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#### REGION



**PUNJAB CM BHAGWANT MANN CONDEMNS BEASTLY ACT OF** SEXUAL ASSAULT ON WOMEN **IN MANIPUR** 



**UNION HEALTH MINISTER INAUGURATES FIRST-EVER GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORS SUMMIT 2023** 

#### POTPOURRI



**PRIYANKA CHOPRA AND HER HUSBAND JUST CELEBRATED HER 41ST BIRTHDAY** 

# **Punjab Floods : 26672 people evacuated to safe places**



CHANDIGARH: As part of its commitment to provide succour to the beleaguered people in accordance with the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the State Government machinery has plunged headlong to mitigate the situation created by floods in the state.

To speed up the relief operations in the state and as per the directions of CM Bhagwant Mann, 26672 persons have been evacuated and taken to safe places. A spokesperson in- Gurdaspur, Mansa, Bathinda formed that 1441 villages have and Pathankot. been affected by the flood till According to the report re-

ceived by the revenue depart-8 am on July 20. A total of 155 ment from different districts, relief camps are running in the state in which 4424 people are a total of 38 people have lost their lives due to floods in the staying. Currently, 19 districts state. As per the information are affected by floods includreceived from the animal husing Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, bandry department, a total of Fatehgarh Sahib, Faridkot, Hoshiarpur, Rupnagar, Ka- 2554 animals treated in the purthala, Patiala, Moga, Ludstate. Rescue teams of the dehiana, SAS Nagar, Jalandhar, partment are working round Sangrur, SBS Nagar, Fazilka, the clock to provide treatment,

supply feed, fodder and silage to the needy animals. Special flood relief camps are also being organised in affected districts. On the other hand, the teams of the health department are working in the flood-affected areas with full attention. According to the spokesperson, 434 Rapid Response Teams (RRT) have been working at flood affected areas. The health

department has set up 247 med-

ical camps in the affected areas.

## **Regularly monitoring** flood situation says

Punjab CM CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the government is committed to bailing out people in flood-affected districts and said he's regularly monitoring the situation from Pathankot to Sardulgarh. The Chief Minister said the government is duty bound to ensure relief to the people and no stone will be left unturned for this noble cause. Mann said the ministers, higher officials and other administrative machinery of the government is already in the field to help the people. He said massive relief and rescue operations are already going on in the flood-torn districts to ensure that people do not

## Chinese mobile companies evade Rs 9,000 crore in tax in India, Rs 1,629 cr recovered

been detected between 2018-

19 and 2022-23. The government has recovered Rs 1,629.87 crore from the companies during the period.

According to the data, Oppo Mobile India Pvt Ltd has been found evading Rs 5.086 crore in taxes which includes Rs 4,403 crore in customs duty and Rs 683 crore in the form of GST.

Vivo has evaded taxes worth Rs 2,923.25 crore comprising Rs 2,875 crore in customs duty and Rs 48.25 crore in GST, according to the written reply by Chandrasekhar.

Data shared by the Min-Tax evasion of Rs 851.14 ister of State for Electroncrore has been detected in ics and IT Rajeev Chanthe case of Xiaomi Technoldrasekhar in Rajya Sabha ogy India Pvt Ltd comprising showed tax evasion of around Rs 682.51 crore in customs Rs 9,000 crore, comprising duty and Rs 168.63 crore customs duty and GST, has in GST.



**NEW DELHI** : Expressing his

pain and anger over the Manipur

Manipur incident can

never be forgiven,

says PM Modi

incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the gruesome incident with the women in the Northeastern state is very shameful, and can never be forgiven. "Today, my heart is filled with pain and anger. The incident of Manipur which has surfaced, for any civilised society, this is a very shameful incident. Modi told reporters in the Parliament House Complex ahead of the beginning of the Monsoon Session, referring to the horrific video which went viral on social media, of two women being paraded naked in Manipur. He said, This incident is an insult for the entire nation as it has shamed 140 crore countrymen. The incident which happened with the women in Manipur can never be forgiven. I assure the countrymen that no one will be spared." The Prime Minister also urged the Chief Ministers of the states to further strengthen the law and order situation in their respective states. "I urge all the CMs to further strengthen law and order situation in their respective states, especially for the protection of mother and daughter, and take action against the perpetrators, ' he said.

#### Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha adjourned amid opposition uproar over Manipur Crisis SGPC President object to parole to Gurmeet Ram Rahim

#### **FW CORRESPONDENT** New Delhi

Massive ruckus ensued in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha after the opposition parties demanded Prime Minister Naren- and told Speaker Om Birla that dra Modi to speak on pressing issues surrounding Manipur, which disrupted the proceedings of the house for a second consecutive day. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in ment is ready for a discussion on

the Manipur Violence. As soon as the House met, the members of the opposition parties were on their feet. The members, including those from the Congress, DMK and Left, raised slogans "Manipur is bleeding". The speaker told opposition

members that sloganeering will not bring any solution to the problem but only dialogues and discussions can. "You don't want want the Question Hour to take

place. All other members want the House to run. This is not good. Solutions can be found only through discussions," he said. As the opposition did not heed to his requests, Birla asked the Defence Minister to speak. Singh, who is also the deputy leader of the House, said the government is ready for a dis-

cussion on Manipur incidents. He said the Manipur situation should be taken seriously the Lok Sabha that the govern- the House to function, you don't and the seriousness of the government was reflected when the

Prime Minister himself said that the entire country was feeling ashamed over the Manipur incidents. Singh said: "We want that there should be discussions on Manipur incidents. I have said this in an all-party meeting and I want to reiterate here that there should be discussions on Manipur incidents".

"But I can see that the opposition is unnecessarily creating problems so that no discussions take place on the Manipur situation. I want

to say that the opposition is not serious for a discussion on Manipur as it should have been. We want a discussion on the Manipur situation and there should be a discussion. Opposition should take it seriously," he said.

face any sort of problem.

through discussions but you just don't want any discussion," Birla said

Sriharikota

The Chandrayaan-3 Launch was proclaimed a success in 16 minutes. Now all we have to wait 40 days to see if India's third Moon mission will be a After perfect Launc



carrying out manoeuvres to increase its farthest point from Earth (apogee). The first one will be at 12.05 on Saturday." A scientist said. Once the apogee reaches 1 lakh km, the scientists will perform a "slingshot" to send it on a trajectory to the Ioon ( tanslunar

Five and half days later, the

craft will enter the critical lu-

nar orbit insertion stage. This

will be carried out by firing

onboard propulsion systems

to get the spacecraft into the Moon's orbit. " The space-

craft's altitude will be reduced

to a 100km circular orbit and

the landing module will get

separated on August 17", ISRO

Chandravaan-3 seeks to

study moonquakes, compo-

sition of the lunar surface

and atmosphere, understand

Earth's life-like elements/

signatures, how heat passes

through the lunar surface and

the plasma environment on

Chairman Somanath said

# It's NDA v/s I.N.D.I.A for coming LS Election 2024

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

This may be setting the tone for coming years' Lok Sabha Campaign, 26 opposition parties formed a coalition in the name of velopment Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) -to unitedly take on the NDA let by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **Trinamool Congress Chief** Mamata Banerje asked "NDA can you challenge INDIA?" during the joint press conference held at the end of the twoday opposition unity meeting here in bengaluru. Pitching for opposition unity and making clear a willingness to cede power in its objective to stitch a formidable nationwide alliance to fight BJP in next year's general elections, Congress made it clear that it is not keen on the prime minister's post. Congress president Mallikar- in parliament. It's also seen as juna Kharge, In his inaugural





# democracy, Constitution: Kharge July 31, enters Moon orbit Aug 5 BENGALURU: ARUN KUMAR RAO

The Congress is not interested in power or the post of prime minister, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Tuesday as

#### As the opposition did not relent, the speaker adjourned the proceedings till 12 noon. "A solution can be found only

charges.

**JAGMOHAN SINGH** Amritsar The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh

**NEW DELHI:** Chinese

smartphone makers, in-

cluding Oppo Mobile, Vivo

India and Xiaomi Technol-

ogy, have been found evading

taxes worth Rs 9,000 crore

in India, Parliament was

informed on Friday.

Dhami has objected to another 30-day parole given to Dera Sirsa chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim, who is serving a sentence in jail under rape and murder

He said in a statement that this dual policy of the governments is creating an

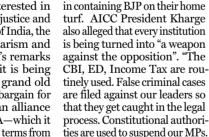
environment of mistrust among the Sikhs. He said that if Gurmeet Ram Rahim, who is accused of the crimes like

murders and rapes, can be given repeated paroles, then why the government is not listening to the voice raised by the Sikh community for the release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh prisoners).

Chandrayaan-3 to leave earth orbit



address to leaders of the newly situation where regional chiefchristened I.N.D.I.A, said that tains have proved to be resilient his party is not interested in power but in social justice and protecting the idea of India, the Constitution, secularism and democracy.Kharge's remarks are significant as it is being interpreted as the grand old party's move to no bargain for the leadership of an alliance unlike with the UPA—which it led for two successive terms from 2004 given its dwindled strength MLAs are being blackmailed



or bribed to move to BJP and pragmatic nod to the ground topple government'

leaders of 26 On position parties got together here to discuss strategy

ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. In his inaugural address on the second day of the key Opposition meeting, he said, "Our intention in this meeting is not to gain power for ourselves. It is to protect our Constitution, democracy, secularism and social justice"

He admitted to differences among opposition parties at the state level but noted that these are not ideological.

"These differences are not so big that we cannot put them behind us for the sake of the common man and middle class which is suffering due

to inflation, for the sake of our vouth who are suffering from unemployment, for the sake of the poor, Dalits, adivasis and

the minorities whose rights are being crushed silently behind the scenes," the Congress chief said.

He said 26 parties are here together, and in government in 11 states today. "The BJP did not get 303 seats by itself. It used the votes of its allies and came to power and then discarded them. Today, the BJP president and its leaders are running from state to state to patch up with their old allies," he said.

Chandrayaan-3 starts 40-days trek. To leave Earth orbit july 31, Enter Moon Orbit August 5. Mission life is 1 lunar day (14 Earth days). Carries Lander and a rover with six payloads and propulsion module with one payload.

ISRO's LVM-3 lifted off from Sriharikota at a 2.35pm amidst roars and applause around 10,000 spectators at the spaceport—and millions who eagerly watched the live stream. At 3.01pm, the "mooncraft" was in the precise transfer orbit of 36,000km x 170km.

PM Narendra modi tweeted from France "It soars high, around Earth 10 times till elevating the dreams and am-



bitions of every Indian. This momentous achievement is atestament to our scientists relentless dedication. I salute their spirit and ingenuity".

Chandrayaan-3 project director P Veeramuthavel confirmed that all the health parameters of the spacecraft are normal. "The journey has been begun," and " Now for the critical soft-landing ", he said.

Candrayaan-3 will go July 31, each time scienties

dium Industries M.B. Patil and

Minister for Women and Child

#### Karnataka Deputy CM & KPCC President, DK Shivakumar India's richest MLA : ADR report **ARUN KUMAR RAO**

Bengaluru

the Moon.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President, DK Shivakumar is the richest MLA in the country with assets worth s 1,413

crore, According to the report from the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and

National Election Watch (NEW). In his 2023 affidavit, filed before the Election Commission, DK Shivakumar had disclosed that he has total of Rs 273 crore in immovable assets and Rs 1,140 crore in movable as-

sets and liabilities are Rs 265 crore. Karantaka MLAs dominate the list of richest MLAs in the country with 12 in the top 20. ADR report says that 14% of the Karnataka MLAs are billionaires (worth Rs 100 crore) the highest in the country, and the average assets of the legislatos is Rs 64.3 crore.

# Monsoon Session: Govt will bring 32 bills on the table of Parliament, UCC bill not listed

the government has prepared the agenda of the monsoon session in the Parliament Secretariat on Thursday, this year a total of 32 bills will be brought on the table of the Parliament, out of which 21 new bills are there

**MEENAKSHI BHATACHAYRYA** New Delhi

In Monsoon Session of the Parliament is going to be more stormy than the last several sessions. The government will bring a total of 32 bills including 21 new bills on the table of the Parliament. The most surprising thing is that there is no Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill in this list of bills. Now the question is, will the government not bring the Uniform Civil Code Bill in this session



even after so many talks and understanding the seriousness speeches? of the matter, the government

In this monsoon session the is also formulating a strategy. sexual harassment of women According to the news rewrestlers, the Delhi ordinance ceived from the sources, the to the violence in Manipur, the overnment has prepared opposition will keep the presthe agenda of the monsoon sure on the Narendra Modi session in the Parliament government at the Centre. Secretariat on Thursday, this Sources say that the oppovear a total of 32 bills will be sition is going to demand a brought on the table of the statement in the House from Parliament, out of which 21 the Prime Minister on the new bills are there. The Govviolence in Monsoon Session, ernment is more interested especially in Manipur, and to pass and making the Delhi

Ordinance to a Bill, Data Protection Bill, Birth and Death Registration (Amendment) Bill. It is being learned that the government side i.e. BJP is insisting on passing the Data Protection Bill and is making a strategy on how to get it passed.

However, there is no Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill in the list of bills what is Prepared by the Parliament Secretariat on Thursday. Recently, ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke openly about the Uniform Civil Code, speculations were rife that the government may bring this bill in the next session. If sources are to be believed, perhaps the government does not want to bring this bill in a hurry, rather the concerned circles believe that they want to give more time to finalise this particular bill. That's why the date for suggestions sought from common man on Uniform Civil Code has been extended till 28th July by Law Commission.

## Leaders from 26-political parties arrive in Bengaluru to attend Oppn meet



from 26 political parties arrived in Bengaluru on Monday afternoon to attend the opposition meeting in an attempt to outline strategy against the BJP for 2024 Lok Sabha.

The leaders include Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, and party leader Rahul Gandhi. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah received the Congress leadership at HAL airport.

Other prominent leaders who arrived at Bengaluru

BENGALURU: The leaders are West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akshilesh Yadav,

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K Stalin, Rashtriva Lok Dal President Javant Chaudhary, and former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar welcomed the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee at the Bengaluru airport while Akhilesh Yadav was received by Minister of Large and Me-

Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar at the HAL airport. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that this is the second meet in which

leaders of about 24 political parties are taking part. He said that all leaders of opposition will deliberate to-

lay and tomorrow with an objective of facing the next Lok Sabha elections. "BJP has destroyed the country's economy. After PM Modi came to power, inflation is at an all-time high. Farmers, Dalits and the poor are not able to live. Communalism is at its peak and people are forced to live under fear," the

Chief Minister said. On criticism of all parties uniting to defeat PM Modi, the Chief Minister said, "haven't we efficiently faced PM Modi in Karnataka? Wherever PM Modi has gone, the Congress party has won.

## **REGION**

# Punjab CM condemns beastly act of sexual assault on women in Manipur

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday expressed deep shock and anguish over the beastly act of sexual assault on two women in Manipur and pleaded for exemplary punishment to the perpetrators of this heinous crime.

In a statement issued on Jyly 20, the Chief Minister said that it is unfortunate that the hapless women became victims of this heinous crime against humanity. Bhagwant Mann said that this barbaric incident is a huge blot on the conscience of the nation adding that this incident needs to be condemned by one and all. He said that this is a dastardly and inhuman act due to which every countrymen is feeling ashamed today

ishment for the culprits, the Chief Minister said that such offenders do not deserve leniency and they should be dealt with as per the law of land by Batting for exemplary pun- meting out the severest of the

severe punishment to them so that it could act as a deterrent for others too. Bhagwant Mann said that the centre and state government should ensure that the accused are brought to book

at the earliest so that the justice can be dispensed to the victim's family, friends and their well wishers. Reiterating his stand to ensure modesty and dignity of women, he said that no stone should be left unturned for this noble cause

The Chief Minister said that the Prime Minister of the country should immediately intervene into the matter and ensure exemplary punishment to the culprits. He said that the situation in Manipur is going out of control and the Prime Minister should also focus on it. Bhagwant Mann unequivocally said that such insane and inhumane acts have no place in any civilized society and the entire country should unanimously condemn it in one voice.

# Following an order of Jathedar Akal Takht Sahib, SGPC appeals to PTC to continue Gurbani broadcast

JAGMOHAN SINGJH Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has appealed to the management of the GNext Media (PTC channel) to continue Gurbani broadcast from Sachkhand Sri Harmandar Sahib, until the SGPC's own satellite channel is established, in view of the sentiments of the Sikh community and the order given by Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib SGPC general secretary Gur-

charan Singh Grewal said in a statement that as the agreement with the PTC channel is expiring on July 23, 2023, the SGPC will start sewa (service) of Gurbani broadcast on its

#### YouTube/web channel from July 24, 2023, but on demand of the Sangat from across the world, the Jathedar of Akal Takht Sahib has ordered the SGPC to continue broadcasting service through a channel until it establishes its own. The SGPC honours this order of respected Jathedar and sentiments of the Sangat, following which; the PTC has been asked to continue Gurbani broadcast service, after consultation with

the SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami. Grewal said that besides establishing the web channel, the SGPC is making great efforts to establish its own satellite channel soon. He said that regarding the satellite channel, a letter has been written to the Union Minister of

Information and Broadcasting seeking an appointment with him to meet a delegation of SGPC so that the necessary process can be initiated. He said that the SGPC will

start the Gurbani broadcast from Amrit Vela (pious time in the early morning) on July 24 through its YouTube/web channel, regarding which the bhog (concluding ceremony) of Sri Akhand Path Sahib (uninterrupted recitation of Guru Granth Sahib) will be held on July 23, to take the blessings and permission from the Guru Sahib. He said invitations have been sent to Panthic organizations and prominent personalities, requesting them to attend this event.

#### 20000 suspected cancer patients attended at OPD in Atal Cancer Care Centre in a year at Ambala



SATISH HANDA Ambala

While talking to media persons here Haryana Health & Home Minister Anil Vij said that Haryana is first state in the country having government Cancer Care Centre inside the Civil Hospital Ambala Cantt known as ĥis dream project and now another project for setting up a hospital for the treatment of Tuberculosis (TB) patients has been approved at Ambala City where construction for the building would start shortly. It would be one of the biggest TB Hospitals in the state, he added. Dr Yash Pal of Atal Cancer Care Centre told media persons that the hospital is getting cancer patients not only from Haryana state but also from neighbouring states Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, U.P, Rajasthan, Delhi and Chandigarh also. He said, we have also treated two patients who arrived from Nepal and Mauritius.

Dr Yash Pal said that Atal Cancer Care Centre inside the civil hospital is first government hospital in the state for the treatment of cancer, which was inaugurated in May 2022 and in a short span of hardly 13 months attended 20000 suspected cancer patients at the OPD in which conducted 3000 cases of 'kemot-herapy,> nearly 600 cancer patients were treated with the help of radiation and conducted over 300 successful cases of surgery in this period. Dr Yash Pal said that cancer patients have to spend huge amounts of money for the treatment of cancer disease at a private hospital, whereas free treatment is being provided to cancer patients in this hospital.

According to Dr Pooja Sharma, an expert in treatment of breast cancer in women told that large number of female patients suffering from breast cancer have been treated in this hospital in pthe ast about a year with the help of (Mammography> treatment. She said that mostly females above age 50 suffer from breast cancer. but about three months ago they admitted female patients of Sharma advised that

early detection of cancer in the

<Mammography> process. She

advised, initially a female suf-

fering from breast cancer feels

a hard knot (lump) inside the

breast and in such cases should

contact a doctor immediately

## We will demand to resolve long pending issues of Sikh Panth & Punjab in NDA meeting: Dhindsa

CHANDIGARH: President of Shiromani Akali Dal (Sanyukt) and former Union Minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa said that in the scheduled meeting of NDA, he will strongly put a demand to resolve long pending issues of Sikh Panth

and Punjab. Dhindsa said that the Centre should resolve those issues related to Punjab and Panth for which the Shiromani Akali Dal has been struggling for a long time. He said that Senior Vice President of SAD (Sanyukt) Justice Nirmal Singh (retired) will also attend the meeting with him

He said that in this meeting his party's emphasis will be laid on highlighting the fact that the NDA while making the programme should at least pay emphasis on the well-being of the people of Punjab, promoting mutual brotherhood of the Hindu Sikh community and safeguarding cultural, social and political fabric.

"The demand regarding the release of Bandi Singhs who have completed their sentences in jails, removal of the names of immigrant Punjabis from the black list, holding early elections of SGPC, issue of Punjab capital Chandigarh, waving off the debts incurred by Punjab, ten, he said.



the opening of Wagah border for trade, will also be raised in the meeting said Sukhdev Singh

Dhindsa He further said that apart from these issues, demand will also be made regarding an additional economic package to compensate for the damage caused due to flooding in the

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa said that the fundamental motive of Shiromani Akali Dal (Sanyukt) is to solve the rightful issues of Panth and Punjab by putting aside personal interests. He said that in the country's freedom, Punjabi and especially the Sikhs have made an invaluable contribution, but the governments of the time did not appreciate the supreme sacrifices made by the Punjabis and the Sikhs.

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa said that these demands have been pending for several decades. The wounds given by the Congress government to the Sikhs and Punjab can never be forgot-

## Over 6 lakh acre area in 1385 Haryana villages worst Ruling govt took action against senior affected due to flood water, over 26 lost lives

affected areas due to polluted water Information reveals that a total 1,60,695 hectare area has been completely immersed in rain and river water damaging standing crops, 133 houses were collapsed and another 184 houses suffered severe damages, nearly 5000 cars has been sent to workshops damaged due to water. According to the government information, crops in 11,172 hectare area in seven Harvana districts on or near GT since crop sin nearly 500 acres Road belt have been completely were submerged in Sirsa district. washed away or destroyed due to water as on 20th July, 2023. However, water level in rivers has started receding in districts Among 13 district adversely Ambala, Kurukshetra, Karnal affected by overflowing water but started wreaking havoc in from rivers include Ambala, Sirsa and Fatehabad in western Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Ya-Haryana when in few hours 403 munanagar, Karnal, Kaithal, more villages of Haryana state Panipat, Sonipat, Faridabad, Palwal, Fatehabad and Sirsa discame under the grip of flood, of

area, besides nearly 200 trees also fell down. According to state govern-The water level of Ghaggar ment information, so far 1385 in Sirsa reached more than villages have come under the 48.000 cusecs while the capacgrip of flood. in which more ity is 30,000 cusecs, due to than 26 persons lost lives when this, the embankment broke drowned in overflowing water at four places in an area of 11 in rivers. Apart from this 16 kilometers and five villages cases of snake bite, 1247 cases were flooded up to four to of skin diseases, 4850 persons five feet water. as such crop found suffering from different in 5000 acres submerged in diseases visited civil hospitals water ,and seeing the rising and 703 health centres set up water the people of nearby broke the road at three places by the state government in flood villages started mig.

tricts caused damage to stand-

ing crops in 1.60.645 hectare

officers to boost anti-corruption drive in Haryana, says Khattar



#### SATISH HANDA

According to information, as many as 41 senior officers in Haryana state allegedly involved in corrupt practices are facing investigation by Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) in the state in order to have a neat and clean bureaucracy in the state. While talking to media persons at Ferozpur Jhirka in Mewat state Haryana Chief Minister said that during previous Congress government rule in the state crime, corruption, caste based politics was ruling in Haryana and the present ruling government had to work hard to wipe out the same and relieve people in the state from sufferings. He said that it is only due to the ruling government that people residing in rural areas are getting 24 hours electricity supply and by the end of this 24 hours supply of ele

name of the State Vigilance Bureau to Anti Corruption Bureau under the charge of a senior IPS officer which trapped into its net large number of employees working in government offices in the state allegedly involved in corruption which included 41 senior officers including 12 IAS officers of (them 4 have already been retired in recent past sometime), 2 IPS, 3 IFS, 20 HCS officers (of them 4 have been recently retired) and 4 HPS officers against whom investigation by Bureau is going on. The

Haryana had changed the

list of such senior officers found involved in corruption and investigation by ACB going on along with a long list of another government on ACB radar is available also with The Financial World, but will not be disclosed at year all 6200 villages in the this stage since charges have age between 27 and 28 suffering state will be electrified having already been framed against from breast cancer. Dr Pooja few of them and many cases.

SATISH HANDA With the entry of flood water due to rain and overflowing rivers as many as 1385 villages in the state have been adversely affected due to rain and overflow-

ing rivers Ghaggar, Yamuna, Tangri, Begna, Markanda and Saraswati played havoc in eight these 100 villages were cut off districts on or near G.T. Road belt along with Fatehabad, Sirsa from the district headquarters and Palwal districts in the state due to washed away and damdue to embarnment bleached aged roads. at various places ,identified as four places each in Fatehabad and Sirsa districts. However, water level in rivers has started receding in the GT belt but at the same time now the problem has started increasing in western and southern Haryana as a result the contact of Jakhal town and 8 surrounding villages was cut off. Seeing the water coming, the farmers

## SGPC employees to contribute with one day's salary to help flood-affected people

#### **Ex-employees** association contribute Rs 51,000, kathawachak (preacher) Bhai **Jaswinder Singh Shahur** with Rs 1 lakh

#### **JAGMOHAN SINGH** Amritsar

The employees of Shiromani Gurdwara Parband-

hak Committee (SGPC) have decided to contribute with their one day's salary in the services being provided by the SGPC to help the flood-affected people. The SGPC has also appealed to the Sangat (devotees) for support by making a bank account public, following

The association of rewhich the employees of tired SGPC employees tothe SGPC have taken this day contributed Rs 51,000, initiative. while the Sikh kathawachak



(preacher), also a retired SGPC employee, Bhai Jaswinder Singh Shahur made a contribution of Rs 1 lakh.

In a statement issued here today, the SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami termed the decision taken by the Sikh body employees as in the interest of humanity. He said that standing with humanity in difficult times is part of the path

shown by the Sikh Gurus, under which everyone has a duty to help the flood victims.

Among others present at the occasion were Dr Banwari Lal State Public Health Minister, Zaqir Hussain Chairman of Haryana Wakf Board and Naseen Ahmad MLA..The Chief Minister also laid foundation stones and also inaugurated 347 development projects in Mewat of the value worth Rs 2741 crores.

Khattar said that ruling BJP-JJP government in Haryana state working aiming at six 'S' policy which include Shiksha (education), Swasthaya (health), Surakhsha (Security), Swabhiman (self respect), Swalamban (self defence) and Sushasan (good administration) as a result people from within the country as well as across the world are today interested to invest in Harvana state. Khattar expressed deep concern over Congress leaders misguiding people and spreading false rumours as 35-40% unemployment in Haryana corruption charges have apstate as against only 6-7%, which is normal in a developing state.

In February this year, Manohar government in of the officers.

are under trial.

About a year to go for 2024 breast, it can be easily cured by Assembly elections, the Haryana government is seeking to send an anti-corruption message with action against senior bureaucrats. An IAS officer has been arrested so far, an FIR has been lodged against another, while a probe has been started against a third by the Anti Corruption Bureau. Two other senior IAS officers are facing ACB probes in connection with a scam and action is also on against several other officials, including those belonging to the Haryana Civil

to get her life saved. She told that many females on finding hard knot or knots inside the breast do not disclose to any one in the family or a friend out of shyness and later when approach a doctor it is generally too late. Gold worth Rs 49.94 Services. According to the ACB chief, several officials were arlakh seized at SGRDIA rested by its team red-handed while accepting bribes and pursuing cases seeking permission to prosecute them under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Information reveals that

at least two senior IAS officers who are among those facing proached the state government JAGMOHAN SINGH challenging the ACB's action.

Sources said the government Amritsar is examining the contentions

Custom Department at Shri Guru Ramdas International Airport(SGRDIA) have seized gold worth Rs. 49.94 lakh here today. In an official statement issued here, official stated that Customs staff of Shri Guru Ramdas International Airport, Amritsar intercepted one passenger coming from Sharjah by Air India Express flight IX 138 in the morning of 17th

Official further informed that on personal search of the passenger, three cream coloured capsules were found hidden inside his rectum weighing 1183 grams. The recovered gold from the said 3 white capsules was 844 grams and market value of the said gold is Rs. 49.94 lakh. The same was seized under section 110 of Custom Act, 1962. Further investigation is under process.

## 3825 FIRs under registered under NDPS Act with nearly 6000 arrests in Haryana: Khattar

#### SATISH HANDA

After reviewing increasing drug smuggling and addiction among youths in Haryana state, Union Home Minister Amit Shah through Video Conference directed Haryana state police to take stern action against fast spreading menace and the drug smugglers and suppliers in Haryana



state, as such state government enhanced activities to make

the state drug free and state Narcotic Control Bureau registered 3825 FIRs under NDPS Act and arrested nearly 6000 persons during past year, it was disclosed to media persons by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, said that state government has attached properties of value worth Rs

46 crore belonging to drug smugglers in Haryana.



A flood-like situation has arisen near the India-Pakistan border fence on the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor near Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district on Thursday, as the water level in the Ravi River rose following heavy rainfall. The threat of a flood loomed large in a cluster of seven villages located across the Ravi even as the district administration pulled out all the stops to counter the impending danger PHOTO-PRABHJOT GIL

#### Protesting senior Congress leaders while on march surrender to police Three more J&K Govt employees

#### SATISH HANDA Karnal

The Yuva Adhikar Yatra led by recruitment activist Sweta Dhull along with senior Congress including former HPCC president Kumari Shelja a former Union MInister and Rajya Sabha member, National Congress Secretary Randeep Surjewala and Karan Chaudhary Congress MLA started their protest march from Kurukshetra concluded at Ambedkar Chowk wanted to gherao the chief minister's residence were intervened by the police did not permitted to merch towards CM house. Congress leaders had



ing Congress leaders along joined the protesting march on National Highway 44 near with their supporters and de-Uchana village and reached tained them and taken to the Karnal's Ambedkar Chowk police station. The Congress workers accused the police where they started heading towards CM's residence to hold of misbehaviour and said that a protest. Police managed to they were pushed back and not stop a protesting rally includallowed to enter the Civil Lines

police station along with their senior leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Krmari Shelja thanked youths for joining the protest rally saying that they will not allow the ruling government to suppress the voice and rights of youths in the state. Randeep Surjewala said this is a do-or-die fight between the unemployed educated youths and the anti-people government in the stat. He alleged the government betrayed lakhs of unemployed youths in the state who qualified the common entrance test (CET) examination by not giving them a chance to appear in the main examination.

### **FW DESK**

The Jammu and Kashmir government has terminated the services of three government employees, citing a "threat to the security of the state." The terminations were carried out under Article 311(2)(C) of the Constitution, which allows the a month ago. government to dismiss employees without conducting an inquiry.

The latest dismissals follow the termination of two doctors linked to the Shopian rape-murder controversy, also under the same law, less than



a police officer.

## daily Greater Kashmir. The individuals affected by the recent decision are Faheem

Aslam, the public relations enue department in 1985. officer (PRO) of Kashmir Arshad Thoker joined the University, Murawat Hus-J&K Police's armed wing as a constable in 2006 and was sain Mir, a revenue officer, and Arshad Ahmad Thoker, later transferred to the Executive Wing in 2009.

dismissed for alleged terror links Faheem Aslam, who has a Master's degree in Mass Communication and Journalism from Kashmir University, has been working as the PRO at July, 2023. the university since 2008. Previously, he served as a correspondent for the local English

Murawat Mir, a resident of south Kashmir, was appointed as a junior assistant in the rev-

## **NATION**

## RAF silenced women's 'Long Live Manipur' slogan with tear gas in Imphal

#### ARIBAM BISHWAJIT Imphal

The Rapid Action Force (RAF). known for their callous and notorious behavior towards civilians, once again resorted to extreme measures as they fired tear gas at hundreds of women protesters at Singjamei Bazar in Imphal on Tuesday evening. The protesters, united in their repeated slogans of "Long Live Manipur" and "No Compromise on Territorial Integrity," were silenced by the aggressive actions of the security personnel. The actions of the RAF have resulted in the injury of 19 women, with one among them enduring severe injuries.

In a symbolic gesture of hope, the women protesters waved both India's tricolour and the United Nations flags, believing that the security forces would respect these symbols and refrain from attacking them. One of the protesters expressed, "We hold high hopes for peace and unity to



return to Manipur. By displaycompromising the state's tering the national flag of India ritorial integrity. and the UN flag, we aimed to Unable to advance, the unconvey our desire for peace armed and frustrated protestand normalcy in Manipur to ers resorted to a sit-in protest, the security forces and the blocking one side of the road.

government. The women had gathered closely monitored their every move until approximately 9:50 from 2:00 pm at Singjamei Bazar Chingamathak Trafpm. The protesters questioned fic junction, after they were why a group of around a hunprevented from proceeding dred, whose main intention towards the Chief Minister's was to submit a memorandum. official residence in Babuwas denied entry, while thousands of men and women were para area. Their demand was clear: they wanted long-term allowed to storm the Chief solutions to bring peace and Minister's Bungalow and its normalcy to Manipur without surroundings, where impor- state security forces and the

tant offices are located. One of the women protesters

explained the motive behind their demonstration, stating that the violence that began on May 3 continues to wreak havoc, resulting in loss of life and property. Normalcy seems distant and unattainable. She added, "We wanted to meet the Chief Minister of the state with the hope that he would take steps to alleviate the suffering we are all experiencing. Unfortunately, the security forces are not giving us the opportunity to meet and express our dire situation to him. This is disheartening and deserves condemnation from everyone."

State and central police forces Among the rally participants were the relatives and loved ones of the nine victims allegedly killed by Kuki militants in the Khamenlok incident. They hoped to submit a memorandum and share their harrowing experiences with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. However, they were dismayed by the blockades imposed by

Rapid Action Force, preventing their access and leaving them waiting in vain for the Chief Minister to hear their distressing stories.

Expressing their disappointment, the victims' relatives asserted that they would not move an inch until the Chief Minister acknowledged their plight. They expressed that the state government had failed its people, stating, "We have wit-nessed the blatant incompetence of the government over the past two months. There has been no restoration of peace and normalcy. The hope for a better and once peaceful Manipur seems distant. We must collectively strive to protect our united Manipur from those who seek to divide it. We are prepared to make sacrifices, if necessary, for our state."

Since the outbreak of violence on May 3, similar protests have occurred in various parts of the state, highlighting the inability of both the state and central governments to control the situation.

## **NIA busts Kerala ISIS module** plotting to commit terrorist attacks

Ahammed, Shiyas T.S., both

from Thrissur, and Rayees

"The module was engaged

IS activities and carrying out

dacoities and other criminal

activities. They had already

conducted a recce of a few

prominent places, including

places of worship, in the state.

They intended to spread terror

**NEW DELHI:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Thursday that it has busted a Kerala-based ISIS module with the arrest of a person named Ashif alias Mathilakath Kodayil Ashraf from his hideout near Sathyamangalam in Tamil Nadu.

"We have averted possible terror attacks on places of worship by busting an ISIS module based out of Kerala, the NIA said.

Based on credible inputs from Palakkad. Digital devices and investigation, the NIA and incriminating documents conducted a joint operation were seized during these raids. with the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Kerala Police, and in raising funds for promoting searched several locations. terror attacks by committing

The raids were conducted at three locations in Thrissur and one location in Palakkad that led to the busting of the IS module, which had been conducting reconnaissance missions and conspiring to commit terrorist attacks.

and trigger communal divide in Kerala, " said an NIA offi-On Tuesday, the NIA arcial. The NIA had registered rested Ashif from Sathyamangalam. The next day, searches the case on July 11 under variwere conducted in the houses ous sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful of Ashif, as well as three others, identified as Seyid Nabeel Activities (Prevention) Act.

Samuhik Sankalp of 26 political

#### Congress to move adjournment motion on Manipur violence in Lok Sabha : Adhir Ranjan



er in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday said that the party will move an adjournment motion in the Lower House on Thursday, seeking discussion on the situation in Manipur. He told reporters prior to the commencement of the all-party meeting convened by the government, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should come in Parliament and speak on the violence in Manipur. "The prime minister speaks about the spirit of cooperative federalism, therefore he should come to Parliament and speak about violence in Manipur, ' Chowdhury said. Apart from this, the opposition also wants discussion on the prevailing flood situation in many parts of the country as well as on inflation, he added. "We also want to raise the issue of situation prevailing along India-China border and the imbalance in trade between India and China, "the Congress MP said.

NCPCR, NCW take

Smriti Irani

cognizance of horrific

incident in Rajasthan:

#### Manipur violence is the worst crime against humanity: JIH NDA will win all 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar, I will fight from Hajipur: Chirag Paswan



NEW DELHI: Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan said on Tuesday his party has joined the National Democratic Alliance following a positive discussion with the BJP over his "concerns" and asserted the ruling combine will win all 40 seats in Bihar in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls

While declining to share de-New Delhi tails of his talks with BJP leaders, including Home Minister Despite of rising inflation and Amit Shah and party president some serious issues before the budget in the election year, the J P Nadda, he asserted that his concerns related to Lok Sabha Central Government is going to and Bihar assembly polls have announce some exciting projects been addressed positively by for the Migrants and Labour Class passengers. At the time of them.

Covid-19, the migrant labour ence, Paswan, however, made it clear that he will contest from Hajipur, a Lok Sabha seat currently represented by minister Pashupati Kumar Paras who, in turn, reiterated his claim on the constituency. and Working Class Passengers

#### FW DESK New Delhi The Appalling and Deplorable situation unfolding in Manipur

is the lowest point for humanity. The timeline of violence stretching to 3 months, highlights the utter failure of governance from both state and central government. Pro-active interventions from central and state governments could have stopped the escalation of violence to such

a scale The horrifying sight of ladies being paraded while unclothed will haunt the nation's conscience and strike a fatal blow to women's

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA** 



cident has once again revealed the communal rioters' horrible anti-women attitude.

As usual, the government is talking about "Killing the Messenger" by taking legal action against the social media platforms that protection and dignity. This in- made the crime widely known. immediately.

Ahead of Lok Sabha Election, Railways to start

special trains for migrant labourers from Jan 2024

This is to cover the failure of governance and to deflect attention from the violence itself. By preventing access to es-

sential information, an internet shutdown destroys democracy. The Internet should be restored

**KAVITA SHARMA** Leaders of India's 26 progressive parties, express our steadfast resolve to safeguard the idea

of India as enshrined in the Constitution. The character of our republic is being severely assaulted in a systematic manner by the BJP. We are at a most crucial juncture in our nation's history. The foundational pillars of the Indian Constitution secular democracy, economic sovereignty, social justice and federalism are being methodi-cally and menacingly under-

mined. Opposition leaders express concern over the humanitarian tragedy that has destroyed Manipur. The silence of the Prime Minister is shocking and unprecedented. There is an urgent need to bring Manipur back on the path of peace and reconciliation.

They said we are determined to combat and confront the continuing assault on the Constitution and on constitutional rights of democratically elected e attempt to weaken



Legitimate needs, requirements and entitlements of non BJP ruled states are being actively denied by the Centre.

They also said we reinforce our resolve to confront the grave economic crisis of everrising prices of essential commodities and record unemployment. Demonetisation brought with it untold misery to the MSME and unorganised sectors, resulting in large scale unemployment among our youth. We oppose the reckless sale of the nation's wealth to favored friends. We must build a fair economy with a strong and strategic public sector as well state governments. There is a as a competitive and flourishte sector, in which the spirit of enterprise is fostered and given every opportunity to expand. The welfare of Kisan and Khet Mazdur should always get the highest priority. Opposition leaders have ment against political rivals is come together to defeat the ha-Pradesh. According to officials, undermining our democracy. tred and violence being manu-

factured against minorities; stop the rising crimes against women, Dalits, Adivasis and Kashmiri Pandits; demand a fair hearing for all socially, educationally and economically backward communities; and, as a first step, implement the Caste Census.

Leaders said we resolve to fight the systemic conspiracy by BJP to target, persecute and suppress our fellow Indians. Their poisonous campaign of hate has led to vicious violence against all those opposed to the ruling party and its divisive ideology. These attacks are not only violating constitutional rights and freedoms but also eroding the basic values upon which the Republic of India is founded - Liberty, Equality and Fraternity and Justice - Political, Economic and Social. The repeated attempts by the BJP to vitiate public discourse by reinventing and rewriting Indian history are an affront to social harmony.

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) Smriti Irani on Thursday said the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCP-CR) and National Commission

for Women (NCW) have taken cognizance of the ghastly incident in Rajasthan's Jodhpur district where in four of a family were killed and bodies later burnt. 'Both NCPCR and NCW have taken cognisance of the horrific incident in Rajasthan, " the Minister said in response to a tweet referring to the brutal incident. Four of a same family, including a six-month-old baby were killed and their bodies burnt in Churai village under the distri early hours on Wednesday. The BJP slammed the Congress-led government in Rajasthan. "The law and order situation has deteriorated in Rajasthan since the Congress government came to power under the leadership of Ashok Gehlot.



sufferer and was serious issue for facility for those migrant labour the country

working Class who were more throughout the year. From January 2024, the Railway Board is the central government and the planning to introduce Non-AC, state governments. Now, after general category trains to cater his estranged uncle and Union a deep study, Railway Board is to the needs of migrant workers going to provide a special train and labour class groups across According to the Railway

Board, new Migrant Special trains are being planned for the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Assam, Gujarat, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra

the federal structure of our polity. The role of Governors & LGs in non-BJP ruled states has exceeded all constitutional norms. The brazen misuse of agencies by the BJP govern-

## NDA allies adopt resolution to contest 2024 LS polls under PM Modi's leadership

**NEW DELHI:** National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners have adopted a resolution to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Besides, the allies also targeted the Opposition's unity efforts, saying that the Opposition is "facing an identity crisis and is beset by confusion and disorientation".

Shiv Sena President and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde put forward the resolution during the NDA meeting held at The Ashok Hotel in New Delhi on Tuesday

AIADMK's K. Palaniswami and Atul Bora of the Asom Gana Parishad also supported the resolution.

The meeting which was of 25 years of establishment of the NDA saw the participation of around 39 parties. It was chaired by Prime Minister Modi.

The resolution, referring to the achievements of the Modi government during the last nine years, also applauded the government's "hard work, and selfless dedication towards the service of the country'

"For making the countrymen feel proud on many ocof NDA congratulate Naren-



unanimously take a resolution that as partners in this development journey of the country under the leadership of Narendra Modi - we are one, and united, " it added. Further, the resolution

organised on the completion noted that "for taking the country forward on the path of progress", all the parties of NDA also congratulate the "visionary and popular" leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It was said in the resolution that it has been 25 years since In these 25 years, NDA has set high standards of good NDA government has come sidering the spirit of the na-

public welfare as paramount. edented", it added.

dra Modi. NDA constituents Be it the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government from 1998 to 2004 or the Narendra Modi government from 2014 till now, the NDA government has always worked with the spirit of nation-building while supporting the country's regional aspirations.

Issues like strengthening national security, the establishment of good governance, infrastructure development, improvement in the standard of living of the poor and backward and India's reputation on the world stage have been the formation of the NDA. the priority of the NDA government. Especially in the

last nine years, the work done governance. Whenever the by the NDA government in terms of service, good govto power, it has worked con- ernance and development under the leadership of Prime casions, all the fellow parties tion first and the objective of Minister Modi is "unprec-

## Multidimensional poverty and play of data

HARVINDER KAUR lady in Tamil

Nadu(Salem) jumped in front of a running bus to commit suicide to get compensation money. Someone had told her that those who died in an accident got money in the form of compensation so she committed suicide so her son could pay his fees for a private college. At the same time as per the NITI Aayog's Report National Multidimensional individuals in India were lifted out of poverty. This figure rep-Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023', 25 nations, includresents a substantial proportion ing India, have achieved the remarkable feat of reducing their global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) values by half within 15 years. Record 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21. According to the report, this progress serves as evidence that rapid advancements in poverty reduction are indeed feasible. Among the countries that have achieved this mile-

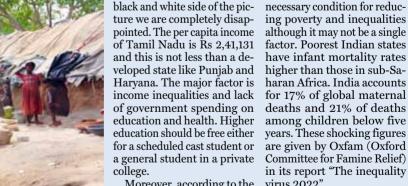
and Vietnam.

Poverty Index reveals that a

achieved in India. During the

of the country's population, in 2019-2021. The rural areas which is currently estimated to be over 1.4 billion. The report highlights remarkable improvements in key indicators of poverty. The percentage of individuals lacking access to cooking fuel decreased from 52.9% to 13.9%, while those without proper sanitation decreased from 50.4% to 11.3%. Notably, deprivation across all indicators has declined in India, particularly among the poorstone are Cambodia, China, est states and disadvantaged Congo, Honduras, India, groups, including children Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and individuals belonging to disadvantaged caste groups. The most recent update of These groups have witnessed the global Multidimensional the most significant progress

in terms of absolute poverty significant milestone has been reduction. According to the report,



period from 2005-06 to 2019- India has registered a signifi-21, a staggering 415 million cant decline of 9.89 percentage points in several of India's multidimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%. During the same period, the urban areas saw a reduction in poverty from 8.65% to 5.27%. Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in the number of poor with 3.43 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty. Providing multidimensional poverty estimates for the 36 States and Union Territories and 707 Administrative Districts, the Report states that the fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor was observed in the new millionaires every day. States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

> But the picture is not so colourful and if we go through the Fast economic growth is the

Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and

Rajasthan.

ture we are completely disapand this is not less than a developed state like Punjab and Haryana. The major factor is income inequalities and lack for a scheduled cast student or a general student in a private

Moreover, according to the report the maximum poverty reduction is in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Someone is playing with data, on where the global hunger index of India has increased and how can we achieve this remarkable decline in poverty. The truth is, that the inequalities are still high in India.

It is an important point that much of the wealth gains are due to property and stock market booms, which do not help in any employment generation opportunities. There has been an acute rise in economic inequalities with negative or stagnant growth in the past years. There are 119 billionaires in India. Between 2018 and 2022, India is estimated to produce 70 The crucial point is that

unless there is fast economic growth there will be nothing to redistribute but poverty.

ing poverty and inequalities pointed. The per capita income although it may not be a single of Tamil Nadu is Rs 2,41,131 factor. Poorest Indian states have infant mortality rates higher than those in sub-Saharan Africa. India accounts for 17% of global maternal of government spending on deaths and 21% of deaths education and health. Higher among children below five education should be free either years. These shocking figures are given by Oxfam (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief) in its report "The inequality virus 2022".

> According to Oxfam's estimates, the increase in wealth of the top 11 billionaires of India during the pandemic can sustain the MNREGA scheme for 10 years or the health ministry for 10 years. A report by Oxfam ranked India at 147th out of 157th countries in terms of inequality. The report highlights that 77% of the total national wealth of India was proprietary to the top 10% of the population. In 2017, the richest 1% of the Indian population ended up with 73% of the wealth generated. This is blatantly opposite to the 67 million Indians (the bottom poorest half), who only saw a 1% increase in their wealth.

Dr.Harvinder Kaur, Associate Professor of Economics in Ambala, views are personal

ties will increase shortly.

Because of this accumulation

of wealth, economic inequali-

# 'INDIA' unites against BJP's 'nationalism'

n a show of unity and strategic opposition, 26 Indian political parties have coined the acronym INDIA, or Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, as their collaborative platform. This move is both a reflection of their resolute ambition to achieve a common objective, as well as a rather strained attempt at mixing language and politics. By adopting the country's name as their title, the alliance is attempting a face-off with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on its own battleground - the field of nationalism. The alliance aims to convey to the electorate that, contrary to the BJP's stance, they represent a more inclusive vision of India. The Congress, by relinquishing any claim for the Prime Ministerial seat should the alliance win the 2024 general elections, has facilitated the formation of INDIA. This is the most cohesive effort to challenge BJP's dominance since 2014. However, there are undeniable inconsistencies within the INDIA alliance, which includes parties that regularly contest against each other in regions like West Bengal, Punjab, and Kerala. The term 'alliance' may thus seem a misnomer. Yet, the shared recognition of a larger political fight is currently INDIA's driving force. Allocating seats among the partners will be a monumental task, even with a mutual commitment to a pluralistic India. Moreover, multiple parties and leaders within the alliance are embroiled in corruption investigations and trials, exposing them to potential coercion or bribery from the BJP. There's evidence of bruised egos and thwarted ambitions, but the resolve to reconvene in Mumbai holds. Despite shifting attitudes towards the BJP and credibility issues, INDIA stands firm. While the BJP's moral standing has significantly deteriorated, it continues to question opponents on issues of dynastic politics and corruption. The opposition's case against the BJP holds substantial weight, yet they must overcome significant hurdles to appeal to the masses and emerge victorious.

## 2

SHASHANK MOHAN ON HOW MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2022 DPDP BILL CAN ENHANCE FUTURE-PROOFING, COMPLAINT RESOLUTION.

# India's data protection law needs refinement

ndia is no Europe, and this seems especially true in the face of a task such as drafting and conceptualising a data protection law for over 1.4 billion Indians. The European Union's (EU) data protection law, i.e., the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), came into force in the middle of 2018 and achieved widespread popularity as arguably the most comprehensive data privacy law in the world. However, the GDPR has been and risks being relegated to the status of a paper tiger. Although the EU's challenges may be due to its unique legal structure, India must guard against the risks of enacting a law that is toothless in effect.

#### Issues around data use

This deliberation becomes increasingly relevant as the Indian government is likely to table India's fresh data protection law in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament (July 20-August 11). Late last year, the government released the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022 for public consultation. This is its third recent attempt at drafting a data protection law. While the draft released for public comments was not as comprehensive as its previous versions, news reports suggest that the government may present a Bill that is largely similar. Considering this, critical gaps remain in the DPDP Bill that would affect its implementation and overall success

In its scope and definition, the DPDP Bill only protects personal data, that is any data that has the potential to directly or indirectly identify an individual. In the modern data economy, entities use various types of data,



including both personal and non-personal data to target, profile, predict, and monitor users (non-personal data is typically anonymous data that does not relate to a particular individual — for example, aggregate data on products which numerous users look at between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Amazon). Often, this non-personal data when combined with other datasets can help identify individuals, and in this way become personal data, impacting user privacy.

For instance, anonymous datasets about individual Uber rides in New Delhi can be combined with prayer timings to identify members who belong to a certain community, which could include their home addresses. This process of re-identification of non-personal data poses significant risks to privacy. Such risks were accounted for in previous versions of India's draft data protection Bill,

in 2018 and 2019, but do not find a place in the latest draft. By not recognising these risks, the DPDP Bill is very limited in its scope and effect in providing meaningful privacy to Indians. A simple and effective solution — as in the earlier versions — would be to add a penal provision in the Bill that provides for financial penalties on data-processing entities for the re-identification of non-personal data into personal data.

#### Limited reach of data protection board

Another gap is the inability of the proposed data protection board to initiate a proceeding of its own accord. Under the Bill, the board is the authority that is entrusted with enforcing the law. The board can only institute a proceeding for adjudication if someone affected makes a complaint to it, or the government or a court directs it to do so. The only exception to this rule is when the board can take action on its own to enforce certain duties listed by the Bill for users. This is for the adjudication of disputes between the law and users — for example, an obligation on users not to register a false or frivolous complaint with the board, and not between users and data-processing entities.

**EDITORIAL** 

**COPINION** 

In the data economy, users have diminished control and limited knowledge of data transfers and exchanges. Due to the ever-evolving and complex nature of data processing, users will always be a step behind entities which make use of their data. For example, a food delivery app can take all my data and sell it to data brokers in violation of my contractual relationship with them. Individually, I may have little resources or incentive to approach the data protection board.

The board, on the other hand, may be in a better position to proceed against the food delivery app on its own — on behalf of all such affected users. This is not a novel suggestion. The Competition Commission of India, which is responsible for the enforcement of India's antitrust law, has the power to initiate inquiries on its own (and utilises it frequently). Again, a simple way to do this would be to have a provision in the DPDP Bill that allows the data protection board to initiate complaints on its own.

These are not the only gaps in the DPDP Bill, but finding solutions to them would help address challenges in implementation in a significant way and make for a more future-proof legislation.

Shashank Mohan is Programme Manager at the Centre for Communication Governance, National Law University Delhi

FROM AN ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATION PERSPECTIVE, BRANDING A POLITICAL ALLIANCE AS INDIA IS A BRILLIANT IDEA AND A DANGEROUS STRATEGY. BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH THE COUNTRYMEN WILL DIGEST THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL PLOY.

## The idea of INDIA will bounce back !

NARVIJAY YADAV

e Ca

he upcoming 2024 parliamentary elections are going to be exciting. The country is on the path of development. The expansion of highways and expressways during this period is unprecedented. Digital modes of transactions have made people's life easier. The means of telecommunication and internet data are as affordable as they have never been before. Our country is moving towards becoming the new Superpower of the world. After all this, it becomes necessary that this chariot of development continues to run at the current speed. This has been possible because of a corruption-free government with an absolute majority in the House. It is obvious that a 'khichdi sarkar' cannot give all this to the countrymen. If there are 26 people using a single sheet, there v be a tuss parties are happy by naming their sheet as INDIA, but they do not know that no one person or organization can have authority over India. Has this name been adopted after consulting India? Have the countrymen allowed this misuse? India is the name of this nation and the nation belongs to the 1.4 billion people. No one can claim his rights on this name. The one who does this will

= BOOKS: REVIEW



used during the poll campaigns by these political parties, you can easily guess what is going to happen to the dignity of the word INDIA.

Earlier also a political party was successful in keeping Indians poor for decades by giving the slogan of Garibi Hatao. A leader of the same party had publicly accepted that one rupee sent from the Center gets reduced to ten paise by the time it reaches the beneficiary. This 'leakage' does not happen nowadays, as the entire amount directly reaches the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. Linguistically, even the word India is a symbol of English mentality, while the other camp emphasizes Bharat, promotes Hindi at global levels, and speaks to the heart of Indians. It is not enough just to use a tricky name or slogan to persuade voters, it is necessary that the person or the party has integrity, honesty, uthfulness grassroots tion with the people, and patriotism, to succeed. However, from an advertising and communication perspective, calling the group INDIA is a brilliant idea and a dangerous strategy. But it remains to be seen how much the countrymen will be able to digest this psychological ploy.

#### LETTERBOX

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### **THE FINANCIAL WORLD**

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definitely face the music. India will give a befitting reply to this idea, let the day of polling come. I believe that you cannot drag the name of the country in your petty fights and squabbles. No nationalist Indian citizen will tolerate this cheap joke, just let the elections come. Then watch the spectacle. Most of the names

in this group of 26 are involved in corruption cases, some are out on bail and some are facing legal cases, while some others are under investigation. How can such tainted individuals or parties be recognized in the name of the nation? And which true Indian would allow this to happen? With the kind of cheap words

The writer is a senior journalist and columnist, Views are personal.

# Book helps understand our mind's musical journey

**Wery Brain Needs** Music" is an enlightening journey into the intersection of music and neuroscience, masterfully penned by neuroscientist Larry Sherman and professional musician Dennis Plies. The book deftly explores the intricate connections between our neural systems and the melodies that invigorate our lives, revealing why music is as fundamental to our existence as food and shelter.

Sherman and Plies' collaboration blends the analytical with the artistic, presenting a compelling picture of the science behind music's profound influence on human emotion. They delve into the complex mechanics of how music - be it instrumental or vocal - modifies the air molecules entering our ears, stimulating specialized nerve cells and thus creating potent emotional responses. They also address one of the most intriguing questions about our brain's interaction with music: how we can immediately recognize a song from just a few notes, yet we identify the sound of running water merely as functional noise.

In the tradition of language's universal significance, the book positions music as a language in

its own right, enriching our communication and expression. The text is thoughtfully structured into eight chapters, each resonating with the cognitive, sensory, and motor functions of the brain and how these interact with creativity. The final two chapters focus on our brain's process of interpreting music and the emotional responses it generates, forming a captivating conclusion.

The authors underpin their narrative with a fascinating survey, where they query composers, musicians, educators, students, and music enthusiasts about how music enhances their lives. The responses affirm Nietzsche's famous sentiment, "Without music, life would be a mistake." This survey gives life to the idea that music predates language in human development, offering profound moments of clarity for individuals such as Alzheimer's patients or those suffering from Parkinson's.

"Every Brain Needs Music" is a charming blend of wit and knowledge. The text is filled with engaging narratives that demonstrate the potent impact of music on memory and emotional well-being. The authors compellingly argue that engaging with music, be it through listening or playing an instrument, fosters the generation of new brain cells,

The final two chapters focus on our brain's process of interpreting music and the emotional responses it generates, forming a captivating conclusion

synapses, and myelin. They attribute the unique and powerful effects of music to its ability to engage multiple networks within our brains, unlike any other activity. In this light, music is presented not just as an art form, but an essential aspect of our existence.

Sherman and Plies' work is not an ode to music; rather, it is an exploration of what music is to the human brain. They resist the temptation to be swept away by romantic metaphors and instead delve into the intricate science behind it all. Their conclusion is profound: it's not just that we enjoy music, but rather our brains, in their unique complexity, are what truly gives music its melody.

The authors end their book with a plea to make music education a mainstream element of our learning,

#### EVERY BRAIN NEEDS MUSIC



Columbia University Press; 288 pages; \$32

highlighting its potential to enrich our aesthetic and cognitive lives. "Every Brain Needs Music" stands as a testament to music's fundamental role in our lives, providing a detailed and persuasive argument for its place in human cognitive development. It's a must-read for anyone interested in exploring the nuanced relationship between our brains and the melodies that pervade our existence.

In "Every Brain Needs Music," Sherman and Plies also shed light on the therapeutic potential of music. They share moving anecdotes about music's ability to penetrate the fog of Alzheimer's disease, improve mobility in Parkinson's patients, and provide comfort to those battling cancer. These stories powerfully illustrate how music can reach areas of the brain that are otherwise unreachable, bringing about significant changes in mood and cognition. It is a testament to music's potent and transformative healing power, offering the reader a deeper understanding of the subject and its wide-reaching effects on human well-being.

The authors artfully navigate the pl dichotomy between the analytical ne

and emotional experiences of music. They explain how our brains process rhythm, melody, and harmony, translating these elements into emotional responses. They also delve into the evolutionary perspective, drawing on Charles Darwin's speculation that the human brain evolved to engage in music. This viewpoint adds a compelling layer to the discourse, reinforcing the idea of music as an integral part of human existence.

Sherman and Plies further enrich their narrative by incorporating fascinating scientific research alongside personal accounts from their survey respondents. Their comprehensive approach reveals that music's impact is deeply personal and varies greatly among individuals, yet it has universal elements that touch the lives of all humans. This duality offers a rich perspective, positioning music as a universal language that speaks to our individuality and shared humanity.

"Every Brain Needs Music" also examines the societal implications of understanding music's influence on the brain. The authors make a compelling case for integrating music education into mainstream curricula. They argue that cultivating musical skills not only improves cognitive function but also enhances social cohesion, empathy, and emotional well-being. The book ends with a powerful call to action for educators and policymakers, encouraging them to recognise music not as a peripheral pleasure but as a necessary component of a holistic education.

## CORPORATE **GINDUSTRY**

FW DESK

New Delhi

### **MG Motor launches** India's first pureelectric internet SUV



#### **KULBIR SINGH KALSI** Chandigarh

MG Motor India, the British automobile brand with a 99-year-old legacy, today launched the enhanced variant of its ZS EV with Autonomous Level-2, (ADAS) at a price of Rs.27.89 Lakh valid for a limited time. The Autonomous Level-2, (ADAS) set of features enhances the driving experience by providing assistance, control, and comfort in various driving situations. The MG ZS EV embodies the evolution of electric mobility, combining electric power, internet connectivity, and autonomous capabilities. The futuristically designed SUV offers a good on-road appearance, driving convenience, and luxurious plush interiors. The MG ZS EV>s Autonomous Level 2 (ADAS) technology which works on three levels of sensitivity - low, medium and high, and three levels of warning - haptic, audio and

Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the maiden Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Narendra Tomar and special guest Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Govt. of Nepal, Dr. Bedu Ram Bhusal, here today. Prof S P Singh Baghel and Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare were also present on the occasion. This summit is an endeavour of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare (MoHFW) to create a global platform of food regulators to exchange perspectives on strengthening food safety systems and regulatory framework across the food value chain. complementary to each other. Balanced, safe and nutritious

Dr. Mandaviya stated that "Safe food and good health are

food acts as preventive care, and ensures our health and wellness."



Union Health Minister inaugurates first-ever Global Food Regulators Summit 2023

Underlining the importance of munity, Dr Mandaviya said, "This food safety, he stated that "It is critically important to deep dive into issues of food grains, food safety, and food security for global sustainable development. Food regulators have a highly responsible job to create an eco system under the One Health approach which provides an integrated platform to collectively look at health of climate, human, animal and plant." He added that under the ongoing G20 India Presidency, One Health forms a key priority for the Health Work-

ing Group Highlighting the importance of international cooperation and solidarity for the greater good and welfare of the global com-

conference perfectly aligns with and complements the theme of this year's India's G20 Presidency: "Vasudev Kutumbhakam: One Earth, One Nation". He stated that as different geographical regions are characterised by agro-climatic diversities, no one standard could be applicable to food safety protocols. "We need to be explore how regional diversities can be factored into global best practises", he pointed out.

Dr Mandaviya elaborated on the aspect of soil health as a crucial determinant of food health, and outlined the salient features of the recently announced PM-PRANAM scheme which encourages a balanced use of chemicals

and fertilizers in food cultivation, and encourages farmers to take up organic, natural and alternative farming. He urged all countries to work collectively in the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) as food shortage is a global problem requiring collaborative global solutions. The guest of nonour at the session, Narendra Singh Tomar said that food is a basic right and its availability and affordability must be ensured. He also added, "Considering the size and volume of the agriculture sector and food industry in India, it is vital to consider the entire value chain network, from agricultural inputs until products reach the end- consumer, as a single entity to ensure food safety and security". The Union Minister pointed out that farmers must always be at the heart of any policies regarding food supply so that they are not affected in any negative manner. He also made a strong case for promoting the use of millets by highlighting positive attributes of millets like

its less water consumption compared to other crops, resilience to adverse climatic conditions and high nutritional value.

## PM visit to France takes bilateral ties to new high of mutual engagement: ASSOCHAM

fastest growing economy

the developed world is look-

ing at it as a partner of great

Agreement between India

and France on the Unified

Payment Interface takes the

world map, making the INR

be doing digital transactions

in France in Indian rupee".

Sood said the opening of

strategic importance.

#### FW DESK New Delhi

Close on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's successful visit to the USA, his visit to Paris, accompanied by rare honour bestowed upon him, has taken India-France relationship to the next level of strategic partnership, ASSOCHAM Secretary General Deepak Sood said .

"The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor bestowed upon Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a matter Indian digital drive on the of pride for all Indians as we see our nation march on a currency of international the global landscape from choice. "It is a great feeling to strength to strength," the ASSOCHAM Secretary General said.

He said Modi's particia new Indian consulate in Marseille, would be a great pation in the Bastille Day military parade on the facilitator for the people to people connect between Champs-Elysees along with a tri-service Indian armed the two countries as India forces contingent marks and France build further on the strategic mutual trust strategic areas of defence, and friendship between Innuclear energy, trade, techdia and France. With India nology transfer and climate standing out as the world's change.



**NEW DELHI:** The MSME sustainable certification (ZED) scheme has crossed the 10,000 registration milestone within 15 months of its launch in April 2022.

The Union Minister of MSMEs Narayan Rane took to twitter to share the milestone. His tweet quoted, "MSME ZED certification scheme crosses 10,000 registration mark. Launched in April 2022, the success of the MSME ZED certification scheme reflects our firm commitment towards the visionary call of Zero Defect and Zero Effect Manufacturing by PM Narendra Modi.'

The MSME ZED certification scheme aims to promote zero defect-zero effect practices among manufacturing MSMEs. The Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is the implementing body for the Zed Scheme.

The ZED certification model has three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. These levels are classified according to 20 performance-based parameters such as quality management, timely delivery, process control, waste management, etc.

At Present, there are around 10,260 bronze-certified MSMEs in the country, about 49,075 MSMEs have applied for the certification. According to information on the Zed dashboard, there are currently only 153 gold-certified and 133 silver-certified MSMEs, reported FE.

The government charges Rs 10,000 from MSMEs for bronze certification, Rs 40,000 for silver certification, and Rs 90,000 for gold certification.

The scheme provides financial assistance of up to 75 per cent of the total cost of testing/certification, with a maximum subsidy ceiling of Rs 50,000. Additionally, up to Rs 2 lakh support for handholding/consultancy is offered to achieve the next certification level. Regarding support for technology upgradation, the scheme offers assistance of up to Rs 3 lakhs for moving towards zero effect solutions/ pollution control measures/ cleaner technology.

### **Credit guarantee** scheme launched for MSMEs in livestock sector

visual, enhances the driving expe-

rience and safety of the passengers.

NEW DELHI: The Centre has launched the first-ever "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for the Livestock Sector for rebooting the rural economy by leveraging MSMEs. The credit guarantee scheme aims to improve access to finance for the underserved livestock sector, enabling financial assistance to be provided to first-generation entrepreneurs and underprivileged sections of society.

For the implementation of the scheme, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has set up a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust worth Rs 750 crore. This trust will offer credit guarantee coverage of up to 25 per cent for credit facilities provided to MSMEs by eligible lending institutions. The trust, formed in partnership with NAB Sanrakshan Trustee Company Private Ltd, a subsidiary of NABARD, ensures credit guarantee for MSMEs under

# BEL, Gabriel Power sign MoU to leverage cross border biz opportunities across power & energy sectors for India

#### **ARUN KUMAR RAO** New Delhi/Bengaluru

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna Defence PSU, and Gabriel Power and Energy Pvt Ltd have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate as partners and come up with state-of-the-art, cuttingedge technologies which can be manufactured in India for the use of Government and private sectors, press statement BEL said here today.

The strategic MoU, which on job creation within the power for research and development.

### and energy sectors

As part of the MoU, BEL and Gabriel would work closely together to usher in state-of-theart technologies which would be further optimised and manufactured in India. The partnership will encompass a wide range of products, including EV Chargers, Smart Meters, Green Hydrogen Generation, Hydrogen Gensets and Solar Steam Solutions.

would leverage the strengths and BEL, India's leading manucapabilities of both the organisafacturer of Defence electronic tions, is envisaged to give a boost to products and systems, brings to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative the table extensive expertise in and help realise the Government's research, design, development and production across multiple vision of a Digital India. The focus on indigenous manufacturing resegments. BEL's areas of business encompass Radars & Weapon inforces the two companies' commitment to the 'Make in India' Systems, Communication Systems, Electronic Warfare Systems, C4I initiative, enhancing indigenous capabilities and positioning India Systems, Anti-submarine Warfare globally, as a leading manufactur-Systems, Electro-Optic Systems, ing hub for advanced power and and more. BEL has also estabenergy solutions. The partnership lished a robust manufacturing will also have a significant impact infrastructure and an ecosystem

#### Advancements in **Traditional Medicine** are Revolutionising Healthcare: Dr. Kalubhai

NEW DELHI: "Advancements in technology, such as telemedicine, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics, are revolutionising healthcare and can be integrated with traditional medicine," stated, Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai, Minister of State, Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Women & Child De-

the National Conference on 'Traditional and Alternative Medicine-Exploring New Hori-

zons and Advancements' in New Delhi

Dr. Kalubhai emphasised the importance of integrating traditional practices with advancements in modern medicine. He stated, "It is our duty to lead the way in promoting the synergy of tra-

ional and modern m

### Karnataka Govt offers additional 100 acres to Foxconn for \$1 billion phone parts plant in Tumkur



**ARUN KUMAR RAO** Bengaluru

been granted 300 acres in The Karnataka government the IT investment regional offered Foxconn, one of the near Bengaluru International worl's largest manufacturairport in Devanahalli. This ers of iPhones, an additional facility, which is expected to 100 acres of land in Tumkur involve an investment of Rs to set up an Rs 8,800 crore 13,700 crore (\$ 7 billion), will over \$1 Billion) plant to primarily assemble iPhones. manufacture smartphone parts. Government says the Rs 8000 crore unit will creat facture screens and body/back panels of mobile phones that 14,000 jobs. The Taiwanese company had previously will be used by the main ascommitted to establishing sembly unit.





## Tesla directors to return \$735 mn to

velopment, Govt of India, at 2010

This initiative enhances the number of MSME units benefiting from the AHIDF scheme and strengthens the ecosystem for collateral-free credit from banks. Key features of the scheme include-Interest subvention of three per cent and provision of loan of up to 90 per cent of the total project cost from any Scheduled Bank, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

DAHD's initiative is expected to greatly increase the participation of MSMEs engaged in livestock sector leading to increased flow of credit to the sector and strengthen the MSMEs to boost the overall rural economy through strengthening the Live stock sector which is of one of the most potential sector seek-

gestions and inputs on way to improve business environment and pushing manufacturing growth and exports. Union Minister Piyush Goyal will chair the meeting which will be held in Mumbai and invites have been sent out to top 100 companies listed on BSE and NSE for partici-

pation. It will also see participation of Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal and Secretary in the Department for Promotion of

## top 100 companies on declining exports

Commerce Ministry gets into huddle with



ing

pport and Enable

ndia's Electric Mola

Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

The meeting will be held in an interactive format to elicit ideas and suggestions

DOMINICK RODRIGUES

The Goa Chief Minister Pramod

Sawant has announced an Elec-

tric Vehicles Mandate for "all

new tourist vehicles in the State"

Sawant announced this here

Mobility – supported by WRI

Bank -- that was held on the

**Transitions Working Group** 

to be electric from 2024.

Panjim

with cutting-edge scientific research", at the national conference organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

Dr. Kalubhai highlighted the role of technology, including telemedicine, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics, in revolutionising healthcare. He stated, "From telemedicine to artificial intelligence and big data analytics, we have a wealth of tools at our disposal to improve diagnostics, treatment, and patient outcomes." The Government of In-

dia, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, is committed to promoting traditional systems of medicine globally.

company as they ' overpaid themselves'

an electronics manufactur-

ing facility for which it had

The Proposed additional

facility is expected to manu-

Elon Musk-run Tesla's directors will pay \$735 million back

to the electric car-maker to settle claims from shareholders that they "excessively overpaid themselves".

Musk himself is under scrutiny for his own \$56 billion compensation package, which is facing its own lawsuit that went to trial last year, reports TechCrunch. The settlement will be paid directly to Tesla to benefit the company. The settlement concluded a 2020 lawsuit from a retirement fund that holds Tesla stock.

Shareholder Richard Tornetta also filed suit against Tesla in 2019 to rescind Musk's 2018 pay deal. He claimed the package is "the largest compensation grant in human history" and it is unjustly paid to Musk, the report mentioned.

"Tesla's directors were accused of awarding themselves around 11 million stock op-

tions from 2017 to 2020, which week, reports surfaced that shareholders say is grossly in Musk even planned a lavish excess of the standard for glass house for himself near Tesla headquarters in Auscorporate boards, "the report tin, Texas, worth millions of

They agreed to return the equivalent value of 3.1 million Tesla stock options, according to the court filing. Last alleged improprieties.

noted.

dollars which prompted an internal investigation by the electric car-maker's board over

## Over 34 thousand women propel direct selling in Karnataka grow at 9%, reaches Rs 1128 cr. mark

#### FW DESK Bengaluru

ing development.

Over 34 thousand strong women entrepreneurs of Karnataka have propelled the direct selling industry in the State, as Selling Association (IDSA) here on

Tuesday. Providing self-employment to 78 thousand entrepreneurs in the State, Karnataka continues to be the top market in Direct

Selling business in the Southern region, reaching over Rs 1128 crore during the financial year 2021-22, Survey Report says. The survey, carried out by IPSOS Strategy 3, shows a sales increase of Rs 94 crores, with more than 9,09 percent further elaborates.

growth over the previous FY figure of Rs 1034 crores, in-

dicating that despite the year being partially marred and impacted by the COVID-19 second wave, the direct selling industry could manage to per the Annual Survey Report emerge stronger and maintain released by the Indian Direct its growth momentum in the

state During the period, the state also contributed nearly Rs 170 crore to the

exchequer by way of taxes. The sector, however, remained static in terms of the number of direct sellers, at 78

thousand, with 34 thousand of on July 19 at a NITI Aayogorganised Conference on Ethem women. The state had a share of over 5.90% of the overall national sales, which India and Asian Development stood at over Rs 19,030 crore during the period, the report sidelines of the 4th G20 Energy

## Goa CM Sawant highlights EV Mandate for State Vehicles at G20 Meet

Meeting under India's G20

contributing to the State's elec-

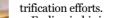
Presidency in Panjim, Goa.

tainable mobility.

of the industry on increasing

the share of manufacturing in India's GDP and promote

self-reliance in manufactur-



Congestion-free, Charged, Clean and Cutting-edge, he urged for 100% electrification of 2-wheelers and three-wheelers, and 65-

Since relays and fuses cannot meet the requirements of modern E/E vehicle architectures. partial or complete electrification of the primary and secondary power distribution must be taken into account. To address this issue, Infineon Technologies AG (FSE: IFX / OTCQX: IFNNY) has launched a new generation of ultra-low ohmic high-side switches in a TO-leadless package, the Power PROFET<sup>™</sup> + 12V switch family. Company



statement said here.

The Power  $\mathsf{PROFET}^{{}^{\mathrm{TM}}}$ 12V allows for new mounting locations and new enclosure options, enabling the next generation of decentralized power architectures with high efficiency. Two variants are available: the BTS50005-1LUA with an on-resistance (R DS(ON)) of 0.6 m- and the BTS50010-1LUA with an

R DS(ON) of 1.0 m- for lowest power losses. They are designed to control high-current applications, especially in hot cabin and engine compartment environments for demanding high inrush currents, such as in heaters, pumps and fans. They provide more than 1,000,000 switching cycles compared to, for example, in average 200,000 switching cycles of a relay. The switches can replace electromechanical relays, fuses and discrete circuits in power distribution boxes and other applications up to 65 A in a 12 V electrical system.

Earlier, in his inaugural address, Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog, highlighted the transformative potential of the Indian EV Industry and its positive impact on both the economy and the environment.

He emphasized the role of electric mobility in accelerating India's economic growth

along low-carbon pathways and facilitating the nation's net-zero vision for 2070.

Amitabh Kant, India's G20 The Chief Ministers an-Sherpa, in a special address nouncement, while showcasing Goa's commitment to at the event, underscored the eco-friendly transportation, need to sustain the momenhighlighted a significant leap tum of electric mobility in Inin Goa's journey towards susdia. Emphasizing the seven Cs framework for EVs envisioned by the Prime Minister - Common, Connected, Convenient,

Additionally, permit-holders overseeing multiple vehicles including rental cars and bikes in Goa, have pledged to electrify 30% of their fleet through retrofitting by June 2024, thus

70% of buses by 2030.

Smart power switch family Power PROFET<sup>™</sup> + 12V enable modern power distribution architectures with lowest ohmic



## BANKING S FINANCE

SIP which has delivered lower returns in the

initial 5 yrs, delivered a better return in 10 yrs

Historical data suggests that the

Systematic Investment Plan (SIP)

which has delivered comparatively

ower returns in the initial 5 years,

has delivered a better return on 10 vears basis on an average, as per

a study, conducted by WhiteOak

Equity as an Asset Class is

relatively very volatile and, there

can be periods of low returns in

the initial investment journey of

a long-term SIP. Equities have

proved to be a volatile asset class

n the past. But, the study reveals

volatility reduces as investors in-

crease their investment horizon,

the study found. An average Large

Cap stock is generally less volatile

than an average Small and Mid

Cap stock and provides stability to

the portfolio. However, the Small

and Mid Cap (SMID) segments

may offer many opportunities

for potential higher growth in

the long run. The study reveals

that, among the three market cap

segments, Mid Cap Segment was

a good investment option for in-

vestors seeking to invest via the

long-term SIP route. A historical

data analysis suggests that in the

long term, it hardly matters if the

Capital Mutual Fund.

## **Over 1000 new crypto coins listed in market** in 5 months despite tight regulations

More than 1,000 new crypto coins have been listed in the market in the past five months, despite tighter regulations on crypto firms, bringing their total to 9,708 in July, a new report showed on Tuesday.

According to data presented by AltIndex.com, 1,023 new cryptocurrencies listed on the market since February. The total number of cryptos increased 75 times between 2013 and 2021, from slightly more than 60 to more than 4,500, according to

Statista and Investing.com data. After the 2021 crypto boom, this figure more than doubled, with the market adding roughly 1,000 new cryptos per month. They reached an all-time high of nearly 10,400 in February



2022, but it was all downhill from there. The crypto winter resulted in one of the most significant drops in the number of available coins and tokens on the market, the report said. As per a data, more than 1,700 digital coins were delisted from

crypto exchanges between February 2022 and February 2023, bringing the total number to 8,685. However, the number of cryptocurrencies significantly increased over the past five months, despite the regulatory twists and ups and downs

## Asian Development Bank keeps India's growth estimate at 6.4% for current fiscal

NEW DELHI: India's economic growth estimation has been retained by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at 6.4% for the ongoing fiscal year.

While for the next financial year it has retained it at 6.7%. It said robust domestic demand will continue to support recovery in the region. The ADB also said inflation is expected to continue to fall, approaching pre-pandemic levels, as food and fuel prices decline. For developing economies in Asia, the ADB has forecast 3.6% inflation this year and 3.4% in 2024.

The Indian economy expanded 7.2% in FY23. ADB's chief economist Albert Park said Asia and the Pacific continues to recover from the CO-

VID-19 pandemic at a steady pace. "Domestic demand and services activity are driving growth, while many economies are also benefiting from a strong recovery in tourism. However, industrial activity and exports remain weak, and the outlook for global growth and demand next year has worsened," Park added. In

April, the ADB had projected that India's economic growth is expected to moderate to 6.4% in the current financial year due to tight monetary conditions and elevated oil prices



an IT unit here. The new IT office will house Sberbank's inhouse Data Processing Center, official release stated on Friday.

iggest city and the country's leading scientific and industrial center, specializing, amongst other things, in aerospace, engineering and electronics industries and development of IT products

While Sberbank's India branch has been active in New Delhi since 2010 and offers a wide range of financial services, the Bengaluru office will be fully focused on developing information technologies.

in the crypto space. The venture funding in the

cryptocurrency space dropped further to \$2.34 billion in the second quarter (Q2) globally amid a strict regulatory environment around various top-notch crypto exchanges. It was the fifth consecutive quarter when crypto funding nosedived, according to a report in TechCrunch. US regulators sued Binance and its CEO Changpeng Zhao last month for allegedly operating a "web of deception" and filed 13 charges in a federal court.

Binance was also ordered by Belgium's Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA)

to immediately cease all offers of virtual currency services in the country.

## **Russia's largest lender Sberbank to** establish IT centre in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU**: Sberbank's branch in India has received permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish

Bengaluru is India's third

SHERBADL

Anatoly Popov, Deputy Chairman of Sberbank's Executive Board, said, "Bengaluru is often called the Silicon Valley of India, and it is symbolic that Sber has chosen that city for its international IT project.The Bengaluru hub will not only handle the technological needs of our Indian branch but also develop and implement new digital products for its clients. And in the longer term, we plan to employ up to 200 IT specialists in our new unit.

# SBI expects no rate cut from RBI in upcoming monetary policy



**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to maintain the status quo in the forthcoming monetary policy, said State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara on Wednesday. Speaking at CII Financial Inclusion & Fin-Tech Summit, he said, "As a bank, we don't expect rate cut, status quo is likely to be maintained by the RBI." On June CPI inflation, Khara said that the headline print can be perceived as an aberration. In June,

CPI inflation rose to a threemonth high of 4.81% due to spike in food prices. The MPC is scheduled to next meet on Aug 8-10 to which Khara said, "The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) needs to see the trajectory of inflation." In its June 8, policy review meeting, the RBI left its key interest rate unchanged for a second straight policy meeting but signalled that it wants to see inflation moderate more while keeping an eye on the monsoon.

Khara said that private capex is moving in the right direction and it will pick up when "capacity utilisation rises". He added that financial inclusion has emerged as a key foundation for socioeconomic empowerment and a critical enabler for the inclusive and holistic growth of the people.

# KYC challenges trouble for small retailers using QR code to accept card payments



**MUMBAI:** Small shopkeepers KYC compliance, reported TOI. are facing hurdles in completing While the RBI permits know-your-customer (KYC) remote KYC verification, its requirements who are able to norms are more stringent than accept credit card payments those of markets regulator Sebi. through QR code after the in-Sebi's video KYC norms altegration of RuPay with UPI, low customers to interact with software that employs artifi-Earlier merchants found the cial intelligence for customer simplicity of UPI easier to use identification, and companies can offer this process roundan issuer account for accepting payments. However, to accept the-clock, unlike banks that credit card payments, they need typically operate during specific hours. Ratan told to media that to follow the payment network's there are suggestions from the guidelines, which necessitates a industry to make video KYC This is a significant task for less stringent, particularly payments companies that have when an underlying bank acdeployed QR codes at small count is already present. "There shops throughout the counare also lot of steps in the present try, according to Arpit Ratan, video KYC, which do not seem founder of Signzy, a fintech to add value. For instance, the customer is required to hold up company specialising in digital customer onboarding after the PAN card.

Gold drops Rs 350 to Rs 60,450/10 gm; silver plunges Rs 750

**NEW DELHI:** Gold prices dropped by Rs 350 to Rs 60,450 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid weak global trends, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had

reported in media.

merchant KYC process.

settled at Rs 60,800 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

to Rs 77,200 per kilogramme.



Silver also plunged Rs 750

long term Over the years, the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), a feature offered by Mutual Funds, has become a household name.

### **Current** capacity utilization in Manufacturing stands at 75%: FICCI survey



**NEW DELHI:** Despite global headwinds. India's manufacturing sector has remained positive first quarter

## North Indian states incur loss of Rs 15,000 cr due to floods: SBI report

**NEW DELHI:** Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Delhi have suffered an estimated loss of Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 crore owing to the recent floods, as per SBI's latest report.

In Himachal Pradesh alone. the loss is estimated to be around Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 crore. As many as 361 instances of natural disasters have taken place between 2001 and 2022 in the state. Of this 41% of disasters have



## NSE prohibits Angel One from adding new authorised personnel for six months

Member and Core Settlement Guarantee Fund Committee (MCSGFC) of National Stock Exchange of India Limited has passed an order dated July 14 against broking company Angel One, formerly known as Angel Broking in respect of an alleged failure to monitor the operations of its Authorised Persons (APs). This resulted in alleged viola-

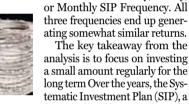
tion of the Capital Market Segment Regulations and Futures ions Segment



of this Order, including those pertaining to assured returns and unauthorised trading, total investor complaints and arbitration matters redressed/resolved in the past one year from the date of the Order and the timelines for the same; and total pending investor complaints and arbitration matters. "It may be noted that the Order does not affect the existing business or the activities of the APs affiliated with the Company. The Company is evaluating various options available including filing an appeal against the Order. The Company has always strived to and carried out its business in compliance with extant laws and regulations in letter and spirit, "Angel One said in a regulatory filing.







(April-June) and has found its existing average capacity utilization at around 75%, as per Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) latest quarterly survey revealed. It reflects sustained economic activity in the sector and is the same as reported in the previous quarter.

The survey found that the growth momentum in the Indian economy has continued after the post-pandemic revival in 2021-22. FICCI's quarterly survey assessed the sentiments of manufacturers in nine major sectors - automotive and auto components, capital goods and construction equipment, cement, chemicals fertilizers and pharmaceuticals, electronics and white goods, machine tools, metal and metal products, textiles, apparel and technical textiles, toys and handicrafts and miscellaneous.

Responses were drawn from over 400 manufacturing units from both large and small and medium-sized enterprises segments with a combined annual turnover of over Rs 7.70 lakh crore. The future investment outlook has also improved as compared to the previous quarter as over 56% of respondents, FICCI said, reported plans for investments and expansions in the coming six months.

This is an improvement over the previous survey where 47% reported plans for investments in the next six months. Globally, economic slowdown caused by the recessionary fears in the US. EU and other developed nations coupled with the Russia-Ukraine conflict continue to add to volatilities in the supply chain as well as demand.

The respondents to which FICCI reached out, at the same time, also listed high raw material prices, increased cost of finance, high logistics cost due to high fuel prices, low global demand, high volume of cheap imports into India, highly volatile prices of certain metals among major constraints which are affecting some of their expansion plans.

occurred in the form of floods.

SBI Research has identified the negligence of the issue of protection gap despite being marred by floods. Out of the total USD 284 the 10-year average of USD 130 billion global economic losses, natural disasters resulted in USD of the total losses uninsured.

by insurance (incurred losses).

The overall protection gap has increased to USD 151 billion in 2022, which is much higher than billion but still at around 54% 275 billion in 2022, of which Though still large, this is less than natural disaster.

the previous 10 years. For India,

this figure is a staggering 92%. SBI Research suggests the formation of a 'Disaster Pool,' which can be formed in the public-private partnership for providing insurance in cases of

tions of the Exchange.

NSE has issued directions to Angel One for monetary penalty of Rs 1.66 crore. The company has been prohibited from onboarding new APs for a period of six months from the date of the Order.



The brokerage has been directed to conduct inspection of all its APs and submit a report Exchange within six months from the date of the Order.

It has also received a direction the past one year from the date

to submit a detailed report on its investor grievance redressal mechanism comprising of total thereof to the satisfaction of the investor complaints and arbitration matters registered against the Company and its APs in

## India on track to becoming the third largest economy

**DR. PS VOHRA** n a recent ad-

American Congress, Prime Minister Modi predicted that by the year 2028, India's GDP would overtake the United States as the third-largest in the world. This statement has given all Indians a chance to be proud of the economic advancement of their nation and has also ingnited aspirations for new dreams.It is worth noting that last year, India had achieved the distinction of being the world's fifth-largest economy based on its GDP size. Today, India ranks only behind United States, China "Japan and Germany . The facts supporting Prime Minister Modi's vision of India becoming the third-largest economy by 2028 are also corroborated by a recent report released by International Monetary Fund.

According to this report, by the year 2028, the size of the Indian economy will be equivalent to 5.58 trillion US dollars, placing India on the third spot globally. Japan will be at the fourth position with 5.34 trillion US dollars, and Germany at the fifth position with 5.04 trillion US dollars. This indicates that the recent report by the International Monetary Fund is paving the way for India to stand as the world's third major power in the coming five years. However, it is essential

same period, China's GDP will

be around 27.49 trillion dollars, and the United States' GDP will be approximately 32.35 trillion dress to the dollars. In other words, China will be more than five times larger than India, while the United States will be more than six times larger. Therefore, discussions about India becoming the world's third-largest power also revolve around the fact that it will still be significantly smaller in comparison to the United States and China.Another observation is that Japan and Germany will not be too far behind India and, due to their technological prowess, may gain an advantage over India in the future. On the other hand, it will be challenging for India, being a country with the world's largest population, to increase individual income at the domestic level based on GDP size.

the reality is that in the current mies in the world has increased scenario, comparing India to United States appears to be merely a dream. America holds dominion in the field of technology worldwide and its share in the GDP of all countries has been more than a quarter for the past several years. According to the report of the International Monetary Fund on December 31, 2022, the size of the GDP of all economies in the world has now exceeded 100 trillion US dollars, which was only about 34 trillion US to understand that during the dollars in the year 2000. In



the past 22 years, the GDP of all economies in the world has tripled, and among them, the United States has retained its top position, contributing to over a quarter of the GDP of all economies Now, if we talk about China,

it has experienced an unexpected growth in its economic level in the last 15-20 years, and perhaps that's the reason why This is not just a feeling, but the GDP of all major econorapidly, by three times. India competes with China, while China firmly believes that India is not even in competition with it. Perhaps China's argument behind this is that India heavily depends on imports from China, and India's trade deficit with China is nearly 100 billion dollars. Trade deficit implies that India imports much more from China compared to its exports to China. It is also worth mentioning that India's defense budget at present is less than its trade deficit with China.

Over the past 30 years, after making significant changes in its economic development policies, India has consistently maintained a good pace of economic growth. Despite various global economic crises and challenges that emerged from time to time, India has continuously boosted the size of its economy. As per statistics, in 1991, the size of the Indian economy was just \$0.3 trillion, which increased to \$0.52 trillion by 2004. During this period, India was moving forward with new economic reforms, but at the same time, it faced several global economic sanctions due to its nuclear tests in Pokhran. which lasted for several years. In the political context, this

was the time when coalition governments became prevalent in India. Despite that, India achieved remarkable economic growth. From 2003-04 to 2013-14, during Manmohan Singh's tenure, India's GDP reached

the world's fifth-largest economy.Now, as of 2023, the IMF has estimated India's GDP size to be around \$3.75 trillion. India's three decades has been impreswill undoubtedly emerge as the world's third-largest economic power in the coming years. Based on this, Prime Minister Modi recently addressed the US Congress, highlighting India's achievements and aspirations in this context.

The dream of becoming the third-largest economic powerhouse is undoubtedly a delightful experience. However, it is essential to analyze why China and the United States we consider the data of the past three years, India's economy has grown only from \$2.84 increase of a mere \$0.55 trillion. In contrast, China and the United States have increased their GDP sizes to \$3.76 trillion and \$4.08 trillion, respectively. This comparison undoubtedly raises concerns, as India's current GDP level of \$3.39 trillion perienced by both these nations in the past four years. To un-\$1.86 trillion. In this period, in India's economic growth, we economic policies will undergo India also faced the impact of the must consider what happened substantial changes again. This Columnist, Views are personal

2007 US recession, which was in recent years that diminished is because India is now the most a global crisis. Later, during the its pace compared to China and Modi era, from 2013-14 to 2022, the United States. Otherwise, the Indian economy reached the India could have been much \$3.39 trillion mark, becoming ahead today, and the dream of becoming the third-largest economic powerhouse by 2028 might have been realized earlier. Upon analysis, one fact economic journey in the last becomes apparent: in the past four years, the Indian Rupee sive, instilling confidence that it has significantly weakened against the American Dollar. The figures indicate that in December 2019, one US Dollar was equivalent to Rs 59, whereas by December 31, 2022, it had risen to around Rs 83, a depreciation of approximately 20% during this period. In contrast, the Chinese currency, the

Yuan, did not experience such a substantial depreciation against the US Dollar, and as a result, China's GDP has grown at a much faster rate in recent years. are surging ahead rapidly. If It is evident that the weakness of the Indian Rupee is a significant factor behind the rising import costs and soaring trillion to \$3.39 trillion, an inflation levels in the domestic market, which have profoundly affected individual economic development.

In the coming years, it is not an exaggeration to say that India will become the world's thirdlargest economic powerhouse. However, during that time, Inis still lower than the growth ex- dia will remain significantly weaker compared to China and the United States. It is evident derstand the relative slowdown that in the times ahead, India's

populous country in the world, and there will be a need to explore several new approaches to address the issues of unemployment and inflation at the domestic level.Nevertheless, the credit for India's economic progress in the last three decades goes to the economic reforms of the 1990s, which rapidly propelled India to the position of the world's fifthlargest economic power and set it on course to become the thirdlargest in the near future. It is also worth noting that from 1991 to 2014, the Indian economy achieved an average growth rate of 7.81 percent, which is highly commendable. Moreover, if we look at the period from 2004 to 2014, the growth rate was even higher, surpassing 13 %.However, since 2014, the size of the GDP has increased significantly, but the growth rate has hovered around 6 percent, which is a cause for concern. Nevertheless, it should not be viewed entirely negatively, as during this period, several economic reforms, including the introduction of GST, have taken place in India. Additionally, the unexpected economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have also hindered economic development for about one and a half vears.

> Dr. P.S. Vohra, Academician, Financial Thinker & Newspaper

## **INTERNATIONAL**

## UK PM Rishi Sunak's Tories face heavy losses but avert byelection sweep

LONDON: British Prime Min-ister Rishi Sunak on Friday averted a damaging byelection whitewash as the governing Conservatives held on to his former boss Boris Johnson's seat in London, but faced a bruising in two key byelections.

Thursday's three-way byelection was widely pitched as a report card on Sunak's handling of the economy and wider prospects as party leader going into a general election, expected in the second half of next year.

Conservative Steve Tuckwell just about holding on to Uxbridge and South Ruislip, Johnson's seat until he stepped down in the wake of a parliamentary inquiry into partygate inquiry last month, was the only bit of good news for the party.

The Opposition Labour Party overturned a massive Tory majority of over 20,000

#### Singapore-based regional maritime agency lauds Indian Coast Guard & Marine Police for curbing robberies against ships SINGAPORE: Efforts by the

Indian Coast Guard and Marine Police to check onshore vendors, warning them not to buy items stolen from ships, have resulted in a drastic drop in high seas robberies against vessels in the Indian waters, a top official of a regional maritime agency said on Friday. Only two offshore ship incidents were reported in Indian waters during the first half of this year (January-June 2023), compared to three a year ago and a dramatic drop from 10-12 at its peak, Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre said in its half-yearly report released on Friday. The two incidents that took place in the first half of this year were on ships anchored or berthed, the report said.



to decisively clinch the Selby and Ainsty constituency in northern England, a byelection triggered by the resignation of close Boris

Johnson ally Nigel Adams. "This is a historic result that shows that people are looking at Labour and seeing a changed party that is focused entirely on the priorities of working people with an ambitious, practical



plan to deliver," said Labour Leader Keir Starmer.

With the big win, his namesake in 25-year-old Keir Mather overtook Indian-origin Labour MP Nadia Whittome as the socalled "Baby of the House" to become the youngest member of Parliament. It will be a long wait though for him to take his seat in the House of Commons. which is now on its summer recess and resumes only in early September.

In a second bruising for the Sunak-led Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats swept the Somerset and Frome byelections on south-west England. Sarah Dyke, a Somerset councillor with a farming background, secured a dramatic victory by winning 21,187 votes, with Conservative Faye Purbrick left far behind in second place with 10,179 votes.

In her victory speech, Dyke thanked "lifelong Conservative voters" who had voted Lib Dem for the first time, as well as Labour and Green supporters who had "lent" their votes. She said the public had been "let down and taken for granted for far too long" by the Conservatives, with the government "too busy being a circus of chaos".

The byelection was triggered by the resignation of former Tory MP David Warburton,

following allegations of drugtaking and sexual misconduct. The Lib Dem leader, Sir Ed Davey, who had campaigned hard in Somerset hailed his party's "stunning victory" which he said shows his party is on course to make a comeback in the region and that the country are "fed up with Rishi Sunak's out-of-touch Conservative government".

In London, the sole Tory win was largely attributed to anger against Labour Mayor Sadiq Khan over his plans to extend the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to outer areas of the UK capital. The policy has proved extremely divisive and it meant the Tory candidate held on to the Uxbridge and South Ruislip seat by just 495 votes.

Indian-Americans named to

US EXIM advisory councils

## **Argentinian Defence Minister Visits HAL** signed Lol on Co-operation for Light & **Medium Utility Helicopters for Armed Forces**

**ARUN KUMAR RAO** Bengaluru

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the Ministry of Defence of The Republic of Argentina have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on productive cooperation and acquisition of Light and Medium Utility Helicopters for the armed forces of the Argentine Republic, HAL press statement said here.

The LoI was signed here today by Jorge Taiana, Argentinian Defence Minister and C B Ananthakrishnan, CMD, HAL in the presence of Mr Francisco Cafiero, Secretary of International Affairs, Ambassador Hugo Javier Gobbi, Ambassador Dinesh Bhatia and other senior officers from Argentinian side and HAL. The Argentinian Defence



Minister remarked that the day was interesting and a step on the road to an ever growing and strong collaboration with HAL. C B Ananthakrishnan, CMD,

HAL and other senior officers of HAL briefed the visiting dignitaries on various activities of HAL and a presentation was

made on the occasion at HAL During the day-long program, the Argentinian Defence Minister and his team viewed the flying display of various HAL products at HAL Airport. The team also paid a visit to LCA, Helicopter Divisions and evinced keen interest in HAL products.

## Indian-American Congressman gets Champion of Healthcare **Innovation Award**

INDIAN: American Congressman Ami Bera received the Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award in recognition of his support to high-quality, affordable healthcare in

the US. Bera, the longest-serving Indian-American Representative inCongress, was felicitated during Healthcare Leadership Council Innovation Expo 23 in Washington D.C. last week.



"Honored to receive the Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award... As a doctor, I'm committed to working to ensure that every American has access to high-quality, affordable health care, "Bera wrote on Twitter.

Bera was first elected to represent Sacramento County in November 2012, and since then has served the community for more than two decades as a doctor, first as Sacramento County's Chief Medical Officer, and then as a Clinical Professor of Medicine at UC Davis, where he taught the next generation of doctors to care for their patients. As a first generation American, Bera has championed efforts to strengthen investment in global health innovation and fought proposed cuts to vital funds that help fight future pandemics, which won him the 2021 Congressional Champion Award.

## Trump says expects arrest by federal inquiry into Capitol riot

Former US President Donald Trump said that he expects to be arrested by a federal inquiry into the January 2021 Capitol riot and efforts to challenge the 2020 election results.

He made the remarks on Tuesday in a post on his Truth Social app, claiming that he had been sent a letter "stating that I am a TARGET of the January 6th Grand Jury investigation, and giving me a very short 4 days to report to the Grand Jury, which almost always means an Arrest and Indictment", reports the BBC.

The former President added that he had been informed of the development by special counsel Jack Smith on Sunday night.

Smith's team has investigated Trump's handling of classified documents after leaving the White House and with managing a sprawling federal investigation into the riot and attempts by the former President and his advisers to "interfere with the lawful transfer of power

Sri Lanka draws up calendar of events

in 75th year of Independence



following the 2020 presidential election".

Such an indictment would be Trump's third for alleged criminal offences, including 37 counts brought by Smith's team in June accusing the former leader of mishandling classified documents.

Trump has also been charged in New York City with falsifying business records in 2016 hush money payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels.

He is due to stand trial in that case in March 2024, while a date for the classified documents case is still being contested by the president's lawyers.

NEW YORK: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), which is the official export credit agency of the country, named new members, including many Indian-Americans, to its four advisory subcommittees.

The subcommittees -Council on Climate, Council on China Competition, Council on Advancing Women in **Business and Council on Small** Business -- advise EXIM on its initiatives as the agency works to advance key Biden-Harris

administration priorities. Pavneet Singh, CEO of Infobalize, was appointed to the 17-member Council on China Competition. Singh is an independent consultant and currently advises a range of public and private companies and US government agencies on issues related to emerging technology, national security, supply

chain resiliency, public finance and broader geopolitics. Previously, he served in



several roles on the National Security Council (NSC) and National Economic Council (NEC) in the Obama Administration.

As part of this council, Singh and other members will provide guidance on advancing comparative leadership of the US with respect to China and supporting US innovation and employment through competitive export finance.

Four Indian-Americans

#### Karl Mehta, Chairman of Quad Investors Network; Shubha Nagarajan, Managing Director, Global Capital Advisory, North America, GE **Energy Financial Services**, and Meghan Pasricha, Managing Director of Riverstone Holdings

### Drone found at Indo-Pak border village Mastgarh Three Hindu sisters in Pak's Sindh province forced to marry JAGMOHAN SINGH

### Amritsar

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan known during the British era, A suspected drone was seized at tourism authorities have cre- threw off the colonial yoke in ated a calendar of events to 1948 to become a free nation, In a statement issued here today, BSF official stated that in specific information, BSF and Punjab Police launched a joint search operation on the outskirts of Village During the search, troops recov-

Indo-Pak border Mastgarh village - Mastgarh, Distt - Tarn Taran.

## Muslim men who kidnapped and converted them to Islam



76th anniversary of the country's independence next year as the cash-strapped country from an unprecedented eco-Sri Lanka or Ceylon as it was economic crisis.

ourists for the next sev-

a year after India gained eral months leading up to the independence from the imperial rule. When the country, dubbed the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean', marked the 75th anis showing signs of recovery niversary of its independence on February 4 this year, it was nomic crisis it faced last year. reeling under a devastating



morning hours. The recovered from the farming field adjacent to

Village - Mastgarh, district Tarn drone is Quadcopter, DJI Matrice ered a drone in broken condition Taran on 21st July 2023 during 300 RTK model, official stated.

## Russia has cluster munitions, may retaliate if Ukraine uses them, says Putin



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country has a "sufficient" stockpile of cluster munitions and will consider using them against Ukraine "if they are used against us".

"Russia has a sufficient supply of various types of cluster munitions, " CNN quoted the President as saying during an interview with local Russian media

"If they are used against us, we reserve the right to mirror actions.

Putin's remarks came just days after Ukraine received a delivery of American-made cluster munitions from the US.

The weapons are particularly dangerous to civilians and noncombattants when fired near populated areas because they scatter explosive material, socalled "bomblets," across large areas.

Those that fail to explode on impact can detonate years munitions in urban areas.

later, posing a long-term risk to anyone who encounters them. similar to landmines, CNN reported.

The danger posed by cluster than 100 countries -- including the UK, France and Germany to sign a treaty prohibiting their use.

In the interview, Putin said that the US administration had called the use of cluster munitions a war crime and that he agreed with that assessment.

But he did not say who in the administration had made the remarks, or when.

The President also claimed that Russia has not yet used cluster munitions, despite a UN report in March said thatit had compiled credible reports that Russian forces had used cluster munitions in populated areas at least 24 times.

Speaking to CNN earlier this month, US President Joe Biden had said that the decision whether to send cluster munitions to Ukraine was "very difficult".

But he opted to do so because Kiev needs more ammunition to continue its fight to push Russian troops out of Ukrainian territory.

A top official at the US Defense Department said Ukraine gave "assurances in writing" that it would not use the cluster

# Pak military court should not begin trial of civilians involved in May 9 violence without informing Supreme Court: Top judge

by the mob for the first time.

Khan was later released on bail.

approved that those involved in

the attacks on military installa-

tions on May 9, the "Black Day",

following the arrest of former

prime minister Khan, would be

tried under the stringent Army

Act. During the hearing, Chief

Justice Bandial countered an ar-

gument by advocate Latif Khosa,

the counsel for petitioner Aitzaz

Ahsan, who equated the existing

situation in the country with the

reign of former military dictator

General Ziaul Haq.

intervene," Bandial said.

In May, the federal cabinet

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top judge on Friday directed that the military court should not begin a trial of those involved in the weapons has prompted more unprecedented anti-government violence on May 9 without informing the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial gave this direction during the hearing of multiple petitions challenging the military trial of civilians, mostly supporters of former prime minister Imran Khan. A six-member bench, including Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha A. Malik, is hearing the petitions. The case is about the military trial of more than 100 suspects involved in attacks on military installations during a protest by supporters of Khan when he was arrested in an alleged corruption case on May 9

On May 9, violent protests erupted after the arrest of 70-year-old Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, by paramilitary Rangers in Islamabad. His party workers vandalised over 20 military installations and government buildings, including the Lahore Corps Commander House, Mianwali airbase and

the ISI building in Faisalabad. The Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi was also attacked

tary trials of civilians begin. "The trial of the accused in military courts should not begin without informing the SC," he said. Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan informed the court that a lot of people were involved in the events of May 9, but after exercising caution, only 102 people were pinpointed for court martial. The government has already stated that the trial of those involved in the attack on the military facilities would be

it has come under criticism by human rights bodies. The controversy landed in

"You can't compare the present era with the era of Ziaul Haq. the Supreme Court after the This is not Ziaul Haq's era, nor petitions were filed against it is martial law imposed in the by eminent people like former country. Even if a martial lawchief justice of the apex court like situation arises, we will Jawwad S. Khawaja, prominent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, a lead-Chief Justice Badial then diing civil society representative rected that the Supreme Court Karamat Ali and former premier should be informed before mili-Imran Khan

married to Muslim men who first kidnapped them and forcibly converted them to Islam, according to a leading minority rights group in the country.

KARACHI: Three daughters of

a Hindu businessman in Paki-

nprovince

mate, including Nava Akkine-

ni, Vice President of Emerg-

ing Markets of Nextracker;

The head of Pakistan Darewar Itehad, Shiva Kachhi, said that the incident took place in Sindh's Dharki area where Chandni, Roshni and Parmesh Kumari, daughters of a Hindu businessman, Leela Ram, were first abducted and then forcibly converted to Islam.

The conversion was performed by one Pir Javed Ahmed Qadri and later they were also married to Muslim men," he said.

Kachhi said despite appeals and pleas from his organisation's platform, the problem of forcible conversion of Hindu girls was continuing unabated with the police and authorities not apprehending the culprits. He said that the three sisters

were married to the same men who abducted them. Kachhi also claimed that the attacks on the Hindu community in the riverine areas have spiked since the Seema Haider incident.

Seema Haider, a Pakistani

woman and a mother of four. for the security of temples and worship places in Mirpurkhas, sneaked into India to live with a Hindu man, Sachin Meena, Kashmore, Tharparkar, Ghotki, whom she befriended through Sukkur, Umarkot and Sanghar,' Kacchi alleged.

an online game platform. She was ostracised by her family and neighbours for daring to defy the societal norms of a conservative Muslim country.

There have been daily threats from dacoits in the riverine areas to retaliate against Hindus because of this incident. Kachhi said. Last week, a gang of dacoits attacked a Hindu temple with rocket launchers along with adjoining homes belonging to Hindus in the Kashmore area

of the Sindh province. "After the temple of Bhagri's was attacked by some dacoits in Kashmore, the authorities have now sent Hindu policemen

#### He claimed these Hindu policemen had also been sent to riverine areas to hunt the dacoits. These are poor Hindu people

who are serving in low positions in police belonging to different areas of Sindh and the authorities now want them to provide security for the Hindu worship places," Kacchi added.

Hindus form the biggest minority community in Pakistan. The majority of Pakistan's Hindu population is settled in

Sindh province where they share culture, traditions and language with Muslim residents.

# Burnt Sikh holy book found outside UK home prompts hate crime probe

LONDON: The UK police has begun a hate crime inquiry into an incident in which a Sikh holy book was set on fire and tossed in a bin outside a community memheld under military laws, but ber's house in Leeds, England.

An elderly Sikh man and his daughter discovered the burnt and torn Gutka Sahib outside of their home in St Anne's Road, Headingley, on July 12.

They brought the burnt scrip ture to the Gurdwara Sahib following which a community member got in touch with the local police.

Police said they received a report of an incident that had



occurred in the Headingley area at 5.03 p.m. on July 16.

"A representative of the local Sikh community reported that a holy text had been found damaged outside a Sikh community member's address in St Anne's Road, " the West Yorkshire police said in a statement shared on July 18. Police said a crime has been recorded for racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage and enquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances of the incident including how the damaged text came to be left there.

"Any crime such as this which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by hostility or prejudice to their race or religion is treated as a hate crime, and we treat all incidents of this nature very seriously, Leeds District Commander, Chief Superintendent Steve Dodds said



# Priyanka and her husband just celebrated her 41st birthday

riyanka Chopra just celebrated her 41st birthday, and her husband, pop star Nick Jonas, shared an adorable post on the occasion.

Nick took to Instagram and dropped an unseen photo with Priyanka, wherein the couple are sitting on a yacht in a lovestruck pose.

Priyanka is wearing a white and black dotted halter-neck dress paired with white sunglasses, and Nick is in a blue sleeveless tee shirt.

He penned a note along with the photo: "I love celebrating you. Happy birthday my love, " with a red heart emoji. The comment section was filled with fans expressing: "Lots of blessings to you both, I'm happy that you are celebrating our queen, she deserves all the love and happiness in this world."

Another wrote: "Nick Joyou a beautiful blessed year nas ... his acts of service and ahead! Keep shining and affirmation are so strong." stay blessed with your gor-You are the greatest hapgeous family! piness for her, you make Priyanka's mother, Dr her happy. keep partying Madhu Chopra, also shared

together! Happy Birthday a video on social media Priyanka;" and "Happy wherein we can see montage Birthday to your queen PCJ! We love you and wish of throwback and unseen pictures of PCJ with her

mommy, brother, daughter Malti Marie and husband Nick. The video also shows Priyanka saying: "I don't wanna have a label. I wanna have a legacy." The post was captioned:

"Happy Birthday to the bold & gorgeous @priyankachopra.



# Bollywood diva Kriti opens up on loving butterflies to explain production house's name

**NEW DELHI:** Bollywood of her journey, explaining and showing visuals of her created a big wave of excitement with the announcement of her production house Blue Butterfly Films, has explained the real reason of her choosing this title.

Taking to social media, Kriti has shared a video

high points so far, and also revealed how she has been using the 'blue butterfly' emoji since her debut.

Kriti also said that how she truly resonates with the title of her production house. In the video, she said: "So

why Blue Butterfly Films -- I do love butterflies and I do love the colour blue, it's there on my insta bio since ages, I use it in my captions, I use it when I write poetry. I think it signifies dreams, wings, flight, freedom, liberal, positivity, happiness all of it. I feel like a butterfly is beautiful but it starts off with you know, being a caterpillar, turning into a cocoon and then turning into a butterfly."

"It is a slow steady process and becoming the most beautiful version of yourself and I think my life on my journey has kind of been like that, I've learnt everything on the job, I've slowly gotten to where I am today, evolved into the person I am today, " said the 'Shehzada' actress. "You have your struggles but you move on, you grow, you change and then you find the best, the most beautiful version of yourself and then you fly. So, that's why it is blue butterfly, added Kriti. On the work

front, Kriti will next be seen in Vikas Bahl's 'Ganapath - Part 1' and 'The Crew' starring next to Kareena Kapoor, Tabu and Rajkummar Rao.



**POTPOURRI** 

# Director Randeep Jha skill-

fully takes audiences on a thrilling journey in 'Kohrra', delving into the intertwined lives of dysfunctional families, and the chilling depths of the crime. Set against the backdrop of the picturesque countryside of Punjab, the story revolves around the discovery of a murdered NRI just days before his wedding.

Sara Ali Khan pays obeisance at Amarnath cave shrine

#### 'The Trial' **Kajol impresses** in dauting task of matching up to original



**MUMBAI**: The purpose of a trial is to ensure that the defendant gets a fair assessment of all evidence against him or her, and so, it is a structured process wherein the facts of a case are presented to a jury, which decides if the defendant is guilty or not. If the ruling in the case is found to be not maintainable, then it can be challenged in a higher court.

The only difference is that unlike in the US, India does not have a trial by jury system!

The process of trial as enumerated in our Constitution is that "trial is the right of a person", or that the trial of a court should be a "fair trial". And that could be a huge challenge if a story around the American courts is adapted to suit the Indian milieu and

its legal system. Understandably then, the eight-episode Disney+ Hotstar series, 'The Trial: Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhokha', adapted from the multi-season CBS show 'The Good Wife', has peen tweaked -- at times, a bit audiences, and has amended the original creative writing with some of the technical legal terms and laws altered. By doing so, it does fit into the mindset with which court cases are filed, viewed and judged under the Indian Penal Code.

## Highly-anticipated film 'Project Bollywood demands justice for Manipur violence K' starring Prabhas, Deepika, Amitabh and Kamal Hassan

**MUMBAI**: The makers of the

glimpse at the San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), with the official title announcement.

'Kalki2898AD'. This cinematic genre. The grand unveiling of prestigious San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), where the film capti-

The new title perfectly encaphighly-anticipated film 'Project sulates the essence of the film, K', starring Prabhas, Deepika generating curiosity and excite-

vated audiences with its visionary concept and spellbinding visuals. oppressor, and they are running for their lives.



**MUMBAI**: The recently surfaced video of two women belonging to the Kuki-Zomi community being paraded naked and being assaulted by a mob of men, has sent shockwaves across India. Bollywood superstar Akshav Kumar and director Vivek Agnihotri have strongly reacted to the video, condemning the 'shameful" act.

Akshay Kumar took to his Twitter and shared a note saying that he feels shaken and disgusted to see such unspeakable cruelty being meted out to the women.

He tweeted: "Shaken, disgusted to see the video of violence against women in Mani-

pur. I hope the culprits get such a harsh punishment that no one ever thinks of doing a horrifying thing like this again.' Vivek Agnihotri, who is known for 'The Kashmir Files', took to his Instagram and

shared a heartfelt note saying how the nation has failed as a society He wrote in his Instagram

post: "MANIPUR: Moplah, Direct Action Day, Noakhali, Bangladesh, Punjab, Kashmir, Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Bastar and now Manipur. Every time our innocent mothers and sisters become the ultimate victims of inhuman, barbarian acts. As a Bharativa, as a man, as a human

being, I am shattered each time. I am ashamed."

He further mentioned that he feels guilty for being helpless in such a situation and also wrote free India."

for my helplessness. O Manipur, it's too late by then. We are all victims of selective and hypercompetitive electoral politics. We are victims of hyper-religion. We are victims of dangerous media. We, the people of Bharat, are victims. There is no #Right-ToLife in free India. And we can't do anything about it."

"This is not the freedom I want. This is not the kind of democracy I want. It's worth nothing if it makes us bay for each other's blood. We are a failed society. I am sorry, my sisters. I am sorry, my mothers.

## Arjun Rampal, Gabriella Demetriades welcome second child



MUMBAI: Actor Arjun Rampal and his partner, Gabriella Demetriades, have become parents to a baby boy, their second child together. Arjun, 50, took to his social media pages to share the news. "My family and I are blessed with a beautiful baby boy today. Mother and son are both doing well. Thank you to the wonderful team of doctors and nurses. We are over the moon. Thank you for all your love and support. #helloworld #20.07.2023,' the "London Files" actor wrote alongside a picture of a swaddle that read "Hello World".

SRINAGAR: Actor Sara Ali Khan undertook the Amarnath Yatra to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said on Thursday.

Sara, daughter of actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, undertook the yatra from the Baltal axis, they said.

On July 19, the 27-year-old actor visited the Sonamarg resort – on the way to Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district - and enjoyed the breathtaking views at the Thajwas glacier.



masterpiece has been hailed as a with rich storytelling, offering seamless fusion of science fiction an unparalleled and immersive and unprecedented storytelling, cinematic experience. The one setting new benchmarks for the minute 15 second teaser is set in 'Kalki2898AD' took place at the It begins with a glimpse of war-



lessly blends futuristic elements a dark and sci-fi futuristic world. torn time-period, where people are being treated violently by the



**KULBIR SINGH KALSI** Chandigarh

Bringing forward a social drama injected by the society in the lives of two brothers, Hakam and Varyam; Mainland Films (Canad and liberally -- to cater to Indian Mainsite Pictures (India) shared the trailer of the film "Balle O Chalaak Sajjna" produced by Param Sidhu, Guri Pandher and Sukhi Dhillon: Dhaliwal, Parminder Barnala, whereas directed by Royal Singh to release on 4th August, 2023. and Harman Virk.



The film's director Royal Singh said, "I am more than happy to have the responsibility as the director of the film and to get a chance to direct adept artists of Punjabi cinema. This film is made with lots of emoand good intentions. So we hope the audience will give their full love to this unique story of ours. Actor Raj Singh Jhinjar said, "I have worked in many films but the story of this film really appealed to me. The movie's story understands the sensitivity of the realities and created the society.'

that there is "no right to life in He continued: "I am so guilty I tried... I tried... but I failed. All I can do now is tell their tragic stories through my work. But

The film stars an adept star Talking about the film written cast including Raj Singh Jhin- by Gurpreet Toti and realisti-

my life!" said Salman.

'Bigg Boss' is an Indian real-

ity show franchise based on the

Dutch reality show 'Big Brother'.

It was originally started in the

Hindi language, and has since been extended into seven lan-

guages spoken in the Indian

subcontinent, including Kan-

nada, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu,

'Bigg Boss' for the last 13 seasons

and took over as the host of 'Bigg

He first joined the hosting du-

ties in 2010 with the fourth sea-

son of the show, where Shweta

Tiwari emerged as the winner.

Marathi and Malayalam. Salman has been the host of

Boss OTT' this season.

many others.

21, 2023

Abbas Zafar.

cally edited by Manish Eklavya, jar, Vikram Chouhan, Molina Sodhi, Harashjot Kaur, Nirmal the film highlights some crucial Rishi, Mahabir Bhullar, Rupinnorms of the society who create shameful remakes on the der Rupi, Parkash Gadhu, Raj basis of their false assumptions. Aman Sutdhar, Gurpreet Toti, But how are these norms and Dilraj Uday, Sukhwinder Raj allegations harmful or crucial on an innocent family is what the audience will get to witness in the film.



Actor Randeep Hooda joins forces with Khalsa Aid to aid flood-affected regions of Punjab and Haryana PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

A complete KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

## Salman Khan is currently seen hosting the second season of 'Bigg Boss OTT'

MUMBAI: Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who is currently seen hosting the second season of 'Bigg Boss OTT', feels the show is like an extension of his life.

While news of Salman quitting the show as the host including the ongoing 'Bigg Boss OTT 2' has been circulating, this is what the 'Dabangg' star had to say about the show during the launch of the OTT version.

"Bigg Boss is an emotion for me; I always say mai attachment se door rehta hoon but Bigg Boss is different! I have hosted it now for so many years that it feels like an extension of my life!" said Salman.

'Bigg Boss' is an Indian reality show franchise based on the Dutch reality show 'Big Brother'. It was originally started in the Hindi language, and has since been extended into seven languages spoken in the Indian subcontinent, including Kannada, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Malavalam.

Salman has been the host of 'Bigg Boss' for the last 13 seasons and took over as the host of 'Bigg Boss OTT' this season.

He first joined the hosting duties in 2010 with the fourth season of the show, where Shweta Tiwari emerged as the winner.

On the acting front, he was last seen in 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', which also stars Pooja



Hegde, Shehnaaz Gill, Palak Tiwari and Raghav Juyal among many others

Salman will next be seen in 'Tiger 3' with Katrina Kaif. The film is slated to release on April 21, 2023

Tiger 3' is the third instalment in the 'Tiger' franchise directed by Maneesh Sharma. The first instalment 'Ek Tha

Tiger' directed by Kabir Khan released in 2012. The second 'Tiger Zinda Hai' released in 2017 and was directed by Ali Abbas Zafar.

'Bigg Boss OTT 2' streams on Jio Cinema. Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who is currently seen hosting the second season of 'Bigg Boss OTT', feels the show is like an extension of his life.

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"Bigg Boss is an emotion for me; I always say mai attachment se door rehta hoon but

Vicky Kaushal shared a glimpse from Katrina Kaif's 40th birthday Bigg Boss is different! I have hosted it now for so many years that it feels like an extension of



On the acting front, he was MUMBAI: Actor Vicky Kaushlast seen in 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', which also stars Pooja al shared a glimpse from Ka-Hegde, Shehnaaz Gill, Palak trina Kaif's 40th birthday and Tiwari and Raghav Juyal among said that he is in awe of her magic everyday.

Salman will next be seen in Vicky took to Instagram to wish his wife and shared pho-'Tiger 3' with Katrina Kaif. The film is slated to release on April tos, where he and Katrina can be seen by the sea.

The two were seen posing 'Tiger 3' is the third instalment in the 'Tiger' franchise romantically as they looked directed by Maneesh Sharma. into each others' eves.

The actor captioned: "In The first instalment 'Ek Tha Tiger' directed by Kabir Khan awe of your magic... every day. released in 2012. The second Happy Birthday my love!"

'Tiger Zinda Hai' released in Vicky's brother Sunny 2017 and was directed by Ali Kaushal took to the comment section and dropped three

heart emojis after seeing the beautiful photographs from their birthday getaway. Vicky and Katrina got mar-

ried in December 2021 in Raiasthan and the couple later held a reception in Mumbai. On the work front, Katrina is gearing up for the third instalment of the 'Tiger' fran-

chise, which is slated to release on Diwali 2023. She will also be seen in Sriram Raghavan's Merry Christmas and Jee Le Zara

Vicky will be seen in 'Sam Bahadur' directed by Meghna Gulzar.



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