

REGION

2



### AAP RELEASES LIST OF ANOTHER 164 OFFICE BEARERS IN HARYANA WITH A NETWORK OF NEARLY 4000 MEMBERS

BANKING & FINANCE

6



### LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN US HOUSE TO REMOVE HIGH-TECH EXPORT BARRIERS TO INDIA

POTPOURRI

8



### RAGNEETI: WEDDING RECEPTION INVITE GOES VIRAL AS PARINEETI, RAGHAV GEAR UP FOR BIG DAY

## G20 Presidency Spurs India's Trade Relations & Investments: Experts

**NEW DELHI:** According to experts, the G20 Presidency is helping India to strengthen its trade ties with member nations and provides an opportunity to attract investments from those countries in sectors like infrastructure, reported BQ Prime. They said that the G20 (Group of 20) holds a strategic role in securing future global economic growth and prosperity, as its members represent about 85% of the global GDP (Gross Domestic Product), 75% of global trade and two-thirds of the world's population.

India can showcase its strengths and achievements while presiding over this multilateral forum to attract investment and deepen its trade relations with these large economies, the experts added. Fast-tracking negotiations for a free trade agreement, ease of doing business, development of modern infrastructure, skilled manpower, and a large population with growing income are some of the positives that help India enhance trade realizations with these member countries.

### Properties of militants from Jammu and Kashmir in Pak to be Seized: DGP



FW DESK

Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief, Dilbagh Singh on Wednesday issued a stern warning, declaring that the properties of Jammu and Kashmir militants who have sought refuge in Pakistan will be confiscated. This announcement comes in the wake of increasing concerns about Pakistan-based militants attempting to reignite insurgency in border areas like Rajouri and Poonch, as well as other parts of the Jammu region.

"We have identified a list of terrorists who originally hail from Jammu and Kashmir but have fled to Pakistan for shelter. Their assets are in the process of being seized, and this action will persist," DGP Dilbagh Singh stated during a press briefing in Rajouri.

Singh went on to accuse these individuals of being the driving force behind efforts to revive militancy within Jammu and Kashmir. He issued a clear message that no leniency would be shown to these militants should they attempt to return to the region, asserting that "if they try to come back, they will be killed."

Sources have indicated that the Jammu and Kashmir police are currently compiling a comprehensive list of militants originally from the region who are currently residing and operating in Pakistan.



Trade experts suggested the government fast-track ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with countries like the UK and EU, as it would help

India gain better market access to these countries as well as facilitate investment.

However, they also asked not to use trade platforms to achieve climate aspirations, as that could harm progress in both trade and climate discussions. The largest trade bloc in the G20, the EU,

will set in motion the carbon border adjustment mechanism on October 1 this year, making exports from countries like India expensive. 'In the first eight months of 2023, the EU introduced five regulations on climate change and trade. The G20 nations should not ignore

this elephant in the room and discuss it before individual countries rush to the WTO (World Trade Organization).

This may soon unravel world trade,' think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Shardul S Shroff, Executive Chairman, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, said that India should find a common ground with G20 countries to emerge as a global norm setter for the digital economy and use that global stature to boost IT and IT-enabled services exports. The G20 has 43 members, not 20 countries. These include 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, UK and US) and the European Union (27-member group). Three EU countries, France, Germany, Italy, are counted among the 19 countries.

### Modi to hold bilateral meetings with over 15 world leaders



**NEW DELHI:** With the G20 Leaders' Summit scheduled to commence from Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with more than 15 world leaders, sources said. On Friday, he will hold bilateral meetings with leaders of Mauritius, Bangladesh and the US at his official residence, 7, Lok Kalyan Marg. On Saturday, in addition to the G20 meetings, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with the UK, Japan, Germany and Italy. On September 10, he will hold a working lunch meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron. He will do a pull aside meeting with Canada and bilateral meetings with Comoros, Turkey, the UAE, South Korea, European Union and European Commission, Brazil and Nigeria, sources informed further.

### Delhi L-G sent back file related to hike in agricultural land circle rates



**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi government has claimed that the circle rate increased for agricultural land in Delhi has remained at only Rs 53 lakh per acre. Because of this, when farmers wanted to sell their land, they did not get the appropriate price for it.

Additionally, when the Delhi government acquired land from farmers for projects like roads, flyovers, universities, hospitals, etc., they compensated them based on the notified circle rate of Rs 53 lakh per acre.

"Having a lower circle rate for agricultural land not only affects farmers but also the Delhi government. When farmers receive less compensation for their land, they are reluctant to give their land for government projects. This often leads to lengthy legal disputes that delay development projects. Therefore, changes were made to the circle rates to ensure fair compensation to farmers during land acquisition," the source said.

Currently, the circle rate for agricultural land in Delhi varies across different districts. New Delhi and South districts have a circle rate of Rs 5 crore per acre, while North, West, Northwest, and Southwest districts have a rate of Rs 3 crore per acre. Central and Southeast Delhi have a rate of Rs 2.5 crore per acre, and Shahdara, Northeast, and East districts have a rate of Rs 2.25 crore per acre.

The sources said that the Delhi government's decision had two significant benefits for Delhi's farmers: they could sell their land at a fair price in the market, and the government could acquire land at a just compensation when needed for development projects.

### Book on UP CM Yogi Adityanath creates history with 67 launches

**NEW DELHI:** Ajay Singh Bisht to Yogi Adityanath, a graphical novel based on the life of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has made history with its launch at 67 locations.

The 67th launch was recently held in Bengaluru. The book has earned a place in the Asia Book of Records for achieving the highest number of launches. The book has been launched at various locations, and there are plans to introduce it at numerous other places. Written by Shantanu Gupta, the book chronicles Yogi's journey from the days of struggle to public life.

Shantanu Gupta is a famous writer who has penned two best-seller novels. His latest graphic novel based on the life of Yogi Adityanath has so far been launched



in eight states, namely, UP, Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.

This novel has been introduced in 29 locations within Uttar Pradesh and seven locations in National Capital Region (NCR). An inaugural event marked its simultaneous release on June 5, 2023, coinciding with the 51st birthday of Chief Minister Yogi, at more than 51 venues across 25 districts in Uttar Pradesh. 'Ajay

to Yogi Adityanath' is actually the voyage of Ajay Singh Bisht, a young boy born in the hinterland of Uttarakhand along with six other siblings. His father Anand Singh Bisht was a junior forest officer and his mother Savitri Devi was a housewife.

Since childhood, Ajay was fond of taking care of the family, and cows, listening to stories of freedom fighters and participating in school debates. They all lived in a small house in a remote village named Panchur, presently in Uttarakhand. From here Ajay became the Mahant of Gorakhnath Math and then moved ahead to become the youngest member of the Indian Parliament and the Chief Minister of the most populous state of the country, Uttar Pradesh.

### Kharge not invited for dinner to be hosted by President Murmu

**NEW DELHI:** Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who is the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, has not been invited for dinner to be hosted by President on Saturday.

Sources at Kharge's office told to media, "He has not been invited for dinner to be hosted by the President till now (Friday morning)." Earlier on Wednesday, a Congress source had said that many Union ministers and chief ministers have been invited for the dinner to be hosted by the President, but Kharge was not sent an invite. He had also said that former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was invited for the dinner. The G20 Summit is being held in New Delhi on September 9-10 under India's Presidency this year.



### Adani-Hindenburg matter: SC to consider fresh status report filed by SEBI on Sep 15

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court is slated to consider on September 15 the fresh status report filed by Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the Adani-Hindenburg matter.

As per the details available on the official website of the apex court, a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud is likely to take up the pleas for hearing on September 15. On August 25, the market regulator in a fresh status report said that it had examined 24 matters in compliance with orders of the top court, adding that SEBI will take appropriate action based on the outcome of the investigations in the Adani-Hindenburg matter.

"Out of the said 24 investigations, 22 are final in nature and 2 are interim in nature. As on date, the said 22 final investigation reports and 1 interim investigation report are approved by the Competent Authority in accordance with SEBI's extant practice and procedures," said the status report filed by the Executive Director V.S. Sundarasan of SEBI. It said that in respect of one remaining matter, interim findings are approved by the Competent Authority and SEBI has sought information from external agencies or entities. "Upon receipt of such information will evaluate the same vis-a-vis the interim investigation report to determine further course of action, if any, in the said matters," it said.

On August 14, the SEBI had sought an extension of 15 days to conclude the investigation process and file a status report in the matter. The market regulator had then said that "out of the said 24 investigations/ examinations, 17 are final and complete and approved by the Competent Authority in accordance with SEBI's extant practice and procedures".

### Manipur rights panel takes up suo-moto case against 'forced shifting' of Kuki families from Imphal

**IMPHAL:** The Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) has taken up a suo-moto case against the recent "forced shifting" of Kuki families from Imphal, reportedly by the state authorities, and issued a notice to the state government on this count.

Sources in the Commission said on Thursday that MHRC Chairperson Justice Utpalendu Bikas Saha and member K.K. Singh have directed to register a suo-moto case on the basis of a recent media report.

The MHRC has served notice to the Chief Secretary, Commissioner (Home), Director General of Police and Superintendent of Police of Imphal East district, directing them to submit a status report regarding the account detailed in the media report. "The respondents shall submit



the status report on or before October 3. The Commissioner (Home), government of Manipur, shall direct the DGP to protect the homes of the Kuki families, who have been reportedly forcibly shifted from the Imphal valley, till they resettle in Imphal either by their own or by the government of Manipur," the MHRC order said.

The media report said that in a swift post-midnight operation, "the Manipur government recently evacuated the last remaining Kuki families living in

the heart of Imphal, who had displayed unwavering courage in the face of relentless threats and looming communal violence to defiantly cling on to their homes in the New Lambulane locality for the past four months".

Incidentally, earlier this week, Manipur BJP legislator Rajkumar Imo Singh had criticised Congress leader P. Chidambaram, saying the latter has failed to understand the core issues of the state.

Chidambaram, quoting the media report, had written on X (formerly Twitter): "... the last 5 Kuki families in Imphal were forcibly removed from their homes by the authorities. This means that ethnic cleansing is complete in the Imphal Valley that is dominated by the Meitei people.

## Supreme Court reserves verdict on pleas contesting the repeal of Article 370

FW DESK

The Supreme Court has reserved its verdict on a group of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to the former State of Jammu and Kashmir. The decision was made by a five-judge bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud after a lengthy 16-day hearing.

During the final day of the hearing, senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Gopal Subramanian, Rajeev Dhavan, Zaffar Shah, Dushyant Dave, and others presented their rejoinder arguments.

The Supreme Court has allowed lawyers representing petitioners or respondents to submit

written submissions within the next three days, with a limit of two pages.

Throughout the 16-day hearing, the court heard arguments from Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, and senior advocates Harish Salve, Rakesh Dwivedi, and V Giri, who represented the Centre and the intervenors defending the abrogation of Article 370.

The legal discussions covered various aspects, including the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 on August 5, 2019, the validity of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which divided the former State into two Union Territories, and



challenges related to the imposition of Governor's rule and President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Several petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which led to the creation of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

Additionally, National Conference leader Mohd Akbar Lone filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court, reaffirming his commitment to preserving and upholding the provisions of the Indian Constitution and protecting the country's territorial integrity. This came in response to the controversy surrounding his alleged chanting of "Pakistan zindabad" in the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly in 2018.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta objected to the content of Lone's affidavit, arguing that it lacked remorse for his alleged conduct. Lone is the lead petitioner challenging the abrogation of Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

### World EV Day: Industry stakeholders pitch for greener future ahead of G20 Summit

NEW DELHI:

As India doubles down on its electric vehicle (EV) dream with a push for local manufacturing, leading EV and industry stakeholders on Friday said it is a perfect time to create awareness and encourage a move toward environmentally-friendly transportation.

The G20 Summit also serves as a global platform for leaders and industry players to unite in driving this transformation, offering an opportunity to rally for cleaner air, lower emissions, and a healthier planet, they stressed. Speaking on the World EV Day which falls on September 9, Naveen Munjal, Managing Director, Hero Electric, said it is a timely reminder for each of us



to reassert our commitment to accelerating the transition from internal combustion engines (ICE) to EVs. "The urgency of this transition is underscored by our climate commitments and national objectives. It is essential that we prioritize the timely fulfilment of our commitments to ensure the delivery of a cleaner planet to the generations that follow," Munjal said in a statement.

India saw 120 per cent growth in electric vehicles (EVs) in the second quarter of this year, driven by a 400 per cent surge in hybrid vehicles. Assistance systems (ADAS) rapidly expanded by 350 per cent (year-on-year) and the adoption of connected and digital cockpit features continue to gain steady traction in passenger vehicles, surpassing 60 per cent, according to the report by CyberMedia Research (CMR). Akshit Bansal, Founder and CEO of electric charging network provider Statiq, said that when we choose EVs, we aren't just reducing pollution and addressing climate change; we're also embracing practical sustainability.

# AAP releases list of another 164 office bearers in Haryana with a network of nearly 4000 members

SATISH HANDA

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is going to expand its network in Haryana state to contest coming 2024 Vidhan Sabha polls and has now released a list of another 164 office bearers in the state, as such the total number of AAP workers in Haryana has become nearly 4000 which include circle level workers in villages, state and district level president, vice president, secretaries, district as well as circle level working body to promote party in the state from root level. AAP promoter Arvind Kejriwal Delhi Chief Minister along with Bhagwnt Maan Chief Minister Punjab on Sunday arrived at Bhiwani to preside Oath Ceremony function of all newly appointed elected office bearers of the party in Haryana state and also inject energy in the arms of newly appointed body in



the state. AAP had announced the names of nearly 1400 party workers on August 30, 2023 which included the names of all circle incharge along with 164 new office bearers.

Large number of people from Bhiwani including his Kejriwal's relatives and friends warmly welcomed Kejriwal who originally hails from Siwani Mandi in Haryana state. AAP state president Sushil Gupta Lok Sabha MP Sushil hil Gupta

while addressing a large gathering said that the party is going to have a strong network in Haryana state to participate in 2024 polls having 21 members committees in every village, aiming to form AAP government in the state. in 2024. He announced the names of state wing appointed office bearers took oath at the occasion which included the names of Harpal Singh from Panchkula, Manish Ajwani from Ambala, Ranjit

Singh Chauhan and Mahinder Singh Mawi from Faridabad, Daljit Singh Dhindsa from Ambala, Jagmohan Narwal from Kaithal and Rajni Dhariwal from Kurukshetra all took oath as Joint Secretaries of the party in Haryana state.

Among others took oath in the ceremony for different posts in the state body were Sandeep Singh Sangwan from Panchkula as Legal High Court Cell and Maninder Singh Advocate, Mahavir Sharma from Sonapat, Vikas Choudhary from Jind, Arpandeeep Narula from Sirsa, Jagjit Beniwal from Charkhi Dadri, Manish Maggu from Rohtak, Parmod Kumar Parmar from Jhajjar, Pooja Arora from Panchkula, Vinay Rathi from Sonapat, Mohan Singla from Fatehabad, Jasdev Singh Thind from Hisar, Sachin Bansal from Palwal, Pawan Panghal from Bhiwani and Lakshmi Narain Saini from Faridabad.

## 'I'm also Sanatani, we should respect other's religion': Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday, while commenting on Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's remark on Sanatan Dharma that sparked a widespread controversy, said "we should respect other's religion".

Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Tamil Nadu's Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and son of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, while speaking at an event on Saturday, said: "Sanatan Dharma has to be eradicated just like mosquitoes, malaria, dengue, and corona."

Reacting to the remarks, the Delhi Chief Minister said: "I am also from Sanatan Dharma. There will be many from Sanatan Dharma. We should respect each other. Insulting other religions is not a good thing."

Kejriwal also made it clear that he did not like Udhayanidhi's comment on Sanatan Dharma.

## Kejriwal and Mann will launch the guarantee card at a programme in Jaipur



JAIPUR: As the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has intensified preparations for the Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Delhi and Punjab Chief Ministers Arvind Kejriwal and Bhupendra Patel Mann will launch the guarantee card at a programme in Jaipur on Monday.

AAP state president Naveen Paliwal said: "Through the Town Hall programme, Arvind Kejriwal will give guarantees that are directly related to the people of Rajasthan. Issues related to the life of the common man like education, medicine, farmers, electricity, water, getting rid of corruption are the biggest needs of the public. Guarantees will be given on these only."

Paliwal further said that on the lines of Delhi and Punjab, the AAP convenor will now present his vision among the people of Rajasthan.

"Kejriwal will give such guarantees to the public which will play an important role in bring-

ing a positive change in the lives of the people of Rajasthan. The guarantee card will be an election promise to the public. This will be like an election manifesto," he added.

The AAP had earlier issued guarantee cards in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. As the party's election preparations are in full swing, Kejriwal and Mann also did a road show in Jaipur.

The party has announced to contest elections on all 200 seats, with a special focus on Sriganaganagar and Hanumanagar districts.

Meanwhile Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has also distributed guarantee cards of 10 major government schemes by setting up inflation relief camps. A campaign to distribute guarantee cards was run for two months. Now in the next phase, the Gehlot government will distribute guarantee cards for free smartphones to 1 crore women.

## Police recovered 20 stolen motorcycles and huge quantity of electric cable from 2 arrested at Ambala



SATISH HANDA  
Ambala

CIA Staff Ambala police arrested two persons of a gang from whom recovered 20 stolen motorcycles and huge quantity of electric cable. Among those arrested were Sompal alias Kumpla residing in Jhuggis near Sector near Sector 9 Ambala City permanently staying at Ghasipur in Sector 44 Ambala City and during preliminary investigation he named his companion Arun alias Anna a resident of Kharar in Mohali district in Punjab who was arrested on 1st September August and brought to Ambala on production warrant. Jashandeep Singh Randhawa SP Ambala while addressing media persons told that a case was registered at Sector 9 police station Ambala City and during police remand recovered 20 stolen motorcycles from them most of these were stolen at twin city Ambala and few from adjoining Chandigarh, Himachal and Punjab. states.

## Haryana to have another domestic airport soon: Home Minister



SATISH HANDA  
Ambala

Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij while talking to media persons here said that Ambala will soon get a flight and in this direction, an amount of Rs 133 crores has been transferred to the account of Ambala Defense Estate Officer by the Haryana government for 20 acres of land to establish a Civil Enclave along with Ambala Air Force Station today. Vij said that he is determined to start the flight service from Ambala soon and the transfer of Rs 133 crore to the Defense Estate Officer will now speed up the upcoming process for this project. He said that soon a terminal will be constructed for the Civil Enclave adjacent to the Air Force Station at a cost of Rs 16 crore. Vij said that a Civil Enclave is to be established in Ambala under the RCS UDAN program and now the formalities for acquiring land for the airport have been completed. It is noteworthy that due to the efforts of Home Minister Anil Vij, Civil Enclave is being established along with the Air Force Station in Ambala.

## Cashier masterminding in Rs 48 lakh theft in bank arrested



SATISH HANDA

Prateek Rai originally hailing from Kalaiyat in Kaithal district working as cashier in Sarv Haryana Grameen Bank a rural branch at village Indri in tehsil Tauri in Mewat since tpast two years was trapped in police net and during preliminary investigation he admitted stolen Rs 48 lakh from the strong room in the bank along with two other friends identified as Imran a resident of village Ghaseda and Gaurav a resident of village Indri when the three had planted theft conspiracy. Prateek said that along with his both companions he managed to get prepared duplicate keys of the locks at the entrance in the bank as well as a strong room where a cash amount was kept from Sohna with the help of Imran and Gaurav.

Naresh Kumar in-charge police station said that at the preliminary stage he suspected involvement of Prateek in this theft and investigations revealed that they had planned theft in the bank branch on 1st August, but violence activities in the area started on 31st July 2023 and district administration imposed curfew in the area. Meanwhile, manager of the bank Bhavesh Adlakha went on leave and handed over keys of the locks at the entrance and the strong room to Prateek cashier in the bank.

## Delhi faces Protest : Canadian Govt had also criticism during G-20 summit in Toronto

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA  
New Delhi

NDMC area, City closed, Roads are guarded with heavy Security and 10 feet Green fencing covered looking odd places. Some people have complaints about the tight security arrangements for the G-20 summit in New Delhi. Especially the shopkeepers and businessmen of Connaught Place are protesting against the closure of the market. Something similar happened at the G-20 summit in Toronto in 2010. Rather, the controversy there was much



more than this. That G-20 summit had become a victim of controversies and criticism because of the tight security arrangements. That summit

is considered to be the most controversial event in the history of the G-20. Though, the global financial system and the world economy are discussed at the G-20 summit event always. It was the year 2010, when the G-20 summit was being held in Toronto, Canada. This two-day summit was held on 26-27 June 2010 at the Metro Toronto Convention Center in Toronto,

Ontario, Canada. That was the fourth meeting of the heads of state and government associated with the G-20.

The G-20 summit in Toronto faced criticism and controversy due to its security arrangements. The summit in Toronto that year was criticized for restricting civil liberties and creating tensions with protesters, including extensive security measures including the installation of security fences and a heavy police presence. Even the news of police action against protesters and journalists during that two-day event made headlines.

## Iron scrap scam worth crores of rupees in railway workshop exposed

SATISHHANDA  
Yamunanagar

On getting clues as regard fraud by officials and staff of the railway workshop Yamunanagar, a team from railways headquarter Baroda House has started investigation in said fraud and stopped three trucks containing iron scrap loaded from the railway workshop at a distance from the workshop and took these trucks to a nearby 'Dharamkanta' (weigh-bridge), when it was observed by the vigilance staff that approximately 5 to 10 ton steel scraps was found less in these trucks. Further investigation by the vigilance team from Delhi found that an underweight chip was fixed in the weigh-bridge installed inside the railway workshop and this underweight game was going on since a long time caused financial loss worth crores of rupees to the railways.

Information reveals, a similar case of fraud was reported in this workshop about five years ago when during auction of iron scrap of nine damaged rail engines the concerned officers had sold the costly metals including brass, copper, alu-



minium having market rate worth Rupees 500 to 600 each kg as well as costly steel springs and wheels of the engines sold at the throwaway price Rs 30 each kg as iron scrap for their self-vested interest which causing financial loss worth Rupees 60 crore to the railway department and a case was also registered against the workshop officers involved in embezzlement and the case is yet underrtrial in the court. According to information, vigilance team from Delhi railway headquarter now trying to find out since when the cheatings by the railway workshop staff are going on with estimated value of loss

to the railways and the suspected accused are trying to save themselves.

However, vigilance team from Delhi got checked the weigh-bridge installed inside the railway workshop which was claimed by the alleged workshop officials correct, blaming that 'Dharamkanta' where the weight of iron scrap in three trucks was checked was defective, but during investigation it was observed that said 'Dharamkanta' outside the railways workshop was in order, whereas an underweight chip was found inserted in weigh-bridge installed inside the railway workshop.

## Women safety to be main issue in 'Safe City Abhiyan' being launched in Haryana: Shatrugit Kapur DGP

SATISH HANDA

Addressing a press conference, newly appointed Director General Police (DGP) Haryana Shatrugit Kapur expressed deep concern over increasing crimes against females in the state and said that the coordinated efforts would be made to ensure a safe public transport for women so that they can travel safely, go to work place or educational institutes fearlessly and safely without hesitation for which the police in the state would coordinate local cab unions, auto unions, school transports and public transporters. Interacting with media persons after having a meeting with senior police officers DGP said that a pilot project 'safe city' will be initially started in Rohtak and Gurugram for women safety and security, followed by it would be rolled out in the other districts in the entire state.

Kapur said that the police would ensure that CCTV cameras are installed outside educational institutions as well as important and sensitive public places and also



deploy security guards in plain clothes at these places The frequency of police patrolling at sensitive areas would be intensified, he added that in case of eve-teasing, immediate action would be taken after registering an FIR against the accused. While outlining the priorities of the Haryana Police, the DGP Kapur said, complaints received through any medium would be disposed of within a week and feedback would also be taken to ascertain. He said that special training is being given to police staff to curb crimes against females. He said, STF in the state is being geared to deal with such

crimes and courts will be requested to sort out such criminal cases strictly and on priority basis.

DGP Kapur said that the state is facing a large number of cases related to drug smuggling and drug addiction among youths for which a decision will be taken to appoint Ward Controllers to wipe out drug smuggling as well as drug addiction in their area, especially in rural areas in alliance with the State Narcotic Bureau. He said, fast increasing cyber crimes in the state is another major problem faced by the state police authorities. Kapur said that in case cyber crime cell gets information as regard loss of money within an hours it can be saved in alliance with the concerned bank branch and in recent past some time amount worth over Rs 2 crore was saved by the Haryana cyber cell department by stopping the transaction of money in the bank due to timely informaion as such in such cases sufferers should inform cyber cell branch in every district. Large number of senior police officers were present at this occasion.

## Section 144 imposed 2700 times, mobile & internet services suspended 55 times in Haryana in past 8 years

SATISH HANDA

Haryana state government data reveals that Section 144 was imposed 2700 times, mobile and internet services were suspended 55 times in past 8 years in Haryana state and none of the district in the state was escaped where Section 144 was not imposed by the government with effect from year 2015 to 2023 during New Year, Independence Day, Republic Day or any other occasion or celebrations in the state and large number of protests witnessed in the state. Information also reveals that in this eight years period some of these occasions include Jat Reservation protest, Kisan Aandolan, at the time when decision was taken by the court at Panchkula against Ram Rahim Dera Sacha Sauda head and the recent violent activities reported in Mewat area. State government had to impose Section 144 at several occasions including Sarpaches strike, farmer protests time to time, Khap Panchayat Protest Dharnas, strike by the staff in government offices in which Ambala district was identified at the top where Section 144 was declared 228 times,



Rohtak district was ranking at second position with 212 cases and Panchkula district declared third having total number of 203 cases when Section 144 was declared by the government to avert violent activities.

Haryana state government submitted 85 page detailed report as regard cases of Section 144 imposed and internet services suspended at different occasions in the state between year 2015 and 2023 on the question by Congress MLA Choudhry Aftab Ahmed expressed deep concern over recent violent activities reported in Mewat area, in which several persons were reported died and public properties of value worth crores of rupees as well as countless number of private vehicles were burnt down

or completely damaged. According to the government report 55 times internet and mobile phone services were suspended by the government in Ambala, Kaithal, Jind, Panipat, Sonapat, Rohtak, Faridabad, Jhajjar and Sirsa districts during Jat Reservation, Kisan Aandolan and at the time when court announced decision against Dera Suaa Sauda head Ram Rahim.

According to Rohit Jain President Ambala Bar Association Ambala there is provision up to four years imprisonment in case of violations Section of SSection 144 in which four or more than four persons cannot assemble at a place or carry arms in the area in which Section 144 declared by the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

## Raahat Commends Karnataka State Government for Implementation of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) for Old Vehicles

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

Raahat (The Safe Community Foundation) extends appreciation to the Karnataka State Government and the State Transport Department for the issuance of the much-awaited Notification, dated August 17, 2023, regarding the implementation of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) for old/existing vehicles (registered prior to April 1, 2019) in the State.

Dr Kamaljeet Soi, Memeber -NRSC, Ministry of road transport and highways addressing press conference in bengaluru said, The implementing HSRPs for new vehicles (manufactured post-April 1, 2019) began in Karnataka with the introduction of G.S.R. No. 1162(E) dated December 4, 2018, and S.O 6052(E) dated December 6, 2018. Karnataka has earned recognition for its proactive approach to decision-making, efficient enforcement of road safety measures, and the digitalization of transport-related services.

The HSRP scheme directly contributes to national security by enhancing vehicle safety and security while curbing vehicle-

related criminal activities. With the issuance of the HSRP Notification dated August 17, 2023, and a detailed circular dated August 18, 2023, by the Karnataka State Government, affixing HSRPs on vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, is now mandatory, aligning with Supreme Court guidelines, amended Rule 50 of the CMVR, and notifications/statutory orders by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

A major impediment to this delayed implementation of HSRP scheme for old/ existing vehicle in the State is a flourishing market for counterfeit/ look-alike HSRP plates. These are nothing but ordinary number plates which are made in such a way that they resemble High Security Registration Plates in appearance. Such plates do not have the unique laser codes, which is a key feature of HSRP plates and is updated in VAHAN portal of the Transport Department. These plates also lack other security and safety features of HSRP such as high visibility in low light due to retro-reflectivity. Several other States like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Himachal



Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim etc. had adopted the OEM model for old vehicles in their respective states and is implementing successfully.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued an advisory dated 09.06.2023 to the Transport Departments of all States and UTs in India. The extract of the advisory is as follows: "It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that some HSRP vendors have been involved in the manufacturing and affixing of unauthorised High Security Registration Plates to the vehicles across various states in

India. These manufactures are neither authorised by the State/ UTs nor are they approved by the respective OEMs to affix HSRPs to the OEM's brand of vehicle, thereby rendering the HSRP affixed as unauthorised." The same advisory further quotes " States are advised to take strong punitive action including blacklisting / termination against such unauthorised HSRP agencies which are opening supplying au authorised HSRPs in the market to unsuspecting and gullible vehicle owners."

Authorized automobile dealers of OEMs will affix HSRPs on old/existing vehicles. Ap-

proximately 4000 dealer points across the state will install HSRPs. HSRP manufacturers authorized by OEMs are the sole suppliers to authorized dealers. A unified web portal, www.siam.in, allows vehicle owners to order HSRPs, select dealer locations for affixation, and choose convenient installation dates and times. Affixing HSRPs is a cashless transaction, with fees payable online. The State Transport Department has approved the option for affixation at the vehicle owner's residence or workplace.

Dr Kamaljeet soi said, We have been advocating for a pan-India implementation of HSRP scheme on all vehicles for many years since HSRP is one of the resources that enhances Road Safety and helps in identification and prevention of criminal activities and miscreants. In States where this has been implemented thoroughly, it has been observed that the driving behaviour of vehicle owners overall has improved post affixation of HSRPs as the number plates are caught by traffic cameras and drivers tend to be more careful. It has also led to a decrease in crime arising from use of vehicles.

# BJP-JD(S) likely to fight LS elections unitedly in K'taka

In a major development, the BJP and JD(S) are holding a final round of talks in connection with putting up a united fight in the upcoming Lok Sabha election against the Congress in Karnataka, said sources on Friday.

Sources confirmed that former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national President J.P. Nadda and held talks in a confidential meeting.

Sources explain that JD(S) is demanding five parliamentary seats out of 28 and BJP is negotiating for four seats. The JD(S) insisted for Hassan, Mandya, Kolar, Tumakuru and Bengaluru Rural seats. Hassan was represented by Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna. The Karnataka High Court had recently disqualified him



in the backdrop of concealing information regarding property from the Election Commission of India.

Mandya is the strong base of JD(S), but BJP is supporting sitting MP Sumalatha Ambareesh, who won as an independent candidate. She had extended her support to BJP in key matters. BJP is likely to keep the Man-

dy seat and make Sumalatha Ambareesh to contest on BJP ticket, sources said.

Bengaluru Rural is represented by D.K. Suresh, brother of Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, who is making an all out effort to emerge as the face of the Vokkaliga community. Presently, the influential community concentrated in south Karnataka is ral-

lying behind Deve Gowda and JD(S). Shivakumar managed to break the hold of JD(S) on the Vokkaliga vote bank in the last Assembly elections.

Sources said that both BJP and JD(S) have realized the strong position of the Congress government in the state. If they contest elections independently, Congress may easily win most of the seats. Moreover, both parties are worried and concerned over the aggressive moves of the Congress under the "Operation Hast".

Deve Gowda is concerned with the health of his son former CM H.D. Kumaraswamy, who was recently admitted to the hospital. Kumaraswamy had undergone a major heart surgery. Sources said that JD(S) is likely to give up the Mandya seat to BJP, even if it is a setback.

# Congress's newly constituted Working Committee meet will be held on Sept 16

KAVIDA SHARMA  
New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has convened the first meeting of the newly constituted Congress Working Committee on September 16 in Hyderabad, Telangana. It will be attended by all the CWC members, permanent and special invitees.

Disclosing this here today, the Congress General Secretary in-charge Organization KC Venugopal and the General secretary in-charge Communications, Jairam Ramesh said, the CWC meeting will be followed by an "extended CWC" meeting on September 17 which will also be attended by the PCC presidents, office bearers of the Congress Parliamentary Party and the Congress Legislative Party leaders.

The meeting will be followed by a massive public rally in the evening around Hyderabad



the same day. The rally has been organized to coincide with the liberation day of Hyderabad, on September 17. In the rally the Congress will also announce five guarantees to the people of the state.

After the rally on the same evening, the Congress president will flag off the cavalcades of CWC members, PCC presidents, CLP leaders and others to 119 assembly constituencies of Telangana. All of them will stay overnight in

their respective allotted assembly constituencies.

Next day, on September 18, the Congress leaders will hold meetings in their allotted segments and go door to door distributing five guarantees to the people and a charge-sheet against the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government.

However, the MPs have been exempted from the September 18 programme because of the special parliament session.

# Rahul Gandhi leaves for Europe Tour



MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA  
New Delhi

Former Congress President and Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi left for an almost week-long Europe tour, Early morning today, during which he will hold meetings with European Union (EU) lawyers, students and the Indian diaspora, according to sources. Rahul Gandhi will meet a group of EUROPEAN Union lawyers in Brussels on September 7 and also hold a similar meeting in The Hague, according to Schedule as they confirmed. He has scheduled to participate in a meeting of the Labour Union of France in Paris on September 9. According to the sources, the Congress leader will address students at the function of a university in Paris on September 8. Thereafter, he will visit Norway, where he will address a diaspora event in Oslo on September 10, they said. Rahul, Congress MP is likely to return by September 11, a day after the G20 summit concludes.

# SPG Chief Arun Kumar Sinha passes away



MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA  
New Delhi

Special Protection Group Director Arun Kumar Sinha passed away this morning at a private hospital in Gurugram. He had been undergoing treatment for cancer. Arun Kumar Sinha had also served as the security officer for both the Prime Minister and former Prime Ministers. In 2016, his tenure as Director of the SPG was initially scheduled to end, but it was extended for an additional two years.

Arun Kumar Sinha was an officer from the 1987 batch of the Kerala Cadre Indian Police Service (IPS). Indeed, Arun Kumar Sinha held a distinguished career, serving in various significant positions, including Thiruvananthapuram City Police Commissioner, South Region Inspector General (IG), Kochi Commissioner, Wayanad Superintendent of Police (SP), Intelligence Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Thiruvananthapuram Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG), and Administrations Inspector General (IG). During his tenure as Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) in the state, Arun Kumar Sinha was appointed to the Special Protection Group (SPG) on central deputation and subsequently appointed as its Director.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his condolences on the passing of Arun Kumar Sinha. The Chief Minister remembered Arun Kumar Sinha as an officer who had undertaken numerous responsibilities within the Kerala Police and had executed them with excellence.

# Manipur forgotten by G20-obsessed BJP: Congress



NEW DELHI: In yet another dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his "drum beaters obsessed with G20 summit", the Congress on Monday said that Manipur has been forgotten.

In a lengthy post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said: "While the Prime Minister and his drum-beaters are obsessed with G20, four months after ethnic violence broke out on May 3rd, Manipur lies forgotten by the Modi government."

"The Chief Minister has ensured that the Manipuri society is more divided today than ever before. The Union Home Minister has failed to put an end to the violence and ensure the recovery of arms and ammunition. Instead, many more armed groups have entered the conflict."

"The Prime Minister refuses to visit Manipur, or lead an all-party delegation, or initiate any credible peace process. Has he even met his own colleague from Manipur in the cabinet? In the midst of a humanitarian tragedy, there is a complete and total breakdown of the Constitutional machinery and trust between communities in Manipur."

"In the last four months, the world has witnessed how the Prime Minister has failed Manipur during its worst crisis."

Since the violent ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur on May 3, hundreds of people have died while thousands were forced to take refuge in relief camps.

The Congress has slammed the Centre and state government for failing miserably to control the situation in Manipur and had also demanded the immediate removal of the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, the G20 Summit in the national capital is scheduled to be held from Saturday.

# Modi, BJP scared of INDIA: Kharge

KAVIDA SHARMA  
Bhilwara

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today said that the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi have started feeling scared of the name India ever since the like-minded parties came together and formed the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

Addressing a mammoth 'Kisan Sammelan' after inaugurating a five lakh litre capacity milk processing unit here today, Kharge said, Congress believes in Bharat Jodo as last year Congress leader and former president Rahul Gandhi conducted a 4,500 kilometer 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Congress President said the BJP and the Prime Minister are scared ever since the joint opposition came together under one banner-INDIA. He said, now they were trying to replace the name India with Bharat. "What is your problem, we have already been saying, Bharat Jodo and it is already in the constitution", he



said, while remarking, "when we say unite India, they say divide India". Accusing the BJP government of stalling development projects initiated during Congress regime, Congress President reminded that he along with Sonia Gandhi had laid the foundation stone of a factory for manufacturing of MEMU train coaches when C P Joshi was transport minister at Centre. Unfortunately the project was later stalled by Modi government as it gets pleasure in obstructing the work done by Congress.

Countering the BJP for often asking the Congress what it did in 70 years, he asked, "Who brought land reforms? Who made tenants the owners?", while pointing out

it was the Congress which did it. "We never tell lies; we work to empower people. Indra Gandhi ji abolished privy purses and nationalised banks for the benefit of the poor. The BJP government doesn't have the courage to do this", he added. Kharge told the mammoth crowd, "We gave Chambal Ghati project, Indira Gandhi canal, Mewar University, AIIMS Jodhpur, IIT Jodhpur,

etc. when there was a Congress government at the Centre. So if any leader asks what has Congress done, give them this list and ask - have you made these?". Referring to BJP's allegation of promoting family politics, he said, they attack Rahul Gandhi because he took such a big step of walking on foot for 4,500 km from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. "Poor people, farmers, labourers, women, students and many other sections of society came for Bharat Jodo Yatra. We carried the message of uniting India through the 4500 km-long Yatra", he added.

Urging people to bring the Congress back to power he promised, "we will get you even more benefits ... this is our promise. Rajasthan is a good model of poor people's welfare and social justice. People are getting direct benefit in their accounts".

Lashing out at the BJP for trying to intimidate Congress workers, he said, they are referring to 'Red Diary' and other things. "Don't try to intimidate us. Rahul Gandhi has said-don't be afraid", he pointed out.

The Congress president alleged that the poor people have been looted under Modi's rule. He reminded them how he promised to provide 2 crore jobs every year. He had promised to give Rs. 15 lakhs to everyone, Mr Kharge pointed out, asking where has that money vanished? Accusing the BJP of stealing the democratic mandate, he said, wherever a Congress government is formed, the BJP tries to bring it down. "They brought down our governments by either using money power or through other means. BJP does this with elected governments and then talks of morality!", he pointed out, while praising Mr Gehlot for not letting the Congress government fall in Rajasthan.

# Opposition leaders slam govt over 'Prez of Bharat' G20 invite

NEW DELHI: Opposition leaders of I.N.D.I.A bloc on Tuesday slammed the BJP government after the Rashtrapati Bhawan sent out invites for a G20 dinner of September 9 in the name of President of Bharat instead of the usual President of India, saying the country doesn't belong to a political party.

"The BJP's recent move to change the reference from 'President of India' to 'President of Bharat' on official G20 summit invitations has raised eyebrows and ignited a public debate. How can the BJP strike down 'INDIA'? The country doesn't belong to a political party; it belongs to 135 crore Indians," wrote senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha on X (formerly twitter) attacking the ruling BJP. He said, "Our national identity is not the BJP's personal property that it can modify on whims and fancies. Judgega Bharat Jeetega INDIA (tagline of Opposition alliance.)"

Along with his post, Chadha also shared the invitation card which read "The President of Bharat". Echoing a similar senti-



ment, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Manoj Kumar Jha took a swipe at the ruling BJP and said it is sacred of the Opposition bloc "I.N.D.I.A."

"We did not know that people in BJP are so weak. They got scared by the I.N.D.I.A alliance which was formed a few weeks back. You are sending an invitation in the name of the President of Bharat instead of the President of India," the MP said.

Jha further said, "The tagline of the I.N.D.I.A is Judgega Bharat Jeetega INDIA. Neither you can take India nor Bharat from us. All those things you have because of the majority will be taken away by the public (in 2024 Lok Sabha elections)."

# Consider opponents as my teachers: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday paid tributes to Dr S. Radhakrishnan on occasion of Teachers Day, and said that people of India are like Gurus, and he considers his opponents as teachers.

In a Facebook post, Rahul Gandhi said, "My respectful obeisances to all the teachers on National Teachers Day. Humble tribute to former President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan ji on his birth anniversary. Guru has a very high place in life, who illuminates the path of your life and inspires you to move in the right direction. I consider great men like Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha, Shri Narayana Guru as my gurus, who gave us all the knowledge of equality of all people in the society, and compassion and love towards everyone."

He also said that the people



of India are also like gurus (teachers), who give an example of unity in the diversity of our country, inspire us to fight every problem with courage, who are the embodiment of humility and penance.

"I also consider my opponents as my teachers, who, through their behavior, through their lies, through

their words, teach me that the path I am on is absolutely right - and to continue on it at all costs. is less," the Congress leader added.

Teachers Day is celebrated every year on this day to commemorate the birth anniversary of former President of India Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

# One terrorist, 2 security personnel injured in encounter in J&K's Reasi

FW DESK

One terrorist was killed, while two security personnel sustained injuries in an encounter in Reasi district on Monday. The encounter is still ongoing and the security forces are looking for another terrorist who is believed to be holed up there.

The encounter began in the remote Gali Sohab village of the Tuli area during a cordon and search operation. This operation was prompted by specific intelligence indicating the presence of two terrorists in the area.

During the initial exchange of gunfire, one terrorist was neutralized, and a police officer and Army jawan was injured. The security forces are actively working to neutralize the second terrorist.

Both injured security personnel have been taken to the hospital for treatment. The



encounter unfolded around 2 pm when a joint team comprising police, Army, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel surrounded a house where the terrorists had taken shelter. This followed information received about their presence in the house after they had forcibly entered it on the night between Sunday

and Monday.

The identity and affiliation of the terrorists will be determined once the operation concludes.

The border districts of Poonch and Rajouri have witnessed several encounters this year, resulting in the deaths of approximately 20 terrorists and 10 security personnel.

# Teacher plays key role in building future: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended his greetings to the teaching fraternity on the occasion of Teachers Day, and said that teachers play a key role in building future and inspiring dreams.

"Teachers play a key role in building our future and inspiring dreams. On Teachers Day, we salute them for their unwavering dedication and great impact," Modi wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

He added, "Tributes to Dr S. Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary."

Along with the post, the Prime Minister also shared a short video of his interaction with the winners of National Teachers' Award at his official residence at Lok Kalyan Marg on the eve of Teachers Day.

During his interaction, PM Modi lauded the efforts of teachers in nurturing the



young minds of the country.

He highlighted the importance of good teachers and the role they can play in shaping the destiny of the country.

Teachers Day is celebrated every year on this day to commemorate the birth anniversary of former President of India Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

# Jamaat-e-Islami Hind raises concern over New Criminal laws, appreciates Law against Mob lynching

KAVIDA SHARMA  
New Delhi

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind raises serious concern over new criminal laws that will replace the old ones like Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act. The organization feels that these laws can be amended but not replaced. Jamaat also raised their concern over Manipur Violence and incidents of Islamophobia in educational institutions in the country.

Addressing mediapersons in their monthly press-conference in New Delhi, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind leaders, Vice President Professor Salim Engineer, Secretary Shafi Madani and Media Secretary KK Suhail spoke on the three new bills introduced in the Lok Sabha, aiming to improve India's Criminal justice system. Although the new bills, repeals Section 124A of the IPC, it has made provision

for punishing acts of "sedition" in a new form, which is as dangerous as the old law. Jamaat leaders do not find any need of redrafting the three bills rather some amendments can be made. They also have objection on language imposition. According to Media Secretary KK Suhail, all the three new laws are in Hindi language which is understood only by 44% of the population and 56% of the people residing in India are Non Hindi.

Talking about Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, the leaders said The bill has a provision for "Love Jihad", which has been defined as "concealing your identity before marriage". It has been made a separate offence with a sentence of 10 years. The term "Love Jihad" is deeply offensive to Muslims and carries a derogatory reference to an important tenet of Islam. The only positive aspect in the bill is the Capital punishment for mob lynching incidents, they added.



Expressing their concern over the New Data Protection Bill, Jamaat leaders said by the increased surveillance of the Government, the privacy of citizen data will be compromised as the bill allows companies to transfer some users data abroad. The new Bill will have the power to seek information from firms to personal data of individuals without their consent. The Bill

gives power to the government to exempt state agencies from data protection provisions of the law in the name of investigation and state security, which will weaken our democracy, they said.

Reacting to the Manipur violence, JIH Secretary Shafi Madani said they are concerned about the future of Children in Manipur that are

deprived of education as their schools are turned into relief camps. Condemning the violence incidents happening in the state between Meiteis and Kukis, since 3 May, Madani said "Women and Children are the most affected ones when such violence occurs". Considering the inability of the state govt. to control the situation in the state, the Central government must intervene and encourage civil society representatives from various ethnic backgrounds to initiate genuine reconciliation and peace efforts in the state, JIH leaders who recently visited Manipur said.

They also raised their voices against the incidents of Islamophobia in the Indian educational institutions. They feel that islamophobia in schools and colleges should be addressed by the government and appropriate laws should be drafted to end this menace.

## India and Bharat must coexist, as they always have

India and Bharat - two names that have stirred the hearts of patriots for generations. Yet, today, these cherished labels are being manipulated for political maneuvering. The decision by the Bharatiya Janata Party government to prioritise 'Bharat' over 'India' in official communications is not just a departure from tradition but a deliberate political statement. The Constitution itself refers to the nation as "India, that is Bharat," signifying the harmonious coexistence of both identities. The cultural significance of 'Bharat' is undeniable. However, the current fervor to sideline 'India' is a misguided attempt to paint it as a foreign imposition, undermining our national dignity. Such a perspective is not only historically inaccurate but also divisive. Both 'India' and 'Bharat' have emerged from our nation's rich tapestry of history and culture. To pit one against the other, especially in a country celebrated for its ethnic, linguistic, and genetic diversity, is to create unnecessary societal rifts. The controversy should have naturally faded, but the Opposition's hasty reactions amplified it, turning a naming debate into a national identity crisis. While the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's preference for 'Bharat' is well-known, the Opposition's choice to adopt 'INDIA' as an acronym might have further spurred the BJP's renaming zeal. This political tug-of-war does not showcase national pride; instead, it diminishes our global standing and soft power. Both 'Bharat' and 'India' are deeply embedded in our cultural, political, and literary lexicons. They are invoked by millions, both domestically and internationally, who dream of our nation's bright future. While the contexts in which they are used might differ, their essence remains unchanged. It's crucial to recognise that the beauty of our nation lies in its diversity and unity. Let's not allow a mere naming dispute to overshadow the shared aspirations of its people. India and Bharat must coexist, as they always have, representing the soul of a united nation.

### 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.

**A SATISFIED  
CUSTOMER IS THE BEST  
BUSINESS STRATEGY  
OF ALL.**

**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)



**NANDLAL MISHRA** DELVES INTO INDIA'S STATE-LEVEL HUNGER INDEX THAT ASSESSES LOCALISED UNDERNOURISHMENT EXTENTS

## Gauging hunger disparities



Despite being a major food producer with extensive food security schemes and the largest public distribution system in the world, India still grapples with significant levels of food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition. The Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2022, ranked India 107 among 121 countries, behind Nigeria (103) and Pakistan (99). The GHI provides a composite measurement and tracks undernourishment and hunger at the national level across three dimensions: calorie undernourishment, child malnutrition, and under-five mortality.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report of 2022, India is home to 224.3 million undernourished people. Disparities are evident among States. Leveraging subnational data that encompasses the three dimensions of the GHI enables the development of an India-specific hunger index at the level of States and Union Territories. This plays a pivotal role in evaluating the extent of undernourishment at a more localised scale, which is critical for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

The GHI is computed using four indicators — the prevalence of calorie undernourishment; and of stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five; and under-five mortality rate. The State Hunger Index (SHI) is calculated using the same indicators except calorie undernourishment, which is replaced by body mass index (BMI) undernourishment among the working-age population, as data on calorie undernourishment are not available since 2012.

Data for stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five are sourced from the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), while the

prevalence of BMI undernourishment is computed using NFHS-5 (2019-21) and Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (2017-18). The calculation of the SHI score involves combining the normalised values of the four indicators using the techniques recommended by the GHI. The SHI scores range between 0 and 100, with higher scores indicating more hunger. Scores below 10 signify low hunger, 10-20 moderate, 20-30 serious, 30-40 alarming, and 50 or above extremely alarming.

In the SHI, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh scored 35, which places them in the 'alarming' category. Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, and West Bengal all scored above the national average (29). The performance of these States resembles that of African nations such as Haiti, Niger, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. On the other hand, Chandigarh scored 12, and Sikkim, Puducherry, and Kerala all scored below 16. These States, along with Manipur, Mizoram, Punjab, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Tamil Nadu, fall under the 'moderate hunger' category. All the other States, which scored below the national average and above 20, have a problem of 'serious hunger'. No State falls under the 'low hunger' category. The impact of COVID-19 on the SHI is not captured here since post-pandemic estimates are not yet available.

In 2008, Purnima Menon, Anil Deolalikar, and Anjan Bhaskar made a comparable effort to grasp the variation in hunger at a subnational level using the then methodology of computing GHI. Among the 17 States they assessed, Punjab led the list, with Kerala and Andhra Pradesh following closely as top performers. On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh were ranked as the least-performing States. Over the last half a decade, India's GHI score has deteriorated primarily due to the increasing prevalence of calorie undernourishment. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the proportion of calorie undernourishment in India has

been escalating since 2017, reaching 16.3% in 2020, equivalent to the 2009 statistic. The Indian government has disputed these conclusions by raising concerns about the data and methodology used in calculating the GHI. However, it has not been able to provide empirical evidence to support its claims. Notably, no National Sample Survey (NSS) round on nutritional intake has been conducted by the government since 2011-12, which used to offer insights into the prevalence of calorie undernourishment at national and subnational levels. In the 78th round of the NSS conducted in 2020-21, four key questions were included to gauge household food insecurity. Unfortunately, information on these is missing from the NSS report.

While the GHI has faced significant criticism from experts regarding its conceptualisation, indicator selection, and aggregation methods, it does provide critical insight into the state of undernourishment and child nutrition. India's poor performance in the GHI is primarily attributed to its high prevalence of undernourishment and child malnutrition. India ranks unfavourably in child wasting, performing worse than many low-income African nations. The NFHS-5 indicated that one-third of children under the age of five are stunted and underweight, while every fifth child suffers from wasting. Despite India's notable progress in alleviating extreme poverty over the last 15 years, as indicated by the recent National Multidimensional Poverty Index, challenges persist in addressing the disparity in food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition.

*Nandlal Mishra is a doctoral fellow at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. Views are personal.*



**TALMIZ AHMAD** EXPLAINS HOW GLOBAL MULTIPOLAR ORDER ALIGNS WITH ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND INFLUENCE

## BRICS' widening influence and ramifications

On August 24, the 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg announced that the five-member grouping (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) had invited six new members — Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from West Asia; Egypt and Ethiopia from Africa, and Argentina from Latin America. It was reported that 40 countries have shown interest in BRICS' membership, with 22 having submitted formal applications. From 2009, BRICS has met annually at summit level, and is backed by several ministerial and expert conclaves. It has spawned two major institutions — the New Development Bank (NDB) to provide development assistance and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement that supports countries facing short-term balance-of-payments pressures. The NDB has already financed 96 projects valued at \$33 billion.

BRICS members have been united in their dissatisfaction with the West-dominated international institutions that had emerged after the Second World War — the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and its various bodies, particularly the Security Council, and more recently, the World Trade Organization. At Johannesburg, the UN Secretary General António Guterres described them as reflecting "yesterday's world". The United States has led the western alliance in both the political and economic areas.

BRICS challenges this West-led world order: it promotes intra-BRICS economic and political cooperation, builds institutions outside western control, and agitates robustly for wide-ranging reforms to accommodate the presence and interests of emerging economies. The Johannesburg Declaration categorically asserts that the



members' "strategic partnership" will be directed at achieving "a more representative, fairer international order". The recent expansion of BRICS' membership has shaped a grouping that is aligned in terms of global perceptions and interests, and collectively provides considerable economic clout to the enlarged conclave. With the proposed expansion, BRICS will have 46% of world population, while its share of the global GDP will go from 31.5% in PPP terms to 37%, far ahead of the GDP of 30.7% of the G-7. The five core members account for 23% of global exports and 19% of global imports; with the new members, these figures will be boosted by 3.7% and 3%, respectively. The major impact will be on the energy sector: out of global oil production of about 90 million barrels per day (mbd) in 2022, the earlier five BRICS members had accounted for 20% of global output; this will go to 42%.

### Geo-strategic value

The new BRICS members will bring considerable geo-strategic value to the grouping. Those from West Asia are already closely tied to BRICS members: 35% of Saudi oil production goes to China and India; Russia, already a major oil supplier to China and India, is now looking at Brazil as a market. Despite sanctions by the United States, Iran has increased oil production from a low of 400,000 barrels per day in the Trump period to 2.2 mbd in August this year, most of it going to China. Egypt and Ethiopia are an important presence in the strategically important Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, while Argentina is the second largest economy in Latin America.

Rather than look at the issues being raised at BRICS' summits and other meetings, western commentators have disparaged the grouping as having no shared vision and being a "talk-shop" with no worthwhile achievements. These criticisms have little substance. BRICS leaders have met over 15 years and every time have overcome their internal divisions and competitions to issue a consensual "Declaration". Over the years, the declarations have expanded in content, focused on specific deliverables and have steadily expanded their areas of interest.

In the Johannesburg Declaration, while several paragraphs call for wide-ranging reforms in international organisations, the bulk of the document focuses on intra-BRICS cooperation and outreach to other developing countries. Thus, members have agreed to "encouraging the use of local currencies in internal trade and financial transactions" between BRICS and other trading partners.

The Declaration also reflects the shared views of its members on several political issues — the centrality of the United Nations; the problems in West Asia, i.e., Syria, Yemen, Palestine, the Arab Peace Initiative,

and the Iran nuclear agreement; the war in Ukraine and global terror.

Outlook for regional and global affairs  
The new BRICS members, particularly those from West Asia, naturally fit into this political and economic framework. From 2020, both Saudi Arabia and the UAE have shrugged off the U.S. yoke and shaped independent foreign policy paths for themselves. Saudi Arabia has pursued de-escalation and dialogue, ending the Qatar blockade in January 2021, engaging with Turkey, and opening interactions with Iran from April 2021. These regional engagements culminated in the China-brokered accord with Iran in March this year.

The UAE has also normalised ties with Iran and is focusing on expanding its maritime footprint across the Gulf, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. Iran's entry into BRICS is propitious in that, besides its role in the energy sector, it opens up opportunities for accelerated regional economic cooperation, besides the revival of the moribund north-south connectivity projects through the Chabahar port with which India is associated.

While western writers continue to harp on the emerging global binary divide and the "new cold war", India and other BRICS members reject this short-sighted view and insist on asserting their strategic autonomy in a multipolar world order, with member-nations demanding that their voices be heard and their interests respected. It is not surprising, then, that a recent media report described the Johannesburg summit as a "turning point in modern history".

*Talimz Ahmad is a former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates*



### BOOKS: REVIEW

## Book highlights stories of racial resistance and collective action

In a world where the dreams of free citizens are overshadowed by the looming specter of state-sanctioned intolerance and violence, Sonali Kolhatkar's "Rising Up" emerges as a beacon of hope. This timely work delves deep into the personal narratives of racism, challenging the official histories that have long dominated our understanding.

Kolhatkar, with over two decades of journalistic experience, masterfully illustrates the importance of these personal stories in advancing social justice, especially in a U.S. landscape marred by white supremacy. Despite the increasing diversity of its populace, deceptive narratives persist, often sidelining the voices of people of color.

"Rising Up" is not just a book; it's a call to arms. It advocates for a literature of affirmation, emphasizing the power of news media, entertainment, and individual discourse in reshaping the American cultural narrative. Kolhatkar's central proposition is clear: the media must listen, and people must learn to speak in diverse voices.

The book is a testament to the transformative power of words. It champions the idea that through dialogue and participation, society can rebel against those who remain deaf to its cries. Kolhatkar's commitment to social justice advocacy shines through, as she intertwines her liberation with the stories she shares. Her message is one of solidarity, urging readers to rise up against racism together.

Kolhatkar also confronts the deeply ingrained stereotypes that perpetuate violence and discrimination. She challenges the accepted norms, such as the unquestioned reliance on policing, and highlights the systemic racism evident in sectors like Hollywood.

The killing of George Floyd serves as a poignant backdrop, emphasizing the urgent need for change. Kolhatkar echoes the sentiments of Pete Seeger and Agha

**The book is a testament to the transformative power of words. It champions the idea that through dialogue and participation**

Shahid Ali, underscoring the transformative potential of narratives.

In essence, "Rising Up" is a literature of witness. It captures the raw emotions of those marginalized by the powerful. As Brecht aptly puts it, writing the truth in such times requires unparalleled courage, discernment, and judgment.

Kolhatkar's narrative is not just a critique but also a guide. She meticulously maps out the journey of activists, writers, and everyday citizens who have dared to challenge the status quo. Through their stories, readers are introduced to



*Rising Up: The Power of Narrative in Pursuing Racial Justice*  
By Sonali Kolhatkar  
City Lights  
144 pages, Rs 1,461 (Kindle)

the myriad ways in which individuals can make a difference. Each chapter serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, showcasing how, even in the face of adversity, people have found ways to rise up and make their voices heard.

One of the standout features of "Rising Up" is its emphasis on the role of media. Kolhatkar sheds light on the media's complicity in perpetuating harmful stereotypes, but she also highlights its potential as a tool for change. By showcasing examples of media outlets and journalists who have chosen to prioritize stories of resistance and hope, she paints a picture of what ethical journalism can look like. This section serves as a call to action for media professionals to recognize their responsibility

and use their platforms to amplify marginalized voices.

Furthermore, the book delves into the historical context of racial injustice in the U.S., providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of how deeply rooted these issues are. Kolhatkar seamlessly weaves together past and present, illustrating how history continues to shape contemporary realities. By drawing parallels between historical events and current incidents, she underscores the cyclical nature of racial injustice and the importance of continuous vigilance.

Lastly, "Rising Up" is also a celebration of community and solidarity. Throughout the book, Kolhatkar emphasizes the importance of collective action. She showcases the power of communities coming together, united by a shared vision of a more just and equitable world. Through stories of grassroots movements and community-led initiatives, readers are reminded that change is not only possible but achievable when people come together. In a world that often feels divided, "Rising Up" serves as a timely reminder of the power of unity and the potential of collective action.

# Battery Show India 2023 Sparks India's \$150 Billion Energy Revolution

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

Informa Markets India, a B2B event's organizer, is launching "The Battery Show India (TBSI)", a groundbreaking event in advanced battery manufacturing, inspired by the successful Battery Shows in the USA and Europe. TBSI will become India's premier annual gathering for the battery, energy storage, and transportation sectors, co-located with the "Renewable Energy India Expo" from October 4th to 6th, 2023, at the India Expo Centre in Greater Noida. This event bridges renewable energy and energy storage, expecting around 50,000 visitors, and fostering collaboration among industry leaders. Announced and The preview of TBSI Bengaluru highlighted Karnataka's active participation, with 12 premium exhibitors like Siemens, Saint-Gobain, Log 9, and Tessom EV, reinforcing the event's significance.

India's battery market is set for substantial growth, with a



projected 260 GW annually, worth \$15 billion. Government initiatives offer significant investment potential, ranging from \$42 billion to \$150 billion. India targets 30% EV sales by 2030 and 41.5 GW of grid battery capacity by 2029. On its own steam, TBSI is estimated to attract over 200 brands, 8000 trade visitors and 50 speakers including an impressive array of policymakers, decision-makers, influencers, technical experts and professionals.

A distinguished panel of dignitaries in event spoke, including Ketan Chitnis (Business Head - Advanced Cell, L

& T Energy), Pankaj Sharma (Co-Founder, LOG 9 Materials Scientific Pvt Ltd), Vineet Bhatia (Executive Director, Energy and Renewables, Grant Thornton), Ritesh Patterson (General Manager - Performance Plastics and ADFORS, Saint - Gobain), Bhuvan Purohit (Executive Director, Corporate Strategy & Planning, Rubamin Pvt Ltd), Gary Chen (International Business Development Director, Envision Energy), Yogesh Mudras (Managing Director, Informa Markets in India), and Rajneesh Khattar (Senior Group Director, Informa Markets in India).

Emphasizing the importance

of batteries in transforming the energy sector, Vineet Bhatia, Executive Director, Energy and Renewable, Grant Thornton said, "With yearly predictions of 260 GW, the Indian battery business is poised for enormous growth and a sizable \$15 billion market opportunity. This development is projected in a variety of industries, including electric vehicles, grid storage batteries, and behind-the-meter applications. The recent introduction of an energy storage framework and other government initiatives in India highlights the country's enormous investment potential, which ranges from \$42 billion to an astounding \$150 billion. However, difficulties still exist, particularly in obtaining imports of vital minerals like nickel, cobalt, and lithium. Targets haven't been reached despite ongoing efforts to implement recycling and enhanced producer responsibility requirements. In light of this, The Battery Show is crucial in bringing together industry experts to discuss these issues,

promote innovation, and create strong regulations that will support India's energy transformation and fully use the country's expanding battery market."

Focusing on the commitment to reduce carbon emissions, Pankaj Sharma, Co-Founder, LOG 9 Materials Scientific Pvt Ltd said, "Log9, India's foremost battery manufacturer, is known for its technological prowess. We've launched over 5,000 advanced batteries, including India's pioneering 50-mile cell. Our unchanging commitment is to reduce India's reliance on oil imports and trade imbalances. Transitioning from FastChat to Rapid innovation, we aim to revolutionize the battery industry with safety and thermal enhancements, employing 800 experts and 120 patents. Our mission is to lower carbon emissions and build a sustainable, tech-driven India. Log9 is eager to present cutting-edge innovations that are revolutionizing the energy storage industry at The Battery Show India 2023."

## Emerald Finance Limited partners with Genetix Biotech for Early-Wage-Access Facility

KULBIR SINGH KALSI  
Chandigarh

Emerald Finance Limited, an RBI registered NBFC, has partnered with Genetix Biotech Asia Private Limited, a cutting-edge consultant firm in the life-science industry, to offer its Early-Wage-Access program to the employees of Genetix.

Genetix is one of the leading firms in the life-science spectrum in India for the last 30 years. It was at the forefront in the fight against Covid19, and had developed their own RT-PCR Kits and Extraction kit.

"This partnership aims to provide an instant financial relief to the employees by allowing them to access part of their salaries seamlessly throughout the month," says Sandeep Aggarwal, Finance Controller, Genetix Biotech. Whether it is to cover unexpected expenses, address urgent financial obligations, or simply bridge the gap between paychecks, the facility is available at their fingertips.

## Three directors of leading real estate firm lodged in Ambala central jail in money laundering case undergoing treatment in hospital

SATISH HANDA  
Ambala

Three directors of renowned real estate firm M3M including the founder, promoter Basant Bansal, Roop Bansal and Pankaj Bansal allegedly involved in nearly 408 crore money laundering case by enforcement directorate (ED) by transferring funds invested by the customers in real estates business in projects going on at Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab to other accounts. The three were lodged in Ambala Central jail and became medically unwell and admitted in the private air condition rooms under tight Haryana Armed Police security. However, Roop Bansal has been discharged from the hospital. However Pankaj Bansal admitted on 28th August 2023 was stated suffering from the fever, a couple of days after his arrest in money laundering case.

However, Basant Bansal: Roop Bansal were arrested days prior, following ED searches at seven locations in Delhi and Gurugram belonging to the real estate developers. According to



an ED officer, raids were conducted at the residence and office of arrested businessmen at Gurugram. When talked to Supdt. Ambala central jail and Dr. Kuldeep Singh CMO Ambala no one was prepared to say anything about alleged accused. However, founder of M3M real estate firm was admitted in AC room in the civil hospital due to kidney stone pain.

Information reveals, Basant Bansal's arrest came after the Delhi High Court granted him interim protection from arrest till July 5 along with Pankaj Bansal. The court said that in case of an arrest, he would be granted bail subject to certain conditions and a personal bond of Rs 10 lakh. The court's orders came on separate anticipatory bail applications by Basant Bansal and Pankaj Bansal in the case being probed by ED.

## Nishimura & Asahi using Intapp to modernize business operations

PALO ALTO (CALIF.) :

A leading provider of cloud software for the global professional and financial services industry, announced that prominent Japanese law firm Nishimura & Asahi is using Intapp solutions to modernize its risk management and timekeeping practices. The firm is live on Intapp Time, Intapp Conflicts, and Intapp Intake, and anticipates a go-live in Intapp Terms in the coming weeks.

"Our goal with Intapp's software goes beyond digitizing our time and risk processes to create a modern and efficient experience for our lawyers and clients alike," said Hajime Ueno, Chief Technol-

ogy Officer and a Partner at Nishimura & Asahi. "With the move to Intapp, we're building a foundation of contemporary products that will enable us to compete on a global scale, continue our trajectory of international growth, and maximize profitability."

Using Intapp Time, Nishimura enables more precise reporting, automating time tracking, and increasing billing productivity. Nishimura professionals are now capturing work in real time and can evaluate that data against engagement budgets. This helps leadership maximize profitability while providing increased transparency and accuracy to clients.

## Meta partners with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to advance future of Education & Skilling

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru/Delhi

Meta announced a three-year partnership with the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to empower students, educators, and entrepreneurs across India. The partnership brings together Meta's work across education and skilling, mapping the journey of India's students from the classroom to the workforce, press statement said here.

Under the partnership, Meta signed three Letters of Intent (LoI). These were with the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) which is engaged in training, consultancy and research to promote entrepreneurship and skill development in India, the All India



Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a statutory body, and a national-level council for technical education, under the Department of Higher Education and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the national level board of education in India for public and private schools.

Statement said, Speaking on the occasion, Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said the initiative launched today was in furtherance to

# Bengaluru Tech Summit unveils dates for the Next Three Editions

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

The dates for next three editions of Karnataka's flagship event, Bengaluru Tech Summit were announced by Priyank Kharge, Minister for Information Technology, Biotechnology, Rural Development, and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka in a Press Meet. "The 26th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS 2023)" is scheduled to be held from November 29 - December 1, 2023 at the Bangalore Palace in Bengaluru. Dates for the next two Editions were also announced - November 19-21 in both 2024 and 2025. The event Dates for the 2024 and 2025 were announced early to encourage international tech Organizations to plan their participation well in advance. This is a testament to Karnataka's continued commitment to the growth of the sector, while transcending National & international boundaries through collaborations.

Prior to the press meet, a Breakfast Meet was held where Chief Minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah interacted with 100+ CEOs of leading IT, Semiconductor & Electronics and Biotech organizations. Also present at this 2-hour breakfast meet, were D. K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT, Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Biocon Chief and Chairperson, Vision Group on Biotechnology and Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Vision Group on Information Technology. This interactive Meet enabled open dialogue between the Government and Tech Leadership on the backdrop of the upcoming BTS 2023, with discussions focusing on Karnataka's thriving tech ecosystem and the Road ahead.

Underlining this, Priyank Kharge, said, "We take immense pride in highlighting that the State of Karnataka has consistently maintained a pioneering position in cutting-edge research, innovation and technology. This is possible due to close collaboration and interaction with esteemed Industry Stakeholders, Research Fraternity and by fostering the Start-up Ecosystem. Over the years we have established a strong bond with our Global Innovation Alliance Partner Countries. Our shared objective is to amplify the Reputation of Brand Bengaluru."



The interactions were facilitated by leading industry associations like NASSCOM, IESA, TIE and ABLE. With the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2023 just around the corner, from November 29th to December 1st at the grand Bangalore Palace, the city is once again Poised to showcase India's technology strength to the world and engage with globaltech community. In a world where emerging technologies are reshaping the very foundations of Industry and innovation, Bengaluru Tech Summit 2023 stands at the forefront of this Transformation with the focal theme: Breaking Boundaries which encapsulates the Spirit of innovation, disruption, & exploration across geographies and industries.

Underlining this, Priyank Kharge, said, "We take immense pride in highlighting that the State of Karnataka has consistently maintained a pioneering position in cutting-edge research, innovation and technology. This is possible due to close collaboration and interaction with esteemed Industry Stakeholders, Research Fraternity and by fostering the Start-up Ecosystem. Over the years we have established a strong bond with our Global Innovation Alliance Partner Countries. Our shared objective is to amplify the Reputation of Brand Bengaluru."

mit 2023 will feature a diverse and enriching Event Spectrum, encompassing a Multi-Track Conference on IT & Electronics, Deep Tech, Start-Ups & Biotech, an International Exhibition, Global Innovation Alliance, India-USA Tech Conclave, India Innovation Alliance, R&D-Lab2Market, B2B Meetings, STPI IT Export Awards, Smart Bio Awards, Startup Recognition, Rural IT Quiz, Bio Quiz, and Bio Posters.

The Multi-Track Conference at BTS 2023 will include focus areas like Emerging Tech including AI & DeepTech, Quantum Computing & 6G, Semiconductors and Electronics Manufacturing, Gaming & e-Sports, Future Mobility, Climate Tech, Social Entrepreneurship, Biotech for sustainability and Health Tech Innovations. There will be focused discussions to explore India's GCC landscape, Upskilling of India's Tech Talent and the VC ecosystem. Large delegations from the Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) Partner nations are expected to participate in the event. The GIA track in the Conference will have 17 engaging sessions curated by the partner nations, some of the confirmed countries include Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Poland, the Netherlands, Austria as well as EU.

## Textile Industry in India holds the potential to reduce over 4.5 bn MT Carbon by adopting solar power solutions: Loom Solar



KULBIR SINGH KALSI  
Chandigarh

Confirming to India's Net Zero mission, Loom Solar has been in the process of educating and working on the agenda across India with all potential sectors to reduce carbon footprint for their energy consumption, and textile and fashion cloth manufacturing industrial units being one of the prime contributors to that has been one of the focus segments for the company as it holds a potential of reducing 4.5 metric tonnes of carbon which equals to 7 bn fully grown trees.

Loom Solar has been deploying and engaging with the Industrial units across Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal under green energy ambit

by providing in-depth understanding of the purpose and the India's mission for carbon footprint.

Continuing with its focus, Loom Solar has recently deployed 350kW solar powered solution with its most efficient solar panels to reflect its long-term corrective action, thereby reducing dependence on captive power through diesel genset for its premises.

The currently deployed unit boasts of an array of 700 solar panels, that are slated to reduce its electricity bill by 60% and with the coupling of diesel genset's synchronization device making solar power as a primary source shall effectively have an impact on the environment over its lifetime.

## KRAFTON India Announces Bollywood Superstar Ranveer Singh as BGMI's Brand Ambassador

NEW DELHI: In a landmark move, KRAFTON India is thrilled to announce an exciting collaboration that is set to redefine the gaming landscape in India. Bollywood's powerhouse and youth icon, Ranveer Singh, has been named the official Brand Ambassador for BATTLEGROUND MOBILE INDIA (BGMI). This strategic partnership aims to bring



together the thrill of gaming and the charisma of Superstar Ranveer Singh to engage and deliver elevated experiences for millions of gamers across the country.

The collaboration between BGMI and Superstar Ranveer Singh is a monumental stride towards celebrating gaming as a medium for immersive entertainment and community engagement. BGMI, India's most loved battle royale title, has found its perfect partner in Superstar Ranveer Singh, who resonates with the energy and passion that gamers bring to the battlegrounds.

# Decarbonising the building industry with Solar Decathlon India

PRASAD  
VAIDYA

If you take a look around, chances are you'll find things made out of concrete, steel, or aluminium. You'd have to go into a forest to not find these materials around you. But making them contributes to 23% of global carbon emissions. We use them to make our buildings. And to achieve our climate goals, we need to reduce and stop the emissions related to these materials. While buildings generate nearly 40% of annual energy related carbon emissions globally, about a third of those are 'embodied', and the rest are from the use of electricity and fuels to operate our buildings. The carbon emitted with the energy and heat that is used to make building materials are called embodied carbon emissions.

India is the third largest carbon emitter in the world. About 20% of the country's carbon emissions are from buildings. In the next 2 decades, these emissions will rise by 50%, the largest for any country.



Solar Decathlon India (SDI), the world's largest net-zero building design challenge, is actively bridging the gap. SDI's challenge partners student teams with developers to work on real projects to make their net-zero and decarbonise their construction. Since 2020, SDI has built a large ecosystem of students and professionals. In the nine-month challenge, participants are work on ten contests that cover diverse areas that reflect the expectations of market-ready, climate resilient, and net-zero building projects.

During this period, the built floorspace in India will double. The demand for cement will also double, the demand for steel will triple, and that for bricks will increase by 3 to 4 times. The demand for space cooling will grow 8 times!

Buildings last for 50 or more years, and our building decisions have a 50-year lock-in effect. So today's building decisions, and every year from now, will determine if India's achieves its 2070 goal of net-zero. For decarbonising our buildings we have to zero out both the operational and embodied emissions. This is a mammoth challenge that requires many players to come together for a sustainable future. Architects, civil engineers, contractors, and material manufacturers have the opportunity to address this

problem. However, the industry has been slow to act, and the academic curriculum does not prepare future professionals for this.

Solar Decathlon India (SDI), the world's largest net-zero building design challenge, is actively bridging the gap. SDI's challenge partners student teams with developers to work on real projects to make their net-zero and decarbonise their construction. Since 2020, SDI has built a large ecosystem of students and professionals. In the nine-month challenge, participants are work on ten contests that cover diverse areas that reflect the expectations of market-ready, climate resilient, and net-zero building projects.

In 3rd edition of SDI participants were challenged to reduce embodied carbon in the

building materials they chose. To help the students, they were offered an online self-learning module dedicated to embodied carbon, that included the foundational science and methods. They were given an easy-to-use tool for calculating embodied carbon empowering them to run what-if scenarios. These learning resources were developed after research and testing of different technologies by the SDI organisers.

The results were remarkable. Over 1700 students from 126 institutions were guided by 170 faculty mentors to learn sustainable building science and propose low carbon solutions. The 36 finalist teams proposed designs that reduced embodied carbon by 80% in walls, 75% in roofs, 55% in floors, 80% in windows, and 40% in structure.

The work done by Team Green Collars from RV College of Architecture, RV College of Engineering, and RV University is an example of the exceptional performance. They worked on Ekagra, a Delhi Public School project for Gyaandeep Foundation for project site is located in Nagaon, a flood-prone area in Assam that is also exposed

to earthquakes. Team Green Collars developed design strategies to build resilience against these hazards. With a combination of passive design, RCC and bamboo structure, and high efficiency cooling systems, they achieved a net-zero energy and water design that also reduced embodied carbon by 124% for walls and 47% for structure.

SDI also involves the real estate industry. They collaborate as 'Project Partners', where they access creativity of students, expertise of their mentors, and net-zero solutions on their projects while the students get the experience of working on real projects. The 2022-23 challenge saw 83 project partners and Mahindra Lifespaces, Sobha Ltd., TATA Realty, and Infosys became Empanelled Project Partners with a commitment to a long-term association with SDI. They are committed to hiring SDI alumni to work in their organisations.

"Mahindra Lifespaces is an active partner of SDI since its inception. We are happy to offer our projects and guidance to young professionals who participate in SDI to develop net-zero projects. SDI interns have

added tremendous value to our net-zero journey," says Sunita Purshottam, Head of Sustainability at Mahindra Lifespaces.

But what about the all the existing buildings that were built in efficiently and some that will continue to be built that way in the future? How can we retrofit them? SDI has introduced a product division for its 2023-24 cycle that could possibly touch all of us. While heat stress has become more frequent and the need for cooling grows with climate change, only 10% Indian households have air-conditioning. The product division challenges students to develop innovative solutions that could be purchased off-the-shelf and installed in existing residences. It invites new engineering approaches to bring retrofit cooling solutions to all of us, addressing the need for cooling, and making cooling more efficient.

SDI is an example of what can be achieved when we unite to tackle the most pressing problems and use the power of education, innovation, and collaboration for a greener, more sustainable future.

Prasad Vaidya, Director  
Solar Decathlon India.  
Views are personal

## IIT-Delhi Concludes Poker and Rummy are Games of Skill

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Delhi

Distinguished IIT-Delhi professor Tapan K. Gandhi, Cadence Chair Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Automation along with his team recently conducted an extensive study affirming that Poker and Rummy are games of skill. The study "Online Poker and Rummy- Game of Skill or Chance?" reinforces the importance of cognitive and other skills required for success in Poker and Rummy. It further analysed the impact of experience and learnable skills in the game and the role it plays in the player's long-term success in the Sport, Press statement released here said.

Commenting on the report, Tapan K. Gandhi, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Cadence Chair Pro-



fessor of AI and Automation, IIT Delhi said, "Amidst ongoing conversations around online gaming and biased perception terming it as a taboo owing to preconceived notions, the exhaustive study examines the game play of various players to understand if the game in reality focuses on skill or element of luck prevails. Throughout our research, we were presented with compelling cases that made it clear that these sports indeed require a level of innate understanding that aided in building the cognitive abilities of the players.

## Bank of Baroda enables UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across country

Bank said it is the first public sector bank to launch UPI ATMs, in coordination with NPCI and powered by NCR Corporation

**NEW DELHI:** State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Friday announced that it has enabled the UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across the country.

It is the first public sector bank to launch UPI ATMs, in coordination with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and powered by NCR Corporation, BoB said in a statement.



Customers as well as customers of all participating issuer banks using any UPI-enabled Mobile app can withdraw cash from Bank of Baroda UPI ATMs without using their debit card, it said.

Using the Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) technology, which facilitates cardless cash withdrawals through ATMs, the UPI ATM enables seamless QR-based cash withdrawals,

doing away with the need to carry a Card to withdraw cash.

Joydeep Dutta Roy, Executive Director, BoB said, "The UPI ATM facility is a convenient and secure way for people to withdraw cash without the use of a card. The UPI ATM marries the popularity & security of UPI with the extensive reach & availability of ATMs."

"Some of the major benefits of the UPI ATM facility is that customers can withdraw cash from multiple accounts linked to UPI. UPI ATM transactions are also quicker, convenient, and secured as it generates a single-use dynamic QR code for every transaction and ensures a safe banking experience," the Bank said.

## Panasonic to invest another Rs 300 cr in Andhra facility by 2026, aims higher exports from India



**VARANASI:** Panasonic Electric Works India (PEWIN) will invest another Rs 300 crore to increase capacity at its unit in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, company officials said on Friday. The Japanese company is looking to use the facility for exports and will primarily target the Middle East and African markets, they told reporters here. "We have invested Rs 300 crore as part of the first phase of the project, and will be investing another Rs 300 crore by 2026," PEWIN Director for power business unit, Rajesh Nandwani, said. At present, the overall production capacity of the company, which operates plants in Daman and Haridwar as well, is 62 crore pieces per year, which will grow to 70 crore by 2025 and 100 crore by 2030, Nandwani said. The company produces various products such as switches and switchboards. PEWIN Managing Director Yoshiyuki Kato said the company's revenues stood at Rs 5,100 crore in FY23, and is aiming to increase it three times by 2030 because of the opportunities it sees here.

## States use PM GatiShakti approach to connect Industrial Regions

**NEWDELHI:** The States and UTs are extensively using the PM GatiShakti approach for planning connectivity to Industrial Regions, said Special Secretary (Logistics), DPIIT, Sumita Dawra.

Reviewing a meeting convened for the Western and Central Zones States/UTs of India, she said the state governments are also using this approach for selecting the location of social infrastructure assets, such as anganwadis, schools, hospitals, etc.

States/UTs are integrating their existing development programmes/schemes with the GIS-based NMP/SMP to achieve



better planning, she added.

"For instance, the State of UP, integrated its Pahunch portal with the SMP, for effective decision-making about site suitability of new schools, based on various parameters like population, connectivity, teacher-pupil ratio, etc.

Similarly, the Gujarat Government used the PMGS for planning its coastal corridor to promote tourism. State of Goa planned the disaster management/evacuation route during floods to minimize loss of life, using the PMGS NMP/SMP portals," she said.

# Status of Hindi in Banking Sector



SATISH SINGH

There has been an unprecedented upsurge in the use of Hindi in the seven decades after independence, for which there have been many reasons, in which market power has been the most important, but Hindi has not yet become the working language in banks, however, the situation is better than before. The employees who have bond to Hindi language must do mail or correspondence in Hindi. As per the instructions of the bank, Mangal or Unicode font of Hindi has been installed in all the computers, so that the willing bankers can work in Hindi. With this initiative of the banks, working in Hindi has become easier.

Hindi is the language of communication of banks in northern, eastern, and central India, because the spoken language of the customers of these regions is Hindi. Hence, Hindi is the language of the bank personnel who communicate with the customers. Similarly, in states where Hindi is not the language, banks appoint bankers who are able to communicate in the local language or dialect.

However, even today Hindi is not the scripting language of the bankers. Internal correspondence is done in English. Even note, remarks, memo etc., are written in English. There are very few exceptions in the matter. Bank employees do correspondence in Hindi outside the bank only when a letter is received by them from other office or customer in Hindi.

Due to the provisions of the Official Languages Act, banks have made available the option of Hindi to the customers in the use of technology. Today, the option of choosing Hindi is available in the operation of many apps, passbook printing, ATM machine etc. If the customer wishes, the passbook may be printed in Hindi by choosing the option of Hindi; With choosing Hindi option, you can also withdraw money from ATM machine or any app of the bank can be used in Hindi, but most of the customers use technical devices or apps related to banking in English instead of Hindi. While they do not even have knowledge of English. There is a need for change in such a state.

Banks are making continuous efforts for the promotion of Hindi. In this matter, it is also the responsibility of the common man that they should not be ashamed of working in Hindi. No one becomes illiterate or stupid by communicating or writing in Hindi. Since banks have provided the facility to opt for Hindi in the use of technology to promote Hindi, therefore, whether the customers are opting for Hindi or not, banks should also be concerned, and customers should be encouraged to do banking work in Hindi.

The work being done in Hindi is reviewed every quarter in the regional, administrative, local head offices and corporate offices of the banks. Statistically all the departments achieve the target of working in Hindi, nevertheless, the situation is dismal. Some departments do correspond in Hindi, but no one writes notes in Hindi. If someone wants to write, then



the top executive does not sign on the same.

Mangal font or Unicode is installed on the computer desktop of all employees and officers to meet the standards set by the parliamentary committee reviewing the progress of Hindi. The heads of the departments confirm this, but, except Hindi Sevi, none of the employees and officers work in Hindi on computers.

The condition of Hindi in banks is so bad that no senior officials want to discuss or talk in Hindi internally. Hindi is considered the language of employees and junior officers in banks. Nonetheless, bank personnel in all branches in many regions of the country have to speak Hindi, as customers communicate in Hindi.

Today many customers in South India also communicate in Hindi. Especially in big cities. Despite this, the employees and officers posted in the bank's branch do internal correspondence in English. Since the nationalization of banks, English has remained dominant in banks.

To a large extent, the top executives of banks are responsible for the present plight of Hindi in banks, because they themselves

do not work in Hindi, as well as the bankers who are working or want to work in Hindi at lower levels. Sometimes those who work in Hindi are also punished. It is common in banks to harass the employees and officers working in Hindi. Employees who communicate in Hindi are looked down upon.

Broadly speaking, everyone in banks is doing all banking related work in English. Even if, they do not have knowledge of English. Due to compulsion, the officers of the bank are ready to write, read or speak in Hindi. They eat bread of Hindi and remain stuck in the love of English. Their love for English is so unbreakable that their children are educated in convent schools.

Hindi has become the language of translation in banks. Various departments of the bank work in English, but to comply with the rules of the official language, they get it translated into Hindi from the official language department. If seen, the official language department of banks does the work of translation only. However, many times the meaning gets lost in translation.

Because banking terminology is very difficult and transla-

## Legislation introduced in US House to remove high-tech export barriers to India

**WASHINGTON:** As President Joe Biden visited New Delhi, two powerful lawmakers have introduced legislation in the US House of Representatives to remove high-tech export barriers to India to give a big boost to the unrestricted export of sensitive technologies to the country and bolster bilateral technology cooperation.

The legislation was introduced on Friday by Congressmen Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Andy Barr, vice chair of the House India Caucus.

"The Technology Exports to India Act" aims to facilitate the sale of high-performance computers and related equipment to India and strengthen United States-India technology cooperation.

"As President Biden visits India for the G-20 Summit, we are happy to introduce the 'Technology Exports to India Act' to bolster technology cooperation between the United States and India," the two lawmakers said in a joint statement.

"This bill removes restrictions on the sale of US products, such as digital computers and electronic assemblies, to India without a Department of Commerce license, thereby enhancing US-India technology trade, linkages between our technology companies, and supply chain resilience for a critical industry," they wrote.

"In light of the further



strengthening of our strategic partnership with India, this legislative change reduces regulatory barriers to technology cooperation," Meeks and Barr said.

The bill says Congress feels that greater technological and defence cooperation with India is critical to tackling shared geopolitical and security challenges.

As such it is important to reduce regulatory barriers to technological cooperation with India in ways that enhance national security and advance strategic priorities, the bill says.

The bill says President Biden providing flexibility to export high-performance computers to India would bolster United States-India technological cooperation and demonstrate Congress's commitment to India as a strategic partner.

As such, removing India from the "Computer Tier 3" eligible countries' list in section 740.7(d) of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations would help to strengthen the bilateral relationship, the bill says.

Noting that the United States designated India a US Major Defence Partner, providing it access to a wide range of military and dual-use items regulated by the Department of Commerce, the bill says for the items controlled for national security reasons by the Department of Commerce, India is subject to a general policy of approval for licenses for civil or military end uses in India or for the Government of India so long as the items are not for nuclear, missile or chemical or biological activities.

However, currently, the export of high-performance computers meeting certain specifications to India requires authorisation of the United States Government under section 1211 of the National Defence Authorisation Act for Fiscal Year 1998.

The US President does not have the authority to remove or delete India from the excluded Computer Tier 3 eligible country list. The bill once passed by Congress would help facilitate that.

## Centre may explore green masala bonds, InVITs to meet long-term renewable energy capacity investment



**NEW DELHI:** The Central government's target of scaling up its renewable energy capacity to 500 Gigawatt (GW) by 2030 will require an investment of Rs 17 lakh crore for long-term commitments, and it may explore green masala bonds and infrastructure investment trusts (InVITs).

However, this would also include associated transmission costs and the country would need an annual investment of Rs 1.5-2 lakh crore in renewable energy sector, against which the estimated investment for the last few years has been in the range of Rs 75,000 crore only.

To meet this huge gap between the required and actual investment, and the fact that the overall debt requirement is large and reducing the cost of financing to the renewable energy developers is important, the renewable energy ministry aims to work towards exploring innovative financing mechanisms.

According to sources, it is likely to look at alternative funding avenues like infrastructure development fund (IDF), infrastructure investment trusts (InVITs), alternate investment funds, green masala bonds and even crowd funding for the renewable energy sector.

Apart from this, the ministry may also explore the possibility of prescribing renewable finance obligation on the lines of renewable purchase obligation for banks and financial institutions in order to make them invest a specific percentage of their investment in the renewable energy sector, sources aware of development said.

Since green banks have emerged as an innovative tool for accelerating clean energy financing globally, the government may also explore setting up of a green bank system, which can address the persisting finance related challenges being faced by the renewable energy sector in the country.

## Global Biofuels Alliance likely to be launched at G20: Sources

**NEW DELHI:** India's proposal for setting up a Global Biofuels Alliance is likely to get through at the G20 summit with sources indicating that the new grouping may be launched on Saturday to help accelerate energy transition.

A group photo of the G20 world leaders may take place on the first day of the summit on Saturday after it begins at Bharat Mandapam, the venue for the two-day summit, sources said. The Global Biofuels Alliance, which the world's third biggest oil consumer wants to push during its G20 presidency, mirrors the International Solar Alliance (ISA) piloted by New Delhi and Paris in 2015 to bring clean and affordable solar energy within the reach of all.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told



to media in an exclusive interview that India's proposal for a global alliance on biofuels among members of the Group of 20 major economies will help accelerate sustainable biofuels deployment in support of the global energy transition.

"Such alliances are aimed at creating options for developing countries to advance their energy transitions," he had said. "Biofuels are also important

from the perspective of a circular economy. Markets, trade, technology, and policy - all aspects of international cooperation are crucial in creating such opportunities," Modi had said.

Biofuel is a renewable source of energy which is derived from biomass. India, which imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs, is gradually building capacity to produce fuel from items including crop stubble,

plant waste and municipal solid waste. While India is on schedule to double the mixing of ethanol extracted from sugarcane and agriculture waste to 20 per cent with petrol by 2025, dozens of compressed biogas (CBG) plants are being set up.

The Global Biofuels Alliance is aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector. Its focus is primarily on strengthening markets, facilitating global biofuel trade, developing concrete policy lesson-sharing and providing technical support for national biofuel programmes worldwide. Such an initiative is also aimed at helping India's transition to alternative fuels and cutting its import bill, as it seeks to achieve its net zero carbon emissions goal by 2070.

## Froth accumulating in small cap stocks segment: Analysts

**NEW DELHI:** There is froth in the small-cap segment which is driven by momentum, says V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

The market has turned excessively volatile responding to fast changing incoming data. DIIs have been consistent buyers on the back of good flows to domestic mutual funds. But FIIs have been consistently selling in the cash market this month with a net sell figure of Rs 7,850 crore, he added.

The FII selling has been triggered by the rising US bond yields and the strengthening dollar. With the yield from the US 10-year at 4.29 per cent and 2-year at 5 per cent, the FIIs are



likely to sell further impacting market sentiments, he said. A major concern in the market is the Brent crude rising above \$90 with negative implications for India's macros and inflation.

Investors may exercise caution and on correction buy only high quality stocks, preferably in banking, IT and capital goods, he said. BSE Sensex is up 50 points at 65,931 points on Thursday morning. L&T is up almost 2 per cent.

## India, US settles last trade dispute at WTO

**NEW DELHI:** India and the US have settled the last trade dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over poultry products, according to a joint statement released on Friday.

With this, the two countries have mutually resolved all the seven pending trade disputes at the WTO. "The leaders lauded the settlement of the seventh and last outstanding WTO dispute between India and the United States. This follows the unprecedented settlement of six outstanding bilateral trade disputes in the WTO in June 2023," the joint statement said.

It was issued after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Joseph R Biden, Jr., here. Biden is here to attend the G20 Summit to be held on Saturday and Sunday. Modi and the US President vowed to "deepen and diversify" the bilateral major defence partnership while welcoming forward movement in India's

procurement of 31 drones and joint development of jet engines.

In their over 50-minute talks, the two leaders deliberated on India's G20 presidency, cooperation in nuclear energy, critical and emerging technologies such as 6G and artificial intelligence, and ways to fundamentally reshape multilateral development banks. Earlier, the seventh dispute was discussed during the visit of US Trade Representative Katherine Tai's meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal meeting last month here. They had tasked their respective teams with continuing discussions on this dispute in order to reach a solution soon.

During Modi's visit to the US in June, the two countries announced ending of six trade disputes at the WTO and India's removal of tariffs on certain US products (chickpeas, lentils, almonds, walnuts, apples, boric acid, and diagnostic reagents).

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

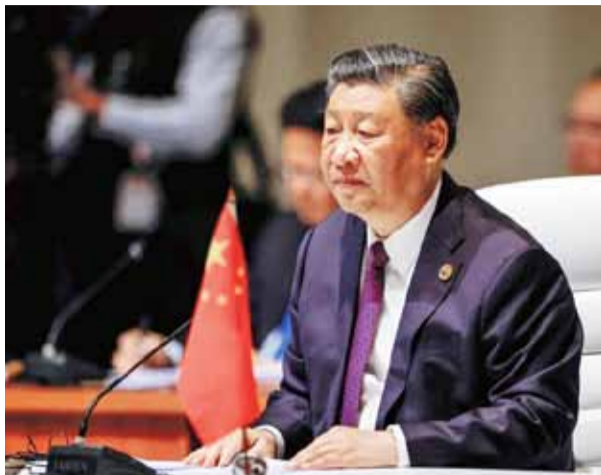
# INTERNATIONAL

## India plays down Chinese Prez Xi's absence from G20 summit

**NEW DELHI** : India on Friday played down the absence of Chinese president Xi Jinping from the G20 summit and apprehensions on the Ukraine conflict derailing talks, by saying that its presidency of the grouping has managed to bring all nations on board and this would be on display during the summit over the next two days.

Addressing the pre-G20 summit press conference, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said that China is a multilateral player and in a multilateral discussion, the issues are different from bilateral issues.

"China brings its own perspective on issues of growth and development. However in such events, there has to be a consensus and everybody has to be on board, since every nation has a veto power. We have managed to bring everybody on board. We have worked with every single country



and brought them on board, which you will see during the course of the summit." Kant said while responding to questions relating to Xi's absence in any way undermining the significance of the event.

On a question of Ukraine conflict derailing the G20 summit, the Sherpa said: "G20 is a

forum for discussing issues of growth and development. However, the last time in Bali (G20 summit), it was felt that war and conflict impact economy and growth so it was discussed. Here too, it may be discussed, but the leaders will have to take a call on the agenda. Once the leaders discuss it, I can talk about it."

## Kim Jong-un may choose unexpected route to Russia: S.Korean intelligence



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may opt for an unexpected route when he travels to Russia for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin, according to South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS).

Earlier this week, The New York Times had reported that Kim plans to travel to Vladivostok, possibly by an armoured train, later this month for talks with Putin about the possibility of supplying Russia with more weaponry for its ongoing war in Ukraine and other military cooperation.

"As it was revealed to the New York Times, there is a possibility of Kim Jong-un making a surprise move by

choosing a different route than what is expected," Yonhap News Agency quoted an NIS official as saying during a parliamentary intelligence committee meeting on Thursday.

During the meeting, NIS Director Kim Kyou-hyun said the agency is closely monitoring the planned visit and sharing intelligence with other national spy agencies as a summit between the North and Russia would have a big effect on the international situation.

The New York Times report said a delegation of some 20 North Korean officials traveled to Vladivostok in late August.

"One potential stop for Mr. Kim after Vladivostok, an official said, is Vostochny Cosmodrome, a space launch centre," said the report, noting North Korea may be seeking to secure advanced technology for satellites and nuclear-powered submarines from Russia in exchange of its weapons.

## G-20 Booklet: Indian Govt highlights the lessons of Democracy, Public Welfare from Ramayana & Mahabharata



**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA**  
New Delhi

Buddhism in India. Gautama Buddha's teachings emphasize the direction of democracy and claim that even in ancient India, democracy was an integral part of society. The booklet mentions the participation of a large number of citizens in various elections in independent India. The booklet portrays India as the 'Mother of Democracy'. Above it is the well-known image of the Indus civilization standing with her hands on her waist. Indus Civilization, Ramayana-Mahabharata, Maurya Emperor Ashoka, Chhatrapati Shivaji and even Mughal Emperor Akbar have been found in it. The booklet contains the hymns of the Rigveda. How words such as Sabha, Samiti or Sangsad used in various old books including Vedas are currently used to refer to the Indian Parliament, have been presented in a total of 16 languages.

The G-20 Summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10 so it is busy dressing up now in Delhi. To highlight the greatness of Indian democracy in front of the guests, two booklets with a long history have been printed out by the Narendra Modi government. They are, 'India, the Mother of Democracy' and 'Elections in India'. The talk of democracy in Ramayana yug has come up in it. It is written that King Dasharatha nominated the then yuvraj Rama as his heir only with the approval of his ministers. Bhisma's suggestion of good governance to Yudhishtira from Sharasaiya means Arrow bed in Mahabharata, talking about the welfare of the people, is also claimed to be in line with the spirit of democracy.

The next part of the booklet deals with the arrival of

## Biden 'disappointed' Xi won't attend G20 Summit in New Delhi

US President Joe Biden has expressed his "disappointment" over his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's likely absence at this week's G20 Summit in New Delhi.

According to news reports, Chinese Premier Li Qiang is expected to represent China at the summit which will take place from September 8 to 10 in the Indian capital, reports the BBC. "I am disappointed... but I am going to get to see him," Biden told reporters on Sunday, without providing any further details. The last time the two Presidents met was at the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia in 2022.

Xi had earlier said he would travel to New Delhi for the Summit, but China's Foreign Ministry did not confirm his attendance when asked to do so at a regular press briefing on August 31. Xi and Biden may still have an opportunity to speak in November, at a meeting among leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in San Francisco, the BBC reported.

## UK MPs urge Sunak to call for release of British Sikh held in India

A group of more than 70 MPs cutting across party lines have called on UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to seek "immediate release" of a British Sikh imprisoned in India, as he travels to New Delhi to attend the G20 leaders' summit this week.

In a letter, the MPs urged Sunak to call on Prime Minister



Narendra Modi to "immediately release" Jagtar Singh Johal, who has been "arbitrarily detained"

for over five years in India, the BBC reported.

Johal from Dumbarton was in Punjab for his wedding when he was arrested in Jalandhar on November 4, 2017, over his alleged role in killings by the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), a banned terrorist organisation.

## Int'l Student Raises £100,000 for Pb & Hry Floods

In July 2023, the regions of Panjab and Haryana faced severe floods due to heavy and continuous rainfall. Responding swiftly, Khalsa Aid India immediately organised emergency relief efforts, extending a helping hand to those affected by the floods.

Our dedicated volunteers have been on the ground for

over 48 days, tirelessly working to assist the communities. In the past month alone, 18 teams of volunteers have carried out rescue operations, reaching out to stranded individuals and delivering essential food and clean water to villages throughout Panjab and Haryana.

## Ahead of Khalistan referendum, another Hindu temple defaced in Canada

**TORONTO** : In a latest attack on Hindu places of worship in Canada, a prominent temple in the British Columbia province has been vandalised with anti-India and pro-Khalistan graffiti.

The outer walls of Shree Mata Bhameshwari Durga Society Mandir in Surrey were spray painted on Thursday with slogans reading, "Punjab is not India" and "Modi is a terrorist".

"A Hindu temple Shree Mata Bhameshwari Durga Devi Society has been vandalised with black spray paint. These kinds of cowardly attacks are on rise



to create terror amongst the community," Sameer Kaushal, News Director at Radio AM600 in Richmond, wrote on X. Kaushal said that the Sur-

rey detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have been notified about the incident.

The development comes just ahead of a Khalistan Referendum event, scheduled for September 10, and threats from banned group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) to "lock down" India's Consulate in Vancouver.

The referendum event, sched-

uled to take place at a school in Surrey, was cancelled after images of weapons on the poster were brought to the school authorities' notice by concerned residents.

The poster featured a kirpan (dagger) as well as an AK-47 machine gun, along with the name of SFJ.

It also had pictures of Khalistani leaders Hardip Singh Nijjar, who was shot dead in June at a parking lot in Surrey and Talwinder Singh Parmar, the mastermind of the 1985 Air India Flight bombing.

## SGPC to establish a press in USA to publish holy saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib

**JAGMOHAN SINGH**  
Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has decided to establish its press in the United States of America (USA) and publish the holy saroops (scriptures) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. This press will be established in Tracy city of California, where the Dharam Prachar Kendra (religious preaching center) of the SGPC will also be functioning. Moreover, a religious preaching center will also be set up in Yuba City in the USA. This decision has been taken in the SGPC's executive committee (EC) meeting held today under the chairmanship of SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami at the Sikh body's office in Amritsar.

Addressing the press conference after the EC meeting, SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami said that the late Didar Singh Bains gave 14.5 acres of land to the SGPC at Yuba City, where activities will be started by building a Dharam Prachar Kendra. Along with this, another center of SGPC will be established in Tracy city of California as per the offer made by non-resident Indian Sikh Gian Singh Sandhu of Canada and eminent businessman Karnail Singh Sandhu of USA. A press will also be set up at this center in Tracy to publish holy saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in order to provide them as per the demand from the



community in USA and Canada. He said that Gurdwaras will also be established in these two centers and the Sangat will also get religious literature there.

He informed that as per the demand of the Sangat in Australia, the SGPC will ship 220 holy saroops as per Maryada by the sea in a special bus. The SGPC President said that these decisions have been taken in view of the huge demand for holy saroops from the Sikh community across the globe.

Giving information about other decisions of the EC, the SGPC President said that Sri Guru Ramdas Library situated in the complex of Sri Darbar Sahib Sri Amritsar will be digitized and a separate website of this library will be prepared and the titles and indexes of important books will be published on it. The purpose of this development is to familiarize the researchers with the literary treasures in this library so that they can use the books available here for their research work as per their needs. He said that this library was established in the year 1927 and at present it has a large number of important books.

Dharami said that the SGPC has also decided to launch a campaign to make Guru's city Sri Amritsar clean and green. He said that the present Punjab government has failed to keep the city clean and green by neglecting the religious importance of Sri Amritsar. Because of this, the SGPC will work to make the passages leading to Sri Darbar Sahib and its surroundings beautiful and green.

He also said that keeping in view of the Panthic contribution of former head granthi of Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib Giani Jagtar Singh and Sikh historian Swaran Singh Chuslewarh, their portraits will be installed in the Central Sikh Museum. Apart from this, Kunwar Amritbir Singh, a 21-year-old Sikh youth from Umransgar village in Gurdaspur district, will be honoured with an amount of Rs 51,000 for making a world record of doing 86 pushups on fingers in one minute and breaking the record of Bruce Lee.

## Chuhang Technology showcases industry-leading radar innovations at IAA 2023

**MUNICH (GERMANY)** : Chuhang Technology ("Chuhang"), a pioneer in millimeter-wave sensing radars, will exhibit a full range of new technology at the IAA Mobility trade show held between Sept. 4 to Sept. 8 in Munich, Germany. The highlight of these radar innovations is a new cabin sensing suite based on its 60 GHz vital sensor developed in partnership with emotion3D.

"We are thrilled to present the distillation of our hard work in the international spotlight," said Chu Yongyan, Chief Executive Officer of Chuhang Technology. "IAA is one of the most prestigious gatherings of the transportation industry, and our presence here represents our dedication to enhancing the capabilities of next-generation radar. Chuhang's attendance at IAA 2023 is the first time it

has exhibited outside of China, notching a milestone in its international expansion. Founded in 2017, Chuhang has reached rapid success across its business verticals. It's now poised to execute the next phase of its expansion strategy.

Chuhang specializes in the R&D, production and manufacturing of advanced sensing solutions, having developed a suite of active radar systems that offer superior reliability, compliance, cost-effectiveness, and ease of integration. It became China's first millimeter-wave radar technology company to receive investment from FORVIA, the merger between HELLA and Faurecia, and has successfully graduated from accelerator programs by Tencent and Nvidia.

Reliability, safety and integration underscore Chuhang's commitment to proactively

## Indian Traditional Medicine Systems in G20 - Reassuring Evidence and Equity

**SARBANANDA SONOWAL**

Today the world recognizes India as a treasure

trove of a continuum of traditional knowledge in the field of affordable and evidence-based healthcare facilities, mainly due to its demonstrated efficacy in Ayurveda and Yoga. India's G20 presidency provided a golden chance to showcase this efficacy more intimately to world leaders and healthcare experts in a very focused manner. The Ministry of Ayush actively participated in all relevant deliberations to communicate to the global community how traditional healthcare sciences of India have been performing to negotiate the ever-growing challenges of humanity and the environment while remaining focused to SDG 3 of "Good Health and Wellbeing."

It is quite evident now that the health seeking behaviors of global community have changed drastically after COVID and it has shifted towards Holistic Health and Well-being. Providing high quality, affordable and accessible healthcare services in an equitable manner is what the humanity needs now. Various initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush during last 9 years have infused modern technological tools and modern methodologies in various traditional medicine systems which has resulted in tremendous growth of the evidence-based Ayush sector as a whole.

It would be pertinent to remind that during the third session of G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi mentioned the 5 A's with respect to health services - Accessible, Affordable, Appropriate, Accountable and Adaptable. The Ministry of Ayush has been persistently contributing along these dimensions and during the wider discussions under the G20 presidency of India the ministry demonstrated at various events/seminars that it has all the requisite wherewithal to (a) promote global collaboration and cooperation within G20 countries for R&D and standardize regulatory guidelines for Traditional Medicine; (b) engage stakehold-

ers from the industry to facilitate knowledge sharing, capacity building and best practices. The ministry worked closely with various G20 engagement and Working Groups to identify potential areas of collaboration and partnerships.

The Health Working Group under G20 is established to enhance dialogue and inform G20 leaders on important global health issues and the group works towards achieving equitable health for the present and future generations. The Ayush Ministry proactively participated in all the Health Working Group events during India's presidency. All this culminated in the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 17-18 August. The summit was a huge success in terms of participation, exchange of ideas and experiences; and charting out future strategies both for the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat and the WHO TM Strategy 2025-35 document.

Appreciating the efforts of the government of India in traditional medicine, Dr. Tedros, DG, WHO reaffirmed the undeniable contribution of India in TM during this global summit. Its noteworthy that the outcome document of this global summit is going to be shortly declared by the WHO as Gujarat Declaration.

Recently, a stock taking exercise was undertaken by the Ministry of Ayush under the chairmanship of G20 sherpa, Amitabh Kant in July in Delhi. The meeting focused on endeavours of the Ministry of Ayush in promoting Ayush systems of medicine at global level through G20. While suggesting the infusion of innovative technologies and novel approaches within the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM), Amitabh Kant elaborated how infusion would modernize traditional practices and enhance their effectiveness, leading to broader acceptance and utilization of traditional medicine. He underlined the need for better collaboration among stakeholders to integrate the principles of traditional medicine across all G20 engagement groups.

The efforts of the Ministry of Ayush in various Engagement and



Working group meetings of G20 have certainly had their impact. It was evident in this meeting when in the remarks of LavAggarwal, Additional Secretary, MoHFW, he affirmed the inclusion of traditional medicine in MoHFW's forthcoming health declaration during India's G20 presidency. He also expressed the need for the inception of a dedicated forum for Traditional Medicine to provide a robust platform for experts and stakeholders to collaborate and explore the full potential of traditional healing practices in the context of modern healthcare. In the same meeting, Chintan Vaishnav, India Chair for Startup20 mentioned that Ayush system of medicine has been included in the list of Startup20 agenda shaping the future, which shall be taken forward under the next G20 presidency chaired by Brazil.

With its state-of-the-art hospitals and highly skilled doctors, India has emerged as one of the most popular destinations for medical tourism. To further promote medical tourism in the country, the first Health Working Group in Thiruvananthapuram organized the side event on medical value travel. It was a productive and insightful forum for discussing the opportunities and challenges in the medical tourism industry in India. It was observed by many stakeholders here that connecting the world through medical value travel based on integrated healthcare, which involves traditional medicine systems in a robust manner, will serve the purpose of addressing disparities in the existing healthcare systems.

It is noteworthy that Ayush industry has gone through a significant transition during recent years. According to market research re-

ports the market has grown by more than 17 percent per year and it is estimated to have reached more than US\$ 23.3 billion. These numbers are overwhelming by any industry standards. The growing popularity and acceptance of Ayush is attributed to increased awareness, scientific validation, government support, global reach, lifestyle trends, and the personalized approach offered by Ayush systems. As more people experience the benefits of Ayush practices, its acceptance and integration into mainstream healthcare are likely to continue growing.

On one front, it reflects enormous growth opportunities in Ayush sector, but associated challenges are also there with this exponential growth. The challenges can be seen in the domains of safety, efficacy, transparency, trust and ethical practices.

The increasing popularity also brings up instances where misleading claims have created trust issues among the public. The Government of India has taken several steps to address the issue of misleading information, including in the context of advertising and consumer protection. The journey to ensure safety and transparency in its operations and promote trust in the field of Ayush had started since the very establishment of Ministry of Ayush in year 2014.

During these years, ministry has proactively taken steps by strengthening its Pharmacovigilance programme, which has been developed as a robust mechanism for surveillance of misleading advertisement. Along with this, other rules and regulation related to misleading advertisement are equally effective in dealing with such mischievous instances.

One of the key initiatives undertaken is the implementation of robust pharmacovigilance programs. These programs are designed to monitor the safety of Ayush medicines and gather data on adverse events or side effects. This program collects, analyzes, and responds to reports of adverse events, ensuring that the safety profile of Ayush medicines is continually monitored.

The ministry has emphasized the importance of regulatory compliance and adherence to established guidelines. It has implemented a regulatory framework for Ayush medicines, which includes licensing and certification processes for manufacturers, importers, and distributors. Furthermore, the ministry has focused on promoting research and evidence-based practices in the field of Ayush. It encourages rigorous scientific studies and clinical trials to validate the efficacy and safety of Ayush treatments.

The Ministry of Ayush collaborates with regulatory authorities; both nationally and internationally, to exchange information, share best practices, and strengthen regulatory oversight of Ayush medicines. This collaboration helps to ensure that safety standards are consistent and aligned with global practices. During the recent WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in Gandhinagar, intense deliberations were held on this topic, which resulted in enhanced scope of synergized action in this area among participating countries.

In nutshell, the G20 presidency engagements during the last couple of months provided an excellent opportunity to various Indian traditional medicine systems to showcase and share the evidence-based efficacy of TM. It also strengthened the hope and confidence of all stakeholders of traditional medicine sector across the country and the globe that Indian Traditional Medicine systems are equipped with all the necessary wherewithal to serve the humanity to achieve the lofty goal of universal health coverage.

*Sarbananda Sonowal - Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways view are personal*



## Ragneeti: Wedding reception invite goes viral as Parineeti, Raghav gear up for big day

## From being a guest to judge on 'Indian Idol', it's new adventure for Kumar Sanu

**NEW DELHI:** Music maestro Kumar Sanu, who will be seen as the judge on the new season of 'Indian Idol', called it a new adventure, and is hopeful to unearth a genuine singing gem. The singing reality show 'Indian Idol' is set to return for a new season that will see Kumar Sanu along with Shreya Ghoshal and Vishal Dadlani on the judges panel. The much-acclaimed format is on the hunt for the country's next emerging music sensation, with a soulful voice that is bound to resonate with all.



Sharing his enthusiasm about his debut as a judge on this fan-favourite show, Kumar Sanu shared: "Indian Idol stands tall

**NEW DELHI:** The reception invite of Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha, who are all set to tie the wedding knot in Lake City Udaipur this month, has gone viral on social media. A picture of the reception card has gone viral on social media.

The card is ivory and gold in colour, and it reads as: "WITH THE HEAVENLY BLESSINGS OF OUR MOST REVERED SHRI P.N. CHADHA JI SMT. VIJLA CHADHA SMT. USHA & SHRI H.S. SACHDEVA ALKA & SUNIL CHADHA INVITE YOU FOR THE RECEPTION LUNCH OF THEIR SON RAGHAV AND PARINEETI, DAUGHTER OF REENA & PAWAN CHOPRA ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023 TAJ CHANDIGARH 1:00 PM ONWARDS".

The wedding rituals will be held at Hotel Leela Palace and Udayavilas on September 23-24, according to the sources. During this period, many big personalities from politics and Bollywood will come to Udaipur. If sources are to be

## 'Parineeti-Raghav wedding this month in Udaipur'

**JAIPUR:** AAP party leader Raghav Chadha and actress Parineeti Chopra will reportedly tie the wedding knot in Lake City Udaipur this month, said sources. The wedding rituals will be held at Hotel Leela Palace and Udayavilas on September 23-24, they added. During this period, many big personalities from politics and Bollywood will come to Udaipur. If sources are to be believed, mehendi, haldi and sangeet events will start from September 23.

believed, mehendi, haldi and sangeet events will start from September 23. Also there are discussions that a reception will be held in Gurugram after the wedding. Several film personalities, including Parineeti's sister Priyanka Chopra and her husband Nick Jonas, and leaders from Delhi and other states are expected to attend the event.

## 'Ayush Visa': An Initiative of Indian Govt to promote Medical Tourism

**KAVITA SHARMA New Delhi**

In an effort to provide medical benefits to the foreign tourists coming to India every year for traditional treatments, Government of India has started a new initiative. "Ayush Visa" is a special category of Visa that allows foreign nationals to avail the Traditional Indian medicine system in India. This new initiative started by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ayush Visa will be a great help for the foreign nationals who are interested to take medical treatment including therapeutic care, wellness and especially Yoga during their stay in India.

With the introduction of this new special visa scheme for foreigners the medical tourism will also boost in India, Union Minister of Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal said at its launch this month. It will also strengthen their endeavor of making Indian traditional medicine a worldwide phenomenon. Every year hundreds of patients from neighboring countries come



to India for medical treatments, organ transplants etc. for which they have to stay in India for a longer time. In the year 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the need of this special visa system for foreign nationals under the Heal in India initiative. After which the Ministry of Health and family welfare and Ministry of Ayush jointly started worked on it to develop one stop Heal in India portal for foreigners. It is an initiative of the Indian Government aimed to promote medical tourism in the country.

Heal In India program of Indian Govt.

It is a global initiative of the Health Ministry which aims to promote India as a global leader in Health sector and encourage medical tourism in

India. This program is based on the Indian Philosophy of Seva. The Heal in India has a digital portal that helps the international patients plan their medical journey in India. It also provides them with information of the nearest healthcare facilities during their stay in India.

According to the reports "The Global Wellness economy" looking beyond COVID by the Global Wellness Institute, the Global wellness Economy will grow to \$70 billion by 2025, with a tremendous growth in Medical value Travel. For this a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was recently signed with India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and Ministry of Tourism (GOI). As we all know that India

has a rich history of traditional way of medical treatment. Ayurveda stands to be the most ancient, most widely accepted, practiced and flourished indigenous system of medicine. The other systems of traditional medicine are yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy and Naturopathy. Yoga which has its roots in India has also emerged as the most popular exercise form of treatment not only in India but worldwide. According to the International Yoga Federation around 300 million people practice yoga globally, with 36 million in US alone. Yoga tourism is also growing fast. We have certified yoga teachers in Indonesia, Thailand, Canada, UK, France, Germany and Europe. The practice of Yoga is a well established form of spiritual and physical exercise in Spain and Bali.

The Ayush Visa initiative of the government along with traditional way of treatment will also give a significant boost to India's Medical Tourism system.

## Ayushmann: 'I always wanted to make Punjab proud of my work'

**MUMBAI:** Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana said that since he is a Punjabi, it matters to him a lot that the state of Punjab is proud of his body of work. Ayushmann said: "Being a Punjabi, I have always wanted to make Punjab proud of my work, and I'm indebted to the people of Punjab for the love that they have always showered on me." He added: "From my first film, Punjab has cheered me on, supported me through thick and thin and ensured that it always had my back no matter what.



I have only got unconditional love from them." The 38-year-old actor says he is proud to represent Punjabi culture through his movies and songs. Ayushmann said: "Whatever I'm today is because of their blessings, their support, and their feedback. I consider myself lucky to be a Punjabi and to have represented its culture and traditions through my craft."

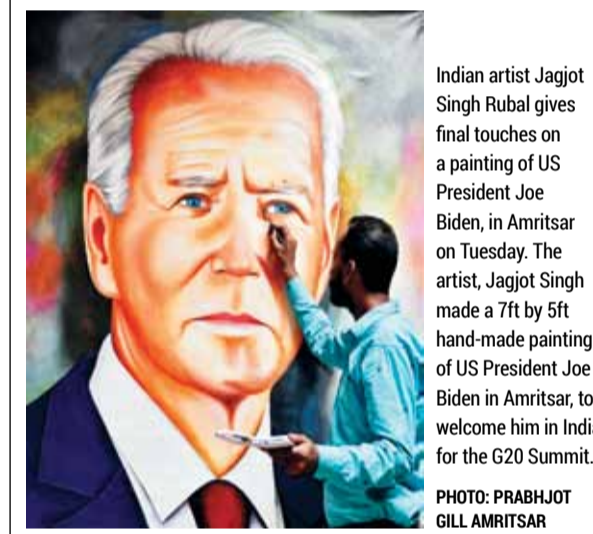
as one of the most prestigious singing reality shows that the country has to offer, giving aspiring singers a platform to showcase their skill and establish a distinct identity for themselves in the realm of singing.

"It's truly heartening to be a part of the journey that sees budding talent display their potential and take a significant stride towards fulfilling their dreams of being part of the Indian music industry," he shared.

Kumar Sanu further said, "While I've been a guest on the

show many times in the past, assuming the role of a judge is a new adventure that I am looking forward to. It's often said that music reaches us on an emotional level, where words alone fall short."

"I'm eager to witness how this generation will stir our emotions with their impeccable 'Sur' and 'Taal'. My hope for this season is to unearth a genuine singing gem, who will go on to make India and us proud," concluded the 'King of Melody', as he is fondly called in Bollywood.



Indian artist Jagjot Singh Rubal gives final touches on a painting of US President Joe Biden, in Amritsar on Tuesday. The artist, Jagjot Singh made a 7ft by 5ft hand-made painting of US President Joe Biden in Amritsar, to welcome him in India for the G20 Summit.

PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL AMRITSAR



## Leonardo DiCaprio, model Vittoria Ceretti caught packing on PDA in Ibiza nightclub

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio has seemingly moved on from his on-and-off relationship with supermodel Gigi Hadid by dating another model Vittoria Ceretti as the two were spotted during a night out. The pair were seen packing on the PDA at an Ibiza nightclub during one of their recent outings. In photos circulating online, the pair were caught passionately locking lips. They were gazing lovingly into each other's eyes before kissing in the early hours of the morning, reports aceshowbiz.com. The 48-year-old Oscar-winning actor and the 25-year-old model were also seen dancing up against the wall inside the Spanish venue, where they partied until 4:30 a.m. The grainy pictures were reportedly taken some time last month. Leonardo sported his usual black baseball cap and matching T-shirt for the EDM-themed party, while Vittoria went on full party mode in a sparkly one-shoulder top. She had her dark hair tied in a ponytail. It's unclear when Leonardo and Vittoria met for the first time, but they were previously

seen together in France in late May, around the same time his film 'Killers of the Flower Moon' was premiering at the Cannes Film Festival.

The duo were also spotted on an ice cream date on August 22 in California. They seemed to be in good spirits as they were pictured grabbing a sweet treat in the upscale enclave of Santa Barbara. The 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' star was seen taking an iced latte for the road, while the catwalk beauty opted for a cone.

Vittoria appears to have separated from her husband, Tales of Us DJ Matteo Milleri. In a June 12 TikTok video, she casually dropped the news as she played a roulette game predicting what her ex looks like. "Genuinely shocked because this is him. Also if you see this, you know I still adore you T," she commented on the result.

Los Angeles, Sep 7 (IANS) Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio has seemingly moved on from his on-and-off relationship with supermodel Gigi Hadid by dating another model Vittoria Ceretti as the two were spotted during a night out.

seen together in France in late May, around the same time his film 'Killers of the Flower Moon' was premiering at the Cannes Film Festival.

The duo were also spotted on an ice cream date on August 22 in California. They seemed to be in good spirits as they were pictured grabbing a sweet treat in the upscale enclave of Santa Barbara. The 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' star was seen taking an iced latte for the road, while the catwalk beauty opted for a cone.

Vittoria appears to have separated from her husband, Tales of Us DJ Matteo Milleri. In a June 12 TikTok video, she casually dropped the news as she played a roulette game predicting what her ex looks like. "Genuinely shocked because this is him. Also if you see this, you know I still adore you T," she commented on the result.

Los Angeles, Sep 7 (IANS) Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio has seemingly moved on from his on-and-off relationship with supermodel Gigi Hadid by dating another model Vittoria Ceretti as the two were spotted during a night out.



Farmers from Punjab shout slogans as they hold effigy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a protest against upcoming G20 summit, which will be held in India.

## 'Reserve' Day Indo-Pak Match in Asia Cup

**SUNIL THAPLIYAL New Delhi**

A reserve day has been set aside for this Asia Cup Super Four match for the next encounter between India and Pakistan on September 10. Apart from the final, this is the only match with a reserve day. The change in the match conditions was communicated by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which advised fans to hold on to their tickets in case a reserve day is required. According to the PCB, the



match between India and Pakistan will be made up on September 11 if it is not played on September 10. As a result, the Indian team would have to play two matches in a row. As per the schedule, India will play Bangladesh on September 12. The only match in the Su-

per-4 that has a reserve day is India against Pakistan; all other matches will be cancelled in case of rain. Earlier, on September 2, the match between India and Pakistan was called off due to weather. Due to rain in the middle of the match, only one innings could be played and no balls could be thrown in the second innings. India won the toss and batted first, scoring 266 runs. Neither the spectators on the field nor those watching the India-Pakistan encounter after a year on TV could enjoy the match adequately.



BCCI President Roger Binny and Vice-President Rajeev Shukla arrive to cross the Attari-Wagah border to visit Pakistan for Asia Cup 2023, about 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Amritsar on Monday.

## Paloma Dhillon among 100 actresses who auditioned for 'Dono' part



**MUMBAI:** Actress Paloma Dhillon, who is making her debut with the upcoming film 'Dono', was among 100 actresses who auditioned for the part in the film. She had to wait for seven months before actually securing the role, and was deemed as the perfect fit for this love story. Excited about this opportunity, Paloma said: "Being part of 'Dono' is a dream come true. It's a relevant tale about today's youth and I can't wait for people to watch the film." The trailer of the film, which was released recently, promises a heartfelt story of two strangers who are trying to make their way around life after moving on from their respective love interests. The film marks the debut of Rajveer Deol, the son of actor Sunny Deol, who is currently basking in the blockbuster success of his recent release 'Gadar 2', and Paloma Thakeria, the daughter of Poonam Dhillon.

## 'Chura liya hai tumne': Asha Bhosle & R.D. Burman's melodious journey, discordant end

Intrinsically talented, both, separately and jointly, gave a new direction to Hindi film music. But to achieve this, Asha Bhosle and Rahul Dev Burman had to surmount a major "hurdle" -- creating a new identity distinct from their illustrious and established kin: elder sibling Lata Mangeshkar and father Sachin Dev Burman.

And both succeeded -- with a combination of luck, support, their own undeniable virtuosity, and above all, their first joint effort.

Asha Bhosle -- who is still going strong at 90, having worked with four generations of music composers from O.P. Nayyar to A.R. Rehman -- added a sensuous allure and element of forthrightness for the Hindi film heroine, without becoming risqué or boisterous, even as Burman adroitly used pop and jazz to good effect in electrifying film music -- bringing the age of Elvis Presley and the Beatles to India.

Rejected at a trial for a film in 1947 as the sound recording engineer "did not like" her voice -- as of her co-singer, who happened to be Kishore Kumar! -- Asha slowly persevered over the next decade as the voice of supporting actors, as her sister and other established



## Bollywood ignores Asha Bhosle's 90th B'day

**MUMBAI:** The legendary playback singer, Asha Bhosle, turned 90 on Friday, and it was disheartening to see that Bollywood celebrities forgot to acknowledge her birthday. Known for her versatility, and melodious voice, Asha is one of the most successful singers in Hindi cinema though her body of work extends beyond just the Hindi cinema. In her career spanning over eight decades she has recorded songs for films and albums in various Indian languages. She has received several accolades, in addition to two Grammy nominations. Bhosle is also honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, and Padma Vibhushan. The Guinness Book of World Records acknowledged Asha in 2011 as the most recorded artist in music history. Given her immense contribution to the Indian music industry, and her status as an iconic figure, Bollywood celebrities overlooking her birthday raises questions about the industry's appreciation of its own icons, and the importance of recognising their contributions.



singers like Suraiyya, Geeta Dutt and Shamshad Begum had left no space for others. It was only in the late 1950s

that two top music directors gave her a break -- Nayyar, for he did not work with Lata Mangeshkar and the elder Burman, who had a falling out with Asha's elder sister.

"Le ke pehla pehla pyar" ("CID"; 1956), where Asha stood her ground with main singers Mohammed Rafi and Shamshad Begum, made her a voice to look out for; B.R. Chopra's "Naya Daur" (1957), where she first sang for the heroine, cemented her as a viable voice.

It also made her a permanent feature of Chopra's films -- with gems like "Aage bhi na jaane tu" and "Hum jab simatke aapki bahon mein aa gaye" ("Waqt"; 1965), and "Uljan suljhe na rasta sujhe na" ("Dhund"; 1973) -- among those standing out.

S.D. Burman used Asha's voice to good effect for Madhubala in Kishore Kumar's "Chalti ka naam gaadi" (1958) -- "Main sitaron ka taraana" and "Haal kaisa hai janaab ka" -- as well as in "Kaala Pani", 1958 ("Achha ji main haari, chalo maan jao na"), "Kaala Bazaar" (1960), "Bombai Ka Babu", 1960 ("Deewana mastana hua dil"), "Sujata", 1959, and "Teen Deviyaan", 1965 ("Arre yaar meri tum bhi ho ghazab").

## Lexicon Group of Institutes hosts Kamal Sharma Award of Academic Excellence on Teachers' Day

**FW DESK New Delhi**

Kamal Sharma Award for Academic Excellence 2023, organized by The Lexicon Group of Institutes on Teacher's Day, marked a significant milestone in recognizing the dedication and exceptional contributions of educators in the field of education.

"Kamal Sharma Award for Academic Excellence is not just an accolade but a symbol of our profound respect and admiration for educators worldwide. It is a testament to their extraordinary commitment, their innovative teaching methodologies, and their role in shaping the destiny of our society," expressed Pankaj Sharma, President, The Lexicon Group of Institutes, and Chairman and MD, Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror, and MultiFit, as he appreciated the remarkable educators who received the award.

The late Kamal Sharma, Trustee of The Lexicon Group of Institutes, served as an indispensable driving force and staunch advocate. Her commitment facilitated the timely execution of quality-driven initiatives, symbolizing courage and determination that significantly contributed to The



It is a testament to their extraordinary commitment, their innovative teaching methodologies, and their role in shaping the destiny of our society"

Lexicon Group's growth and well-being. The event featured the presence of Chief Guest Dr. Parag Kalkar, Pro Vice Chancellor, SPPU, and Guest of Honour Prof. Dr. Dilip Patel. "Education is a lifelong journey, and our parents are the first guides, laying the foun-

datation of wisdom. Teaching, a noble endeavor, sparks the fire of knowledge within us. Let's always remember to thank those who share their wisdom, for they play a vital role in our growth and understanding," said Nasir Shaikh, Group CEO, The Lexicon Group of Institutes, EduCrack, and EasyRecruit+.

The event included various student performances, showcasing their talents and expressing deep appreciation for the educators. Additionally, it provided valuable networking opportunities, enabling educators to connect, share insights, and foster collaboration for the continued advancement of the education sector. Kamal Sharma Award stands as a global tribute and carries a special significance as it pays homage to the memory of the Founding Trustee of Lexicon MILE.