

REGION

2



**KEJRIWAL ORDERS SUSPENSION OF GOVT OFFICIAL ACCUSED FOR RAPING 16 YEAR OLD, SEEKS REPORT FROM CHIEF SECRETARY**

BANKING & FINANCE

6



**RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ISSUES FRESH NORMS FOR PERSONAL LOANS**

POTPOURRI

8



**RAHUL GANDHI'S LADKHAH TRIP IS AN EXTENSION OF A BHARAT JODO YATRA**

## Chandrayaan-3 Moon Landing Successful: India has created history

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

India on Wednesday scripted history with the successful soft landing of its lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 on the South Pole region of the Moon. It was a historic day for the country as the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan-3 conquered the Moon. The achievement has not only made the entire nation proud but also opened up a wave of opportunities for several sectors that could boost India's economic growth, bringing the country closer to its dream of becoming the third-largest economy in the world. With this achievement, India has become the first country to land on the Moon's challenging South Pole region. The space agency ISRO announced the landing with sparking cheers and applause among the space scientists watching and wrote, "India, I reached my destination and you too! Chandrayaan-3." PM Narendra Modi congratulated Indians and space scientists for the achievement. "India will remember this day forever" PM Modi said attending occasion virtual. Congratulating the team of scientists at ISRO, PM said, "India's successful



moon mission is not India's alone...Our approach of one earth, one family one future is resonating across the globe... Moon mission is based on the same human centric approach. So, this success belongs to all of humanity."

The Lander Module (LM) of the ISRO third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3, launched on July 14, making India only the fourth country after the erstwhile USSR, the U.S. and China to make a soft landing on the

lunar surface. Precisely at 6.03 p.m. the lander touched the lunar surface and there were euphoric celebrations at the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru. In a few hours from now the Lander will deploy the Rover which will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility. The Lander and the Rover with a mission life of

### ISRO to launch of Sun mission 'Aditya L-1', says PM Modi

**NEW DELHI:** As Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the Moon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, while witnessing the occasion via video conferencing from Johannesburg, took the occasion to announce that ISRO is soon going to launch the 'Aditya L-1' mission for a detailed study of the Sun.

He also touched upon Mission Venus being one of ISRO's goals. "India is proving again and again that the sky is not the limit," the Prime Minister said as he highlighted Mission Gaganyaan where India is fully prepared for its first

human space flight mission. "We'll test the limits of our solar system, and work to realise the infinite possibilities of the universe for humans," Modi asserted. Earlier, while expressing his happiness at the success of the Chandrayaan mission, Modi said, "India has reached the South Pole of the Moon where no country in the world could reach to date with the dedication and talent of our scientists." "Time is not far when the children would say 'Chanda Mama Door Ke Nahi Ek Tour Ke' (the moon is only a tour away)," an ecstatic Prime Minister said.

one Lunar day (14 Earth days) have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface. Given the history of India's second lunar mission, which failed during the last 20 minutes before landing, ISRO was extra-cautious this time in the process. The real test of the mission began at the last leg of the landing. Prior to 20 minutes before landing, ISRO

initiated Automatic Landing Sequence (ALS). It enabled Vikram LM to take charge and use its on-board computers and logic to identify a favourable spot and make a soft-landing on the lunar surface. India's current space market is worth around \$8 billion and has been growing at about 4% annually in the last few years, compared to 2% globally.

### India-UK FTA likely to be announced soon: FinMin

**NEW DELHI:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is likely to be announced soon. Addressing the B20 summit, the Finance Minister said that India is continuously in touch with various nations and even the European FTA (EFTA) is in the pipeline.

EFTA includes Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland. "We need to quickly diversify our supply chains. Well-functioning international markets



B20 SUMMIT INDIA 2023

with resilient and efficient supply chains are the ones that can help us sustain our growth. So, we need to cushion ourselves sufficiently against any shock that can happen," Sitharaman said. India and the UK have been negotiating on the FTA since 2022. Earlier this week, UK trade secretary Kemi Badenoch had said that the negotiations are now in the final stages. India-UK FTA likely to be announced soon, says Sitharaman.

### Manipur CM in Delhi, meets Shah

**NEW DELHI:** Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has met Union Home Minister Amit Shah here and discussed the situation in the state, where ethnic clashes broke out in May.

The meeting took place on Thursday night. During the meeting, the Chief Minister apprised the Home Minister of the current situation and also discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to the strife-torn state, sources said. Singh also apprised Shah of the various initiatives taken by the government for rehabilitation of the displaced people, added sources. "Law and order situation is improving in the state. I have come here to take advice from the Home Minister," Singh told reporters before the



meeting, Singh along with a few of his cabinet colleagues and party MLAs reached the national capital on Thursday, officials said. Sources also informed that Shah is likely to hold a meeting very soon with civil society organisations from the state. Ethnic clashes erupted in Manipur on May 3 and since then hundreds of people have lost their lives whereas thousands have been forced to take refuge in relief camps. The Opposition Congress has been blaming the BJP government for the current situation and demanded the dismissal of Biren Singh.

### Chandrayaan-3 to dig out hidden secrets of the Moon

YOGESH KANT  
New Delhi

With the successful soft landing of "Chandrayaan-3" on the unexplored south pole of the moon on Wednesday evening, India has become the first and only country to achieve this. Now a rover, a small vehicle designed to move on the lunar surface, will emerge from the lander. Two main components of this project are the propulsion module (PM) and the lander module (LM). The PM, as the name suggests, will launch the LM into the intended lunar orbit and will take metric measurements of the Earth from the lunar orbit.



of one lunar day, which is equivalent to 14 Earth days. It has a mass of 1749.86 kg including Pragyan. Its payload includes the Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA) instrument, which will measure the density of ions and electrons on the satellite.

**RAMBHA...** It will study the density, plasma and variations of plasma particles coming from the Sun on the lunar surface.

**ChaSTE...** It will study the temperature of the lunar surface.

**IISA...** It will study the seismic activity around the landing site.

**Laser RetroReflector Array (LRA)...** It will try to understand the dynamics of the Moon.

**1. Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS):** It will study the quantity and quality of chemicals present on the lunar surface and also look for minerals.

**2. Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS):** It will study the composition of elements such as magnesium, aluminium, silicon, potassium, calcium, tin

and iron. These elements will be searched for on the lunar surface around the landing site.

**Benefits for scientists...** Overall, the Vikram lander and the Pragyan rover together will study the lunar atmosphere, surface, chemicals, seismic activity, minerals, etc. From this, scientists from ISRO and around the world will gain information for future studies. This will facilitate research. These are the benefits for the scientists.

**Benefits for the country...** India is the fourth country in the world to achieve this feat. Before that, the US, Russia (then the Soviet Union) and China have set this milestone. ISRO is known worldwide for its low-cost commercial launches. It has so far launched 424 foreign satellites for 34 countries. It launched 104 satellites simultaneously, all on a single rocket. Chandrayaan-1 has discovered water on the moon.

Chandrayaan-2's orbiter is still operational. The same orbiter identified the landing site for Chandrayaan-3. The whole world saw the success of Mangalyaan (Mars mission). The success of Chandrayaan-3 will put ISRO among the top space agencies in the world.

**Benefits for the common man...** The payloads, i.e. the instruments used in spacecraft like Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan, will later be used in weather and communication satellites.

### Residents of Delhi's unauthorised colonies victims of 'dirtiest' politics, says Kejriwal

FW CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi

Those living in unauthorised colonies in Delhi were victims of the "dirtiest" politics by opposition parties, Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday after inaugurating development works in Om Vihar Phase V in west Delhi.

In every election, AAP's rival parties went to the people in unauthorised colonies with promises but did nothing for them afterwards, Kejriwal said and cited his government's work for them. "Till 2014, there was road in only 262 colonies. After I came to power, 850 colonies

were provided with roads," he said and added that by December 2024, roads will be constructed in all the unauthorised colonies in Delhi. The chief minister, despite having "high fever", visited people in Om Vihar and the men and women watching him from rooftops and their balconies was proof that he has earned a lot of love from them, Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj said.

Citing the schools constructed by the Delhi government, Kejriwal said that if children remain uneducated they cannot reach the moon, and congratulated people on the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 lander on the lunar surface on Wednesday.



"When our children will study then they will be able to go to the moon. If they remain uneducated how will they reach the moon?" Kejriwal asked. Kejriwal said that as an educated person his only concern was doing work for the people, no matter how much politics was done by other parties. "We will do a lot of work, no

matter how much politics they do. We will not fight with them. I am an educated person and just know how to work. I will ask for your votes only after doing work for you," Kejriwal said.

He said that the opposition parties accused him of giving "muft ki revidi" (freebies) as his government provided free electricity in Delhi. There is no shortage of electricity in Delhi because adequate arrangements have been done.

Now, there are no power cuts while earlier there used to be outages for 7-8 hours, he said and added "other parties say that Kejriwal gives freebies. I give free electricity that saves a few thousands rupees for the

people that they can spend on their children. What is problem of other parties with this."

Kejriwal said it was also his dream to ensure 24x7 water supply to Delhi households for which his government was working. "We will provide such clean water that you can drink straight from the tap and forget RO machines like you have forgotten inverters that were used when there were long power cuts in the city," he said.

Referring to the recent services ordinance, now replaced by the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2023, Kejriwal said powers of his government were snatched by the Centre and asked "should not I have the right to work?"

### Sonia 'thrilled' over Chandrayaan-3 success, says ISRO capabilities built over decades

NEW DELHI: Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Thursday congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission saying its outstanding capabilities have been built up over decades.

In her congratulatory letter to ISRO chairman S. Somnath, Sonia Gandhi said, "This is to let you know how thrilled I was by ISRO's magnificent achievement last evening. It is a matter of great pride and excitement to all Indians, particularly the younger generation."



The former Congress chief said, "ISRO's outstanding capabilities have been built up over decades. It has had remarkable leaders and a spirit of collective endeavour has always driven it." She said that its being "anchored" on self-reliance since the early sixties has contributed to its great successes. "I wish the entire ISRO fraternity all the very best and ex-

tend my warm greetings to each and every member of it on this momentous occasion," she added. Her remarks came after India's moon lander successfully set its four legs softly and safely on the lunar soil on Wednesday evening as planned, and became the fourth nation in the world to achieve the feat.

The lander landed near the South Pole of the moon after travelling about 3.84 lakh km for over 40 days. With the landing, a major portion of the Rs 600 crore Chandrayaan-3 mission has been realised.

### UWW suspends Wrestling Federation of India for delaying elections: Reports

**NEWDELHI:** The United World Wrestling (UWW) has decided to suspend the membership of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) indefinitely, as per the reports. This action comes as a result of the WFI's inability to hold elections as required. The development means Indian wrestlers will have to compete as 'neutral athletes' at the Olympic-qualifying World Championships. Originally, the WFI elections were to be held on May 7 but the Sports Ministry had declared elections null and void and asked the IOA to constitute a Transitory



Committee or Ad hoc Committee to conduct elections and manage affairs. The national wrestling body wrestling governing body, presently under the management of an ad-hoc committee established by the Indian Olympic Association, was supposed to conduct elections in June. Unfortunately, these elections have faced multiple delays due to a series of legal challenges put forth by different state units.

## Maternity benefits integral part of woman's identity and dignity: Delhi High Court

FW CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi

Maternity benefits are a fundamental and integral part of the identity and dignity of a woman who chooses to bear a child, the Delhi High Court has said while holding that a contractual female employee is also entitled to relief under the Maternity Benefit Act.

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh, in an order released Thursday, said work environment should be conducive enough to facilitate unimpaired decision and ensure that a woman who chooses to have both career and motherhood is not forced to make an "either-or" decision.

The Constitution, the judge said, gives a woman the liberty to carry a child as well as the

choice to not carry one, and the importance of maternity leave and benefits is recognised worldwide to secure the health and best interest of the mother and the child. "Maternity benefits do not merely arise out of statutory right or contractual relationship between an employer and employee but are a fundamental and integral part of the identity and dignity of a woman who chooses to start a family and bear a child," the court stated in its order.

"To make sure that the women of the society are made to feel safe and secure, she should be able to make decisions in her personal and professional life, without having an implication or bearing of one on the other. The work environment should be conducive enough for a



woman to facilitate unimpaired decision making regarding personal and professional life and to ensure that a woman who chooses to have both, a career and motherhood, is not forced to make an "either-or" decision," it said. The petitioner, a contractual employee of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA), moved the high court after her request for maternity benefit was declined.

The respondent DSLISA argued that the petitioner was not entitled to claim maternity benefits since she was only an empanelled advocate and not an employee to whom such benefits accrue. In its order, the court

observed that the petitioner was seeking "nothing extraordinary or outrageous", and to stand in the way of exercise of maternity right by a woman, without procedure or intervention of law, was in violation of the fundamental rights granted by the Constitution and the basic tenets of social justice.

The court observed that if a woman is made to choose between her familial life and career progression even in "this day and age", the society would be failing by not providing her the means to thrive. "The liberty to carry a child is a fundamental right that the Constitution of the Country grants its citizens under Article 21. Further, the choice not to carry a child is an extension of this fundamental right," the court said.

### Supreme Court permits Delhi govt to amend plea to challenge law on services instead of ordinance

FW CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi

Supreme Court on Friday permitted the Delhi government to amend its petition challenging the central government's ordinance establishing pre-eminence of the lieutenant governor over the elected AAP dispensation in controlling services in the national capital.

Amending the petition became necessary after the ordinance was replaced by a law. The top court took note of the submissions of senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi government, that earlier the challenge was directed against the ordinance which has now become a law after it was cleared by the two Houses of Parliament and got presidential assent.

"The Interim application



seeks amendment to the writ petition by which the NCT Ordinance was challenged. Now, it has been replaced by an Act (the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023). We have heard the counsel. "The solicitor general says they have no objection. The application for amendment is allowed. The counter-affidavit (reply of the Centre) if any, may be filed within four weeks," said the bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and

Manoj Misra. Parliament recently cleared the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023, also known as the Delhi Services Bill, that gave the lieutenant governor sweeping control over service matters. After the president gave her assent, the bill became a law.

Earlier, the top court had referred to a five-judge constitution bench the Delhi government's plea challenging the Centre's May 19 ordinance which took away the control over services from the city dispensation and set off a fresh tussle between the two power centres. The Centre had on May 19 promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 to create an authority for transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi.

### Kejriwal promises for clean drinking water 24x7, roads in unauthorised colonies

FW CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi

People in Delhi will get 24x7 supply of clean drinking water in their homes in the next few years, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday. He also promised that all unauthorised colonies will have roads by December 2024. The AAP chief said his government built roads in 850 colonies in the past seven years, compared to 250 in the national capitals-1,700 colonies in the last 65 years. Speaking at the inauguration of a road development project in the unauthorised Dashrathpuri colony of Dwarka, Kejriwal said he is a common man who only knows how to work for the people.

He assured the people that he will not let development works stop despite the Centre 'taking away' the powers of his government. «The Supreme Court, in its May 11 order, said the elected government should have all the power to work but, on May 19, they (Centre) brought an ordinance and snatched all the powers of the elected government,» Kejriwal said. The Delhi chief minister claimed that he does not understand politics and his only concern is working for the people. «I do not know (netagiri). I just know how to do work. I want to assure you that I will not let any work stop and all free services such as electricity, health care and water will continue,» he said.

Kejriwal said the Delhi government has filed a case in the Supreme Court and he firmly believes that it will empower his government and that will speed up development works.

Claiming that people in unauthorised colonies are victims of politics, Kejriwal asserted that he ensured after coming to power that basic amenities such as water supply, sewer lines and roads were developed there.

Fully-constructed roads, proper drainage and all other works are being done at a rapid pace in the unauthorised colonies. Earlier, these unauthorised colonies were in a bad shape but people there are now leading comfortable lives with dignity and respect, he said.

## Kejriwal orders suspension of govt official accused for raping 16 year old, seeks report from Chief Secretary

FW CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal ordered the suspension of a Delhi government official who is accused of multiple instances of raping a minor and impregnating her. According to the officials, Kejriwal has also sought a report from the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar by 5pm on the matter.

Kejriwal, while talking to reporters at the sideline of an event here, also appealed to the Delhi Police to immediately arrest the accused officer. «I have ordered the chief secretary to suspend the officer till the inquiry is pending. I have also sought a report from the chief secretary by the evening,» Kejriwal said. An FIR was registered against a senior Delhi government official for raping a 16-year-old girl repeatedly over several months at his residence.

Reportedly, the sexual assault left the girl pregnant, after which the suspect's wife gave her abortion pills to terminate the pregnancy. The



accused is a deputy director in the Women and Child Development Department. «This is a horrific incident...This incident has shamed humanity. Action should have been taken by now. Since action was not taken, CM Arvind Kejriwal has himself ordered the suspension of the official...» said AAP minister Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Meanwhile, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal criticised the police for inaction. «We are also issuing a notice to Delhi govt because we want to know

what are the complaints against him and what actions have been taken against him...», Maliwal said to a news agency. Police on Monday arrested Premoday Khaka, the accused after preliminary investigation.

The girl's parents were Delhi government employees and was friends with the suspect and his family. Her father passed away in 2020 following which the accused had extended support to the family by offering to take her to his home in order to recover from the trauma. Reportedly, the accused met

the girl at a religious place in Burari. According to DCP Kalsi, the girl stayed with the accused for nearly five months.

Officials said that the girl was allegedly raped several times at his residence between October 2020 and February 2021.

In between, the girl found out that she was pregnant and told his wife. Reportedly, she was asked not to reveal the incident and was later given abortion pills to terminate the pregnancy.

Also, when the girl's mother visited her at the residence, she had asked to take her home. The incident was brought to light when the girl opened up to the counselor at a hospital, where she was admitted, after suffering from an anxiety attack. She was admitted to a hospital in North Delhi.

«After extensive counselling, she confided in the doctors, counsellors, and police officers about the sexual abuse. She said she had terminated her pregnancy after receiving the abortion pills from the suspect's wife,» DCP Kalsi as quoted to a news agency.

## 'I am proud of Manish Sisodia' says Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that he was proud of former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who wanted to do developmental work in his constituency despite being in jail.

Manish Sisodia had moved a plea before a court seeking permission to use his MLA fund for the development, which has been accepted.

«We are all proud of Manish Sisodia. Despite being in jail, he cares about the people of Delhi and his constituency. Today, he sought permission from the court to use his MLA fund for the development of his constituency. The court granted him permission,» Kejriwal posted on X, formerly Twitter. A Delhi court has granted permission to Sisodia to make expenditure from his MLA fund. Sisodia can now carry out development work in the Patparganj constituency.

«Sisodia who is in jail was continuously receiving letters from the people of his constituency regarding development

In response, Sisodia has filed an application in the Rouse Avenue Court. He filed an application to seek permission to withdraw funds from his MLA fund for the development of the area»

projects. These letters included requests for various works such as internal roads, society gate barriers, water cooler installations, and cleanliness of community centers. «In response, Sisodia has filed an application in the Rouse Avenue Court. He filed an application to seek permission to withdraw funds from his MLA fund for the development of the area,» the AAP said.

Sisodia is in jail in connection with the corruption and money laundering cases related to the now-scrapped excise policy.

## We rejected violence in 90s: Omar Abdullah

FW DESK

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that despite the hurdles created by the ruling party (BJP), his party National Conference was growing stronger by the day.

«We are facing challenges at every point, even where we are not expecting them,» Omar said, according to a press release issued by the party. «The ruling party is working extra time to create hurdles for us. The active support of people and our workers has kept us going.»

He emphasized that the unwavering support of the people and the party's loyal members has been instrumental in sustaining their momentum. He asserted that the NC remains undeterred and committed to its objectives. «We were the ones who rejected the violence in the 1990s, we did not change our stand, Omar said while speaking at a party function in Srinagar. «Those who ridiculed us then are seen holding national flags today in the rallies led by I.G.»



## Nuh admin denies permission to VHP for August 28 Yatra

NEW DELHI: Nuh administration has denied permission to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's (VHP) Brij Mandal Jal Abhishek Yatra which was to be held on August 28.

Nuh Deputy Commissioner Dharendra Khadgata confirmed the development and told IANS that, «On Tuesday evening that the permission for VHP's Yatra was cancelled.» The administration official said that the decision to deny the permission was also based on intelligence inputs and the local peace committees, who said the situation is still tense in the district.

Hindu groups under the banner of the Sarva Hindu Samaj held a mahapanchayat at Pondri village in Palwal district on August 13 where they announced that they would resume the Braj Mandal Yatra on August 28 after it was stopped due to communal violence on July 31.

The Yatra was supposed to start from Nuh's Nalhar Mahadev Mandir, go to Ferozepur Jhirka, and



later Singar in Punhana. However, still 3 km away from the Nalhar temple as riots erupted in the area. «We know that the administration has rejected the permission but members of the organisation have said that they will go ahead with the Yatra,» said a VHP leader.

Six people, including two home guards and a cleric died in the clashes that erupted in Nuh following the VHP procession.

Sources said that keeping G20 in mind, the permission was denied. The upcoming G20 meeting is to be held in Tauru from September 3.

## Bhupesh Bhagel slams ED over terrorising Congress workers, dares BJP to fight elections democratically

KAVITA SHARMA  
New Delhi

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Bhagel today challenged the Bharatiya Janata Party to fight the forthcoming elections democratically instead of using central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax to intimidate the political opponents and disrupt the functioning of his government.

The Chief Minister drew the attention of the judiciary to take note of this intimidation and stop it since the state government did not have any other resource or recourse to counter the harassment and intimidation by the central agencies.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters in the aftermath of the ED raids on the houses of his close aides in Chhattisgarh yesterday, when it was his birthday, Mr Bhagel pointed out, the ED had claimed



a scam to the tune of Rs 2168 crores, but had so far not been able to account for more than Rs 200 crores. He added, similarly the ED claimed that the coal scam amount was to the tune of Rs 500 crores, but had not been able to provide figures for more than Rs 150 crores.

Referring to the liquor policy, he said, it had been made by the previous BJP government. He said, the revenue had been increased from Rs 3900 crores to Rs 6500 crores and despite that the ED alleges that there

has been a loss to state exchequer. He asserted that the ED has not been able to justify its allegations of loss even after presenting four supplementary challans. He said, even the CAG had also not raised any questions about it in its successive reports after thorough audit.

Bhagel said, if some scam has taken place, then why the ED has not taken any action against the distillers. He pointed out, in case of any scam the main accused should be the distiller who has not been touched. «But, the only purpose of the ED is to intimidate the people in government to malign and defame it ahead of the elections,» he observed, while adding, such tactics will not benefit the BJP in any way as these will further alienate and antagonise people of Chhattisgarh. He said, while last time the BJP had been reduced to 15 seats, the number will come down further particularly after such raids.

## GRP Haryana recovered Rs 1 crore 5 lakh from 3 robbed property dealer

SATISH HANDA

Team of Government Railway Police (GRP) Haryana with headquarter at Ambala succeeded in nabbing three accused within 48 hours identified as mastermind in the racket of three involved in crime Rajkaran alias Rajwa working at the Farm House of Rakesh Narwal a property dealer since past about three years, his brother Sunil alias Babla and his brother-in-law Gurjeet. Rajkaran told Rakesh that he has finalized an attractive deal of 10 acre land at village Baroda since the owner of the land is going abroad, suggesting him to develop a residential colony in the area and took from him Rs 30,000 as advance from him.

Later, he called Rakesh Narwal at Gohana Railway Station property dealer to finalize the deal against payment and complete all formalities in this deal, when the three accused attacked Rakesh and snatched Rs 1 crore 5 lakh from him and managed to escape.



Rakesh lodged a complaint with GRP at Gohana railway station and a case was registered against three alleged accused.

Meanwhile, the incident was brought to the notice of Sangeeta Kalia SP Railway Haryana at Ambala who constituted a police team immediately consisting of 21 members led by Ashok Kumar DSP started efforts for the arrest of alleged accused Rajkaran alias Rajwa and his two companions. The team succeeded in arresting the three and during search recovered Rs 1 crore from the prime accused Rajkaran alias Rajwa and Rs 2.5 lakh each from Sunil alias babla and Gurjeet.

## Role of Haryana's Rohtak & Ambala firms in successful launching of Chandarayaan-3

SATISH HANDA

Two firms in Haryana have played an important role in successful launching of Chandarayaan-3 the third Indian Lunar expo mission by Indo Space Research Organization's (ISRO). Rohtak based firm Aero Fastner Private Limited at IMT Rohtak had supplied over 1.5 lakh high quality nut-bolts for this Chandarayaan-3, said Managing Director of the firm Jasmer Lathar expressing happiness over the successful landing of this Chandarayaan-3 an ISRO's dream project, and said he feels himself landed on the moon first, he continued that his firm had made a contract with ISRO about 10 years ago in 2013 for the supply of nut and bolts.

Industry in 'Science City' Ambala Cantt has also played an important role in this project. The President of Visheshika Electron Devices Dr.



Dr Anil Jain said that the successful testing of rockets and filling of fuel in Chandarayaan-3 was conducted at Shriharikota centre by calibration and testing machine manufactured by him with 30 ton force calibration having up to 450 ton force calibration system manufactured by his team in his manufacturing unit in Industrial Area Ambala Cantt, initially developed in 2008. He said, a similar testing and calibration machines has also been supplied to Vi-



kram Sarabhai Space Centre, Tiruvananthapuram. Dr. Jain said that this was the first 450 ton capacity powerful load cell calibration machine which took three months to measure and test the load after about 12 years research and development. Dr Jain expressed proud for manufacturing such a hi-tech testing machine which has been successfully launched by ISRO..

## Quality control system likely to boost MSME sector

SATISH HANDA

Government of India has decided to encourage small scale industry introducing production linked incentive scheme for small manufacturers producing quality consumer goods manufactured by them and information reveals that initially have selected more than 60 products, most of them being imported from other countries for which production linked incentive (PLI) scheme has been started and according to entrepreneurs it will not only inject power in the arms of small scale manufacturers producing consumer products but also boost sale of small scale industrial units involved in manufacture of essential commodities products but also reduce imports of such products from other countries, besides the local manufacturers of such products would get plenty of export orders from other countries also. Our country has been importing a large



number of essential commodity products from China in past years, in-spite of the fact the products imported from China earlier flooded in indigenous markets due to cheaper in price in spite of the fact these are poor in quality as well as limited manufacturing in the country.

According to entrepreneurs, production linked incentive scheme being introduced by the government would bring a boom in both domestic as well as export sale in the country. According to information about two years ago quality control system was started in case of toys which were earlier being imported from other countries as a result import of toys has witnessed up to 80% drop in past two years.

## BJP stole popular mandate in MP by bribing MLAs: Kharage

KAVITA SHARMA  
Sagar (MP)

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharage today blasted the Bharatiya Janata Party and its leaders for stealing the popular mandates by bribing and intimidating MLAs after losing the elections. Their only aim is cling to power by any means, Kharage remarked about the BJP.

Addressing a mammoth public rally here today, Kharage questioned the claims of 'clean image and clean politics' made by the BJP leaders while referring to Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh where the party (BJP) stole the popular mandate by either bribing or intimidating the MLAs to switch sides.

The Congress President said, the BJP has always been vindictive and intimidating against political opponents. He said, the party uses agencies like the Enforcement Directorate, the CBI, and the Vigilance to harass and intimidate its opponents. He said so many Congress leaders were being



harassed and jailed. He said, after November these people, while referring to BJP leaders, will run away to Mumbai and Delhi for cover as they will be held accountable for their misdeeds. He added, the Congress does not believe in vindictiveness, vendetta or intimidation. «We neither intimidate people, nor get intimidated,» he asserted. He avowed that in Karnataka people had removed the corrupt BJP Sarkar in recently concluded

Assembly Election and now was the turn of the people of Madhya Pradesh to throw a more corrupt BJP government out of power. Referring to the corruption charges, he said, in Karnataka it was 40 percent corruption while asking people how much was it in Madhya Pradesh. To this there was a unanimous shout from the

crowd, «50 percent». He told them now was the time to remove the «50 percent corrupt» government in MP.

The Congress president reiterated party's five commitments including the waiving off of the farmers' debt, 100 units of free power, Rs 1,500 monthly stipend for women, gas cylinder for Rs 500 and old pension scheme for the government employees.

He also announced that once Congress forms the government in MP, it will hold the caste based census which will help in better planning of resource allocation for Backward classes and downtrodden people. In this context, he underlined that the Congress had given representation to 6 backward class people in its recently announced apex decision making body, the Congress Working Committee.

Mr Kharage also referred to the unfortunate incident where a BJP leader had urinated on the face of an Adivasis. He remarked, that is how they treat the tribal people.

## 39-year-old mother beats cancer to deliver healthy baby in Delhi

FW CORRESPONDENT  
New Delhi

A 39-year-old mother who was diagnosed with uterine cervix cancer during pregnancy, not only won over cancer but also gave birth to a healthy baby girl after treatment at a city hospital. She delivered a healthy baby in the 37th week of her pregnancy and her cancer is also in remission, doctors said. Marina, the mother, approached doctors with a complex medical condition sixteen weeks into her pregnancy as she was diagnosed with a 7-cm long tumour in her uterine cervix. Facing a dual challenge of pregnancy and cancer, her case required a highly specialised and tailored treatment approach.

## Beware of increasing cyber crimes: Sibas Kabiraj IGP Ambala

SATISH HANDA  
Ambala

Fast increasing cyber crime cases is a matter of concern, IGP Ambala police range consisting of Ambala, Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra districts Sibas Kabiraj warned residents of the area to remain alert while informing your bank account number to anyone, failing which amount in your bank account will be withdrawn within seconds. He said, the cheats offer attractive gift scheme offers, attractive jobs, assure to double the amount invested by you, any telephone call from a courier company, offer to open a credit card in the bank on attractive terms and make friendship offers usually from females on the Face Book. He said on getting any call in this respect immediately disconnect the same and avoid



responding when asked to inform the OTP number or your account number in the bank.

According to police record, 206 cyber cheating cases have been registered by cyber crime cell at Ambala in past three years, 233 cyber cheating cases under section 420 IPC has been registered by the police in 2021 at Yamunanagar which is the highest figure in Ambala police range and 213 cyber cheating cases were registered during 2021 at Kurukshetra. He said, thousands of cyber crime cheating cases are still lying unsolved

in Ambala police range. Kabiraj said that the police has organized several awareness campaigns in this regard from time to time but still people are trapped in the net of cheats.

A study in Ambala range police reveals that in Ambala district 79 cyber crime cases under IPC 420 Act were registered during the year 2020, 89 cases registered during the year 2021 and 111 cases registered during the year 2022 and 206 cases registered so far during current year 2023 in which only 47 cases were solved by the police. Similarly, in Kurukshetra district 207 cyber crime cases were registered in 2020, 213 cases registered during 2021, 103 cases registered during 2022 and 118 cases registered so far in the year 2023, and the police was able to solve only 43 cases.

## Firms involved in sale-purchase of fake bills on CGST radar for recoveries

SATISH HANDA  
Ambala

Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) has launched major action against large number of institutions evading GST of value more than Rs 68 crores by issuing fake input tax credit (ITC) bills. It was observed that these institutions were passing ITC to the taxpayers from outside the state as well as in the state. A spokesperson of the department said vigilance department has started search for firms cheating the government in false practices and has already identified large number of firms from whom recoveries and the fine is being recovered. Even in 'Science City' Ambala Cantt the department has identified large



number of renowned business houses involved in sale-purchase of fake bills to earn ITC falsely. There are few firms dealing in scientific goods but found falsely doing transaction in consumer as well as eatable goods. He disclosed that in the coming some time, the persons operating the ITC racket will be identified by the department and strict action will be taken against them with recovery of amount, fine and interest thereon.

There are four commissioner-

ies in Haryana state at Panchkula, Gurugram. Rohtak and Faridabad involved in tacing out such firms involved in fake sale-purchase of bills to earn ITC unethically. DC CGST Shikhandeep Kaur Randhawa said that all registration numbers of registered parties are being checked at national level and registration of large number of parties claiming ITC falsely have been cancelled with immediate effect and action for recovery of frauded amount is being taken against them along with amount of interest. She said, in most of the cases the addressed were found false during investigation and stern action is being taken against them. She further added that the department sending notices to such establishment

found involved in illegal practices under Sections 74, 122 (!) (!!) of 2017 and section 122 (I) (VI). Madam Randhawa said that it was observed that large number of business houses have been playing games of sale-purchase of bills without actual transactions just to grab ITC and in most of the cases e-way fake bills were raised by them.

Principal Commissioner, Central Goods and Services Tax said that in campaign launched by the department against seven bogus parties that issued fake ITC bills which included Bizotice Developers, Golden Traders, ARL Trading Company, Devi Trading Company, Badri Enterprises, Kumar Traders and Singh Brothers in which tax evasion of Rs 68.04 crore was exposed from them.

# Chandrayaan-3: PM Modi to visit B'uru to congratulate ISRO scientists on Aug 26

**BENGALURU:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on August 26 to congratulate the scientists following the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission.

BJP will also hold a mega roadshow on the occasion. Former deputy chief minister and BJP MLA R. Ashoka said that the roadshow will be held between Jalahalli Circle to ISRO Head Quarters in Bengaluru. "I request the people and party workers to attend the roadshow to congratulate scientists and PM Modi," he said. In the backdrop of the visit of PM Modi to ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (IS-TRACK), BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel, BJP MLAs S.R. Vishwanath and S. Muni-



raju have visited the centre and inspected the campus. "The invitation is open for all

to make the programme successful. If people can come at 5.45 a.m. on Aug 26, they can

see PM Modi and ISRO scientists," Ashoka said. Nalin Kumar Kateel said that PM Modi would arrive at HAL at 5 a.m. and should be extended a grand welcome. The party workers and people are invited from the Bengaluru Urban District mainly, he said. Meanwhile, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Dayanand held a meeting to discuss about security arrangements with the Additional Police Commissioners, Joint Police Commissioners and DCPs. After arriving at HAL airport, PM Modi will reach ISRO by road and it has been decided to divert the traffic in Bengaluru on the stretch of the road.

The police department has banned the movement of goods vehicles in the Bengaluru City between 4 a.m. and 11 a.m.

# It is India's moment on the moon: ASSOCHAM

FW DESK  
New Delhi

On Historic day August 23, 2023 ASSOCHAM joins the nation in celebrating India's historic landing on the moon, congratulating the formidable ISRO and its team of spirited scientists and engineers for achieving the feat showing immaculate precision and success of Chandrayaan 3 mission.

"It is India's moment on the moon", ASSOCHAM Secretary General Deepak Sood said. As Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, landing on the moon, the first by any nation near the lunar South Pole, reflects India's new resolve to cross all barriers in our journey of exploration, premised on a solid foundation of science, technology and innovation.

Congratulating ISRO chief S



Somanath, Deepak Sood said, "Your team of scientists are gems of India. After your victorious words 'India is on the Moon', the entire nation salutes them and their ever increasing aspirations to continue the country's exploration into the universe".

He said ISRO has incredibly demonstrated to the world how big feats can be achieved with a prudent and limited budget, raising eyebrows of the developed world about the financial resources being no constraints to national goals.

ISRO has incredibly demonstrated to the world how big feats can be achieved with a prudent and limited budget, raising eyebrows of the developed world about the financial resources being no constraints to national goals

"Today's moon landing is a decisive step towards India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047". As ISRO acknowledged, the successful Chandrayaan 3 Mission is also an example of contributions by several private sector companies as well in the nation goal, as critical as the Moon landing.

# BJP not to stop leaders who want to join Cong in Kolkata



**BENGALURU:** The BJP's Karnataka unit has been directed not to stop the party leaders who want to join the ruling Congress in the state.

The Congress leaders have been claiming that about 10 to 15 BJP leaders will join their party through 'Operation Hasta' ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Former Minister and BJP MLA S.T. Somashekhar, Shivaram Hebbar, also a former minister and BJP MLA, are all set to join Congress party, according to sources. A large number of supporters of Somashekhar, who have joined the Congress, claimed that Somashekhar joining the grand-old party is mere a formality.

Hebbar is upset with BJP leadership and he is also likely to join Congress soon, sources said. Both leaders had joined BJP in 2019 through 'Operation Lotus' from Congress.

Former minister V. Somanna, who lost assembly elections from Varuna against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Chamaraanjagar seats is said to be considering switching over to Congress. Somanna is an aspirant of State President's post and he is said to be taking the decision once the party makes a decision in this regard.

# Don't believe in false promises of Congress, BJP: KCR tells people



Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy on Wednesday cautioned people against believing false and misleading promises of Congress and BJP. Addressing a public meeting at Medak, he urged people to be alert and exercise their vote carefully in the coming Assembly elections. He advised them to analyse what was the situation in Telangana 10 years ago and what it is today. This was the first public meeting addressed by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief after announcing candidates for 115 out of 119 seats for coming Assembly elections. KCR appealed to people to continue their support to the BRS so that the state can march ahead on the path of development and prosperity. He ridiculed the appeal of Congress to people to give the party a change and reminded people that they have given the chance to Congress for 50 years.

The BRS chief while BJP is saying that electricity meters should be fixed to agriculture pumpsets, the Congress party is saying that three hour electricity is sufficient for farmers. KCR claimed that Telangana lost Rs 25, 000 crore because his government refused to accept the condition laid down by the BJP government at the Centre that meters should be fixed to agriculture pumpsets.

# Kharge questions PM Modi's 'clean image, clean politics' remarks

**NEWDELHI:** Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday attacked the BJP for stealing the popular mandates by bribing and intimidating MLAs after losing the elections. He termed the existing Madhya Pradesh BJP government as 'illegal'.

Addressing a mammoth public rally in Sagar district of Bundelkhand region of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Kharge questioned the claims of "clean image and clean politics" made by the BJP leaders while referring to Karnataka and Madhya

Pradesh where the party (BJP) stole the popular mandate by either bribing or intimidating the MLAs to switch sides. He accused the BJP of using Central agencies to harass and intimidate its opponents. "So many Congress leaders are being harassed and jailed. After November these people (while referring to BJP leaders), will run away to Mumbai and Delhi for cover as they will be held accountable for their misdeeds," he said.

Kharge said the Congress does not believe in vindictive-



ness, vendetta or intimidation. "We neither intimidate people, nor get intimidated," he said. Referring to the corruption charges, he said, in Karnataka it

was 40 per cent corruption and asked the gathering how much it is in Madhya Pradesh. To this there was a unanimous shout from the crowd, "50 per cent". He told the gathering that the time has come to remove the "50 per cent corrupt" government in MP.

He also reiterated party's five commitments including the waiving off of the farmers' debt, 100 units of free power, Rs 1, 500 monthly stipend for women, gas cylinder for Rs 500 and old pension scheme for the government employees.

# Trinamool's Derek O'Brien & MPs from opposition want more time for discussions on important bills



**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA**  
New Delhi

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs intends to start discussion on three important Bills at a week's notice. But the opposition camp has objected to the Govt.'s haste in passing the three Bills - 'The Indian Civil Code', 'The Indian Civil Defense Code' and 'The Indian Evidence Act' - that fundamentally change the country's legal system. After taking oath as MP for the third term in Rajya Sabha today, Derek O'Brien approached the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. BJP MP Brijlal, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, wanted to start discussion on this bill from this week itself. But opposition MPs, including Trinamool's Derek O'Brien and Digvijaya Singh of the Congress, claimed more time was needed before discussions could begin on such an important bill. In this matter also, the MPs of 'India Alliance' are moving ahead by coordinating among themselves.

The picture of this coordination of the opposition became more clear in the Parliament on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Prime

Minister Rajiv Gandhi when Congress leader Sonia Gandhi arrived at the remembrance function on his photo in the Central Hall of the Parliament. On this occasion, Kapil Sibal, who left the Congress and became a Rajya Sabha MP with the support of the SP, was also present. At that time, Sonia called Jawhar Sircar, Derek O'Brien and Kapil Sibal by name and made them sit next to her. According to the sources, after this she discussed these three laws for a long time with Sibal, the law minister of the UPA Government. After being introduced in Parliament, Sibal termed the three bills as 'unconstitutional' and said that these three proposed laws are against the independence of the judiciary, it is clear that the Modi government does not want to maintain democracy in the country. At that time the Congress had also complained that the crime of sedition had not been removed. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is not only bringing it back, but sedition has been defined in such a way that it can be misused arbitrarily. It is clear from Sibal's long conversation with Sonia Gandhi on leaving the Congress that day that the opposition camp is uniting against these three laws.

# Akhilesh ready to 'walk extra mile' in seat sharing with Congress



**LUCKNOW:** Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has said that he is ready to walk an extra mile when it comes to seat sharing with the Congress because his main concern is to defeat the BJP. Akhilesh, so far, has been maintaining a studied silence on his relationship with the Congress, giving rise to speculations about the fate of INDIA alliance in Uttar Pradesh.

Former UPCC chief Brijlal Khabri's statements that party cadres in the state were not in favour of alliance with SP, further strained the relationship.

On July 6, Brijlal Khabri had issued a statement in Lucknow saying that Congress workers in the state were open to alliance with any party but SP in the 2024 polls.

The SP leadership took exception to such a strong statement by the then UPCC chief and that, too, days before the opposition alliance was to get together in Bengaluru for their second meeting on July 19.

Thereafter the SP went silent on alliance with the Congress party in UP for the 2024 polls. SP's displeasure over Khabri's statement was apparently noticed by the Congress leadership in Delhi.

Finally, on August 17, Khabri was removed from the post of UPCC chief after a short stint of 10 months. He was replaced by party's regional president Ajay Rai. The development comes days before the opposition alliance is all set to meet again, this time in Mumbai on August 31 where SP and Congress are expected to discuss the final seat-sharing formula in the state for the 2024 polls.

"UP mein Congress ko kya dena hai ye koi bada sawal nahi hai. Bada sawal ye hai ki BJP ko harana hai," Akhilesh Yadav said, responding to a specific query posed to him at a function in Delhi on Saturday.

On his past experience of SP's alliance with the Congress in 2016 assembly polls and with the BSP in 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Akhilesh said that both the alliances were a great learning experience.

"I have always entered into an alliance to defeat the BJP as the prime objective. Samajwadi Party has always decided on the seat-sharing formula with a big heart," he said.

# Odisha: Homeguard Controversy Snowballs

**ARABINDA MOHAPATRA**  
Bhubaneswar

The controversy surrounding the alleged torture of a woman Home Guard who lost both her legs under the wheels of a running train after trying to commit suicide out of shame and frustration continues to snowball. This has also become a source of embarrassment for the government led by Naveen Patnaik which has already switched into the election mode.

The home guard Sairindri Sahu (47), a widow, is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack. Following her allegations about alleged torture and humiliation at the hands of wife of Talcher-based north central range DIG, Brijesh Kumar Rai the officer has been shifted to the police headquarters in Cuttack. Sahu, who hails from Angul district, had been serving as a Home Guard for the last 19 years. She comes from Odisha's Angul district.

Sahu has alleged that was continuously tortured by the wife of the DIG in whose house



she was working. The DIG denied the allegations but the government shifted him in the interest of a fair probe. The issue has now taken a serious turn with human rights activist, Jayanata Das filing a complaint in this connection with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

In his complaint, Das has demanded stern action against the Police DIG and his wife and a compensation of Rs 30 lakh for the home guard. The petitioner demanded that the compensation amount be sourced from the salary of the police officer. The complaint was filed after the female home guard claimed

# Bomb threat delays departure of Air India UK to Amritsar flight

**JAGMOHAN SINGH**  
Amritsar

Panic gripped the Shri Guru Ramdas ji International Airport terminal when cleaning staff of Air India UK to Amritsar flight reported Bomb threat to the Airport Authority here on August 21.

According to Punjab Police, a slip was found to cleaning staff in the aircraft toilet at Amritsar Airport and the matter was immediately reported to the Airport Authority which further called the Central Industrial Force (CISF) and the plane was parked in the isolated place forthwith. During thorough rummaging of the plane nothing objectionable was found and clean chit was issued in the evening at 4.30 p.m. The plane which was scheduled to take off back to Birmingham was allowed to move at 6.00 p.m around two hours behind the schedule.

# Supreme court dismisses PIL seeking validation of Article 370 abrogation

FW DESK

The Supreme Court of India has rejected a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that aimed to affirm the validity of the Indian government's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and the removal of Article 35A from the Indian Constitution, the portal LiveLaw reported.

The bench overseeing the case, comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, along with Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, expressed initial skepticism about the nature of the petition.

Chief Justice Chandrachud questioned the petitioner's intentions during the proceedings, stating, "What kind of a petition is this? Who has prompted your client to file this?" He went on to clarify the court's stance by stating, "This court cannot issue a declaration regarding the constitutional validity of actions taken by the central government. The matter of constitutional validity is still under the consideration of this court. This plea is not well-founded."

Consequently, the plea was dismissed by the court.

The PIL had sought an official declaration from the Supreme Court affirming the constitutionality of the govern-



ment's decision to revoke Article 370 and Article 35A. Article 370 granted a special status to the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, while Article 35A provided special privileges to its residents in matters related to property and employment.

A constitution bench is currently hearing a series of pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370, which was carried out on August 5, 2019. Simultaneously, the court is also considering challenges against the removal of Article 35A, which had granted distinct privileges to residents of Jammu and Kashmir in specific areas.

This development underscores the ongoing legal discussions surrounding the government's decision to alter the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and its implications on constitutional matters.

# India and its Need of a Uniform Civil Code

**ISHANEE SHARMA**

India, a diverse nation with a rich tapestry of cultures and religions, has been grappling with the issue of implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for decades. The UCC is a set of comprehensive laws that seeks to govern personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and property rights uniformly for all citizens, irrespective of their religious affiliations. The debate surrounding its implementation has been a contentious one, with proponents advocating for social cohesion and gender equality, while opponents raise concerns about preserving cultural diversity and religious freedom.



of the UCC debate revolves around the issue of gender equality. Presently, different personal laws have varying provisions concerning matters like divorce, maintenance, and inheritance, which can often be discriminatory towards women. Implementing a uniform code could potentially address these discrepancies and empower women with equal rights and opportunities in personal matters.

**Secularism and Unity:** India's diversity is its strength, and a Uniform Civil Code can further foster national integration and secular values. Implementing a UCC would signify equal treatment for all citizens, irrespective of their religious affiliations, and reinforce the principle of 'Unity in Diversity.'

**Legal Simplification:** The current system of multiple personal laws leads to

legal complexities, disputes, and delays. A Uniform Civil Code would streamline the legal framework, making it more accessible and understandable to the general public. It could also alleviate the burden on courts, promoting a more efficient and transparent judicial process.

**Historical Context:** India's personal laws are inherited from its colonial past, where different communities followed their religious laws in matters of personal life. With the nation's independence, the idea of a Uniform Civil Code was debated to ensure equal rights for all citizens irrespective of their religious beliefs.

**Social Progression:** A Uniform Civil Code would reflect a progressive society, aligning India's legal framework with modern values and principles. It would address issues such as triple

talaaq and child marriage, paving the way for a more inclusive and forward-thinking nation.

**Protecting Minorities:** Critics argue that a UCC might undermine the cultural identity of religious minorities. However, a well-drafted code can safeguard their unique practices while ensuring fundamental rights for all. A UCC should be inclusive and considerate of diverse cultural practices.

**Challenges and Concerns:** Despite the potential advantages, implementing a UCC in a country as diverse as India poses significant challenges. The country is home to various religious and cultural communities, each with distinct customs and traditions. Critics argue that imposing a uniform code might infringe upon the right to practice one's religion freely, leading to resistance from certain communities. Preserving cultural diversity and religious pluralism while pursuing social justice becomes a delicate balancing act.

**Finding Middle Ground:** A practical approach to the issue involves engaging in extensive consultations with various religious and community leaders, legal experts, and civil society organizations. A consensus-building process that respects the concerns of

all stakeholders is essential. A step-by-step implementation plan, with gradual reforms and adaptations, could be considered to ensure a smoother transition towards a UCC.

**Modeling After Successful Practices:** India could learn from other countries that have successfully implemented a Uniform Civil Code. Nations like France, Germany, and Turkey have managed to balance their diverse cultural backgrounds while upholding the principles of equality and secularism. Analyzing their experiences could provide valuable insights for India's unique context.

**Conclusion:** India's journey towards a Uniform Civil Code is a complex and multifaceted one. Striking a balance between promoting social cohesion and respecting cultural diversity requires careful deliberation and broad-based consultations. A well-crafted UCC, based on principles of equality and justice, could be a vital step towards a more inclusive and harmonious society. As India continues to evolve, the conversation surrounding a Uniform Civil Code remains an essential part of its ongoing quest for unity in diversity.

*Ishanee Sharma is senior advocate, views are personal.*

**The Need for Uniformity:** One of the primary arguments in favor of a UCC is that it would foster a sense of national unity by transcending religious boundaries and promoting a common identity among citizens. The existence of multiple personal laws based on religious practices often leads to conflicting judgments, ambiguity, and injustice. A uniform legal framework would help in streamlining legal processes and ensure that all individuals are treated equally before the law.

**Gender Equality and Women's Rights:** Another crucial aspect

## India joins elite space club with lunar landing

**A**t 5.40 p.m. on August 23, a monumental event unfolded 30 km above the moon. The Chandrayaan-3 lander, a marvel of modern engineering, successfully descended to the lunar surface. This historic achievement was met with jubilation across India, marking the nation as the fourth globally to soft-land on the moon and the first in the moon's South Polar region. Such space missions, with their intricate complexities and unpredictabilities, are a testament to human determination and ingenuity. The lessons learned from the unfortunate demise of Chandrayaan-2 in 2019 were meticulously addressed, leading to the upgraded Chandrayaan-3. This iteration boasts redundancies ensuring that if one component fails, another steps in. This achievement positions India at a significant crossroads. As a member of the Artemis Accords, India is now poised to play a pivotal role in the ambitious goal of human lunar exploration by 2025. The recent setback faced by Russia's Luna-25 mission underscores the importance of India's success, hinting at a potential leadership role for India in future lunar endeavors. Chandrayaan-3's success has also broadened India's interplanetary repertoire, showcasing proficiency with orbiters, landers, and rovers. India's current edge in space technology should be leveraged to explore further into the cosmos, emphasizing scientific missions. The Chandrayaan-3 landing also heralds the conclusion of India's second phase of lunar exploration. The upcoming collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for the Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission is eagerly anticipated. This mission will further study the moon's South Pole, utilizing ISRO's landing system developed for Chandrayaan-2 and -3. Looking ahead, ISRO's trajectory is clear. The organization is set to delve into quantum communications, human space flight, planetary habitation, and more. The private sector's involvement will be instrumental in driving innovation and expanding horizons. With Chandrayaan-3's success, ISRO is poised to lead the next era of space exploration. As India celebrates this lunar triumph, the future looks brighter than ever.

### 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.

**The only difference between success and failure is the ability to take action**

Alexander Graham Bell

## 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)



**CAPTAIN A. (MOHAN) RANGANATHAN** SAYS INDIA'S AIRLINE CREW RULES RANK POORLY, CAUSING FATIGUE GLOBALLY

## Flying with pilot fatigue



**O**n October 12, 1976, an Indian Airlines Caravelle flight from Bombay to Madras (IC 171) crashed shortly after take-off at Bombay and while attempting an emergency landing, killing all 95 passengers on board. An engine had caught fire. Among the last words of Captain K.D. Gupta, the commander, picked up by the cockpit voice recorder was that he "was feeling sleepy". He had done the early morning Boeing departure to Delhi and back, spent the whole day in office and opted to operate the delayed Caravelle flight. The ill-fated plane was to operate the flight after the authorities "had made two earlier futile attempts to fly the passengers to Madras" on a Boeing flight. One of the Boeings had had a bird hit and the other had a snag. Passengers were also discontented.

Some of the operating procedures on the Caravelle were different from those on a Boeing, which was highlighted in the court inquiry. Following the crash, one of the quick regulator actions was to stop pilots operating two types of aircraft. The pilots on the Caravelle flight, Captain Gupta and co-pilot Captain K.L. Pershad/Prasad, had endorsements on their licences to fly the Boeing and the Caravelle.

### Recent crew incidents

In the past weeks, there have been reports of some Indian pilots who passed away due to cardiac arrest. One of them was a pilot of Indian origin flying for an airline in West Asia. Another was a pilot employed in a major private airline in India who collapsed and died at the boarding gate in Nagpur just before his flight. The third incident involved a pilot on a Latin American airline flight from Miami to Santiago, Chile, who collapsed on the flight and where the co-pilot had to land the aircraft. Ten years ago, another Indian pilot passed away as he stepped out of a simulator after training pilots.

Do airline managements and the aviation regulator in India understand the importance of fatigue and sleep deprivation? Are profits and passenger numbers the only important factor

in the airline business? Did not the loss of over 150 lives in the Air India Express crash (IX 812) at Mangaluru in May 2010 stir the conscience of all those involved? The Supreme Court of India, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and airlines? India has one of the worst sets of rules on Flight and Duty Time Limitations and rest periods. The people who drafted and implemented these rules have no clue about the risks involved. India's DGCA and airlines would do well to read through and understand the chapter, "Pilot fatigue and the regulation of airline schedules in post-war Britain" in the publication, *Balancing the Self*.

### On fatigue and stress

In the examples given, only one involved death in the cockpit on a passenger flight. Fortunately, the copilot was experienced and well trained to take over and bring the aircraft to a safe landing. The death of the pilot in Nagpur, just before commencing a multi-sector flight, should be a wake-up call. There are many questions to be answered. One of them is the experience level and also the competence of the copilot if there is a serious issue involving the crew during flight.

Airlines will claim that all their pilots are well trained and meet the minimum standards. Having been a pilot for over 40 years, I have observed how proficiency checks are manipulated and where training is a mere 'box-ticking exercise'. If one adds to this deficiencies highlighted in the International Civil Aviation Organization's Annex 14 Volume I 'Standards for Runways and airfields', we are living in a dangerous situation. Airlines the world over have a minimum total cockpit time experience for both pilots put together, with specific hours for narrowbody aircraft and widebody aircraft, respectively. Can the DGCA and airlines in India meet these numbers?

I would like to highlight a phrase used by Real Levasseur, the lead investigator of the Air France (AF358) overrun incident at Toronto airport, Canada, in August 2005. He said, "Humans and Humans. They are not machines." When are the MoCA, the DGCA and airlines going to wake up to that wisdom? Duty time for crew is not a 'one size fits all' matter. The fatigue level of a human differs at different times of the day and the circadian low comes into play in the hours that fall from midnight to sunrise. The number of landings a pilot performs during his duty period adds to the fatigue level.

More than 60 years ago, a scientific study proved that the stress level during an approach to land, especially in adverse weather conditions, can raise the heart level to more than 240 beats per minute. The adrenal glands kick in and a body faces severe sugar depletion. Analysis of accidents involving highly experienced crew identified this as a cause. Sleep deprivation and a micro-sleep condition for between five to 15 seconds during the approach and landing phase have also been identified as a cause for accidents. The subject is an urgent matter to be addressed before precious lives are lost.

### A different category of staff

Pilots are not in the same work category as airline ground staff, including management staff. Those on ground can avail two days off every week for 52 weeks (a year) in addition to public holidays and annual leave. Flying crew in India on the other hand, get one day off in a week and just their annual leave. 'Safe airlines' worldwide provide at least two days off every week and proper rest periods between flights for the body clock to unwind. DGCA regulations lay down the absolute minimum. Nothing prevents an airline from providing more rest days if their interest in safety and the human factor of the flight crew is to be addressed.

The fatal accident at Mangaluru and Kozhikode (August 2020) had identified another important factor. The pilots were taking medications. This is not confined to a few. With a kind of rostering where crew do not have sufficient time at home but are away from it for six days a week, self-medication becomes a norm. Without many being aware of side-effects, these can induce other conditions.

Having inquiries without implementing their findings will not save lives. The sooner the system in India understands this the better it will be for safety.

*Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India. Views are personal*



**TIKENDER SINGH PANWAR** BELIEVES INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA HAS NOT BEEN CLIMATE SMART

## Shimla is crumbling, and there are reasons for it

**R**ains have recently wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh, particularly Shimla. Heavy precipitation in the Summer Hill area of the State capital resulted in flash floods and the collapse of a temple which claimed over 15 lives. A landslide led to the destruction of many buildings in Krishnanagar area and left two dead. Landslides around Shimla have damaged roads and brought life to a standstill.

This is not unprecedented. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report states that the coastal areas and the Himalayas are poised to experience a rise in extreme climate events and a shift in rainfall patterns. Consequently, the developmental strategies for the Himalayan region should prioritise climate resilience instead of solely pursuing unguided infrastructure expansion.

Regrettably, in Shimla, infrastructure development has not been climate smart. An analysis of several incidents reveals a pattern. In Summer Hill, the temple was constructed within a gorge. This was also the location of a water supply system for Totu, a suburb of Shimla. In Krishnanagar, houses were erected atop water bauris (natural water springs). When structures come up in areas closely linked to a water source, they become susceptible to disasters. There are around 25 major springs and over 100 water bauris in Shimla.

The shift in building strategies began after the 1990s, facilitated by the advent of reinforced cement concrete. A prime example of this transformation is the New



Shimla region, which was known for paddy cultivation. This area spans numerous water bodies. Empowered by the strength of reinforced cement concrete, people believed that water flow could be controlled and directed, leading to deliberate human settlements in water spaces, including ravines. Two significant development projects have been established directly atop substantial water springs and nallahs (water channels): the Himachal Pradesh High Court Lawyers Chambers and the new Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital building. They have been constructed on waterways that remain perennial, but can become tumultuous during the monsoon season.

The recent heavy precipitation at Summer Hill raises concerns about the fate of such substantial infrastructure funded by public resources. Typically, matters related to land

use should be addressed within a comprehensive development plan, often referred to as the city's master plan. However, Shimla has been run with an interim development plan since 1979. Adding to this complexity, the planning for Shimla is not overseen by the elected city government. Instead, it falls under the jurisdiction of a parastatal, namely the town and country planning department, which operates without any democratic oversight and relies heavily on computer-simulated plans, often guided by inputs from large technological consultancy firms.

Currently, the Shimla Development Plan (SDP) is pending before the Supreme Court. One critical oversight of the current SDP is the absence of a climate action plan that should ideally precede it. The existing SDP appears to be primarily focused on creating urban spaces with designations

like 'core' and 'open heritage'; yet it lacks the necessary emphasis on addressing climate-related challenges.

What the SDP does necessitate is a zonal and sub-zonal planning approach, which is important in Shimla, a region with unique geographical features. It is imperative that zones and sub-zones are meticulously defined based on comprehensive geological data and thorough studies. Subsequently, this information should guide the determination of the floor area ratio. The zoning strategy should dictate the regions where the city cannot support further settlements. Conversely, areas with robust rock foundations should be permitted to undergo vertical expansion, but all decisions should be rooted in solid geological and structural foundations. This approach aims to strike a balance between urban development and the preservation of the city's unique geological features.

The priority now should be to initiate comprehensive water contouring, which can be accomplished through a combination of satellite imagery and active participation from the community. Upon achieving this, the rallying cry of Shimla's citizens should resonate with the 'no means no' slogan, which is prevalent in the Sutlej valley.

*Tikender Singh Panwar is an author, former directly elected Deputy Mayor of Shimla, and an urban practitioner. He is also a senior Fellow with the Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPR), Delhi*



### BOOKS: REVIEW

## Book offers a deep dive into the world of rose breeding

**"R**oses in the Fire of Spring" is not just a book about roses; it's a journey through the passionate world of the Viraraghavans, India's leading rosarians. The narrative takes readers through the transformation of a once "near-vertical wilderness" into the enchanting Hillview garden in Kodaikanal. The garden, which stands as a testament to dedication and love for nature, is a reflection of the couple's commitment to the world of roses.

Chapter 22, 'In the Shadow of Anamudi: Our Garden in the Hills', serves as a captivating entry point. Readers are transported to the Viraraghavans' garden, which over the decades has transformed from a rocky terrain to a blooming paradise, home to a myriad of rose hybrids and rhododendron collections.

M.S. 'Viru' Viraraghavan's sci-

entific approach to rose breeding, combined with his wife Girija's humanities background, creates a harmonious blend of technical expertise and artistic touch. Their combined efforts have resulted in the creation of 118 unique roses, each with its own story. The roses, with names like Chantal's Kolam, Ahimsa, and E. K. Janaki Ammal, are not just flowers but symbols of their lifelong dedication.

The book beautifully intertwines personal anecdotes with technical details. Viru's early interest in roses, influenced by his father and his background in chemistry, is heartwarming. Girija's transformation from someone who "never gave Nature a thought" to becoming an integral part of the rose-breeding journey is both surprising and inspiring.

The narrative is not just about the couple's achievements but also pays homage to pioneers in the

**One of the most striking aspects of the book is the Viraraghavans' commitment to the environment.**

field. Their acknowledgment of other rosarians and their international collaborations highlight their humility and the global nature of their work.

One of the most striking aspects of the book is the Viraraghavans' commitment to the environment. Their focus on creating better roses for warmer climates is timely and crucial. Their discovery of Rosa clinophylla and Rosa gigantea, and their efforts in hybrid creation, are significant contributions to the world of horticulture.

However, what truly sets this



*Roses in the Fire of Spring*  
By M.S. Viraraghavan and Girija Viraraghavan  
Running Head Books  
444 pages, Rs 2,499

book apart is the Viraraghavans' philosophy. Their emphasis on celebrating diversity and naturalness in rose breeding is a refreshing perspective in a world driven by commercial interests. Their decision to share their hybrids freely, without commercializing their passion, speaks volumes about their character and love for the rose community.

While the book is described as a "part-travelogue and memoir", it offers so much more. It's an encyclopedia for rose enthusiasts, a love story for romantics, and a testament to perseverance for everyone else.

Beyond the technicalities and the art of rose breeding, the book offers readers a profound understanding

of the relationship between humans and nature. The Viraraghavans' journey is a testament to the idea that when we work in harmony with nature, the results can be nothing short of magical. Their garden, Hillview, is not just a collection of roses; it's a living, breathing entity that tells stories of trials, tribulations, and triumphs. Each corner of the garden, each rose, has a tale to tell, and the authors have masterfully woven these tales into the narrative, making readers feel as if they are walking alongside them in their garden.

The book also delves deep into the cultural and historical significance of roses. Throughout history, roses have been symbols of love, beauty, war, and politics. The Viraraghavans, through their extensive research and travels, shed light on the rose's journey across civilizations and its impact on art, literature, and society. They beautifully illustrate how this simple flower has been a muse for poets, a tool for lovers, and a symbol of power for rulers. This historical and cultural exploration adds depth to the narrative, making it more than just a book about gardening.

# GST rate on insurance should be brought down: Tapan Singhel

**CHANDIGARH:** Tapan Singhel, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the country's leading private companies in the general insurance business, believes that the Central Government should consider bringing down the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on life and health insurance. Rates should be cut which will be beneficial not only for the companies of this sector but also for the general public.

Singhel is also Chairman of CII National Committee on Insurance and Pensions and Board Member of Institute of Insurance and Risk Management. In a press conference here today, Singhel said that at present the GST rate on life and health insurance is 18 percent which is high and needs to be cut. He informed that the general insurance sector has demanded

a reduction in this rate from the Central Government and the GST Council. Asked what could be a reasonable rate, he said there are 12 more slabs below the 18 per cent. Any such reduction will be in the interest of expansion of insurance coverage and in general public in particular and also because insurance does not come under the ambit of luxury.

According to him, the insurance sector has an important contribution in the development of the country. He claimed that 40 per cent of the country's development expenditure comes from the insurance sector. Similarly, he says that due to lack of health insurance, about 10 crore people in the country go below the poverty line every year because due to any serious illness and lack of health insurance, people have to sell their houses, jewelry etc. But if



there is health insurance, then the insurance companies can prove to be helpful in this difficult time.

He said that in the same way crop insurance has also proved beneficial for the farmers. In case of crop loss, the farmers are compensated with the sum insured. The effect of this has been that wherever farmers have

taken crop insurance, there has been a decline in the incidents of farmer suicides.

On the question regarding insurance claims, he said that in case of an accident of the vehicle, if the insurance holder takes photographs of the vehicle and sends it to the company, then he gets his claim amount in just 20 minutes. But this is possible

in a situation where there is no loss of life or injury etc. He said that artificial intelligence is proving to be very helpful in settlement of claims.

On the question of business expansion, Tapan Singhel said that after strengthening its presence in metros, tier 2 and 3 towns, the company is focusing on increasing the reach of its products to the rural parts of the country and in this regard, in the next one to one and a half years by installing at least 1000 hub and spoke. He said that the market share of the company in the total general insurance business of the country is about 8.5 percent and its year-on-year growth rate is about 35 percent. The company currently has presence in about one thousand cities and towns in the country and has about one lakh insurance agents and distributors and brokers.

# MSMEs Produced 55,000 Aerospace Components For Chandrayaan-3

**NEW DELHI:** Bhubaneswar Tool Room under the Ministry of MSME manufactured about 54,000 aero-space components of 437 types for the Chandrayaan-3 mission, said Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane on Wednesday.

Congratulating the countrymen and the entire ISRO team on the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 through a tweet, he highlighted the contribution of MSME sector in this mission. He said that along with the scientists of the country, the Ministry of MSME has also contributed significantly in realizing the dream of Chandrayaan-3.

The Union Minister informed that IDEMI Mumbai, another institute under the Ministry, also played an important role in manufacturing of parts for Chandrayaan-3.

He said that the success of this mission will prove beneficial for India as well as for



the whole world. "From Charkha to Chandrayan, today the MSME sector is everywhere, playing a crucial role in increasing the production capacity of the country," he said.

Thanking the scientists, he said that India's history in the space sector has been exceptional. MSME sector will surely play a crucial role in the

space missions to be launched in the future as well, he added.

With the mission's success, India has become the first country to land a spacecraft in uncharted territory near the lunar south pole.

India is the fourth country in history to complete a soft landing on the Moon after the United States, the Soviet Union and China.

# India scales to 11th place in global direct selling ranking 2022

**FW DESK**  
New Delhi

Despite a dip in global retail sales, the direct selling industry in India rose one notch and now stands at the 11th place on global ranking. India registered retail sales of over \$3.23 billion in 2022, as per the latest report released by the World Federation of Direct Selling Association (WFDSA).

The Indian market attained highest Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of over 13.3 percent during the last three years on a constant dollar basis. This is all the more impressive, given that only three of the global top 10 direct sellers, are in Indian market.

The report indicates that India, while at 11th place in the global rankings, maintained 6th place in the Asia-Pacific region, with Korea among the top countries, followed by China, Japan, Malaysia and Taiwan.

The report highlights that global retail sales took a hit and decreased by 15 percent to \$172.8 billion during the year from \$175.5 billion in 2021. However, it managed to register a CAGR of 0.9 percent from 2019 to 2022. Despite the



blip, sales have surpassed the pre-pandemic level of \$168.17 billion in 2019 and \$172.14 billion in 2020, the first year of the pandemic. Beating the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic during the first quarter of the year, the Indian market has shown tremendous resilience and sustainability and could realize annualized growth of over 5.4 percent during the last year, which could be construed as marginally good, the report says. During the period, the United States continued to lead the ranking in the global direct selling industry with sales of \$40.52 billion, while reporting a negative YOY growth of five percent.

Overall, global retail sales demonstrated resilience and positive growth during the mentioned period, showcasing the ability of the industry to adapt and flourish even amidst challenging circumstances, the report concludes.

# India is emerging as a world leader in teaching & framing of robotics in healthcare : Vandana Talwar

**NEW DELHI:** "The Ayushman Bharat Digital mission will bridge the existing gap among different stakeholders of healthcare ecosystem through digital highways. The mission has achieved a significant milestone by issuing more than 50 lakh digital tokens for queue less OPD registrations. AI is poised to reshape healthcare, ML algorithms can analyse massive amounts of medical data to aid early detection and treatment of disease, and they can also optimise hospital operations and even assist in surgical procedures. India is emerging as a world leader in teaching and framing of robotics in healthcare. A Robotic renal transplant conducted in Safdarjung Hospital was shown live to 52 medical colleges and 20 different countries on the NFC portal recently. We are committed to improving the quality of healthcare to meet the Health related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that India aims to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2023," said Dr. Vandana Talwar, Medical Superintendent, VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital, Ministry of Health & Family



Welfare, Govt. of India while speaking at the 2nd Healthcare Summit and Awards organised by ASSOCHAM.

"The past few decades has witnessed enormous medical advancements in therapeutic and diagnostics that has revolutionised diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases. From the invention of penicillin to the development of gene therapy for amelioration of previously untreatable genetic disorders, innovation has been the keystone for transforming medical care for the masses. Advances in genome sequencing technology has made personalised medicines a reality. Today, technological advancement has enabled a policy of creating

a new digital ecosystem that not only enhances accessibility and efficiency of healthcare delivery but also made it more cost effective and paves the way for universal health coverage in India that is inclusive, timely and safe. PPP is the next growth catalyst for the healthcare industry in India and is a win-win situation for all stakeholders." She said.

"Innovations and sustainable solutions is the future of healthcare which occupies a pivotal role in the development of India today. The future belongs to a society investing in healthcare. As we navigate the 21st century, we are in the brink of a new era in healthcare driven by ground breaking innovations and a pressing need for sustainable solutions. Healthcare systems around the world generate a significant footprint from energy intensive equipment's to disposal of single use plastics among others. As we look into the future, the imperative for sustainable solution becomes clearer. We must design healthcare infrastructure that minimises environmental impacts, reduces waste through recycling and reuse and adopt renewable energy sources for a more sustainable healthcare

system. The health of our planet and wellbeing of its inhabitants are intrinsically connected. The strides we make in healthcare innovation will significantly impact the quality of healthcare in the future generations to come." She added.

Delivering a special address at the Summit, Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder K Dhamija, Director, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Government of NCT of Delhi said, "We have achieved a lot in the last 75 years. We are now a hub of vaccination industry providing 60 percent of all vaccinations in the world. We also provide 40 percent of all generics for the US and 25 percent of all generics in the UK and two-thirds of all anti-viral drugs in the world comes from India. The healthcare industry is worth \$50 billion and growing at a fast pace. India spends 4-5% of GDP on health which is comparatively lower than countries like Australia at 12% and Switzerland at 17% of GDP. We need to increase our spending on health. Our per-capita expenditure on health has increased over the past 10 years and the insurance sector is coming in a big way and so is digital health.

# Trident marks a new era with revamped packaging of Copier & launch of 'My Choice' stationery products



**KULBIR SINGH KALSI**  
Chandigarh

Trident, one of the largest manufacturers of wheat-straw based paper, proudly announced the successful run of its much-anticipated Trident Associate Meet 2023- Partners in Progress. This year's event, at Andaz Aerocity, New Delhi witnessed the convergence of Trident's dynamic associates for a remarkable occasion filled with innovation, engagement, and insightful discourse.

"We are proud to launch the Trident's new packaging of copier range, a transformational step after almost half a decade. The refreshed packaging design redefines the company's commitment to sustainability, reflecting

continued pursuit of excellence", said Rajinder Gupta, Chairman, Trident Group.

The unveiling ceremony showcased the brand's dedication to staying ahead in contributing to the planet and functionality, resonating with the evolving preferences of the market. The brand introduced an array of promotional schemes for its esteemed notebook brand, <My Choice>. These schemes promise to captivate retailers and distributors with irresistible offers, reaffirming the brand's dedication to providing value and quality in every product.

The event also hosted a thought-provoking panel discussion on the New Education Policy 2024- Impact on paper and publication landscape.

# MSME Ministry Initiates Country-wide Udyam Registration Drive



**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of MSME has launched Udyam registration drive all over the country to register MSMEs on the Udyam portal.

This will help any Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) in becoming eligible for availing benefits of schemes/ Programmes of this Ministry.

A permanent registration number will be given after registration and after completion of the process of registration, a certificate will be issued online.

This certificate will have a dynamic QR Code from which the web page on our Portal and details about the enterprise can be accessed.

Registration Process is totally free. No Costs or Fees are to be paid to anyone.

MSME registration process is fully online, paperless and based on self-declaration.

No documents or proof are required to be uploaded for registering an MSME and only Aadhaar Number will be enough for registration.

PAN & GST linked details on investment and turnover of enterprises will be taken automatically from Government data bases.

# Hindustan Zinc will be among the best companies in world: Chairperson

**FW DESK**  
New Delhi

Hindustan Zinc will ramp up production of zinc - that is used in batteries to medicines - to 1.5 million tonnes, chairperson Priya Agarwal Hebbar said on Thursday as she looked to make India's largest zinc producer as one of the best firms in the world.

Speaking at the company's annual shareholders meeting, she said when the economic history of 21st century India is written, the turnaround story of Hindustan Zinc will have a



chapter of its own.

Incorporated as a public sector firm in 1996, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government in August 2002 sold a controlling stake in the firm to Vedanta

group firm Sterlite Industries for around Rs 769 crore.

Hindustan Zinc is today the second largest zinc-lead miner in the world after Swiss firm Glencore and the fourth largest

zinc-lead smelter globally. It has now also broken into the top 10 list of silver producers in the world.

The profitability has grown manifold and so has its production capacity of zinc, lead and silver - from 0.2 million tonnes per annum in 2002 to 1.1 million tonnes.

"And we are not done yet. We remain hungry, we are capable, and we are motivated. Hindustan Zinc is a leader in the industry in India. One day, we will also be among the best companies in the world," she said.

# Karnataka Govt inks MoU with Kaynes to Boost Electronic Manufacturing in State

**BENGALURU:** The Karnataka government has entered into an agreement with the Kaynes Technology India to promote electronics manufacturing in state. This collaboration positions Kaynes Technology as the anchor of the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Semiconductor ecosystem in Mysuru.

The agreement is aimed at elevating Mysuru's global presence in the tech arena. The MoU is set to propel Karnataka to



the forefront of OSAT and PCB manufacturing, with a substantial investment of Rs 3,750 crore, creating approximately 3,200 job opportunities. Under this agreement, Kaynes Semicon

Private Limited will lead the establishment of a Semiconductor Assembly and testing (OSAT) facility. At the same time, Kaynes Circuits India Private Limited will spearhead the setup of a Printed Circuit Board (PCB) manufacturing plant specialising in complex multi-layered boards. The company's shares were up by 7.75 per cent after the company reported a partnership with the Karnataka Electronics, IT, and BT Departments, reported The Hindu Businessline.

# Shaping future trends, Cosmo Films showcases new & innovative products at domestic and international exhibitions

**FW DESK**  
New Delhi

Cosmo Films, a global leader in speciality films has announced its participation in four prominent trade shows in the label and packaging industry. The company will exhibit at Label Expo, Brussels from 11-14 September 2023, Pack Expo, Las Vegas from 11-13 September 2023, ANUTECH, Mumbai from 7-9 September 2023, and IICE, Kolkata from 13-15 September 2023 highlighting its latest product offerings and industry-leading innovations.

These exhibitions provide a platform for Cosmo Films to display its innovative solutions that are reshaping the packaging industry. With a focus on sustainability and cutting-edge advancements, Cosmo Films will showcase how its products are creating a global impact across various sectors.

Sharing his thoughts on the same, Pankaj Poddar, Group CEO, Cosmo First Limited said,



"As pioneers of innovation, we have engineered high-quality and sustainable products to meet the evolving needs of our clients. Such events hold immense significance, as it offers us a platform to engage with customers and industry leaders in these regions and widen our consumer base. This underscores our commitment to delivering industry-first and environmentally conscious solu-

tions to our esteemed clientele."

Cosmo Films will showcase its extensive range of speciality packaging, label, lamination, synthetic paper, promotional films and industrial films along with Cosmo Plastech (Rigid Containers) and Cosmo Sunshield (Window Films) for various applications in these exhibitions. During the exhibition, Cosmo Films' team of professionals will be present to discuss personalized packaging alternatives and address inquiries from visitors and delegates. The company aims to leverage these exhibitions to foster new collaborations and partnerships, exchange industry knowledge, and gain a deeper understanding of customers' requirements to deliver the most effective and innovative packaging solutions. With a strong focus on innovation, quality, and sustainability, Cosmo Films has emerged as a preferred partner for several leading brands across the globe.

# Canon India spearheads transformation in Annadodi village as part of its 'Adopt a Village' initiative

**ARUN KUMAR RAO**  
Bengaluru

Marking its commitment towards community development, Canon India celebrated three years of successful involvement in its sixth adopted village, at Annadodi in Karnataka, under its flagship CSR initiative, 'Adopt a Village'. Through its 4Es CSR policy, Canon India is continuously working towards building self-reliance and creating sustainable impact in the village across four key areas - Education, Eye Care, Environment and Empowerment, along with making significant infrastructure developments.

The flagship 'Adopt a Village' initiative was launched in 2012, through which Canon India undertakes the task of overall development of the villages across North, East, West, and South India for a certain period for the holistic development of the society.



At present, Canon India has a total of four adopted villages which includes Nandrapur Bass in Haryana, Parivali in Maharashtra, Annadodi in Karnataka and Kalyanpur in Kolkata.

Manabu Yamazaki, President & CEO, Canon India visited the village to map the progress and interact with the community members. Speaking on the third-year milestone, he said, "At Canon India, we believe that investing in the holistic development of villages is an important cornerstone towards building a self-reliant nation. Empowering villages with essential skills, education, and access to basic necessities not only uplifts their lives but also strengthens our collective future.

# Instagram introduces more transparency measures for European users

Meta-owned Instagram on Tuesday introduced additional transparency measures and user options for European users, as the Digital Services Act (DSA) comes into effect later this month.

The users will now be able to access features like Reels, Stories, and Search on Facebook and Instagram without seeing content that's been ranked by Meta's recommendation algorithms, according to Nick Clegg, President, Global Affairs at Meta.

"We're now giving our European community the option to view and discover content on Reels, Stories, Search and other parts of Facebook and Instagram that is not ranked by Meta using these systems," said Clegg.

For example, on Facebook and Instagram, users will have the option to view Stories and Reels only from people they follow, ranked in chronological order, newest to oldest.

"They will also be able to view Search results based only on the words they enter, rather than personalised specifically to them based on their previous activity and personal interests," Meta said in a blog post.

Later this month, the European Union's DSA, one of the most comprehensive pieces of internet regulation, will begin to fully apply to Facebook, Instagram and a number of other tech platforms and services.

# RBI issues fresh norms for personal loans

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank last week asked banks to provide fixed interest rate option to individual borrowers and directed the lenders to levy only reasonable penalty charges in case of default in EMI payments.

The two decisions are expected to provide a relief to the borrowers amid rising interest rates and most of the retail loans being on floating rates now. In a directive to banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that several consumer grievances have been received in relation to elongation of loan tenor or increase in EMI amount with regard to EMI-based floating rate personal loans, without proper communication or consent of the borrowers.

Interest rates have risen since May last year as the central bank hiked the repo rate to tame high



inflation. As a result of 250 basis points increase in the repo rate from May 2022 till February this year, a large number of borrowers are facing negative amortisation, wherein the Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI) works out to be less than the interest obligation, resulting in persistent increase of the principal amount.

"At the time of reset of interest rates, REs (Regulated Entities) shall provide the option to the

borrowers to switch over to a fixed rate as per their board approved policy," as per the notification on "Reset of Floating Interest Rate on EMI based Personal Loans".

The policy, inter alia, should also specify the number of times a borrower will be allowed to switch the interest rate system during the tenor of the loan, the RBI said.

At the time of sanction, the central bank said REs should

clearly communicate to the borrowers about the possible impact of change in benchmark interest rate on the loan leading to changes in EMI and/or tenor or both. "Subsequently, any increase in the EMI/ tenor or both on account of the above shall be communicated to the borrower immediately through appropriate channels," the RBI said. Banks and NBFCs have been asked to ensure compliance of the instructions for the existing as well as new loans by December 31, 2023.

In a notification on 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts', the RBI said it has been observed that many REs use penal rates of interest, over and above the applicable interest rates, in case of defaults/non-compliance by the borrower with the terms on which credit facilities were sanctioned.

The intent of levying penal

interest/charges is essentially to inculcate a sense of credit discipline and such charges are not meant to be used as a revenue enhancement tool over and above the contracted rate of interest, the central bank noted. However, supervisory reviews have indicated divergent practices amongst the REs with regard to levy of penal interest/charges leading to customer grievances and disputes, the RBI said. "Penalty, if charged, for non-compliance of material terms and conditions of loan contract by the borrower shall be treated as 'penal charges' and shall not be levied in the form of 'penal interest' that is added to the rate of interest charged on the advances," it said.

Also, the RBI said there should be no capitalisation of penal charges, which means that no further interest can be computed on such charges.

# Nifty, Sensex extend losing streak for 5th week

**MUMBAI:** Swayed by global markets, Indian equities opened lower and witnessed a choppy session on Friday, to close the day with a cut of 121 points for Nifty while Sensex fell by 365 points.

Nifty opened gap down and remained in the negative territory throughout the session to close with a loss of 121 points (-0.6 per cent) at 19,265, while the Sensex fell 365.83 points to settle at 64,886.51. This meant Nifty and Sensex extended their losing streak for the fifth week, losing -2.43 per cent and -2.7 per cent, respectively, in the past five weeks of correction, said Omkar Kamtekar, Research Analyst, Bonanza Portfolio. The boarder markets also tumbled on Friday, indicating signs of a deeper weakness in the overall market sentiment.

All the sectoral indices closed in the red, with NIFTY PSU index being the top loser - down 1.51 per



cent - followed by NIFTY Realty (-1.31 per cent) and NIFTY Metal (-1.26 per cent), Kamtekar said.

Jio Financial Services (JFS) ended its losing streak, closing with a minor gain of 0.49 per cent as it saw massive volume-based buying at lower levels. Further, the exclusion of JFS from Sensex has been deferred to September 1.

The Bajaj twins, i.e., Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv, were among the top gainers as Nomura

initiated a Buy call on Bajaj Finance with a price target of Rs 8,700. The top gainers for Nifty were Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints and Bajaj Finserv, and the top losers were Dr. Reddy's, Adani Ports and JSW Steel, he said.

The Nifty Midcap Index underperformed the Nifty with a large margin by falling 0.82 per cent in Friday's session, said Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities.

## Increase Overdues Limit of MSMEs From 90 To 180 Days: PHDCCI



**NEW DELHI:** Industry body PHDCCI has submitted several recommendations on issues related to the housing sector, banking, and foreign trade to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

During the meeting, the industry body recommended that the 90 days limit fixed by RBI for classifying over dues of MSMEs should be increased to 180 days so that they are not constrained to divert their working capital towards servicing their loan instalments and clearing their over dues at the cost of their normal business operations. A delegation of PHDCCI led by its president Saket Dalmia made a strong case for lowering housing sector interest rates to stimulate growth. "Lower rates can invigorate investments, bolster consumption, enhance competitiveness, and aid industries facing headwinds," it said. "While we understand and appreciate the efforts of the Reserve Bank of India in stabilizing the economy and ensuring liquidity, we believe that a reduction in interest rates at this juncture would provide a much-needed boost to our industry," the industry body said. The chamber also highlighted several issues related to the banking sector, including the rectification of export realization purpose codes and the protection of GST input benefits.

## India poised to become third largest global economy says President Murmu

DOMINICK RODRIGUES  
Panjim

The Indian President Droupadi Murmu said that the approach of the world towards India has changed, even as the country has become the fifth largest economy in the world and is poised to become the third largest economy.

"With the mantra of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' in collaboration with G-20 countries, India is striving to find collective solutions to the present global challenges," she said, adding "We have the right opportunity to showcase India's potential and culture and we should take full advantage of this opportunity." She also expressed happiness at Goa's performance on the parameters of the "Sustainable Development Goals," while also describing the State as being among the leading states of the country in many areas of development.

The President was speaking at a civic reception in Goa, where she distributed "Sanad" under the Forest Rights Act to some beneficiaries on the occasion.



Praising the people of Goa for their generosity and hospitality, she said this characteristic of the people of Goa -- along with the beaches and the natural beauty of the Western Ghats -- plays an important part in attracting tourists.

Describing the rich forest cover as a priceless natural asset of Goa that needed to be conserved, she said the dense forests of the Western Ghats are the natural habitat of many wild animals and preservation of this natural heritage would give an impetus to Goa's sustainable development.

She also emphasized that tribals and other forest dwellers be made partners in development while also preserving their traditions.

The President said that apart from being a tourist hotspot, Goa is also an important centre for education, trade & commerce, industry, technology and naval defence. Highlighting Goa's cosmopolitan culture as having a tradition of gender equality, the President expressed happiness at noting the number of girl students in Goa's higher educational institutions being more than 60 per cent.

## Collective responsibility of regulators and market players to convert savers into investors : SEBI

FW DESK  
New Delhi

"Investors are the backbone of the entire financial system. In India, we all are good savers but a few steps behind as investors. It is the collective responsibility of the regulator, intermediaries and issuing companies to educate the savers and convert them into investors," said V S Sundaresan, Executive Director, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) while speaking at the 5th National Conference on Investors Protection, Education and Awareness organised by ASSOCHAM.

"SEBI as a regulator must provide a level playing field for the Issuers, Intermediaries and investors. The last few years has seen a definite move from savings to investing but the pace is slow. We need to speed things up for the economy to grow and become a developed nation. The adoption of technology and systemic improvements many of the earlier existing problems has been eliminated. Adoption of technology is seven to eight times faster than the global average. The number of investors coming into the system has increased because they have realised that the pro-



cess is reliable, sustainable and beneficial. Because of increased retail investors and institutional investments our dependence on FPI's to sustain market momentum has decreased comparatively. The increased participation of Indian institutional investors has made the economy more resilient," he said.

"The type of products available in the system for an investor to choose from has grown. An investor can now choose an instrument as per his risk appetite. Awareness and education is important as it enables us to protect ourselves. We need to constantly engage with market participants and spread awareness. Without the confidence of investors, the market will not be able to sustain for the long run. The investor base is heavily skewed with a majority of investors constituting

about 60% coming from Tier-I cities. We need to increase outreach to smaller cities to raise education and awareness and to highlight the available protection for investors. We are writing and re-writing rules to protect the investors. Investors must follow basic safety precautions like making nominations," he added.

Delivering the welcome address at the conference, Hitender Mehta, Senior Member - Managing Committee, ASSOCHAM and Managing Partner, Centrum Legal said, "Investors protection, education and awareness is an important topic that needs to be widely discussed and not just in metros. Investors irrespective of where they are located needs to be aware about their rights and they all need to be protected."

## Congress questions withdrawal of BOB's auction notice for Sunny Deol's bungalow



**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday taunted the BJP government at the Centre over withdrawal of bank notice to e-auction actor-turned-politician Sunny Deol's Juhu residence saying "wonder who triggered these technical reasons".

Taking to his social media handle X, formerly Twitter, the party's general secretary stated, "Yesterday afternoon the nation got to know that Bank of Baroda had put up the Juhu residence of BJP MP Sunny Deol for e-auction since he has not paid up Rs 56 crore owed to the Bank."

"This morning, in less than 24 hours, the nation has got to know that the Bank of Baroda has withdrawn the auction notice due to 'technical reasons'.

## India's Trade Basket Expand \$800 bn in first half of 2023: GTRI

**NEW DELHI:** India's total foreign trade has crossed the USD 800 billion mark during the first half of 2023, despite a slowdown in global demand, think tank GTRI said in a report on Monday.

This has been achieved with the healthy growth in India's services segments, as per the report.

According to the analysis of the Global Trade Research

Initiative (GTRI), exports of goods and services rose by 1.5% to USD 385.4 billion during January-June this year, as against USD 379.5 billion in January-June 2022.

Imports, however, dipped by 5.9% to USD 415.5 billion during the six months of this year, as against USD 441.7 billion in January-June 2022. "India's foreign trade (ex-



ports and imports of merchandise and services) reached USD 800.9 billion during January-June 2023, exhibiting a

decline of 2.5% over the same period last year (January-June 2022)," the report said.

Standalone, goods exports dipped by 8.1% to USD 218.7 billion, while imports contracted by 8.3% to USD 325.7 billion.

On the other hand, services exports during the six months period grew by 17.7% to USD 166.7 billion, while imports rose by 3.7% to USD 89.8

billion.

"Data is showing modest decline due to weak global demand and losing competitiveness in labour intensive sectors. The decline in merchandise exports happened despite appreciating INR (Indian Rupee). INR/USD exchange rate appreciated from 76.16 in April 2022 to 82.18 in April 2023," GTRI Co-founder Ajay Srivastava said.

## India Looks For Global Maritime Investments Before Industry Summit

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has invited investors to participate in various industries of India's growing Maritime sector.

This statement comes ahead of the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023 which is to be held from October 17-19. Opportunities span from cruise tourism to shipbuilding and maritime education, offering international partners a multifaceted spectrum of avenues for collaboration, he said. He asked Indian ambassadors from the east and west zones to explore investment prospects in the domestic maritime sector.

"With a potential investment exceeding Rs 10 lakh crore (USD 12,000 million), we have the capacity to propel economic transformation within our borders and resonate on a global scale. Recognizing the pivotal role of robust international trade relations in our economic growth, we are actively pursuing initiatives to foster global collaboration within the maritime sector," he said. India has already inked bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 34 countries on maritime transport and cooperation, alongside MoUs regarding the recognition of certificates of seafarers with 40 nations, he said.



## Indian Economy on Even Road

**SATISH SINGH**  
There are many factors that bolster the economy. Recently, many such parameters which strengthen the economy have improved. Rating agencies have also spoken about the make stronger of the Indian economy. However, other countries of the world, including developed countries, are struggling with Corona pandemic, geopolitical crisis, recession, high price of crude oil in the international market, ever-increasing inflation etc & due to them, their economy's growth rate is lower than India's.

The Modi government in 2014 launched a nationwide campaign to open Jan Dhan accounts in the banks to promote financial inclusion, with the aim of making a range of financial services, benefits of government sponsored schemes including Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), accessible to the poor. Even during the Corona period, due to the Jan Dhan accounts, the government was able to provide timely financial assistance to the poor, due to which thousands and lakhs of people were saved from untimely death.

The bank will start implementing Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana from September 17 to benefit 30 lakh families of traditional artisans, weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, washermen, barbers etc. To give shape to this scheme, the government has allocated Rs 13,000 crore for 5 years. The bank will provide loans up to Rs 1 lakh in the first phase and up to Rs 2 lakh in the second phase at 5 per cent interest. The Finance Ministry has directed the heads of banks to ensure speedy disposal of applications



received under the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana and to continuously monitor the sanction & disbursement of loans under this scheme.

Moody's has retained India's stable outlook status. This means that India's economy has a strong potential to continue to grow rapidly by international standards. According to Moody's, India's GDP growth will continue in incoming days too, and the Indian economy will continue to grow stronger. If the economy remains strong, it will be easier for fiscal consolidation and stabilization of the government's debt. Moody's believes that India's economic growth will be faster than the economies of all other G-20 countries for at least 2 years. India's potential growth rate is expected to be around 6 to 6.5 percent, which was less than 6 percent during the pandemic. However, this is less than the 7 percent increase in the middle of the last decade.

Moody's also said that In-

dia is continuously trying to consolidate the economy and hence its economic and contingent liability risks are coming down. It is also believed that if India's fiscal consolidation accelerates as expected, Moody's may upgrade India's rating. Fiscal consolidation will reduce the debt burden of the government and improve debt affordability and increase fiscal strength. According to Moody's, at present, due to increase in global and domestic interest rates in India, there is a situation of increase in debt burden and weak credit distribution.

According to the research report Ecowrap published by State Bank of India's Economic Research Department, Corporate Centre, Mumbai, based on income tax returns, the weighted average income in the financial year 2022-23 will be Rs 13 lakh, whereas it was Rs 4.4 lakh in the tax assessment year 2013-14. According to SBI Research, even smaller states like Manipur, Mizoram

and Nagaland have registered more than 20 per cent growth in income tax return filing in the last 9 years. It is clear from this that not only the income of the people has increased in recent times, but tax compliance has also increased.

According to the Prime Minister's LinkedIn post, there has been at least a three-fold increase in the tax-base across various income groups and filing of income tax returns for each group in FY 2022-23. When comparing the income tax returns filed between 2014 and 2023, the picture of increased tax participation in all the states looks rosy. Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the leading performing state in terms of income tax return filing. According to Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India can become a developed country by the time India completes 100 years of independence in the year 2047 if the current pace of development is maintained. Currently India is the fifth largest economy in the world.

During the first 4 months (April-July) of FY 2023-24, among India's top 10 export hubs, only merchandise exports to the UK grew, while exports to all other major economies declined due to lower global demand. Exports to the UK grew by 20.6 per cent to \$4.5 billion during the period. The UK has moved up from the eighth largest export hub to become India's

fifth largest export destination during this period in FY23.

According to the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, by the year 2026, the contribution of the digital economy to the country's GDP is estimated to be more than 20 per cent. India is a country which has adopted technology very fast and now it has started offering technological solutions to the world. The contribution of digital economy to GDP was four and a half percent in 2014, which has increased to 11 percent today. India has adopted technology not only for innovation but also for providing solutions in various fields, which has brought about radical changes in people's life, operational system, administration, education, health, technical nature of democracy etc. in the last few years. It is because of these reasons that Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has called the coming decade as the decade of technology.

In such a situation, it can be said that the Indian economy is getting better gradually even in difficult times, and all this is possible due to the appropriate steps and initiatives being taken from time to time by the government and the Reserve Bank of India.

Satish Singh, Ahmedabad based Senior Columnist, Views are personal.

## Gross Turnover at GeM Portal Crosses Rs 1 Lakh Cr in 145 days

**NEWDELHI:** Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has achieved Rs 1 lakh crore in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) within a span of 145 days in the current financial year, said the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in a statement on Wednesday.

The government with this feat highlights GeM's commitment to revolutionizing government procurement. "It signifies a substantial improvement compared to the previous year, where this GMV landmark was reached in 243 days," said the Ministry.

The average GMV per day has also witnessed significant growth from Rs 412 crore per day in FY 22-23 to Rs 690 crore per day in FY 23-24. Since inception, GeM has crossed Rs 4.91 lakh crore in GMV and has



facilitated over 1.67 crore orders on the platform. Among the noteworthy contributors to this remarkable GMV achievement, the contribution of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Central Ministries and State Governments has been 54%, 26% and 20% respectively. GeM's strategic focus in FY 2023-24 centers on expanding its reach by integrating government buyers across all tiers into its robust e-procurement infrastructure.

# INTERNATIONAL

## India showed its capability to world by unfurling tricolour on Moon: PM Modi to diaspora in Greece

**ATHENS:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India has shown its capability to the world by unfurling the tricolour on the Moon, and asserted that its science and technology and innovation are creating a wave globally.

Addressing the Indian diaspora in the capital of Greece, he also cited several development feats achieved by his government in the last nine years and emphasised that never before has so much investment been made in infrastructure development. Optical fibre cable more than 25 lakh km in length has been laid in India since 2014 which, he noted, is more than six times the distance between the Earth and the Moon. India has taken indigenous 5G technology to around 700 districts in record time, he said, drawing cheers from the audience.

The world's highest-altitude rail bridge and motorable road, biggest cricket stadium and tall-



est statue are in India now, he said. Referring to India's historic achievement of landing its spacecraft on the Moon, he said one wants to be among family members during the times of celebrations and festivals. "I am now among my family members," he said.

Congratulations to the country have been pouring in from across the world on the successful lunar mission, Modi said, adding Indians everywhere are receiving congratulatory messages. He noted the success has come days before the festival of

Raksha Bandhan and referred to images social media of the Mother India sending its Rakhi in the form of Chandrayaan-3 and the Moon embracing it.

India has become the first country to land its mission on the "dark" zone - the south pole of the Moon - he said. "Wherever you may be, your hearts beat for India," he said, adding the Indian community mixes with local populations in different countries like sugar with milk and contribute productively.

The Indian economy, he asserted, is going from strength to

strength with top global bodies such as the World Bank and the IMF praising it. Leading companies are vying with each other to invest in India, he said, asserting that the country's role is changing fast in the post-COVID-19 world order.

The prime minister invoked ancient ties between the civilisations of India and Greece and praised the role of Sikh gurus in strengthening their relations. His government had worked with dedication in commemorating events related to Sikhs, he added. Guru Nanak had visited many places in Greece, fostering his message of harmony and brotherhood.

Modi said his birthplace, Vadnagar in Gujarat, as well as his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, have been vibrant since ancient times like Athens. Noting that more than 13.5 crore people have been lifted out of poverty under his government, he said that with growing size of the country's

economy, the income of people are also rising, leading to more investment from them.

India has prioritised the safety of its citizens during different crises, be it the Russia-Ukraine conflict or the strife in Afghanistan, he said.

The Indian government also brought back Sikh 'saroop' (physical copies of Sri Guru Granth Sahib) from Afghanistan with full respect, he added. Promoting tourism in India, Modi said the way Indians visit Greece, Greeks would soon start travelling to India to witness its rich heritage and bio-diversity.

He asked the Indian diaspora members to tell their friends in Greece about various attractions in India like the country having over eight per cent of global biodiversity and 75 per cent of tiger population despite having only 2.5 per cent of the landmass, he said. "Today's India is celebrating its heritage and also linking it with development," he said.

## China has illegally occupied thousands of kms of Indian territory says Rahul Gandhi

**KAVITA SHARMA**  
*Kargil*

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today said that China had illegally occupied thousands of kilometers of Indian territory. He slams Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not speaking the truth and saying that no Indian land had been occupied by China.

He also offered floral tributes at the Kargil War Memorial, Dras.

Addressing a public meeting on the concluding day of his tour to Ladakh region, Mr Gandhi said, he had gone to Pangong lake in Ladakh. He said China has illegally occupied Indian land and the Prime Minister during a meeting of opposition parties' denied it. The Prime Minister is not speaking the truth, he remarked, while adding, people of Ladakh know that China has illegally occupied Indian land.

Former Congress president profoundly thanked the people of Kargil for standing for the country whenever there was a need. He recalled how the people of this place had stood for the nation in 1999 during the Kargil War against Pakistan. For this, I thank you from the core of my heart.

Recalling his Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress MP said he had planned to conclude the Yatra in Ladakh. However, due to the cold weather he was advised not to travel to Ladakh that time. He said, during his recent visit he has covered each and every corner of Ladakh and found the people here very warm and friendly.

Expressing his profound gratitude to people of Ladakh region, Mr Gandhi said, he had found Ladakh perhaps to



be the most beautiful place in India and he will visit it again.

Mr Gandhi said, like the Congress party, which believed in harmony and brotherhood, people of Ladakh also believed in the same ideology. Narrating his experiences with the people who have come from different parts of the country to work in Ladakh, he said, he was told that people of Ladakh were so warm that they felt at home in this place. He recalled the popular slogan of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, "Nafrat Ke Bazaar mein, Mohabbat ki Dukan", saying people here were full of love and affection.

Referring to the demands of the local people which included raising the political voice, addressing the issue of unemployment, poor communication system and operation of flights from Kargil airport, Mr Gandhi said he will raise their voice in the next session of the parliament. Similarly, he added, the issues related to Ladakh in particular will also be raised in the parliament. He said the apex decision making body of the Congress party had endorsed various demands of Ladakh and Kargil regions.



Mr. Gandhi said the Congress party stood by the people of the region and will ensure that their land is protected. He said, since Ladakh region was rich in natural resources and there was a great potential for solar energy, the BJP wanted to take away the land and give it to Adanis. But, he assured, the Congress party will not let the BJP do that.

AICC Incharge J&K affairs & party MP Ms Rajani Patil and local Congress leaders were also present on the occasion.

## Trump plans to turn himself in to face charges in Georgia election case

Former US President Donald Trump said that he plans to turn himself in on Thursday to face charges in the case of election interference in Georgia state.

In a post on his Truth Social app on Monday, the 77-year-old wrote: "Can you believe it? I'll be going to Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday to be ARRESTED by a Radical Left District Attorney, Fani Willis."

"She campaigned, and is continuing to campaign, and raise money on, this WITCH HUNT... This is in strict coordination with crooked Joe Biden's DOJ (Department of Justice)." Trump's statement comes after Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who is overseeing the former president's case, has set bail at \$200,000, the BBC reported.

The agreement says Trump can remain free pending trial so long as he does not attempt to threaten or intimidate witnesses. He has denied 13 charges, including racketeering and false statements.

"The defendant shall perform no act to intimidate any person known to him or her to be a co-defendant or witness in this case or to otherwise obstruct the administration of justice," the court filing posted on Monday said.

"The above shall include, but are not limited to, posts on social media or reposts of posts made by another individual on social media. In his post, the former President also mentioned suggested the bail conditions indicate the District Attorney must have thought he might attempt to flee the US."

"Would I be able to take my very 'understated' airplane with the gold TRUMP affixed for all to see. Probably not, I'd be much better off flying



commercial -- I'm sure nobody would recognise me!"

Willis has asked the judge to schedule arraignments, in which a defendant is formally charged and enters a guilty or not guilty plea, on September 5.

She has also proposed that the trial begin in March 2024.

When Trump does surrender, there will a "hard lockdown" of the surrounding county jail area, the BBC quoted the Fulton County Sheriff's Office as saying.

Barricades have been erected outside the court ahead of Trump's anticipated surrender.

The sheriff's office said on Monday the barricades would remain in place until Saturday.

The 19 accused have until noon local time on Friday to turn themselves in for processing.

Trump was charged last week alongside his co-defendants with attempting to subvert the will of the Georgia electorate by meddling in the state's election following his loss to Biden.

The former President was heard in a phone call pressuring Georgia's Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find 11,780 votes" during the state's election-counting process in 2020.

The first former or serving US President ever to be indicted, Trump faces three other criminal cases.

## Putin extends condolences to families of people killed in plane crash

Russian President Vladimir Putin extended condolences to the families of those who died in a plane crash near Moscow two days ago.

"As for the plane crash, first of all, I want to express my sincere condolences to the families of all those who died," Putin said on Thursday at a meeting with Denis Pushilin, the acting head of Donetsk, according to the Kremlin.

A private Embraer plane en route from Moscow to St. Petersburg crashed in the Tver region on Wednesday, Russia's



Ministry of Emergency Situations said, noting that all the 10 people on board were killed.

The Russian Federal Agency for Air Transport confirmed that Yevgeny Prigozhin, Head

of the Wagner military group, was among the passengers on board the flight, Xinhua news agency reported.

"I have known Prigozhin for a very long time, since the early 1990s," Putin said.

"He made serious mistakes in his life, but he also achieved the needed results both for himself and, when I asked him, for the common cause, as in these last months," he added.

According to Putin, Prigozhin returned from Africa on Wednesday and met with some officials in Russia.

## Grieving widow sues Musk's Tesla over husband's death

A grieving widow has sued Tesla in the US after her husband died in a 2020 crash involving a Model 3 vehicle.

Jyung Woo Hahn, 46, died on March 12, 2022, when his Tesla malfunctioned and collided with a tree and burst into flames in New York. He allegedly survived the initial crash but was trapped in the burning vehicle.

Now, the plaintiff Jiyoung Yoon has sued Tesla in the US District Court, Southern District of New York, for its role in designing, manufacturing, distributing, and selling the vehicle "in its defective and unreasonably dangerous condition and for causing Hahn's horrific injuries, suffering, and death". Hahn was driving a Tesla on the Palisades Interstate Parkway in Rockland County, New York. "The subject vehicle's defective and unreasonably dangerous condition actually... caused Hahn's injuries and death and Plaintiff's damages," the lawsuit read.

The lawsuit is demanding judgment against Tesla "for all



injuries and damages recoverable by law, including economic damages, lost wages and earning capacity, loss of parental guidance, mental anguish, emotional distress, pain and suffering, conscious pain and suffering of Jyung Woo Hahn, punitive damages, costs, and interest".

The lawsuit came as the electric car-maker's engineers reportedly admitted in their testimonies that Musk-run Tesla did not fix the Autopilot system after a fatal crash in the US in 2016 that killed a driver.

Despite the company's knowledge "that there's cross traffic

or potential for cross traffic, the Autopilot at the time was not designed to detect that," according to the testimony given in 2021 by company engineer Chris Payne that was excerpted in a recent court filing.

Engineer Nicklas Gustafsson provided a similar account in a 2021 deposition.

The family for one of the dead Tesla owners is now seeking punitive damages in a lawsuit, set to go to trial this October.

Tesla is under intense scrutiny for its Autopilot and its Full Self-Driving (FSD) driver assistance features.

## Jamaat-e-Islami Hind condemns the attack on Christians and the burning of Churches in Pakistan

**FW DESK**  
*New Delhi*

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) has condemned the attack on Christians and the burning of Churches in Pakistan. In a statement to the media, the JIH National Secretary, K.K. Suhail said, "Jamaat-e-Islami Hind condemns the attack on Christians over blasphemy allegations and burning of Churches in Jaranwala, Faisalabad, Pakistan. We want to convey the message that Muslims share the pain of the Christians and we express full solidarity with them. The vandalization of Churches, burning of Bibles, and the surrounding houses that belonged to Christians is highly deplorable and extremely shameful. The desecration of a religious place of worship shows the intolerance and utter disrespect of fellow humans and their beliefs. Jamaat sees this attack as a collective assault on all religions and humanity. The Jaranwala incident has no sanction in Islam. Neither such acts nor their perpetrators have anything to do with Islam. It explicitly forbids the burning of Bibles and Churches. Islam calls for protection of man's life and property. Life and dignity of



an individual is sacrosanct in Islam. These acts cannot be linked with Islam. Those who are carrying out such acts in the name of Islam must know they are misusing it and giving it a bad name. They have no right to do it."

The JIH National Secretary said, "Jamaat-e-Islami appreciates and endorses the demand by Muslim Ulema and justice-loving citizens to restore the places of worship and offer adequate compensation to the victims. The rising intolerance, hatred, and vitriol spreading across societies is a cause for serious concern and is hurting our moral compass. We appeal to people belonging to all communities to avoid being provoked by those who want to stoke the flames of hatred. If at all, they come to know of any incident that hurts their religious sentiments, they should only alert the concerned authorities. Nobody has the right to take the law into their hands and exact revenge on their terms."

## Russian President Vladimir Putin will not personally attend G20 summit in India: Kremlin

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin will not personally attend the G20 summit to be held in New Delhi next month, the Kremlin announced on Friday, saying he has a "busy schedule" and the main focus is still the "special military operation" in Ukraine. The G20 world leaders' summit is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10. The summit is expected to be one of the largest gatherings of world leaders in India. India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia. "No, the president has no such plans," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow. The format of Putin's participation would be determined later, Peskov said. Putin did not personally attend the just-concluded BRICS Summit in Johannesburg. He was represented by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. President Putin decided against attending the first in-person BRICS summit after Covid-19 as the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him in March over an alleged scheme to deport Ukrainian children to Russia.



## Modi congratulates new Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin



**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated Srettha Thavasin as he is elected as the Prime Minister of Thailand.

In a post on X, Modi said: "Heartiest congratulations @Thavasin on your election as the Prime Minister of Thailand. I look forward to working closely with you for taking India-Thailand bilateral relations to a higher level." Srettha, a real estate mogul who entered the Thai political landscape mere months ago under the Pheu Thai's mantle, required 375 votes to become premier and set up Bangkok's next government. He won 482, his party said.

## Moonstruck! from US to SA - a 'proud day' for Indian diaspora

**JOHANNESBURG:** It was a 'proud and historic day' for India's 32 million-plus strong diaspora, which stood in unison with their mother country amid chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram', as the nation conquered the moon on Wednesday with its historic Chandrayaan-3 mission.

From holding special screenings of the landing event, to saying prayers and distributing sweets, loudest cheers on the mission's success could be heard from the community that is far away, yet not away from India.

Capturing the excitement of Indians in South Africa, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in the country for BRICS Summit, shared pictures of community members meeting him and celebrating. "Feeling the fervour all the way from Johannesburg for Chandrayaan-3! The enthusiasm of our diaspora in South Africa for India's achievements in the space sector is truly gladdening," PM Modi posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, on Wednesday.

Taking to X, member of the House of Lords of the UK Parliament, Lord Rami Ranger, said, "Indians are literally over the moon with the smooth landing of the Chandrayaan-3 space-



craft! Congratulations ISRO. India becomes the only nation to land on the South Pole of the Moon." "Congratulations to India on the #MoonLanding -- this is a national, regional and global success story. Everyone involved has played their personal part in a national victory. #Chandrayaan3 is a win for everyone," Virendra Sharma, Member of British Parliament, posted. Indians from across the UK joined the High Commission in London where people chanted 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' slogans.

Calling it a "moment of immense pride", the Friends of

India Society International (FISI), a UK-based diaspora group, celebrated India's expanding prowess in the realm of technology.

"The successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface is a moment of immense pride for the 1.4 billion people in India and the global Indian diaspora. This achievement serves as a powerful testament to India's unwavering dedication to scientific progress, poised to ignite the aspirations of forthcoming generations of explorers and scientists within the nation," FISI said in a statement.

Singapore's Indian-origin

Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan also dropped a congratulatory message to Indians. "Congratulations India for landing on the South Pole of the Moon. This is indeed a proud achievement that will resonate across the world!"

M A Yusuf Ali of Emirates-based Lulu Group and Second Vice Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, said, "It is a historic moment not just for India and Indians but for the entire mankind. May this landmark landing of #Chandrayan3 pave for many more achievements in the science and technology field".

Chandrakanth 'Chandra' Arya, a powerful Indian-origin voice in the Canadian parliament, who visited India in July this year and met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, attributed the success to 'India's mastery of advanced technologies'.

"India is now on the Moon". Congratulations to India on Chandrayaan-3 becoming the first space mission to land near the south pole of the Moon and joining the exclusive club of just three other countries in the world to land on moon," Arya, who hails from Karnataka, wrote on X.

## Modi holds talks with Greek PM, decides to upgrade ties to strategic partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held talks with his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis. An official joint statement said that both India and Greece have shown extraordinary economic resilience, despite the challenges in their respective regions, and have restored domestic economic growth.

"Building on the foundation of the long-standing warm and close relationship between their countries and peoples, the two leaders decided to upgrade Greek-Indian bilateral ties to the level of a Strategic Partnership". It was also decided that they would work to further expand bilateral cooperation in political, security and economic spheres. Welcoming India's presidency of the G20



forum, Mitsotakis expressed confidence that under India's leadership, the G20 will successfully advance its goals.

Prime Minister Modi extended an invitation to the Greek Prime Minister to visit India. Modi is on a day-long visit to Greece at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis. Both the leaders appreciated the increase in bilateral trade

and economic engagement in recent years, and also directed that both sides shall work to double bilateral trade by 2030. Modi and Mitsotakis reiterated the need for further broadening and deepening bilateral engagements, in the field of defence, shipping, science and technology, cyber space, education, culture, tourism and agriculture. They took note of the signing of the MoU on cooperation in the field of agriculture, including the establishment of a Hellenic-Indian joint sub-committee on agriculture for facilitating sectoral cooperation for mutual benefit.

# Rahul Gandhi's Ladkha trip is an extension of a Bharat Jodo Yatra



**KAVITA SHARMA**  
New Delhi

Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi's Ladakh visit is a part of Bharat Jodo Yatra, says congress. It is a fulfillment of commitment made by him to the delegation



which had wanted him to come and hear the people's perceptions of the border challenges with China and their views on empowerment of local elected bodies. This is Rahul Gandhi's first visit to Ladakh after Jammu and Kashmir bifurcated into two union territories. Congress keeps on updating Rahul Gandhi's leh ladakh visit on social media and also calls it an extension of Bharat Jodo yatra.

Congress MP, Rahul Gandhi went to Leh on a two-day visit which later extended to four more days where he visited Pangong lake, Nubra valley and kargil district. He paid tribute to his father Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his birth anniversary on 20 August. After that Gandhi also rode from leh to Pangong lake on his KTM 390 sports bike. Later while sharing his pictures on social media, Rahul said "My father late Rajiv Gandhi used to say this is the most beautiful best place on earth. He also visited the locals, shopkeepers, the markets in the valley. Talking to newsmen in the Union Territory Rahul said he was planning to visit ladakh during the Bharat Jodo Yatra last year, but due to some reasons it got postponed. After Pangong he visited to Nubra and kargil also.

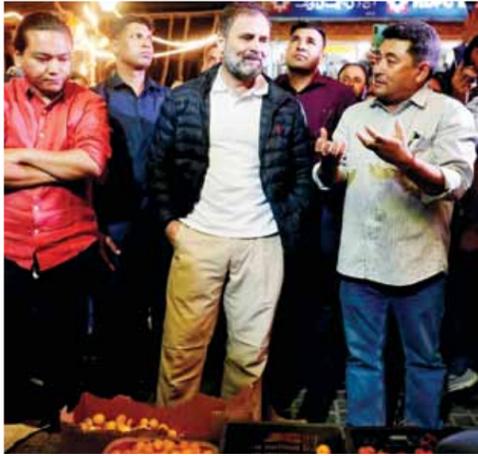
Rahul Gandhi also posted the pictures of Leh market where thousands of locals can be seen with him. Bharat Jodo is deeply rooted in every Indians's Heart and mind. Everybody was seen chanting "Bharat mata ki jai" No power can suppress this unity, Rahul said. "This is 'Mohabat ka safar which will keep on moving' he added. Not only the congressmen but the people of ladakh are happy and welcoming their leader with love and affection.



He reached Khardunga Top in Ladakh on Monday. Khardunga is said to be the highest motorable road of the world.

According to Senior Leader Jairam Ramesh, the Ladakh visit is a fulfillment of commitment that he made to the delegation who wanted him to come and hear the problems of the people, living at the borders with china. In a post on twitter, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said "on 24th Januray this year, Rahul had met a delegation from Ladakh during Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jhajjar Kotli, Jammu. Rahul Gandhi has started his first Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir last year from September to January.

Rahul Gandhi along with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi has become very active on social media now. They have been posting pictures on Instagram and facebook often. The trip to ladakh is now extended till August 25.



# Becoming a Voiceover Artist: A Journey of Versatility and Expression



**SAVNEER BAL**  
In the world of media and entertainment, a voiceover artist is an unsung hero, breathing life into characters, commercials, documentaries, audiobooks, and much more. Behind every captivating voice that accompanies visuals, there's a talented individual who specializes in the art of voice acting. In this article, we will explore the rewarding career path of a voiceover artist, the skills required to succeed, and the diverse opportunities that await those with a passion for vocal expression.

## Developing Essential Skills

Becoming a successful voiceover artist requires honing a set of essential skills beyond possessing a unique voice. Training in diction, pronunciation, and enunciation is crucial to ensure clarity and comprehension. Moreover, learning to modulate pitch, tone, and pace allows artists to evoke different emotions and moods in their performances. Additionally, mastering the art of breath control enables consistency and stamina during long recording sessions.

## The Art of Storytelling

At the core of voice acting lies the art of storytelling. Voiceover artists

## The Versatility of a Voiceover Artist

A voiceover artist is a master of versatility, possessing the ability to adapt their voice to suit various roles and projects. Whether it's voicing a quirky cartoon character, narrating a gripping audiobook, delivering a persuasive commercial pitch, or providing the voice for a video game character, voiceover artists play a pivotal role in enhancing the impact of the content they lend their voices to.



are storytellers, using their vocal prowess to captivate audiences and transport them to different worlds. Through the skillful delivery of dialogue and narration, voiceover artists can breathe life into characters and create immersive experiences that resonate with listeners.

## Recording Techniques and Technology

In today's digital age, voiceover artists must be familiar with recording techniques and technology. Many artists set up home studios, where they record auditions and projects remotely. Knowledge of audio editing software and understanding the nuances of recording equipment are essential to deliver professional-quality work that meets industry standards.

## Embracing Continuous Growth

To stay relevant and in-demand, voiceover artists must continuously refine their craft and adapt to changing industry trends. Taking voice acting workshops, participating in improv classes, and seeking constructive feedback are ways to enhance skills and explore new vocal territories.

At the end I would say becoming a voiceover artist is a journey filled with creativity, versatility, and expression.

# POTPOURRI

## 69th National Film Awards: Vicky Kaushal-starrer 'Sardar Udham' feted with Best Hindi Film honour



**NEW DELHI:** Filmmaker Shoojit Sircar's film 'Sardar Udham' starring Vicky Kaushal has been honoured with Best Hindi Film at the 69th National Film Awards.

The award event is being held in the National capital on Thursday. The film also was named in the Best Production design, Best Cinematography, the Best Costume Design and Best Audiography category. 'Sardar Udham' is a biographical historical drama film directed by Shoojit Sircar, and produced by Rising Sun Films in collaboration with Kino Works.

Based on the life of Udham Singh, a freedom fighter from Punjab who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer in London to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar. The film also stars Shaun Scott, Stephen Hogan, Amol Parashar, Banita Sandhu. The film was also noted for its realistic portrayal of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, being depicted in an extended and graphic sequence.

# Neeraj Chopra qualified for the World Athletics C'ships final & the Paris Olympics

**SUNIL THAPLIYAL**  
New Delhi

Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower threw 88.77 metres in the qualifying round of the 2023 World Athletics Championships on Friday. With this, he has qualified for the Paris Olympics next year. To qualify for the Paris Olympics, a javelin throw of at least 85.50 metres was required, and Neeraj



threw the javelin to 88.77 metres on his first attempt. Neeraj has also confirmed his place in the final of the World Athletics

Championships. Neeraj threw 88.77 metres in his first attempt at the qualifying round of the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, which is also his season's best. The 25-year-old Neeraj Chopra is a Diamond League champion and has also won gold medals at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, 2018 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

With Neeraj Chopra qualify-

ing for the final, India's medal hopes in this competition have increased as no Indian player has won gold at World Athletics Championships so far.

Other participants include defending champion Anderson Peters, the Olympic champion from Trinidad and Tobago, Keshorn Walcott, the world No. 2 Julian Weber from Germany, and Arshad Nadeem from Pakistan.

# Epicurean excellence meets modern mastery in a four hands collaboration of Avatara Dubai and Varq at Taj Mahal, New Delhi



**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA**  
New Delhi

The National Film Awards is one of the most prestigious and highly anticipated awards in the country where regional films are made an impressive footprint. When Manipur is the highlighted world over for political turmoil, the culture ministry has given some cultural light on them, Meiteilon Film won award. Famous Film Director who was Jury head said, "The regional films are doing good nowadays becoz the recent technologies are reachable to them. We had very good talent in the regions earlier also. We, the juries spent lot of time and did hard work for this selection, these films are made during COVID time which is is very important".

Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon won Best Actress awards for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi. Pallavi Joshi wins Best Supporting Actress for The Kashmir Files and Pankaj Tripathi won Best Supporting Actor for Mimi. Best Actor, Allu Arjun won best Actor award for

# The 69th National Film Award: Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon joint winner as Best Actress and Allu Arjun best Actor

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA**  
New Delhi

The National Film Awards is one of the most prestigious and highly anticipated awards in the country where regional films are made an impressive footprint. When Manipur is the highlighted world over for political turmoil, the culture ministry has given some cultural light on them, Meiteilon Film won award. Famous Film Director who was Jury head said, "The regional films are doing good nowadays becoz the recent technologies are reachable to them. We had very good talent in the regions earlier also. We, the juries spent lot of time and did hard work for this selection, these films are made during COVID time which is is very important".

Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon won Best Actress awards for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi. Pallavi Joshi wins Best Supporting Actress for The Kashmir Files and Pankaj Tripathi won Best Supporting Actor for Mimi. Best Actor, Allu Arjun won best Actor award for



important".

Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon won Best Actress awards for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi. Pallavi Joshi wins Best Supporting Actress for The Kashmir Files and Pankaj Tripathi won Best Supporting Actor for Mimi. Best Actor, Allu Arjun won best Actor award for

tography award won by Avik Mukhopadhyay for Sardar Udham. Best Audiography (Re-recordist of the final mixed track) award jointly won by Sinoy Joseph & Sardar Udham. Best Costume Designer award won by Veera Kapur for Sardar Udham. Best Production Design award jointly won by Dmitrii Malich and Mansi Dhruv Mehta for Sardar Udham.

Best Editing award won by Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Best Dialogue Writing award won by Utkarshini Vashishtha and Prakash Kapadia for Gangubai Kathiawadi, Best Screenplay (Adapted) won by Gangubai Kathiawadi again. Best Make-up award won by Gangubai Kathiawadi too.

# Kashmir's Tulip Garden achieves Asia's largest title in World Book of Records

**FW DESK**

The tulip garden nestled at the foothills of the Zabarwan mountain range in Kashmir has been recognized as Asia's largest tulip garden by the World Book of Records. This prestigious accolade marks a significant milestone for the garden since its establishment in 2008.

The renowned garden, situated on the picturesque banks of Dal Lake, has garnered attention not only for its breathtaking beauty but also for the tireless efforts of the Department of Floriculture, Gardens, and Parks in Kashmir. This diverse array, consisting of 68 different tulip varieties, has been a captivating spectacle that drew the admiration of approximately 3.75 lakh



visitors during the month-long tulip season. The World Book of Records awarded the coveted certificate of recognition to the Department of Floriculture, Gardens, and Parks during a ceremony held in Srinagar.

"The inclusion of Tulip Garden Srinagar in the World Book of Records as Asia's largest tulip garden is a monumental achievement. This recognition not only honors the hard work of every individual involved but also bolsters Jammu and Kashmir's tourism industry," Javid Masood, the dedicated Floriculture Officer in charge of the Tulip Garden, said.

# Shabana Azmi wishes to sit on hot seat of 'KBC' someday



**NEW DELHI:** Veteran actress Shabana Azmi has expressed her desire to sit on the hot seat of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' someday, hosted by megastar Amitabh Bachchan.

In the special episode, the star cast of 'Ghoomer' -- Abhishek Bachchan, Saiyami Kher and filmmaker R Balki, were present on the set of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' (KBC). During the episode, a tune of the bugle was played. Big B says responding to the sound: "badlaav ke iss daur me, desh ke sath sath KBC me bhi ek badlaav ki pehel shuru ho chuki hai, jisme desh ki janta hamare studio audience se sawal karti hai." "Let's see which citizen of India has asked the question today," he said. The location in the video played on the screen shows of Maharashtra.

# Gulzar - From painter of cars to artist of words

**MUMBAI:** There are a number of stories about how Gulzar, who turned 89 on August 18, became one of Hindi cinema's most celebrated lyricists after being better known in his years as a struggler after Partition in Mumbai for his expertise in re-painting cars mauled in crashes.

The one that seems most credible, however, has come from him. Despite his skill with car colours, Gulzar's first love was the written word and he was a regular at the Progressive Writers Association (PWA), which was then a creative hub of just about every Titan in Hindi and Urdu literature.



parently, it was not so straightforward. Shailendra, the film's official lyricist, had a tiff with Burman, and he refused to write more songs, leaving Roy in the lurch. A desperate Roy requested Shailendra to complete the assignment. Shailendra, instead, recommended Gulzar.

It is a recommendation that generation of cinema goes and top music directors, from Saili Chowdhury to Rahul Dev Burman to A.R. Rahman and Vishal Bhardwaj, would thank Shailendra for.

Born in a Sikh family on August 18, 1934 to Makhan Singh Kalra and Sujana Kaur, at Dina in Jhelum District (now in Pakistan), Gulzar got addicted to writing when he read the translations of the works of Rabindranath Tagore in school.

Following Partition, he had to stop his studies and come to Mumbai to join his elder brother. The two did not quite get

In between, his words have provided the soul to songs as different as the Amir Khusraw-inspired 'Ay hairathe aashiqui' for Mani Ratnam's 2007 Hindi film 'Guru' (music: A. R. Rahman) to the all-time hit song, 'Chaiyya Chaiyya', from 'Dil Se...' (another Ratnam-Rahman joint venture), based on the Sufi folk song 'Thaiyya Thaiyya', with lyrics by Bulleh Shah.

And imagine Vishal Bhardwaj's three iconic films -- 'Om-kara' (2006), 'Kaminey' (2009) and 'Ishqiya' (2010) -- without Gulzar's lyrics, from 'Beedi, to 'Dhan Te Nan' and 'Dil To Bachcha Hai Ji'.

Gulzar may have got his break in Hindi cinema because of his way with the Urdu language, but his films as director have left behind an equally big mark.

They range from the Kh-waja Ahmad Abbas-scripted 'Achanak', based on the Navavati case that shook Mumbai's moral fibre in 1958, to 'Aandhi' (Sanjeev Kumar and Suchita Sen), which was banned during the Emergency because it was too uncomfortably close to Indira Gandhi's life, to the Shabana Azmi-Naseeruddin Shah-starrer 'Libaas', whose portrayal of an extra-marital relationship was considered too daring for Indian audiences -- it has been screened only twice in India, both times at the International Film Festival of India (1992 and 2014).

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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

Read & Lead

A weekly Newspaper from Chandigarh & Delhi

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

SUBSCRIBE: YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
FW News

FOLLOW US

@thefinancialworld
 @FWMedia\_Tweets
 fw.thefinancialworld