

REGION

2

## DELHI GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FREE SUGAR TO UNDERPRIVILEGED FAMILIES TILL DECEMBER



# Supreme Court decides to appoint interim DERC Chairperson by August 4, as Kejriwal, Delhi LG fail to reach consensus

OUR CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi



The Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said on Thursday that it will appoint a DERC chairperson for a brief period on an ad-hoc basis by August 4 as a way out to ensure the statutory body, headless for the past six months, becomes functional, while expressing anguish that nobody cares about the "headless" institution and are "busy in fighting".

Amid the deadlock between the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) V K Saxena over the appointment of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) chairperson, the top court said it will do some homework and appoint someone on a "pro tem basis" to the post.

This comes a day after Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal held a meeting with Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena at the Raj Niwas to pick a candidate for the chairperson of

the DERC. Ahead of the meeting, the Delhi government had furnished three names before the LG. On Monday, the Supreme Court asked the two constitutional functionaries to rise above "political bickering". Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud urged them to "sit together" and come up with a name. The post of the DERC chairman assumes significance since the regulator decides the power tariff in the national capital. The position has been lying vacant since January amid the differences

between the AAP dispensation and the LG's office over the new appointee. Kejriwal in January recommended the name of retired High Court judge Rajeev Kumar Srivastava for the post but last month, he excused himself from taking charge, citing personal reasons.

On June 21, the chief minister recommended the name of retired justice Sangeet Lodha as the new DERC chairperson. However, the Centre through a notification appointed Justice Umesh Kumar (retired) to the post. This renewed the tug-of-

BANKING & FINANCE

6

## OVER 1000 NEW CRYPTO COINS LISTED IN MARKET IN 5 MONTHS DESPITE TIGHT REGULATIONS



ON MONDAY

### SC asks Delhi L-G & CM to sit together to decide DERC chairman's name

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Lieutenant Governor and Delhi Chief Minister to "sit together" and "rise above political bickering" to mutually decide on the name of the Chairman of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC).

"Why don't two constitutional functionaries (Delhi L-G and CM) sit down and make it work? They have to rise above political bickering. We do not want to step into this, we want both sides to arrive at a solution," said a bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Manoj Misra.

"We will approach the Delhi L-G tomorrow," said senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who represented the Delhi government, in response to the suggestion put forth by the court. "It will only be miraculous that both of them (Delhi L-G and CM) agree on a name," he added further.

The reservations expressed by Dr. Singhvi were opposed heavily by senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Delhi L-G. "It is unfortunate that the Delhi government lawyer (Dr. Singhvi) starts by saying that he has no hope. The first reaction should be yes, we'll do it," he said.

saying "electricity" is a transferred subject falling under the jurisdiction of the elected government of a state or a Union territory.

POTPOURRI

8

## BOLLYWOOD DIVA KRITI SANON OPENS UP ON LOVING BUTTERFLIES TO EXPLAIN PRODUCTION HOUSE'S NAME



## Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha adjourned amid opposition uproar over Manipur Crisis

FW CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi

Massive ruckus ensued in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha after the opposition parties demanded Prime Minister Narendra 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 the Lok Sabha that the government 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 and told Speaker Om Birla that "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 the House to function, you don't 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 discussion on Manipur incidents. He said the Manipur situation should be taken seriously 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.

## Manipur incident can never be forgiven: PM Modi



**NEW DELHI:** Expressing his pain and anger over the Manipur 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.

He added, "Whether the incident is of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Manipur or any part of the country, rising above politics, the law and order is important."

The Opposition has been slamming the BJP since the video went viral and questioned the law and order situation in the Northeastern state.

Prime Minister Modi also said that all the political parties should make the best use of this Monsoon session.

## Opposition meeting to protect democracy, Constitution: Kharge



**BENGALURU:** The Congress is not interested in power or the post of prime minister, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Tuesday as leaders of 26 Opposition 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.

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

**NEW DELHI:** Chinese smartphone makers, including Oppo Mobile, Vivo India and Xiaomi Technology, have been found evading taxes worth Rs 9,000 crore in India, Parliament was informed on Friday.

Data shared by the Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in Rajya Sabha showed tax evasion of around Rs 9,000 crore, comprising customs duty and GST, has 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. Tax evasion of Rs



851.14 crore has been detected in the case of Xiaomi Technology India Pvt Ltd comprising Rs 682.51 crore in customs duty and Rs 168.63 crore in GST.

Chandrasekhar shared that customs duty evasion of Rs 4,389 crore was detected in 2019-20 in the case of Oppo Mobile India Pvt Ltd, out of which Rs 450 crore has been recovered. Vivo India Mobile Pvt Ltd was found to be evading customs duty of Rs 2,217 crore out of which Rs 72 crore has been recovered in 2020-21. In 2019-20, Xiaomi Technology India Pvt Ltd was

found to be evading custom duty of Rs 653.02 crore out of which Rs 46 lakh has been recovered. In 2022-23, Vivo Mobile India Pvt Ltd was found evading Rs 658 crore. According to the official data, Lenovo has evaded Rs 42.36 crore GST.

Government has been able to recover Rs 1,214.83 crore from Oppo, Rs 168.25 crore from Vivo and Rs 92.8 crore from Xiaomi, as per the official data.

The minister was replying to a question on the number of Chinese handset companies which have evaded taxes and made illegal remittances in India. Chandrasekhar said that cumulative turnover of Chinese mobile handset companies in 2021-22 was estimated to be Rs 1.5 lakh crore in India.

"The total direct employment generated by them in their manufacturing operations is more than 75,000. They also have sales and operational workforce of around 80,000 workers," the minister said.

## It's NDA vs 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 --Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) --to untidely take on the NDA led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Trinamool Congress Chief Mamata Banerjee asked "NDA can you challenge INDIA?", during the joint press conference held at the end of the two-day 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 Mallikarjuna Kharge, in his inaugural address to leaders of the newly



christened I.N.D.I.A, said that 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 in parliament. It's also seen as pragmatic nod to the ground situation where re-



gional chieftains have proved to be resilient in containing BJP on their home turf. AICC President Kharge also alleged that every institution is being turned into "a weapon against the opposition". The CBI, ED, Income Tax are routinely used. False criminal cases are filed against our leaders so that they get caught in the legal process. Constitutional authorities are used to suspend our MPs. MLAs are being blackmailed or bribed to move to BJP and topple government" He added.

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

The Government is more interested to pass and making the Delhi Ordinance to a Bill, Data Protection Bill, Birth and Death Registration (Amendment) Bill



MEENAKSHI BHATACHARYA  
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 speeches?

In this monsoon session the sexual harassment of women wrestlers, the Delhi ordinance to the violence in Manipur, the opposition will keep the pressure on the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. Sources say that the opposition is going to demand a statement in

the House from the Prime Minister on the violence in Monsoon Session, especially in Manipur, and understanding the seriousness of the matter, the government is also formulating a strategy.

According to the news received from the sources, 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. The Government is more interested 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 opposition meet

**BENGALURU:** The leaders 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 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, Rashtriya Lok Dal President Jayant 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 Medium Industries M.B. Patil and Minister for Women and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar at the HAL airport.

## Chandrayaan-3 to leave earth orbit July 31, enters Moon orbit Aug 5

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
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 success. After perfect Launch 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, elevating the dreams and ambitions of every Indian. This momentous achievement is testament 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 around Earth 10 times till July 31, each time scientists 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 Moon (translunar insertion).

Five and half days later, the craft will enter the critical lunar orbit insertion stage. This will be carried out by firing onboard propulsion systems to get the spacecraft into the Moon's orbit. "The spacecraft's altitude will be reduced to a 100km circular orbit and the landing module will get separated on August 17", ISRO Chairman Somanath said.

## K'taka Dy CM & KPCC President, DK Shivakumar India's richest MLA: ADR report

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

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 assets and liabilities are Rs 265 crore.

Karnataka 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 bil-

lionaires (worth Rs 100 crore), the highest in the country, and the average assets of the legislators is Rs 64.3 crore.

In the list, the top three slots are taken by Karnataka MLAs. The second richest is an Independent legislator and Businessman—KH Puttaswamy Gowda from Guribidanur, which is 80km from Bengaluru. Gowda Valued at 1,267 crore. The third richest is the youngest Congress MLA in the Karnataka assembly Priyakrishna.

### Trinamool confidante bizman & channel owner Kaustav Roy arrested by ED

**KOLKATA:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Kolkata-based businessman and the chief executive officer (CEO) of a popular Bengal news channel Kaustav Roy, known for his close association with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on charges of financial defalcation. Sources said that Roy was summoned to ED's office at Central Government Office (CGO complex at Salt Lake in the northern outskirts of Kolkata on Monday morning. However, he finally reached the central agency office at around 4 p.m. and after a marathon interrogation for around ten hours he was finally arrested by the ED sleuths at around 2 a.m.



Trinamool Congress leadership, however, has so far maintained total silence over the arrest of Roy, whose businesses and news channel had been under the ED scanner for quite some time. In August last year, two teams of ED and the Income Tax departments conducted simultaneous raid and search operations at the residence and offices of Roy. At that point of time the chief minister described the central agency actions as a ploy by BJP and the Union government to gag the media. Roy was in the midst of a controversy in May last year, after the state government formed a committee for planning and monitoring of welfare and development schemes and made Roy, with a debated background, as the chairman of the committee.

## Delhi govt to provide free sugar to underprivileged families till Dec

**FW CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi**

The Delhi government will provide free of cost sugar to over 2.80 lakh underprivileged families in the national capital till December, a statement said on Thursday.

The decision was taken by the Delhi Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, said the statement issued by his office.

"The Delhi government will provide free sugar to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries under the sugar subsidy scheme. The distribution of sugar to AAY cardholders will



be made available free of cost for a period of one year, effective from January 2023 to December 2023," said the statement.

A proposal for free distribution of sugar under the subsidy scheme for 1 kg of sugar to Antyodaya Anna Yojana category

cardholders was brought before the Council of Ministers for consideration which was approved by it, the statement said.

A total of 2,80,290 beneficiaries, including 68,747 National Food Security Act (NFSA) cardholders, will benefit from the decision, it said.

The implementation of the initiative will require an estimated budget of Rs 1.11 crores, it said.

Given the «unprecedented challenges» posed by the current economic situation and inflation, the Delhi government had previously taken measures to ensure no one suffered from food insecurity, it said.

## Will make our attempt to bring peace says Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee

**ARIBAM BISHWAJIT**

Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha MP Kalyan Banerjee assured on Wednesday that his party is determined to bring peace and solace to the minds of the people of Manipur. Responding to a question about the effectiveness of their efforts compared to the visits of Rahul Gandhi and Amit Shah, Banerjee reaffirmed the Trinamool Congress's commitment to making a positive impact in the troubled region.

Banerjee, who is a part of five-member delegation from the Trinamool Congress, arrived in Manipur to assess the ongoing violent situation on



Wednesday morning. After a productive meeting with Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey, Banerjee expressed gratitude for the Governor's comprehensive consideration of the situation in Manipur.

"We had a very good discussion with the Hon'ble Gover-

nor. Her understanding of all aspects pertaining to Manipur is commendable," Banerjee said, conveying his satisfaction with the Governor's proactive steps to prioritize peace restoration. The delegation's visit was marked by active engagement with various stakeholders in Manipur. They visited the hill and valley areas, inspected numerous relief camps, and interacted with local residents to gain deeper insights into the challenges faced by the affected communities. "Our priority is to restore peace in the entire Manipur region," Banerjee emphasized, highlighting the urgency of the situation.

## Yamuna again flowing above danger mark in Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** The water level in the Yamuna River has once again crossed the danger mark, reaching 205.35 meters.

It was recorded above the danger level at 7 a.m. on Wednesday morning. An hour later, the water level reached 205.48 meters.

The danger level is 205.33 meters, and the current water level shows that Yamuna is flowing 15 centimeters above the danger level.

Officials are expecting an increase in volume due to the current rain in the hilly areas.

On Tuesday night at 8 p.m., it was recorded at 205.3 meters, which was slightly below the danger level. However, due



to continuous rain in the hilly areas, it increased again and crossed the danger level mark.

The Yamuna River broke a 45-year-old record and reached its highest level at 208.65 meters on July 13. As a result of the flood in Delhi, several low-lying areas were submerged, and many roads were flooded.

## Manesar IMT expansion, Haryana introduces no litigation policy -2023 to benefit farmers

**SATISH HANDA**

The state government had notified land measuring approximately 1,810 acres under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, on January 10, 2011, for the development of Manesar Industrial Model Township (IMT) expansion in three villages Kasan, Kukrola and Sehrawan in Manesar tehsil. Now, Haryana Cabinet has approved the 'no litigation policy-2023' for the land acquired for the expansion of Manesar Industrial Model Township aiming at the fast-tracking of this developmental project with voluntary participation of land owners or the farmers, and to ensure them acceptable compensation with assured incentives in the form of developed land. This policy will make land owners had protest against the low compensation for their acquired land.

The state government had notified land measuring approximately 1810 acres under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, on January 10, 2011, for the development of Manesar Industrial Model Township expansion in villages



Kasan, Kukrola and Sehrawan when the Supreme Court, in April 2011 granted a stay on the acquisition proceedings and the stay was vacated in December 2019 and thereafter the said land was notified under Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, on August 17, 2020 and subsequently award was announced on August 8, 2022 by the chief minister.

The landowner expressed dissatisfaction on the acquisitions of their land by the government initiated in 2011. Several meetings conducted with the affected land owners brought them unsatisfaction over land acquisition when an assurance was given by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar during Haryana

Vidhan Sabha session on August 9, 2022 that the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2010 would be revised for this acquisition to ensure appropriate rehabilitation to the landowners, said a government officer as such a specific policy has now been prepared for rehabilitating the land owners whose 11758 acres land was acquired in the three villages Kasan, Kukrola and Sehrawan in Gurugram district under Section 4 of the Land and acquired Acquisition Act, 1894 on January 10, 2011. The policy provides an option for receiving better benefits if they submit an undertaking to the government in the prescribed format duly attested by Tehsildar cum Executive Magistrate of Manesar.

## Two migrants injured in second attack on non-local labourers in South Kashmir in 5 days



**FW DESK**

Two non-local labourers were injured after being fired upon by terrorists in Anantnag town of Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday evening. This marks the second attack on migrant workers in the region in the past five days.

According to reports, the injured labourers were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where they are currently receiving medical treatment. Their condition is stated to be stable.

Police cordoned off the area to conduct a search operation in an effort to apprehend the attackers. The incident has sparked concerns among the migrant worker community in South Kashmir, as it follows a similar attack in Shopian district, south Kashmir, where three labourers were shot at just five days ago.

The authorities have urged all residents and non-local workers in the area to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the police promptly.

## Fresh violence in Manipur worries as they threaten to pull in Naga community: Congress



**NEW DELHI:** After two more persons were killed in Manipur, the Congress said violence continued unchecked amid the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and that the fresh violence was more worrying as "they threaten to pull in the Naga community in the already ongoing conflict".

Taking a swipe at the central and state government, Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala

said, "The Manipur violence continues...unchecked, uncontrolled and unabated" amidst mysterious silence of PM Modi, complete inaction of HM (Amit Shah), and complicity of BJP CM N Biren Singh."

He said, "The Government of India has left Manipur to fend for itself, without bothering or caring for finding a solution or healing the wedge between the communities. The latest acts of violence are even more worrying

as they threaten to pull in the Naga community in the already ongoing conflict."

Surjewala also said that nearly 130 dead, 1,000 injured, over 70,000 displaced. "But no one cares. Time for PM Modi to act, before it's too late," the Rajya Sabha MP added.

His remarks came a day after two more people were killed in Manipur. Ethnic clashes erupted in Manipur on May 3 and since then over 100 people have died and thousands have been forced to take refuge in relief camps

The Congress has questioned the silence of the Prime Minister and also demanded immediate removal of the Chief Minister.

The Congress has also said that it will raise the issue of Manipur violence in Parliament's Monsoon Session and want the Prime Minister to tell the country about the actions taken till date to control the violence.

## Security forces kill 4 terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district

**FW DESK**

Four terrorists were gunned down in the Sindhara area of Poonch district in Jammu and Kashmir in a joint operation conducted by the Indian Army, Rashtriya Rifles, and Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel.

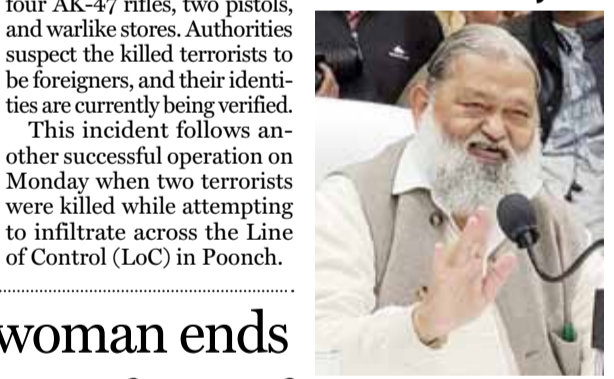
The encounter, named "Operation Trineta II," began around 11:30 pm on Monday after security forces acted on specific intelligence inputs. Using drones and night surveillance equipment, the forces



initially engaged in a confrontation with the terrorists. The operation was temporarily suspended until early morning when a heavy exchange of fire

resumed. The terrorists had been contained in a small area, with additional forces deployed to cordon off the location. This

## Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is in the habit of blame others": Anil Vij



**SATISH HANDA  
Ambala**

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij criticized Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of having a habit of blaming others. He said that it is the nature of water that it will flow from higher to lower areas, and Delhi is located downstream from Hathini Kund. Vij was replying to a question regarding Kejriwal's statement that Haryana has deliberately released water towards Delhi, regarding the rising water level of the Yamuna in Delhi today.. The Home Minister said that in our state Haryana too, water has come from outside from Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, but we are not blaming. He said that we are trying to arrange this water.

Taking a dig at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Vij said, Kejriwal ji is very sensible, very intelligent, he should change the nature of the water flow, the water should not come down but go up. Responding to a question regarding the statement of Delhi's PWD minister, he said that Haryana's cities and villages on the banks of the Yamuna river have also received the same amount of water. Vij said that Delhi is only 6 km, after leaving Delhi Yamuna water goes to Haryana only, otherwise will we deliberately release water in our own districts.

This incident follows another successful operation on Monday when two terrorists were killed while attempting to infiltrate across the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch.

## Gang of 3 'Bangladeshi' youths involved in human trafficking males & females busted by Haryana police



**SATISH HANDA**

According to Haryana CID chief Alok Mittal, police arrested three 'Bangladeshi' national youths living in different PG houses at Gurugram since the past couple of years allegedly operating a racket of human trafficking and forcing women into sex trade. Police recovered two motorcycles, few mobile phones, large number of SIM cards, fake Aadhaar cards, a laptop, camera and their driving licence from them. The arrested youths were identified as Ruhan Babu Hussain alias Rehan Muhammad Choudhary (22), Ameen Hussain (23) and Arko Hussain (25) all originally hailing from Bangladesh, presently living in separate paying guest accommodations in DLF Phase 3 at Gurugram. A case was registered against the suspected youths at DLF Phase 3 police station.

Inderjeet Yadav DSP CM's flying squad, said that suspects accused initially were in Mumbai and Pune for few months before coming to Gurugram and got their Aadhaar cards in their names, opened bank accounts, procured sim cards and got prepared their driving licence using forged documents since they were staying in the country illegally migrated from Bangladesh. An investigation would be carried by police how they got prepared their Aadhaar Cards, the driving licences issued on forged documents. They admitted paid amount worth Rs 8000 each for getting a driving license. They also admitted got issued bank accounts, Aadhaar Cards and had hired accommodation in PG house not aware that they were running a prostitution racket.

The alleged accused used to share pictures of the women clients with their agents across

the country. They used to select women luring them with heavy income and used to send air tickets for the selected woman and also an advance for them to buy clothes, costumes for their attractive appearance. The suspects were getting handsome daily commission for each woman selected by the agents. DSP Yadav said that the members of the gang used to get teen girls as well as mid-age women from Bangladesh and illegally cross the border and send them to their agents at Delhi, Gurugram, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Noida and other cities. They used to arrange females from West Bengal where a large number of females belonging to families below poverty line are easily available, besides many arranged locally to get handsome earnings by prostitution. DSP investigating the

case said.

DSP Yadav said, they found a man sitting on a bike identified as Hussain a member of the gang when he posed as a customer and during interrogation questioning, he revealed that he was from Bangladesh and his two close aides are in the room, when he went up to see other members of the racket and finalise the deal. They revealed that their main work was to get females from Bangladesh and arrange their entry in West Bengal to cross the border illegally and send them to a network of agents in different cities across the country. They used to force girls/women into the flesh trade after luring them with a heavy amount of money. DSP Yadav told media persons how they trapped the trio (members of the gang) admitted to be involved and recorded their statements admitting their

involvement in human trafficking business and arrested them. A case under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act, Section 12 of the Passport Act, and sections 419, 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the IPC was registered at the DLF Phase 3 police station.

Police investigation revealed that during year 2022 as many as 373 females have been identified had to dance at the tunes of gang of three youths and there is no whereabouts of the fate of 1140 females and 1426 males most of them working as bound labourers, of them 41 male youths working as bound labourers have been rescued by the police, whereas police has been able to locate 227 females and 313 males so far. Information also revealed that the racket was illegally getting migrated needy young females in the country from Bangladesh and pushing them in flesh trade at Kolkata, Chinnai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi and Bhopal. information also revealed that the racket was having a network operating in the states of West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tripura and Orissa to assist them in this business. Now police are trying to find out persons aressiatig the racket in operating this illegal business.

## Tamil Nadu woman ends life by jumping in front of bus to get compensation for son's college fees



**CHENNAI:** Paapaathi had been misled by someone who claimed that her family would receive Rs 45,000 if she dies due to an accident. Struggling to arrange funds for her son's college fees, she chose to end her life.

In a tragic incident that unfolded in Tamil Nadu, a woman committed suicide by jumping in front of a bus. The woman, identified as Paapaathi (45), worked as a cleaning staff at the Collector's office in Salem district. She made this decision due to financial constraints relating to her son's education. Paapaathi had been misled

by someone who claimed that her family would receive Rs 45,000 if she dies due to an accident. Struggling to arrange funds for her son's college fees, she chose to end her life.

The incident, captured on a video that quickly went viral, has deeply affected netizens. People expressed their sorrow through tweets and comments, questioning the circumstances that drove a mother to take such extreme measures to pay for her son's education.

As per media reports indicate that a police investigation is currently underway, exploring all possible angles surrounding the case.

# 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 displaying the national flag of India and the UN flag, we aimed to convey our desire for peace and normalcy in Manipur to the security forces and the government."

The women had gathered from 2:00 pm at Singjamei Bazar Chingamathak Traffic junction, after they were prevented from proceeding towards the Chief Minister's official residence in Babupara area. Their demand was clear: they wanted long-term solutions to bring peace and normalcy to Manipur without

compromising the state's territorial integrity.

Unable to advance, the unarmed and frustrated protesters resorted to a sit-in protest, blocking one side of the road. State and central police forces closely monitored their every move until approximately 9:50 pm. The protesters questioned why a group of around a hundred, whose main intention was to submit a memorandum and share their harrowing experiences with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. However, they were dismayed by the blockades imposed by 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."

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 state security forces and the

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 witnessed 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

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 and investigation, the NIA conducted a joint operation with the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Kerala Police, and searched several locations.

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.

On Tuesday, the NIA arrested Ashif from Sathyamangalam. The next day, searches were conducted in the houses of Ashif, as well as three others, identified as Seyid Nabeel



Ahmed, Shiyas T.S., both from Thrissur, and Rayees from Palakkad. Digital devices and incriminating documents were seized during these raids.

"The module was engaged in raising funds for promoting IS activities and carrying out terror attacks by committing 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 and trigger communal divide in Kerala," said an NIA official. The NIA had registered the case on July 11 under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

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



NEW DELHI: Congress leader 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.

## 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 details of his talks with BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda, he asserted that his concerns related to Lok Sabha and Bihar assembly polls have been addressed positively by them.

Addressing a press conference, Paswan, however, made it clear that he will contest from Hajipur, a Lok Sabha seat currently represented by his estranged uncle and Union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras who, in turn, reiterated his claim on the constituency.

## Manipur violence is the worst crime against humanity: JIH

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 protection and dignity. This in-



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 made the crime widely known.

This is to cover the failure of governance and to deflect attention from the violence itself.

By preventing access to essential information, an internet shutdown destroys democracy. The Internet should be restored immediately.

## Samuhik Sankalp of 26 political parties belonging to I.N.D.I.A

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 methodically and menacingly undermined.

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 state governments. There is a deliberate attempt to weaken 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 government against political rivals is undermining our democracy.



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 ever-rising 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 as a competitive and flourishing private 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 come together to defeat the hatred 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 inventing and rewriting Indian history are an affront to social harmony.

## NCPCR, NCW take cognizance of horrific incident in Rajasthan: Smriti Irani



NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) Smriti Irani on Thursday said the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) 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 cognizance 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 district in the 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.

## Ahead of Lok Sabha Election, Railways to start special trains for migrant labourers from Jan 2024

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA  
New Delhi

Despite of rising inflation and some serious issues before the budget in the election year, the Central Government is going to announce some exciting projects for the Migrants and Labour Class passengers. At the time of Covid-19, the migrant labour & working Class who were more sufferer and was serious issue for the central government and the state governments. Now, after a deep study, Railway Board is going to provide a special train facility for those migrant labour and Working Class Passengers



throughout the year. From January 2024, the Railway Board is planning to introduce Non-AC, general category trains to cater to the needs of migrant workers and labour class groups across the country.

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 Pradesh. According to officials,

## 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 organised on the completion 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 occasions, all the fellow parties of NDA congratulate Naren-



dra Modi. NDA constituents 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 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 the formation of the NDA. In these 25 years, NDA has set high standards of good governance. Whenever the NDA government has come to power, it has worked considering the spirit of the nation first and the objective of public welfare as paramount.

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 priority of the NDA government. Especially in the last nine years, the work done by the NDA government in terms of service, good governance and development under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi is "unprecedented", it added.

## Multidimensional poverty and play of data

HARVINDER KAUR

A 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 Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023', 25 nations, including 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 milestone are Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam.

The most recent update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index reveals that a significant milestone has been achieved in India. During the



period from 2005-06 to 2019-21, a staggering 415 million individuals in India were lifted out of poverty. This figure represents a substantial proportion of the country's population, 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 poorest states and disadvantaged groups, including children and individuals belonging to disadvantaged caste groups. These groups have witnessed the most significant progress in terms of absolute poverty reduction.

According to the report, India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in several of India's multidimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021. The rural areas 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 States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

But the picture is not so colourful and if we go through the

black and white side of the picture we are completely disappointed. The per capita income of Tamil Nadu is Rs 2,41,131 and this is not less than a developed state like Punjab and Haryana. The major factor is income inequalities and lack of government spending on education and health. Higher education should be free either for a scheduled cast student or a general student in a private college.

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 new millionaires every day.

The crucial point is that unless there is fast economic growth there will be nothing to redistribute but poverty. Fast economic growth is the

necessary condition for reducing poverty and inequalities although it may not be a single factor. Poorest Indian states have infant mortality rates higher than those in sub-Saharan Africa. India accounts for 17% of global maternal deaths and 21% of deaths among children below five 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. Because of this accumulation of wealth, economic inequalities will increase shortly.

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



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

## India's data protection law needs refinement



India 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 saddled with challenges of implementation 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.

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

The 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 will definitely be a tussle. The Opposition 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



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

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, truthfulness, grassroots-level connection 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.

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

### LETTERBOX

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

### BOOKS: REVIEW

## Book helps understand our mind's musical journey

“Every 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.

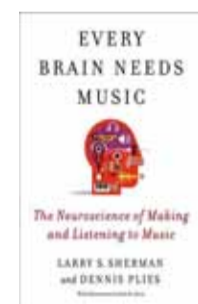
“Every Brain Needs Music” is a charming blend of wit and knowledge. The text is filled with engaging narratives that demonstrate the potent impact of music on memory and emotional well-being. The authors compellingly argue that engaging with music, be it through listening or playing an instrument, fosters 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  
Larry Sherman,  
Dennis Plies  
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 dichotomy between the analytical

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 quality 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.

## THE FINANCIAL WORLD

RNI NO. DELENG/2011/38860

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY SWINDER BAJWA ON BEHALF OF FW MEDIA

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

PRINTER & PUBLISHER SWINDER BAJWA OWNER: FW MEDIA

PUBLISHED AT: BUILDING NO-23, NEHRU PLACE NEW DELHI 110019; PHONE: 9888040061

EDITOR\* ABDUL WASEY

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

## MG Motor launches India's first pure-electric 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 EVs Autonomous Level 2 (ADAS) technology which works on three levels of sensitivity – low, medium and high, and three levels of warning – haptic, audio and visual, enhances the driving experience and safety of the passengers.

## Credit guarantee scheme launched for MSMEs in livestock sector

**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 the AHDF scheme.

This initiative enhances the number of MSME units benefiting from the AHDF 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 Livestock sector which is of one of the most potential sector seeking development.

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

FW DESK  
Bengaluru

Over 34 thousand strong women entrepreneurs of Karnataka have propelled the direct selling industry in the State, as per the Annual Survey Report released by the Indian Direct 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



growth over the previous FY figure of Rs 1034 crores, indicating that despite the year being partially marred and impacted by the COVID-19 second wave, the direct selling industry could manage to emerge stronger and maintain 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 them women. The state had a share of over 5.90% of the overall national sales, which stood at over Rs 19,030 crore during the period, the report further elaborates.

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

FW DESK  
New Delhi

Union Minister for Health 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.

Dr. Mandaviya stated that "Safe food and good health are complementary to each other. Balanced, safe and nutritious food acts as preventive care, and ensures our health and wellness."



Underlining the importance of 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 Working Group.

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

munity, Dr Mandaviya said, "This 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 practices", 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 honour 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

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 of pride for all Indians as we see our nation march on the global landscape from strength to strength," the ASSOCHAM Secretary General said.

He said Modi's participation in the Bastille Day military parade on the Champs-Élysées along with a tri-service Indian armed forces contingent marks the strategic mutual trust and friendship between India and France. With India standing out as the world's



fastest growing economy, the developed world is looking at it as a partner of great strategic importance.

Agreement between India and France on the Unified Payment Interface takes the Indian digital drive on the world map, making the INR a currency of international choice. "It is a great feeling to be doing digital transactions in France in Indian rupee".

Sood said the opening of a new Indian consulate in Marseille, would be a great facilitator for the people to people connect between the two countries as India and France build further on strategic areas of defence, nuclear energy, trade, technology transfer and climate change.

## MSME Zed certification scheme reaches milestone of 10,000 registrations within 15 months

**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.

## 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, cutting-edge 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

would leverage the strengths and capabilities of both the organisations, is envisaged to give a boost to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and help realise the Government's vision of a Digital India. The focus on indigenous manufacturing reinforces the two companies' commitment to the 'Make in India' initiative, enhancing indigenous capabilities and positioning India globally, as a leading manufacturing hub for advanced power and energy solutions. The partnership will also have a significant impact on job creation within the power

and energy sectors.

As part of the MoU, BEL and Gabriel would work closely together to usher in state-of-the-art 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.

BEL, India's leading manufacturer of Defence electronic products and systems, brings to the table extensive expertise in research, design, development and production across multiple segments. BEL's areas of business encompass Radars & Weapon Systems, Communication Systems, Electronic Warfare Systems, C4I Systems, Anti-submarine Warfare Systems, Electro-Optic Systems, and more. BEL has also established a robust manufacturing infrastructure and an ecosystem for research and development.

## 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 Development, Govt of India, at the National

Conference on "Traditional and Alternative Medicine- Exploring New Horizons 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 traditional and modern medicines 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 India, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, is committed to promoting traditional systems of medicine globally.

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



ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

The Karnataka government offered Foxconn, one of the world's largest manufacturers of iPhones, an additional 100 acres of land in Tumkur to set up an Rs 8,800 crore (over \$1 Billion) plant to manufacture smartphone parts. Government says the Rs 8000 crore unit will create 14,000 jobs. The Taiwanese company had previously committed to establishing

an electronics manufacturing facility for which it had been granted 300 acres in the IT investment regional airport in Devanahalli. This facility, which is expected to involve an investment of Rs 13,700 crore (\$ 7 billion), will primarily assemble iPhones.

The Proposed additional facility is expected to manufacture screens and body/back panels of mobile phones that will be used by the main assembly unit.

## Commerce Ministry gets into huddle with top 100 companies on declining exports

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has scheduled a meet with representatives of India's top 100 companies on 22 July for suggestions 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 participation.

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



Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

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

of the industry on increasing the share of manufacturing in India's GDP and promote self-reliance in manufacturing.

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



DOMINICK RODRIGUES  
Panjim

The Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has announced an Electric Vehicles Mandate for "all new tourist vehicles in the State" to be electric from 2024.

Sawant announced this here on July 19 at a NITI Aayog-organised Conference on E-Mobility - supported by WRI India and Asian Development Bank -- that was held on the sidelines of the 4th G20 Energy Transitions Working Group

Meeting under India's G20 Presidency in Panjim, Goa.

The Chief Ministers announcement, while showcasing Goa's commitment to eco-friendly transportation, highlighted a significant leap in Goa's journey towards sustainable mobility.

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 contributing to the State's elec-

trification efforts.

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 Sherpa, in a special address at the event, underscored the need to sustain the momentum of electric mobility in India. Emphasizing the seven Cs framework for EVs envisioned by the Prime Minister - Common, Connected, Convenient, Congestion-free, Charged, Clean and Cutting-edge, he urged for 100% electrification of 2-wheelers and three-wheelers, and 65-70% of buses by 2030.

## Tesla directors to return \$735 mn to company as they 'overpaid themselves'

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 Tortetta 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 shareholders say is grossly in excess of the standard for corporate boards," the report noted.

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

week, reports surfaced that Musk even planned a lavish glass house for himself near Tesla headquarters in Austin, Texas, worth millions of dollars which prompted an internal investigation by the electric car-maker's board over alleged improprieties.

## Smart power switch family Power PROFET™ + 12V enable modern power distribution architectures with lowest ohmic switches for automotive applications

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Munich (Germany)

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: IFNYY) has launched a new generation of ultra-low ohmic high-side switches in a TO-leadless package, the Power PROFET™ + 12V switch family. Company



statement said here. The Power PROFET™ + 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 mΩ and the BTS50010-1LUA with an

R DS(ON) of 1.0 mΩ 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.

# 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

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.

## 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 three-month 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 socio-economic 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 are facing hurdles in completing know-your-customer (KYC) requirements who are able to accept credit card payments through QR code after the integration of RuPay with UPI, reported in media.

Earlier merchants found the simplicity of UPI easier to use an issuer account for accepting payments. However, to accept credit card payments, they need to follow the payment network's guidelines, which necessitates a merchant KYC process.

This is a significant task for payments companies that have deployed QR codes at small shops throughout the country, according to Arpit Ratan, founder of Signzy, a fintech company specialising in digital customer onboarding after

KYC compliance, reported TOI.

While the RBI permits remote KYC verification, its norms are more stringent than those of markets regulator Sebi. Sebi's video KYC norms allow customers to interact with software that employs artificial intelligence for customer identification, and companies can offer this process round-the-clock, unlike banks that typically operate during specific hours. Ratan told to media that there are suggestions from the industry to make video KYC less stringent, particularly when an underlying bank account is already present. "There are also lot of steps in the present video KYC, which do not seem to add value. For instance, the customer is required to hold up the PAN card."

## 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 lower returns in the initial 5 years, has delivered a better return on 10 years basis on an average, as per a study, conducted by WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund.

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 in the past. But, the study reveals volatility reduces as investors increase 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 investors seeking to invest via the long-term SIP route. A historical data analysis suggests that in the long term, it hardly matters if the investor invests via Daily, Weekly, or Monthly SIP Frequency. All three frequencies end up generating somewhat similar returns.

The key takeaway from the analysis is to focus on investing a small amount regularly for the long term. Over the years, the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), a feature offered by Mutual Funds, has become a household name.

## 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

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

Bengaluru is India's third biggest 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.



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."

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



**NEW DELHI:** Despite global headwinds, India's manufacturing sector has remained positive during the first quarter of 2023-24 (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.

## 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 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 billion global economic losses, natural disasters resulted in USD 275 billion in 2022, of which



USD 125 billion were covered by insurance (incurred losses).

The overall protection gap has increased to USD 151 billion in 2022, which is much higher than the 10-year average of USD 130 billion but still at around 54% of the total losses uninsured. Though still large, this is less than

the 61% average protection gap of the previous 10 years. For India, this figure is a staggering 92%.

SBI Research suggests the formation of a 'Disaster Pool,' which can be fostered in the public-private partnership for providing insurance in cases of natural disaster.

## 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 violation of the Capital Market Segment Regulations and Futures and Options Segment Regulations 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 thereof to the satisfaction of the Exchange within six months from the date of the Order. It has also received a direction

to submit a detailed report on its investor grievance redressal mechanism comprising of total investor complaints and arbitration matters registered against the Company and its APs in the past one year from the date

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.

# India on track to becoming the third largest economy



**DR. PS VOHRA**  
In a recent address to the 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 ignited 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 to understand that during the

same period, China's GDP will be around 27.49 trillion dollars, and the United States' GDP will be approximately 32.35 trillion 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.

This is not just a feeling, but the reality is that in the current 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 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 the GDP of all major economies in the world has increased rapidly, 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 \$1.86 trillion. In this period, India also faced the impact of the

2007 US recession, which was a global crisis. Later, during the Modi era, from 2013-14 to 2022, the Indian economy reached the \$3.39 trillion mark, becoming 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 economic journey in the last three decades has been impressive, instilling confidence that it will 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 are surging ahead rapidly. If we consider the data of the past three years, India's economy has grown only from \$2.84 trillion to \$3.39 trillion, an 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 is still lower than the growth experienced by both these nations in the past four years. To understand the relative slowdown in India's economic growth, we must consider what happened

in recent years that diminished its pace compared to China and the United States. Otherwise, India could have been much ahead today, and the dream of becoming the third-largest economic powerhouse by 2028 might have been realized earlier. Upon analysis, one fact becomes apparent: in the past four years, the Indian Rupee 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. It is evident that the weakness of the Indian Rupee is a significant factor behind the rising import costs and soaring 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 third-largest economic powerhouse. However, during that time, India will remain significantly weaker compared to China and the United States. It is evident that in the times ahead, India's economic policies will undergo substantial changes again. This

Dr. P.S. Vohra, Academician, Financial Thinker & Newspaper Columnist, Views are personal

# INTERNATIONAL

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

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister 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 by-elections.

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

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 Starmer overtook Indian-origin Labour MP Nadia Whittome as the so-called "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 by-elections 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 drug-taking 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.

## Argentinian Defence Minister Visits HAL signed LoI 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 Ananthkrishnan, 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.



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

C B Ananthkrishnan, 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.

## 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.

## 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

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.

## Indian-Americans named to US EXIM advisory councils

**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 Infobalze, 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

## 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 in Congress, 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.

Several other Indian-Americans were appointed to the 19-member Council on Climate, including Nava Akkineeni, Vice President of Emerging Markets of NextTracker; 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.

## Sri Lanka draws up calendar of events in 75th year of Independence

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan tourism authorities have created a calendar of events to woo tourists for the next several months leading up to the 76th anniversary of the country's independence next year as the cash-strapped country is showing signs of recovery from an unprecedented economic crisis it faced last year. Sri Lanka or Ceylon as it was

known during the British era, threw off the colonial yoke in 1948 to become a free nation, a year after India gained its independence from the imperial rule. When the country, dubbed the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean', marked the 75th anniversary of its independence on February 4 this year, it was reeling under a devastating economic crisis.

## Drone found at Indo-Pak border village Mastgarh

**JAGMOHAN SINGH**  
Amritsar



A suspected drone was seized at Indo-Pak border Mastgarh village of Tarn Taran district.

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 - Mastgarh, Distt - Tarn Taran. During the search, troops recovered a drone in broken condition

from the farming field adjacent to Village - Mastgarh, district Tarn Taran on 21st July 2023 during

morning hours. The recovered drone is Quadcopter, DJI Matrice 300 RTK model, official stated.

## Three Hindu sisters in Pak's Sindh province forced to marry Muslim men who kidnapped and converted them to Islam

**KARACHI:** Three daughters of a Hindu businessman in Pakistan's Sindh province have been married to Muslim men who first kidnapped them and forcibly converted them to Islam, according to a leading minority rights group in the country.



The head of Pakistan Darewar Itihad, 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, sneaked into India to live with a Hindu man, Sachin Meena, whom she befriended through 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 Kashmir area of the Sindh province.

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

for the security of temples and worship places in Mirpurkhas, Kashmore, Tharparkar, Ghotki, Sukkur, Umarnot and Sanghar," Kachhi alleged.

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," Kachhi 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.

## 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.

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

The danger posed by cluster weapons has prompted more 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 that 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 munitions in urban areas.

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

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's top judge on Friday directed that the military court should not begin a trial of those involved in the 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 Sayeed 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

by the mob for the first time. Khan was later released on bail.

In May, the federal cabinet approved that those involved in the attacks on military installations 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 argument 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.

"You can't compare the present era with the era of Ziaul Haq. This is not Ziaul Haq's era, nor is martial law imposed in the country. Even if a martial law-like situation arises, we will intervene," Bandial said.

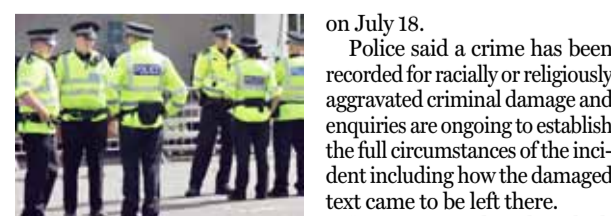
Chief Justice Bandial then directed that the Supreme Court should be informed before mili-

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 held under military laws, but it has come under criticism by human rights bodies.

The controversy landed in the Supreme Court after the petitions were filed against it by eminent people like former chief justice of the apex court Jawwad S. Khawaja, prominent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, a leading civil society representative Karamat Ali and former premier Imran Khan.

## 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 member'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 scripture 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.

# Bollywood diva

## KRITI SANON

opens up on loving butterflies to explain production house's name

**NEW DELHI:** Bollywood diva Kriti Sanon, who has 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 of her journey, explaining and showing visuals of her 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 Rajkumar Rao.

# Vicky Kaushal

## shared a glimpse from Katrina Kaif's 40th birthday



**MUMBAI:** Actor Vicky Kaushal shared a glimpse from Katrina Kaif's 40th birthday and said that he is in awe of her magic everyday.

Vicky took to Instagram to wish his wife and shared photos, where he and Katrina can be seen by the sea. The two were seen posing romantically as they looked into each others' eyes.

The actor captioned: "In awe of your magic... every day. Happy Birthday my love!"

Vicky's brother Sunny Kaushal took to the comment section and dropped three heart emojis after seeing the beautiful photographs from their birthday getaway.

Vicky and Katrina got married in December 2021 in Rajasthan and the couple later held a reception in Mumbai. On the work front, Katrina is gearing up for the third instalment of the 'Tiger' franchise, 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.

## Sara Ali Khan pays obeisance at Amarnath cave shrine



**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 Thawaj glacier.

## Bollywood demands justice for Manipur violence

**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 Akshay 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 Manipur. 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 Bharatiya, 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 that there is "no right to life in free India."

He continued: "I am so guilty for my helplessness. O Manipur, I tried... I tried... but I failed. All I can do now is tell their tragic stories through my work. But it's too late by then. We are all victims of selective and hyper-competitive electoral politics. We are victims of hyper-religion.

We are victims of dangerous media. We, the people of Bharat, are victims. There is no #RightToLife 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 pay for each other's blood. We are a failed society. I am sorry, my sisters. I am sorry, my mothers. I am sorry, Bharat Mata," he added. Soni Razdan wrote in her Instagram Story: "I really want to know what the government is going, and why primetime news is not flooded with news about Manipur and most important of all, where is the Army?"

Kiara Advani tweeted: "The video of violence against women

in Manipur is horrifying and has shaken me to the core. I pray the women get justice at the earliest. Those responsible must face the most SEVERE punishment they deserve."

Sanjay Dutt also took to his Twitter and wrote: "The video portraying violence against women in Manipur was shocking and sickening. My utmost hope is for the culprits to be punished with the utmost severity, sending a clear message that such despicable actions will not be tolerated in any circumstance." Actor Riteish Deshmukh too wrote on his Twitter: "Deeply disturbed by the visuals of the atrocities against the women in Manipur... I am seething with anger... no man should go unpunished for such crime. Attack on the dignity of a woman is an attack on humanity itself (sic)."

Actor-comedian Vir Das shared a series of tweet holding the government and the officials responsible for the shameful and the delay in bringing justice to the victims.

## 'THE TRIAL' Kajol impresses in daunting 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 been tweaked -- at times, a bit liberally -- to cater to Indian audiences.

## Priyanka Chopra and her husband just celebrated her 41st birthday



Priyanka 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 Jonas ... his acts of service and affirmation are so strong." "You are the greatest happiness for her, you make her happy. keep partying together! Happy Birthday Priyanka," and "Happy Birthday to your queen PCJ! We love you and wish you a beautiful blessed year ahead! Keep shining and stay blessed with your gorgeous family!" Priyanka's mother, Dr Madhu Chopra, also shared a video on social media wherein we can see montage 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."

## Highly-anticipated film 'Project K' starring Prabhas, Deepika, Amitabh and Kamal Hassan

**MUMBAI:** The makers of the highly-anticipated film 'Project K', starring Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, and Kamal Haasan in the lead, have finally unveiled the first glimpse at the San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), with the official title announcement.

The film is now officially titled 'Kalki2898AD'. This cinematic masterpiece has been hailed as a seamless fusion of science fiction and unprecedented storytelling, setting new benchmarks for the genre.

The grand unveiling of 'Kalki2898AD' took place at the prestigious San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), where the film captivated audiences with its visionary concept and spellbinding visuals.



The new title perfectly encapsulates the essence of the film, generating curiosity and excitement among fans and cinephiles worldwide.

Directed by Nag Ashwin, 'Kalki 2898 AD' promises to transport audiences to a world never seen before in Indian cinema. The film's premise, set in the distant future of 2898 AD, seamlessly blends futuristic elements with rich

storytelling, offering an unparalleled and immersive cinematic experience.

The one minute 15 second teaser is set in a dark and sci-fi futuristic world. It begins with a glimpse of war-torn time-period, where people are being treated violently by the oppressor, and they are running for their lives. It shows a message flashing 'when the world is taken over

by darkness, a force will rise. The end begins now'.

Deepika's character is introduced as a recruit in an army from the futuristic world, Amitabh's face is seen covered in bandages and shows his powerful eyes. We then see a man holding 'Lord Hanuman's idol in his hand.

Prabhas' character can be seen as a valiant warrior, who becomes the saviour of the people and the world, with his futuristic superpowers. It also shows Big B fully covered in bandages and doing some action.

It further shows a man (probably portrayed as a scientist) asking "what is project K?", after which we get a glimpse of Prabhas' face shot and braving himself against a sword.

## 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".

## 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 Malayalam. 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.

## In 'Kohrra,' we introduced all our characters through eyes of the cops says Randeep Jha

Director Randeep Jha skillfully 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.

'Kohrra' sets itself apart by seamlessly incorporating both Hindi and Punjabi languages, a multilingual approach that adds authenticity and richness to the narrative.

Randeep emphasised the importance of silence in certain parts of the narrative, acknowledging the challenge it poses,



while adding depth and suspense to the story. He shared: "In 'Kohrra,' we have strived to create an immersive experience by introducing all our characters through the eyes of the cops. By delving into the hidden aspects and adding moments of silence, we aim to bring forth a narrative that resonates deeply with the audience."

Suvinder Vicky and Barun Sobti portray two dedicated cops who not only unravel the mystery but also serve as the lenses through which audiences experience the intricate web of the characters.

**A complete KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

**THE FINANCIAL WORLD**  
Read & Lead

https://www.thefinancialworld.com/ | https://thefinancialworld.com/hindi/

**A weekly Newspaper from Chandigarh & Delhi**

For more stories & E-paper log on  
**www.thefinancialworld.com**

SUBSCRIBE: YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
**FW News**

FOLLOW US  
@thefinancialworld @FWMedia\_Tweets fw.thefinancialworld