

REGION 2



PUNJAB CM HANDS OVER CHEQUES WORTH RS. ONE CRORE EACH AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES OF TWO MARTYRS OF ANANTNAG

Punjab Vidhan Sabha goes paperless as CM launches neva application



Describes it as a revolutionary step aimed at making the legislatures more effective & responsive

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday said that digitisation of the State Vidhan Sabha will act as a cornerstone for enhancing the efficiency of the MLAs to raise the issues of public concern and for people to judge their performance. Chief Minister while addressing the state assembly after the launch of National e-Vidhan Application said that it is a revolutionary step aimed at making the legislatures more effective and responsive. He said that it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that Punjab is the first Vidhan Sabha in the country to launch various applications in the country. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that his government has taken this step for the welfare of the common man and to make the MLAs updated.

totally paperless. He said that under the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project it will be easier to trace decisions and documents as well as to share information for transparent and answerable processes. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that more such efforts will be made to ensure that people are benefitted from it. Chief Minister informed that attendance of esteemed members of Legislative Assembly will be marked in the house through this unique application. He said that Punjab is the first state to adopt state of the art digitization process adding that time is changing by every passing day and we need to be updated in this prevailing world. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the people of the state will be able to access the information through this application and the members will get updated information about the proceedings on a single click on their I-Pads. Chief Minister said that this new system will end the obsolete paper system resulting in saving the trees, adding that the state government had already presented two paperless budgets for the sake of the environment. Bhagwant Singh Mann also recalled that when he went to Himachal Vidhan Sabha to watch the digitalization of Legislative proceedings where he had decided that if he got the chance then this system will be replicated in Punjab with ultra modern tools.

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY 5



GOVT TO MEET 70% OF INDIA'S IT HARDWARE NEEDS THROUGH LOCAL PRODUCTION IN NEXT 3 YEARS: CHANDRASEKHAR

India's Visa suspension in Canada to have minimal impact on Business

BENGALURU: The suspension of visa services to Canadian citizens announced by India amid estranged diplomatic ties is likely to have limited impact on business. As per media reports the ongoing standoff between the two countries due to political issues has raised concerns among technology companies, professionals and entrepreneurs. While potential new contracts could get delayed, the impact on projects that Indian IT companies are already implementing there may be limited, since Canada has not halted visa applications by Indians to Canada. The ramifications on business will be greater if Canada were to also stop visa applications. On the whole though, consid-



ering the world learnt to work without travel during the Covid pandemic, visa restrictions are unlikely to severely handicap business in the short term.

Vikram Shroff, head of HR Law at Nishith Desai Associates, said the Indian government's decision implies that investors, entrepreneurs, and techies who are Canadian citizens may not be able to get visas to travel to India, reported TOI, "Technology talent mobility would be adversely affected between the two countries," he said. Shroff said the decision does not affect those Canadian citizens who have an existing Indian visa or OCI card. "It also does not affect Indian citizens to continue to travel to Canada including for family, business, or education purposes," he noted.

Congress urges Centre to implement Women Reservation Bill soon

KAVITA SHARMA
New Delhi
Congress MP Rahul Gandhi today praised the Women's Reservation Bill but called it a diversion tactic from the demand of caste census. He also asked the govt. to implement this bill immediately. The Women Reservation Bill is passed from both the houses. Addressing media persons in AICC headquarters, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, BJP came up with the idea of the special session. We appreciated that idea, with a lot of fanfare and pomp, we moved from the old building to the new building. The Prime Minister in a very dramatic gesture carried the con-

Governments of India and Canada should adopt agenda of serious consideration instead of accusations: SGPC

JAGMOHAN SINGH
Amritsar
The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Harjinder Singh Dhama reacted to the souring diplomatic relations between India and Canada and said that the governments of both the countries should bring the matters on the agenda of serious consideration. In an official statement here today, the SGPC President said that the Sikhs are living across the globe, whose human rights as well as religious concerns are also important. The Sikh community has gone through many painful times, including the June 1984 military attack

on Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib and Akal Takht Sahib, the 1984 Sikh Genocide and the extra-judicial killings of Sikh youths of a decade. The Sikh community living across the globe can never forget this pain. Even today, the Sikhs living in many countries have been deprived of coming to their homeland and of paying obeisance at the sacred shrines of their Gurus (religious masters). Dhama said that in the murder case of Canada based Sikh Hardeep Singh Nijjer, the expelling of a diplomatic officer of India by Canadian government after allegations were levelled against him raises many questions.

POTPOURRI 8

RAPPER SHUBH'S 'STILL ROLLIN INDIA TOUR' CANCELLED AFTER REPORTED SUPPORT FOR 'KHALISTAN'

Delighted at passage of women's reservation bill in Lok Sabha: PM Modi



FW CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed delight at the passage of the women's reservation bill in the Lok Sabha and thanked MPs from across party lines for support. "The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is a historic legislation which will further boost women empowerment and will enable even greater participation of women in our political process," he said on X. Soon after the bill was passed by the Lok Sabha almost unanimously, Modi said, "Delighted at the passage of The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha with such phenomenal support. I thank MPs across party lines who voted in support of this Bill." After a spirited eight-hour debate in which 60 members participated, the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, with 454 members voting in favour and two against it. Modi, a member of the House, was present during the voting on the bill.

India's G20 Presidency

Inclusive, Ambitious, Decisive and Action-oriented

The 18th G20 Summit held in New Delhi on September 9th and 10th, 2023 was a clear indicator of Bharat turning over a new leaf in its long history of international relations. Headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the theme of the G20 summit was "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which translates to "The world is one family", which was evident in all the diplomatic goals achieved by Bharat in two days. From announcing an international corridor, which resuscitates the revered Spice Route of old times, to bringing focus back on sustainable development through the Global Biofuel Alliance, leaders across the globe have applauded PM Modi's approach of diplomacy, non-alignment, and growth for all.



The 21st century is a time that has the potential to give a new direction to the entire world. It's a time when years old challenges demand new solutions from us. Therefore, we must move forward by fulfilling all our responsibilities with a Human Centric approach.

- PM Narendra Modi



India's Push for Clean Energy

Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)

Announced by the PM Modi-led government during **India Energy Week 2023** - Formally inaugurated on 9th September 2023

19 countries have joined GBA, along with 12 international organisations

GBA will also help accelerate India's existing biofuels programs such as **PM JI-VAN Yojana, SATAT & GOBARDHAN** scheme increasing farmers' income, creating jobs and enhancing overall development

20% Ethanol blending, or E20, is estimated to save around **₹ 30 thousand crore annually**

G21: Addition of the African Union (AU)

On 9th September 2023, the **AU became a permanent member** of G20 under the presidency of India led by PM Modi

Announced in the inaugural session of the two-day summit, PM Modi welcomed the **55-nation union**, making it the **second regional bloc** to become a permanent member after the EU

Reimagining the Spice Route

India-Middle East-EU Corridor (IMEC)

- UAE**: \$76.9 billion worth of bilateral trade between May 2022 & March 2023
- Jordan**: \$4.4 billion worth of bilateral trade, an increase of 63% over the preceding year
- Israel**: Bilateral trade worth over \$10 billion, excluding defence in 2022-23
- EU**: \$116 billion worth of trade in goods in 2021-22, accounts for 10.8% of India's total trade
- Saudi Arabia**: \$42.8 billion worth of bilateral trade in FY 2021-22

G20 Delhi Declaration Diplomatic Progress

DELHI DECLARATION acknowledges a defining moment in India's journey to become a global leader

CONSENSUS ACHIEVED on achieving SDGs, eliminating hunger and malnutrition, education, global economic challenges and many other key issues

ADDRESSES POLITICAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES



RAJIV BHATIA EXPLAINS HOW G-20 WAS A DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH UNDER INDIA'S LEADERSHIP

Treading towards shared destiny



The 18th G-20 Summit produced the 'New Delhi Leaders' Declaration'. In the days building up to the summit, there was anxiety about the chances of its success. It hinged on the question of whether the summit would end in a consensus-based, full-spectrum declaration or in a 'Chair's summary', with its portions marked to show a split among the members. Yet, by the afternoon of day 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that a complete consensus was reached on the declaration's contents. This, together with the inclusion of the African Union (AU) in the G-20 as a member, turned concern into a joyous celebration. Now it is time to evaluate the declaration and assess its value on the three-fold yardstick of consensus, additionality, and implementability (CAI). The attempt is to dissect only the more important elements of the text.

Six paragraphs of the 'Preamble' and the last paragraph of the 'Conclusion' reveal the goals and driving motivations of the G-20 leaders. "We are One Earth, One Family, and we share One Future", they noted. The notion of unity and a shared destiny was aptly stressed to convey the gravity of the multiple challenges facing humankind today. The way out for the world is to be driven by "the philosophy of living in harmony with our surrounding ecosystem." They worked on harmonising development with the environment, stating that "no country should have to choose between fighting poverty and fighting for our planet."

Paragraph 5 lists 12 goals to which the members are fully committed. These range from securing inclusive growth and accelerating full implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to addressing debt vulnerability, reform of Multilateral Development Banks, and integrating the perspectives of the Global South into the

"future G-20 agenda." The document's last paragraph reiterates the determination "to steer the world out of its current challenges" and build a bright future. That this will be a long-term project was evident.

Eight paragraphs were devoted to defining the grouping's view of what the preceding ministerial meetings had called "geopolitical issues." A fine balance was struck between the Russian red line and the insistence by G7 on ensuring respect for "territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence." This middle path, crafted by Indian negotiators, with the valuable help from other countries' diplomats, was seen as the only way to save the summit.

The general verdict was that Russia gained a little more, while the G7 lost a little to prevent the summit's failure. The leaders agreed to call for "a comprehensive, just and durable peace in Ukraine." Whether their labour will have any serious effect on the two warring sides and their backers remains doubtful.

The first-ever expansion of G-20 membership was imbued with much significance. The

document depicts the AU as "a permanent member" even though G-20 does not have permanent and non-permanent members; it has only members and guests. The admission was agreed in the name of creating a more inclusive world. The leaders' commitment on what follows will be watched with real interest; they observed, "We commit to strengthen our ties with and support the African Union realise the aspirations under Agenda 2063." To begin with, G-20 may have to offer ample assistance to facilitate AU's participation in G-20 activities at the level of governments and miscellaneous Engagement Groups.

G-20's central agenda relating to economic and financial sectors, climate action and energy transitions, implementation of SDGs, technological transformation through Digital Public Infrastructure, reform of international financial institutions, trade, and taxation, and securing gender equality and empowerment of "all" women and girls is wide-ranging, ambitious, and even aspirational. Relevant domain experts are in a better position to assess the prospects of this agenda's implementability.

A question that is often asked is, from where will additional financial resources come for achieving all these goals? John Kirton, Director, G-20 Research Group at the University of Toronto, noted, "There was little new money mobilised for debt relief for developing countries, for reform of MDBs and the International Monetary Fund, for global health, or for food security, education and other social needs."

Reinvigorating multilateralism

Paragraph 47 propounds the view that global challenges of the 21st century can "only be addressed through reinvigorated multilateralism, reforms and international cooperation." It wants the UN institutions to be "more responsive" to the entire membership. The need to make the global governance "more representative, effective, transparent and accountable" has been stated clearly. The fact that these formulations have the support of the entire G-20 leadership creates a glimmer of hope of some progress in the future, even though realism demands that the proponents of reform to remain cautious.

On the CAI yardstick, it is obvious that the declaration is not only backed by "100%" consensus, but it also breaks new grounds and records progress in terms of concepts, goals, and objectives, as compared to the Bali Declaration. The key criterion for the success of the summit is the degree of implementation of its decisions. But this will be accorded an answer only in the medium term.

Meanwhile, there should be no hesitation in recognising that the summit has been a major political and diplomatic success for G-20 and its current president, India.

Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, a former Ambassador and author. Views are personal.



DR. PRATHAP C. REDDY BELIEVES REIMAGINED HEALTHCARE MAKES INDIA AI-LEADER AND HELPS IT COMBAT NCDS

India is at a pivotal moment in health-care journey

In the last few years, India has steadily become a strong voice for various critical issues. Whether it is climate change, electrification, new-age manufacturing or the space race, India is at the forefront and even leading the change. This has never been more apparent recently when India became the first country to successfully land a mission near the south pole of the moon and concluded a very successful G-20 presidency, fostering global alignment on a range of key issues.

It is heartening to witness a new India emerging — an India that is ambitious; an India that believes in its destiny to be the global leader; an India that is guided by the heritage of an ancient civilisation but fuelled by the energy, passion and ambition of its youth. However, this is also the same India that is now the world's diabetes capital; also, millions have hypertension, and its youth are succumbing to heart attacks, cancer, respiratory issues, depression and more.

If left unchecked, India's non-communicable diseases (NCD) burden will be nearly \$4 trillion by 2030. This is one of the biggest roadblocks to India's development and will create an 'age tax' on India's demographic dividend. We must act together, and with urgency to prevent this or else India's decade could turn into a generation of lost opportunity. I urge the healthcare industry to join hands and protect India from this menace by increasing awareness, advocating better lifestyle choices and enabling comprehensive health checks that include proper scans instead of having just blood tests that are simply inadequate to test for many early signs of diseases.

The country has come a long way from 1983 when we started Apollo and has made tremendous progress on key health metrics.



Infant mortality has improved by four times, maternal mortality has improved by seven times and the average life expectancy of an Indian is up nearly 30% from 55 years to over 70 now.

In fact, today, India has a world-class healthcare infrastructure along with incredible clinical talent that delivers the best in class clinical outcomes at an incredible scale and at a fraction of the global price. India's expertise in highly specialised areas such as organ transplants, cardiology, oncology and more has made the country a fast-growing destination for medical value travel (MVT), not just for the price but also for the speed of access and the sheer quality of care.

India has emerged as a global MVT hub, particularly in the fields of oncology, orthopaedics, and robotic surgery. A significant milestone in this journey is the introduction of proton beam therapy technology, making India a regional leader in cancer treatment. Patients from across the globe are drawn to India for its world-class medical expertise, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and cost-effective care.

Orthopaedic procedures, including joint replacements and spinal surgeries, are con-

ducted by highly skilled surgeons using minimally invasive techniques. This attracts patients seeking top-notch orthopaedic care at competitive prices. Robotic surgery has also gained popularity, with India's hospitals adopting robotic-assisted techniques for precision and faster recovery. The country's expertise in this area draws international patients seeking minimally invasive, high-precision surgical interventions.

MVT is gaining strategic importance given its ability to create employment as well as earn foreign exchange. While India is already one of the leading destinations for patients seeking care abroad, there is adequate headroom for growth.

Moreover, fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors is crucial for realising this vision. Public-private partnerships can help create a conducive environment for MVT by jointly investing in infrastructure, promoting medical tourism, and setting up international health-care accreditation bodies.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming health care worldwide, and India has the potential to be at the forefront of this revolution. The country possesses a vast pool

of talented data scientists, engineers, and health-care professionals who can drive innovation in AI-driven health-care solutions.

One of the key areas where AI can make a significant impact is in diagnostics. AI-powered tools can enhance the accuracy and efficiency of medical diagnoses, leading to faster treatment decisions and better patient outcomes. Additionally, AI can help predict disease outbreaks, analyse health-care data, and optimise treatment plans, expediting health-care procedures, and revolutionising drug discovery ultimately making health care more personalised and effective.

India has already made strides in AI applications for health care, but it must continue to invest in research and development, foster collaborations between academia and industry, and create an ecosystem that encourages innovation. Doing so can position India as a global leader in AI-driven health-care solutions, exporting its expertise to benefit health-care systems worldwide. AI expenditure in India is expected to reach \$11.78 billion by 2025. It is expected to add \$1 trillion to India's economy by 2035.

India stands at a pivotal moment in its healthcare journey. By reimagining its healthcare model, the country can position itself as the global destination for medical value travel, a powerhouse in AI-driven healthcare solutions, and a leader in combating NCDs. To achieve this vision, India must prioritise community health, foster public-private partnerships, and invest in innovation and research. With concerted efforts and a commitment to excellence, a healthier and more prosperous India can be built for generations to come.

Dr. Prathap C. Reddy is Founder and Chairman, Apollo. Views are personal.

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The best way to predict your future is to create it.
Abraham Lincoln

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BOOKS: REVIEW

New book unveils South Asia through echoes of the past

In "Shadows at Noon," Joya Chatterji embarks on a meticulous journey through the annals of South Asian history, offering readers a panoramic view of the 20th century. The book, laden with endnotes, is not just a historical recount but a tapestry of political, cultural, and social narratives that shaped the subcontinent. Chatterji's narrative is punctuated with moments of reflection, such as her deep dive into the formation of Pakistan at Independence. She paints a vivid picture of a nascent nation grappling with its identity, governed by a migrant bureaucracy and adopting Urdu as its national language. Such insights compel readers to pause, reflect, and often revisit previous sections, enriched by the extensive notes and references.

The author's recommendations for films, like Satyajit Ray's "Pathar Panchali," are seamlessly woven into the narrative, serving as visual aids to the cultural and

societal norms she discusses. These cinematic interludes, combined with personal anecdotes and family stories, lend a unique texture to the book, making it more than just a historical account.

Thematically structured, Chatterji's chapters flow with a chronological undertone. She juxtaposes significant events, like the formation of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh against the backdrop of Gandhi's grassroots movement. Throughout, she highlights missed opportunities that might have prevented Partition, emphasizing the politics of compromise.

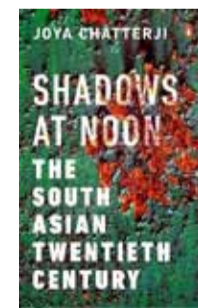
One of the book's strengths is Chatterji's observation of the "fascinating symmetry" post-Partition between India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. These parallels, more than mere coincidences, underscore the shared legacies and interconnected histories of these nations.

However, "Shadows at Noon" is not without its biases. Chatterji's personal views, especially her cri-

One of the book's strengths is Chatterji's observation of the "fascinating symmetry" post-Partition between India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh

tique of Nehru, might not resonate with all. Yet, it's this personal touch, intertwined with historical events, that makes the book reminiscent of Rushdie's "Midnight's Children."

While the book is a treasure trove of information and perspectives, it's disheartening to come across factual inaccuracies. Such errors, albeit few, slightly mar the reading experience. "Shadows at Noon" is more than just a historical account; it's a narrative tapestry that weaves together the political, cultural, and social threads of South Asia. Chat-



Shadows at Noon: The South Asian Twentieth Century By Joya Chatterji Penguin Viking, 864 pages, Rs 1,299

terji's approach to history is both academic and personal, making the book accessible to both scholars and general readers. Her meticulous research is evident in the depth and breadth of the topics she covers, from the intricacies of nation-building to the cultural nuances of cinema and leisure.

Chatterji's writing style is engaging and evocative. She has a knack for bringing history to life, making the past feel immediate and relevant. Her descriptions are vivid, and her insights are sharp, often challenging conventional wisdom and prompting readers to think critically about the events and figures they thought they knew. This is not a passive read; it's an interactive journey that encourages readers to question, reflect, and engage with the material.

In conclusion, "Shadows at Noon" is a compelling read, offering a fresh perspective on South Asian history. Chatterji's blend of personal anecdotes, cinematic references, and historical events makes it a unique addition to the genre. It's a call for empathy, understanding, and a deeper appreciation of the shared history of South Asia.

INTERNATIONAL

India suspends visa services for Canadians

NEW DELHI: India has suspended visa services for Canadians "till further notice" amid a massive international row over Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's claim that his government has intelligence linking New Delhi in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

A notice by BLS International - an online visa application centre said, "Important notice from Indian Mission: Due to operational reasons, with effect from 21 September 2023, Indian visa services have been suspended till further notice. Please keep checking the BLS website for further updates: BLS India Visa Application Centre." The update on Thursday came after a Punjab-origin



NIA-wanted gangster Sukha Duneke was also shot dead in Canada's Winnipeg in an inter-gang rivalry.

Sukhdool Singh, alias Duneke, was part of Khalistan movement in Canada. Duneke, an associate of the Devinder Bambhi Gang in Punjab, escaped to Canada in

2017 for forged documents. On Wednesday, his name figured among the list of 43 gangsters released by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) which sought information about his illegal properties.

His murder on Wednesday night is similar to the killing of terrorist Nijjar in inter-gang

warfare in Surrey in June.

On Tuesday, diplomatic relations between India and Canada nosedived over the killing of Nijjar. The same day India expelled a senior Canadian diplomat based here in a tit for tat move giving a similar reply to Canada. The High Commissioner of Canada to India (Cameron Mackay) received summons on Tuesday during which New Delhi conveyed its decision to expel a senior Canadian diplomat currently stationed in the country.

The concerned diplomat has been officially instructed to depart from India within the next five days, a statement issued by the MEA said.

"The decision reflects the Government of India's grow-

ing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities," the statement said.

The decision came after Canada had earlier expelled a high ranking Indian diplomat. These developments have occurred after Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday in an emergency statement in Parliament accused the Government of India of involvement in the fatal shooting of Nijjar.

India has rejected claims by the Canadian government that it had an involvement in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India has dubbed the charges as "absurd and motivated".

Biden 'highly concerned' over India-Canada diplomatic row

US President Joe Biden was reportedly "highly concerned" over the diplomatic row between India and Canada amid Ottawa's claim that its citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar was killed on Canadian soil by agents linked to the Indian government.

The US has expressed concerns over the incident and deteriorating relations between India and Canada on the issue, US media reports said. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who had a rough time in Delhi during the G20 summit hearing accusations of harbouring pro-Khalistan terrorists on its soil, alleged that agents linked with the Indian government had assassinated a Canadian citizen Nijjar -- designated as a terrorist in India -- on its soil and expelled an Indian diplomat. In fact, both countries expelled one diplomat each from their high commissions. Nijjar is described by Indian officials as a Sikh separatist leader in Canada touting pro-Khalistan slogans and demanding separation from India in a disturbing secessionist movement.



India was deeply upset recently when pro-Khalistani elements took out a tableau through the streets of Canada glorifying the assassination of the then-Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984. She was assassinated for her operation "Blue Star" sending the army into the Golden Temple in Amritsar to flush out terrorists which a section of the Sikhs community viewed as a sacrilege on their holy shrine.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was upfront in telling his counterpart Trudeau to curb the activities of pro-Khalistani elements that were harbouring on its soil even as Trudeau said Canada "did not restrict of freedom of speech of any of its citizens".

Tensions escalated between Canada and India as Ottawa alleged that New Delhi may have been behind the killing of a Sikh activist on Canadian soil, with both sides expelling senior diplomats even as India rejected the allegation as "absurd".

Trudeau said on Monday that his government was investigating "credible allegations" that Indian government agents had been involved in the death of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Nijjar, 45, was shot and killed in June outside a Sikh cultural centre in Surrey, British Columbia, a suburb of Vancouver. "Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty," Trudeau told Parliament on Monday.

"In the strongest possible terms, I continue to urge the government of India to cooperate with Canada to get to

the bottom of this matter."

Ottawa on Monday announced the expulsion of a top Indian diplomat from Canada. To which, New Delhi responded on Tuesday by saying a senior Canadian diplomat had been asked to leave India within the next five days. The Indian Foreign Ministry said that the expulsion reflected the government's "growing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities", US media reports claimed. India has been accusing Canada of supporting pro-Khalistan elements as they constituted a chunk of the voter base. About 2 per cent of the Canadian population is Sikh, championing the movement to establish an independent Sikh nation they call Khalistan, derived from the word Khalsa, a holy word for them in their religion.

The state they want carved out lies in the northern Indian state of Punjab, where most of India's Sikhs live. The Khalistan secessionist move is outlawed in India but has found a large number of supporters among the Sikh diaspora in countries such as Canada and the UK. The Indian Foreign Ministry had earlier dismissed the Canadian allegations regarding Nijjar's killing as "absurd and motivated". "Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," it said in a statement earlier Tuesday.

Turkish president Erdogan rakes up Kashmir at UN



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rakes up the Kashmir issue again during his address at the United Nations General Assembly, advocating for a resolution through dialogue between India and Pakistan. Erdogan stressed that resolving the Kashmir conflict peacefully would contribute to regional stability in South Asia. During his speech, Erdogan refrained from mentioning United Nations resolutions or making a direct offer for mediation, aligning his position more closely with India's view that the Kashmir dispute is a bilateral matter. This marks a shift from his previous statements on the issue. In 2020, Erdogan had referred to the Kashmir situation as a "burning issue" and criticized the revocation of the region's special status. In the previous year, he asserted that despite UN resolutions, Kashmir remained besieged, with millions of people affected.

Asian Games : Anurag Singh Thakur canceled his China trip after China bars 3 Athletes from Arunachal Pradesh

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA
New Delhi

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has canceled his scheduled visit to China after Indian athletes from Arunachal Pradesh were denied entry to the Asian Games. He on Friday canceled his scheduled visit to China as the government lodged a strong protest over three Indian Wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh being denied entry into China for the 19th Asian Games starting in Hangzhou on Saturday.

The Foreign Ministry said Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega and Mapung Lamgu were discriminated against by Chinese authorities, who refused entry to the players in a "targeted and pre-determined manner". The rest of the team, including



seven other players and staff, flew to Hong Kong and then boarded a flight to Hangzhou. The Indian players are back at the Sports Authority of India hostel at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi.

On China's refusal to recognize players from Arunachal Pradesh, a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said, "India strongly rejects

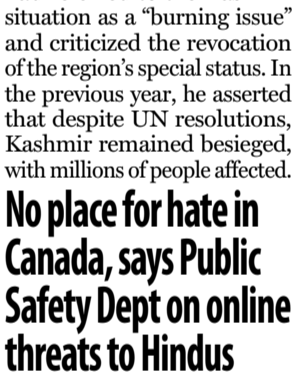
discriminatory treatment of Indian citizens on the basis of residence or ethnicity". The government stated that Arunachal Pradesh is an "integral and inalienable part of India". The Ministry of External Affairs said, "The Government of India reserves the right to take appropriate steps to protect our interests."

A top source from the Wushu team in China said that they have also raised the matter with the Asian Games Organizing Committee and the OCA (Olympic Council of Asia). Criticizing Beijing for "deliberate and selective blockade of some of our athletes", the government further stated that "China's actions violate the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct which are

clearly binding on member states. Prohibits discrimination against competitors". He said he hoped the matter would be resolved.

Meanwhile, in response to reports of Indian athletes being denied entry into China, the country's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning on Friday said, "As the host country, China will allow athletes from all countries to legally participate in the Asian Games." "Welcomes you to come to Hangzhou with legal documents to participate in". "As far as the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' is concerned, the Chinese government does not recognize it. Zangnan (the southern part of southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region) is part of China's territory," Ning said.

India, Brazil Agree to Resolve Sugar Related trade dispute at WTO



NEW DELHI: India and Brazil have begun negotiations to resolve a sugar related trade dispute at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Both the countries have mutually decided to do this as part of the solution and the South American nation may share ethanol production technology with New Delhi, an official said.

Brazil is the largest producer of sugarcane and ethanol in the world. It is also a leader in the technology used for ethanol production.

"Few rounds of talks have been held as part of our efforts to resolve the dispute. We have also held inter-ministerial meetings here. Brazil is saying that they will share with us technology

for ethanol (production). It is a positive thing," the official said.

Ethanol is used to blend with oil to power vehicles. Use of ethanol, extracted from sugarcane as well as broken rice and other agri produce, will help the world's third largest oil consumer and importing country cut its reliance on overseas shipments.

India currently is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs. Also, it cuts carbon emissions. There is a target of 20 per cent ethanol blended petrol by 2025.

India would also have to offer something as part of the mutually agreed solution (MAS) to resolve the dispute at the Geneva-based multi-lateral body.

OTTAWA: The Canadian government has collected "human and signal intelligence" involving Indian officials, including Indian diplomats present in Canada linking them to killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the media reported.

"Based on a month-long investigation into Nijjar's death, the Canadian government had amassed both human and signals intelligence which includes communications involving Indian officials themselves, including Indian diplomats present in Canada," public broadcaster Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported quoting government sources.

Some of the intelligence was provided by an unnamed ally in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance, that consists of the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, the CBC reported.

India and Canada are enmeshed in a diplomatic row over Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau allegation of involvement of Indian intelligence and the state in the killing of Canadian citizen and Sikh separatist leader Hardeep

Canada has 'evidence' linking Indian diplomats to Nijjar murder case: Report

Singh Nijjar, who was killed in June in British Columbia. Nijjar was declared designated terrorist by India in 2020.

India had rejected claims by the Canada government terming them as "absurd and motivated". Both countries announced tit-for-tat expulsions of senior diplomats and issued travel advisories. Nijjar was shot dead outside a Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18.



EU's green regulations to impact 43% of India's Exports to Trade Bloc: Report

NEW DELHI: India's exports to the European Union (EU) could be impacted due to the trade bloc's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and other green initiatives, the Centre for Energy, Environment and Water's report noted.

As per the report, the impact would translate into 43 per cent of India's exports to the EU, which is among India's key export markets after the United States (US). «IFCBAM sectors are added to the list, then the exports of at-risk sectors amount to USD 37 billion, which is approximately 43 per cent of India's exports to the EU as of 2022,» said the report authored by Prerna Prabhakar and Hemant Mallya on Thursday.

Lately, multiple non-tariff measures have been implemented by developed countries to address sustainability, environment, and climate change. These include measures for energy efficiency, carbon footprint, waste management, water management, and sustainable forestry. «With an increase in the issuance of E-NITMs by developed countries, India faces a serious challenge concerning its key export



items. While India has taken significant steps to address this challenge, it still needs to develop a structured approach to deal with these measures to ensure that its exports are not impacted,» it said, referring to European Union Non-Tariff Measure Statistics. India needs a structured approach to deal with such EU measures and ensure that its exports are not impacted. For instance, India can resort to bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) to develop mutual recognition of compliance assessment activities in the respective countries, reported Business standard quoting from the report.

"Few EU trade agreements, such as the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement, exemplify how this can be achieved," the report said.

Malaysia Showcases Its World-Class Healthcare Offerings at Oman Health 2023

FW DESK
Muscat (Oman)

Malaysia Healthcare is showcasing its world-class healthcare offerings to Omanis, at the annual Oman Health Exhibition and Conference (OHEC), held at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre in Muscat. Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC), an agency under the Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia entrusted to facilitate and promote Malaysia's healthcare travel industry, together with several leading private hospitals in the country are present at the Malaysia Pavilion, under the brand 'Malaysia Healthcare' from 18th to 20th September 2023 at booth No. 5500.

Featuring medical experts and specialist consultants in fertility, oncology, orthopaedics, and rehabilitation, from award-winning private hospitals in Malaysia such as Alpha IVF & Women's Specialists, KPJ Healthcare Berhad, and Sunway Medical Centre, based in



greater Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Healthcare invites interested individuals in seeking treatments abroad to explore the exclusive healthcare packages, as well as potential partners to network with its representatives at the Malaysia Healthcare Pavilion.

The OHEC provides a platform for valuable exchange on medical knowledge, expertise, technology, and best practices among global healthcare players. Representing the Honourable Minister of Health Malaysia, Dr. Zaliha Mustafa as one of the key speakers during the event, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of MHTC, Farizal B.

Paper, Malaysia aspires to nurture a nation of well-being by creating a healthcare system that is fair, easily accessible, and centered around the people's needs. This commitment reaches far beyond our borders and extends across all subsectors. Through healthcare travel, we aspire to provide the same quality of care to the broader global community," said Farizal B. Jaafar, Acting Chief Executive Officer of MHTC.

"MHTC has been successful in establishing public-private partnerships in various markets, fostering relations to facilitate patients to obtain quality treatments in Malaysia. Building upon the success of these partnerships, we look forward to building relationships with strategic Middle Eastern industry players to expand the reach of our quality and affordable healthcare to the Middle Easters, especially the Omanis, addressing the trend among Omanis seeking healthcare treatments abroad," added Farizal.

FW DESK
New Delhi

Small domestic production opens an opportunity for the good quality imports said Swadha Rizvi, Deputy Secretary, East and Southern Africa Division Ministry of External Affairs at the Launch event of Kenyan Avocado in India jointly organised by Kenya High Commission and ASSOCHAM. This avocado launch event will definitely improve bilateral relations with robust and multi-faceted partnerships. India offers immense potential for avocado consumption.

She further focused on saying that it took 8 long years for negotiations and diplomacy for Kenya to get market access in India for Avocados. So, it is definitely a moment to celebrate as Avocado represents the history, culture and emotions of Kenya and

Avocado imports a stepping stone for improved bilateral relations between Kenya and India

culture is a gateway that has the power to bind countries together and its people together. This is a milestone in the diplomacy of the two countries and bilateral relationships between India and Kenya. Government of India is confident that Avocado market access will help us to strengthen our trade relations with Kenya.

Amb. Irene Oloo, Deputy High Commissioner of Kenya to India shared insights on how Kenya exports about 23% of production of avocado. (95,000 tonnes). The



increased production of avocados in Kenya calls for increased market access. It is for this reason that Kenya requested India to allow market access for Kenyan avocados.

She further added the value of trade between two countries has been growing over the years to USD 1.83 billion in 2022. Currently the Balance of trade is in favour of India. We are confident the India market access to Kenyan Avocados will help balance the trade deficit and will facilitate growth and development in this sector, she highlighted.



Rapper Shubh's 'Still Rollin India Tour' cancelled after reported support for 'Khalistan'

Canadian rapper Shubh, whose real name is Shubhneet Singh, has landed into trouble after his alleged support for Khalistan, leading to the cancellation of his 'Still Rollin' tour in India. Ticket booking application BookMyShow took to Twitter, formerly called X, to announce that the Punjab-born, Brampton, Canada-based 26-year-old rapper's multi-city 'Still Rollin India Tour' has been cancelled.

the hashtag #UninstallBookMyShow was trending on X, for hosting the Shubh's event in India. Shubhneet landed in soup on a day when India-Canadian ties hit rock bottom after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused "Indian agents" of perpetrating the June 23 killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar at a gurudwara in Surrey, Vancouver.

It happened over an Instagram post by the rapper, which was captioned 'Pray for Punjab', along with two folded hands emojis, this baby-faced follower of the late Sidhu Moosewala ran a map of India without the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and the North-East on it. It was on August 4, when Shubhneet's 'Still Rollin India Tour' was announced. The three-month long tour included cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune and Jaipur.

On announcing his tour, Shubh had said: "India is home for me in more ways than one, and this is an extremely special moment for me as it's my homecoming tour."



WOMEN CELEBRITIES IN PARLIAMENT

Actors Hrishitaa Bhatt, Tamannaah Bhatia, Divya Dutta, and Hamaaz Kaur Sandhu visited Parliament and witnessed the introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill with 454-2 votes.

Athletes and Celebrities visit New Parliament building on the 2nd day

EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH THE WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL



NEW DELHI: On the second day, when the Lok Sabha took up discussion on the Women's Reservation Bill, a number of celebrity actors and athletes visited Parliament and expressed their solidarity with the move taken by the Modi Government for women empowerment.

Boxer and former Rajya Sabha MP Mary Kom said "we are happy that prominent athletes have been called to visit Parliament and women's reservation will play an important role in women empowerment". Former Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj congratulated Prime Minister saying 33% reservation for women will increase participation of women in governance.

Indian Hockey player Rani Rampal also expressed happiness at the prospect of greater participation of women in Parliament and State legislatures. Paralympic athlete Deepa Mehta called it a beautiful gift on Ganesh Chaturthi and said "Our democracy is for the people, of the people and by the people, and counting of people will be complete only when there is women's participation". Mehta also had some good words to say about the new Parliament building. "The first thing that I noticed was that there was no place in the new building where my wheelchair did not reach" she said.

Actor Bhumi Pednekar said the move will ensure that there is a female voice in debates, policies and law making, while Shehnaz Gill said women's reservation will eventually help bring gender equality in a more meaningful manner.

POTPOURRI

Cheering crowd, giant hoarding welcome Ragneeti in Udaipur

UDAIPUR: MP Raghav Chadha and actress Parineeti Chopra were accorded a grand welcome at the airport in Udaipur as they arrived in the Lake City to get married.



In a video, which went viral on social media, the couple is seen receiving a grand welcome with dhol beats. We can also see a big hoarding on the road that reads: "Welcome to Udaipur Parineeti and Raghav". It also has an image of the beautiful landscape of the city.

On her arrival in Udaipur, Parineeti can be seen greeting people with a big smile. She also looked at the hoarding and blushed. Raghav, who arrived separately, can be seen flashing his famous boyish smile as he acknowledged the greetings of the assembled people.

Earlier in the day, Parineeti was spotted at Delhi airport, dressed entirely in red in loose-fitting casual clothes.

Raghav, looking more like the 'maa ka munda' West Delhi boy from 'Made in Heaven' than the

"suspended parliamentarian" that he calls himself on X, was seen in skinny blue jeans and a figure-fitting black Polo tee and sporting smart dark shades.

He was accompanied by his posse of Punjab Police security personnel -- after all, he's a Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab -- and his parents followed him at a distance. Udaipur is all set to host the wedding of Raghav and Parineeti Chopra at the Leela Palace. Along with the couple, members of their families and friends will also be present. At this 'royal wedding', 100 private security guards have been de-

ployed around the venue.

Earlier, the wedding card of the couple had gone viral on social media. It read: "Divine Promises: A pearl white Indian wedding ... Leela Palace. Jaipur: 3:30 p.m. Pheras: 4:00 p.m. Vidai: 6:30 p.m."

The card carries beautiful sketches of the landscape of Udaipur. The wedding festivities will start from Saturday, September 23 with Parineeti's 'choora' ceremony at 10 a.m. It will be followed by a 'Fresco Afternoon' on the terrace near the hotel's ballroom from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Indian films have always reflected the mood of society: Javed Akhtar

MUMBAI: Veteran writer and lyricist Javed Akhtar said on Thursday evening that Indian films have been faithfully reflecting the sentiments of the society.

"Indian films have always depicted and reflected what is happening in our society. The cinema comes from the society. It is the same with dreams. What is there in the conscious and subconscious mind will get reflected in dreams as well," Akhtar said at the launch of his book, 'Talking Life: Javed Akhtar in Conversation with Nasreen Munni Kabir'.

Akhtar said that in the 1930-1940s, when K.L. Saigal essayed Devdas's role, the 'khans' (cough) had become a virtue and fashion. "Self-destruction

had become a virtue because of Saigal. However, as the society grew, this self-destructive virtue also vanished," he said.

"When the Nehruvian era came, everyone thought that soon things would be fine," Akhtar continued. "But as people felt that not much was changing, cinema gave society the 'rebel star' in the form of Shammi Kapoor. Who was this 'rebel star' fighting? He was fighting against his parents and society. In most of the cases this 'rebel star' was fighting Lalita Pawar. So, here the virtue was the negation of the feudal system." He said in the films of this generation the villain invariably used to be the mill owner or landlord.

"In the pre-Emergency days



-- in the 1970s -- the vigilante became the hero and we saw the emergence of the 'angry young man' in the form of Amitabh Bachchan. He took the law in his own hands. He would not wait for the law or the police to take their course, but would decide himself and on spot," he said.

He said as the society evolved, the virtue and essence of the 'villain' died with it. "In this capitalist market, it is very difficult to find 'villains'. The rich are 'khandani' (from a good family), so how can they be 'villains'?" Akhtar noted.

Asian Games to begin on September 23

SUNIL THAPLIYAL
New Delhi

The opening ceremony of the 2023 Asian Games will be held on Saturday, September 23 and will last until October 8. However, some competitions for this major event have already started. However, the opening

ceremony will take place on Saturday. The 19th Asian Games was supposed to be held in 2022, but because of Corona, the schedule got messed up and the Games were postponed to 2023. This time cricket has been included, which is also the focus of interest. Indian hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and



star boxer Lovlina Borgohain will be India's flag bearers at

the grand opening ceremony on 23 September in Hangzhou. After stellar performances at the Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Commonwealth Games, fans this year are hoping their athletes can win more medals for their country than last time. At the 2023 Asian Games, Indian athletes will compete for medals in 39

sports. The Indian cricket team is participating in this competition for the first time. The men's team will be led by Rituraj Gaikwad and the women's team by Harmanpreet Kaur. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, boxer Lovlina Borgohain and wrestler Bajrang Punia, all Olympic medalists, will also compete in Hangzhou.

India's foray into the vast expanse of space has been nothing short of remarkable, capturing the imagination of the world and showcasing the nation's commitment to scientific exploration and technological innovation. The Indian Space Research Organisation has steadily evolved into a global space powerhouse with the objective of enhancing the overall progress of India through the most effective and efficient utilisation of space sector applications.

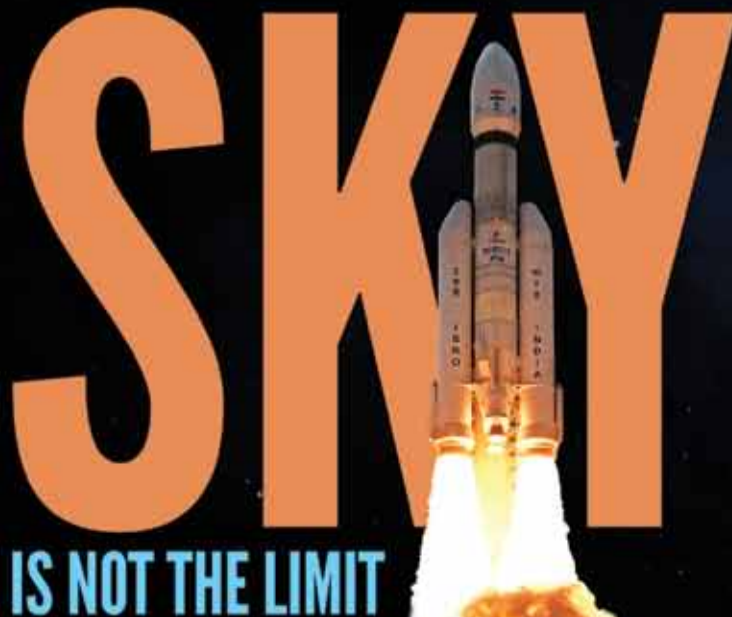
This transformation has been made possible through unwavering government support that has consistently nurtured and propelled India's space missions to new heights.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the importance of space exploration as a catalyst for national development has been recognized. His trust with the space sector began when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. His vision ensured that space sector applications were translated into solutions for effective governance. The same technology is being leveraged in PM Gati Shakti, where space technology is extensively used for planning and executing infrastructure projects seamlessly. Only visionary leaders can understand that space technology and exploration are keys to unlocking mysteries in space and accelerating effective governance on Earth.

"India is on the Moon. We have our national pride placed on the Moon. We reached the spot where no one had ever reached before. We did what no one had ever done before. This is today's India, fearless India, warrior India."
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 23rd August 2023

PM Modi highlighted that, India's successful moon mission is not India's alone, it is India's human-centric approach that has been welcomed universally and our moon mission is also based on the same human-centric approach and hence this success belongs to all of humanity.

PM Modi is confident that all countries in the world, including those from the Global South, are capable of achieving such feats and like India all can aspire for the moon and beyond.



Chandrayaan 3 Big Bang Moment for ISRO and India

- First country to reach lunar south pole.
- Fourth country globally to reach moon.
- **23rd August** declared as the National Space Day celebrating Chandrayaan 3 landing.
- Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard the Rover Pragyan unambiguously confirms the presence of Sulphur (S) in the lunar surface near the south pole.



India's 2 Decades of Moon Voyage Unravelling the Lunar Mysteries

Chandrayaan 1
The Maiden Flight
• Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced the Chandrayaan project on 15 August 2003. Launched in October 2008 it operated until 2009.
• Objective - Orbiting Moon for upgrading and testing technological capabilities in space.
• Cost - Rs. 386 crore.

Chandrayaan 2
An Attempt to Remember
• Launched in July 2019.
• Objective - To soft-land on the lunar surface and operate a robotic rover on the surface.
• Cost - Rs. 603 crore.

Chandrayaan 3
Lightening the Dark Side
• Launched on 14 July 2023.
• Objective - Safe and soft landing on moon, through Vikram Lander, validating capabilities of Pragyan rover and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.
• Cost - Rs. 615 crore.
• Landing point - **Shiv Shakti Point**



PM Modi inspecting a model of the Vikram Lander part of the Chandrayaan-3 mission at the ISTRAC, Bengaluru.

ISRO's Space Record of Last 9 years

- Out of 431 foreign satellites, 396 were launched in the last nine years by India.
- 396 foreign satellites were launched, earning Rs. 3,300+ crore in just 9 years.
- In 2017, India launched a record 104 satellites, out of which 101 belonged to international customers, creating a world record.
- India's space sector budget soars from Rs. 5,615 crore to Rs. 12,543 crore in last decade providing better infrastructure.
- ISRO launch rate skyrockets from 1.2 yearly launch missions before 2014 to an impressive 5.7
- ISRO's launch tally for student satellites increases from 4 before 2014 to 11 since 2014 manoeuvring young minds towards the infinite possibilities of space.
- 160+ new startups have come up in space sector manoeuvring the space ecosystem to new heights.

Defying Gravity, Space Sector of India

- IN-SPACe established to create an eco-system of industry, academia, and start-ups.
- Vikram-S, India's first privately built rocket, was launched successfully.
- India's 1st private launchpad and mission control center established by Agnikul Cosmos.
- Aditya L1, first space-based observatory-class Indian solar mission to study the Sun, launched in September 2023.
- In near future, Gaganyaan project envisages human spaceflight capability.