

NEW DELHI • CHANDIGARH • WEEKLY • SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 • VOLUME 13, ISSUE 25 • Rs 5

**NUH VIOLENCE CASE: CONGRESS MLA MAMMAN** KHAN ARRESTED FROM **RAJASTHAN** 



22 COUNTRIES EXPLORING **BILATERAL TRADE IN** INDIAN RUPEES: FINANCE **MINISTER** 



'A PEARL WHITE INDIAN **WEDDING': PARINEETI AND RAGHAV'S BIG DAY INVITE GOES VIRAL** 

# SC adjourns Manish Sisodia's interim bail plea to October 4

Court on Friday adjourned till October 4 hearing on an interim bail plea moved by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who is behind the bars in connection with corruption and money laundering cases related to the now-scrapped excise policy.

At the outset, a bench comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S.V.N. Bhatti said that it could take up the pleas for hearing at the end of the board today (Friday) or on some other day. "There is urgency and if this

case can be accommodated on October 4," requested senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Sisodia, adding that the hearing will require a substantial amount of time. Additional Solicitor General

S.V. Raju appeared before the top court for the central probe

agencies. Sisodia has moved an interim bail to meet his ailing wife Seema on "humanitarian" ground and has furnished medical reports related to her deteriorating health condition. On August 4, the Supreme Court had declined to pass any direction on the interim bail and directed re-listing of the case for hearing

on interim relief and the regular bail application on September 4. The Supreme Court in mid-July this year had issued a notice and sought responses of the probe agencies on the pleas filed by the senior AAP leader challenging orders of the Delhi High Court denying him bail in the CBI and

the Delhi High Court refused to grant bail to Manish Sisodia saying that he was not able to meet the twin conditions for grant of bail under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and the triple test for grant of bail. In a statement issued by the ED on July 7, the probe agency said that it has attached assets worth Rs 52.24 crore belonging to Manish Sisodia, his wife and some other accused persons in connection with the Delhi liquor policy case.

The ED had arrested Sisodia on March 9, after the CBI arrested him on February 26 this year. In April, Special Judge M.K. Nagpal had denied bail to the AAP leader holding that the evidence, prima facie, "speaks volumes" of his involvement in the commission of the offence.

## 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

"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, said the economist. 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 to enable an environment for private investment, it is imperative that the investment in public infrastructure continues, mously. 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.

Presidency, she said it was a "huge deal" that a leaders declaration was adopted unani-

"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

#### 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.

#### 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 gunfight on the intervening night of Tuesday and

Major Dhonchak, a rein 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. The terrorists involved are suspected to be associated with The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group reportedly backed by Pakistan's Lashkar-e-Taiba Security forces have deployed drones and helicopters to aid in tracking down and neutralizing the terrorists.

Three hurt as private

skids, crash lands at

Mumbai airport

**MANPREET SINGH** 

At least three persons were in-

jured after a private business aircraft with six passengers and

way 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 land-

ing. According to preliminary

information, the mishap is at-

tributed to heavy rains and low

visibility at the time of the inci-

dent, 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.

Mumbai

aircraft with 8 onboard

## **RAPIDX Trains will run above the Metro Blue Line at New Ashok Nagar**

YOGESH KANT New Delhi

The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor has achieved an important milestone in Delhi. The construction of the viaduct of the RRTS corridor crossing over the viaduct of the Blue Line of the Delhi Metro corridor has been completed successfully.

This viaduct of the RRTS corridor crosses the Delhi Metro corridor at a height of about 20 meters at this point near the New Ashok Nagar Metro Station. Carrying out construction work at such a height over the existing and already operational metro track successfully is a big achievement from the engineering point of view.

Moving from Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station towards New Ashok RRTS station, the elevated alignment of the viaduct of the Blue Line of Delhi Metro which provides services to a large number of people every day. To ensure the coners travelling from this station, construction of this part of the viaduct has been done during the night time only with the help of Tarini (Launching Gantry). In this process, segments of the



girder were lifted and joined together to construct the full span of the viaduct. NCRTC received unwavering support from DMRC during this whole construction. The construction was completed safely by NCRTC while ensuring uninterrupted services of the metro.

Multi-modal integration is the guiding principle of the mented by NCRTC. To facilitate this, RRTS stations have been strategically planned in such a way that they can be venience and safety of commut- built as close as possible to the existing modes of public transport. Provisions have been made to provide seamless connectivity for a smooth and uninterrupted travel experi-

while ensuring this, has also had to face many complexities related to construction and civil engineering but with innovative techniques and strategic planning, it was made possible.

New Ashok Nagar Metro Station receives a large number of commuters from Noida. Once the RRTS corridor is operational, commuters will ave the option to travel to wards Meerut or other RRTS corridors from this station. To provide connectivity between the RRTS station and metro station at this point, NCRTC is constructing an about 90-meter-long and 6-meterwide Foot-Over Bridge (FOB) which will be connected from the concourse level to the conence for commuters. NCRTC, course level of both the stations.

#### Kejriwal lauds Punjab CM for taking path breaking initiatives to promote industrial development in state SAYS MANN IS THE BEST | ASSERTS THAT PUNJAB GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED

**JAGMOHAN SINGH** Amritsar

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday lauded the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for taking strenuous efforts for promotion

Addressing the gathering during the Sarkaar Sannatkaar milni here today, the Delhi Chief Minister said that Punjab is scoring new heights in every arena. He said that in 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 hitech 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 Keiriwal 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.

#### Commanding Officer, Major, Dy SP killed in South Kashmir encounter



Three Army personnel including a Colonel, a Major, and a Deputy Superintendent of Police were killed in an encounter at Kokernag in South Kashmir on Wednesday evening.

This is the second such major attack in South Kashmir in the past two months. Earlier on August 4, three soldiers lost their lives in the Halan forest area of Kulgam district.

The deceased were identified as Colonel Manpreet Singh, the Commanding Officer of 19 Rashtriya Rifles; Major Ashish Dhonack; and Deputy Superintendent Humayun Bhat. DySP Bhat, son of a retired Deputy Inspector General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, lost his life due to heavy blood loss, leaving behind a two-month-old daughter. The banned Resistance Front, believed to have links to the Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for this attack. Officials suspect that the same group of terrorists was responsible for a similar attack on army personnel on August 4,in Kulgam.

The operation against the terrorists began on Tuesday evening but was temporarily halted during the night. Early in the morning, the hunt for the terrorists resumed after receiving information that they were spotted at a

team, confronted the terrorists but was critically injured in the exchange of gunfire. Major Dhonack and Deputy Superintendent Bhat were also struck by bullets, sustaining

after another incident in which an Army personnel and a military dog were killed in a gunfight in the Jammu region, highlighting the ongoing security challenges in the region.

## Heroes of Anantnag cremated with military honours

Chandigarh

Amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Matram', mortal remains of third-generation soldier Col Manpreet Singh and his colleague Major Aashish 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.

hearts, visuals from Col Man- one's heart. preet Singh's village Mullanpur Garibdass in Mohali in Punjab



With folded hands and tear-

ful eyes, Col Manpreet Singh's and Major Dhonachal in Hary- wife, Jagmeet Kaur, bid him a

As India saluted the brave- ana's Panipat touched every- 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.

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

two crew flying from Vizag to **MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA** Mumbai skidded off the run-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

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 Reservation Bill can be tabled. 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 President 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.

#### 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

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 dis-



hideout. Colonel Singh, leading his

critical injuries. The attack comes shortly

## Nuh violence case: Congress MLA Mamman Khan arrested from Rajasthan

**GURUGRAM**: A special team of the Haryana Police has arrested Congress MLA Mamman Khan from Jaipur on charges of instigating people of a particular community during the violence that was witnessed in the Brajmandal Yatra in Nuh on July 31. The MLA will be produced in the Nuh district court on Friday. The Special Investigation

Team (SIT) probing the violence case had earlier issued a notice on August 25 to Mamman, the MLA from Firozpur Jhirka Assembly constituency of Nuh district, on charges of instigating people for violence, and had asked him to join the investigation on August 31.

In response to the notice,



the MLA sent a medical in the Punjab and Haryana note that he was suffering High Court defending himfrom a fever. After that, a self from being arrested by second notice was given by the police, arguing that the case should be investigated the police on September 5 and then again on Septemby an SIT monitored by ber 10, but he did not come. higher officials

The high court issued a

ment and the concerned authorities advised Mamman to file a petition in the lower court and gave him the next date scheduled on October 19. It was said on behalf of the MLA that he was not in the area on the day of the incident, while the police had collected complete evidence

On July 31, violence took place during the Brijmandal Yatra in the Nuh district, which later spread to other areas in Gurugram, Palwal, Rewari, Sonipat and Faridabad. Six people died in the violence, including two home guards and a cleric. Apart from this, more than 80 people were injured.

against him.

## Nearly 56,000 people in 10 UP districts impacted by floods



LUCKNOW: Following incessant rains in the past 36 hours in various parts of Uttar Pradesh, around 56,000 residents have been impacted

Aditi Umrao, project director at Relief Commissioner's Office, however, said that the necessity for emergency rescue operations has not yet arisen.

A total of 19 tehsils span-

ning 10 districts, encompassing around 173 villages, are grappling with floods, affecting 55,982 people after just one full day of rain across the state.

The relief commissioner's office affirmed that the department is fully prepared with all relief measures and stands ready for deployment should

"The situation has not

reached a point where we have had to relocate people due to flood-induced displacement. However, we have identified locations where we can offer shelter, and these shelter facilities are fully operational. We have not had to utilise them

The state has established a total of 23 flood shelters, Umrao added. The State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) teams have been deployed to specific areas and are on high alert in case an emergency or rescue operation becomes necessary. Umrao further said that meal packets have been distributed to families affected by the floods, and support has been extended to those who have lost family members due to the torrential rains.

as yet, "said Umrao.

Additionally, medical camps have been established, vaccinations for stray animals are ongoing, and relief activities

#### Delhi Police arrest sharpshooter in murder case Kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal Ambian



**NEW DELHI:** The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested one Harry, a key suspect connected to the murder case of international-level kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal Ambian, a source said. Ambian was an international kabaddi player from Punjab.Harry, a sharp-shooter, allegedly played a significant role in the murder. Harry had been on the run since March 14, 2022, when he allegedly killed Ambian. "Harry has a close association with gangster Kaushal, "the source said.

#### Murder or suicide? death mystery of armyman unsolved



SATISH HANDA

In-spite of joint efforts by the teams of Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF), Parao police station Ambala Cantt, CIA Staff of Ambala police, Army Police and Forensic experts the death mystery of a army Havaldar identified as Pavan Shankar originally hailing from village Kalai in Kanpur district (U.P) presently working with the army's 40 SD Unit at Ambala Cantt could not be solved in past four-five days. Body of Pavan was recovered in pieces scattered on the side of a railway track a few kilometers from Ambala Cantt railway station. The investigation teams are yet not sure if Pavan was killed or e committed suicide by jumping

#### **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 Deshkheda 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.

Amritsar/New Delhi

Member of Parliament, Rajya

Sabha Vikramiit Singh Sahnev

will lead a delegation of Members

of Parliament from Punjab to

meet Union Minister for con-

sumer 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

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

the exports from India.

#### Four including FSL Deputy Director booked in corruption case in Haryana

**SATISH HANDA** Karnal

Mamman filed a petition

State Vigilance Bureau (SVB) Haryana has registered a corruption case against four persons including Dr Anita Deputy Director of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) at Madhuban in Karnal district allegedly demanding amount worth Rs 11 lakh in view of a tender for amount Rs 6 lakh for the purchase of one crore DNA PCR kits, Among others against whom case has been registered include Neeraj Gaur director of a private firm Mygen Life Solution Company Delhi and Brij Singh Operation Manager and Chander **Bhan Choudhary Operation** Sales Manager of Gurugram bases firm Thermofisher on the complaint of FSL Deputy Director Dr Rajiv Kwatra who submitted Watts up recording of all conversations as regard demand for amount Rs 20 lakh which was settled at Rs 11 lakh in this deal to State Vigilance Bureau investigating the case, which was however denied by the

officers of the firms. Information reveals that the case was investigated twice by Special Investigation Teams

ing "Sarkar Sanatkar Milni" in

Amritsar, issuing him an appeal

to make efforts to resolve the is-

sue. The Chief Minister Punjab

authorized Sahney to take a

delegation and meet Minister

Goyal. The Chief Minister Pun-

in the rice export norms.

MP Vikram Sahney to take up

issue of MEP on basmati rice



Director General Police. The case was moved to Punjab and Haryana High Court for the hearing which directed Chief Secretary Haryana government and Director General Police Harvana for immediate action against all those involved in illegal practices. According to information in January 2021 the tender enquiry was floated by Haryana Medical Services Corporation Limited for purchase of one crore DNA PCR kits and a committee was constituted for the purchase of material, when an officer of the firm had contacted Dr Rajiv Kwatra Assistant Director on 29th October. 2021 and the matter appeared in the newspaper when State Health & Home Minister Anil Vij ordered the SIT to investigate the case, which handed over the report (SIT) on the orders of Home to the State Vigilance Bureau Minister Anil Vij led by a sealong with the Watts up renior IPS officer in the rank cording messages between FSL of IGP and by an Additional officials and the firms.

received a request from Punjab

Rice Millers and Exporters as-

sociation which is the leading

association for Basmati Rice trade

in India, regarding the central

government's decision of Mini-

Sahney in a written com-

munication to Union Minister

Piyush Goyal, mentioned that

the total Production of Basmati

rice in India is 6.00 million

tonnes and total production

of non-Basmati rice in India

is 135.54 million tonnes for the

year 2022-23. On one hand

tonne is allowed to be exported

mum Export Price.

## 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 sugges-

Denying reports of any factionalism in the Haryana Congress. Hooda said there was no rift and groups in the party. All party leaders and workers are working to strengthen the party. He said anyone can meet party president Kharge, on being asked about Selja and Surjewala met him recently. The state president Udai Bhan was also present at the occasion. Hooda said the 'Jan Milan' programmes were being organised in all districts to reach out to the people and know about their issues. Hooda, as usual, strongly criticised the ruling BJP-JJP government in the state and blamed the alliance for failing on all fronts and bringing the state to a standstill.

Hooda accused the present

government as a non-performing government ever since came to power, debt has increased five times, inflation four times, unemployment three times and crime state, he said, due to unemployment the youth of Haryana are leaving the country and migrating to foreign countries which is a very serious problem. The priority of the Congress government will be to stop this migration by providing employment opportunities to the youth in their own state. Hooda demanded the resignation of former sports minister Sandeep Singh and alleged that in the chargesheet filed by the police, serious allegations have come to the fore, so he should resign on moral grounds.

Haryana Congress chief Udai

paddy had started arriving in the markets but till now the government has not started purchasing it, due to this the farmers were not able to get MSP. He said the district-level organisational structures would be formed soon. Meanwhile, former Union Minister and a former Rajya Sabha member Shelja while talking to media persons at her Ambala Cantt residence strongly condemned Hooda's statement claiming that he was a right choice for the Chief Minister if Congress comes to power and said that such decisions are taken by Congress high command. Scenario reveals that several other senior Congress leaders in Haryana state like Randeep Surjewala, Kiran Choudhary and even Shelia seem to be active in the race to become Chief Minister in Haryana state (in case Congress wins majority in 2024 polls) since Shelja too while talking to media persons at a occasion expressed desire to contest Vidhan Sabha

#### before a running train. Fake call centre racket posing as helpline for insurance company on google busted with 7



SATISH HANDA Jind

Cyber cell of Haryana police ousted a racket involved as a helpline for insurance company on the google enabling to make early remittance of insurance claims and cheated large numbers of people by running fake call centre The fake call centre was being operated from Jind in Haryana state. Cyber cell of police started an investigation and busted the gang with seven arrests. Sandeep Dhankhad DSP JInd addressing media persons said that police has been successful in arresting seven members of the racket on the complaint of a woman Seema a resident of village Harigarh in Jind district lodged by her on 18th August 2023 after she was cheated amount worth Rs 30 lakh who told that she received a phone call from a person on 21st July 2023 introducing himself as an officer of IRDAI for the refund of amount of claim of her insurance policy and advised that she would have to deposit some amount in the bank to get the amount as such she was cheated for amount worth Rs

30 lakh. DSP Dhankhad said that cyber crime cell reached up to the fake call center and arrested seven persons including five females all identified as Lakshay resident of Ghaziabad, Aman Kumar resident of Gautam Budh Nagar, Deepa, Dolly both residents of Ghaziabad. Vanshika, Nisha both residents of Noida and Fiza resident of East Delhi. During rthe aid, at the fake call centre police recovered 23 mobile phones, one laptop and 30 sim cards.

#### Jammu Kashmir 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

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

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 from the drugs de-addiction centre at around 11,50 PM



on 9th September 2023 that Gaurav was suffering from High Blood Pressure, became unconscious and taken to the Civil Hospital Ambala City when he along with his wife Saroj and daughter-in-law Ritika reached Civil Hospital immediately and found that his son Gaurav was lying unconscious on a bed in the General Ward alone and was told by staff on duty that the person brought him to the while, police arrived at the spot.

hospital disappeared immediately after leaving him. Raj Kumar approached the who after checking the patients declared dead. Injury marks were found on the body of the deceased which was sent for the postmortem. Doctor told that the cause of the death of the youth will be identified only after getting a viscera report from forensic laboratory Madhuban (Karnal). Mean-

## Haryana has become No.1 in unemployment, increasing prices and crimes in the country: Hooda

**SATISH HANDA** Ambala

Former Haryana Chief Minister and and leader of opposition in Haryana Vidhan Sabha Bhupinder Singh Hooda while addressing media persons here at the residence of the former MLA Jasbir Mallour said that earlier in 2014 Haryana state was number 1 in per capita income, employment and law and order, but today it has become number 1 in unemployment, increasing prices and crimes in the country. He said, BJP-JJP Haryana government deliberately delaying paddy procurement as it wants to deprive the farmers of minimum support price (MSP). He said paddy has started arriving in

the market and farmers have



iab on his part, will also write there is no restriction on export

a DO letter to Union Minister of non-basmati parboiled which

Sh. Piyush Goyal for relaxation means a variety of 300 USD per

According to Sahney he had with a duty of 20%.

been forced to sell the crop at ernment has also left floodlow rates and the government affected farmers in the state has become a mute spectator to fend for themselves, even thus watching the losses being incurred by the farmers since paddy is being sold below the compensated so far, instead

MSP, so is in case of bajra. Expressing deep concern, Hooda said that the gov-

after so many days have passed the farmers have not been of giving compensation, the government has kept the farmers are being harassed in the

at some places the public is being harassed in the name of compensation portal, somewhere in the name of 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora', somewhere in the name of property ID and somewhere in the name of family identity card. Hooda said, in case Congress comes to power in Haryana state after victory in Lok Sabha and 2024 Vidhan Sabha polls will extend full support to the people in every sector including farmers, labourers, traders, employees and common people residing in urban as well as rural areas in the state.

Hooda said that no doubt digital system is good but it should be favorable for the people and it is assured that  $when \, Congress \, would \, come \, to \,$ 

web of portals. Hooda said, power in 2024 all unfavorable schemes will be withdrawn immediately which include 'Parivar Pehchan Patra', 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora'. Hooda said, Congress after coming to power will povide 100 yards plots to the families below poverty line, Rs 6000 monthly old age pension, availability of LPG cylinder at the price less than Rs 500 and improve infrastructure of Harvana Gurudwara Prabandhak Committ which was formed for the development of gurudwaras in the state. In reply to a question as regard shouting slogans against each other by the workers of both groups of Congress in the presence of Congress state poll convener Hooda said that such symbols indicate that the party is be-

coming strong.

#### Soldier, terrorist die in encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri

**FW DESK** 

An unidentified militant and a soldier lost their lives, while two soldiers and a policeman sustained injuries during an encounter that took place on Tuesday in Narla village of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir, according to officials.

Following intelligence reports indicating suspicious militant activity in the area, the security forces launched a joint operation by the Army and police under the Teryath police post jurisdiction.

Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh confirmed the loss of one soldier and the death of an unidentified militant during

the operation. Despite the identification of the slain militant, retrieving



the body remained a challenging task due to the continued exchange of gunfire. The security forces suspect that one to two additional militants may be hiding in the nearby forested area.

The cordon and search operation around the area has been intensified with deployment of additional lighting to counteract the darkness of nightfall.

## 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



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.

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

#### 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 IN-DIA bloc, TMC>s Spokesperson Derek O>Brian 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 on said the government could add "some business" at the last minute.

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



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 'unleased 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



AIMIM president Akhtarul 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 Jayege Par BJP Ke Sang Nahi 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,

## 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 Reforms (ADR) and National 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 Jammu and Kashmir are vet

Election Watch (NEW).

Currently 4 Lok Sabha and 1 Rajya Sabha seats are vacant. Again, 4 Rajya Sabha seats in emerged from the report of to be decided. Besides, the in-Association for Democratic formation 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 statewise 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 ing to the ADR report, the per capita wealth of MPs in

in terms of property. Accordthe two houses of Parliament is around 38.33 million. 53 out of 763 Member of Parliament of both the house are

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, AS-SOCHAM 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



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

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

world", the chamber Secretary

# Congress Slams PM Modi for relaxing



Missing BSF trooper traced

**JAMMU**: The border security force (BSF) trooper who went missing from duty on Friday in J&K's Poonch district was 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

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

Poonch district, "officials said.



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 He emphasised that "Hin-

**NEW DELHI:** Former Vadodara 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 appointed in-charge, Mukul Wasnik, visit Vadodara 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 trana substantial contingent of

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 that "India had been governed by Mughals, British sition to the BJP alongside colonialists, and the Congress party, but now finds itself under the governance of Hindutva".

dutva 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

Congress and alliance leaders who, he claimed, "openly criticised Sanatan Hindu dharma, terming such rhetoric as unacceptable".

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 historical trajectory, noting 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.

#### 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

Addressing media persons, AICC spokesperson Supriya Srinate 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 governhelping 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

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

Kashmir, 25 to 30 per cent

the rest in Uttarakhand and

in Himachal Pradesh and

as a measure of protect-

ing our own farmers, we

on apples coming from

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

need higher import duties

Washington, but, the Prime



**LAKSHMI** 

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

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 Vishvamitra, was witnessed in the highest

technological progress and

ingful Delhi Declaration. It represented the coming of age of Bharat from the periphery to the centre of global vironmental degradation, caseconomic decision-making. cading socioeconomic ravages

level participation and a mean-

India signaled it would play a key role to promote and interlocute North-South cooperation. Its mammoth social justice projects sbenchmarks 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 The G20 – an elitist pluri-

lateral 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 en-



of Covid-19, Russia-Ukraine second largest, resource-rich 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 Gutierrez 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 -

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 mentation; need for USD 5.9 all sources to close the financing trillion for Global South before and coordinated policies and gap and supporting UNSG's SDG stimulus; scaling up sustainable finance in line with G20 roadmap; enhancing glob-

on Food Security and Nutrition, 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 ystems and finance health collaboration. Most significant was the robust Green Development Alliance. 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) imple-2030 to implement their NDCs, USD 4 trillion for clean energy technologies alone, call on parties to implement 100 billion ternational Financial Institual food security according to the

Deccan High Level principles ambitious, traceable, transparent New Collective Quanaddressing food and fertiliser tifiable 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 On technology and digital

public infrastructure, it enorsed 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 regulatory framework was set.

G20 vowed to reinvigorate and reform the UN and In-Paris commitment and set an tions, 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 rep-

resented 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

he 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.

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

## Targeting biofuel sustainability



ntil 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 decarbonisa-

#### The challenges in India

In India, biofuel is synonymous with firstgeneration (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

INDIA, BRAZIL, US TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GLOBAL BIOFUELS ALLIANCE

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

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 roduction 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 (CSTEP), 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



uawei, 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 selfsufficiency 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



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 v 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

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

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

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 As for the U.S.-led ecosystem, the costs

are only one of the many core technologies

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 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

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 Îndia'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

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 locallysourced biodiversity information, underscores the need for inclusive and participatory environmental strategies.



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

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 earth observation. sector," Goenka said.

At the two-day CII conference,



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 decision-making that contribengineering 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

The inaugural session of the

celebration of India's remarkable feat in space technology, especially the successful softlanding of the Chandrayaan 3 on the south pole of the moon. The experts speaking the occasion also underlined the meticulous preparations and data-driven

uted 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 conference was completely the explore new horizons in space the Indian space sector.

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 socialeconomic growth, with a call to action- a must for the growth of

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

**NEW DELHI:** Microsoftowned 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 AL.

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 Ac-

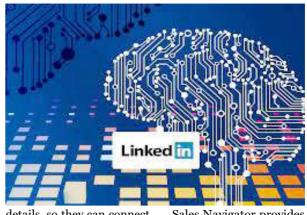
"With these new features, we're making it faster and easier for sellers to discover crucial account and prospect

Pharma, Innovation and R&D to

name a few. The state is eager

to attract Dutch investments in

sectors such as AI, technology,



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.

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

**Infineon presents** XENSIV™ tire pressure sensor with intelligent features for tire pressure monitoring systems



**ARUN KUMAR RAO** Munich (Germany)

Infineon 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 autoposition sensing, tire inflation assistance, tire blowout detection. and load detection, company press

The SP49 is a pin-to-pin replacement for Infineon's last generation SP40 TPMS products. With its hardware master/ slave I\*C 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

#### **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 THCL Travel Holding Cyprus Limited on December 10, 2022 at an Issue Price of Rs 236.

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be utilize 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 like food processing, Biotech and

**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



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 with the Netherlands as part of 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

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.

#### **Rajnish Kumar Appointed Chairman of Mastercard India ARUN KUMAR RAO**

Mumbai

Mastercard today announced the appointment of Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), as the Chairman of Mastercard India. In this critical, non-executive advisory role, Kumar will guide Mastercard's South Asia executive leadership team led by Gautam Aggarwal, Division President for South Asia & Country Corporate Officer, India, in navigating the vibrant domestic payments landscape, Company statement said here

Statement from Ari Sarker, President, Asia Pacific, Mastercard said, "Mastercard is most pleased to welcome Rajnish Kumar - one of India's most distinguished banking industry veterans - as our India Chair-



Kumar's invaluable stewardship, Mastercard will seek to further digital payments adoption and

acceptance in the market and continue to actively support the government's Digital India vision n innovative and impactful ways. Mr. Kumar will be keenly involved in augmenting the local leadership team in its efforts to expand our domestic footprint, while bolstering Mastercard's ongoing commitment to forging strategic partnerships with stakeholders across the payments ecosystem - from banks to fintechs to governments, non-profits

## TPMS sensor unit. Manipal Global Education Services Launches Manipal MedAce

statement said.

#### **Honda Cars India launches Honda ELEVATE in Punjab KULBIR SINGH KALSI**

Chandigarh

Honda Cars India Limited, a leading manufacturer of premium cars in India, tovehicle will be available at an introductory starting price of INR 10,99,900 (exroom, Chandigarh) for the top variant. Deliveries of today across dealerships in

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

the country.

The Honda Elevate, develtomers with active lifestyles and a global mindset. De- India.



day announced the launch veloped by the Honda R&D of its latest global SUV, Asia Pacific centre located in Thailand, the all-new caters to the needs and aspirations of younger customers who seek status, comfort, and showroom, Chandigarh) to an active lifestyle. With di-INR 15,99,900 (ex-show-mensions of 4312mm length, 1790mm width, 1650mm height, 2650mm wheelbase the Elevate will begin from and a top-class ground clearance the Elevate merges style and practicality seamlessly. Speaking about the India

launch of the much-awaited SUV, Takuva Tsumura, President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd., said, «Today marks an exciting chapter as we launch the strongly oped under the grand con- anticipated mid-size SUV, cept of 'Urban Freestyler', is the Honda Elevate, in Pundesigned to appeal to cus- jab. Punjab is an important market for Honda Cars in

#### **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 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



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

**DSP Mutual Fund launches DSP Multi Asset** 

**Allocation Fund for true diversification** 

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

sive learning experience to empower medical students on their journey to NEET PG/NexT/ INICET/FMGE success. It is the only platform conceived and developed in accordance with Next guidelines. It adheres to ensuring that students are wellprepared 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.

Prep provides a comprehen-

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

tion 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 CBME curriculum- defined cat- manner, which will engage with egories, including Must Know, learners in a format/on form factors they are com 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.

and expertise in medical educa-

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

## 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 drugresistant malaria variants in Southeast Asia and the prospect that one or more of these strains



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 therapy, 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 all 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.

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

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-

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

similar to those from domestic

equities with significantly lesser

volatility than equities.

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 smoothening out the investor experience. Further, historical returns of a multi asset model portfolio have shown returns

tween 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 Franchisee Model for Women** with the launch of its 100th store

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-akind 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 aound 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,

"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

of India (RBI) launched the "Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit" which is a MSME-credit-focused

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 re-

and borrowers by consolidating all the necessary information on a single platform.

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

duce friction for both lenders credit information providers, and digital identity au-

thorities together. T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of RBI unveiled the program who who further highlighted state governments, Account its potential to revolutionize

## 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 econ-

"Obviously it would impact India as well though not purely in terms of growth but in terms of volatility," he said.

It was organised by Odisha Economic Association (OEA) in collaboration with Analytical and Applied Economics department of Utkal University

Post Covid, manufacturing is being relocated to India and the country is fast becoming part of the global supply chain. The growth in digital infrastructure has been enormous and the model is being replicated by other countries, he observed.

The noted economist said per capita income has gone up from USD 310 in 1991, when India introduced the economic reforms, to USD 2500 now.

In view of the uncertainties in the global economy, it is difficult to forecast a

Nifty touches all time high level of 20,000 points



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.

He said the country needs to increase the tax-GDP ratio substantially and reduce tax evasion and avoidance. "We need to focus not only on the devolution of funds from the Union to states but also from states to local governments. Besides the reforms in land, labour and capital markets to achieve more competitiveness, states need to work a lot on labour market reforms,' he suggested.

Debroy said, formalisation of different sectors including MSMEs is a must to achieve growth in higher bands. The efficiency of the legal system also needs to be improved significantly.

Though increasing inequality continues to be a matter of serious concern, the best way to achieve inclusive growth is to make provision of the basic neces-

Rs 15, 242.7 crore in July, he said For the first time ever, Nifty

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

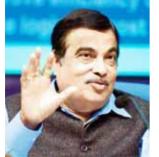
ter Nitin Gadkari clarified on Thursday that India will not increase tax on diesel engines, reported CNBC TV-18.

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 be 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 carmak-

However in an interview biofuels.



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

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

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 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



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

Under this strategic partnership, TPSSL and SIDBI will encourage solar energy adoption Dr. Praveer Sinha, CEO&MD, among MSME by offering cus-

Centre Government to launch 'PM

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

The 4E solar financing scheme offers TPSSL's cus-

#### ment of the MSME sector. TPSSL and SIDBI has also announced the launch of The Big Solar Fest at the Global

competitive interest rates and

loan limit to meet the require-

SME Finance Forum 2023 to offer zero processing fees for the upcoming festival season to encourage the widespread adoption of solar energy among 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 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.

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

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,

Dinesh Khara, Chairman, istration.asp



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.

gether all participants of the eco-system i.e. representatives from the Indian Government and Regulators, banks, domestic and international inleaders, intermediaries and other stakeholders

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

#### Vishwakarma' scheme on Sept 17 THE ARTISANS WOULD **ALSO GET AN INCENTIVE** VISHWAKARMA



The Summit will bring to- **NEW DELHI:** The central e-vouchers or eRUPI. government is preparing the launch of PM Vishwakarma scheme to provide toolkit incentives to artisans.

Prime Minister Narendra stitutional investors, industry 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

This will be apart from collateral free enterprise development loans at concessional rate

Further, 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

The artisans would have to go through a skill verification years (FY24-28)

**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

# 12.34

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

MUMBAI: Nifty advanced for recent average. Midcap index rose more than the Nifty even as the advance decline ratio rose to

> 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

reached the 20,000 mark as euphoria around India's leadership at the G20 conference trumped concerns resulting from crude at \$90 per barrel, savs Vaibhav Vidwani, Research Analyst, Bonanza Portfolio. The sectoral in 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 (BBMB) 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.

## Release of Property Documents: RBI tightens noose



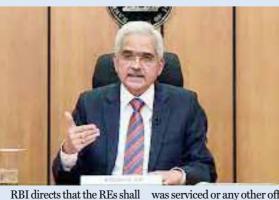
**JAG MOHAN THAKEN** 

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-movable property documents operative Banks, all State Cooperative Banks and District and disputes. To address the Central Co-operative Banks, issues faced by the borrowers all NBFCs (including HFCs) and towards promoting responand all Asset Reconstruction sible lending conduct among Companies to adhere to these the REs, these Directions are guidelines or face the conse- being issued.

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.

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 / imleading to customer grievances



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 option of collecting the after the effective date. original movable / immovable property documents either from the banking outlet / branch where the loan account sole borrower or joint borrow-

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 The borrower shall be given sanction letters issued on or

RBI directions further adds

that in order to address the con-

tingent event of demise of the

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

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

day of delay.

ers, the REs shall have a well 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).

The compensation provided under these directions shall be without prejudice to the rights of a borrower to get any other compensation as per any applicable law.

These Directions shall be applicable to all cases where release of original movable / immovable property documents falls due on or after December

> Jag Mohan Thaken is a Haryana based retired Senior Bank Manager, views are personal

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



NEW DELHI: Union Minister CII Northern Region, brought 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

together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to deliberate on the pivotal role that standards play in enhancing India's exports and the essential preparations required by the industry to integrate into global supply chains seamlessly. Keeping in view India's vi-

sion of becoming Atmanirbhar, production linked incentive schemes for 14 key sectors have been announced. Talking about ease-of-doing

business, the minister shared that the government of India has reduced 39, 000 compli-

### **INTERNATIONAL**

## Int'l media highlights the G-20 summit Trump demands recusal of US judge in 2020

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". Underlining that few expected a joint declaration on the first day of the Summit, given the sharp divisions among the group members over the war in Ukraine, BBC stated "The Delhi declaration appears designed to allow both

positives." The New York Times called the Declaration "an eyeopening departure" from the Bali declaration adopted last year, where world leaders had condemned Russia for its invasion on Ukraine.

Chicago Tribune and US News ran the Associated Press report "India forges compromise among divided world powers at the G20 summit in a diplomatic win for Modi.'

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

pol subversion case statement on Ukraine is sign Former US President Donald 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 declara-

tion adding that G20 is a body

for economic issues, not geo-

politics. Al Jazeera reported

Russia praises 'balanced' dec-

laration as summit concludes".

New Delhi Summit is seen by

observers as an important plat-

form for Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi to expand the

country's clout on the global

stage. It also offers US Presi-

dent Joe Biden an opportunity

to deepen ties with his hosts

and reach out to developing

countries" wrote South China

Morning Post published from

CNN also highlighted the an-

nouncement of India - Middle

East - Europe Economic Cor-

ridor calling it an "ambitious

proposal aimed at further

connecting a volatile region

and countering China's years-

long backing of massive in-

frastructure projects around

The Washington Post and

Hong Kong

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 attornevs 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



ONE EARTH . ONE FAMILY . ONE FUTURE

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

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



an 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

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

dent 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 fleadership 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



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 counhe and Modi had "substan- try 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 earthquakestricken 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 Enaam 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

Abraham Accords is our commitment to stand by our partners during difficult times,' Mr. Gallant said a in 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.

## 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.

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



ew 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 exceptionally high, similar to 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 to 4 percent and necessary steps a result of these increases, the are taken when it goes above interest rate in Russia has risen it. Now it is also necessary to from 8.5% to 12% at present. It's look at why this inflation rate worth noting that in the past ten is increasing? For the last one years, there hasn't been such a and a half years, almost all the significant increase in interest rates in India. Therefore, the sia have been producing only to sudden policy changes in re- meet all the needs of the Ruscent days have brought Russia's sian army, causing shortages or economic situation into discus- reduced availability of various sions, although there is no other substantial evidence or proof available to support this. Given rather simplistic analysis to asdoes not seem that Russia will foreign currency reserves, Rusgo into a period of economic sia is unable to import essential uncertainty so soon, although the US and its NATO friends, various countries of the Euro- tion is much stronger. When the pean Union, have imposed many war with Ukraine started, Russia economic sanctions on Russia, had a reserve of 640 billion US specially the ban on the purchase dollars, which is equivalent to of gas and crude oil from Russia.

ing interest rates, according to today. It is also important to the governor, is to control the mention that Russia's lowest ever-increasing inflation in foreign exchange reserves in the Russia these days.It's known that the current inflation rate dollars) were in the year 2016. in Russia is around 7.6%, and this rate doesn't appear to be inflation levels are consistently sudden and continuous increases

The main purpose of increas-



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 factories and industries of Rusgoods in society, leading to an increase in their prices. It's a goods. Foreign exchange reserves figures show that Russia's posiabout 586 billion dollars today. The same reserve is also in India last ten years (350 billion US

No one can disagree that when dollar again, indicating that the

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 Amerithe stature of President Putin, it sume that due to a shortage of can 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

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 onetenth of India's total population. The declining population also leads to a shortage of skilled workers. Observations reveal that employees are working in

in interest is responsible for it. shifts of 3-3, indicating a short-This situation has led to disage of skilled labor. Therefore, agreements between President for Putin, it has become crucial Putin's chief economic advisor to bring certainty and stability to and the Governor of the Central the country's internal economic

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 signaled 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

Dr PS Vohra is Writer, columnist and financial thinker, View are personal

## St Kitts and Nevis celebrates 40 years of friendship with Taiwan resenting diverse industries. Visitors had the privilege of

BASSETERRE: 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 Visi-Recreational Park in Nevis, the event commemorated the 40th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between Through a myriad of exhibi- 26 Taiwanese companies rep- novation and superior quality.



tor Centre, Malcolm Guishard tions and cultural experiences, the Expo further solidified the deep-rooted bond between these two countries.

Showcasing Taiwanese In-Taiwan and St Kitts and Nevis. novation- The Expo featured

exploring a wide array of cutting-edge products, including high-quality scissors, knives, and sharpeners, health supplements, sealing machines, solar products, house accessories, eisure foods, and state-ofthe-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 in-

#### 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) pro-

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 Ease of Processing, Due Dilia 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 datadriven 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



gence 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

**Anupam Kher** 

superstar SRK

for his recently

released 'Jawan

praise on



SHRI P.N. CHADHA JI ON 30" SEPTEMBER 2025

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

CHANDIGARH: The wedding card of Bollywood actress Parineeti Čhopra and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha, who are

Shekhar Kapur's

reveals his proud

immigration officer

**NEW DELHI:** Filmmaker

Shekhar Kapur, who is on a

visit to UK, shared a sweet

anecdote of an interaction

with the immigration of-

ficer in London, and how

the latter congratulated him for India's 'Chandrayaan-3'

Taking to X (formerly

Twitter), the 'Mr India' di-

rector 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'

Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO) has

recently achieved the suc-

cessful soft landing of Chan-

drayaan-3 on the South Pole of the Moon. Shekhar made his directorial debut with

cult classic 'Masoom' in 1983. He then gained in-

ternational recognition

and acclaim in 1994 with

biographical film 'Bandit

Queen', based on the in-

famous Indian bandit and

politician Phoolan Devi.

1998 romantic thriller 'Dil

Se', starring Shah Rukh

Khan, Manisha Koirala

and Preity Zinta. Shek-

har's last directorial proj-

ect is 'What's Love Got to Do with It?', a 2022 Brit-

ish 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.

**Indian moment** 

with London

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 Choora 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 'Sehrabandi' 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.

## **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 the SAFF championship. 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.

Croatian coach Igor Stimac, to participate in the team the national team once again

FIFA rankings by winning

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 Under the leadership of top-8 in Asia are allowed competition

**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 Navanthara. Vijay Sethupathi, Deepika Padukone (billed as a special appearance), Priyamani and Sanya Malhotra. It was theatrically released on September 7.

## **Bigg Boss 17' teaser: Salman Khan flaunts new** look, says 'it's all about Dil, Dimaag aur Dum'

**MUMBAI**: The makers of reality show 'Bigg Boss' have unveiled the teaser of its new season, featuring the host Salman Khan in a brand new

The latest edition of the show has a power-packed first look, with new game-changing mantras - 'Dil, Dimaag aur

The teaser shows superstar Salman Khan sporting a short hairstyle, and saying, "Ab tak aapne Bigg Boss ki sirf aankh dekhi hai, ab dikhenge Bigg Boss ke 3 avatar (Till now, viewers have only seen an eye of the Big Boss but very soon they will witness his three avatars)."

Then we get to see the actor in a colourful look of a qawaal, wearing a pink pathani suit. Salman said this is "dil".

Other look shows him as a detective, donning a coat, glasses, a hat, and says "dimag hi dimag"

The third look shows Salman as a rugged officer, flaunting his short hair, wearing a tee and bullet proof jacket. He then said "Aur Dum"

"Abhi ke liye itna hi, pro-



mo hua khatam, " concluded

The game is set to take an even more exhilarating turn than last year, with an interesting twist of "Iss baar game nahin hoga sabke liye same to same" expect the season to be different from all the previous seasons.

The promo took the internet by storm, leaving fans excited for the new season of the show.

They wrote: "Finally the wait is over 1st promo of #bb17 is here wow And Salman bhai hosting", "Manisha elvish or Abhishek lao', "Best host in the world love u", "Finally promo aa he gaya I am so excited", "Wow, nice... I am so excited".

Commenting on the theme of the season, Salman Khan shared: "This year, Bigg Boss is all about Dil Dimag aur Dum and it will not be the same for every housemate. Anticipate a season elevated to new heights, as it explores the complex maze of human emotions.

"Within these walls, every twist is a lesson, and every task is a test. It's going to be a thrilling ride to see how hearts beat, minds strategize, and excitement reaches its peak, "he

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

MUMBAI: Actor Mohammed 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

"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,



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

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 Siddiqui: 'It was pure'

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 On the work front, Zee-

shan 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 ro-

mance with Nawazuddin



## New song titled 'Nasha' featuring pop star Badshah

**NEW DELHI:** Bollywood Acperfectly harnesses the feeling tress Shilpa Shetty's upcoming of her character of a tired mom film 'Sukhee' has released a new who takes a vacation from her song titled 'Nasha' featuring the routine life to rediscover her pop star Badshah. The song zest for life into a groovy and

positive, synth-pop track with a filmy touch.

The song in itself is a very upbeat pop song with a lot of electronic influence, typical of the synth-pop or modern day elegant, nothing in 'Nasha' is overdone as it more than suits the film's theme and legitimately makes audiences feel a sense of being 'Sukhee' (happy), discovering the joys of life and happiness in the simplest of

The video of 'Nasha' explores Shilpa's eponymous character, Sukhee and her friends just letting it go at their school reunion. Initially, hesitant to hit

the dance floor, despite being the attraction with her glimmering red dress, Shilpa Shetty takes the floor and dances as if it is the very first time that she has ever danced. There is electronic pop, though it also a sense of pulsating energy, has a 'touch' of Bollywood's that Badshah, Afsana Khan, and Chakshu Kotwal are able tapper. Simple, wholesome and to harness through their voice, combined with the instrumentation and production. The sound design here is clear, booming, open and very polished. Perhaps being a bit too polished, 'Nasha' nonetheless makes up for it with a beautiful music video, which shows not just Shilpa hanging out with her old friends, but also snippets of them hanging out, eating street food and hogging on gol gappas.

## Odisha EOW likely to question Bollywood superstar Govinda in Ponzi scam case

MUMBAI: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime Branch is likely to question connection with the Rs 1, 000 crore online crypto Ponzi scam.

The EOW unearthed the massive pan India scam operated by 'STA (Solar Techno Alliance) Token' and arrested its India head Gurtej Sigh Sidhu from Rajasthan in August this year. EOW has also arrested, Nirod

Techno Alliance's Odisha team.

"We will examine the veteran actor who has attended a mega programme of the STA held in Govinda had also released some a luxurious star hotel/banquet video promoting the STA. We



Das, the head of head Solar hall of Goa in July. More than one thousand up-line members including many from Odisha attended this meeting. Film star

twe found his involvement limited to endorsement only, the Inspector General EOW JN Pankaj told to media He said that the EOW has to examine several other members

will try to find out the nature of

his involvement in the scam. We

might use him as a witness in the

of STA who are still at large prior to questioning Govinda, who is not on its priority list currently. "Different teams of EOW will

very soon visit Punjab, Rajasthan and Guiarat to arrest the absconding main associates of mastermind Gurtej including the financial and technical head

## 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 prefinale, 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 a 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 ceding months leading to this into the Y20, C20 and P20 processes that fed into the G20 Summit. This second phase of the K20 Summit was organized on the 7 th and 8 th

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

## Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders The Lexicon MUN 2023 Wraps Up in Grand Success

**FW DESK** Pune

The Lexicon Schools are thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of The Lexicon Model United Nations (MUN) 2023 conference, held in collaboration with Skill-Sphere Education. This annual event, dedicated to fostering knowledge, learning, and diplomacy, has firmly cemented its status as a hallmark occasion in Pune, and this year was

certainly no exception. The theme for THE LEXI-CON MUN 2023 was 'Building Sustainable Communities driven by Science and Artificial Intelligence.' This theme spotlighted the remarkable potential of Science and AI in nurturing sustainable communities, encompassing advancements in conservation, renewable energy, urban planning, disaster management,



With a central focus on upholding ethical standards and promoting inclusivity, the event's primary objective was to advocate for the responsible implementation of technology within the framework of Sustainable Development. THE LEXICON MUN 2023 aspired to lead global technological development in harmony with the environment, showcasing the seamless integration of Science, Artificial Intelligence, and healthcare, and agriculture. Sustainability

Over the course of the twoday Lexicon MUN Conference, young participants aged between 11 and 22, assumed the roles of world leaders to address longstanding global conflicts and concerns. Across six key committees, delegates engaged in unprecedented sustainable dialogues, with the aim of paving the way for peace and prog-

ress on an international scale. Nasir Shaikh, Group CEO of The Lexicon Group of Institutes, EduCrack & EasyRecruit+,

2023 stands as a testament to our commitment to nurturing holistic development in our students. In a world where technology rapidly shapes the future, it is necessary that we provide our young minds with platforms to explore its potential for sustainable progress. This event empowered young participants to engage in diplomatic discourse and also encouraged them to embrace technology as a driving force for a better tomorrow.