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**PUNJAB CM BHAGWANT SINGH MANN ANNOUNCES TO GIVE FILLIP TO INDUSTRIALISATION IN THE BORDER DISTRICTS OF THE STATE**

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**PUNJABI FILM 'BUHE-BARIYAN' IGNITES A FEMINIST REVOLUTION**

## India placed to become Third-Largest Economy by FY 2027-28 : IMF

**NEW DELHI:** Gita Gopinath, the first Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, said India will become the third-largest economy by 2027-28, based on current projections.

During an interview with India Today Group, the economist said India's contribution to global GDP is around 15%. Referring to India as an "engine of global growth", Gopinath, however, added that there is a lot more work that needs to be done.

"The more important thing is to maintain a high growth momentum for many more years in just the next four or five years. And that will require structural reforms. India is a large country, so in per capita terms, that will still be a small number even if we're the third largest economy. So India needs to keep pushing on that front to keep the growth momentum going much more,"



she added that the expected growth rate of the country for the current fiscal year is over six per cent. According to the economist, the two factors which are driving the growth are public investment and resilient consumption spending.

Gopinath stressed the need to attract private investment to increase the levels of per capita

income and to get to continued high levels of growth. In order to enable an environment for private investment, it is imperative that the investment in public infrastructure continues, she added.

The economist said only four Indian states - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Delhi get a large chunk of foreign direct investment. She noted that

a lot has to be done at the level of state governments.

Other areas that need improvement, according to Gita Gopinath, include increasing the ease of conducting business, education and female labour force participation.

Commenting on India's G20 Presidency, she said it was a "huge deal" that a leaders declaration was adopted unanimously.

"Nobody expected that there would be a leader's declaration. The fact that there was one is a huge deal. It tells you that even though countries can have different opinions about the way the world is headed, they can actually come together and have a declaration that I think is huge," she added.

She also applauded the work done during India's presidency on crypto regulation, debt issues and multilateral development bank financing.

## Bhagwant Mann govt has reversed trend of industry migration from the state, says Arvind Kejriwal

**LUDHIANA:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said that due to the strenuous efforts of the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab is today witnessing a reverse trend as numbers of industries from other states are migrating to it for setting up their ventures.

Addressing the gathering during Sarakaar Sannatkaar milni here today, the Delhi Chief Minister said that 450 industries from other states have shifted their operations in Punjab during the last few months. He said that this is contrary to the earlier trend when the exodus of industry was taking place to the other state from Punjab. Arvind Kejriwal said that this is the result of hard work put by Punjab Chief Minister to make the state a front ranking in every sphere.

Delhi Chief Minister said that the Bhagwant Singh Mann government had inherited a system when the industry from the state was fleeing to other states. He said that the industries were fed up from the extortion system that prevailed in the state during the



tenure of the previous regimes. However, Arvind Kejriwal said that the Punjab Chief Minister restored the faith of industrialists by providing them an industrial friendly atmosphere coupled with a good law and order situation.

Kejriwal categorically said that pan India only Punjab can break the monopoly of China in the industrial sector. He said that the Punjabi industries don't have to compete with the industry in any other state but they have to make efforts to defeat China in industrial growth. Arvind Kejriwal said that

this is the need of the hour for which the Punjab government will extend all sorts of logistic support.

Delhi CM also batted for constituting sector specific task force for giving fillip to the industrial growth. He said that apart from the representatives of the industry these task forces must also have the officers of the state government for planning and executing the strategy to boost growth of these sectors. Arvind Kejriwal envisioned that it will be helpful in ensuring comprehensive growth of the industry in the state.

## PoK will become part of India, soon: Gen VK Singh

Union Minister and former Army chief Gen VK Singh on Tuesday expressed his belief that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) will eventually merge with India "on its own." The declaration was made during a press conference in Dausa, Rajasthan, where he was addressing questions regarding the demands of the people in PoK who seek the opening of the border with India. Gen VK Singh also pointed out India's success as the host of the G20 Summit, highlighting the country's growing prominence on the global stage. When questioned about the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) choice for the chief minister's candidate in the upcoming state assembly elections, Gen VK Singh clarified that the BJP does not typically announce its chief ministerial candidate before such elections.



## Arvind Kejriwal & Bhagwant Singh Mann inaugurate series of landmark initiatives of school education at a cost of Rs 1600 cr

**JAGMOHAN SINGH**  
Amritsar

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday embarked series of landmark steps for complete overhaul of school education in the state at a cost of Rs 1600 crore.

Addressing the gathering during Sikkhya Kranti Rally here today, the Chief Minister said that Rs 358 crore will be spent for construction of 1 boundary walls in over 7000 schools. Likewise, he said Rs 25 crore are being spent on benches and furniture, Rs 60 crore for washrooms and Rs 800 crore are being spent on



10,000 new classroom work for which is underway. Likewise, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Campus manager is being provided in each school along with two security guards in every government secondary schools.

The Chief Minister said that Transport service has been started in the state for facilitating

the students especially the girls. He said that Punjab will be the first state of the country to have WIFI connection in each school. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that within six months all schools in the state will be equipped with internet facilities.

The Chief Minister said that very soon Artificial Intelligence

(AI) courses will be introduced in government schools across the state. He said that one lakh students will be imparted training in Artificial intelligence. Mann said that training will also be given to 10,000 teachers for AI courses adding that earlier Punjab was now for green revolution and White revolution but now it will be known for Education Revolution.

The Chief Minister said the state government is following the footsteps of Great Sikh Gurus by ushering a revolution in education and knowledge sector adding that this is a historic day when Education revolution has started from the sacred land of Guru Sahib.

## Heroes of Anantnag cremated with military honours

**FW DESK**  
Chandigarh

Amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Matram', mortal remains of third-generation soldier Col Manpreet Singh and his colleague Major Ashish Dhonchak, who made the supreme sacrifice while protecting the nation from the terrorists in Anantnag, were cremated with full military honours at their hometowns in Punjab and Haryana, respectively.

As India saluted the bravehearts, visuals from Col Manpreet Singh's village Mullapur Garibdass in Mohali in Punjab and Major Dhonchak in Haryana's Panipat touched everyone's heart.

With folded hands and tearful eyes, Col Manpreet Singh's wife, Jagmeet Kaur, bid him a final goodbye. His six-year-old son, Kabir Singh, dressed in army



fatigue saluted his father, who was a chartered accountant by profession and rose by ranks with his hard work.

Col Manpreet Singh had a rare distinction to become an officer in father's battalion. His family, comprising mother, wife Jagmeet Grewal and two children - a daughter and a son, resides near New Chandigarh in Mohali district. His

mother Manjit Kaur said since her son joined the Army she had been regularly watching news channels to know about the welfare of the army men posted in Jammu and Kashmir. "There was always a fear in my mind about some mishappening with my son and it happened," the mother said. "Mera Colonel shaheed ho gaya, mere dil da tukda shaheed ho gaya." "I talked to him on

Sunday at 3 p.m. We wouldn't talk for a week sometimes. He was going to be transferred as he had been in Kashmir for four years," the mother said. "Whenever I asked him to come home, he would say 'I have a lot of work to do. How can I leave all the work and come, mom?' Col Manpreet Singh's father Lakhmir Singh passed away in 2014. He was Naik in 12 Sikh Light Infantry. He did before his son became an officer in the same battalion. Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit laid a wreath on the mortal remains of Col Manpreet Singh and paid tributes to him. A day earlier, Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, and Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Chinara Corps Commander, along with the Chief Secretary and the DGP and other dignitaries laid wreaths to pay homage to the bravehearts in a solemn ceremony in Srinagar.

## Three hurt as private aircraft with 8 onboard skids, crash lands at Mumbai airport

**MANPREET SINGH**  
Mumbai



At least three persons were injured after a private business aircraft with six passengers and two crew flying from Vizag to Mumbai skidded off the runway and crash-landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, officials said here on Thursday. VT-DBL, a non-scheduled charter Learjet business aircraft, skidded off the runway and crashed while landing. According to preliminary information, the mishap is attributed to heavy rains and low visibility at the time of the incident, around 5.30 p.m. Flight operations have been suspended and the three injured persons have been hospitalised, while details of the other passengers and crew are awaited.

## Kejriwal lauds Punjab CM for taking path breaking initiatives to promote industrial development in state

**SAYS MANN IS THE BEST CM PUNJAB EVER HAD**

**ASSERTS THAT PUNJAB GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED FOR FACILITATING THE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH IN STATE**

**JAGMOHAN SINGH**  
Amritsar

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday lauded the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for taking strenuous efforts for promotion of industry in the state.

Addressing the gathering during the Sarakaar Sannatkaar milni here today, the Delhi Chief Minister said that Punjab is scoring new heights in every arena. He said that in the form of Bhagwant Singh Mann Punjab has got the best Chief Minister for the state.

Arvind Kejriwal said that Punjab is making rapid progress in every arena which is unprecedented and unmatched.

The Delhi Chief Minister said that From sacred land of Amritsar, we made history by opening government's first hi-tech school of Eminence from here yesterday and will convert all government schools into ultra-modern with world class



infrastructure institutions. He said that Today through such conclaves, we will solve all issues of industry. Arvind Kejriwal said that there were 882 steel foundry units in the past but now only 126 units are operating due to the apathy of previous state governments.

The Delhi Chief Minister promised that Punjab government will take this number to 2000 industries with its industry-friendly policies. Arvind Kejriwal said that he still remember that AAP had promised many guarantees to industrialists before the elections at this same place and assured that government will fulfill each and every promise

made to them. He said that before few months, Punjab government issued a phone number to seek feedback about the problems and issues being faced by industries.

The Delhi Chief Minister said that After scrutiny of the records, we have found that industrialists had only three main issues including electricity, road infrastructure and systematic problems. He said that the AAP government was committed to redress all concerns raised by industrialists promptly. Arvind Kejriwal said that we had not signed dummy MOUs as previous governments did during their regimes.

## Govt released Agenda, 4 bills in 'tentative list' for Parliament's Special Session

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA**  
New Delhi

There were big speculations about the government proposing a "One Nation, One Election" bill in the ensuing Special Session, there was no mention of it in the tentative list shared by the Central Government. There was also another speculation story taking round about the government bringing a resolution to "rename India as Bharat".

The Government released a 'tentative list' of the agenda for Parliament's special session from September 18 to 22. The tentative agenda included 2 bills which were passed in the Rajya Sabha on August 3 itself. The said Bills are, "The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023" and "The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023" - to be taken up in the Lok Sabha.

On the other hand, Rajya Sabha is set to discuss "The



Post Office Bill, 2023" and "The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023". These 2 bills were

introduced in the Rajya Sabha on August 10.

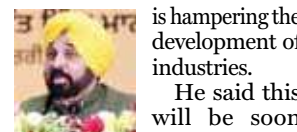
Special Sessions was called 7th time after Independence to till August, 2023 and this time it will be 8th time Special Session is going to be held. In 1977, Special Session of the Rajya Sabha was held in February for 2 days to extend Presidential Rules in Tamil Nadu and Nagaland. In 1991, 2 days Special Session was held in June for the approval of the President's rule in Haryana.

## Three-year exemption to industry from shifting out of residential areas in Ludhiana: Mann

**FW DESK**  
Ludhiana

Granting three years' exemption to the industry from shifting out of residential areas here, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday announced complete overhaul of industrial focal points and industrial zones across the state to encourage industrial activity.

Addressing a gathering of industrialists here, the Chief Minister said the focal points and industrial zones are in a dilapidated condition, which



is hampering the development of industries. He said this will be soon overcome by ensuring comprehensive development of the focal points and industrial areas. Mann said a detailed blueprint has been prepared to facilitate the industrialists and give a facelift to the focal points. The Chief Minister also announced plans to provide power meters and other basic amenities to the people residing in the colonies.

He said the labour class and others living in these colonies will be given these meters and other facilities so that they can live comfortably. Mann said access to basic civic amenities is the right of every individual and the government will ensure it by all means. The Chief Minister also said the government has given a major relief to the industrialists aspiring to construct any building. "If any industrialist aspires to construct a building by excavating a basement, he has to apply it on the Invest Punjab portal," he said.

## Anantnag encounter: Soldier goes missing as anti-terror operation enters Day 3



A soldier has gone missing as security forces continue their operation against terrorists in the Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir, reports said. The operation, which began on Wednesday evening, is a joint effort by the Army and Jammu and Kashmir police aimed at eliminating terrorists hiding in the forests surrounding Gadool village in Anantnag's Kokernag area. The operation has already claimed the lives of Col Manpreet Singh and Maj Ashish Dhonchak from the 19 Rashtriya Rifles, along with DySP Humayun Bhat of J&K Police, lost their lives during a fierce firefight on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. Major Dhonchak, a recipient of the Sena Medal in 2023, has been laid to rest in Haryana's Panipat, while DSP Bhat, survived by his wife and a three-month-old son, was already laid to rest in Budgam on Wednesday evening.

## Govt calls all-party meeting on Sept 17, only a day before Parliament's special session

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA**  
New Delhi

The central government has called an All Party Meeting on September 17, Special Session of the Parliament will start from the next day itself. The Modi government called for an all-party meeting before the first session of the new parliament building. According to the sources, the topics of the special session can

be discussed in this all-party meeting.

The Center has called a Special Session of Parliament from September 18 to September 22. But the Modi government is still tight lipped about what issues will be discussed in that special session. Naturally, there is no end to the speculation surrounding that session. It is rumored that the Uniform Civil Code Bill will be introduced in that

session. Sometimes it is heard that the name change of the country may be discussed in that special session. Some sources saying that Women Reservation Bill can be tabled.

The opposition has repeatedly protested the calling of this special session. After the decision to convene the session became public, Congress MP Sonia Gandhi wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the agenda.



She asked that the public issues like economy should be discussed keeping in mind

price rise for discussion in the special session. She has also written that Government

should talk about minimum support price (MSP) and farmers' problems, discuss the demand for a joint parliamentary committee on the Adani case, highlight the situation in Manipur, discuss the climate of communal unrest in states like Haryana, state the government's position on Chinese aggression, speed up the nation. Surveys should be discussed, Centre-State relations should be highlighted

and flood situation of different states should be discussed.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi tweeted on Wednesday that an all-party meeting has been called on September 17, after the tweet came from Trinamool's Derek O'Brien and Congress's Jairam Ramesh regarding the Agenda of the said meeting. However, no information about the content of the meeting was disclosed.



# Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann announces to give fillip to industrialisation in the border districts of the state

**SAYS POLICIES FOR THE INDUSTRY WILL BE FRAMED AS PER THE NEED OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND TO FACILITATE THEM**

**JAGMOHAN SINGH**  
*Amritsar*

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday announced to give impetus to industrialisation in the border districts of the state.

Interacting with the industrialists during the maiden Sarkar Sannatkar milni, the Chief Minister said that the state government is committed to ensure the holistic development of the industry in the border region. He said that the process of border identification will be streamlined soon in the state by incorporating the necessary changes.

In an official statement issued here today, Mann said that this will help in giving major fillip to the industry in the state especially in the border region.

At the very outset of the milni led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal the gathering observed two minutes silence in the memory of Colonel Manpreet Singh and other Jawans who attained martyrdom in terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the Chief Min-



ister said that during the run up for the elections they had promised certain guarantees to the industrialists. He said that now after 18 months of formation of the government they are here to list the achievements in various sectors. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that no stone will be left unturned for facilitating the industry in state.

The Chief Minister said that the state government will ensure judicious use of canal water for the industrial units on the lines of water being provided to the farmers for agriculture purposes. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this will facilitate the industry in its smooth working and facilitation.

The Chief Minister said that the policies for the industry will be framed as per the need of

industrialists and to facilitate them. He said that whatever the industry will demand from the state government will be delivered at the earliest to facilitate the industry. Mann said that this also the need of hour to boost economic activity in the region.

The Chief Minister announced to set up a dedicated force to facilitate the tourists coming in district on every day. He said that Amritsar witnesses a footfall of around one lakh pilgrims daily and special force is required to cater to their needs. Mann said that this dedicated unit of the Punjab Police will have separate uniform and dress code so that they can be identified easily.

The Chief Minister announced to embark e bus shuttle service in the sacred city in the

**ASSERTS THAT IN ANOTHER DEDICATED TOURISM POLICE TO BE INTRODUCED IN AMRITSAR**

**FW DESK**  
*Ferozepur*

coming days. He said that this will help in reducing the pollution level in the city and thereby facilitating the pilgrims and residents in a big way. He said that this is the need of hour for further developing Amritsar as hub of tourism.

The Chief Minister said that the state government is all set to introduce Artificial Intelligence in Police and traffic management. He said that this will help in enhancing the efficiency of Punjab Police on scientific lines for the welfare of people. He said that every step will be taken for the well being of the people coming to this district.

The Chief Minister said that industrialists trust a government only when they get corruption free system, crime free environment, law and order. He said that government payback benefits of their taxes money to them and use them judiciously for well being of society. Mann said that Law and order situation matters as the Industrialists will not move to violent hit places but they are showing trust in Punjab government and number of industries are coming to state.

The Chief Minister said that

due to concerted efforts of the state government investment worth Rs 50840 crore has been roped in for the state. He said that Tata Steels has made biggest investment in the state after Jamshepur adding that other companies like Jindal Steel, Virbio, Class, Tafe, Hindustan Liver and others are making investment in state. He said that with this 2.25 lakh youth will get employment in the state.

The Chief Minister announced to set up celebration point at Amritsar over an area of 50-100 acre. He said that banquet halls for celebrating various events of happiness will be constructed in this celebration point. Mann said that this first of its kind celebration point will be instrumental in boosting tourism in state.

The Chief Minister said that the state government has recently organised tourism summit in the state. He said that it is matter of great pride and satisfaction that investors have shown their desire to invest around Rs 1200-1500 crore in the state. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this investment will bring the state on the map of international tourism.

# Punjab CM lays foundation stone of Saragarhi Memorial

**Announces to complete work on this state of art project within six months**

**FW DESK**  
*Ferozepur*

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday announced that work on construction of a state of the art monument to commemorate the martyrdom of 21 valiant Sikh warriors during the historic battle of Saragarhi at Ferozepur will be completed within a time period of six months.

Addressing the gathering after laying the foundation stone of the monument here today, the Chief Minister said that there is no cap on funds for the construction of this architectural marvel adding that the work on it will be completed within six months by all means. He said that the valour and sacrifice of soldiers during the battle of Saragarhi will ever inspire our coming generations to serve the country selflessly and zealously. Remembering the supreme sacrifice made by the 21 valiant soldiers who laid their lives while protecting the sovereignty of the country, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that it was an unprecedented saga of bravery and heroism.

The Chief Minister said that his head bows in reverence to pay homage to the supreme sacrifices by the brave soldiers of the country who chose death rather than surrender before a mighty enemy. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the exemplary valor of the 21 soldiers of the 36 Sikhs stationed near Samana ridge (now in Pakistan), who laid down their lives after a fierce battle following an attack by nearly 10,000 Afghans on September 12, 1897 hardly finds any parallel in the world history. He said that the battle of Saragarhi will remain an iconic moment in India's military history and



a reminder of how, when pushed to the brink, Punjabis can rise beyond their capacities.

Underlining the need for propagating the spirit underlying the battle, the Chief Minister said that the state government is committed to ensure that the legacy of this most famous 'Last Stands' in military history becomes a symbol of inspiration and motivation for the younger generations. Bhagwant Singh Mann unequivocally said that Saragarhi Battle Warriors exemplify the grit and determination of brave Sikh warriors who attained martyrdom while facing the enemy. He said that the country will ever remain indebted to these brave sons for their supreme sacrifice.

The Chief Minister said that he will personally monitor the work on this monument in the coming times and ensure that it is completed within the six months. He said that any sort of inordinate delay in this noble cause is unwarranted and undesirable adding that high standards of construction will be adhered to in the construction of this memorial. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that corruption during construction work will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely by ensuring strict action against those involved in it.

The Chief Minister slammed



the previous governments for blatantly ignoring this place of immense importance. He said that the previous state government had announced to construct a memorial and Rs 1 crore was issued in the year 2019. However, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the work was never initiated as additional funds worth Rs 25 lakh that were required for the memorial were never allotted adding that this reflects the apathy of these governments towards the martyrs.

The Chief Minister also announced to make stupendous efforts for developing Ferozepur district as hub of tourism in the state. He said that the Saragarhi memorial along with Hussaini-wala Memorial, where Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Sukhdev and Shaheed Rajguru, were martyred fall in this district only. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that these places of immense historical importance along with Hussaini-wala border will be showcased to the world for attracting tourists from across the globe.

# Punjab's Christians decry CM Mann's ban on celebrations in December: Masihi Maha Sabha

**FW DESK**  
*Amritsar*

The ban on 'happy celebrations' in December, announced by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, in view of the commemoration of the martyrdom of the Sahibzadas and Mata Gujri during this month, has caused hurt and resentment among the Christian community of Punjab, who have termed it as a move that is not only irrationally partisan but also a violation of the constitutional rights of the Christian community. Led by the Masihi Maha Sabha (MSS), the Christian community of Punjab has warned of state-wide protests if the government fails to revoke the ban on Christmas celebrations.

In a missive to the CM, MSS members including The Most Rev Dr P K Samantary, Bishop, Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India, Rev Sharif Masih, District Superintendent, Patiala Methodist Church, Major Makhan Masih, Divisional Commander, The Salvation Army, Amritsar, and Bishop Agnelo, R C Church, Diocese of Jalandhar, said that the Christian community of Punjab had full reverence for the teachings and sacrifices of the Sikh Gurus, their families and disciples, who laid down their lives while defending their faith.

"But the fact remains that December is also the month in which the Christian community worldwide celebrates Christmas to commemorate the birth of Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind. The message of Christmas is the message of universal peace and brotherhood, also upheld in the teachings of the Sikh Gurus. Hence, we see no reason for banning Christmas celebrations at the government level. Doing so would be tantamount to violation of the constitutional rights of the Christian community," they said.

# Punjab CM and Delhi CM dedicate first 'school of eminence'

**JAGMOHAN SINGH**  
*Amritsar*

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today dedicated the first 'School of Eminence' to the people of the state.

'Punjab is witnessing a major revolution in the field of education and this school is a stepping stone for it' said the Chief Ministers.

The Chief Minister said that this is a momentous occasion and the day is not far when Punjab will be a front ranking state in the country. They said that this initiative of the state government will ensure access of students especially from poor and underprivileged sections to the quality education. They said that the day is not far when students from these schools will excel in every field and bring laurels for the state.



The Chief Ministers in a statement said that the process has begun to transform the destiny of students by this ef-

fort. They said that this school is just the beginning and more such schools will be opened for the well being of the poor students. They envisioned that these schools will be the modern day temples which will bring a qualitative change in the lives of the students.

# Congress's Bhupinder Hooda & Kumari Shelja likely in next Chief Minister race of Haryana

**SATISH HANDA**  
*Chandigarh*

Senior Congress leader, Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda recently during a media gathering 'Jan Milan Programme' declared himself a strong contender for the Chief Minister of the state in case Congress wins majority in 2024 Vidhan Sabha polls which was organised by the former Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Sharma in the CM's constituency. Hooda's statement came at a time when factionalism was emerging during the district-level meetings before the co-ordinators. Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala and former Union minister Kumari Selja had already met Congress



president Mallikarjun Kharge and raised the issue of sidelining the party workers. The Congress from time to time is continuously conducting several public programmes like 'Vipaksh Aapke Samaksh', 'Hath Se Hath Jodo' campaign and 'Jan Milan programme' to attract Vote Bank in the state. While talking to media persons, Hooda said that through such programmes, we get feedback from the people, their problems, their desires and the suggestions.

# MP Vikram Sahney to take up issue of MEP on basmati rice

**FW DESK**  
*Amritsar/New Delhi*

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Vikramjit Singh Sahney will lead a delegation of Members of Parliament from Punjab to meet Union Minister for consumer affairs, food and public



distribution Piyush Goyal for his intervention into rationalizing Minimum Export Price (MEP) on rice which has been fixed to USD 1200, hence adversely impacting the exports from India. Today, Sahney, along with the office bearers of the Basmati exporters association took up the matter with the CM Delhi Arvind Kejriwal and CM Punjab Bhagwant Singh Mann in an Industrial interaction meeting 'Sarkar Sanatkar Milni' in Amritsar, issuing him an appeal to make efforts to resolve the issue. The Chief Minister Punjab authorized Sahney to take a delegation and meet Minister Goyal. The Chief Minister Punjab on his part, will also write a DO letter to Union Minister Sh. Piyush Goyal for relaxation in the rice export norms. According to Sahney he had received a request from Punjab Rice Millers and Exporters association which is the leading association for Basmati Rice trade in India, regarding the central government's decision of Minimum Export Price.

# JK records 31% reduction in fire incidents this year

**FW DESK**

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a 31% reduction in fire incidents this year, according to Alok Kumar, the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES). From August 2022 to July 2023, the region saw a significant decline in fire-related emergencies, with only 4,000 incidents reported compared to the previous year's 59,000.

The reduction can be attributed to the efforts of F&ES, which organized 28,000 fire awareness events across multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir. As part of these



initiatives, over three lakh individuals were trained in fire safety and prevention measures. To further enhance fire safety, the F&ES is devising a plan to equip every household with a trained firefighter. This approach will enable residents to respond quickly and effectively to fire incidents before professional firefighters arrive on the scene. The training efforts extend even to students, with Class 10th students receiving instruction on fire suppression techniques.

ADGP Alok Kumar also stressed the importance of providing immediate first aid to individuals injured during fire incidents. Trained F&ES personnel are prepared to administer initial first aid to ensure the preservation of precious lives until the injured party can receive advanced medical treatment at a hospital.

# Youth alleged died due to torture in drug de-addiction centre at Ambala

**SATISH HANDA**

Ambala police booked four persons of a drug de-addiction centre Kalyan Foundation at village Mokha Majra near Ambala City when a youth Gaurav (32) resident of Baldev Nagar Ambala City running a mobile shop, in the habit of drugs addiction was admitted by his family on 5th September died at the Civil Hospital Ambala City on Saturday night under mysterious circumstances. The case was registered on the complaint of the deceased's father Raj Kumar running a utensils sale



shop at Baldev Nagar Ambala City, who alleged his son was tortured too much during treatment in the drug de-addiction centre for which he had paid an amount Rs 10000 towards fee for a month. The complainant told police that he got a telephone call

# Fake Desi Ghee manufacturing factory raided, owner arrested

**SATISH HANDA**

Team of food security department Haryana accompanied by CIA Staff of Jind police raided a Desi Ghee manufacturing factory running in a residential building at village Deshkhedra in Jind district and seized 456 liter fake ghee being packed in reputed brands of the country including Amul, Patanjali, Milk Food, Madhusudan and Vita. The owner of the factory Amit was arrested by the police and a case was registered against him.



The raiding team seized all containers, packing material in the name of all brands, three drums of fake ghee manufactured with Vanaspati and refined oil, three packing machines, LPG cylinder, 10 rubber stamps and few

chemicals used in preparing ghee. Dr Joginder Singh Food Security Officer said that four samples of each brand of ghee were collected for sending to the forensic laboratory Karnal for test report.

Amit told that he used to get manufactured wrappers of different brands of ghee from Delhi, manufacturing ghee by mixing refined oil, vanaspati, chemicals and essence for the flavour, packed in 1 kg containers and 15 kg tins usually supplying entire production in adjoining districts Jind, Rohtak, Charkhi Dadri and few other markets.

# Action against corrupt police officers in Haryana now likely to have their properties attached

**SATISH HANDA**

New DGP in Haryana state police department Shatrughit Kapur has warned all corrupt police officers as well as staff in Haryana state to remain alert and sincere to their duties since a large number of them are in his hit list and their properties made with illegal money may be attached by the government. Kapur while working in his previous post of Director General Anti corruption Bureau in the state had arrested a large number of senior officers allegedly involved in corrupt practices and pushed them behind bars. Aiming to

clean the police department in the state, he warned all police employees in the state to leave illicit practices, otherwise he prepared for action against them as per the green signal by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Home Minister Anil Vij.

DGP Shatrughit Kapur after joining the new assignment has already organised meetings with senior police bureaucrats at Gurugram, Rohtak and Faridabad and told them that corruption by police employees in the state will not be tolerated at any cost. Information reveals, Kapur while holding the previous portfolio of



DG Anti Corruption Bureau in the state during past one year registered 246 corruption cases in which 27 senior gazetted officers, 166 government employees and 27 private persons were arrested allegedly involved in corruption in 170 about raids and on an average 18 government employees and officers were arrested every month involved in corruption in the state.

DGP Kapur said that among his priorities in present assignment special focus on safety as well as security for females in the state and wipe out criminal activities against females completely from the state, have zero tolerance policy against corrupt officials and staff, against whom strict measures will be adopted and action may be taken to attach their illegal properties. Kapur made an appeal to the people in the state to make complaints to Anti Corruption Bureau at Toll Free Number 1800 180 2022 in case of having any information in this regard. Kapur said that he will try his best to wipe out drug

smuggling from Haryana state. DGP Kapur said that in order to strengthen the police network in Haryana state since 2015, as many as 33 Women police stations were set up in the state to provide relief regarding crimes against women. He said, 21437 male and female police constables were recruited and 200 Women Help Desk were established in the state. DGP assured that all cases of rapes and gangrapes registered in the state will be referred to the Fast Track Courts at Faridabad, Gurugram, Panipat, Sonapat and Nuh in the state for quick and stern action against the accused.



## Congress condemns PM Modi's insensitivity towards martyred soldiers

KAVITA SHARMA  
New Delhi

The Congress condemned the shameless insensitivity of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, towards the martyred officers and soldiers in Anantnag encounter, by going ahead with his self-praising celebrations at the BJP headquarters while the news of the incident was being flashed at the same time.

Addressing a press conference here today, the Chairman of the Congress Ex-Servicemen Department, Col Rohit Chaudhary said, while the country was shocked with the grief as the news of the martyrdom of Col Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhonchak and DSP Humayun Bhatt, flashed all over, the Prime Minister was busy getting himself showered with flowers at



the BJP headquarters.

He asked, why could not the PM stop the function and express solidarity with the country in general and the soldiers in particular. He said, the army and the country were feeling hurt over such shameful behaviour of the Prime Minister who has otherwise always been claiming to be a nationalist.

Col Chaudhary said, the Congress party stands by the martyrs' families and shares their grief. He said he along with his colleagues will be visiting Panipat, to share the grief of the family of Major Dhonchak. He said, similarly the Congress representatives will be visiting the Chandigarh residence of Col Manpreet Singh.

The AICC Ex-Servicemen Department Chairman said, over 30 incidents of terror have occurred in Kashmir this year so far. He said the particular incident was a 'deliberate ambush' where the officers and soldiers were apparently lured into action and then ambushed. He observed that there appeared to be an intelligence

failure also which needs to be looked into.

He called for extra-caution saying this was an election year and the country's enemies would be ready with their nefarious designs. He pointed out, Pulwama also took place during the election year and that is why the country needs to keep extra guard against the enemies' designs.

Col Chaudhary said, no lessons seem to have been learnt from the Pulwama terror attack, which took place on February 13, 2019. He said, no proper inquiry and investigation was conducted and nor were the people responsible and involved in it identified and punished. He said, if proper investigations had been carried out, yesterday's incident may not have taken place.

## Trinamool Congress & INDIA believes Special Session's agenda a diversion, expecting some last minutes announcements

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA  
New Delhi

The agenda for the special Parliament session has still not been announced, Trinamool Congress's (TMC) Spokesperson and the Leader of the Party in Rajyasabha said, because the announcement bulletin has a 'sinister line' saying this is not the exhaustive list of business.

The key members of the INDIA bloc, TMC's Spokesperson Derek O'Brien criticised the 'not-exhaustive' agenda of next week's five-day special session of the Parliament, announced, calling it a 'disappointment' and a 'diversion tactic'. Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien said the government could add "some business" at the last minute.



They will be up to dirty tricks, and they can add some business last minute," Derek said. The Opposition took a dig at the government and alleged that it has been hiding the actual intention behind the session and would be 'unleashed at the last moment'. The Congress claimed that the agenda was announced following a 'pressure' from Sonia Gandhi as she wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi few days back seeking details of the list of business.

## JD(U) leader slams AIMIM's Bihar chief for his 'paltimar' statement on Nitish



PATNA: A day after Bihar AIMIM president Akhtar Imam claimed that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar can execute his 'paltimar' programme anytime, JD(U) MLC and chief spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said that AIMIM is a 'B team of BJP'.

"When you match the tweet of RSS and AIMIM, their timeline would be similar all the time. AIMIM is a B team of BJP-RSS. Their Graha and Nachatra are the same," Kumar said.

The statement of Neeraj Kumar came after Imam, the sole MLA of AIMIM in Bihar, made the comments after Nitish Kumar met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders of the BJP at the G20 dinner meet.

"It is not surprising that the point of view and working style of Nitish Kumar is similar to BJP. Nitish ji had broken his own commitment 'Mitti Me Mil Jayenge Par BJP Ke Sang Nahai Jayenge'. It could be possible that Nitish ji may have personal differences with Modi ji but their style of working is not different. He can do anything," Imam said.

"On the national level, the political stature of Rahul Gandhi is higher than Nitish Kumar. The latter might be instrumental in uniting the opposition parties but his stature is smaller than Rahul Gandhi," Imam said.

## Criminal cases against 40 per cent of country's MPs: ADR report

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA  
New Delhi

According to a research, 40 percent of the country's MPs have criminal cases against them. 25 percent of them have serious crimes like murder, attempted murder, kidnapping and rape cases. Such sensational information has emerged in the report of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The report was prepared by ADR and National Election Watch (NEW) after verifying the election affidavits of 763 MPs out of a total of 776 seats in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The highest number of criminal



cases are against BJP MPs in the Rajya Sabha. Even the two Rajya Sabha MPs against whom there is a serious criminal case like murder are also BJP MPs. This information emerged from the report of Association for Democratic

Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW).

Currently 4 Lok Sabha and 1 Rajya Sabha seats are vacant. Again, 4 Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir are yet to be decided. Besides, the information of 1 Lok Sabha MP

and 3 Rajya Sabha MPs was not available. According to the report, out of 763 MPs, 306 (40 per cent) reported having criminal cases against them. 194 (25 percent) admitted to having a serious criminal record. Kerala tops in the state-wise list in terms of percentage. Out of the 29 MPs in the state, 23 (79 percent) have criminal cases against them.

MPs are not lagging behind in terms of property. According to the ADR report, the per capita wealth of MPs in the two houses of Parliament is around 38.33 million. 53 out of 763 Member of Parliament of both the house are millionaires.

## Missing BSF trooper traced in native Bihar village



JAMMU: The border security force (BSF) trooper who went missing from duty on Friday in J&K's Poonch district was on Sunday traced in his native village in Bihar. The trooper was on general duty at Bharani forward post on the line of control (LoC) in Balakote sector of Poonch district. "He was found in his native village in Bihar on Sunday morning. Police had registered an FIR into this incident on Friday in Poonch district," officials said.

## Kamal Haasan's party MNM to forge alliances for 2024 elections



CHENNAI: Makkal Needham Maiam (MNM) of Tamil super star Kamal Haasan is planning to forge political alliances with parties opposed to BJP in the run up to the 2024 general elections. The party, according to sources, is focusing on three Lok Sabha seats: Coimbatore, Madurai and South Chennai. It may be noted that in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and in the 2021 assembly elections, the MNM had performed well in these three Lok Sabha constituencies. Sources in the party told to media that Kamal Haasan has briefed his party district level functionaries regarding the political steps the party is about to take. In the 2021 assembly elections, MNM secured 3.43 per cent of the total vote share in the state and the party leadership is pitching that in an alliance, the party would win seats. The party is aiming for a minimum of three Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 elections and is planning electoral alliances on the basis of this. However, party functionaries confirmed with IANS that MNM will never have an alliance with the BJP in the next elections.

## Gujarat Cong leader Prashant Patel resigns, set to join BJP on PM Modi's birthday

NEW DELHI: Former Vadodra Congress chief Prashant Patel, who has officially parted ways with the grand-old party, is scheduled to join the BJP on September 17, coinciding with the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Patel, who has served the Congress, conveyed his resignation via a letter addressed to State party chief Shaktisinh Gohil.

Recent developments also saw Gujarat Congress' newly appointed in-charge, Mukul Wasnik, visit Vadodra alongside Gohil.

This visit marked Wasnik's inaugural organisational tour in his new role.

Reportedly, both Wasnik and Gohil attempted to dissuade Patel from defecting, but in vain.

Patel has expressed his intention to make the transition to the BJP alongside a substantial contingent of party workers.

Moreover, indications sug-



gest that former city Congress chief Suresh Patel and another prominent city party figure, Bhavesh Patel, are also poised to align themselves with the BJP, mirroring Prashant Patel's decision.

In his statement, Prashant Patel reflected on the nation's historical trajectory, noting that "India had been governed by Mughals, British colonialists, and the Congress party, but now finds itself under the governance of Hindutva".

He emphasised that "Hindutva should not be misconstrued as a threat to any segment of society", asserting that under its auspices, all citizens would thrive and experience happiness.

Prashant Patel also voiced his disapproval of certain Congress and alliance leaders who, he claimed, "openly criticised Sanatan Hindu dharma, terming such rhetoric as unacceptable".

He further opined that in the annals of India's future history, the era of Hindutva rule under Prime Minister Modi would be remembered.

Prashant Patel emphasised that his decision to leave the Congress party was not "rooted in personal grievances but was, instead, a consequence of his disagreement with the party's ideological stance".

It is speculated that the Patels are disheartened, particularly following the appointment of Rutvij Joshi as the city Congress chief.

## G20 New Delhi Summit adds to India's growing clout: ASSOCHAM

NEW DELHI: G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration adopted with consensus on a wide range of issues confronting global economic and geo-political environment is a reflection of India's clout as an influential economic and strategic power which continues to grow under a strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ASSOCHAM said.

"G20 Summit under India's Presidency has delivered a fair and a candid vision to the members reminding them about global responsibility to work for a sustainable and equitable growth and navigate the headwinds including cost of living crisis in several major economies and supply chain disruptions because of geo-political reasons," ASSOCHAM Secretary General Deepak Sood said.

He said the leaders' declaration has taken particular note of priorities emphasized by India



with regard to issues like global financial stability, integration of the MSMEs into international trade and adoption of modern taxation systems across the world.

"India's push towards open source digital public infrastructure has been well accepted and would create immense opportunities for the new age entrepreneurs and the startups in innovative businesses like artificial intelligence," he said.

Deepak Sood said hosting the G20 Summit has strengthened India's economic and political

left across major powers of the world. The meeting has not only provided a global platform for the leaders to exchange ideas of common interest but also an opportunity for India to add dynamism to bilateral relationships with the influential economies of the world.

"The Prime Minister's bilateral meetings with top leaders including US President Joe Biden, would go a long way in strengthening economic and strategic engagement across the world", the chamber Secretary General said.

## Congress Slams PM Modi for relaxing import duty on Washington Apples

KAVITA SHARMA  
New Delhi

The Congress party lashes out at the centre's decision to steeply cut import duty on Washington apples. India produces some of the best apples in the world, about 60 per cent of production happens in Jammu and Kashmir, 25 to 30 per cent in Himachal Pradesh and the rest in Uttarakhand and as a measure of protecting our own farmers, we need higher import duties on apples coming from Washington, but, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reportedly in the G20 summit has committed to decrease the price, or decreasing the import duty to merely 15 per cent as far as Washington apples are concerned.



Addressing media persons, AICC spokesperson Supriya Srinete said, In United States, apples are produced by large corporations and the government heavily subsidizes production of apples by giving steep subsidies on fertilizer, on pesticides, on seeds, on various other things. So, why has the Modi government

decided to benefit American farmers? Why has he gifted a huge bonanza to American farmers at the cost of our own farmers, at a time when Himachal Pradesh is dealing with the worst ever natural disaster that has almost cost a damage of Rs. 10,000 crores. Why is the government not being forthright in helping farmers? Why is the government attacking the 5-lakh people, who directly produce apple in Himachal Pradesh?

Apple production makes up for nearly 14 percent of Himachal Pradesh's GDP. Apple production is down to one fourth of what it should be. Himachal Pradesh every year packs about 3.6 crore boxes of apples. It is expected to pack under 2 crore this year. So, at a time when Himachal Pradesh is dealing

with such a huge disaster, when apple production, is impacted, by reducing import duty, govt. has done harm to our farmers, it's a wrong decision of the Modi government," Supriya added.

Congress leader also blamed Modi govt for giving Himachal Pradesh apple orchards in the hands of Adani. Similarly in Kashmir things have just begun to pick up, the economy is just beginning to slowly come back to normal and just then you impact farmers, by decreasing import duty on apples, by decreasing import duty on almonds, and by decreasing import duty on walnuts. In what words can prioritizing another country's farmers be justified? she said. Before, he was leaving for the United States in June

## India elevated G20 as 'premier forum' for economic coop

LAKSHMI PURI

India that is Bharat's one in 20 years presidency under PM Modi's stewardship will be considered historic and leave an indelible mark that even the cynics within Bharat and abroad would find difficult to contest. India's physical, cultural, civilisational grandeur, its economic, scientific and technological progress and dynamism was in full display.

Its diplomatic and consensus building skills, its most populous and youth-rich country and oldest, largest and most diverse democracy status, gave its presidency a special gravitas in this 'people's G20'. A never before commitment by the government of PM Modi put Bharat on world stage as both Vishwaguru and Vishvmitra, was witnessed in the highest level participation and a meaningful Delhi Declaration.

It represented the coming of age of Bharat from the periphery to the centre of global economic decision-making.

India signaled it would play a key role to promote and interlocute North-South cooperation. Its mammoth social justice projects benchmarks for replication and scaling up in the global south. PM Modi's inclusive and human-centric approach to the tasks of driving this most powerful grouping of developed and developing countries for delivering the global public goods of rapid economic growth, sustainable development, climate action and humanitarian response for all became the hallmark of Bharat's G20 presidency success.

The G20 - an elitist plurilateral forum - was born in the midst of a global crisis of 2008 and helped to ameliorate it considerably while facing criticism of hijacking global economic and financial governance agenda away from truly universal multilateral forum. Over the years, the G20 has proven its utility but now it has to address the gravest polycrisis ever - simultaneous, overlapping and interlinked, from climate change and environmental degradation, cascading socioeconomic ravages



of Covid-19, Russia-Ukraine war, rising geopolitical tensions, food, fertiliser, fuel and financial crisis, supply chain insecurity - severely affecting the global south. This at a time when the multilaterals institutions - the UN, the World Bank, IMF and the WTO, among others - are, as UN secretary general Guterres admitted, "gridlocked in colossal dysfunction".

The 18th G20 has lived up to PM Modi's promise to the global south - "Your voice is India's voice, your priorities are India's priorities" - in impactful and substantive ways. India marked a milestone in inclusivity and democratisation of global governance by admitting into the G20, the 54-country African Union -

second largest, resource-rich continent, with 1.466 billion people struggling to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

On all of Bharat's seven thematic priorities for its G20 presidency, it has indeed delivered "inclusive, ambitious, action oriented and decisive" outcomes for the global south. They include accelerating progress in SDG achievement and implementing G20 Action Plan and High level Principles; mobilising affordable, adequate and accessible financing from all sources to close the financing gap and supporting UNSG's SDG stimulus; scaling up sustainable finance in line with G20 roadmap; enhancing global food security according to the

Deccan High Level principles on Food Security and Nutrition, addressing food and fertiliser price volatility and enhancing IFAD resources. Taking a 'one health' approach, the G20 adopted a comprehensive package of cooperation, including to enhance WHO-led pandemic preparedness and surveillance systems and finance health collaboration. Most significant was the robust Green Development Pact with strengthened resolve to implement the Paris commitments. PM Modi's LIFE mission has been turned into G20 High Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development.

It called for an ambitious second replenishment of Green Climate Fund and along with private finance and strong commitment on developing, sharing, deployment and financing of climate friendly technologies and the Multiyear Technical Assistance Plan (TAAP) implementation; need for USD 5.9 trillion for Global South before 2030 to implement their NDCs, USD 4 trillion for clean energy technologies alone, call on parties to implement 100 billion Paris commitment and set an

ambitious, traceable, transparent New Collective Quantifiable Goal - NCQG. On just energy transitions, the Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre steered by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) High-Level Principles for Collaboration on Critical Minerals for Energy Transitions" was launched. The G20 also provided the setting for the launch a Global Biofuels Alliance.

On technology and digital public infrastructure, it endorsed the G20 2023 Financial Inclusion Action Plan, G20 Framework for Systems of Digital Public Infrastructure and India's plan to build and maintain a Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository. India's proposal of One Future Alliance (OFA) to build capacity, provide technical assistance and funding support for DPI in low income countries was welcomed. A shared FSB and SSBs work plan for crypto assets and a roadmap for a comprehensive and coordinated policies and regulatory framework was set.

G20 vowed to reinvigorate and reform the UN and International Financial Institutions, to deliver bigger, better

and more effective multilateral development banks, to make a quantum jump from billions to trillions in development finance including an ambitious IDA 21 replenishment and IMF governance quota reform were affirmed to be concluded by December 2023. Addressing the unprecedented \$9 trillion developing country debt the G20 called for more effective implementation of the debt suspension initiative of G20 and agreed to go beyond it. Progress was made on international taxation system - globally fair, sustainable and modern for the 21st century - and on international terrorism and money laundering.

That the G20 summit represented a consensus on the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and stressed that this must not be an era of war, was a triumph in building trust. It enabled India to reinstate G20 as a 'premier forum' for much-needed global economic cooperation in the best and worst of times.

Lakshmi Puri, former ambassador of India and assistant secretary general of the UN. Views are personal





## G-20 bridged global divides successfully

The recent Leaders' Summit under India's G-20 presidency concluded with an unprecedented victory. Against the odds, the New Delhi Declaration was unanimously adopted, which came as a surprise to many. The pessimism stemmed from the well-known division between the G-7-EU alliance and the Russia-China duo regarding the Ukraine conflict. The UN Security Council has been a testament to this deadlock, with both factions consistently wielding their veto powers. The 2022 Indonesian G-20 negotiators managed a joint statement that criticised Russia. However, this consensus was fleeting. This year saw Russia and China staunchly oppose any repetition. Given these dynamics, India's tactful approach was to build a consensus on other topics before addressing the Ukraine issue. The pivotal moment came when the G-7 softened its stance, leading to a more balanced Declaration. India's strategy to tread the "middle path" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal diplomacy with G-20 leaders were instrumental. Substantive outcomes of the Declaration include cryptocurrency regulation insights and an almost \$10 trillion allocation for climate change initiatives. Yet, setting clear deadlines for phasing out fossil fuels remains a challenge. Other notable initiatives were the African Union's inclusion, rectifying an imbalance in the G-20. The inception of the Global Biofuel Alliance marks a stride towards alternative energy solutions. The proposed India-Middle East-Europe Corridor holds immense potential, although the intricacies of its execution remain under wraps. In an unconventional move, India expanded the G-20 format, organising 200 meetings across over 60 cities, attracting a vast influx of global officials. This break from tradition, though cost-intensive, has redefined the G-20's image, transforming it from a mundane summit to a vibrant global event. In essence, India's G-20 presidency has showcased the nation's ability to mediate in a polarised world. Mr Modi's planned virtual "review" in November aims to uphold the integrity of decisions made, ensuring they don't merely remain on paper. Truly, this has been India's defining G-20 moment.

### LETTERBOX

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**RAMYA NATARAJAN** HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES WITHIN THE LARGER ECOSYSTEM TO PREVENT NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

## Targeting biofuel sustainability



Until a few years ago, working on biofuels called for constant justification in the face of electric vehicles (EVs) taking over the world. Today, while there is no doubt that EV adoption has amplified over the years, there is growing awareness of the fact that no decarbonisation strategy is trade-off-free. For instance, for a transition to EVs, existing internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and the supporting infrastructure need to be replaced entirely, which is capital intensive. Further, the required batteries and critical minerals used in them need to be imported, adding to environmental concerns on how these minerals are mined, among other issues. Biofuels, on the other hand, can be used in existing ICE engines and infrastructure with little to no modifications (depending on the blending rates) and offer import independence.

However, 'biofuel' is a blanket term that includes both sustainable and unsustainable fuels, and an understanding of their difference will be essential to drive effective decarbonisation action.

### The challenges in India

In India, biofuel is synonymous with first-generation (1G) ethanol, which is primarily sourced from food crops. The policy target in India of achieving 20% ethanol blending with petrol (E20) by 2025-26 is expected to be met almost entirely by 1G ethanol made from sugar cane and foodgrains. Second-generation (2G) ethanol, which is made from crop wastes and residues, is unlikely to contribute much to achieving this target due to several challenges related to feedstock supply chain and scaling up.

The groundwater depletion implications of growing sugar cane are well known, but the food security implications of groundwater depletion and of using foodgrains for ethanol



production are harder to imagine because India is currently a surplus food producer. But there are several reasons why diverting the surplus produce towards energy or specifically growing a crop for energy may not be a sustainable strategy. First, India's crop yields have already stagnated, and global warming is expected to reduce yields, which means that the same area under cultivation (arable land) will produce less with time but will need to suffice for a growing population. So, our strategy to meet blending targets cannot depend on surplus crop production.

Second, a recent study led by the University of Michigan projected that the rates of groundwater depletion could triple during 2040-81 compared with the current rate. This is again attributable to temperature rise and the resultant increase in crop water requirements. With such limited resources, be it groundwater or arable land, food production should be prioritised over fuel.

Third, the agriculture sector is one of the hardest-to-abate in terms of direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. So, increasing GHG emissions from this sector for motor

fuel production in order to decrease GHG emissions from the transport sector is an unnecessary balancing loop that would achieve little net benefit.

In India, the ethanol blending policy has been a good strategy to deal with the surplus sugar production. Another good strategy to deal with the surplus sugar production would be to reduce surplus sugar cane cultivation. Increasing farmer income is often waved as a white flag in response to this argument, but sugar cane being a remunerative crop has more to do with government intervention than anything else. This means that any unassuming crop could be made as remunerative as sugar cane if so desired.

'Sustainable' biofuels are produced from crop residues and other wastes, with low water and GHG footprint. The Global Biofuels Alliance that was formed at the G-20 Summit in New Delhi last week is expected to strengthen the development of sustainable biofuels, in addition to promoting ethanol uptake. It is, therefore, a historic moment for India, demonstrating its commitment to climate action with global cooperation.

### Sustainable biomass use

The Energy Transitions Commission, in its report on 'Bioresources within a Net-Zero Emissions Economy', recommended that biomass should be prioritised for use in sectors where there are limited low-carbon alternatives. Long-haul aviation and road freight segments, wherein complete electrification might take longer to achieve, could make the cut, whereas petrol vehicles (for which ethanol blending is currently being targeted) would probably not.

According to the International Energy Agency, to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 globally, sustainable biofuel production needs to triple by 2030 to fuel modes that have few other mitigation options. Although 1G ethanol is unlikely to fit the bill, 2G ethanol could be counted as a sustainable fuel, especially if the production is decentralised, i.e., crop residues do not have to be transported large distances to a central manufacturing plant. But this might affect achieving economies of scale for the 2G plant. Balancing economies of scale with the energy needs (and costs) of biomass collection and transport across large distances is a major challenge. The Global Biofuels Alliance could help drive innovation and technology development in establishing an efficient biomass supply chain and smaller-scale decentralised biofuel production units.

Achieving true sustainability is complex, especially with respect to biofuels. Therefore, any strategy should be carefully examined in the context of the larger ecosystem to avoid unintended negative consequences.

*Ramya Natarajan works in the area of climate, environment and sustainability at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSSTEP), a research-based think tank. Views are personal.*



**AMIT KUMAR** EXPLAINS HOW BEIJING'S TECH PROWESS SETS A NEW BENCHMARK FOR THE INDUSTRY

## 'Made in China' phone forges new paths in success stories



Huawei, the Chinese smartphone giant, has created ripples within the strategic and business community with its newly unveiled Mate 60 Pro which houses the Kirin 9000 processor. The chipset reportedly used Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC)'s second-generation 7nm fabrication technique, thereby demonstrating China's capability to manufacture a 7nm chip.

Consequently, observers have claimed that the capability marks a major breakthrough in Beijing's drive to attain self-sufficiency in manufacturing advanced chips. The fact that China succeeded in achieving this feat despite American sanctions on key semiconductor technologies has led many to even question the efficacy of the sanctions. However, while China's technology demonstration deserves appreciation, the capability itself might not mean much as several challenges besiege its self-sufficiency drive.

To begin with, the fabrication technique used by Huawei-SMIC to manufacture the Kirin 9000 processor is highly inefficient. The wafer yield (a metric of efficiency) of the deployed technology is way less than 50%. In contrast, Taiwan's Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited (TSMC)'s 7nm fabrication technique has a wafer yield in excess of 90%. This makes the SMIC's process extremely expensive — up to 10 times the costs incurred by other players in the market, and therefore highly uncompetitive.

Second, the 7nm fabrication technique represents the zenith of China's capabilities with the available Deep Ultraviolet (DUV) lithography tools. The United States's sanctions that cut off Beijing's access to the most advanced lithography tool in the market — the Extreme Ultraviolet (EUVs) — meant



that China had to rely on DUVs to fabricate the Kirin 9000 chipset. While DUVs can technically be used to make 7nm chips, the process is extremely messy and inefficient, thus lowering its yield. For instance, the SMIC technique used multiple rounds of masking or layering on the wafer to manufacture a 7nm chipset, leading to multiple exposures. On the other hand, the TSMC with the EUVs can perform the same task of high complexity with a single exposure.

Third, it is doubtful that Huawei-SMIC could produce the current chipsets on a large scale. The fact that the U.S. and its allies have restricted China's access to even DUVs lately means that large-scale production of 7nm chips would be a challenge for Chinese companies.

Thus, low yield rates, inefficient and costly procedures along with difficulty in achieving the scale are likely hurdles in Huawei's attempt to commercialise its new technology product. This is significant because the failure to achieve commercialisation will impact incremental innovation as they reinforce each other. And products that fail to innovate alongside their competition eventually fade away.

### A comparison

Besides, there are several other challenges that plague China's chip ecosystem compared to the U.S.-led ecosystem. The fact that America's encompasses the most advanced economies of the world confers upon it several advantages that China's isolated ecosystem will find nearly impossible to compete with.

First, the extensive and distributed nature of the U.S.-led tech ecosystem allows individual countries to achieve functional specialisation according to their respective comparative advantages. The existing supply chain — where the U.S. specialises in EDA tools and designing, the Netherlands in producing lithography tools, Japan in manufacturing specialised materials, and Taiwan and South Korea in fabrication — corroborates the claim.

China, on the other hand, not only has the mandate to become self-sufficient in each segment of the value chain but has to also achieve sophistication in each of these to remain competitive. Achieving specialisation in any one segment of the chip value chain itself is highly capital intensive; to achieve so in each of them is impossible. It is also important to remember that advanced chips

are only one of the many core technologies that China aims to become self-sufficient in. Given that the Chinese ecosystem is not as elaborate as the U.S.'s and is rather isolated, there are limits to Beijing's potential with its finite resources.

As for the U.S.-led ecosystem, the costs can be distributed among the participating countries, most of which have much higher per-capita income than China. Therefore, to compete with a larger pool of resources, China will need to strike a higher success rate on every dime it spends on research, which is difficult to achieve given that breakthroughs in basic research are capital intensive and may not yield success as often. If that alone is not enough to burden the scientific community, the pressure to perform and deliver in China's authoritarian system further compounds the problem. To sum it up, China's appetite to absorb failures is extremely limited when compared to the U.S. and its allies. This makes for quite an un conducive environment for innovation given that it thrives best in a free environment. Finally, the U.S.-led tech ecosystem allows it to source talent from diverse regions, owing to its open immigration policy and distributed network. China, on the contrary, will have to solely rely on its national or overseas talent pool as the movement of human capital to China becomes more difficult due to deepening rivalry in the high-tech sectors.

Going forward, China's tech ecosystem faces a daunting challenge to succeed in everything all by itself. It may score a victory in odd areas, but replicating the feat in every single domain is impractical.

*Amit Kumar is Research Analyst, Indo-Pacific Studies Programme, the Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru. Views are personal.*



### BOOKS: REVIEW

## Beyond the hill: An author's journey for a greener India

Every once in a while, a memoir surfaces that not only gives an insight into the author's life but also drives a poignant narrative about the world around him. "A Walk Up The Hill: Living with People and Nature" by Madhav Gadgil is one such book. It isn't just an autobiography of an esteemed ecologist and policymaker; it is a vivid tapestry woven with personal experiences, professional insights, and passionate advocacies for the environment.

From the outset, Gadgil's childhood curiosity is evident. Be it his correspondence with the famed ornithologist Salim Ali or his eagerness to explore the communities of Kodagu in Karnataka at such a young age, the reader is given a glimpse into the formation of a man who would later become a significant force in Indian ecology. His journey from a curious child to an authoritative figure in ecology is beautifully chronicled and is a testament to dreams realized.

This memoir serves as a treasure trove, delineating India's ecological combat — the victories and the losses. Gadgil's candid discourse on pressing topics such as the caste system, corruption, and community forestry offers a no-holds-barred perspective on the intricacies of India's ecological landscape. His critiques, especially of the Forest Department's policies, resonate with urgency, echoing the unsung voices of local communities and the silent pleas of dwindling forests.

One of the book's strengths lies in Gadgil's reflective prose. Through lucid storytelling, he embarks on an exposition of India's vast biodiversity and multifaceted ecological zones. His first-hand experiences, like the one aboard a Japanese trawler, showcase his anthropological and ecological prowess. His emphasis on the 'precautionary principle' offers a much-needed approach to conservation and sustainable growth.

For many, Madhav Gadgil's name

### Through lucid storytelling, he embarks on an exposition of India's vast biodiversity and multifaceted ecological zones

is synonymous with groundbreaking ecological studies. His formidable education, from being one of the first Indian ecologists trained at Harvard to being influenced by seminal works like Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring", has solidified his legacy in the field. His pioneering efforts, including the establishment of the Centre for Ecological Sciences in Bengaluru and contributions like the People's Biodiversity Register, have paved the way for a more environmentally conscious India.

The author's deep connection to the Western Ghats paints a vivid



*A Walk Up The Hill: Living with People and Nature*  
By Madhav Gadgil  
Penguin Allen Lane  
412 pages; Rs 999

picture every monsoon. It's impossible to detach his name from the policy document stemming from his in-depth research on this ecologically delicate region. Furthermore, Gadgil's embrace of technology and an unyielding commitment to research have provided him with a unique lens to discern environmental patterns. His predictions about the changing climate and its ramifications on India's west coast are both insightful and alarming.

Yet, what is perhaps most poignant is the underlying message of the book: a lesson and a dire warning. At a juncture where environmental norms are being sidestepped with alarming rapidity, Gadgil's life and work present a clarion call to action. It's a wake-up call to India and the world, highlighting the hefty price of ignorance.

"A Walk Up The Hill" transcends its status as a mere memoir; it emerges as a beacon of hope and a masterclass in environmental stewardship. Gadgil's personal anecdotes seamlessly intertwine with the broader narrative of India's ecological evolution. The memoir paints a vivid picture of a nation blessed with rich biodiversity, but simultaneously, it highlights the constant tug-of-war between rapid industrialisation and the necessity of conservation.

Madhav Gadgil's encounters with renowned figures such as Salim Ali and Irawati Karve not only provide readers with an intimate view into the world of environmental studies but also underscore the collaborative nature of the field. These interactions serve as a testament to the power of shared knowledge and the merging of diverse experiences to address the daunting ecological challenges faced by India. Furthermore, his unwavering commitment to community-driven solutions, evidenced by his stance on community forestry and emphasis on locally-sourced biodiversity information, underscores the need for inclusive and participatory environmental strategies.



## THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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## 'International Conference on Space 2023' organized in Bengaluru by the Confederation of Indian Industry

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

The Department of Space initiated the Transfer of Technology (ToT) in line with India's space sector reforms that encourage greater private participation in the sector.

Speaking at the "International Conference on Space 2023", two day event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Goenka said IN-SPACE is "aggressively" pursuing Transfer of Technology (ToT) with the industry to see how technologies developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are being leveraged by the private sector. "The biggest of these transfers is of the SSLV technology. This is, perhaps, the first ever example where an agency, anywhere in the world, has transferred the full design of a launch vehicle to the private sector," Goenka said.



IN-SPACE and the Bureau of Indian Standards released the first volume of a catalogue of space industry standards. The volume, aimed at facilitating globally competitive space missions, details 15 standards that cover three broad areas – project management strategies, system engineering principles and product assurance mechanisms. The conference, themed 'Expediting new space in India', hosts technical sessions on topics including policy interventions, global collaborations, and innovation in earth observation.

The inaugural session of the conference was completely the

celebration of India's remarkable feat in space technology, especially the successful soft-landing of the Chandrayaan 3 on the south pole of the moon. The experts speaking the occasion also underlined the meticulous preparations and data-driven decision-making that contributed to the mission's success.

Former ISRO chairman Kiran Kumar said that space sector is poised for exponential growth. "With policy reforms, innovations, private sector participation, as well as international collaboration at the forefront, the ISRO is moving forward to explore new horizons in space

technology. The ISRO is all geared up to address the global challenges in space science as well as contributing advancing our knowledge of the universe", kiran kumar added.

Chairman of the CII National Committee on Space Jayant Patil, Sarah Storey, Deputy High Commissioner of the Australian Commission and other CII, ISRO, IN-SPACE dignitaries present on the occasion. In the two-day event, over 80 eminent speakers and scientists express their views.

CII and Deloitte released a report—"NewSpace: India Perspective" during the conference. The report offers an understanding of the Indian space ecosystem in terms of regulatory structures, technological progress and collaborative initiatives and elucidates the crucial role of the space sector in propelling social-economic growth, with a call to action—a must for the growth of the Indian space sector.

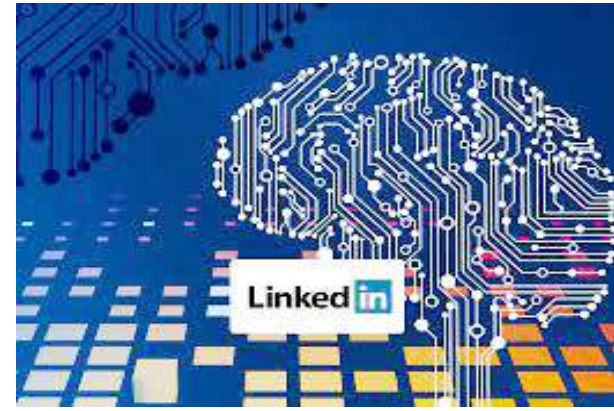
## LinkedIn unveils new generative AI features as pilot for sales professionals in India

NEW DELHI: Microsoft-owned professional networking platform LinkedIn on Wednesday introduced new Generative artificial intelligence (AI) features as pilot in its Sales Navigator tool in select markets, as 73 per cent of India's sellers look to increase the use of AI.

Sellers are welcoming the rise of AI as 69 per cent of sales professionals worldwide are expecting a surge in AI use in the next six months.

Abhai Singh, Head of Sales Solutions, LinkedIn India, said in a blog post that LinkedIn Sales Solutions is reimagining how sellers can use Sales Navigator with a pilot of two Generative AI features -- the AI-assisted search and Account IQ.

"With these new features, we're making it faster and easier for sellers to discover crucial account and prospect



details, so they can connect with the most relevant contacts, build stronger relationships, and gain a competitive advantage in this new era of selling," said Singh.

The generative AI features for Sales Navigator are available to a limited number of customers in North America, Asia Pacific and Latin America in the initial pilot.

Sales Navigator provides sellers across more than 110 million LinkedIn members in India with real-time search results.

Kaustubh Chandra, CMO and SVP, Digital Sales Group, Airtel Business, said that they incorporated LinkedIn Sales Navigator into the DNA of Airtel Business's Digital Sales Group.

## Infinion presents XENSIV™ tire pressure sensor with intelligent features for tire pressure monitoring systems



ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Munich (Germany)

Infinion Technologies AG combines its proven automotive expertise with its patented glass-Silicon-glass MEMS sensor for the automotive tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) market to launch the XENSIV™ SP49 tire pressure monitoring sensor. The Sensor integrates MEMS sensors and ASIC and provides smart tire features that Enable advanced tire pressure monitoring systems. It features a powerful 32-bit Arm® M0+ core, a large flash memory and RAM, Low Power Monitoring (LPM), and optimized fast acceleration sensing. The SP49 is ideally suited for intelligent tire functions such as on-tire auto-positioning, tire inflation assistance, tire blowout detection, and load detection, company press statement said.

The SP49 is a pin-to-pin replacement for Infineon's last generation SP40 TPMS products. With its hardware master/slave I2C interface and software-simulated UART, SPI and PWM interfaces, the SP49 is ideal for sub-1GHz and scalable for BLE TPMS. Available at ASIL-A, the sensor offers a high level of integration and is optimized to perform all functions required to implement a modern TPMS module. With its integrated microcontroller, sensors and convenient peripherals, the SP49 requires only a few passive components to form a complete TPMS sensor unit.

## Yatra Online Limited's announces its Initial Public Offer open on September 15

FW DESK  
New Delhi

Yatra Online Limited, India's largest corporate travel services provider in terms of number of corporate clients and the third largest online travel company in India among key OTA players in terms of gross booking revenue and operating revenue, for Fiscal Year 2023 (Source: CRISIL Report), has fixed the price band at Rs 135 to Rs 142 per Equity Share for its initial public offering. The initial public offering ("IPO" or "Offer") of the Company will open on Friday, September 15, 2023, for subscription and close on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Investors can bid for a minimum of 105 Equity Shares and in multiples of 105 Equity Shares thereafter.

The initial public offering Equity Shares comprises of fresh issuance of Equity Shares worth Rs 6,020 million and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 12,183,099 Equity Shares.

The Company in consultation with the lead bankers had undertaken a Pre-IPO Placement of Rs 62.01 crore by way of rights issue and allotted 2,627,697 Equity Shares of face value Rs 1 each to its Promoter, THCL Travel Holding Cyprus Limited on December 10, 2022 at an Issue Price of Rs 236.

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be utilized to the tune of Rs. 150 crores for strategic investments, acquisitions, and inorganic growth, Rs. 392 crores for investment in customer acquisition and retention, technology, and other organic growth initiatives and general corporate purposes.

The Company provides access to hotels, homestays, and other accommodations through its platform, and has the largest number of hotel and accommodation tie-ups amongst key domestic OTA players of over 105,600 hotels, as on March 31, 2023 (Source: CRISIL Report).

## CEO Round Table convened to mark the visit of Mark Rutte, PM of Netherlands to Bengaluru

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

In a bid to promote bilateral trade, investment, and collaboration, Karnataka Deputy CM, D.K. Shivakumar invited Dutch businesses to invest in Karnataka to strengthen ties and explore new avenues for growth. A CEO Round Table Meet was convened in the chairmanship of Mr. D.K. Shivakumar, and H.E. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs of The Kingdom of The Netherlands, alongside a delegation of prominent Dutch businesses at Vidhana Soudha Bengaluru.

Speaking at the CEO Round Table Meet, D.K. Shivakumar said "Karnataka is committed to fostering stronger economic bonds with the Netherlands as part of



its broader strategy to enhance global engagement and promote economic development within the state." The primary objective of the meet was to foster closer economic cooperation and offer Dutch companies operating in Karnataka a platform to engage

in strategic discussions on matters of mutual interest, thereby promoting economic growth and investment opportunities.

Shivakumar said, "Karnataka is home to 9% of Dutch investments in India. We share many similarities across major industries

like food processing, Biotech and Pharma, Innovation and R&D to name a few. The state is eager to attract Dutch investments in sectors such as AI, technology, agriculture, renewable energy, and healthcare. Karnataka is not just Bengaluru. There are several other vibrant cities in Karnataka. They are well planned and have skilled talent pool besides having similar environment like Bengaluru. The investors need to look at cities such as Mysuru, Hubli-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Davanagere, Tumakuru, Belagavi, Kalaburgi, etc. These cities are growing rapidly, and they can provide excellent opportunities for various industries including IT. Our government is ready to provide all support for industries to set up shops in areas beyond Bengaluru" he explained.

Manipal Global Education Services (MaGE) and Ms. Preethi Frederick, Head - Product Development, Manipal MedAce during the press conference in Bengaluru.

Manipal MedAce is a comprehensive and outcome driven resource built on academic and learner research. It enables MBBS students to supplement campus learning by providing access to a Comprehensive and Curated learning resource on a single platform through its Learn Product. It provides a

## Honda Cars India launches Honda ELEVATE in Punjab

KULBIR SINGH KALSI  
Chandigarh

Honda Cars India Limited, a leading manufacturer of premium cars in India, today announced the launch of its latest global SUV, the Honda Elevate. The vehicle will be available at an introductory starting price of INR 10,99,900 (ex-showroom, Chandigarh) to INR 15,99,900 (ex-showroom, Chandigarh) for the top variant. Deliveries of the Elevate will begin from today across dealerships in the country.

Elevate demonstrates all the essential attributes of dynamism, bold styling, comfort and safety and made its global debut earlier in June this year.

The Honda Elevate, developed under the grand concept of 'Urban Freestyler', is designed to appeal to customers with active lifestyles and a global mindset. De-



veloped by the Honda R&D Asia Pacific centre located in Thailand, the all-new Elevate caters to the needs and aspirations of younger customers who seek status, comfort, and an active lifestyle. With dimensions of 4312mm length, 1790mm width, 1650mm height, 2650mm wheelbase and a top-class ground clearance the Elevate merges style and practicality seamlessly.

Speaking about the India launch of the much-awaited SUV, Takuya Tsumura, President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd., said, "Today marks an exciting chapter as we launch the strongly anticipated mid-size SUV, the Honda Elevate, in Punjab. Punjab is an important market for Honda Cars in India.

## Manipal Global Education Services Launches Manipal MedAce

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

Manipal Global Education Services, a leading international provider of quality learning solutions in higher education, launched Manipal MedAce, a first-of-its-kind super app for Medical Learning and Medical PG Prep, in a new mobile and cloud first format. Manipal MedAce was unveiled by Ravi Panchanadan, Managing Director & CEO - Manipal Global Education Services (MaGE) and Ms. Preethi Frederick, Head - Product Development, Manipal MedAce during the press conference in Bengaluru.

Manipal MedAce is a comprehensive and outcome driven resource built on academic and learner research. It enables MBBS students to supplement campus learning by providing access to a Comprehensive and Curated learning resource on a single platform through its Learn Product. It provides a



Personalised Experience for PG aspirants that are Efficient, Clutter free and Stress Free, through its Prep Product thereby making the lives of medical students easier.

Learn for Basic Sciences contains dynamic, engaging, credible and easily accessible content, designed around the

micro learning philosophy to provide flexible learning options. MedAce makes the learning journey exciting, easy and effective with a plethora of resources, such as Micro learning modules, Live tutoring sessions, Online dissection lab, 3D interactive learning, Gamified assessments.

Prep provides a comprehensive learning experience to empower medical students on their journey to NEET PG/Next IT/INICET/FMGE success. It is the only platform conceived and developed in accordance with Next guidelines. It adheres to CBME curriculum- defined categories, including Must Know, Nice to Know, and May Know, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the new examination platform. The entire MCQ bank is designed based on these guidelines, focusing on problem-solving, comprehension, and recall skills. Key features include, Personalized study plans, Error-free question bank, Custom and Grand tests, Flashcards and workbooks, Content curated by Subject Matter Experts.

Speaking at the launch, Ravi Panchanadan, Managing Director & CEO - Manipal Global Education Services (MaGE), commented, Manipal MedAce brings together our rich heritage

and expertise in medical education and a deep well researched understanding of the pulse of learners. With MedAce we've combined our 60-year expertise in delivering top tier medical content using latest digital technology in a user-friendly manner, which will engage with learners in a format/ on form factors they are comfortable with in their daily lives. Through Manipal MedAce, we endeavor to enrich lives of medical students by making learning easy and interesting, setting them up for success at every stage of the journey." He added.

Preethi Frederick, Head - Product Development and Marketing, Manipal MedAce said, "Manipal MedAce's journey began with curiosity, research, and a relentless drive to make a difference. The app's very foundation was rooted in understanding the needs of learners. It was all about creating something with learners.

## Purdue researcher awarded \$1.3 million for malaria drug trials in Southeast Asia & Africa

Philip Low looks to validate previous trial results and test whether the number of days of an anti-malaria drug therapy can be reduced

WEST LAFAYETTE: A Purdue researcher is taking a giant leap forward in the fight against drug-resistant strains of malaria in developing countries.

Open Philanthropy has awarded \$1.38 million to Philip Low to further validate a drug therapy that he and his colleagues have previously shown to successfully treat the disease. Low (rhymes with "now") is Purdue University's Presidential Scholar for Drug Discovery and the Ralph C. Corley Distinguished Professor of Chemistry in the College of Science.

For years, experts have been concerned about the rise of drug-resistant malaria variants in Southeast Asia and the prospect that one or more of these strains



might travel to Africa. A similar event occurred in the 1980s with the emergence of drug resistance to the then-standard treatment of chloroquine, which resulted in millions of deaths. But Low is working to save lives on both continents by conducting clinical trials to validate previous results and to test whether the number of days of an anti-malaria treatment can be reduced.

While studying how malaria propagates in human blood, Low and his research team discovered that the cancer drug therapy imatinib is effective in the treatment of drug-resistant malaria. Trials in Southeast Asia showed that imatinib, when combined with the customary malaria ther-

apy, clears all malaria parasites from 90% of patients within 48 hours and 100% of patients within three days. The patients receiving imatinib were also relieved of their fevers in less than half of the time experienced by similar patients treated with the standard therapy.

Open Philanthropy has awarded Low \$600,000 for a larger clinical trial in Southeast Asia to validate his previous trials. The organization has also awarded Low \$780,000 to determine whether the usual three-day therapy can be reduced to two days or even one. This work will be focused in the African countries of Kenya and Tanzania where malaria is prominent. "We found that people in Africa must often walk many miles to obtain treatment for malaria. They will receive three pills, walk the way home, take one or two pills, start to feel better, and then save the third pill for their next malaria infection," Low said.

## DSP Mutual Fund launches DSP Multi Asset Allocation Fund for true diversification

Offers investors a sensible option to invest even at high valuations

NEW DELHI: Good long-term investing outcomes require one to ensure survival first. And this is tough- given how most investors react emotionally when market hit peaks by investing more or when markets go down, many end up exiting, even when they didn't need the money.

Survival requires structure. And building a strong structure requires a mix of different materials, each bringing different virtues to the table. Similarly, investors seeking to build a robust portfolio need a blend of diverse asset classes, to help them stand firm against the vagaries of the market.

DSP Mutual Fund announced the launch of DSP Multi Asset Allocation Fund (DSP MAAF), an open-ended scheme that aims to offer investors long-term returns like what equities may offer but with added resilience against market falls. DSP MAAF aims to benefit investors by diversifying their investments be-

tween asset classes like domestic equities, international stocks, debt instruments, gold ETFs, other commodities and ETF & Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs), aiming to reduce overall risk.

Historical data has repeatedly shown that the best-performing asset class can vary significantly over the years, making it difficult to predict the winner each year. Hence one's best bet is to invest across asset classes. DSP MAAF will allocate assets based on 3 key but simple factors – long-term expected returns from different asset classes, their realized volatility and the correlation among each asset class. The key idea is that when assets with low correlation among one another are added into a portfolio, even if one asset class faces a downturn, another one might perform well, potentially smoothing out the investor experience. Further, historical returns of a multi asset model portfolio have shown returns similar to those from domestic equities with significantly lesser volatility than equities.

DSP MAAF can invest between 35-80% in equities, of which up to 50% can be in international equities. It can also invest 10-50% in debt, 10-50% in Gold ETF, 0-20% in other commodities through ETFs & ETCDs and up to 10% in REITs & InvITs.

Long-term investors will also get benefit of indexation when it comes to capital gains taxation, as applicable to Debt schemes. If investors consider a minimum three-year allocation to such a fund, then historical data indicates that after considering the benefit of indexation, debt or equity taxation does not cause material difference on the net returns in hands of the investor. The New Fund Offer for DSP MAAF will open for subscription on September 7th, 2023 and will close on September 21st, 2023.

"The most underrated factor in investing is time. Once investors devote time, compounding follows. However, temporary price fluctuations distract most of us from staying invested."

## Stovekraft Introduces Zero Capex Investment Franchise Model for Women with the launch of its 100th store

FW DESK  
New Delhi

Promoting a culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and inclusivity, Stovekraft, a pioneer in innovative Cookware, Kitchenware Appliances, and Consumer Lighting, announced an exclusive franchisee opportunity for women with zero capex investment. This unique initiative was rolled out at the launch of its 100th store.

This initiative underscores Stovekraft's unwavering commitment to gender equality and diversification, where Stovekraft will invest in setting up the store to support women across the country who opt for this program.

Speaking on this one-of-a-kind initiative, Mr. Rajendra Gandhi, Managing Director, Stovekraft Limited, said, "Since our inception, we have consistently introduced programs to enhance women's skills and integrate them as vital members of



our company. Approximately 80 percent of our workforce, spanning managerial and worker roles, comprises women. Our latest initiative, 'Exclusive Franchise Opportunity for Women,' aims to support women entrepreneurs and encourage their active involvement in the retail sector, all while aligning with our vision of being all-compassing and empowering all stakeholders."

Stovekraft Limited embarked on its retail journey only 14 months ago in June 2022. In this remarkably short span, the company has achieved the milestone of expanding to its 100th store, a testament to its unwavering commitment to providing top-quality kitchen solutions and an unmatched shopping experience.



# 22 Countries Exploring Bilateral Trade in Indian Rupees: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

**NEW DELHI:** India's finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that around 22 countries are negotiating and exploring bilateral trade with India in rupees.

In an interview with NDTV, Sitharaman said, "About 22 countries are negotiating and approaching us to see if bilateral trade can be held (in rupees). It is also because many of those countries are running short of dollar. They are seeing the Indian rupee as a stable currency."



Speaking on India's Digital Payments Infrastructure (DPI), the finance minister said, "There's a lot of interest in DPI. The way India has used digital infrastructure has earned praise from global leaders, including the World Bank." On G20, Sitharaman said, "This time India managed to have a consensus on all issues and I am very satisfied with the Delhi Declaration. The G20, essentially a financial forum, has to take collective action whether it is crypto, global debt, etc."

"I will completely credit the success of the G20 Summit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for having a complete picture, much before we started, about India's stature, India's image. The vision of the PM played out and it benefitted all," she said.

# RBI develops public tech platform for frictionless credit to MSMEs

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the "Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit" which is a MSME-credit-focused platform.



It aims to revolutionize the credit access to MSMEs in the country, reported the news agency Asian News International (ANI).

The platform will streamline and enhance credit delivery by financial institutions and contribute to greater financial inclusion, said the report.

The program, developed under the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, will provide an end-to-end digital solution designed for easy integration by all banks, offering an open architecture with accessible APIs and standardized protocols, enabling a seamless "Plug and Play" approach.

According to the release, the platform will simplify the process of financing and reduce friction for both lenders and borrowers by consolidating all the necessary information on a single platform.

Hence, the platform will integrate all the central and state governments, Account Aggregators (AA), banks,

credit information providers, and digital identity authorities together. T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of RBI unveiled the program who further highlighted its potential to revolutionize credit access for MSMEs.

# China's Crisis to have slight impact on Indian Economy: Bibek Debroy

**BHUBANESWAR:** China's economy will have little impact on India as the government has various effective measures already put in place since the pre-Covid period, said Chairman of Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to Prime Minister, Bibek Debroy on Wednesday.



"India is not that exposed directly to the effects of China's economy, particularly after Covid-19 pandemic. Though several things had started pre-Covid, India has moved away from many imports, such as pharmaceutical intermediates and IT chips," he said.

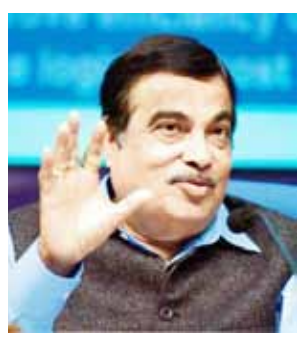
Delivering a special lecture on "The Indian Economy: The Path to 2047", he underlined that if China's growth suffers, he said, it will affect the world economy.

double digit growth. India may achieve 6.5 pc to 7.5 pc growth rate in the Amrit Kaal and with this average annual growth, its GDP will reach \$20 trillion with a per capita income of around USD 10,000, he said.

The EAC chairman hoped with an annual growth rate of 7.5 pc, India's GDP may reach \$30 trillion mark and the nation will become a developed economy by 2047, marking 100 years of Independence.

# No Tax Hike on Diesel Engines: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari clarified on Thursday that India will not increase tax on diesel engines, reported CNBC TV-18.



He said the central government is encouraging to shift towards green fuels.

These speculations were raised when earlier this week the Union Minister said that the government will have no option but to raise tax on diesel vehicles if the manufacturers do not limit their production.

He was speaking at 63rd Annual SIAM convention in New Delhi.

This statement came across as warning to Indian carmakers.

However in an interview

with CNBC TV-18, he said, "I'm not against diesel or diesel cars. I'm not advocating for a tax increase on diesel vehicles. But we should move towards green fuels. The vision and mission for industry should be to move towards biofuels."

# Tata Power Solar & SIDBI join forces to encourage solar adoption among MSMEs

**MUMBAI:** Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), signed a MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) on Tuesday to offer an easy financing option for MSMEs.



MSMEs that are willing to opt for Rooftop Solar PV Plant or associated services from Tata Power or its authorised Channel Partners across India will be financially supported by SIDBI under the scheme, said the press release.

Tata Power and Sivasubramanian Ramann, Chairman & Managing Director, SIDBI exchanged the MoU.

The MoU exchange ceremony was held at the Global SME Finance Forum 2023 in Mumbai in presence of Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Karad.

Under this strategic partnership, TPSSL and SIDBI will encourage solar energy adoption among MSME by offering cus-

tomised & innovative financing solutions through SIDBI's 4E (End to End Energy Efficiency) Scheme, as per the official statement.

The 4E solar financing scheme offers TPSSL's customers an array of compelling benefits, including the most competitive interest rates and loan limit to meet the requirement of the MSME sector.

TPSSL and SIDBI has also announced the launch of The Big Solar Fest at the Global SME Finance Forum 2023 to offer zero processing fees for the upcoming festival season to encourage the widespread adoption of solar energy among MSMEs.

The Big Solar Fest will spread awareness on the most competitive financing offerings with zero percent processing fees for the upcoming festival season.

This additional incentive will serve to expedite the green journey of the MSME sector, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable growth and clean energy solutions.

# FICCI to Host ESG Summit in Mumbai on October 9

**MUMBAI:** The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) is organising the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Summit on the theme of driving sustainable transformation in Mumbai next month.



The event intends to discuss the increased focus on ESG disclosures and stakeholder scrutiny, adherence to ESG principles which is taking centre-stage.

SBI will deliver the Keynote Address during the Inaugural Session. Discussions at the Summit would be geared towards catalysing public and private investment in sustainable businesses through effective policy regulations, institutional mechanisms and business practices.

The Summit will be held on October 9 at Taj President, Cuffe Parade in Mumbai.

Companies are now incorporating ESG into their mission and values, endeavouring to fully integrate it into their strategy and operations, noted FICCI.

The Summit will bring together all participants of the eco-system i.e. representatives from the Indian Government and Regulators, banks, domestic and international institutional investors, industry leaders, intermediaries and other stakeholders.

The Summit is being organised under the aegis of FICCI ESG Committee, chaired by Imtaiyazur Rahman, MD&CEO, UTI AMC and co-chaired by Amit Tandon, MD, IIA.

Dinesh Khara, Chairman,

The registration link for the event: <https://registrations.ficci.com/ficesg/online-registration.asp>

# Centre Government to launch 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme on Sept 17



**NEW DELHI:** The central government is preparing the launch of PM Vishwakarma scheme to provide toolkit incentives to artisans.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the scheme at the India International Convention & Expo Centre in New Delhi on September 17, 2023.

Under the scheme, beneficiaries will get Rs 15,000 each as toolkit incentives through

**THE ARTISANS WOULD ALSO GET AN INCENTIVE OF RS 1 PER TRANSACTION FOR MAXIMUM OF 100 TRANSACTIONS PER MONTH, SHOWED A PRESENTATION PREPARED BY THE MSME MINISTRY**

phase followed by a five-day training session. An advanced training session will be provided for 15 or more days and during the training period they would get a stipend of Rs 500 per day, the presentation showed.

The scheme also has a corpus of Rs 250 crore for quality certification, branding, advertising, publicity and other marketing activities.

The scheme was approved by the cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) on 16 August with an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore for a period of five years (FY24-28)

# Nifty touches all time high level of 20,000 points



**MUMBAI:** Nifty advanced for the seventh straight day to log the best stretch of gains in 11 weeks and touched the all time high level of 20,000 on Monday (September 11), says Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

At close, Nifty was up 0.89 per cent or 176.4 points at 19996.4. Volumes on the NSE were on the higher side compared to

Rs 15,242.7 crore in July, he said.

For the first time ever, Nifty reached the 20,000 mark as euphoria around India's leadership at the G20 conference trumped concerns resulting from crude at \$90 per barrel, says Vaibhav Vidwani, Research Analyst, Bonanza Portfolio. The majority of sectoral indexes also saw gains, with Nifty PSU Bank and Nifty Metal leading the pack with gains of 3.13 per cent and 1.81 per cent respectively. SJVN Ltd was amongst one of the top performing stock on Monday, up by 20 per cent, as its subsidiary, SJVN Green Energy's and Bhakra Beas Management Board (BMB) inked a power purchase agreement for an 18 MW solar power project. The project's land parcels in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh will be developed by BBMB, he said. By August 2024, the project should be put into operation. Adani Ports, Adani Enterprises, Apollo Hospitals, Axis Bank and Power Grid Corporation, were among the top gainer while losers included Jio Financial, Coal India, ONGC, Bajaj Finance and L&T.

recent average. Midcap index rose more than the Nifty even as the advance decline ratio rose to 1.23:1, he said.

Net investments into actively managed equity schemes in India increased more than 2.65 times month-on-month to Rs 20,245.3 crore in August. SIP contribution to mutual funds industry in August stood at Rs 15,813.5 crore, compared with

# Release of Property Documents: RBI tightens noose



**JAG MOHAN THAKRAN**

**N**ow the lending institutes will have to release the property documents upon receiving full repayment and closure of loan account within thirty days, otherwise they will have to compensate the borrower at the rate of Rs 5,000/- for each day of delay. RBI, in its letter dated September 13, 2023, has directed all Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks and Regional Rural Banks, excluding Payments Banks), all Local Area Banks, All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks, all State Co-operative Banks and District Central Co-operative Banks, all NBFCs (including HFCs) and all Asset Reconstruction Companies to adhere to these guidelines or face the conse-

quences.

These Directions have been issued under sections 21, 35A and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, sections 45JA and 45L of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and section 30A of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

RBI letter states that in terms of the guidelines on Fair Practices Code issued to various Regulated Entities (REs) since 2003, REs are required to release all movable / immovable property documents upon receiving full repayment and closure of loan account. However, it has been observed that the REs follow divergent practices in release of such movable / immovable property documents leading to customer grievances and disputes. To address the issues faced by the borrowers and towards promoting responsible lending conduct among the REs, these Directions are being issued.



RBI directs that the REs shall release all the original movable / immovable property documents and remove charges registered with any registry within a period of 30 days after full repayment/ settlement of the loan account.

The borrower shall be given the option of collecting the original movable / immovable property documents either from the banking outlet / branch where the loan account

was serviced or any other office of the RE where the documents are available, as per her / his preference.

The timeline and place of return of original movable / immovable property documents will be mentioned in the loan sanction letters issued on or after the effective date.

RBI directions further adds that in order to address the contingent event of demise of the sole borrower or joint borrow-

ers, the REs shall have a well laid out procedure for return of original movable / immovable property documents to the legal heirs. Such procedure shall be displayed on the website of the REs along with other similar policies and procedures for customer information.

Tightening the noose, the RBI warns that in case of delay in releasing of original movable / immovable property documents or failing to file charge satisfaction form with relevant registry beyond 30 days after full repayment/ settlement of loan, the RE shall communicate to the borrower reasons for such delay. In case where the delay is attributable to the RE, it shall compensate the borrower at the rate of Rs 5,000/- for each day of delay.

In case of loss/damage to original movable / immovable property documents, either in part or in full, the REs shall assist the borrower in obtaining duplicate/certified copies of the movable / immovable property documents and shall bear the associated costs, in addition to paying the compensation as indicated above. However, in such cases, an additional time of 30 days will be available to the REs to complete this procedure and the delayed period penalty will be calculated thereafter (i.e., after a total period of 60 days).

# India growing at a rate of 7%: Union Minister Som Parkash



**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister of State of Commerce and Industry Som Parkash on Monday said that India is growing at a rate of seven per cent, adding the current growth rate will continue.

The Minister said that in a few years, India will become a premium economy. "Today, the Indian rupee has become a global currency and I am happy to share that 22 countries are doing businesses in rupees, a matter of great pride for us," he said. He was speaking at a conference on demystifying trade and investment.

The event, organised by the

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



# INTERNATIONAL

## Int'l media highlights the G-20 summit

FW DESK  
New Delhi

In the week leading up to the 18th G 20 Summit in New Delhi, international media ran stories about India playing host to world leaders like Joe Biden, Rishi Sunak, Emanuel Macron and several other dignitaries scheduled to attend the Summit on 9th and 10th September. In the run up to the summit, a section of International media also focused on stories like demolition of slums, status of democracy, India's economic disparity etc.

However, after adoption of the New Delhi Declaration, almost every important newspaper and TV network hailed it as a major achievement and said that building consensus among member countries was a diplomatic win for PM Modi.

### New Delhi Declaration

Even as media persons gathered at the sprawling International Media Centre were discussing about the likely outcome of the Summit, a clip of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was



played on the large LED screens where he said "Good news has just arrived. With our teams' hard work and your cooperation, consensus has emerged on New Delhi G20 Leaders' Summit Declaration... I propose that the Leaders' Declaration be adopted. I announce adoption of the Declaration."

BBC called it "a day of unexpectedly big headlines at the G20 summit" in a diplomatic win for Modi.

The Washington Post and CNN also highlighted the announcement of India - Middle East - Europe Economic Corridor calling it an "ambitious proposal aimed at further connecting a volatile region and countering China's years-long backing of massive infrastructure projects around the world."

statement on Ukraine is sign of India's growing influence". Wall Street Journal wrote "As India rises, The G-20 Reveals a Shifting World Order". Beijing praised the New Delhi declaration adding that G20 is a body for economic issues, not geopolitics. Al Jazeera reported "Russia praises 'balanced' declaration as summit concludes". New Delhi Summit is seen by observers as an important platform for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expand the country's clout on the global stage. It also offers US President Joe Biden an opportunity to deepen ties with his hosts and reach out to developing countries" wrote South China Morning Post published from Hong Kong

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The Washington Post said "G20 agreement reflects sharp differences over Ukraine and the rising clout of the Global South, while The Guardian of UK stated "Watered-down G20

## Trump demands recusal of US judge in 2020 pol subversion case

Former US President Donald Trump has demanded the recusal of the federal judge in his 2020 presidential election subversion case. Trump's attorneys on Monday argued that US District Judge Tanya Chutkan's comments, which were made while sentencing two previous January 6 defendants that appeared to reference Trump, indicated she believed that the former US President "should be prosecuted and imprisoned", Xinhua news agency reported.

"Judge Chutkan has, in connection with other cases, suggested that President Trump should be prosecuted and imprisoned," the former President's attorneys said in a court filing.

"Such statements, made before this case began and without due process, are inherently disqualifying," they added. Trump has been charged by US Special Counsel Jack Smith with four felony counts for allegedly attempting to subvert the results of the 2020 presidential election.

## Rishi Sunak confirms raising British Sikh's detention with Modi

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has confirmed that he raised the case of a Scottish Sikh detained in India since 2017 during his talks with counterpart Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a BBC report said.

While the UK Foreign Office ruled out intervening in the Jagtar Singh Johal's case on September 8, Sunak, under pressure to highlight the issue, said he raised it along with other consular issues.

He did not provide details, but said: "The Foreign Office is continuing to provide support to Mr Johal's family and will continue to do so." In response to the development, campaigners for Johal said the UK government should declare Modi's response to Sunak on the issue, and that it is "meaningless" if the Prime Minister didn't call for "immediate release", the BBC reported on Sunday. "What did Rishi Sunak say to Narendra Modi about the case and how did he respond? Without answers to these questions, the prime minister's talk is meaningless," Maya Foa, Director of human rights group



Reprieve, told the BBC.

The UK Sikh Federation said Sunak had appeared "very reluctant" to press Johal's case since entering No 10, and "has demonstrated his weakness and lack of leadership by shamefully failing to stand up for the rights of a British citizen". "Rishi Sunak and his Foreign Office ministers are now talking utter nonsense in terms of Jagtar's best interests and justice. They appear scared and clueless on how best to apply diplomatic pressure on India and are leaving it to the corrupt Indian judicial system," Dabinderjit Singh, the principal adviser to the

Sikh Federation, told the BBC.

Sunak's action came after a group of more than 70 MPs called on him last week to urge Prime Minister Modi to secure the 36-year-old Sikh campaigner's "immediate release".

En route New Delhi for the G20 Summit on September 9-10, Sunak, on being asked whether he would be raising the case, said that he would be "raising a range of things with Prime Minister Modi -- this (Johal's case) is something that, just so people are reassured, has already been raised on multiple levels on multiple occasions".

## Technical snag delays Canadian PM Trudeau's departure from Delhi



NEW DELHI: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to India for the G20 Summit 2023 hit a snag on Sunday when his official plane experienced a technical issue at Delhi airport.

Airport sources said Trudeau's plane CF001 encountered a technical problem shortly before its scheduled departure.

The Canadian delegation, including Trudeau and his son Xavier, will remain in India until the issue is resolved by the engineering team on the ground, said the sources.

The unexpected delay has led to adjustments in the Canadian delegation's travel plans. Originally slated to depart on Sunday, they will now extend their stay in India until the aircraft is deemed fit for travel.

## Biden says he raised human rights, free press with Modi

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said on Sunday that in addition to the "significant business" done at the just-concluded G20 in India such as the rail-ship economic corridor extending from India to Europe, he was able to raise the "importance of respecting human rights ... the vital role (of) civil society and a free press" in his bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a customary trip-ender news conference in Hanoi, the second leg of his tour of India and Vietnam. Biden was peppered with questions about China and President Xi Jinping, who had skipped the G20 meeting, and about Ukraine. In his opening remarks, Biden thanked Modi's "leadership and his hospitality and hosting the G20". He went on to speak about a part of the visit that was overshadowed by the G20 meeting — his bilateral with the Indian leader. Biden said he and Modi had "substan-



tial discussions about how we're going to continue to strengthen the partnership between India and the United States, building on the Prime Minister's visit to the White House last June". Biden had hosted Modi in a state visit, with the customary state dinner, which was the first for the Indian Prime Minister.

Biden then went on to say: "As I always do, I raised the importance of respecting human rights and the vital role that civil society and a free press have in building a strong and prosperous country with Modi."

## Morocco struggles after rare, powerful earthquake kills and injures scores of people

More than 2,000 people were killed, and the Morocco quake toll was expected to rise as rescuers struggled to reach hard-hit remote areas

Morocco has revised upward the death toll from a powerful earthquake that shook Marrakesh and surrounding regions. The Interior Ministry said late Saturday that 2,012 people were killed when the temblor struck late Friday. The toll is expected to rise as rescuers struggled to reach hard-hit remote areas.

The ministry said the highest number of deaths were recorded in Al Haouz province, with 1,293 killed; and Taroudant, with 452. At least 2,059 people were injured, including 1,404 critically. The government also announced three days of national mourning. The magnitude 6.8 quake on Friday was the biggest to hit the North African country in 120 years. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant held a phone call with his Moroccan counterpart to express Israel's desire to assist the earthquake-stricken country "as much as is required." Mr. Gallant ordered



the Israeli military to prepare to provide Morocco with humanitarian aid.

Israel and Morocco normalised relations in 2020 and have recently moved to deepen their diplomatic and security ties. Moroccan Senate president Ennaam Mayara was scheduled to be the first Moroccan official and one of the few Muslim leaders ever to set foot in Israel's Knesset, or parliament, earlier in the week but called off the visit to Israel at the last minute due to a medical emergency. "A significant part of the

## PM Modi 'doing the right thing' by promoting Make in India: Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin has once again lauded the 'Make in India' initiative and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "doing the right thing" by promoting the policy. In his address to the plenary session of the 8th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok on Tuesday, Putin gave India's example while responding to a query about Russian-manufacture automobiles. "You know, we did not have domestically made cars then, but we do now. It is true that they look more modest than Mercedes or Audi cars, which we bought in vast amounts in the 1990s, but this is not an issue. I think that we should emulate many of our partners, for example, India. They are focused on the manufacture and use of Indian-made vehicles."

"I think that Prime Minister Modi is doing the right thing in promoting the 'Make in India' programme. He is right," the Russian leader said. He went on to say that it is "absolutely fine" to use Russian-made automobiles. "This will not lead to any infringements of our WTO obligations, absolutely not. It will concern state purchases. We must create a certain chain regarding what cars different classes of officials can drive, so that they will use domestically-made cars. "You probably know about the proposals to continue buying these cars. It would be easy to do, because the logistics are streamlined," Putin added. In June while addressing an economic forum in Moscow, Putin had called Modi "a great friend of Russia" and praised the 'Make in India' initiative. "Our friends in India and our big friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched the 'Make in India' initiative several years ago.

Abraham Accords is our commitment to stand by our partners during difficult times," Mr. Gallant said in a statement Saturday, referring to the U.S.-brokered accords that formalised ties between Israel and some Arab nations. US president Biden said Saturday that officials had been in contact with Morocco to offer help. "We are working expeditiously to ensure American citizens in Morocco are safe, and stand ready to provide any necessary assistance for the Moroccan people."



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## Putin's 'Economic Mind War' in Russia

DR P S VOHRA

Few weeks back, when a dispute emerged between the Governor of the Central Bank of Russia and President Putin's economic advisor, it was widely believed that the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has lasted for more than 500 days, was beginning to have an impact. The main reason for the dispute between them was the decision by the Central Bank's Governor to increase the bank's interest rate by 350 basis points in a single day. Just a few weeks ago, there had already been an increase of 100 basis points in interest rates by the Central Bank. As a result of these increases, the interest rate in Russia has risen from 8.5% to 12% at present. It's worth noting that in the past ten years, there hasn't been such a significant increase in interest rates in India. Therefore, the sudden policy changes in recent days have brought Russia's economic situation into discussions, although there is no other substantial evidence or proof available to support this. Given the stature of President Putin, it does not seem that Russia will go into a period of economic uncertainty so soon, although the US and its NATO friends, various countries of the European Union, have imposed many economic sanctions on Russia, specially the ban on the purchase of gas and crude oil from Russia.



exceptionally high, similar to what some major developed countries experienced after the pandemic. In this context, it is also necessary to clarify that the policy of tolerance on the rate of inflation in Russia remains up to 4 percent and necessary steps are taken when it goes above it. Now it is also necessary to look at why this inflation rate is increasing? For the last one and a half years, almost all the factories and industries of Russia have been producing only to meet all the needs of the Russian army, causing shortages or reduced availability of various goods in society, leading to an increase in their prices. It's a rather simplistic analysis to assume that due to a shortage of foreign currency reserves, Russia is unable to import essential goods. Foreign exchange reserves figures show that Russia's position is much stronger. When the war with Ukraine started, Russia had a reserve of 640 billion US dollars, which is equivalent to about 586 billion dollars today. The same reserve is also in India today. It is also important to mention that Russia's lowest foreign exchange reserves in the last ten years (350 billion US dollars) were in the year 2016. No one can disagree that when inflation levels are consistently

rising in the domestic market, the Central Bank must take steps to control financial liquidity, and often, the only solution is an increase in interest rates. So, why did President Putin's economic advisor criticize the Governor of the Central Bank of Russia for raising interest rates, claiming it's the wrong economic policy? Analyzing this perspective reveals that the Russian currency, the ruble, has been experiencing significant depreciation these days. Two years back, in August, the ruble was equivalent to 70 American dollars, which then increased to 136 American dollars after the start of the conflict with Ukraine. However, it later recovered to around 54 American dollars due to considerable resilience. But over the past 8 months of 2023, the ruble has again faced a depreciation of around 25 to 30 percent, bringing it down to approximately 100 American dollars, which is a cause for concern. It's important to mention that during the initial days of the conflict with Ukraine, there was a rapid withdrawal of investments from Russia, leading to a sudden increase in demand for dollars and weakening the ruble to 136 levels. Now, the ruble is weakening against the dollar again, indicating that the sudden and continuous increases

in interest is responsible for it. This situation has led to disagreements between President Putin's chief economic advisor and the Governor of the Central Bank.

Russia's economy is mainly identified on the global stage as an exporter of gas, crude oil, and various food products. India has been buying oil from Russia since April 2022 and it is increasing rapidly. Till March 2023, India had purchased an average of 1.02 million barrels of crude oil from Russia. Russia has now become the top country supplying oil to India, which was at number 10 till last year. After the Ukraine conflict, Russia's economic growth rate was mostly negative in the year 2022, but in 2023, the economy has shown a significant rebound, with an average growth rate of over four percent. Amidst all this, President Putin, who is leading his country with national pride in the Ukraine conflict, must be grappling with economic questions, including maintaining economic stability in the country and consistently providing financial support to the ongoing conflict. In the midst of these considerations, when inflation suddenly rises over the past few months, Putin is likely aiming to control it, but certainly he wouldn't want it to have certain effects that could harm the economic interests of the common Russian citizens. This might be the reason why the increase in interest rates by the bank was openly criticized by Putin's chief economic advisor. It's important to mention that Russia's population is consistently declining and is roughly equivalent to one-tenth of India's total population. The declining population also leads to a shortage of skilled workers. Observations reveal that employees are working in

shifts of 3-3, indicating a shortage of skilled labor. Therefore, for Putin, it has become crucial to bring certainty and stability to the country's internal economic matters.

After Russia attacked Ukraine in February 2022, western countries not only imposed strict sanctions but also asked other countries not to do business with Russia. Products that have been banned include Russian oil, gas, vodka and tobacco, etc. But Western countries have shied away from imposing sanctions on Russia's nuclear products because they are needed to generate electricity. According to the US Energy Information Administration, Russia sent 12 percent of its total uranium exports to the US last year. In 2022, Europe will get 17 percent of Russia's uranium. Russia's isolation from the West has increased due to the imposition of new and tougher economic sanctions. Therefore, pursuing closer relations with Africa is an intrinsic part of this vision. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also signalled the same geopolitical stance during several of his visits to Africa amid the ongoing war with Ukraine. Russia's growing trade relations with African countries have created new avenues and, in a way, have helped Russia's economy. Undoubtedly, the US and other developed countries have not been able to intimidate Russia very much on the economic front. Russia is now entering a new era of international diplomacy with India, China and many other countries and is doing business transactions of crude oil, gas etc. with the domestic currencies of these countries.

Dr P S Vohra is Writer, columnist and financial thinker. View are personal

## St Kitts and Nevis celebrates 40 years of friendship with Taiwan

BASSETTERRE: The 2023 Taiwan Expo held in St Kitts and Nevis, was organised by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAI-TRA) in collaboration with the Taiwanese Embassy on the island and marked a pivotal moment in the diplomatic history of both nations.

Held in August at the Visitor Centre, Malcolm Guishard Recreational Park in Nevis, the event commemorated the 40th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between Taiwan and St Kitts and Nevis. Through a myriad of exhibi-



tions and cultural experiences, the Expo further solidified the deep-rooted bond between these two countries. Showcasing Taiwanese Innovation - The Expo featured 26 Taiwanese companies rep-

resenting diverse industries. Visitors had the privilege of exploring a wide array of cutting-edge products, including high-quality scissors, knives, and sharpeners, health supplements, sealing machines, solar products, house accessories, leisure foods, and state-of-the-art ICT products such as smartphones, laptops, VR devices, dashcams, and LED smart projectors. Notably, all the ICT products exhibited were recipients of the prestigious Taiwan Excellence Awards, underscoring their innovation and superior quality.

## St Kitts and Nevis crowned as best destination to invest in according to 2023 CBI Index

FW DESK  
Basseterre

St Kitts and Nevis has been recognised as the best CBI destination in the 2023 edition of the CBI Index, trumping 11 other countries with active citizenship by investment (CBI) programmes.

The country, which has made several sweeping changes to its CBI Programme in the last year, took top honours, scoring 77 points in a race between nations such as Dominica, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Antigua & Barbuda, Malta, Vanuatu, Turkey, Egypt, Austria, Cambodia, and Jordan.

The 2023 CBI Index noted that St Kitts and Nevis has been the most proactive CBI nation in the Caribbean when it comes to responding to security concerns raised by Western nations. The country 'stands out for taking immediate and decisive action based on the 'Six Principles' framework. Moreover, it un-



derscores a political will to take a proactive leadership role in the long-term sustainability of the industry through good governance, enhanced due diligence, and regional harmonisation with international partners.

Now in its seventh year, the CBI Index utilises its established nine-pillar index architecture to provide investors with a data-driven framework with which to measure the performance and appeal of global CBI programmes. The nine pillars include Standard of Living, Freedom of Movement, Minimum Investment Outlay, Mandatory

Travel or Residence, Citizenship Timeline, Ease of Processing, Due Diligence, Family and Certainty of Product. St Kitts and Nevis scored full marks in Mandatory Travel or Residence, Ease of Processing, Due Diligence and Certainty of Product pillars. The Mandatory Travel or Residence pillar examines the travel or residence conditions imposed on applicants both before and after the granting of citizenship. St Kitts and Nevis does not have travel or minimum residency requirements for its programme, making it straightforward for busy entrepreneurs and global citizens to attain citizenship in the country. The Ease of Processing pillar measures the end-to-end complexity of the CBI application process.



# Punjabi Film 'Buhe-Bariyan' Ignites a Feminist Revolution

KULBIR SINGH KALSİ  
Chandigarh

The highly anticipated Punjabi film "Buhe-Bariyan" held a star-studded press conference, giving audiences a sneak peek into its compelling narrative and empowering message. The film, set to release on September 15th, boasts an ensemble star cast of celebrated Buhe-Bariyan including Nirmal Rishi, Neeru Bajwa, Rubina Bajwa, Rupinder Rup, Dharminder Kaur, Gurpreet Bhangu, Jaswinder Brar, Baljinder Kaur, and Simran Chahal.

During the press conference, the entire star cast shared their insights into the film's plot and concept, emphasizing the importance of highlighting women's strength and resilience. With its powerful narra-



able and stellar performances, "Buhe-Bariyan" is set to captivate audiences and inspire a new wave of empowerment. "Buhe-Bariyan" is poised to be a game-changer in Punjabi cinema as it explores the theme of women's empowerment. The film showcases the lead character in various avatars, offering a poignant and relat-

able portrayal of the challenges and triumphs that women face in society. Actress Neeru Bajwa shared her excitement for the film stating, "I am truly excited to be a part of 'Buhe-Bariyan,' a film that holds a special place in my heart. This project is not just a movie; it's a tribute to the strength, resilience, and

limitless potential of women. As an actor, it's been a privilege to work alongside such a talented and dedicated cast and crew."

Produced by the esteemed Santosh Subhash Thite, Sarla Rani and Lienniaz Ent., "Buhe-Bariyan" is set to be distributed worldwide by the renowned Omjee Group, promising to reach audiences far and wide. As the film carries the banner of Neeru Bajwa Entertainment, U&I Films and Lienniaz Entertainment, anticipation for "Buhe-Bariyan" has reached a fever pitch, and fans eagerly await the film's release. The movie is written by Jagdeep Warring and directed by Uday Pratap Singh.

## Anupam Kher praise on superstar SRK for his recently released 'Jawan'



NEW DELHI: Veteran actor Anupam Kher showered praise on superstar Shah Rukh Khan for his recently released 'Jawan', which has breached the Rs 500-crore mark in box-office collections worldwide.

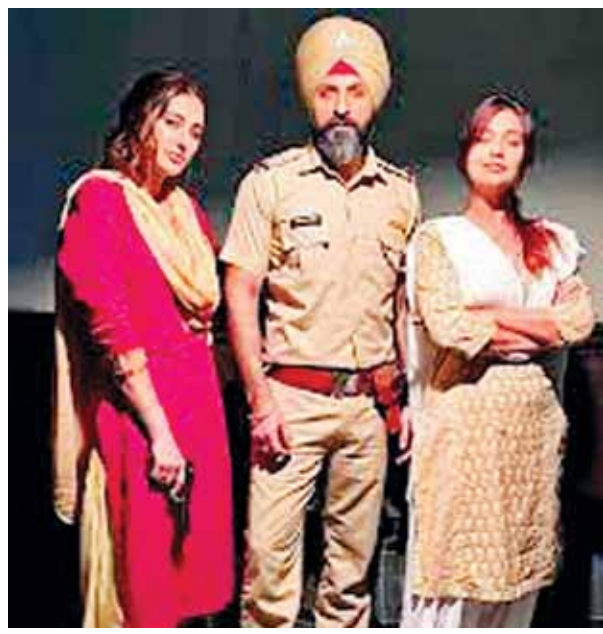
Anupam and SRK had shared the screen space in 1995 musical romance drama 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' (DDLJ). The former played the character of Dharamvir Malhotra, who was the father of SRK's character of Raj Malhotra. The senior actor took to social media and lauded SRK in the 'DDLJ' style.

Sharing a happy throwback picture with SRK, Anupam penned a note, which read as: "My dear Shahrukh! I have just seen your film 'Jawan' with the audience in Amritsar. Enjoyed it. The action, the scale of the picture, your style and performance are very good. At one or two places, I even whistled. Loved everyone in the film! Congratulations to the entire team and especially to the writer/director @Atlee\_dir." "After coming back to Mumbai, I will definitely hug you and say - O Pochi, O Koki, O Poppy, O Lola," added the 'IB 71' actor. This is a famous dialogue from the iconic flick 'DDLJ'. Fans took to the comment section and wrote: "2 superstars", "outstanding movie", "the last of the stars", "DDLJ Fav pops", among others. The action thriller directed by Atlee, stars SRK in a dual role, alongside Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Deepika Padukone (billed as a special appearance), Priyamani and Sanya Malhotra. It was theatrically released on September 7.

## 'Nargis Fakhri never gave a feeling that she is a star,' says Gagan Anand

MUMBAI: Actor Gagan Anand, who plays a Sikh cop Dilbagh Singh in the series 'Tatubaa', had an enriching experience shooting with actress Nargis Fakhri. Gagan is best known for featuring in TV shows like 'Kumkum Bhagya' and 'Lag Ja Gale'. He said: "It was the most memorable experience as an actor. Nargis spoke only in English and my character had to do comic scenes with her in proper benarasi Hindi language. Since comic timing is a key, it was very challenging since language was a barrier. "But I rarely in my lifetime had seen an actor who is as prepared so much for a role as Nargis was. We would rehearse in between shots, during lunch breaks and even post-pack-ups at times. Nargis never gave a feeling that she was a star."

He revealed that her down to earth approach made him understand that humility is everything. "I'm a fiery man in real life and Nargis was a go-getter. This was almost like a dream co-actor for me in my entire career in tv and web till date," Gagan said.



Talking about reality TV star Divya Agarwal, he added: "Divya on the other hand was a friend on set for me. She would have pani-puri, chats and participate in several pranks with the production team. I was also the head of production on this show in addition to his role as an ac-

tor. For me, with friendly actor like Divya half of the job is done. Gagan is best known for featuring in shows like 'Veer Ki Ardaas Veera', 'Yeh Hai Mohabbatein', 'Peshwa Bajirao' among others. He also acted in OTT space in series named 'Bichoo Ka Khef' and 'Hai Taubba'.

## Zeeshan Ayyub opens up about working romantic scenes with Nawazuddin Siddiqui in crime drama 'Haddi'

MUMBAI: Actor Mohamed Zeeshan Ayyub, who plays the love interest of Nawazuddin Siddiqui's transgender character of Harika in crime drama 'Haddi', spoke about his role, and said that the basic idea was to communicate the concept of true love between people irrespective of gender.

Directed by Akshat Ajay Sharma, the film stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Anurag Kashyap, and Zeeshan in the lead. Nawaz plays the character of Haddi/Harika, while Zeeshan is seen as Irfan. Talking to media Zeeshan spoke on the mental and physical toll such characters take on the actors.

"I don't think there is any such toll on you. Some things of the character remain with you. There is always a give and take. It's not a very intense but nice and tender character. And we had to achieve that softness. A tenderness should remain in their relationship,



he said. "Romance should not be a special romance, it is just romance. Koi bhi kisi se bhi pyaar karta hoga, kisi bhi sex k person se, jo jiski preference ho, bas pyaar hai, pure hai. That was the basic idea and that should be communicated. So we worked around it," shared the 'Tandav' fame actor.

Did he had any apprehensions regarding the role? "There were no apprehensions, but it was an exciting part. It took time to say yes but it was for different reasons. It took around two months, there were date issues. Finally everything was

resolved and it happened," Zeeshan said.

Produced by Zee Studios along with Anandita Studios, the film stars Nawazuddin in a double role, one of which is transgender. It also stars Ila Arun, Saurabh Sachdeva, Rajesh Kumar and Ivanka Das in pivotal roles. It is streaming on Zee5.

On the work front, Zeeshan was last seen in 'Scoop' where he played the character of Imran Siddiqui. The show stars Karishma Tanna, Harman Baweja, and Prosenjit Chatterjee. Zeeshan Ayyub on romance with Nawazuddin Siddiqui: 'It was pure'

## Shekhar Kapur's reveals his proud Indian moment with London immigration officer



NEW DELHI: Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, who is on a visit to UK, shared a sweet anecdote of an interaction with the immigration officer in London, and how the latter congratulated him for India's 'Chandrayaan-3' success.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), the 'Mr India' director shared a picture of his Indian passport. Along with that, he wrote: "The question today from the immigration officer in London was not 'How long are you staying, Sir...' but 'Congratulations Sir, on your 'Moon Landing'... #passport'."

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently achieved the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the South Pole of the Moon. Shekhar made his directorial debut with cult classic 'Masoom' in 1983. He then gained international recognition and acclaim in 1994 with biographical film 'Bandit Queen', based on the infamous Indian bandit and politician Phoolan Devi.

He also produced the 1998 romantic thriller 'Dil Se', starring Shah Rukh Khan, Manisha Koirala and Preity Zinta. Shekhar's last directorial project is 'What's Love Got to Do with It?', a 2022 British romantic comedy film. The film stars Lily James, Shazad Latif, Shabana Azmi, Emma Thompson, Sajal Ali, Oliver Chris, Asim Chaudhry, Jeff Mirza, Alice Orr-Ewing and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan.

Shekhar is also the creator of the comic books 'Snake Woman', 'Devi', and 'Ramayan 3392 AD'. He also directed TV series 'Tehkikaat' in 1994. Apart from directorial works, Shekar is also known for his acting projects like 'Khanjar', 'Bindiya Chamkegi', 'Gawaahi', 'Teraa Surroor' amongst others.

## 'A Pearl White Indian wedding': Parineeti and Raghav's big day invite goes viral

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

A picture of the wedding card has gone viral on social media. The wedding date reads September 24 on the card, which is white in color. "Divine Promises: A pearl white Indian wedding... Leela Palace Jaimala: 3:30 p.m. Pheras: 4:00 p.m. Vidai: 6:30 p.m.," read the card. The card has beautiful sketches of the



landscape of Udaipur. The wedding festivities will start from September 23 with Parineeti's Choorra ceremony

at 10 a.m. at Maharaja suite. A 'Fresco Afternoon' will be held on the terrace near the ballroom on September 23 from 10 a.m. to 1

p.m. On September 24, Raghav's 'Schrabandi' will take place in Taj Lake Palace at 1 p.m. Then 'Baraat'- The Royal Procession will move from Taj Lake Palace at 2 p.m. The reception gala, which has a theme of 'A night of Amore' will happen in Leela Palace Courtyard, at 8.30 p.m. During this period, many big personalities from politics and Bollywood will come to Udaipur. 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.



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann addresses during Punjab Tourism Summit, in Mohali on September 11 PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

## Amid G20 Summit, Kids demand, 'Kidizens' 20 that Focus on SDGs

KAVITA SHARMA

The key demands of the Children are "All rights for All Children" that includes investment in inclusive education for disabled children, promoting Child's mental health, gender equality, promoting girls education, and quality healthcare access for all. As India welcomes the world leaders for the G20 Summit, over 200 students representing schools and not-for-profits from across the country gathered virtually for the finale of their Kidizens'20 (K20). Kidizens, is a word coined by Children themselves, to represent their engagement as active citizens of today's decision-making processes.

The K20 summit sought to harness the dreams, aspirations and recommendations of a major segment of globe namely children and who until today are not formally a part of the G20 processes. "We children may be just 18% of the World's population and 36% of India's population but we are 100% of the world's future and therefore it is important for us to speak up now." Ruksar Rehman (aged 16) the President of the National Inclusive Children's Parliament said. The students from across the country representing var-



ied languages (including Assamese, Bengali Hindi, Marathi, Telugu and sign-language) and socio-economic contexts deliberated on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and made significant recommendations to the world leaders assembled in the National Capital on how to make this world a world fit for children and a world fit for all. These recommendations will also feed into the mid-term review evaluation process on the SDGs scheduled to happen in New York later this September. All Rights for All Children

The sessions over the preceding months leading to this finale, were focused on the clubbing of the UN SDGs under the broad headings of Development for All (Goals 1,2,3,4,6 and 9), Inclusion

of All (Goals 5, 8, 10, 11 16, 18), and Earth for All (Goals 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18). The NINEISMINE campaign an advocacy initiative of, for and by the children insists that there should be a separate goal (which they refer to as SDG 18) with an exclusive focus on 'All rights for all children'. Experts from varied allied fields addressed the child-citizens (Kidizens) on various issues faced by children across the country and the world. The child-participants engaged with the goals at length and came up with a list of recommendations called the K20 Charter that has already fed into the Y20, C20 and P20 processes that fed into the G20 Summit. This second phase of the K20 Summit was organized on the 7th and 8th September, 2023 with children

from all corners of India and beyond, prioritising the recommendations that young champions had developed during the first K20 process in May.

In line with the call of G20 'One Earth, One Family, One Future, the kidizens' recommendations underlined the need for strong policies and the determined implementation of these towards the creation of a truly inclusive, sustainable, and equitable world. The Group of Twenty (G20) serves as a pivotal platform for international economic cooperation, significantly influencing global policies. In India, the NINEISMINE campaign has been dedicated to fostering children in decision-making processes. This has been achieved through the establishment of children's parliaments in collaboration with NGOs from all states and Union Territories (UTs). To harness the collective wisdom of young minds, PRATYeK, in partnership with child rights organisations and schools, organised dialogues with children across India. These dialogues aimed to capture their perspectives on various G20-related topics aligned with the United Nations's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

## Indian football squad for Asian Games announced

SUNIL THAPLIYAL  
New Delhi

The Indian men's football team for the Asian Games, to be held this month in Hangzhou, China, has been announced. The Indian Football Federation (AIFF) announced the 18-member men's team on Wednesday (September 13).

Only U-23 football teams will compete in the Asian Games, with only three players from senior national teams eligible to participate. When the 22-member Indian team was shortlisted on August 1, three senior players were also included. Among the senior players were Sandesh Jhingan, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sunil Chhetri, but now only Chhetri has been given a place.

There are 23 teams participating in the tournament, divided into six groups. Four teams are playing in each of the groups A, B, C, E and F, while three teams are playing in group D. The Indian men's team has been placed in Group A along with hosts China, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Asian Games will be held this year from September



23 September to October 8 in Hangzhou, China. India has already won 2 gold medals in the Asian Games (1951 and 1962). The team also won a bronze medal in 1970.

Under the leadership of Croatian coach Igor Stimac, the national team once again entered the top 100 of the FIFA rankings by winning the SAFF championship.

The Indian men's and women's football teams received special permission from the Indian government to play in the Asian Games. The Indian team was not allowed to participate in the 2018 Asian Games. Sports Ministry rules state that only teams ranked in the top-8 in Asia are allowed to participate in the team competition. The last time the team participated was

in the 2014 Asian Games.

Indian President Kalyan Choubey said that the Indian football season has been very busy this time. "We had a busy schedule in a short time. There is a lot going on at the domestic and international level, both with the Indian national teams and with the clubs of ISL. The senior men's national team has successfully played

a number of matches and is looking forward to the Asian Games, followed by the Merdeka Cup, World Cup qualifiers and the AFC Asian Cup. He thanked the Indian Super League and FSDL clubs for releasing the players of the current team for the Asian Games.

The Indian football team recently made a splash by winning the SAFF Cup. In the Kings Cup, the team is in bad shape. In the semi-finals, the team lost to Iraq in a penalty shootout. In the third-place match, the Indian team was defeated by Lebanon. What makes this special is that regular captain Sunil Chhetri is not in this team. Without him, the team is in bad shape.

The Indian team, which won the bronze medal four years ago, had to return empty-handed from this tournament this time. Earlier, in the semi-finals, India had to face defeat by Iraq 4-5 in the penalty shootout on controversial penalties. In this match, Manvir Singh and Lalianjuala Chhangte created many chances for India but many times the ball went over the bar and many times missed the target.