued Manipur for the past seven weeks. Despite the visit of Home Minister Amit Shah the state remains in turmoil, and the absence of a response from the Prime Minister has raised concern among the public. "There appears to be no letting up in the enormous disaster that has engulfed Manipur for the past seven weeks. The Home Minister visited belatedly after a month and the nation must be thankful for small mercies," said Ramesh in a tweet.

## Priyanka Gandhi will not contest 2024 Elections, will campaign for Congress

KAVITA SHARMA

In a recent development Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi vadra will not contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections scheduled next year in 2024. According to the sources, this decision was taken in a meeting of senior leaders and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi. Priyanka Gandhi will campaign for the party across the country. Presently preparations are on to send her to The Rajya Sabha From Himachal Pradesh. A Rajya Sabha MP has offered to resign to give



way for Ms Gandhi.

Few days back Former congress president Sonia Gandhi held discussions with some senior leaders of the party about Priyanka Gandhi's role in elections, where it was de-

ecided that she can prove to be a star campaigner. If she contests Elections she would not be able to campaign across the country.

Congress Leader Priyanka Gandhi may also leave the post of UP congress in-charge. She can now be given responsibility of those states where party is weakening along with Uttar Pradesh. Some leaders believe that Congress party will benefit if Ms Gandhi campaigns for their candidates. Her role will be decided before Assembly Elections to be held in five States.

## Mission LIFE by PM Modi an enabler to fight climate change: MoS Environment GoI

NEW DELHI: Speaking at the ASSOCHAM World Environment Conference- Save Nature | Save Future, Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Government of India Ashwini Kumar Choubey stated the significance of World Environment Day that is celebrated on the 5th June every year and highlight-

ed how this global event served as a platform to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote positive change. The Indian government, along with various organizations and citizens, embraced this day as an opportunity to reflect upon the country's environmental challenges and find sustainable solutions. Talk-

ing about the initiative that PM Narendra Modi launched i.e. Mission LIFE is fostering a lifestyle for the environment. It is India-led global mass movement that will nudge individual and collective action to protect and preserve the environment. This movement is making people pro-environment, he added.

## CBI probe into Balasore train accident nothing but 'headlines' management: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI: Congress on Tuesday once again slammed the Centre for recommending a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into Balasore train accident in Odisha and termed it nothing but "headlines management" having failed to meet deadlines.

Targeting the government, party general secretary communications in charge Jairam Ramesh said, "Even before the Commissioner of Railway Safety has submitted his report on Balasore train disaster, a CBI



inquiry is announced. This is nothing but headlines management having failed to meet deadlines." Citing the government decision to hand over the probe of the Patna-Indore Express train accident, in which 150 people to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), he said, "Now remember this chronology, on November 20, 2016, Indore-Patna Express derails

near Kanpur. Over 150 people lose their lives. On January 23, 2017, then Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu writes to Union Home Minister asking for a NIA probe into this accident. On February 24, 2017, Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) says Kanpur train accident is a conspiracy. On October 21, 2018, newspapers report NIA will not file any charge sheet in the derailment. June 6, 2023, still no official news on NIA final report on Kanpur derailment. Zero accountability!"

## BSF jawan killed, two soldiers injured in firing by suspected Kuki terrorists in Manipur



IMPHAL: A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was killed and two Assam Rifles personnel injured in an encounter with suspected Kuki insurgents in Manipur's Serou area early Tuesday, officials said. The exchange of fire between the two sides took place



in a school in Serou area of Sugnu in Kakching district, the officials said.

A BSF official said suspected Kuki miscreants resorted to indiscriminate and heavy firing targeted at BSF troops deployed at the Serou Practical High School around 4.15 am.



Jathedar Akal Takht Giani Harpreet Singh addresses to Sikh community after offering prayers on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of Operation Blue Star, in Amritsar on Tuesday. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

## MSP: Why it should be legalized?



JAG MOHAN THAKERN  
For their demand of repealing the three black laws and legalizing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crop produce, farmers of the entire country agitated at Delhi Border in a year-long protest during 2020-21 losing their hundreds of warriors, however they temporarily forced to bow down the central government to nullify the black laws, but got no guarantee of legalized MSP.

If we see the present mood of the government, it does not seem to have calmed down yet and still looking as it is apocryphal with rage.

Government's this enraged behavior reflected when brutal sticks were hitting and wavering over the heads to legs of the farmers on June 6 and this Lathi-charge over the protesting farmers on National Highway near Kurukshetra not only scattered the agitating farmers, but also their hopes that they will get MSP for their Sunflower produce and also this lathi-charge clearly messaged that the government has decided not to carry on the MSP in its true sense in future also.

However, just on the next day of lathi-charge, to cool down the irritating wounds of the farmers and publicize that the government is very much anxious about the farmers, central government

announced the MSP for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2023-24, in which the MSP of Sunflower has been increased from present Rs. 6400 to Rs.6760 per quintal.

But, here arises the question—"When the government is not procuring the Sunflower seeds even on the previous MSP of Rs.6400/ and the farmers are forced to sell their produce at throw away prices, then what remains the meaning of enhancing the MSP from 6400/ to 6760/?" Just to announce the MSP on papers and not following on ground is proving 'Much ado about nothing'.

**What the Govt and Farmers say?**

Defending the government step, HAFED Chairman Kailash Bhagat on June 6, said, "The work of procurement of sunflower crop has been started in the state. Work is being done by HAFED to buy sunflower crop at the commercial rate of Rs 4800 per quintal and Rs 1000 per quintal being given under the Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana to compensate the farmers."

On the other hand, Bhartiya Kisan Union, in a press release, pleads that if sunflower is purchased by HAFED @Rs 4800 per quintal and compensation given @1000 rupees per quintal under Bhavantar Yojana, even then the rate becomes 5800 per quintal, while the MSP of sunflower is 6400 per quintal, according to this, 600 rupees per quintal is the direct loss to



the farmer per quintal. In this way, there will be a loss of Rs 6000 per acre if farmers do not get this money from Bhavantar Yojana, then this loss will be Rs 16000 per acre.

**Opposition Parties slam the Govt**

Major opposition parties of the state have also slammed the government for cane-charging the farmers and not acceding their demand.

Indian National Congress General Secretary and former Union Minister Kumari Selja said that lathi-charge and arrest of farmers demanding minimum support price on sunflower in Shahbad, Kurukshetra is highly condemnable.

"The government is working to suppress the voice of the farmers; it reminds us of the cruelty of the British rule. Drunk on power, the BJP-JJP coalition government wants to suppress the voice of the people of the state by adopting such repressive policies." She demanded that the government should ensure

the purchase of sunflower crop at the minimum support price. Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) supremo and former Chief Minister of the state Ch. Om Prakash Chautala strongly condemned the lathi-charge by the police in Kurukshetra on Tuesday on farmers protesting for the purchase of sunflower crop at MSP.

Chautala said, "The BJP government is wreaking havoc on the farmers, who feed the people of the whole country are being trampled on the roads, lathis are being showered on them, cases are being filed against them and they are being put in jail."

**What is MSP? Why it is needed?**

In the era of ups and down in the market, the farmers always remain in the loser's side. So, to save the farmers from the unexpected losses, MSP was made an integral part of India's agricultural price policy. It was declared in 1965 as a tool for agricultural price policy to meet many objectives. The Cabinet

Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), Government of India, and Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACPC) decides the MSP of different agricultural produce in India.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is fixed as the assured price rate at which the government purchases the crop produce from the farmers, when the market price falls down. It acts as a kind of assurance and insurance to protect the farmers.

Broadly speaking, MSP assures farmers that they will get a reasonable minimum price for their crops, no matter how low the market rate goes. Second, they come to know in advance that for which crop the MSP is the more profitable price, on the basis of which they can cultivate the more profitable crop. The government also gets help in policy making and it can attract farmers towards crop diversification by setting higher minimum support price for the agricultural produce they want to be grown more.

But despite the government declaring the minimum support price already, going back on its promise not only raises questions on the credibility of the government, but also betrays the farmers by depriving them of the fixed minimum support price. The recent Kurukshetra Kisan Andolan is the sad result of the government's action of withdrawing from procuring the sunflower crop at the declared MSP. That's why it becomes necessary that the MSP should

be guaranteed under the law. Otherwise, it will not take long for the time to come when the farmers will start refusing to give their crops to the government for storage and the government will have to face the shortage of food grains for distribution to the poor at cheaper rates or free of cost, due to which the food security plan of the government may get a setback.

And such a voice has started to echo. Punjab Assembly Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan, while addressing a function on crop diversity at Mohali on June 8, said, "Diversification is the need of the hour and the Centre needed to understand the importance of MSP. We will need to stop raising questions on MSP. MSP will have to be given, those who raise questions on MSP they are not nationalists. If Adani can understand the importance of MSP, why cannot the government?" reports Indian express.

He further said that MSP needed to be given, "If you want to keep the nation happy, then you will have to keep Punjab happy. If you want Rice, we will give you Rice but you have to give us MSP."

Now it's in the hands of the central government, which path they choose; legalized Minimum Support Price or Manmarji Support Price.

Jag Mohan Thakern is a Haryana based retired Senior Bank Manager, views are personal

## It will cover all angles including sabotage

ARAVIND MOHAPATRA  
Bhubaneswar

As the CBI probe into the June 2 Bahanaga triple train tragedy continues the investigating agency is expected to look into multiple dimensions of the mishap including whether KAVACH, the ace security system of the railways, could have averted the mishap that claimed 288 lives officially and left more than 1100 injured. The inquiry was handed over to CBI on the recommendation of the Railway Board as there is a strong suspicion about the possibility of sabotage.

Neither the Shalimar-Coromandel Express nor the Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express, which suffered severe damage in the accident with multiple bogies getting derailed after Coromandel hit a stationary goods train at Bahanaga Bazar railway station leading to a chain reaction, were fitted with KAVACH. This is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry.

KAVACH is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red (which marks danger) and avoid collisions. It activates the train's braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per speed restrictions. In addition, it prevents the collision between two locomotives equipped with functional Kavach systems. The system also sends out SoS messages during emergencies.

However, neither the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express nor the Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express were fitted with KAVACH-TACS. The Kavach system project is yet to be implemented on the Howrah-Kharagpur-Chennai line which these trains were running on. However, sources said the probe agency has been



told by railway officials that even KAVACH would not have averted the accident as the reaction time in the case the accident was too short. Since an obstruction in the form of the stationary goods train came in front of Coromandel Express, running at a speed of around 128 kms per hour, so suddenly it was difficult to avoid the mishap. "In these circumstances perhaps no technology in the world can prevent an accident," railway officials are believed to have told the probe agency.

Sources said CBI is looking closely into the sabotage angle as railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has indicated that the railway board itself is not ruling out such a possibility. The minister also said that the root cause of the accident, which in all probability was caused by the failure of the interlocking system, has been identified and officials responsible for the error have also been identified.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the probe a few days ago, has registered a case on the request of the ministry of railways. The agency, among other things, will look into different angles including human error or deliberate attempts to cause the accident. The Odisha government, which has also given its consent for the probe, would be cooperating with the agency officials.

On the other hand, railway

authorities had expanded their probe and questioned the assistant station master and drivers of the two trains to ascertain how the accident, one of the worst in nearly three decades, occurred. Preliminary investigation had hinted at the possibility of a change in the interlocking system and point machine, an intricate system of interconnected safety checks designed to keep trains from crossing each other's path. But now the entire focus is on the CBI probe.

The accident at Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district occurred around 6:56pm on June 2 when the Coromandel Express rammed into a goods train carrying iron ore. Since the goods train was heavy with freight the impact of the collision led to the derailment of around 15 bogies of Coromandel Express which fell on the parallel track. A few of these coaches hit the last two bogies of the Howrah-bound Yesvantpur Express, which was passing by on the opposite line at the same time. It was the worst train mishap in the country since 1995.

Sources said CBI investigators and forensic experts have picked up evidence from the accident site, documents from the railway ministry, and also examined some of the victims, railway staff, rescuers and the local administration apart from talking to eyewitnesses.

## Congress Party Slams centre on MSP



KAVITA SHARMA  
New Delhi

The Congress party today attacked the Centre on Minimum Support Price (MSP) calling it as Maximum Suffering for Producers. They slammed the government for only beating and doing Lathi-charge on farmers and not listening to their issues. The farmers are demanding the purchase of sunflower seeds on MSP in Haryana and UP.

Congress MP Randeep Surjewala addressing the mediapersons today said Modi government has not brought any law on MSP and no farmer is getting the MSP. "we will raise the issue in the upcoming Monsoon session". The issues of farmers are not heard and when they protest they are lathicharged. Are the governments and police only beating and insulting the farmers. The government has promised to form a Committee to give legal guarantee to the MSP to end the farmer's movement, we demand purchase of sunflower crop on MSP in Haryana and North India immediately, Congress MP Deepender Hooda said.

Farmers have begun their protest demanding Minimum Support Price for sunflower seed in Kurukshetra, Haryana. Farmers staged a demonstration for the purchase of sunflower seeds on MSP. They completely blocked the national highway near Shahbad yesterday, where the police used water cannons to disperse them. A large number of farmers were detained in the exercise.

## Jammu and Kashmir Govt will no longer control mutton, chicken prices



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government has canceled the Jammu and Kashmir Mutton law whereby it controlled mutton and chicken prices.

The decision comes after the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution informed the J&K government that the previous directive was no longer valid and applicable.

Consequently, the Directorates of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs in Jammu and Srinagar have been instructed to refrain from issuing or enforcing any pricing-related orders. The issue of controlling mutton and chicken prices in J&K has long been a contentious matter between the government and mutton traders. The recent notification's issuance raises questions about who will now be responsible for regulating the pricing of these commodities.

The cost of mutton has risen by over 50 percent since 2019. Despite a government-approved price of Rs 535 per kg, it was previously sold for Rs 400 per kg four years ago and is currently being sold for Rs 650. The absence of price controls imposed by the government has worried consumers, as they fear that prices may skyrocket in the absence of regulations.

J&K, which imports around 350 lakh kg of mutton primarily from Delhi and Rajasthan, consumes over 600 lakh kg of mutton annually. Prior to the notification, mutton prices in Kashmir were comparatively lower, with Rs 535 per kg, while Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Gujarat had prices ranging from Rs 600 to Rs 750 per kg.



## Uncertainty demands stability-growth equilibrium

India's Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) latest verdict reflects a consistent emphasis on battling inflation while maintaining a pause in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary tightening. The committee, headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, continues to pursue a policy focusing on price stability, reinforcing its commitment to address inflation, which is crucial for the country's economic health. The MPC's unwavering focus stems from its mandate to attain a Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation target of 4%. However, the task of achieving this target has been challenging. Since January 2021, inflation has remained above or nearly at the upper tolerance limit of 6% for 20 out of 27 months. While headline inflation did slow down in March and April, retail price increases still exceed the target and are predicted to remain so for the fiscal year 2023-24, according to the RBI's projections. The MPC projects an average CPI inflation of 5.1% for the year ending in March 2024, highlighting the ongoing struggle to align inflation with the target amidst global uncertainties. Governor Das identified several factors that pose risks to the MPC's inflation predictions. These include the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall influenced by El Niño, geopolitical tensions, unpredictable international commodity prices, and volatility in global financial markets. The RBI's policy strategy is also influenced by its firm belief in the strength of macroeconomic fundamentals, bolstered by a relentless pursuit of price and financial stability. As Governor Das underscored, policymakers must maintain a laser-like focus on inflation. Price stability is a public good, and achieving lasting disinflation remains an uncompromising objective, particularly in a context of increasing income inequality and high unemployment rates. The MPC's decision to remain vigilant on inflation, even as it holds back on monetary tightening, underscores the importance of balancing growth with stability in these uncertain times.

### LETTERBOX

Readers' feedback adds value to the newspaper. Please email comments on reports, features and columns to [fwletters@gmail.com](mailto:fwletters@gmail.com). We will publish them on this page.

"Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive."

— ELBERT HUBBARD

## THE FINANCIAL WORLD

RNI NO. CHAENG/2001/03736

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY SWINDER BAJWA ON BEHALF OF FW MEDIA

PRINTED AT JAGJIT PUBLISHING CO. PVT LTD D-12, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-1, MOHALI, PUNJAB 160059

PRINTER & PUBLISHER SWINDER BAJWA OWNER\* : FW MEDIA

PUBLISHED AT: PLOT NO-F5, IT PARK, CHANDIGARH CHANDIGARH 160101; PHONE: 9888040061

EDITOR\* ABDUL WASEY

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



SYED MUNIR KHASRU EXPLORES WHY GOVT AND AGENCY RESPONSES TO REGIONAL CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT REMAIN INADEQUATE

## Climate migration a ticking bomb

June 5 marked the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day which was started by the United Nations in June 1972 at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Even after 50 years, 40 per cent of the world's population — 3.5 billion people — live in areas that are particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change, including water scarcity, drought, heat stress, sea level rise, and extreme events such as floods and tropical cyclones. The World Development Report on Migrants, Refugees, and Societies states, "As the world struggles to cope with global economic imbalances, diverging demographic trends, and climate change, migration will become a necessity in the decades to come for countries at all levels of income".

South Asia houses the world's most impacted climate displacement hotspots, including the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region, coastal areas, island nations, and delta and semi-arid regions. Land regions which are prone to high environmental vulnerability include Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka affected by sea level rise and coastal floods. While Bhutan, Afghanistan and Nepal are affected by glacial melt and temperature rise, small island nations such as the Maldives face the threat of submersion.

The situation is exacerbated by high population density, poverty, and inadequate infrastructure. By 2050, nearly 216 million South Asians could be displaced due to climatic reasons. In 2020, cyclone Amphan alone displaced five million people across South Asia. In 2015, Nepal's Gorkha earthquake displaced 2.6 million people, and left over 6,00,000 homeless. Over 7.9 million people were displaced by the floods in Pakistan, in 2022.

### Costs of displacements

By 2050, globally there could be 1.2 billion climate refugees. In South Asia, there have been over nine million internal displacements in 2020, making it the region having



the highest number of new displacements due to climate change. Climate displacement results in job losses, food insecurity, and an overall overcrowding of resources, creating further migration and incurring other social and economic costs.

Poor economic capabilities reduce the adaptive capacity of communities to climate change events and promote migration. Internally displaced people migrate for better livelihood opportunities, and safety. The economic costs associated with climate migration in South Asia include loss of skilled labour, and reduced productivity in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. Displacement can also lead to social costs such as the breakdown of social networks and communities, mental health issues, social unrest, and conflict. Changes in agricultural patterns and water availability force people to migrate to urban areas. Such rural-urban migration overburdens cities that already operate at capacity. Climate migration creates a multiplier effect on pre-existing threats such as overcrowding, and conflicts over resources sharing. The correlation between climate vulnerability and violence is notable. In 2020, 95 per cent of conflict-related displacements were reported in climate vulnerable countries.

### Supporting the climate refugees

Because of disasters ranging from floods to desertification, South Asia would have an estimated 50 million climate refugees by 2050. The importance of improving resistance and resilience by introducing sustainable solutions such as adopting salinity-resistant crops, making coastal areas resistant, and strengthening infrastructure will be deterministic. Such structure gaps need to be corrected to ensure that communities are not forced to migrate. The underlying economic reasons of poverty and poor infrastructure play a crucial role in the efficacy of a climate adaptation method.

### Weak policy responses

Despite the alarming magnitude of climate displacement in the region, responses from governments and international agencies have been inadequate. Most countries in South Asia lack comprehensive policies to address climate displacement, and international aid has been insufficient to meet the needs of affected communities. Missed targets of climate funding also hold back developing nations from financing their climate goals and building resilience. Building climate-resilient infrastructure and improving di-

aster preparedness are essential to support adaptation and mitigation measures.

Governments and international agencies must recognise the severity of climate displacement in South Asia and mitigate its effects. Further, governments in the region must develop targeted policies that address the specific needs of climate-displaced communities. Apart from developing resilience, policies should focus on providing alternative livelihood opportunities and social protection programmes to help affected communities cope with the impacts of climate change.

### Implications for COP

Although the "loss and damage" framework developed at COP27, is aimed at supporting most impacted countries which is viewed as an integral part of climate justice, concerns remain on whether wealthy countries would be willing to pay any "liabilities" or "reparations". The amount of funding required, and the designation of funders are questions still unanswered. European countries worry that they may have to bear a large responsibility as oil and gas suppliers such as Saudi Arabia, or a large economy such as China may take refuge under the UN definition of "developing country".

While human mobility could not find its place on the COP agenda, the final COP27 text identified "displacement", "relocation", and "migration" as some of the concern areas that would be addressed by the loss and damage financing. The UNHCR raised the question of refugees and displaced people at the COP27; even after five decades of World Environment Day, climate migrants are yet to find their voice in the global platform.

*Syed Munir Khasru is Chairman of the international think tank, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG), New Delhi, India with also presence in Dhaka, Melbourne, Vienna and Dubai. Views are personal.*



AMAR PATNAIK EXPLAINS HOW INDIA AS G-20 CHAIR CAN LEAD IN SHAPING BORDERLESS, ANONYMOUS TECH

## A global order as technology's much needed pole star

Ever since the Dot-com bubble burst in 2000, the rapid scale and pace of development of technology have, radically and disruptively transformed our societies and daily lives. While there is no denying that this has made life easier, it has also thrown up complex challenges that call for a revisit of some fundamental notions in polity and governance.

First, as defined by political theorists, a nation-state is a territorially-bounded sovereign polity. However, this fundamental notion of a nation-state of a geographical unit in which citizens live is undergoing a massive change because of technology. While geographical boundaries are still essential to be safeguarded against physical aggression/invasion, there are now several externalities occurring across the borders of nation-states, i.e. cyber-attacks, which have a ripple effect on the physical boundaries to challenge their socio-economic and political existence. The advent of Web3, massive peer-to-peer networks and blockchains has allowed actors, both state and non-state, to influence areas such as trade, commerce, health and education even while remaining outside of financial and judicial scope.

Second, geography-based rules are no longer easily enforceable simply because of the declining significance of conventional geographical borders in the era of high technology. Now, any form of "virtual activity" is not confined to the realms of the borders of a country; data travel on the chain of the world wide web and spread across the world at speed hitherto unimaginable. More importantly, when such activities fall foul of the laws of a particular



geographically-determined nation-state, it is extremely difficult in the absence of a globally-accepted norm, to enforce the law in that particular geography and book the recalcitrant actors under the laws of the nation-state. It is difficult to collect incontrovertible evidence without cooperation from other geographies. So, when the national sovereignty of countries is challenged by activities beyond their physical boundaries, their existing constitutionally set-up institutions comprising the executive, legislature and judiciary will prove inadequate in tackling them. Further, it is also difficult to establish applicability of any country-specific legislation due to the universal nature of technology, leading to problems in enforceability.

Third, the emergence of newer technologies has exposed the incapacity and inability of the government of the nation-state to administer and regulate these technologies. No longer is the nation-state the only conduit through which multinational corporations, non-governmental organisations and supranational organisations, both legitimate and illegitimate, state and non-state actors, need to operate. These entities have tran-

scended physical boundaries to collaborate with the rest of the world, independent of traditional administrative and regulatory institutions. For instance, topographical maps, which used to be produced by public and military institutions, are now available entirely by private non-state actors, such as Apple or Google Maps.

### Governing complexities and technology

On the economic side, "with a valuation of more than \$4,100 billion, the five largest American tech companies (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, and Microsoft) have symbolically surpassed Germany's GDP (the world's fourth largest economy) in terms of valuation". One of the most important levers of these companies is data and their use.

This means that data "have become the most important raw material of our times, and only a handful of companies now hold unparalleled economic power and influence over it. These are the meta-platforms: their huge size allows them to constantly increase the amount of information they analyse and refine the algorithms they use to influence, if not control, us and our activities". Thus, as reiterated by India in the past at various international fora, "the borderless nature of technology, and, more importantly, anonymity of actors involved, have challenged the traditionally accepted concepts of sovereignty, jurisdiction/regulation, and privacy". In such a scenario, a principle-based global order for technology would help in streamlining the enforceability challenges in the adoption and diffusion of technology and providing guidance to emerging economies on

how to deal with the evolving definitions of their sovereignty. Further, as we have seen in case of the COVID-19 pandemic, the way forward in managing future global pandemics is probably by the adoption of digital health. But what will be the meaning of this digital health framework be if we cannot have a data-sharing ecosystem based on privacy, free flow of data, and a global regulatory system trusted by all countries/nation-states, particularly developing countries? Therefore, India needs a data transfer and data privacy law. But these laws, in isolation, will only be able to do so much unless a global principle-based regulation architecture trusted by all countries facilitates it.

I espoused this approach in Parliament (on the need for a global order for the deep Web, crypto, or regulations for cross-border data flow). Even the Finance Minister while addressing a meeting with the International Monetary Fund on the guidelines of a G-20 event on virtual private digital assets, emphasised the need to have a globally-coordinated approach to the regulation of digital assets such as crypto-currencies, given the potential risks they pose to the world's financial ecosystem.

With India, as the current chair of the G-20, this is the perfect opportunity to take leadership in this as it has done earlier in green initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance or the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

*Amar Patnaik is a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Odisha; a former CAG bureaucrat and an advocate. Views are personal.*

### BOOKS: REVIEW

## Drama and dynamism: The evolution of Indian theatre

"Text and Performance" is a captivating and comprehensive examination of the rich history and evolution of Indian theatre. Penned by the distinguished scholar K.G. Paulose and published by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, this magnificent tome is a treasure trove for theatre enthusiasts, academics, and students alike.

Paulose has meticulously divided this work into three insightful sections and 21 enlightening chapters, each shedding light on distinct facets of Indian theatre. The first part titled "Classical Period," is an astute exploration of the origins and development of theatre up to the first millennium. The ensuing parts offer a detailed analysis of popular theatres and the theatres of popular India, respectively.

One of the book's early highlights is the comparison between Aristotle

and Bharata's concepts of verbal texts, illustrating the fundamental differences between Western and Indian theories of drama. Paulose's analysis of the contrasting narrative structure and thematic conclusion is compelling and supported by numerous examples from Indian and Hellenistic plays.

Paulose delves into the intricacies of performance, from text to stage, in chapter two. The discussion illuminates the interpretive nature of the Indian intellectual tradition, providing readers with an understanding of how commentaries play a pivotal role in interpreting the myriad knowledge systems. In this context, contributions of Abhinavagupta and Anandavardhana are explored, offering a thorough examination of the 'Science of Language' and the role of 'dhvani' or resonance in poetry.

An underrated figure who Paulose brings to the forefront is Ku-

**The discussion illuminates the interpretive nature of the Indian intellectual tradition, providing readers with an understanding of how commentaries play a pivotal role in interpreting the myriad knowledge systems**

lasekharavarma. His substantial contribution to interpreting dhvani and acting modalities, particularly in the context of 'Vyagyavakya,' is brought to life across two comprehensive chapters.

The book provides a valuable



**Text and Performance**  
By K.G. Paulose;  
Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla; Rs. 890

glimpse into a seminar on 'Indian Drama' held by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1956, the first in independent India. It includes the full text of the papers presented, as well as the discussions among the participants. This is a rare and valuable insight into the thoughts of theatre stalwarts of the time.

Paulose masterfully acknowledges the diversity and development of Indian languages in theatre. He discusses how regional languages rose to prominence, enriching literature from Sanskrit sources, and their impact on theatre. The book also presents an analysis of major and minor plays and their characteristics, with examples from regional and indigenous forms.

The Colonial period receives due attention in the book, where plays like 'Neel Darpan' that incurred the British rulers' wrath are discussed. Paulose also recounts the ingenious ways in which Indian troupes used theatre to voice dissent against the British, like the allegorical play 'Keechakavadha.' The play cleverly represented Lord Curzon as Keechaka and Draupadi as India, something that resonated with the audience despite the foreign oversight. The concluding part of the book engages with the concept of National Theatre and the need to revitalize local idioms to cater to a larger national concept. Paulose adeptly supports his argument with contributions from numerous thespians, with a whole chapter devoted to Kavalam Narayana Panicker's work.

"Text and Performance" is a meticulous chronicle of the development of Indian theatre. It is an unprecedented and invaluable resource for anyone interested in the theatre, offering a rich blend of history, theory, and critical analysis that illuminates India's vibrant theatrical tradition.



# Textiles Ministry clears 20 R&D projects worth Rs 61.09 crore

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Textiles on Thursday gave approval to 20 Research & Development (R&D) projects worth Rs 61.09 crore which includes key strategic areas such as Geotech, Protech, Indutech, Sustainable Textiles, Sportech and Buildtech segments. The allocation was announced after Union Minister for Textiles Piyush Goyal held the 6th Mission Steering Group (MSG) meeting of the National Technical Textiles Mission on Thursday. He said that international benchmarking, deliberations



with the industry and demand assessment are critical to identify high value & high-volume potential products to

catalyze research and innovation in Technical Textiles in India. "Ministry of Textiles approved 20 R&D projects worth Rs 61.09 crores across key strategic areas of Geotech, Protech, Indutech, Sustainable Textiles, Sportech, Buildtech segments and Specialty Fibres (Carbon Fibre and Ultra High Molecular Weight Poly Ethylene) during the 6th MSG meeting," an official statement said. The Union Minister also said that private engineering colleges of good repute to be encouraged to work together

with Textile Research Associations (TRAs) or reputed Government institutes for wider awareness, benefits and optimal utilization of NTTM Scheme and foster research & innovation ecosystem across India. He also reviewed the inter-ministerial exercise conducted under NTTM for Mandation/Adoption of different Technical Textiles items and meetings held with the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Defence for enhancing usage of Technical Textiles

## Microsoft to pay \$20 mn fine over storing Xbox data for kids

Microsoft will pay \$20 million to settle charges that it violated children's privacy by improperly collecting personal information from kids who signed up to its Xbox gaming system, the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has announced. The tech giant was charged with flouting the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) by collecting personal information from children who signed up to its Xbox gaming system without notifying their parents or obtaining their parents' consent, and by illegally retaining children's personal information. "This action should make it abundantly clear that kids' avatars, biometric data, and health information are not exempt from COPPA," said Samuel Levine, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. Microsoft will also be required to take steps to bolster privacy protections for child

users of its Xbox system. For example, the order will extend COPPA protections to third-party gaming publishers with whom Microsoft shares children's data. In addition, the order makes clear that avatars generated from a child's image, and biometric and health information, are covered by the COPPA Rule when collected with other personal data. The COPPA Rule requires online services and websites directed to children under 13 to notify parents about the personal information they collect and to obtain verifiable parental consent before collecting and using any personal information collected from children. In addition to the monetary penalty, Microsoft will be required to inform parents who have not created a separate account for their child that doing so will provide additional privacy protections for their child by default.



## Nikon India Showcases Its Imaging Masterpiece READY ACTION "Nikon Z 8" - Bengaluru



ARUNKUMAR RAO Bengaluru

Nikon India Private Limited, a 100% subsidiary of Nikon Corporation, a leader in imaging technology, showcased its latest mirrorless imaging masterpiece, the "Nikon Z 8". The newest launch, Nikon Z 8 comes powered with a perfect fusion of agility, portability, versatility, and best-in-class AI-enabled features set to take the imaging landscape a notch higher. Launch of "Nikon Z 8" done in presence of Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director, Nikon India. The product showcase consisted of immersive experience zones to get a hands-on feel and trial of the exceptional engineering that has gone behind the imaging masterpiece - Nikon Z 8, perfectly reflected in its extraordinary imaging performance, commendable compatibility, and High-Speed frame capture. The powerhouse-Nikon Z 8 can record videos for up to approx. 125 min. in 4K UHD/60p2 and up to approximately 90 min. in 8K UHD/30p3.

Commenting on the occasion, Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director of Nikon India Pvt. Ltd. said, "We are delighted to showcase our latest versatile and innovative hybrid camera, the Nikon Z 8, an imaging powerhouse. The camera packs compactness and portability with top-notch features like 12-bit internal 8k video recording, burst speeds of up to 120fps and our most advanced auto focus system. The Z 8 is our latest addition to Nikon's mirrorless range specially designed to cater to videographers and photographers, across diverse genres like Sports, Fashion, Landscape, Wildlife, Weddings, and Cinematography. Larger businesses more often cited a lack of time as one of the barriers they had to try AI versus smaller businesses. Further, the report said that over half of small business owners (60 per cent) agree that AI will dramatically change their business within the next five years.

## Linda Yaccarino to take over as new Twitter CEO on Monday, hires key aide

Linda Yaccarino is set to take over as the new Twitter CEO from Monday, as Elon Musk aims to focus more on Tesla and SpaceX, the media reported. Yaccarino, former Chairman of Global Advertising and Partnerships at NBC Universal, has also hired Joe Benarroch, executive vice-president at NBC Universal, to work along with her at Twitter. According to a report in the

Wall Street Journal (WSJ) late on Sunday, Benarroch has been a trusted adviser to Yaccarino. "Tomorrow, I start a different professional adventure at Twitter, taking on a role focusing on business operations," Benarroch wrote in the memo seen by WSJ. "I am looking forward to bringing my experience to Twitter, and to working with the entire team to build Twitter 2.0 together,"



he added. Yaccarino said last month that she is prepared to build Twitter 2.0 and transform the business together with Musk and millions

of platform users. "I've long been inspired by your vision to create a brighter future. I'm excited to help bring this vision to Twitter and transform this business together," she posted on Twitter. "I'm just as committed to the future of this platform. Your feedback is VITAL to that future. I'm here for all of it. Let's keep the conversation going and build Twitter 2.0 together," Yaccarino also commented. Musk

is looking forward to working with Yaccarino to transform the platform into X, the everything app, just like China's WeChat. Yaccarino oversaw about 2,000 workers at NBC Universal. Her team generated more than \$100 billion in ad sales and entered partnerships with companies, including Apple, Snapchat, BuzzFeed, Twitter and YouTube.

## Max Life extends claims support for Odisha train accident victims

**FW DSK New Delhi** Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. ("Max Life"/"Company"), stands in solidarity with the people impacted in the Odisha train accident and has extended swift claims support to them and their families. The Company has established a dedicated claims support desk and appointed a nodal officer

to simplify and expedite the claims payments. To ensure quick claim settlement, some basic requirements are: Any evidence from Government/Designated District officials of the State Government or Hospital Authorities/Municipal Record showing death due to the Train Accident. Claim Intimation Form/Claimant Statement (with Bank Details) and

Photo ID Proof of Nominee/Beneficiary. The victims' families can reach the Company's representatives by calling 0124-4219090 (extn: 9699) or (+91) 7428989574. They can also email their claims with the following documents at - claims.support@maxlifeinsurance.com, or directly to the Nodal Officer - Meenakshi.gupta1@maxlifeinsurance.com.

## About 44% of small businesses expect to hire fewer people due to AI

About 44 per cent of small business owners said that they expect to hire fewer people in the future because of AI capabilities, a new report has shown. According to Canada-based software company FreshBooks, small business owners are less convinced that AI is coming for their jobs and/or the jobs of their employees, with two-thirds disagreeing that AI will replace them. "In the world of small business, it appears that owners don't feel particularly threatened and don't believe artificial intelligence can do their jobs just as well as they can. On the other hand, their eyes are wide open to the potential of using AI as a support to help them scale," said Mara Reiff, Chief Data Officer at FreshBooks.



Two out of three business owners said they'll try generative AI for work within the next 12 months, demonstrating that most small businesses will be using the technology within a year. The large majority of current generative AI adopters said they're using it to generate text, while a slim majority are applying it to create images or

to conduct general business research. When non-adopters were asked what has prevented them from using generative AI, the report showed that 46 per cent were not yet clear on how generative AI could benefit their business. The second highest reason cited was a lack of knowledge, with 32 per cent saying they were unsure of how to begin applying generative AI to their businesses. Larger businesses more often cited a lack of time as one of the barriers they had to try AI versus smaller businesses. Further, the report said that over half of small business owners (60 per cent) agree that AI will dramatically change their business within the next five years.

## Severe shock to thousands in pharmaceuticals sector in Haryana due to ban over 14 FDC drugs

**SATISH HANDA** The recent Notification on June 2 by the Family & Health Welfare Ministry of India imposed ban over sale and manufacture of 14 types of drugs include combination Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs widely used for the treatment of infection, cough, fever including antibiotics has given severe shock to thousands of druggists, chemists and pharmaceutical manufacturers in Haryana state since stocks of value worth crores of rupees are lying in hospitals, chemists, druggists, wholesalers and they are yet in a fix what to do about heavy stocks dumped in their godowns since banned to treat common ailments the banned combinations include medicines used for cough, fever and infections and are sold over the counter and are part of 344 drugs prohibited for sale by the Centre in 2016. Industry experts claim that some of these combinations aren't available in the market currently. According to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), FDCs refer to products containing one or more active ingredients used for a particular



indication(s). The ban, which comes into effect immediately, follows recommendations of an expert committee formed to examine the efficacy of these drug combinations. The long-pending move has been taken based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board. The Boardsaid an expert committee had recommended that there is no therapeutic justification for these FDCs and the FDCs may involve risk to human beings, which include following:

1. butamol + Hydroxyethyl-theophylline (Etofylline) + Bromhexine
2. onium Chloride + Sodium Citrate + Chlorpheniramine Maleate + Menthol (100mg + 40mg + 2.5mg + 0.9mg) , (125mg + 55mg + 4mg + 1mg) , (110mg + 46mg + 3mg + 0.9mg) & (130mg + 55mg

- + 3mg + 0.5mg) per 5 ml
  3. nytoin + Phenobarbitone Sodium
  4. orpheniramine + Codeine Phosphate + Menthol Syrup
  5. butamol + Bromhexine
  6. aramol + Bromhexine + Phenylephrine + Chlorpheniramine + Guaiphenesin
  7. tromethorphan + Chlorpheniramine + Guaiphenesin + Ammonium Chloride
  8. esulide + Paracetamol dispersible tablets
  9. xicillin + Bromhexine
  10. codine + Promethazine
  11. rpheniramine Maleate + Dextromethorphan + Guaiphenesin + Ammonium Chloride + Menthol
  12. rpheniramine Maleate + Codeine Syrup
  13. nium Chloride + Bromhexine + Dextromethorphan
  14. hexine + Dextromethorphan + Ammonium Chloride + Menthol
- Now the question arises how such a large quantity of stocks of banned drugs lying in the stock with medical stores, CFA and in hospitals will be destroyed by the government and the amount such stocks will be compensated by the government, no one including the officers of drug control department were able to clarify the same.

## India's Pride: Shiv Narayan Jewellers Makes History Achieving 8 Guinness World Records® Titles

**SATISH HANDA Ambala**

Shiv Narayan Jewellers Pvt Ltd, the prestigious legacy jeweller, has achieved an extraordinary feat by securing 8 Guinness World Records® Titles establishing them as the first Indian jeweller in history to attain such a prestigious milestone. To commemorate this momentous occasion, a grand celebration was held at the enchanting Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad, a fitting venue to honour the rich legacy of Shiv Narayan. The event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries and renowned celebrities, including Bollywood's fashion icon, Disha Patani who took to the ramp, adorned in Shiv Narayan's high jewellery pieces. Another



highlight of the evening was the "Experiential Zone"—an immersive experience showcasing the record-breaking jewels. The first of the four record-breaking creations was the Ganesha Pendant, title for the Heaviest Pendant at 1011.150 grams, and the Most Diamonds Set On A Pendant, featuring 11,472 diamonds. This meticulously handcrafted jewel took over 6 ½ months to conceptualise and create. Shiv Narayan Jewellers broke their own record with the Ram Darbar pendant. This magnificent

piece secured the titles for the Heaviest Pendant, weighing an impressive 1681.820 grams, and the Most Diamonds Set On A Pendant, boasting a staggering 54,666 diamonds. Expressing his gratitude for this remarkable achievement, Tushar Agarwal, Managing Director - Shiv Narayan Jewellers Pvt Ltd, stated, "We are truly humbled to have achieved 8 Guinness World Records® Titles. This milestone not only marks a tremendous advancement for our industry but also acknowledges the dedication, hard work, and passion of our team on a global level." As the only Indian jeweller to have achieved 8 Guinness World Records® Titles, Shiv Narayan Jewellers Pvt Ltd has solidified its place as one of the industry's finest.

## Tata Motors disrupts the CNG market with the launch of Altroz iCNG



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

Tata Motors, India's leading automobile manufacturer, launches the Altroz iCNG equipped with India's first twin-cylinder CNG technology at an introductory price of INR 7.55 lakhs (All-India, Ex-Showroom). With deep understanding of its customer's needs, Tata Motors has developed an industry-first CNG technology, the Altroz iCNG, which offers no compromise on boot space and comes with best-in-class features that ensure customers enjoy all the comfort and luxury of a premium hatchback. The Altroz iCNG comes equipped with advance features such as Voice-assisted Electric Sunroof, Wireless Charger and Air Purifier. After the success of iCNG in Tiago and Tigor, the Altroz iCNG is the third CNG offering in the personal segment only. Making CNG a 'Cool' proposition for young car buyers, the Company has rolled out the OMG! It's CNG campaign to communicate the unique attributes of the Altroz iCNG.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, said: "Customers are increasingly choosing alternate fuel options with the intent of an economical as well as eco-friendly drive. CNG as a fuel with its wide availability and accessibility has gained lot of acceptance. However, opting for a CNG meant compromising on aspirational features and to give up boot space significantly. In January 2022, we addressed the first compromise by launching the advanced iCNG technology in Tiago and Tigor, offering superior performance and top-end features. Today, we are delighted to launch the Altroz iCNG, an industry first offering which will redefine the CNG market by addressing the major concern on boot space. "The Altroz iCNG is a testament of our deep understanding of the customer's need and our engineering prowess. With the breakthrough of the twin-cylinder CNG technology and advance features we are expecting more personal segment buyers to strongly consider this option. With our multi-powertrain strategy, the Altroz portfolio today offers petrol, diesel, iTurbo and iCNG as offerings for our customers to choose from. The Altroz iCNG will bolster our expansive New Forever range and we will continue to sustain our growth momentum in passenger cars."

## Talking Points

**Narvijay Yadav**



Railway safety can be improved by using Artificial Intelligence (AI), which has the ability to rapidly process large amounts of data and information, resulting in early warnings about critical equipment failures and potential outages.

The drastic collision of three trains in Odisha's Balasore brought the issue of railway safety to the fore. With the tragic death of nearly 288 passengers, it is one of the biggest train accidents in India. The results of the detailed investigation will come later, but initially, it is feared that a wrong signal, technical fault, human error, or some 'manual tinkering' could be the possible reason for this unfortunate accident. I have been keenly inter-

## AI to Change the Fate of Railway

for the rail joints. What I feel now is that safety in railways can be improved to a great extent by applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the technical systems of the railway. AI has the ability to rapidly process large amounts of data and information, resulting in early warnings about critical equipment failures and potential outages. AI has introduced several new dimensions to ensure safety in the railways. By analyzing data in real time, the system can detect potential hazards, such as AI-powered cameras monitoring track conditions and alerting crews if anything unusual is detected. By analyzing passenger numbers, demand, schedules, and availability of tracks with the help of AI, efficient use of resources can be determined. This will reduce the problem of



late running of trains and also improve the overall passenger experience. AI can predict passenger demand by analyzing passenger behavioral data. This will make it possible to optimize the train schedule and ensure the trains are run on time. AI tech and sensitive imaging sensors together can bring a remarkable change

in the safety features of long-haul trains. In Australia, AI enables heavy-haul trains to automatically detect hazards on or near railway tracks from around 1.5 km away, taking collision and safety to the next level. Without prior detection, obstacles on the railway track, as well as damage or technical fault can lead to dangerous

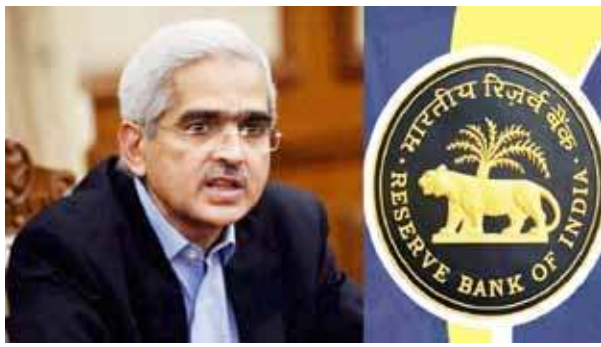
mishaps. It would be better if the loco pilots are alerted in advance, so they can slow down or stop the train safely. The Indian Railway Ministry has already been working on a self-protection program known as the train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) or Kavach. This is an indigenously developed railway collision prevention technology to make rail transport safer. Kavach automatically draws a locomotive to stop when it senses an obstruction on the track. Kavach was developed by RDSO with the support of two private agencies. If AI can change the way we manage finances, why can't it enhance the level of safety and comfort in the trains? The writer is a senior journalist and columnist. Views are personal. Twitter @narvijayyadav



# RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%

**NEW DELHI:** During the second bi-monthly monetary policy meeting of FY24 the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to leave the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent. The focus remains on withdrawal of accommodation. The RBI also retained FY24 GDP growth forecast at 6.5 per cent, while expects FY24 CPI inflation to be at 5.1 per cent.

RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar informed that the launch of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) will be gradual and calibrated. RBI hopes to have 1 million customers by June end and it is working on making the CBDC interoperable with UPI QR codes, he added. Commenting on the RBI MPC announcement, Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVRDC World Trade



Center Mumbai said, "Today's policy announcement comes as a relief for corporate borrowers and individuals as the chances of further rise in bank lending rate has reduced with the RBI keeping policy rates unchanged."

"The surplus liquidity in the banking system also denotes that there is enough surplus fund in the system to support

bank credit growth and banks need not hike deposit rates to attract more funds to meet the growing credit needs of industry," he said.

Kalantri opined that apart from a status-quo stance, this policy also has various favourable announcements to bring digital lending into mainstream regulation, improve ease of transactions for

**“The surplus liquidity in the banking system also denotes that there is enough surplus fund in the system to support bank credit growth and banks need not hike deposit rates to attract more funds to meet the growing credit needs of industry”**

Indian tourists and traders visiting abroad.

"The RBI's move to issue guidelines on Default Loss Guarantee arrangements in Digital Lending will promote responsible lending through digital platforms, which is emerging as a promising tool to promote loans to micro and small business units," he added. Expressing similar sentiments, Dr A Sakthivel, President, FIEO said that the increasing investment will lead to further production and easing of supply thus reducing inflation in coming months.

He also added that the status quo in rates will help exporting community, whose cost of credit has gone up substantially due to upward revision in rate during last one and half year leading to the demand to increase the interest subvention from 2% and 3% to 3% and 5% respectively.

# MSMEs, start-ups drive India's internet economy to \$1 trn by 2030

**NEW DELHI:** India's internet economy is expected to touch USD 1 trillion by 2030 powered by structural shifts in consumption potential which are opening up a vast opportunity for start-ups, large businesses and MSMEs, said a report on Tuesday.

According to a joint study by Google, Temasek and Bain & Company this goal is likely to be achieved because of the continued shift in consumer and merchant behaviour, matched with strong investor confidence.

Digital services are fast becoming integral to India's 700M+ internet users, which includes 350 million digital payment users and 220 million online shoppers. The growth will be led by the B2C (business-to-consumer) e-commerce segment, followed by B2B (business-to-business)



e-commerce, software-as-a-service providers and online media led by over-the-top players. "Structural shifts in consumption potential are opening up a vast opportunity for start-ups, large businesses and MSMEs to power India's internet economy towards a projected growth of 6x, reaching a trillion dollars by 2030," said Sanjay Gupta, country

Manager & VP, Google India. The report also noted that the India Stack has been fundamental to making public goods and services accessible to citizens and businesses via digital platforms. Services such as Aadhaar, United Payments Interface (UPI) and Digilocker have been instrumental to unlocking the expansion of the country's internet economy.

# SIDBI unveils multilateral EVOLVE mission to offer loans to MSMEs in EV sector



**NEW DELHI:** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) announced the launch of mission EVOLVE (Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem) in association with NITI Aayog, World Bank, Korean-World Bank and Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to finance MSMEs in the Electronic Vehicle (EV) sector.

The apex regulatory body for MSMEs will give MSMEs access to affordable commercial financing for EV loans.

It will include hosting of telematics that could help reduce financing costs and provide data for other financial services.

The programme comes in the backdrop of SIDBI's aim to support India's target for 30 per cent EV penetration by 2030 or EV30@30.

**RBI focus on taming inflation to help sustainable growth: ASSOCHAM**



**NEW DELHI:** RBI decision to keep the benchmark interest rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent is on the expected lines, ASSOCHAM said today, adding that focus of the monetary policy is clearly on further taming inflation for a stable growth.

While the Monetary Policy Committee remains focussed on withdrawal of accommodation to further rein in inflation, we are confident that the RBI would ensure that adequate liquidity is maintained in the banking system and credit growth remains robust. ASSOCHAM Secretary General Deepak Sood said.

He said, assessment as reflected in RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das' statement, gives clear signals of revival in the investment sentiment despite global headwinds. As demand remains robust, investment intentions and even implementation across different sectors like hospitality, chemicals, infrastructure and automobiles, are visible. However, capital cost would remain a key factor for a real boost to new investment. Price stability coupled with push to growth are the twin catalysts for maintaining the momentum in the Indian economy. While RBI has projected GDP growth of 6.5 per cent for the FY24, we may be in for a positive surprise for higher expansion if Monsoon is normal and well spread in the next three months.

# Government introduces Additional Mandatory Requirements for EXIM Declarations w.e.f July 1

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Finance's Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has announced the implementation of new mandatory requirements in import/export declarations for specific products.

As per Circular No. 15/2023-Customs issued on June 7, 2023, these changes will come into effect from July 1, 2023. The objective of this measure, as stated in the circular, is to improve efficiency, minimize delays, and support policy-making efforts.

Previously, importers were encouraged to voluntarily provide comprehensive details of imported goods, including scientific names, brand names, and other relevant parameters.

Following a recent review conducted in consultation with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, the Ministry of AYUSH, and the



Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), it was concluded that furnishing more complete product information could facilitate assessment, reduce queries, and expedite clearance processes.

To that end, the introduction of mandatory additional qualifiers has been mandated for imports falling under chapters 28, 29, 32, 38, and 39 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. Importers will need to declare the IUPAC name and CAS number of constituent chemi-

# US SEC sues crypto exchange Coinbase

After suing crypto exchange Binance, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Wednesday charged Coinbase with operating its crypto asset trading platform as an unregistered national securities exchange, broker, and clearing agency.

The SEC also charged Coinbase for failing to register the offer and sale of its crypto asset staking-as-a-service programme. According to the SEC's complaint, Coinbase has made billions of dollars unlawfully facilitating the buying and selling of crypto asset securities.

"We allege that Coinbase, despite being subject to the securities laws, commingled and unlawfully offered exchange, broker-dealer, and clearinghouse functions," said SEC Chair Gary Gensler.

According to the complaint, Coinbase's alleged failures deprive investors of critical protections, including rulebooks that prevent fraud



and manipulation, proper disclosure, safeguards against conflicts of interest, and routine inspection by the SEC.

The SEC alleged that Coinbase intertwines the traditional services of an exchange, broker, and clearing agency without having registered any of those functions with the Commission as required by law.

It further alleged that, since 2019, Coinbase has been engaging in an unregistered securities offering through its staking-as-a-service programme, which allows customers to earn profits from the "proof of stake" mechanisms of certain

blockchains and Coinbase's efforts.

"While Coinbase's calculated decisions may have allowed it to earn billions, it's done so at the expense of investors by depriving them of the protections to which they are entitled. The action seeks to hold Coinbase accountable for its choices," said Gurbir S Grewal, Director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement.

On Monday, the US SEC sued leading crypto exchange Binance, its CEO Changpeng Zhao and BAM Trading and BAM Management over allegedly mishandling funds and lying to regulators.

In a federal lawsuit, the regulator filed 13 charges against the defendants.

"Defendants unlawfully solicited US investors to buy, sell, and trade crypto asset securities through unregistered trading platforms available online at binance.com and binance.us," the lawsuit read.

# India's economic growth to overtake China, Asia to push global growth: OECD



**NEW DELHI:** India's economic growth is expected to surpass that of China this year and next as Asia maintains its bright spot in global growth, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In its latest global economic outlook report, the OECD predicted India, China and Indonesia would top gross domestic product projections for 2023 and 2024. Overall, the organization expects global growth of 2.7 per cent this year. That would mark the second-lowest annual rate since the global financial crisis, except for the 2020 Covid pandemic year, it said.

"Falling energy prices and headline inflation, easing supply bottlenecks and the reopening of China's economy, coupled with strong employment and relatively resilient household finances, all contribute to a projected recovery," OECD Chief Economist Clare Lombardelli said.

"Nevertheless, the recovery will be weak by past standards," she said, adding that monetary policymakers will "need to navigate a difficult road." The OECD expects India to grow 6% in 2023; China to grow 5.4%; Indonesia to grow 4.7%. India's 2022 full-year growth momentum is expected to continue into this year, the group said, after higher-than-expected agricultural output and strong government spending.

The OECD added that looser monetary policy in the second half of next year will help household spending momentum return. It also expects India's central bank to turn to mild interest rate cuts starting in the middle of 2024.

# IIFL to raise Rs 1,500 cr in bonds to fuel growth, caps coupon rate at 9%

**ARUNKUMAR RAO**  
Bengaluru

IIFL Finance, one of India's largest Non-Banking Financial Companies, will open a public issue of secured bonds "IIFL Secured Bonds 2023 Tranche II" on June 9, 2023, to raise up to Rs. 1,500 crores, for the purpose of business growth and capital augmentation. The bonds offer up to 9% yield and high degree of safety announced during the press conference here today.

IIFL Finance will issue secured redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs), aggregating to Rs 300 crore, with a green-shoe option to retain over-subscription of up to Rs 1200 crore (aggregating to a total of Rs 1,500 crore).

The IIFL bonds offer highest effective yield of 9% per annum for tenor of 60 months.



The NCD is available in tenors of 24 months, 36 months and 60 months. The frequency of interest payment is available on annual, at maturity basis and with monthly option for 60-month tenure. The credit rating has been AA/Stable by CRISIL Ratings and AA/Stable by ICRA, which indicates that the instruments are considered to have a high degree of safety for timely servicing of financial obligations and carry very low credit risk. In Q4 FY23, Moody's upgraded IIFL Finance's rating from B2 to B1 (stable).

# A robust and accessible trade finance system the key to achieving USD 2 trillion exports from trade and services by 2030: Aggarwal

**NEW DELHI:** The easy availability and cost of finance are important factors for export competitiveness. We have set a target of USD 2 trillion exports, with equal contributions from goods and services by 2030. Trade is dependent on availability of finance making the linkage a strong one. A robust and easy trade finance system is important for us to achieve the targeted export goals. There are multiple dimensions to and we have to improve our physical infrastructure, digital infrastructure and trade finance infrastructure, this has to happen in tandem as they are closely interlinked. said Subhash Chand Aggarwal Additional DGFT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI, at the 4th National Summit Trade Finance for Inclusive Growth organised by ASSO-

CHAM.

"The new FTP 2023 released on 31st March focusses on key areas such as the liberalisation of merchanting trade and we are hopeful that it will strengthen merchanting trading in the country. I am often told that obtaining finances for domestic trade is easier than obtaining financing for cross-border trade. This could be because of the higher risk perception in cross-border trade. Mitigating and correcting this perception is needed to enable us to be competent and competitive in global market, trade finance plays a crucial role here", he added.

"We have to focus and deliberate on enhancing the ease of obtaining finance, cost effectiveness and competitive interests. The efficiency of trade financing ecosystem will



also play a key role. Development in digital technologies like AI and block chain will provide leverages to reduce cost of financing." He reiterates. Addressing the summit, Ateesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, GoI said, "The trade industry is the one to power our economy into a USD5 trillion economy. Internal trade and

exports will be key drivers of economic growth. Trade is a truly diverse industry ranging from manufacturers, logistics service providers, labour agencies, warehousing, financing, insurers, regulators and even the government. As a key participant, the government is working hard to facilitate trade and mitigate challenge. A number of physical infrastructure development efforts has been undertaken by the government to improve domestic and international trade. There is an ongoing bilateral FTA effort for obtaining new preferential market access. Interoperability of UPI and PayNow in Singapore is one such results of these efforts. Digitisation and digitalisation has changed how things are done now, new players have been added and processes rationalised."

# India Shining on GDP

**SATISH SINGH**

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures in the first quarter of the year 2023 are better than the forecasts of all economists, the Reserve Bank of India, and the government. In December 2022, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had predicted GDP to be 4.2 percent in the last quarter of the financial year 2022-23, but it stood at 6.1 percent. Due to the improvement in the GDP growth rate in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2022-23, the growth rate of the entire financial year has also been improved. In the first financial year 2022-23, the MPC had estimated 6.8 percent of GDP, which in reality is 7.2 percent.

In the quarter under review, the growth rate in the agriculture sector has been recorded at 5.5 percent, in the hotel industry at 9.1 percent and in the construction sector at 10.4 percent. If seen, these three sectors have made a special contribution in improving the growth rate of GDP.

Along with the increase in

GDP, investment and consumption are also seeing a boom. In the first quarter of the year 2023, an increase of 18.3 percent in investment rate and 13.4 percent in consumption was recorded. The main reason for the increase in investment is the "Production-Linked Incentives" (PLI) scheme of the government. Due to this scheme, businessmen got special help to get out of difficult times during the Corona period.

Inflation also has a negative impact on the GDP growth rate. Inflation had remained at a high level continuously for the past years, but now the inflation is coming down. In the first month of the first quarter of the financial year 2023-24, the retail inflation rate decreased to 4.70 percent in April, which was 5.66 percent in March 2023. Inflation has registered a decline for the third consecutive month and has reached an 18-month low. Economic activities are picking up due to reduction in inflation. People have started spending, due to which consumption is increasing.

The fiscal deficit of the central government in the financial



year 2023 was Rs.17.33 lakh crore, which is 6.4 percent of the GDP. This is Rs.22,188 crore short of the revised target of Rs.17.55 lakh crore. Earlier the target of fiscal deficit was kept at Rs.16.61 lakh crore, which was later increased.

There are many reasons for the improvement in the economy. During the year 2022, a significant increase in the production of vehicles, which includes both personal and passenger vehicles, was recorded. Air and rail travel has increased during this period. The steel and cement sectors have also strengthened. The banking sector is continuously improving. On one hand the NPA of banks

is decreasing and on the other hand their profits are increasing. In the financial year 2022-23, almost all government and private banks have registered a tremendous increase in profits.

Due to the negative impact of the Corona pandemic, the manufacturing sector grew at a mere 1.3 per cent in the financial year 2022-23, but the agricultural sector grew at 4 per cent. It is noteworthy that the growth rate of other sectors of the economy was also better than the manufacturing sector during this period.

An analysis of the last 4 years' data reveals that the agriculture sector has registered a growth of over 19 per cent, while the

manufacturing sector has registered a growth of 13 per cent during this period. However, despite the strong growth in the agriculture sector, there has been a decrease in rural demand, which may be due to the severe deterioration of the economic condition of the villagers due to the Corona pandemic. Despite this, in the March quarter of FY 2022-23, the size of agriculture exceeded manufacturing by 25 percent, which used to be similar in size earlier at current prices.

In the financial year 2023, a 6 percent increase in India's exports has been registered. Total exports during this period stood at \$447 billion, while imports grew by 16.5 percent to \$714 billion. However, in the March quarter of the financial year 2022-23, imports registered a decline of 4.1 percent, due to softening of crude oil prices in the international market and a decrease in demand for various products due to sluggishness in the economy. At the same time, the trade deficit was reduced by 61 percent, from \$ 26.3 billion to \$ 10.1 billion, due to a significant increase in exports. If seen, in the last quarter of the

financial year 2023, due to this also the GDP growth rate was fast. It contributed about 1.5 percent to the economic growth during this period. In the last quarter of the financial year 2022-23, the value of rupee also remained stable, which gave relief from inflation and ease of import of essential products.

GST collection of Rs 1,57,090 lakh crore was done in May 2023, while GST collection of Rs 1,40,885 lakh crore was done in May 2022. In this way, an increase of 12 percent has been recorded in GST collection on year-on-year basis. At the same time, in April 2023, GST collection of Rs 1.87 lakh crore was done.

According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate increased to 8.11 percent in April 2023, which was also 8.11 percent in December 2022, while it was 7.8 percent in March 2023. The unemployment rate in urban areas increased to 9.81 percent in April, while it was 8.51 percent in March 2023. However, in rural areas, this rate decreased from 7.47 percent in March 2023 to 7.34 percent in April.

It is clear from the CMIE data that the economy remained strong in the March quarter of the financial year 2022-23 and that is why the unemployment rate was low during this period.

It can be said that the Indian economy is continuously improving. The latest figures of GDP, investment, consumption, and inflation are very positive. The acceleration in the growth rate of agriculture sector is very pleasant. With the improvement in the condition of agriculture, employment opportunities will also increase, and the economic condition of the villagers will also improve. This will also strengthen the concept of inclusive development of the country. However, the decline in the growth rate of the manufacturing sector cannot be taken as a good sign. This sector has contributed significantly in ensuring the development of the country, but the performance of this sector has not been good in the past months, which needs to be improved.

Satish Singh, Mumbai based Senior Journalist, Views are personal



# INTERNATIONAL

## Canadian envoy appalled over 'celebrating' Indira Gandhi's assassination in Brampton

The High Commissioner for Canada in India, Cameron MacKay on Thursday said he was appalled by reports of an event in Canada that celebrated the assassination of late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"There is no place in Canada for hate or for the glorification of violence. I categorically condemn these activities," he said in a tweet.

His reaction came after social media was abuzz with videos depicting a tableau depicting the assassination of the late Prime Minister by her Sikh bodyguards as part of a five-km-long parade by the Indian diaspora in Brampton on June 4.



listan flags with a poster that said "revenge". People in Punjab were

aghast over the development. They had said India should summon the Canadian High

Commissioner to strongly object to the inclusion of Indira Gandhi assassination tableau

in a parade.

Intelligence agencies here believed that it seemed to be linked with the 39th anniversary of the Indian Army's 'Operation Bluestar' in Amritsar that was carried out between June 1 and 8, 1984, claiming several lives and left the Golden Temple and its complex damaged.

'Operation Bluestar' was a military action ordered by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to flush out militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindrawale holed up in the Golden Temple complex.

Earlier, a Hindu temple was vandalised with 'anti-India' graffiti in Brampton province, leaving the Indian community in shock.

## Fake admission letters: Will evaluate each case, Trudeau says on Indian students facing deportation

Assuring the 700 Indian students who are facing deportation from Canada over fake admission letters, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said they will evaluate each case and the victims of fraud will have an opportunity to demonstrate their situation and present evidence to support their case.

The remarks came as hundreds of Indian students, mostly from Punjab, have been taking on to the streets in Canada saying they were cheated by their immigration consultation agency in India that provided them fake documents, of which they were unaware of. "We are deeply aware of cases of international students facing removal orders over fraudulent college acceptance letters. To be clear, our focus is on identifying the culprits not penalising the victims," Trudeau said during a parliamentary debate on Wednesday.

"Victims of fraud will have an opportunity to demonstrate their situation and present evidence to support their case," the Prime Minister said, while responding to Sikh-origin NDP leader Jagmeet Singh's concerns on the state of defrauded students, who are set to be deported his month. "We recognise the immense contributions international students bring to our country, and we remain committed to supporting victims of fraud as we evaluate each case," Trudeau said.

Singh's NDP is reportedly preparing to introduce a unanimous consent motion in Parliament to cancel removal orders to support these students while also facilitating a pathway to permanent residency for them. It will also



assist students who could face deportation due to bogus enrollment offers. "So my question is... will the Prime Minister stay the deportation of all these students that are impacted and provide a pathway to permanent residency for these students?" Singh asked Trudeau, presenting the case of victims. According to the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA), more than 700 Indian students are reportedly facing deportation after finding that their educational institution's admission offer letters were fake. Most of these students had come to the country to study in 2018 and 2019.

The fraud was discovered when the students applied for permanent residency in Canada. Brijesh Mishra, a Jalandhar-based agent, was responsible for providing fake admission letters, charging students thousands of dollars. He charged more than Rs 16 lakh per student in addition to admission fees claiming to get them to prestigious colleges. Meanwhile, students have been continuing with their sit-ins since May 29 at Airport Road of Mississauga, outside the CBSA's head office, holding banners saying, 'Unite against deportation', 'Stop deportation' and 'We want justice'.

## PM Modi can become first Indian PM to address US Congress twice

US Congress leaders have invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address a joint meeting of lawmakers during his upcoming state visit in June, setting him up to become the first Indian leader to in this rare honor Washington D.C. affords to foreign leaders.

There is however, no word yet from New Delhi if the Prime Minister has accepted the invitation.

"During your address, you will have the opportunity to share your vision for India's future and speak to the global challenges our countries both face," House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries jointly wrote in a letter to Modi on Friday.

This is a bipartisan invitation that underscores the bipartisan support enjoyed by US ties with India, transcending the parties in power on both sides or the occupants of 7 Race Course and the White House.

Prime Minister Modi is coming to the US for his first state visit on June 22 at the invitation of President Joe Biden, with a state dinner, which is being accorded to an Indian leader after 14 years. Then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was the last, hosted by former President Barack Obama in 2009.

But Modi will have the singular honor for an Indian Prime Minister to address the US Congress twice. His first was in 2016, and that speech is remembered for a formulation that he had used to describe the arduous journey taken by the bilateral relationship: it had "overcome the hesitations of history".

In 2016, Modi became the sixth Indian Prime Minister to address Congress, jointly or separately: Jawaharlal Nehru was the first, addressing the House and Senate separately in 1949. Rajiv Gandhi became the second in 1985. P.V. Narasimha Rao became the third in 1994. Atal Bihari Vajpayee the fourth in 2000 and Manmohan Singh the fifth in 2005. Modi could now become both the sixth and seventh Indian Prime Minister to speak to Congress, and the first to do so twice.

## Modi instrumental in fulfilling demands of Sikhs, says Sikh American leader



WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been instrumental in fulfilling the demands and wishes of the Sikh community from the US, an influential Sikh American leader has said. Jassee Singh, Chairman of the 'Sikhs of America' organisation founded to raise awareness about the community, said the official state visit of Modi to the US later this month is a "historic moment" for India. Prime Minister Modi will embark on his first state visit to the US at the invitation of President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden this month. The US president and the First Lady will also host Modi at a state dinner on June 22.

## U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts Annual India Ideas Summit from June 12 to 13



WASHINGTON, DC: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Chamber will host its annual India Ideas Summit, the premier convention of government and industry across the U.S.-India corridor. This year's India Ideas Summit comes on the periphery of Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States, and will be focused on the themes, "Trust, Resilience, and Growth," with remarks from U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. Chamber President and CEO Suzanne Clark, Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Ambassador of the India to the United States, and more. Due to the Chamber's media partnership with CNBC-TV18, the 2023 India Ideas Summit is not open to live television coverage from other media outlets. Other forms of coverage, or using footage after the event, is permissible.

## Looking forward to host PM Modi on June 22, says US

The US administration has said that it is looking forward to host Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 22.

During a press briefing on Monday when asked about Modi's upcoming official state visit, the State Department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said: "We are very much looking forward to hosting Prime Minister Modi for the state visit later this month. Our partnership with India is one of our most consequential relations and we are looking forward to deepening our collaboration on a number of issues."

"We are also looking forward to deepening our economic ties



and trade issues."

Modi's visit is on an invitation by US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will attend at a state dinner at the White House

which is being accorded to an Indian leader after 14 years.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was the last, hosted by then US President Barack Obama in 2009.

The US Congress has also

## BSF seized drone and drugs at Indo-Pak Border

JAGMOHAN SINGH  
Amritsar

Border Security Force have seized a drone at indo-Pak border in a damaged condition.

In a Statement issued here today, official said that on 07th June at about 0910 PM, depth deployed troops of BSF heard a mild buzzing sound of a suspected drone near Village - Bhaini Rajputana, District - Amritsar.

As per the laid down drill, BSF troops immediately reacted to intercept the drone, he said. Meanwhile, the depth deployed Police naka party also joined the BSF party, and a joint search was launched in the area. During the search, a drone in broken condition was recovered from the farming field adjacent to Rajatal - Bharopal - Daoke Tri - junction, on the outskirts of Village - Bhaini Rajputana, District - Amritsar. The recovered drone is a Quadcopter of model DJI Matrice 300RTK series.

However, in another operation BSF seized a consignment of drugs in the bordering district of the Tarn Taran. BSF official stated that on 07th June, at about 0905 PM, BSF troops deployed at the border heard the buzzing sound of a drone coming from Pakistan to India side near the bordering village -



Wan, District - Tarn Taran. As per drill, the troops immediately reacted to intercept the drone and the depth deployed parties were also alerted.

Further, at about 0910 PM, BSF motorcycle patrol observed a bike movement, with Headlights - off, coming from village - Wan side and signalled the rider to stop. However, the bike rider accelerated the bike in order to escape towards the village - Mari Kamboke. BSF patrol party chased the bike and found the abandoned bike at village - Mari Kamboke, while the miscreants fled away. Further the whole village was cordoned and a joint search by BSF & Police was carried-out, during search a packet tightly wrapped with yellow adhesive tape and attached with an Iron ring, meant to be carried by a drone, was recovered from an open area between two houses.

The Gross weight of the recovered consignment of suspected narcotics is 2.5 Kgs. Seized items have been handed over to the Police for further investigation.

## G20 Meet in Goa despite Cyclone coastline alert

DOMINICK RODRIGUES  
Panjim

The third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting (IFA WG) under the Indian Presidency concluded in Goa on June 7, 2023 with the two-day event witnessing participation of around 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries and various international organisations, including multilateral development banks (MDBs).

The meeting was jointly steered by the Ministry of Finance, and the Reserve Bank of India along with France and Korea - the co-chairs of the IFA WG.

The Meeting witnessed detailed deliberations on key priority areas of the IFA WG, including strengthening MDBs to address shared global challenges of the 21st century, managing global debt vulnerabilities, strengthening the Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN), following up on the IMF's general SDR allocation, strengthening financial resilience through sustainable capital flows, and assessing the macro-financial implications of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).

The Members highlighted the need for MDBs to strengthen and evolve to address trans-boundary challenges. There was a shared understanding among members on the urgency to address debt vulner-



abilities and find pragmatic solutions to strengthen coordinated policy action to address the worsening debt situation.

Members also discussed how climate change-related policies can impact capital flows and the macro-financial impact of the widespread adoption of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) on the international monetary system. A seminar on "Towards Orderly Green Transition - Investment Requirements and Managing Risks to Capital Flows" was also held on June 6 on the sidelines of the G20 Meeting, and facilitated enriching panel discussions on the current issues linked to risks associated with capital flows from climate transition policies.

Discussions from the Meeting will help in finalizing the key deliverables of the IFA WG that will be submitted to the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) for endorsement during their Third Meeting scheduled to be held on 17-18 July 2023 in Gandhinagar.

The G20 delegates also experienced the cultural richness and diversity of India with flavours of Goan culture and culinary hospitality. An excursion was organized for the delegates to the UNESCO heritage monuments of Old Goa, where they visited the Basilica of Bom Jesus and the Museum of Christian Art.

A tour was arranged to Fountainhas and Sao Tome wards of Panjim's Latin Quar-

ters. A Yoga session was also organized on the sidelines of the Meeting.

Meanwhile, a cyclone named "Biparjoo" is threatening to impact India's west coastline that includes Goa, besides Maharashtra, Gujarat and south India.

The cyclonic storm is likely to delay the onset of the monsoon, which usually reaches Kerala by June 1 before moving on towards Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.

Though unlikely to cause any damage like super cyclone Nisarga did in 2020, Biparjoo is expected to raise squally winds upto 60kmph on the coastline of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra between June 8 to 11, according to the weather bureau.

## The Senate Bill allows Sikhs to ride without bike helmets in California

Senators in California voted in favour of a bill that exempts Sikhs from wearing a safety helmet when riding a motorcycle.

The Senate Bill 847, authored by Senator Brian Dahle cleared the state senate this week with a 21-8 vote margin, and will now move to the Assembly.

"Freedom of religion is a core foundation of this country. We, as Americans, have the right to freely express our religion and I believe that right should equally extend to everyone. Any law that limits the ability to express one's religion, goes against what this country is all about," Dahle said in a statement after presenting the bill on the senate floor.

"Exempting those who wear turbans or patkas from wearing helmets is a simple way to ensure that everyone's religious freedoms are protected," he added.



According to 2021 American Community Survey estimates, 211,000 Sikhs live in California, which is nearly half of all Sikhs living in the US.

The State Senate was told that as of now, no helmet exists in the market that will accommodate a turban or a patka, but according to members of the Sikh community, a turban is a good enough protection.

Currently, 18 states and Washington D.C. have a universal helmet law for all riders. 29 states require helmets for specified riders, generally riders under a certain age (usually 18 or 21).

## Pakistan repatriated 200 Indian fishermen

JAGMOHAN SINGH  
Amritsar

Pakistan Government released as many as 200 Indian fishermen who crossed over to India, were handed over to BSF at the Joint Check (JCP) Post at Attari/Wagah border.

Confirming the repatriation of Indian fishermen, official at Attari border said that all the prisoners crossed over to India on June 3 at 1.00 a.m. through the land transit route of Attari/Wagah border on the basis of 'Emergency Travel Certificate' issued by the Indian High Commission based at Islamabad the national capital of Pakistan.

The Indian fishermen were arrested when their boats slipped to Pakistan through the territorial waters in an area of the Arabian Sea where they were caught by the Pakistani coast guards under illegal fishing while violating its territorial



waters. In the Arabian Sea the borders of both the nations are apparently unclear.

Immediately after the repatriation, the medical examination of all prisoners was conducted by the team of Indian doctors. The moment, group of Indian fishermen crossed over to India, they humbly bowed down their forehead and kissed Indian soil with passion.

Fishermen are frequently arrested along with their boats by both India and Pakistan as the

maritime border in the Arabian Sea is poorly defined, as many fishing boats lack the technology needed to ascertain their precise location.

Released fishermen said it was very difficult to identify the territorial water during fishing in the Arabian Sea, since the colour of water in India and Pakistan was the same which always put the Indian fishermen in deep trap when they reached Pakistan and face arrest for illegal fishing.

## Rishi Sunak, Joe Biden unveil new economic partnership

WASHINGTON: Visiting UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and US President Joe Biden have unveiled a new economic partnership called the "Atlantic Declaration" designed to strengthen co-operation between the two nations.

This was Sunak's first visit to the Oval Office since assuming office in October 2022. The partnership will also reduce vulnerabilities across supply chains and "keep Russia out of global civil nuclear power market", reports the BBC. It also covers areas such as artificial intelligence, information sharing in crises, 5G, 6G, and civil nuclear power. Addressing a press conference on Thursday after their meeting at the White House, the President said: "There is no issue of global importance, none, that our nations are not leading together and where we're not sharing our common values to make things better."

Biden also thanked the British Prime Minister for his part-

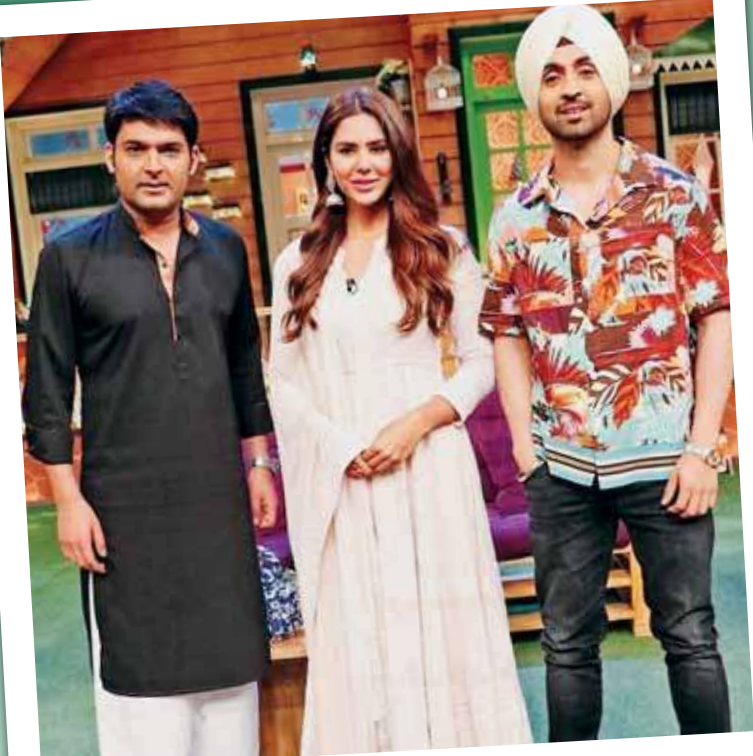


nership on Ukraine, and hailed the relationship between their countries. "You know Prime Minister Churchill and Roosevelt met here a little over 70 years ago and they asserted that the strength of the partnership between Great Britain and the United States was strength of the free world. I still think there's truth to that assertion," he added. According to the White House, Ukraine would be "top of mind" during the Biden-Sunak meeting.

In his news conference, Biden

further said he was confident that Congress would continue providing support for Ukraine, despite a divide among Republicans, CNN reported. "The fact of the matter is that I believe we'll have the funding necessary to support Ukraine as long as it takes... I believe that we're going to get that support, it will be real." The US and UK have been the leading contributors of military aid to Ukraine, and are coordinating on providing F-16 fighter jets to reinforce long-term deterrence against Russia.





**DILJIT** has a hilarious response to reports of being 'touchy' with Taylor Swift



Popular Punjabi-singer Diljit Dosanjh had a hilarious reaction to a news report claiming he got "touchy" with American singer Taylor Swift at a restaurant in Vancouver. In a now deleted tweet, Diljit joked about the news report and said that there's "something called privacy."

Diljit was replying to a news report by a Canadian outlet, which had the headline: "BREAKING: Vancouver patrons were in for a surprise when they saw two of their favourite stars dining together at Cactus Club Cafe Coal Harbor on Monday night. Multiple sources confirmed that Taylor Swift and Diljit Dosanjh were laughing and being 'touch touch'."

To which, Diljit re-tweeted with the caption: "Yaar privacy naam di v koi cheez hundi aa."

The tweet by the singer-actor has now been deleted. However, screenshots of his tweet are doing the rounds.

**SGPC irked over Sunny Deol's**

alleged obscene act for Gadhar -2 movie scene in the Gurdwara Premises



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Shriomani Gurdwara Pharbandhak Committee (SGPC) irked over alleged scene of Bollywood movie Gadhar -2 wherein actor turned politician MP from

Gurdaspur Sunny Deol giving a romantic scene in the Gurdwara premises.

Talking to media, SGPC General Secretary, Gurcharan Singh Grewal objected to the alleged obscene act of Sunny Deol which was shot in the Gurdwara

premises. He said that Deol was seen with the female actress in the Sikh shrine and flowers were being showered on them.

Adding further Grewal said that at the time of shooting a Gatka Team (members of Sikh martial

THE GATKA PERFORMANCE IN THE SHOOTING WAS ALSO MANAGED BY THE MOVIE PRODUCER AND SUNNY DEOL BEING A SIKH SHOULD HAVE CARE PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE SIKH RELIGIOUS TENETS BUT HE DIDN'T BOTH. ”

arts) were also giving their performance while giving extra colour to the movie which was also highly objectionable inside the Gurdwara premises. He said that The Gatka performance in the shooting was also managed by the movie producer and Sunny Deol being a Sikh should have care particularly about the Sikh religious tenets but he didn't bother.

Grewal said that SGPC have objection over the role of Sunny Deol with a female actress in the Gurdwara besides the act of Sikh marshal team which had also extended shock to Sikh community while giving their performance inside the Gurdwara to record a scene in the movie.

**DILJIT DOSANJH INSPIRED Sonam Bajwa** to be more active on social media

Popular Punjabi actress Sonam Bajwa spoke about how actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh inspired her to be more active on social media.

Sonom will be seen on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'. She will be joined by the cast of her Punjabi comedy film 'Carry On Jatta 3' which includes Gippy Grewal, Binnu Dhillon, Kavita

to which Sonam replied: "No, I had an account, but I did not post much. Diljit Paaji advised me to use this platform and explained its numerous benefits. He told me that we could handle our own public relations through this app. He motivated me a lot to be active on Instagram as he is so good with his social media presence."

He asked: "I heard that you weren't on Instagram before, but you joined after Diljit Paaji's (Diljit Dosanjh) suggested it. What made you do it?"

**PM Modi condoles death of veteran actor Sulochana**



Prime minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of veteran Hindi and Marathi film actor Sulochana who passed away on June 4. "The passing of Sulochana Ji leaves a big void in the world of Indian cinema. Her unforgettable performances have enriched our culture and have endeared her to people across generations. Her cinematic legacy will live on through her works. Condolences to her family. Om Shanti," Modi tweeted. Considered to be one of the most recognisable onscreen mother along with her contemporary Nirupa Roy, Sulochana

played the role of a mother to several top lead actors across generations from Dev Anand to Jackie Shroff. Sulochana, who featured in more than 250 Hindi and 50 Marathi films, passed away on Sunday due to age related issues. She was 94.

She began her career with Marathi films in the early 1940s and soon moved to Hindi films, where she essayed several mother roles in movies like Shammi Kapoor's "Dil Dekhe Dekho", Dilip Kumar's "Aadmi" and Dev Anand's "Johnny Mera Naam" among several others.

**Alia Bhatt to portray Sita alongside Ranbir Kapoor as Ram in 'Ramayana'**

MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt, who essayed the role of Sita in the blockbuster film 'RRR', is set to portray Goddess Sita in Nitesh Tiwari's much-anticipated film, 'Ramayana'.

As per media reports, Alia has been confirmed to play Sita opposite real-life husband Ranbir Kapoor, who will be seen as Lord Ram. For those wondering if Nitesh Tiwari's film was shelved, there's good news.

The film is totally on track. Alia was also spotted outside Nitesh Tiwari's office recently. Nitesh, who is known for films like 'Dangal', 'Chhichhore', is currently busy with



his next film starring Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor-starrer 'Bawaal' which is based on World War.

This will be the second collaboration between Alia and Ranbir after their last film 'Brahmastra'.

**Leonardo Di Caprio and Kate Winslet-starrer 'Titanic' has a whopping 1,560 copies**



A megafan of the iconic Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet-starrer 'Titanic' has a whopping 1,560 copies of the film on Video Home System (VHS). In a conversation with Variety, the fan introduced Jack Dawson, i.e. a large dummy with head of Leonardo DiCaprio's character of the same name from the 1997 blockbuster 'Titanic.' "We got Jack Dawson," he said, reports 'Variety'.

"And 'Titanic,' and Captain Smith. You know what's going on." JD, a video editor who lives in Florida, is best known for his energetic love of the movie 'Titanic' on VHS, and his collection is approaching 1,600 copies of the two-tape set. Although he's picked up about 300 himself, mostly from thrift stores and yard sales, the rest come from enthusiastic fans mailing him copies over the last year, as he's documented his growing collection on TikTok to over 1,08,000 followers, reports 'Variety'.

**Pakistan is in or out of the Asia Cup!**

SUNIL THAPLIYAL New Delhi



Pakistan may pull out of the 2023 Asia Cup after Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan rejected the hybrid model for the tournament that was offered after the Indian cricket team refused to travel to Pakistan. According to sources, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have agreed to the BCCI's demand that the 2023 Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in September, be held outside Pakistan. The neighbouring countries felt that holding the event at two different venues would not be logistically and financially feasible. PCB president Najam Sethi has threatened that Pakistan will boycott the 2023 World Cup in India if Indians refuse to participate in the Asia Cup in Pakistan. It is possible that this tournament will now be held in Sri Lanka.

According to the sources, Pakistan has only two options. Host the tournament at a neutral venue or withdraw from the competition. If Pakistan does not participate, the tournament will continue to be known as the Asia Cup, but the broadcaster will renegotiate the contract in Pakistan's absence, the sources said.

Sources said the broadcasters are not ready to pay the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) the same amount as before, so the event might be cancelled this year due to Pakistan's withdrawal. The BCCI is ready to host 4-5 nations during the Asia Cup in India if the Asia Cup is postponed. Even after the BCCI's refusal to visit Pakistan for the 2023 Asia Cup, Pakistani politicians, former cricketers and media figures refuse to address the core issue of terrorism and accuse India of mixing politics and sports. While the Indian media, politicians and BCCI officials remain steadfast to avoid any unwanted controversy, the Pakistanis have resisted and shown their treacherous behaviour.

The ICC is highly dependent on the funds generated by the BCCI. The PCB's decision to withdraw from the Asia Cup and the World Cup only serves to isolate Pakistan from world cricket.

**India hopes to win its second Hero Intercontinental Cup**

SUNIL THAPLIYAL New Delhi



The Hero Intercontinental Cup, involving four teams, will be held in Bhubaneswar from June 9 to 18. This is the third edition of the football competition. The first edition, held in Mumbai in 2018, was won by India, while the next edition, to be held in Ahmedabad in 2019, was won by North Korea. Besides India, Lebanon, Mongolia and Vanuatu, among others, are participating in the tournament. The Indian men's national team had never played against Mongolia and Vanuatu. The hosts

have won six matches against Lebanon.

On 31 May, the captain of the Indian football team, Sunil Chhetri, handed over the first ticket to the Chief Minister in the presence of the General Secretary of the Indian Football

Federation (AIFF), Dr Shaji Prabhakaran, and the coach of the Indian football team, Igor Stimek. Earlier this year, Odisha successfully hosted the Men's Hockey World Cup at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "Football is very popular in Odisha. It is yet another honour for us to host this great event which is sure to generate interest among many football fans in the state and across India. We wish the teams the best of luck and call upon the fans to come out in large numbers to witness some first class football."



A view of the shuttered market during Amritsar Bandh Called by Dal Khalsa on the 39th anniversary of Operation Blue Star, in Amritsar on Tuesday. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

**Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Youth – A Threat to life**

KAVITA SHARMA

The sudden death of a renowned Cardiologist Dr Gaurav Gandhi has shock the nation. A doctor who has an expertise in performing thousands of heart surgeries dies of massive heart attack. The news of his untimely demise has not only shocked the people of Jamnagar in Gujarat but the entire country.

with no medical history suffer cardiac arrest.

**What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?** Sudden cardiac arrest is a life threatening condition where your heart comes to a standstill. Your heart stops pumping blood due to which the body organs are at risk of death. They must constantly receive oxygen. Emergency treatment includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation. CPR keeps enough oxygen in your lungs and gets it to your brain until an electric shock restores a normal heart.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) around 2000 young, seemingly healthy people under the age of 25 die of sudden cardiac arrest every year in United States. These deaths leave huge impact on lives of their families. It is important to identify risk factors that can help prevent these tragedies. Sudden cardiac arrest mostly occurs in young adults in their mid 30-40s. It affects more in males as compared to females. Although sudden cardiac arrest are rare in children.



**What happens during cardiac arrest?**

When a person suffers sudden cardiac arrests, the body stops receiving oxygen. When immediate help is not given it becomes fatal. Some people experience chest pain at that time but if you lose consciousness you don't feel pain. The sudden cardiac arrest has many risk factors especially coronary heart disease. Certain genetic causes of heart diseases such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy also increase the risk of sudden cardiac death.

**Symptoms** In most of the cases sudden

cardiac arrest happens without any prior symptoms. Sometimes it may include fainting, chest pain, dizziness, shortness of breath, feeling sick at stomach and throwing up. Abnormal heart rhythms called arrhythmias cause sudden cardiac arrests. The most common life threatening arrhythmias is ventricular fibrillation. When this happens your heart stops pumping blood and if immediate treatment is not provided a person can die.

Other sudden cardiac arrest deaths causes include cardiomyopathy. Alcohol use disorder, Obesity and genetic disorders

of your heart muscle. In young adults most sudden cardiac arrest occurs while playing sports, in gyms, while running and jogging. So it is important for everyone to maintain a healthy lifestyle and follow regular health checkups. Avoid smoking and alcohol. Teach your family the importance of CPR. The young Athletes should also have a heart screening every year. This should include their personal and family history with a physical examination.

**Recovery after sudden cardiac arrest**

Surviving cardiac arrest is the start of a long recovery for many. You can have a brain damage if your brain was without oxygen for long hours. Also you may have some mental health problems like stress and anxiety. Recovery is a slow process but rehabilitation program is available. It is a stressful experience so people take time to recover. Always stay in touch with your Doctor, you may feel safe if your family is trained in CPR so that they can help you if you have another such cardiac arrest.

**A complete KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

**THE FINANCIAL WORLD**  
Read & Lead

**THE FINANCIAL WORLD**  
A weekly Newspaper from Chandigarh & Delhi

For more stories & E-paper log on  
[www.thefinancialworld.com](http://www.thefinancialworld.com)

SUBSCRIBE: YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
**FW News**

FOLLOW US  
@thefinancialworld @FWMedia\_Tweets fw.thefinancialworld