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CHANDIGARH • NEW DELHI • WEEKLY • SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 • VOLUME 23, ISSUE 26 • Rs 5

REGION



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

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY



plication (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.

attendance of esteemed mem-

bers 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 digitiza-

tion 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 ap-

plication and the members will

get updated information about

the proceedings on a single click

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 present-

ed two paperless budgets for the

sake of the environment. Bhag-

want Singh Mann also recalled

that when he went to Himachal

Vidhan Sabha to watch the digita-

lization of Legislative proceedings

where he had decided that if he

got the chance then this system

will be replicated in Punjab with

on their I-Pads.

Chief Minister informed that

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

POTPOURRI



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

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

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 pub lic 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.



Chief Minister envisioned that MLAs of both the opposition and treasury banks would take mileage out of this initiative. He expressed hope that this will pave the way for drafting and passing of the various pro-people bills in the coming times. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that it is a step further towards carving out a rangla and prosperous Punjab. CM further said that this is

the dawn of a new era as the functioning of the State Legislative Assembly will be now ultra modern tools.

BENGALURU: The suspension of visa services to Canadian citizens announced by India amid estranged diplomatic ties is likely to have limited impact totally paperless. He said that on business under the National e-Vidhan Ap-

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-

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 matic gesture carried the con- ten years from now.

stitution of India from the old building, to the new building. And he said- that he is passing a very important law and we agree with him.

"Women's Reservation is a central step in the empowerment of the women of India and it is a critical step, but when we read the fine print, we found something very interesting, two little subtexts were there, one- this will be done after delimitation and two this will be done after census, which means, this bill will be implemented a decade from now, Rahul said.



dian visa or OCI card. "It also does not affect Indian citizens to continue to travel to Canada unlikely to severely handicap including for family, business, or business in the short term. education purposes," he noted.

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

President Harjinder Singh Dhami 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

In an official statement here the June 1984 military attack Delighted at passage of women's reservation bill in Lok Sabha: PM Modi

o The

FW CORRESPONDENT New Delhi

zens who have an existing In-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 $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$. Soon after the bill was

passed by the Lok Sabha

almost unanimously, Modi

said, "Delighted at the pas-

sage of The Constitution (One

Hundred and Twenty-Eighth

Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the

Lok Sabha with such phe-

nomenal support. I thank

MPs across party lines who

voted in support of this Bill.'

After a spirited eight-hour de-

Harmandir Sahib and Akal Takht Sahib. the 1984 Sikh Genocide and the extra-judicial killings of Sikh

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, "Technol-

Shroff said the decision does

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).

Dhami 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.

bate 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

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

Every woman in India should understand this it is Prime Minister in a very dra- not going to be implemented

consideration.

Haifa ISBAEL

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

Rivadh

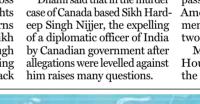
Haradh

SAUDI-ARABIA

UAE

Al Ghuwaifat

SAUDI-ARABIA



House, was present during the voting on the bill.

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)

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



Al-Haditha

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

UAE

Jordan

Israel

EU

Saudi

Arabia

Mumbai 8: INDIA

Jebel Ali

Reimagining the Spice Route India-Middle East-EU Corridor (IMEC)

> \$76.9 billion worth of bilateral trade between May 2022 & March 2023

S4.4 billion worth of bilateral trade, an increase of 63% over the preceding year

Bilateral trade worth over S10 billion, excluding defence in 2022-23

S116 billion worth of trade in goods in 2021-22, accounts for 10.8% of India's total trade

\$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

cbc 22201/13/0052/2324



REGION

Punjab CM hands over cheques worth Rs.one crore each as Punjab Governor concerned over financial assitance to families of two martyrs of Anantnag spike in debt of Rs 50,000 crore ED attaches assets worth Rs 24.01cr of erstwhile Panchkula DRO

ASSERTS THAT COUNTRY WILL EVER REMAIN INDEBTED TO THE UNPRECEDENTED SACRIFICE OF THESE HEROES

FW DESK Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday handed over cheques worth Rs. 1 crore each as financial assistance to the distressed family members of the two brave hearts who had attained martyrdom during search operation against militants at Anantnag (Jammu-Kashmir), a few days back.

After visiting the native houses of these martyrs at SAS Nagar and Samana, the Chief Minister said that these valiant heroes have attained martyrdom while discharging their duty to safeguard the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. He said that the two valiant heroes from Punjab, Colonel Manpreet Singh from SAS Nagar and Pardeep Singh of Samana Patiala had attained martyrdom during this opera-



tion. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that it is an irreparable loss for the country in general and for the distressed families in particular. During his visit, the Chief

Minister offered his condolences to the bereaved family members and prayed to Almighty for granting eternal peace to the departed soul. Handing over that this humble initiative of the and commitment.

state government is in recognition of the immense contribution of these sons of soil towards preserving the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. Reiterating the firm com-

mitment of the state government to help the families of the soldiers who sacrifice their life at the altar of the motherland, the Chief Minister said that it is the bounden duty of the Punjab government. Bhagwant Mann said that financial assistance to these families of martyrs is in consonance with cheques worth Rs 1 crore to the the commitment of the state distressed families as a mark of government to ensure the well respect for the unprecedented being of the soldiers and their sacrifice made by these heroes families who attained marfor the country, he said that tyrdom during the duty. He the entire country is indebted said that the supreme sacrifice to these martyrs who had sacof these martyrs will ever inrificed their lives for the sake spire their fellow soldiers and of the country and its people. youngsters to perform their duties with far more devotion Bhagwant Singh Mann said

Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Friday raised concern over state's financial situation, saying its debt has increased by approximately Rs 50, 000 crore during the one and a half year helm of the AAP government.

Responding to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's letter to him regarding the release of the Rural Development Fund (RDF) from the Centre, the Governor reaffirmed his commitment to serving proached the Supreme Court the people while highlighting before seeking his involvethe complexities surrounding ment." the RDF issue that is currently sub-judice. the importance of respecting the due process of law and

The Governor expressed his dedication to his duty of serving the people of Punjab and acknowledged the Chief Minister's request for his intervention in taking up the RDF case of Rs 5, 637 crore with the Prime Minister of India. However, the Governor in a letter to the Chief Minister



The Governor emphasised

awaiting the judicial decision

He said allowing the judicial

To facilitate a more in-

Over 3115 dengue positive cases reported in

Haryana worries state health department

formed approach in addressing

decision to unfold would be

appropriate before taking any

further action on this issue.

on the matter.

The matter is currently subjudice and that the Chief Minister had already approached replied, "the matter is currently the Supreme Court sub-judice and that the Chief Minister had already apbefore seeking his

"

involvement"

asked the Chief Minister to provide detailed information regarding the utilisation of this substantial amount of debt.

This information, the Governor believes, will enable him to effectively present the case to the Prime Minister and demonstrate that the funds have been utilised in a responsible and beneficial manner for the the RDF matter, the Governor people of Punjab.

Kaithal, 99 cases at Kurukshetra,

28 cases at Fatehabad, 23 cases

at Mohindergarh, 19 cases at

Nuh, 37 cases at Palwal and 84

Dengue is a mosquito-borne

viral disease that spreads from

one person to the other only

when an Aedes mosquito infected

with the dengue virus bites a

healthy person, especially during

day time. It does not spread by

touch, cough or secretions. The

high-grade fever, pain in the eyes,

skin rashes, headache, body aches

and pain in the joints. In severe

cases, dengue fever can lead to

difficulty in breathing, severe

abdominal pain , vomiting, and

bleeding.

symptoms of the disaese include

cases at Panipat

ing Act (PMLA), in the case of embezzlement of NHAI and HSIIDC funds The ED initiated an investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the State Vigilance Bureau, Haryana and the CBI, against Naresh Kumar Sheokand and others under various sections of the IPC and

CHANDIGARH: The En-

forcement Directorate (ED)

on Wednesday said that it has

attached assets worth Rs 24.01

crore belonging to Naresh Ku-

mar Sheokand, erstwhile Dis-

trict Revenue Officer (DRO)

of Panchkula in Haryana, and

others under the provisions of Prevention of Money-launder-

ENFORCEMENT

DIRECTORATE

the Prevention of Corruption Act, for criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and criminal misconduct by public servants.

The ED investigation revealed that Naresh Kumar Sheokand, in connivance with other private persons fraudulently transferred NHAI and HSIIDC funds meant for acquisition of land to ineligible persons causing wrongful loss to the exchequer to the tune of Rs 37.89 crore.

The ED investigation further revealed that these funds which are proceeds of crime were further routed to different bank accounts, withdrawn in cash, invested in business and used for purchase of various properties

Accordingly, the movable and immovable properties located in Harvana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh worth Rs 24.01 crore belonging to Naresh Kumar Sheokand and others, have been attached as per the provisions of PMLA.

Earlier, properties worth Rs 2.42 crore belonging to Naresh Kumar Sheokand and Shamshad, were attached by the ED and confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority. The total attachment in this case stands at Rs 26.43 crore till date.

SKM holds massive protest in front of the deputy **Commissioner office**

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The farmers under the banner of Sanvukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) here today orgnaised massive protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner office to press their demand for fair compensation for the flood victims.

In a statement to media SKM spokesperson Balkar Singh Dudhala said that during the protest different farmers outfit under the banner of SKM demanded that the Punjab and Central Government should give compensation of Rupees 1.68 lakh per acre for the damaged crops during floods in Punjab.

He said that farmers also demanded compensation for leveling the soil that rose due to the flood water in their agriculture fields besides Rs. 1 lac compensation for per animal which were killed during the natural calamity.

Government to introduce women's reservation bill to increase their status as Nari Shakti Vandan Abhiyan

SATISH HANDA

Similar to the Panchayat elections. Union Government has decided 33% reservation for women under 'Nari Shakti Vandan Abhiyan' by the Prime Minister which will not be implemented in coming 2024 Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha polls, can come into effect only after a delimitation based on a census conducted after the Bill has been passed i.e the next delimitation in 2026 as per Parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha during a special session of the Parliament in New Delhi on September 19. 2023. The Union government introduced a Bill to provide onethird reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the historic first legislation in the new Parliament House to upgrade the status

of women, but this quota will classes not be implemented in general election since the Constitution



128 Amendment Bill, 2023 can be implemented only after a delimitation exercise is completed. Information reveals that within the females quota itself, one third of the seats will be reserved for women belonging to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes, however there is no other quota for women belonging to the other backward

«Nari Shakti Vandan Abhiyan> after the passage of the Bill,

the next delimitation exercise, or redrawing of constituency boundaries, is scheduled to be held in 2026. Effectively, this means that the earliest implementation of the women's quota in the Lok Sabha can be in the 2029 general election, rather than in the coming 2024 polls.

The «Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyan> will further strengthen our democracy ensuring rights of the women and putting their power to be used for many noble

SATISH HANDA works. The Bill, referred to as the According to Haryana State <Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyan> Health Department information, was introduced by Law Minis-3115 dengue positive cases have ter Arjun Meghwal in the Lok

since as many as six persons have been reported died due to brain dead as well as failure of multi 36 cases at Bhiwani, 81 cases at

135-kg obese female undergoes successful bariatric surgery at IVY



Ambala police arrested 6 members of gang lifting cars, admitted 15 cases SATISH HANDA

CIA Staff Ambala police busted an inter-state gagn of lifting Jashandeep Singh Randhawa SP Ambala said that the accused have confessed to five car thefts in Ambala, one in Hisar, one in Rajasthan and eight in Punjab Police on Tuesday arrested one of accused Amrik Singh a resident of Ludhiana, who is the sixth member of the gang involved in the inter-state car thefts. Police have recovered five cars and several car parts from the accused. Randhawa, said, police had received s complaint from Om Prakash, a resident of Sector 10 Ambala City that his car was stolen by unidentified people while it was parked outside his house on August 20. A case was registered at the local police station which started investigation.



Hooda claiming as next CM in Haryana now silent, alleged supporting BJP, says Abhay Chautala

SATISH HANDA Ambala

Hifianov the state. Abhay Chautala blamed total 13982 acres land illegally Hooda injecting energy in the arms of ruling BJP government, infact occupied by the encroachers supporting them from back doors. INLD leader said that Hooda

acres panchayat land from encroachers SATISH HANDA

Haryana state governmernt has launched a drive to free vat land mostly

90 constituencies Haryana Govt launches drive to free 13982

Sabha when the number of its women members reached 181 from the present 82. Haryana>s past scenario reveals that it is unfortunate that only six females reached Lok Sabha in past 45 vears which include the names of Chandravati, Kumari Shelja and Shruti Choudhary from Congress, Sudha Yadav and Rohtak, Hisar, Faridabad, So-

Sunita Duggal from BJP and Kailasho Saini from INLD. Unfortunately, none of the females from important districts Karnal, nipat and Gurugram in Haryana state were sent to the Lok Sabha by the voters of these districts. The Harvana scenario also reveals that during 2014 a record maximum number of 13 women

MLAs were elected in Haryana state having the total number of

been reported in government hospitals in the state till 20th September 2023, which is a matter of concern for the department

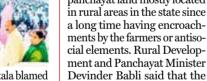
organs because of reduction in platelets and low blood pressure. The district-wise number of patients suffering from dengue reported in the state have been identified as maximum number of 321 cases reported at Charkhi Dadri, 274 cases at Rewari, 233 cases at Rohtak, 213 cases at Jhajjar, 208 cases at Yamunanagar, 205 cases at Ambala, 158 cases at Gurugram, 177 cases at Hisar, 199 cases at Jind, 181 cases at Karnal, 165 cases at Panchkula, 172 cases at Sonipat, 120 cases at Sirsa, 84 cases at Faridabad,

Addressing media persons here while in the town to have meeting with party workers regarding 'Samman Divas Rally' being celebrated on 25th September 2023 Chief General Secretary Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) Abhav Chautala said that people in Haryana state has warmly welcomed 'Parivartan Rally' which covered nearly 2000 villages and towns walking on foot nearly 4000 kilometer distance in six months 11 days was warmly welcomed by people in the state including Mohindergarh, Rewari and Mewat area wher INLD possesses

least hold. Abhay Chautala raised a question over Bhupinder Singh Hooda claiming himself as next chief minister in Haryana why is silent now saving that the chief minister of Harvana in case Congress wins majority will be decided only by the Congress high command. He said, meanwhile Kumari Selja in a statement has declared that the decision as regard alliance with I.N.D.I.A will be taken only by the Congress high command at New Delhi. Chautala said, Bhupinder Singh Hooda only misguiding people by making baseless statements and confusing people in

had stopped all the three MLAs in Mewat area to make any statement as regard recent violence in the area and at the same time when this issue was raised in last Vidhan Sabha session Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar refused to discuss anyhing in this regard saying that the case is under trial in the court and Hooda present in Vidhan Sabha as leader of op-

position avoided to say anything in this regard. Chautala said that Harvana chief minister frequently making announcements in the state, whereas he has failed to implement the same and none of the announcement has been fulfilled by him except imposing the same on portals due to which residents in the state have become fed up with the ruling government policies and likely to show them path for exit from the state during coming 2024 Vidhan Sabha polls.



has been freed by the government in as many as 19 districts across the state and the possession handed over to the Panchayats in past two years which include maximum 8721 acre land in Yamunanagar district, 1487 acre area land in Kaithal district and 908 acre land in Panchkula district and possession of such land already handed over to the concerned Panchyats

According to information, in past about two years Panchayat land illegally occupied by the encroachers several years ago got vacated and handed over to the Panchayats in other districts include over 488 acre land in Bhiwani district, 355 acre land in Ambala district, over 394 acre land in Charkhi Dadri district, about 8 Marla land in Gurugram district, over 245 acre land in Jind district, over 2 acre land in Palwal dis-



trict, over 8 acre land in Nuh district, over 2 acre land in Panipat district and over 351 acre land in Rohtak district. However, state government has failed to get free illegally encroached land in few districts so far which include Fatehabad, Rewari, Jhajjar, Narnaul, Faridabad, Karnal, Hisar, Sirsa and Sonipat dis-

tricts According to an officer of the department who said that the state government will focus on illegally encroaching big land chunks on priority basis, which have been identified while directing the village Panchyats to identify such chunks and submit a report at the earliest. While presiding over the maiden meeting of the officials of the department, the Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that a policy is

being framed to allott this land to the people having illegal possession over it since past several decades at subsidized reserved rates so that they may not be deprived of their profession.

The Rural Development and Panchavat Minister Devinder Babli categorically mentioned that Chief Minister Manohar Lal has already announced that the state government is committed to freeing the land from illegal encroachments. Influential people, who violated the rules and encroached on expensive government lands belonging to Panchayats will not be spared at any cost as this land is not the ancestral property of anyone, He said that Supreme Court of India

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

> A 135-kg obese female patient with a BMI of 45.2kg/m* underwent a successful bariatric surgery at IVY Hospital Amritsar. Post-surgery the female weight has reduced to 120 kg presently after the two week of surgery that would ultimately reduce to 70 kg gradually.

Dr Arun K Sharma a minimal access, bariatric and general surgeon trained at AIIMS New Delhi along with an anesthesia team led by Dr. Gurpreet Gill performed the surgery, which was the first bariatric surgery performed at IVY Hospital Amritsar.

Talking to media here on Thursday, Dr. Sharma said that due to being overweight the patient was also burdened with a host of comorbidities, including hypertension, obstructive sleep apnea, bronchial asthma and polycystic ovarian disease (PCOD). The excessive weight had led to deranged lipid profiles, persistent high blood pressure, and deteriorating respiratory health, he informed.

Informatio9n reveals that Police had previously arrested Ranjit Singh of Sangrur in Punjab and Sumit a resident of of Hisar in Haryana on September 7. The duo is in judicial custody as per orders of the district court Ambala. On September 16, police arrested three more persons also the members of this gang identified as Naresh alias Kalu, Lakhbir Singh alias Lucky and Shiv Shankar. Based on the information obtained during their three-day police remand it was determined that another member of the gang Amrik was also involved in the thefts. SP Ambala said that the accused will be presented in court on Wednesday.

Punjab Govt to introduce AI for further enhancing the efficiency of Police



Nearly 350 Northern Railway employees on CBI radar Working is my passion, if a file stops, it affects the work, hence the files should always keep running :Anil Vij SATISH HANDA against both Laloo Persad Yadav and his wife Rabri Devi presently

Nearly 350 Northern Railway employees offered jobs during year 2004 to 2009 when Laloo Persad Yadav was union railways minister in the country their records while working in this period are being checked. Aat present ll such employees are on CBI radar and their record while working for five years are being checked suspecting that such employees were offered jobs in railways against the land gifted by them. Information reveals that the power for employment opportunities in railways were under the charge of General Manager, Railways were discontinued and



taken over by the Union Railway Minister Laloo Persad Yadav himself or his wife Rabri Devi, as such CBI presently handling the case thoroughly now checking records of all employees offered jobs in in railways during his period without appearing in examination or holding an interview by then Union Railways Minister or his wife. During May 2022 a case was registered interview.

undergoing investigation by the SATISH HANDA CBI which had prepared a list of about 350 employees working in Ambala five Divisional offices in Northern Railways. CBI investigation Haryana Home and Health reveals that those belonging to Minister. Anil Vij has been Patna were initially offered jobs advised by doctors to take rest, in railways at Kolkata, Mumbai,

but instead of giving prefer-Jaipur, Jabalpur and Jammuence to rest, he cleared the gov-Kashmir state for an eyewash ernment files at his residence and later were transferred to their completely dedicated to the public works and in the past desired divisions. Information also he has said that "Working also reveals that a large number of officers in senior ranks or junior is my passion, if a file stopped level posts were offered appointthen the work gets affected, hence the files should always ment in railways directly without appearing in examination or an running"..

On Thursday, Sh.Vij cleared

the files of his depart-

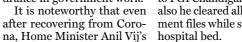
during April last year has given

decision to get vacated all illegally encroached land in the

state.

ments while sitting on his bed and also gave directions to the staff. Due to eye problem, doctors have advised Home Minister Anil Vij to take rest for a few days. But, even during this period, Minister Vij is clearing of government files from his

tinue run and there is no hindrance in government work. It is noteworthy that even after recovering from Coro-



Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Friday said that the state government will soon introduce the technique of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for enhancing the efficiency of Punjab Police to make it a front ranking force in the country.

Addressing the gathering during the passing out parade of 2999 constables- the largest ever group of directly recruited cops in this rank of the Punjab Police here today, the Chief Minister envisioned that this initiative will go a long way in further improving the Policing in the state. He said that the decision aims at making Punjab a front runner in the usage

JALANDHAR: Punjab Chief of AI thereby maintaining law and order in the state. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this will act as a milestone in equipping the Police force with best practices and developing it on scientific lines. Chief Minister said that being a border state a number of forces inimical to state have been chalking out nefarious designs to disturb hard earned peace of state but the Punjab Police has always foiled such attempts. He said that to further overcome major challenges faced by the state it is imperative that the Police force is updated as per advanced requirements in the field of investigation, science and technology.

residence so that the files con- oxygen level had fallen due to which he had to be admitted to PGI Chandigarh. But there also he cleared all the government files while sitting on the

NATION

New Parliament: 11 Ministers including PM Modi gets office space on first floor



in people's minds.

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA New Delhi

From the Modi cabinet, 11 ministers like Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Piyush Goyal, S Jaishankar, Nitin Gadkari, Dharmendra Pradhan, Nirmala Sitharaman, Smriti Irani, Ashwini Vaishnay, Arjun Munda and Narendra Singh Tomar were allotted rooms on the ground floor in the New Parliament building as per sources.

The special session of Parliament has started today. On the second day of this five-day session i.e. from September 19, the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha of Parliament are to begin in the new building from 1.15pm and 2.15pm respectively. In such a situation, where will the minister's

lotted Room No.08. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been allotted Room No.41, **Railway and Communications** Minister Ashwani Vaishnav has been allotted Room No.17. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has been allotted Room No.11 and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda has been allotted Room No.09.

Similarly, 9 other cabinet ministers have been allotted offices on the first floor of the new parliament building also.

room be in the new building of MSME Minister Narayan Parliament, there is a curiosity Rane has been allotted Room No.39, Ports, Shipping and According to the informa-AYUSH Minister Sarbanand tion received from sources, Sonowal has been allotted the ground floor of the Prime Room No. 38. Social Welfare Minister's office has been built Minister Virender Kumar has in the new parliament buildbeen allotted Room No.37. ing. Defense Minister Rajnath **Rural Development Minister** Singh has been allotted Room Giriraj Singh has been allotted Room No.36. For Civil No. 34, Home Minister Amit Shah has been allotted Room Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya No. 33. Road Transport Min-Scindia, Room No.20, Food ister Nitin Gadkari has been Processing Minister Pashupati Paras, Room No.19. For allotted Room No. 31, Rajya Jal Shakti Minister Gajen-Sabha Leader Piyush Goyal has been allotted Room No. dra Singh Shekhawat, Room 30. Finance Minister Nirmala No.18, Earth Sciences Minister Kiran Rijiju, Room No.17 Sitharaman has been allotted Room No.12. Foreign Affairs and Power Minister RK Singh, Minister S. Jaishankar has been Room No.16. Apart from this allotted Room No.10, Women some other cabinet ministers and Child Development Minalso have been given room on ister Smriti Irani has been al- the second floor.

Congress says Ramesh Bidhuri's remarks 'insult to country', demands his immediate suspension from Lok Sabha

FW CORRESPONDENT New Delhi

Bidhuri made certain objectionable remarks targeted at Ali on Thursday night during a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission.

"What Bidhuri has said is an insult to all of us. Strictest possible action should be taken against this MP. If this is not a case for suspension (then what is). Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha (of AAP) stand suspended for exercising their democratic right of protest inside Parliament and Mr Bidhuri has spoken in a language that is an insult not only to Danish Ali but also to every MP and every Indian," the Congress leader said. Ramesh said the defence minister's apology is an "eyewash" and the strongest possible action must be taken against Bidhuri. The remarks were expunged from Parliamentary records and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had immediately expressed regret for Bidhuri>s behaviour in the House. Strongly condemning the

remarks, the Congress leader asserted that Bidhuri must be immediately suspended and he should also tender an apology. «During the special session, the prime minister gave various

speeches, saying a <new chapter

will be opened, new energy will be infused> but Ramesh Bidhuri has shown what the BJP>s intention and agenda is.» he said. In a post on X, Ramesh also

slammed former Union ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Harsh Vardhan for allegedly laughing at the time of Bidhuri>s remarks. «Two former Union Cabinet ministers, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Dr. Harsh Vardhan, shamelessly gleeful at the hate speech made by their party colleague Ramesh Bidhuri yesterday in the Lok Sabha. They deserve as much condemnation as the most awful Bidhuri himself.» Ramesh said.

«This is the shameful level to which BJP under Modi-Shah has fallen,» he said. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday took «serious note» of the objectionable remarks made by Bidhuri in the House and warned him of «strict action» if such behaviour is repeated in the future, officials said.

SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on top of security agencies' radar

NEW DELHI: Following the killing/death of three dreaded pro-Khalistani terrorists in the past few months, the name of designated Khalistani terrorist and chief of the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, is on the top of the security agencies' radar now.

Facing 22 criminal cases in Punjab, including three of sedition, Pannun is known to be operating from Khalistani terrorists' safe heaven Canada.

On May 6, Khalistani leader Paramjit Singh Panjwar, the head of the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), was shot dead in Lahore. On June 15, Avtar Singh Khanda, a leading exponent of Khalistan and handler of separatist Amritpal Singh, died of cancer at a hospital in the UK. Three days later on June 18, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and chief of the banned outfit Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), was gunned down by two unidentified gunmen outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia.

Be it the rocket-propelled enade attack on Punjab Police's Intelligence headquarters in Mohali last year, an audio message asking Kashmiri Muslims residing in Srinagar to go



to Delhi and disrupt the G20 Summit, or assassination threats to multiple Chief Ministers and other who's who via telephonic audio messages -- they all have been linked to the proscribed terrorist organisation Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) founded by Pannun. Just last week, Pannun declared to hold "ShaheedNijjar kill India referendum" on the question: Is Indian High Commissioner Verma responsible for the 'assassination' of Hardeep Singh Nijjar? He also announced to hold Khalistan Referendum-II on October 29 in Surrey, British Columbia.

Pro-Khalistan leader Nijjar, who was declared a 'wanted terrorist' by the Indian government, was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen on the premises of Guru Nanak Sikh

Surrey city on June 18. Since Nijjar's killing, many radical activists have been questioning as three killings of Sikh separatists took place within one month. They say: Is there a pattern in the sudden killings of three Khalistani terrorists? On Monday, Canada, in a surprise move, expelled a top Indian diplomat amid probe into the killing of Nijjar on its soil. Canadian Prime Minister Jus-

Gurdwara, of which he was the

head, in the Punjabi-dominated

tin Trudeau claimed 'credible allegations of a potential link' between agents of the Indian government and the killing of the Khalistani terrorist. Now the question is over the role being played by Pannun of instigating a momentum on the foreign soil against the Indian government.

New Vande Bharat Hyderbad to Bengaluru arrive ahead of time on trial run



ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

The new Vande Bharat Express between Bengaluru and Hyderabad trial run, managed to cover the distance between Hyderabad and Bengaluru in slightly over seven and half hours. The two destinations are 610 km apart. South Western Railway (SWR) officials said introduction of will help passengers in a big quite earlier. However, the draft way as it will reduce travel for the Bill in its current form time and make travel more comfortable. The train left Kacheguda at 5.30 am and reached Yeshwantpur station in bengaluru around 1.15 pm. In the return direction, it departed from bengaluru around 2 pm. Haning composition of eight cars, the train can carry 530 passengers, including 390 in regular coaches, 52 in executive chairs and 88 in motor cars.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind supports Women's **Reservation Bill but demands representation** of OBC and Muslim women **KAVITA SHARMA**

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind feels the Women's Reservation Bill proposed by the government was much required. However, it should also give reservations to women from the OBCs and the Muslim community.

In a statement to the media, the Vice President of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Prof. Salim Engineer said, "For a strong democracy, it is im-Bill is a good move in this direc-Vande Bharat on the route tion. Actually, it should have come



(2008), India Exclusion Report (2013-14), 2011 Census and latest NSSO reports - all suggest that Indian Muslims and especially women lack in socio-economic indices. The political representation of Muslims in Parliament and state legislatures has been steadily declining. It is not proportionate to the size of their population."

OBC and Muslim Women should not be ignored.

The JIH Vice President avered, "The proposed reservation will come into effect only after the publication of the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise. It means that Bengaluru the benefits of the Bill can be accrued only after 2030. Hence, we feel that the timing of this proposal appears to eye the forthcoming Lok Sabha elecof the many ways to remove inequality is affirmative action (reservation). Ignoring OBC and Muslim women in the Women's

MPs from Bengal BJPs are not in the list of speakers in Parliament on women's reservation bill, anger in Bengal brigade

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA New Delhi

In the history of the country, the names of Bengali women are written in golden letters, be it social change or freedom struggle. Politics or social policy, science to technology. Be it in the world of sports or education, music or in the world of cinema, the contribution of Bengali women are well known.

However, in the debate on the women's reservation bill in the parliament, the saffron camp has not included any Bengali MP in the list of its speakers. A few speakers mentioned the contribution of Sarojini Naidu, Matangini Hazra, Geeta Mukhopadhyay

or Mamata Banerjee but left representation is increasing in out a long list. The list of names Parliament is being discussed, could have been longer if the Bengali MPs remained absent MPs from Bengal had been from the BJP's list. Saffron camp did not keep a single given the opportunity to speak. Needless tosay, Geeta Mukhowoman on the list of speakers. padhayay was the Chairperson However, the name was submitof first Committee was set up ted to the Parliamentary Minfor Women Reservation Bill in ister Prahlad Joshi on behalf the Parliament. A BJP MP from of the Banga Brigade. Sources Bengal who don't want to menalso said that Bengal's parliation her name, admitted that mentarians raised the matter the opportunity to speak on this with the top leadership of the issue was missed. Even though parliamentary party. A BJP MP from Bengal, who did not want they did not say anything publicly, the BJP MPs of Bengal are to be named, expressed his anangry with this decision of the ger and said, "This incident has party. The MPs of Bengal BJP increased the discomfort. The camp have decided to bring the opposition can raise the issue. matter to the attention of the In that case, Bengali should be

criticized, the top leadership top leadership. When the issue of women's should have been more careful".

PM joins WhatsApp Channels, shares excitement with users

NEWDELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday joined WhatsApp Channels, a feature offered by messaging application WhatsApp. "Thrilled to join the WhatsApp community. It's yet another step closer in our journey of continued interactions. Let's stay connected here, "he posted on the so-

cial messaging site after joining the new application of WhatsApp. He also shared a picture of his office from the new Parliament building. Modi has been quite active on social media,



especially on X (formerly Twitter). The development comes on the day the proceedings of Parliament shifted to the new Parliament building. WhatsApp Channels are a one-way broadcast tool for admins to send text, photos, videos, stickers, and polls. Channels can be found in a new tab called Updates on WhatsApp - where one can find the status and channels one chooses to follow, and are separate from one's chats with family, friends and communities.

All Zoos on high alert after leopard cubs, 15 deer die at Bannerghatta biological park

ARUN KUMAR RAO

have died due to gastrointestinal problems cardiac arrest and zoo officials said. Inter estingly, all the chital deer that were housed in the quarantine facility were rescued from the city hospital a month ago. The successive deaths of leopard cubs and now the sudden death of spotted deer have caught the government's attention. A day after the chief wildlife warden sought a report on the infection other technical personnel, the and status of other animals from minister ordered "High alert in BBP officials. Forest Minister

FP virus infection among domes- past few days at BBP is indeed ticated cats. Caught off guard by shocking,. I have also directed zoo over the last 15 days Minister Khandre visited the rescue centre, safari and elephant habitat at BBP along with senior officials of the forest department and Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK). Subsequently, he held a meeting with BBP officials. Speaking to media Minister said, "Zoo are generally the most secure conservation area. But the appalling number of deaths in the

portant for all groups and classes to find representation in powersharing. Éven after 75 years since we got independence, the representation of women in Parliament and our state legislatures is quite dismal. Efforts should be made to bring their numbers up to the mark. The Women's Reservation

does not a ress the stark social inequalities in a vast country like India by excluding women from OBCs, and Muslim women. Although the legislation does include women from SCs and STs tions and lacks sincerity. One it ignores those from OBCs and the Muslim community. Various reports and studies like the Justice Sachar Committee report (2006), Post-Sachar Evaluation Commit- Reservation Bill would be unjust tee Report (2014), Report of the and not in tune with the policy Expert Group on Diversity Index of "Sab ka Saath, Sab ka Vikas."

Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is witnessing Shocking back-to-back deaths of spotted deer (chital) at its animal quarantine facility. Even after stepping up biosecurity measures to contain further spread of Feline panleukopenia (FP) virus among it big cats. This has been happening over the past one week. Adding to the list of growing animal causalities at the park, 15 deer



Eshwar B Khandre visited the park and reviewed the situation. Directing forest officials to work in tandem with veterinarians and all zoos of Karnataka" given the

officials to immediately such abnormal incidents to higher officials and the state government rather than deal with it at the zoo level on their own" he added. Minister also directed ZAK officials to vaccinate wild cats, especially cubs, in all other zoos

I was told by officials that chital deer (spotted deer) that were rescued from a city hospital hae died due to infighting, stress and liver cirrhosis.

G20 reaches consensus on more power to women



challenges countries to walk global politics and diplomament towards gender equality and empowerment of women

and girls worldwide. Under India's Presidency, leaders of the G20 agreed to the creresonates deeply with the recpressing need to close gender disparities globally.

Presidency, has been inspired by the Prime Minister Na- pertinent issues facing women rendra Modi's 'Amritkaal' vision where 'Nari Shakti' (the power of women) is celebrated in all spheres of the economy and society. Build- A game changing pathway ing on this vision, India's to women's empowerment, G20 Presidency has shifted Women's Entrepreneurship Consensus building and ne-

the focus for the first time from women's development to 'Women-led Development.'

For decades, advocates of ew Delhi gender equality have strived to push this critical issue to the Declaration forefront of the global agenda. The journey has been long and the talk in the landscape of challenging, with numerous setbacks along the way. The cy, there are moments that G20's unanimous decision to stand as beacons of hope include Gender Equality as and progress. The G20 New a central theme in its 2023 Delhi Leaders Declaration of declaration is a testament to 2023 is one such landmark, the tireless efforts and unwavwith the historic commit- ering commitment of leaders, governments, civil society and

stakeholders worldwide. The Ministry of Women and Child Development brought together women trailblazers, ation of a Working Group on entrepreneurs, innovators, the empowerment of women scientists, grassroots women was a cross cutting theme to support the G20 Women's leaders and frontline workers, Ministerial. This achievement the private sector, civil society,

academia, research instituognition of the importance tions, defence establishments of gender equality and the and also State governments besides delegates and speakers from G20 and guest countries The G20, under India's and International Organizations to deliberate on the most worldwide.

> priority areas decided by the Ministry, namely Education:



: A win -win for equity and economy, Creating Partneren's Leadership at all Levels Changemakers in Climate Resilience Action. Digital skilling for women's empowerment

across all these priority areas. These areas were discussed and deliberated by the G20 EMPOWER initiative and the W20 engagement group. The key takeaways from these meetings reverberated the firm commitments towards gender equality that was adopted in the Chair's Statement of the Ministerial Conference

The spotlight fell on four on Women Empowerment and ultimately found a firm place in the G20 Leaders' Declaration.

This was no small feat!

gotiations with international delegates and other stakeholdships for Promoting Wom- ers was an uphill task. Issues of significance for developing Including at the Grassroots countries often did not resoand Women and Girls as nate equally with developed nations.

It was agreed by delegates that outcomes of health, nutrition, education and entrepreneurship cannot be fulfilled without the inclusion of women grassroots community leaders in the G20 discourse. This was further endorsed by adding a new focus area called 'Supporting women entrepreneurs and leaders at the local level' to the legacy of the 'Best Practices Playbook'.

Digital skilling for women's empowerment was a crosscutting theme across all these priority areas. Prime Minister Modi's commitment to bridging the digital gender divide across G20 nations. contributed to the launch of

uity' platform with a focus on digital skilling for women during the MCWE held from the 2nd – 4th August, 2023. Further, partnerships with G20 countries were forged at the MCWE to expand the reach of digital skilling platform to ensure its sustainability. Available in 120 plus languages, this platform is now open for registrations for girls and women from across G20 nations to undertake digital skilling and upskilling courses to accelerate their

career growth. Another tangible outcome is the Mentorship Platform. This can be reckoned to a global oasis where women mentors from G20 nations share their experience and expertise with mentees to implement a collective vision for empowerment of all women. Inspirational stories serve as powerful role models by illuminating the path to success through real-life examples. For the first time, under India's Presidency, the G20 EM-POWER Website has become a stage for 73 inspiring stories from 9 countries documenting remarkable journeys of women who have triumphed

The Indian G20 Presidency

a ground-breaking 'Tech eq- recognised that for policies and strategies to have a true impact, the involvement of citizens in discussions is important leading to the infusion of the spirit of 'Janbhagidari' into the G20 discourse. The Ministry of Women & Child Development through the initiative and engagement groups successfully involved over 300,000 citizens through events ranging from walkathons to flash mobs highlighting Women-led Development. The Ministry organised exhibitions at the various

international conferences to provide a platform for local women artisans, crafts persons and women entrepreneurs to showcase their products and skills making India's G20 Presidency a truly people's event.

The G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration of 2023 is not only a beacon of hope, but also a call to action. It challenges countries to move beyond rhetoric and take meaningful steps towards gender equality.

> Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Developmen, views are personal

Jammu and Kashmir to establish mental health authority



FW DESK

Jammu and Kashmir has announced the establishment of a mental health authority which will oversee all mental health facilities and ensure that they are registered with the proper authorities.

According to a notification issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, the Chief Executive of the Mental Health Authority will be the Mission Director of the National Health Mission (NHM) in Jammu and Kashmir.

To govern the functioning of the Mental Health Authority, a set of rules has been formulated, known as 'The Jammu and Kashmir Mental Healthcare (Mental Health Authority) Rules, 2023.' These rules will

lication in the official gazette. The Mental Health Authority will comprise a Chairperson, the Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Government Medical College in Srinagar/ Jammu, and the Mission Director of the National Health Mission in Jammu and Kashmir, who will serve as members for selection purposes. They will be responsible for nominating and selecting non-official members of the J&K Mental Health Authority. Non-official members selected or nominated under these rules will hold their positions for a three-year term and will be entitled to various allowances as applicable to nonofficial members of similar commissions and committees in the

union territory.

Indevar Pandey,

Empowerment awaits: Women, claim your rights!

he recent passage of the women's reservation bill in the Lok Sabha, nearly three decades after its initial introduction, is a monumental step towards dismantling the political glass ceiling that has long overshadowed Indian politics. The current representation of women in the Lok Sabha, a mere 15%, underscores a glaring gender disparity in our political landscape. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinivam, or the 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, aims to rectify this by reserving a third of the seats in both the Lok Sabha and legislative Assemblies for women, albeit with a 15-year sunset clause. The commendable decision to make this the first bill introduced in the new Sansad Bhavan speaks volumes about the importance of this issue. However, the celebration is somewhat tempered by the fact that its implementation is contingent upon delimitation and the Census. Linking the bill's execution to delimitation is perplexing, as the principle of reserving seats for women transcends the territorial boundaries of constituencies. Consequently, the 2024 general election will not witness the 33% reservation for women. Furthermore, while the bill ensures that a third of the seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are allocated to women, the demand for an internal quota for women of Other Backward Classes should not be a pretext for further delays. The objective should be clear: genuine representation, not mere tokenism. As of now, the broader picture remains concerning. Women in India grapple with limited access to health, nutrition, and education, face unsafe environments, and are increasingly excluded from the workforce. Among the G-20 nations, India's female labor force participation is alarmingly the lowest. India, a nation that granted women voting rights from its inception, must not waver in ensuring enhanced political representation for them. For holistic growth and transformative change, women's voices must resonate in the corridors of power.

C.

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

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 vardstick 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

EDITORIAL

COPINION

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

n 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, ion and



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 ass clinical outcomes at an increa

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 s seeking minimally inva sive, high

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. AIpowered 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 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.

LETTERBOX

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

Abraham Lincon

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

RNI NO. CHAENG/2001/03736 **PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY SWINDER BAJWA** ON BEHALF OF FW MEDIA PRINTED AT JAGJIT PUBLISHING CO. PVT LTD D-12, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-1, MOHALI, PUNJAB 160059

PRINTER & PUBLISHER SWINDER BAJWA **OWNER*: FW MEDIA** PUBLISHED AT: PLOT NO-F5, IT PARK, CHANDIGARH CHANDIGARH 160101; PHONE: 9888040061

EDITOR* ABDUL WASEY

(*RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTION OF NEWS UNDER THE PRB ACT)

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.

BOOKS: REVIEW

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 costeffective care.

Orthopaedic procedures, including joint replacements and spinal surgeries, are conprecision 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

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

New book unveils South Asia through echoes of the past

n "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 "Pather 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.

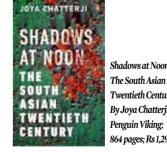
One of the book's strengths is Chatterji's observation of the "fascinating symmetry" post-Partition between India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. These parallels, more than mere coincidences, underscore the shared legacies and interconnected histories of these nations.

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 Twentieth Century By Joya Chatterji 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.

One of the standout features of the book is its interdisciplinary approach. Chatterji doesn't limit herself to political history; she delves into cultural, social, and even personal histories, painting a holistic picture of South Asia in the 20th century. This multifaceted approach provides readers with a richer understanding of the region, highlighting the interconnectedness of its various aspects.

In "Shadows at Noon," Chatterji has crafted a masterful narrative that is both informative and thought-provoking. It's a testament to her skills as a historian and storyteller. Whether you're a student of South Asian history or just a curious reader, this book is a must-read. It challenges, enlightens, and entertains, making it a valuable addition to the canon of historical literature.

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.

Mandatory to disclose

orders to mandatory disclose

stock position of sugar for trad-

ers/wholesaler, retailer, big

chain retailer, processors of

sugar on the portal (https://es-

ugar.nic.in) of Department of

Food and Public Distribution

every Monday. This proactive

mandatory measure of weekly

stock disclosure empowers reg-

ulatory authorities to closely

monitor stock levels and take

prompt action against any po-

tential market manipulation.

will also provide real-time

data on sugar stocks and help

the Centre to make further

policy decisions, as and when

need arises, to mitigate the

impact of rumours of rising

sugar prices on consumers and

the industry. With 83 Lakh

Metric Tonne (LMT) at the

end of August 2023 and ex-

pected beginning of crushing

in October 2023, India has

sufficient stocks for domestic

consumption with no foresee-

able shortage in the coming

festival season. Further, the

Centre is also expecting co-

operation from sugar mills

and traders to adhere to the

relevant laws and monthly

domestic quota norms. Strict

action will be taken against

the mills violating the same.

In fact, the Centre has released

first tranche of domestic sales

quota of 13 LMT also which

sugar mills can start selling

with immediate effect. More

quota is expected to be released

in due course in view of market

conditions.

Sodion Energy Partners with AR4 Tech to Launch

Sodium Ion Batteries for the Indian Market

This fully digital initiative

weekly sugar stocks,

orders Centre

CORPORATE **GINDUSTRY**

Govt to meet 70% of India's IT hardware needs through local production in next 3 years : Chandrasekhar



players later in the day as it

sources. "At present, almost

sources are, they are trusted.

looks to curb dependence on

NEW DELHI: The governshare a draft of IT hardware it is obvious that the Indian import rules with industry component of that supply ment aims to meet up to 70 per cent of the country's IT hardware requirement through local production in supplies from non-trusted the next three years, Minister of State for Electronics and IT the digital ecosystem come from imports. We want to Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Friday make sure whatever the Speaking to reporters,

Chandrasekhar said Ministry of Electronics and IT will

VivekKatoch gets the command of IDSA Chairman, Harish Pant **Vice Chairman**



New Delhi

VivekKatoch, Director - Corporate Affairs, Oriflame, has been elected as the new Chairman of the Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA), the apex body of the direct selling industry in India.

Katoch has held this coveted post for the second time. He also represents the Indian direct selling industry as a member delegate on the Board of the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA).

The elections to the new executive committee of IDSA ere held at its 27tl Annua

At present, almost 80 per cent of our supplies to the digital ecosystem come from imports. We want to make sure whatever the sources are, they are trusted. As part of emphasising trust, it is obvious that the Indian component of that supply chain will have to grow."

for the IT hardware PLI scheme with a commitment to make personal computers, laptops, tablets, servers and other equipment worth Rs 4.65 lakh crore during the scheme period. Although the industry players have lauded the government's PLI scheme, but they have shown concerns about abrupt restrictions on import of IT hardware. The new rules to allow restricted imports of laptop, tablets, server etc are proposed to be in place from November 1

plan for PragatiMaidan in 2019

envisaged a state-of-the-art pri-

Raids on Sambad office trigger political storm



ARABINDA MOHAPATRA Bhubaneswar

Political atmosphere in Odisha has heated up following the recent raid of Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police on the office of leading Odia daily Sambad which is owned and edited by senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and Khandapada MLA Soumya Ranjan

Patnaik. Soumya, who happens to be the son-in-law of former chief minister JB Patnaik, who was the face of the Congress party for a long time in Odisha, has been critical of the BJD government led by Naveen Patnaik for the past some time. He also wrote scathing articles targeting the chief minister's private secretary VK Pandian, questioning his visits to different districts which allegedly undermined the authority of elected public

representatives. The raid on the Sambal office was conducted by separate teams of EOW on September 18 after the investigating wing of the state police registered a case under different sections of the IPC including 420 (cheating) and 120-B (conspiracy). The raiding parties are reported to have seized important documents.

Sambad, on the other hand, has clarified that the paper fully cooperated with the enforcement agency. It also termed the entire issue as "a clear case of political vendetta and an attack on the freedom of the press." It is pertinent to mention that the

ruling BJD on September 12 had removed Soumya from the post

of party's vice-president after he wrote some controversial editorial pieces targeting the government and made statements on television channels raising questions on the rising influence of bureaucrats in the government and the party.

The case against Sambad was registered following allegations that a large number of employees of the paper were forced to take personal loans under threat. The loan amount running into crores of rupees was not given to the employees but allegedly used by their employer company Eastern Media Limited. The case was registered on September 16 this year against Baijayanti Kar (HR Manager), Soumya Ranjan Patnaik (Editor) and others following a complaint by Asim Mohapatra, an ex-employee of Sambad.

Mohapatra, in his complaint, made serious allegations of bank loan fraud involving cheating, forgery and criminal intimidation. He said he was allegedly forced by the accused to sign some bank loan forms against his will and paying capacity. He was allegedly threatened that if he did not do what he was asked to he would lose his job. Under pressure, he was forced to sign many blank forms including some blank cheques. The former employee said he did not know the details, but later came to know that a loan of Rs 5 lakh was taken in his name but it was actually used by Sambad

or Eastern Media Limited. "He did not get a single penny out of this loan. He was forced to sign for such loans on two different occasions in two different banks," the investigating agency said adding that more than 300 employees of Sambad/Eastern Media limited were forced to sign on forged documents and about Rs 50 crore have thus been fraudulently secured by **NEW DELHI:** To combat Soumya Ranjan Patnaik using hoarding and curb unscrupulous speculation in the sugar these forged papers. During the course of the investigation, the market, the Centre has issued

some vital witnesses. The raids have triggered a political storm since Soumya has been critical of not only the style of chief minister Naveen Patnaik's functioning but also his powerful private secretary, V.K. Pandian. The Congress and the BJP described the raid as political vendetta. "Why were the Sambad employees silent for such a long time? They have suddenly woken up. Are they being prompted by someone? asked a veteran Congress leader.

EOW is said to have examined

Soumya became a thorn in the government's side after he began questioning Pandian's style of functioning and his visits to different district's at government's expense. Soumya's daughter Tanaya Patnaik wrote on social media that the government was using pressure tactics against her father and his media house.

Significantly, the raids come at a time when major parties in the state are busy preparing for the next general elections which is going to be crucial for all of them but especially chief minister Naveen Patnaik who will be seeking a straight sixth term in office. If he succeeds he will become the longest serving chief minister of the country.

Soumya, who is a media baron, carries the tag of being a party hopper. He has had stints in the Congress and the BJP and had also floated his own party. He joined the BJD much later and was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the party.



As part of emphasising trust, HP, and Lenovo, have applied ITPO to develop 5-star hotel at Pragati Maidan in Delhi

chain will have to grow.

Today 8-10 per cent of our

supply requirement comes

from India, we want to make

next three years," the minister

As per reports, around 40

companies, including Dell,

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA New Delhi

A hotel within PragatiMaidan complex will help minimise traffic disruptions and logistic challenges during large-scale events like the G20 Summit in the future. Following the recent completion of the G20 Summit at the newly developed PragatiMaidan, the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), which oversees the complex, is looking to develop a five-star hotel within the 123-acre complex, senior officials aware of the project said on Tuesday.

The initial redevelopment plan for PragatiMaidan in 2019 envisaged a state-of-the-art private hotel, built over a 3.7-acre site at



80 per cent of our supplies to that 65-70 per cent in the

said.

to rope in private companies from the hospitality industry to develop the hotel, which will be a private sector enterprise - ITPO will monetise the land, while the developer would be able to run the facility for a lease period of 99 years.

The initial redevelopment

with several Retail associations



requesting anonymity.

Auto dealers body FADA to form alliance THE STORRY BAND - so far untold story of Delhi's edupreneur couple...!

RAJU WILLIAM New Delhi

Shabadjit Bawa and his wife Divya Bawa are products of



ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru Sodion Energy, a leading developer of Sodium Ion Batteries, announced that it has

General Meeting here on Thursday, in which Harish Pant, Director and Head of Government Relations, Herbalife International, was elected as Vice Chairman, AprajitaSarkar, Head of Growth Office, Modicare Limited, as Treasurer, and RajatBanerji, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Amway India, as Secretary. The new Executive Committee will hold office for a period of two years.

On the occasion of assuming the charge of the post of chairman, Katoch said, "The direct selling industry in the country is growing at a steady pace. Apart from making an important contribution to the country's economy, the industry has provided livelihood opportunities and alternative sources of income to around nine million people working full-time or part-time. The industry has now

made inroads into rural areas as well, and we are committed to taking this to every nook and cranny of the country.



NEWDELHI: Federation of of traction on the national level Automobile Dealers Associaneeded to propose such laws in tion(FADA) has expressed in-Parliament.

terest to partner with other apex retail bodies including CAIT (Confederation of All India Traders), and RAI (Retailers Association of India) for a better market power.

"We need to protect our members. If we work together there are only a handful of as a retail community, we will be able to establish something on a

Automobile Dealer's Protection India". He told ETAuto that the consumer buying as the as an independent auto dealers vehicles they sell are usually body it is not getting the kind not registered, Singhania said.

Despite having optimism

about the upcoming months, FADA said there are concerns towards regarding viability and unauthorised operation of Multi Brand Outlets (MBOs). Currently,

authorised MBOs in the electric two wheeler space. larger scale," Manish Singhania, But a lot of dealers and OEMs President, FADA, told ETAuto. are selling their petrol/diesel The auto dealers' lobby passenger vehicles and two body had earlier proposed an wheelers to unauthorised retailers who are in turn setting Act as "there is no law to protect up MBOs. The unauthorised the interest of the retailers in sales agencies can affect

ing been in the education field for almost two decades, they divested their profitably running chain of preschools and daycare centres founded by them and let their passion and talent give birth to the brand -THE STORRY BAND.

Born in 2020 amid Covid-19 pandemic out of a necessity to [']make learning joyful' THE STORRY BAND is a learning space that brings people with passion and varied skills to work with children to deliver curated learning experiences.

How did it actually happen? Shabadiit narrates excitedly that having spent almost 2 years with their then 5-yearold daughter Nanaki Caur during the pandemic and seeing how creativity and curiosity was driving her imagination led them to create an engaging learning space supported by play and stories.

"We decided to run online programs for 4-5 year old children. The biggest challenge was how do we engage with the

so small in age on the screen? challenge?

We defined our objective. If a Disney movie can engage a child for 90 minutes, can we do the same in 60 minute? Having ideated on this thought, we narrowed down the puzzle to 3 pieces - passionate educators, engaging resources and training educators - to make learning joyful and engaging. All the 3 pieces had to be in place before we could move forward. And we successfully did it," explains the edupreneur couple.

To evolve a remunerative model for all the stakeholders was the next challenge to profitably sustain this venture. How did Bawas overcome this

"The educators had to be one with us - feel ownership and be excited every time they came online to teach. We did something that nobody had done before - we made them our 'partners' and not employees. They had to be treated as co-owners; needed to have the flexibility to decide. And importantly, how much they

wanted to earn, which days and the time of work suited them. They are now working on a revenue-sharing basis. Their growth and ability to earn depends on quality of their contribution to retain the child.

AR4 Tech Pioneer in developing and implementing innovative technologies for converting traditional gasoline vehicles to electric.

The partnership will enable Sodion Energy to leverage AR4 Techs extensive distribution network, bringing safe, reliable and affordable batteries to early adopters, including And the model emerged: ARAM, a disruptive technology company developing low-cost agriculture equipment and commercial vehicle electrification.

In its role as Sodion Energy's master distributor, AR4 Tech will develop products for the mobility and energy storage markets in India and for export. They will also appoint kev partners in battery pack making and custom solution development. As with any new technology, there are challenges that need to be addressed before they can be widely adopted, said Bala Pachyappa, Co-Founder and CEO of Sodion Energy. There



regulations for NIBs, and the ecosystem for local production is not yet ready. The government can accelerate the adoption of sodium ion batteries in India by providing funding, subsidies, and a favourable regulatory environment." He added.

is a lack of clear standards and

Mahesh Pandi, Co-Founder of AR4 Tech, said that the company has identified immediate opportunities to replace lead-acid batteries (LABs) in price-sensitive, mass market applications. He believes that NIBs can start to disrupt the low-end lithium-ion battery (LIB) market in 2-3 years.

Amazon presents Multi-Channel fulfilment Sale of iPhone 15 sees 100 pc growth versus iPhone 14 series on day 1 for sellers and Brands Across India

FW CORRESPONDENT New Delhi

Sale of Apple's iPhone 15 is estimated to have registered a 100 per cent growth compared to that of the iPhone 14 series on the first day with high demand for made-in-India iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus models, according to industry sources

Apple has for the first time made available the 'made-in-India' iPhone on the same day it started selling the devices in the country and other parts of the globe.

Till evening, 6 pm IST, the sales of iPhone 15 series have recorded over 100 per cent growth on Day 1 compared to the sale of iPhone 14. There are



long queues everywhere and more people have started com-

ing after their office hours," an industry source, who did not wish to be identified, told to media

An email query sent to capacities, at starting prices Apple did not elicit any reply. of Rs 79,900 and Rs 89,900,

respectively.

The iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max are available in black titanium, white titanium, blue titanium, and natural titanium finishes.

The price of iPhone 15 Pro starts at Rs 1,34,900 and is available in 128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB storage capacities.

iPhone 15 Pro Max starts at Rs 1,59,900 and is available in 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB storage capacities.

Apple has started selling iPhone 15 Pro Max with 1 made-in-India iPhone 15 and TB storage is being sold for Rs 1.99 lakh apiece in India. iPhone 15 Plus, having colour

options of pink, yellow, green, The iPhone 15 series marks blue, and black with 128 GB, several firsts for Apple in India. 256 GB, and 512 GB storage This is the first time that customers are able to buy iPhones from Apple Stores in Delhi

and Mumbai.

According to another industry source, the iPhone 15 Pro series was booked by more customers but demand for iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus was also high at Apple stores, and Apple Premium

Reseller stores To woo customers, Reliance Retail has bundled six months of free Jio services and unlimited data usage for iPhone 15

customers. Quick commerce firm Blinkit announced a partnership with Apple Premium Reseller Unicorn to deliver iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus to customers within 10 minutes of placing orders in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and Benga-

luru.

NEW DELHI: E-commerce giant Amazon on Thursday announced the launch of Multi-Channel Fulfilment (MCF) in India for buyers and sellers.

Sellers including D2C (direct-to-consumer) brands, manufacturers, and retailers from across industries can enhance their fulfilment operations and customer experience by leveraging Amazon's pan-India presence and stateof-the-art fulfilment centres. This includes Amazon's logistics capabilities to handle customer orders received from

a wide range of sales channels, including their own websites, enabling seamless fulfilment with speed and convenience.



Through MCF, Amazon democratises customer order fulfilment and enables sellers to expand their market reach in India by leveraging Amazon's extensive coverage of 100 per cent of India's serviceable pin codes (over 20,000 pin codes), opening up new business opportunities.

"The challenges of digitisation, limited reach, and

roductivity constraints often hamper the expansion of medium and small-scale brands, along with other challenges like inventory tracking and high shipping costs," said Vivek Somareddy, vice president of Fulfilment Channels and Global Trade, Amazon India.

"MCF addresses these challenges through comprehensive and best-in-class solutions for all their fulfilment needs. It allows sellers to focus on core business activities like product development, marketing, and customer service," he added.

He said that the fulfilment solution ensures super-fast delivery, 24x7 fulfilment of customer orders.

BANKING S FINANCE

Indian Economy gains strength amid Fading Global Prospects: RBI

MUMBAI: India's economy is achieving power in the middle of a weakening global prospects, said an article published in the latest RBI bulletin on Monday.

The gain is led by domestic private consumption and fixed investment with strong public sector capital expenditure.

The outlook for the global economy remains ambivalent, driven by a dichotomy in macroeconomic conditions across regions, the article on 'State of the Economy' stated.

While expectations of a 'Goldilocks' soft landing in the US are strengthening, concerns about slowdowns in China and Europe are rife, it said, and added that the impact of aggressive monetary tightening is spreading, with the services sector joining housing, bank lending and industrial production in a loss of momentum.

The article authored by a macroeconomic conditions team led by RBI deputy goveracross regions. nor Michael Debabrata Patra

prospects, the Indian economy is gaining strength led by domestic drivers" private consumption; and fixed investment with strong public sector capex.

where global economic activity is experiencing a loss of momentum with a dichotomy in previous month's peak," it said.



"Amidst weakening global also noted that India's G20 Presidency and its outcomes with the ethos of 'Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam' as the vision of global progress assume sig-"Supply responses are imnificance in an environment proving and headline inflation has softened in August from the

and international markets, she added at the launch of the new central scheme on Sunday. The MSME ministry will

recipients of the scheme. Vishwakarma scheme has an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore until FY28. al artisans and craftspeople, and give them recognition through Vishwakarma certificates, ID cards and collateral-free loans, apart from training and helping

Vishwakarma Scheme Recipients To **Undergo Three-Layer Verification: FM**

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman said that the identification of local craftsmen and artisans who are eligible for credit support of up to Rs 3 lakh in two tranches under the Vishwakarma scheme will go through a three-layer verification process. The verification process will

be done each by gram panchayats, district collectors and stateappointed committees. The Ministry of MSME will

also provide skilling camps and toolkits, and facilitate access to these local products in domestic

extend collateral-free loans to It aims to recognise tradition-

them access markets. After the three-step verification process, a final list of recipients will be drawn up by the government, said the FM. They will be given credit support of up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5 per cent. The first tranche will have to be repaid within 18 months.

Recipients of the scheme will also be given a daily stipend of Rs 500 during the five-day skilling camps. A toolkit with digital currency features and access to the gov-

ernment's e-market place will also be provided.

TruCap, HDFC Bank enter into Co-Lending **Agreement for MSME borrowers**

NEW DELHI: TruCap Finance Limited (TRU) and HDFC Bank, on Thursday announced their partnership to offer loans to underserved borrowers such as MSMEs.

Under the pact, TRU will leverage its Lending-as-a-Service (L-a-a-S) model to offer quality credit solutions to underserved borrowers, primarily in non-urban locations. Both HDFC Bank and TRU will extend MSME business loans and gold loans under

this collaboration. Industry estimates indicate that the MSME sector has an overall credit demand of Rs 69.3 trillion, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.5 per cent. Less than 15 per cent of this demand is met by formal lend-

ing channels. TRU, which specialises in MSME lending, focuses on offering affordable credit solutions aimed at propelling the growth of small businesses.



Rohan Juneja, managing director and chief executive officer of TRU, noted, "The partnership with HDFC Bank will serve our mission where both entities will benefit from TRU's sourcing, distribution, assessment, and collection capabilities in non-urban markets. This ensures effective deployment of capital to guarantee last-mile credit delivery."

TRU has already disbursed over Rs 2,000 crore in loans, aiding more than 190,000 customers and contributing to the credit inclusion of underserved businesses.

The company's expansive network includes more than 118 branches scattered across

over 50 cities in the MSME clusters of West, Central, and North India.

This extensive presence enables TRU to deliver timely credit solutions to small businesses for varied needs, such as availing working capital or purchasing assets, thereby enhancing revenue and livelihood generation in non-metro regions.

Sumant Rampal, Group Head – Business Banking & Rural Banking, HDFC Bank said, "The partnership with TruCap helps us in expanding financial inclusion to the last mile customer and provides them with convenience, speed and affordability. This joint work is allowing us to reach customers in semi-urban and rural markets and the mini micro-segment of MSMEs. With quick approvals, competitive rates, and extended reach, this collaboration empowers more

individuals and businesses to fulfill their dreams.'

ESIC Registers 19.88 Lakh New Workers In July



NEW DELHI: As per Employees' State Insurance Corporation's (ESIC) provisional payroll data 19.88 lakh new employees have been added in the month of July, 2023.

Around 27,870 new estab lishments have been registered and brought under the social security umbrella of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation in the month of July. 2023, said Ministry of Labour

& Employment on Wednesday. Data evidently reveals that more jobs have been generated for the vouth of the nation

as out of the total 19.88 lakh employees added during the month. About 9.54 lakh employees up to the age group of 25 years constitute the majority of new registrations which is 47.9 per cent of the total employees. Gender-wise analysis of payroll data indicates that net enrolment of female members has been 3.82 lakh in July,

tractors' Association (SEA). India is the world's leading getable oil buver, and

India Ratings Increases India's FY24 GDP Growth Estimates to 6.2 per cent



tions have led to rise in the interest rate/cost of capital, and industrial growth, especially manufacturing growth continues to be tepid," the report said.

challenges from slowing ex-The Indian economy grew the April-July period amid at 7.8% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year on higher government and private "Tighter financial condi- capital expenditure, and strong

services growth.

"All these risks will continue to weigh and restrict India's GDP growth to 6.2% in FY24 (FY23: 7.2%), and the quarterly GDP growth, which came in at 7.8% in 1QFY24, is slated to slow down sequentially in the remaining three quarters of FY24," said Sunil Kumar Sinha, Principal Economist, India Ratings and Research. While the Reserve Bank of

India (RBI) is expecting the same, it estimates the overall FY24 GDP to come in at 6.5%. RBI has forecast Q1FY24 real GDP growth at 7.8% and

Bitcoin has witnessed an extraordinary surge in transaction volume in the past week, logging over 700,000 transactions in a single day, a new data has shown.

According to the data presented by the analytics firm IntoTheBlock, the number of reported Bitcoin transactions increased to nearly 703,000, representing not only the highest number recorded in 2023, but also the highest transaction volume seen in nearly two years.

"Historic Milestone: Bitcoin processed a record-breaking 703K transactions on Friday,



Bitcoin logs over 700K transactions

the firm posted on X. Moreover, the network also saw an increase in the number of daily active addresses. According to the data from Bitinforcharts, a whopping 1.08 million.

the number of daily active addresses reached a multi-month high on September 15, rising from 754,000 two years ago to

A day earlier, Ethereum briefly crossed Bitcoin in terms of daily active addresses. In April, Bitcoin trading volume sank by almost \$700 billion, historically seen as one of the strongest months for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, bringing the biggest average monthly returns. Although Bitcoin topped over \$30, 400 on April 18, reaching the highest level since early June, its monthly gain was only 3 per cent, way down from 21 per cent in March and much less than gains usually seen in the fourth month of the year, according to data by BitcoinCasinos.com.

India's Vegetable Oil Imports Domestic airlines register JSW Infrastructure Limited's Initial Public Offering to open on impressive annual surge Rises 33% YoY: SEA

New Delhi

arried by domest



JSW Infrastructure Limited, a part of the JSW Group and India's second largest commercial port operator in terms of cargo handling capacity in Fiscal 2023, has fixed the price band at Rs 113 to Rs 119 per Share for its init

lic offering of Equity Shares.

ing ("IPO" or "Issue") of the

Company will open on Mon-

day, September 25, 2023, for

subscription and close on

Wednesday, September 27,

The initial public offer-



full-year growth at 6.5%.

FW DESK

The domestic aviation industry is buoyant if surge in passenger traffic during the first eight months of 2023 is any indication

According to the latest data analysis, the number of passen-

Sept 25, sets price band at Rs 113 to Rs 119 per Equity Share FW DESK

New Delhi

During August 2023, sched-

2023.total 52 transgender employees have also got registered under ESI Scheme in the month of July, 2023.

The data shows

24 carat gold seized having a market value of Rs. 68,67,654



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Custom officials have seized 24 carat gold purity was seized having a market value of Rs. 68,67,654 from passenger who have arrived here from Dubai by Spicejet flight.

In a statement issued here today, official stated that the staff of Shri Guru Ramdas ji international Airprot (SGRDJI), Amritsar intercepted one passenger coming from Dubai by Spicejet flight SG56 in the morning of the 19.09.2023. On his personal search, the passenger was found to be carrying two packets containing gold in paste form concealed in his turban. The packets were wrapped with grey adhesive tapes. The gross weight of two packets was 1632 grams (813+819). After extraction total 1159 grams (578+581) of gold of 24 carat purity was recovered from the passenger having a market value of Rs. 68,67,654 appx. The same were seized under section 110 of Custom Act, 1962. Further investigation is under process.

imports for August 2022 have reached 14.01 lakh tonnes.

of corporates and banking sec-

tor, and the prospect of a new

private corporate capex cycle.

that the Indian economy faces

ports, which contracted during

global headwinds and deficient

NEW DELHI: India's veg-

etable oil imports have increased

by 33 per cent year-on-year to

reach 18.66 lakh tonne in Au-

gust. This is attributed to lower

duties and a revival of demand

after a decline in domestic rates,

as reported by the Solvent Ex-

monsoon.

It has however cautioned

The total vegetable oil imports for the first ten months of the 2022-23 oil year (November trends. The industry body cited to October) have grown by 24 per cent to 141.21 lakh tonne compared to 113.76 lakh tonne availability as the reason for the in the same period last year. rise in imports, as reflected in the Of the total vegetable oil ship-

August data. Crude palm oil imments undertaken in August, ports have rebounded, regaining edible oils comprised 18.52 lakh competitiveness against soybean tonne, while non-edible oils and other oils, totalling 8.24 were 14,008. Palm oil imports lakh tonnes in August, slightly down from 8.41 lakh tonne in have reached 11.28 lakh tonne the previous month. According in August. The SEA has released a statement indicating that the to the SEA, the current low duty import of edible oils in the first of 5.5 per cent on crude palm oil, ten months has reached 141.21 soybean oil and sunflower oil is lakh tonnes. responsible for the increase in

The statement predicts that imported oil supplies.

the current oil year, which ends from January to August 2023 in October 2023, will likely see reached an impressive 1190.62 lakh, marking a substantial ina record import of over 160 to 165 lakh tonne given the current crease of 38.27% compared to the same period last year, said the drop in domestic edible oil a release by Ministry of Civil prices despite ample domestic Aviation.

August 2023 alone witnessed a significant monthly growth rate of 23.13% as well, with passengers' number soaring to 148.27 lakh. This upward trend in passenger growth reflects the industry's resilience and recovery from the challenges posed by the global pandemic. Despite the impressive growth in passenger traffic, it is worth noting that the overall cancellation rate for scheduled domestic airlines in August 2023 was a mere 0.65%.

288 passenger-related complaints marking a complaint rate of around 0.23 complaints per 10,000 passengers carried. This low complaint and cancellation rate is an indication of the industry's efforts to prioritize customer satisfaction and providing reliable and efficient services to passengers. Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditva M. Scindia has said this consistent growth is a testament to the collective efforts of airlines, airports, and the ministry in ensuring customer-centric aviation ecosystem. The aviation industry remains committed to ensuring

passenger safety and comfort

while adapting to evolving travel demands and regulations

2023. Investors can bid for a minimum of 126 Equity Shares and in multiples of 126 Equity Shares thereafter. The Issue is entirely a fresh issue of Equity Shares worth Rs 2,800 crore. The objects of the issue is to prepay or repay Rs 880 cr of it's outstanding borrowings;

finance capital expenditure requirements amounting to Rs 865.75 cr for an LPG Terminal Project, Rs 59.4 crs for setting up an electric sub-station, Rs 103.88 cr for the purchase and installation of a dredger and finance Rs 151.04 crs for the proposed expansion at Mangalore Container Terminal besides general corporate purposes

JSW Infrastructure Limited is a port-related infrastructure company which received initial cargo from the JSW Group as anchor customer. In addition to partnering with JSW Group Customers, to pursue its growth strategies, the Company has diversified its customer base to include third-party customers across geographies and has expanded its cargo mix by leveraging its locational advantage and maximizing asset utilization. As on June 30, 2023, the Company's installed cargo handling capacity was 158.43 million tonnes per annum ("MTPA"). The Company provides maritime related services including, cargo handling, storage solutions, logistics services and other value-added services to its customers.

The Company's operations expanded from one port concession at Mormugao, Goa (acquired by the JSW Group in 2002) where it commenced operations in 2004, to nine Port Concessions as of June 30, 2023. It has a diversified



presence across India with Non-Major Ports located in Maharashtra and port terminals located at Major Ports across the industrial regions of Goa and Karnataka on the west coast. and Odisha and Tamil Nadu on the east coast

The Company's Port Concessions are strategically located and well-connected to cargo origination and consumption points. This enables the Company to serve the industrial hinterlands of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and mineral rich belts of Chhattisgarh. Jharkhand and Odisha making its ports a preferred option for its customers.

It also operates two port terminals under operations & maintenance agreements in Fujairah Terminal and Dibba Port in the UAE with cumulative cargo handling capacity of 41 MTPA as of June 30, 2023.

The Company plans to fur-ther expand its operations through brownfield and greenfield projects. It is also considering inorganic opportunities to further expand its capacities, customer base, service offerings and geographical footprint. The new capacity building is aimed at strengthening its presence in handling container and liquid cargo with a focus on growing its third-party customer base. The Company's third party

cargo business in India has witnessed a compounded annual growth rate of 65.58% from 11.30 million metric tonne ("MMT") in FY21 to 30.98 MMT in FY23 and by 32.29% from 7.03. MMT in the three-month period ended June 30, 2022 to 9.30 MMT in the three-month period ended June 30, 2023.

The cargo handled for the Company's third-party customers in India as a proportion of its total cargo handled by volume increased from 24.81% in FY21 to 33.37% in FY23. It emerged as the fastest growing port-related infrastructure company in terms of growth in installed cargo handling capacity and overall cargo volumes handled during Fiscal 2021 to Fiscal 2023.

The Company's business is ligned to the Government of India's thrust towards privatization of Terminals across Major Ports hitherto managed by Port Trust Authority. Government policies have provided great impetus to the Ports sector through various initiatives including Gati Shakti Scheme, National Logistics Policy, Sagarmala and BharatmalaPariyojana to improve transport infrastructure. From operating terminals

at major ports to developing greenfield ports like Jaigarh Port and Dharamtar Port, handling multi-commodity cargo including dry bulk, break bulk, liquid and gases and containers, with an aim to increase its third-party customer base, JSW Infrastructure Limited is uniquely positioned to capitalise on India's growth opportunities with a strong balance sheet and ambitious growth targets.

JM Financial Limited, Axis Capital Limited, Credit Suisse Securities (India) Private Limited, DAM Capital Advisors Limited, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the book running lead managers and KFin Technologies Limited is the registrar to the Issue.

India's First 'CryptoDATA Concept Store' Inaugurated in Bengaluru **ARUN KUMAR RAO**

Bengaluru

CryptoDATA Tech, a leading European technology company specializing in blockchain-based solutions. Launched India's first CryptoDATA Concept Store in bengaluru. The Opening of India's first CryptoDATA Concept Store, an exclusive official distributor for CryptoDATA Tech, will make innovative products and software solutions available for Indian users that are looking for enhanced privacy and digital security.

Founded in 2013, Crypto-DATA Tech has swiftly risen to prominence as a global leader in blockchain technology. The company is celebrated for its innovative solutions and unwavering commitment to data security, making it a pivotal player in advancing the adoption of blockchain-based solutions worldwide. Ovidiu TOMA, CEO of Cryp-



toDATA Tech who inaugurated the store said, "I am thrilled to attend the opening of India's first CryptoDATA Concept Store. This launch marks a significant step in our journey to empower individuals and businesses with cutting-edge blockchain solutions as India's tech enthusiasts can now experience the future of technology up close. We support dedicated professionals that are

committed to uphold the CryptoDATA values and we'll be very well represented on the Indian market by our official distributor and partner right here in Bengaluru. We continue to look forward to helping and supporting young entrepreneurs who are passionate about innovative technologies, giving them the tools and guidance to succeed in this fast-moving field."He added.

In addition to its technological pursuits, CryptoDATA Tech holds the majority stake in one of the eleven teams participating in the MotoGP's World Championship, known as the CryptoDATA RNF MotoGP Team. With a strong foothold in the Indian market, CryptoDATA Tech actively engages with the blockchain community through various educational initiatives, webinars, and open-source contributions. This commitment not only fosters a deeper understanding of blockchain technology but also empowers individuals to build successful careers in this dynamic field

Strategy CryptoDATA Tech said, "India has always been a dynamic hub for technological innovation. and we are excited to be a part of this thriving ecosystem. Our commitment to fostering blockchain education and providing innovative solutions aligns perfectly with India's tech aspirations.

Bogdan MARUNTIS, Global

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 Bambiha Gang in Punjab, escaped to Canada in

2017 on 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 holv 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

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 initia-

tives, the Centre for Energy,

Environment and Water's re-

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

States (US), «If CBAM

port noted.

EU's green regulations to impact 43%

of India's Exports to Trade Bloc: Report

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

the bottom of this matter."

Ottawa on Monday an-

nounced the expulsion of a

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



FW DESK

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan surprisingly once again raked up the Kashmir issue 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. No place for hate in Canada, says Public Safety Dept on online threats to Hindus

Asian Games : Anurag Singh Thakur canceled his China trip after China bars 3 Athelets 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

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

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



Zangnan (the southern part of southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region) is part of China's territory," Ning said.

Canada has 'evidence' linking Indian

diplomats to Nijjar murder case: Report



OTTAWA: Canada on Friday said there is no place for hate in the country amid circulation of an online video in which Hindu Canadians are told to leave the country. production.

Public Safety Canada, the department responsible for safety of public said, "the circulation of video is offensive and hateful, and is an affront to all Canadians and the values we hold dearly."

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Public Safety Canada said: "There is no place in Canada for hate. The circulation of an online video in which Hindu Canadians are told to leave Canada is offensive and hateful, and is an affront to all Canadians and the values we hold dearly.

"Acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear have no place in this country and only serve to divide us. We urge all Canadians to respect one another and follow the rule of law. Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities, " it said.

The video was circulated at a time when 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 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".

NEW DELHI: India and Brafor ethanol (production). It is a

India, Brazil Agree to Resolve Sugar

Related trade dispute at WTO

zil have begun negotiations to positive thing," the official said. resolve a sugar related trade

Ethanol is used to blend with dispute at the World Trade Oroil to power vehicles. Use of ganisation (WTO). Both the ethanol, extracted from sugarcane as well as broken rice countries have mutually decided to do this as part of the solution and other agri produce, will and the South American nation help the world's third largest oil may share ethanol production consumer and importing countechnology with New Delhi, an try cut its reliance on overseas shipments.

India currently is 85 per cent of sugarcane and ethanol in dependent on imports for meetthe world. It is also a leader in ing its oil needs. Also, it cuts carbon emissions. There is a target of 20 per cent ethanol blended petrol by 2025.

"Few rounds of talks have been held as part of our efforts to India would also have to offer resolve the dispute. We have also something as part of the mutuheld inter-ministerial meetings ally agreed solution (MAS) to here. Brazil is saying that they resolve the dispute at the Gewill share with us technology neva-based multi-lateral body.

which includes communications involving Indian officials themselves, including Indian diplomats present in Canada, "public broadcaster Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported quoting government sources.

OTTAWA: The Canadian gov-

ernment has collected "human

and signal intelligence" involv-

ing Indian officials, including

Indian diplomats present in

Canada linking them to killing

of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the

"Based on a month-long

investigation into Nijjar's

death, the Canadian govern-

ment had amassed both hu-

media reported.

Some of the intelligence was provided by an unnamed ally in the Five Eves 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





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.

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-NTMs by developed countries, India faces a serious challenge concerning its key export

vith these m to de 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,

items. While India has taken

significant steps to address

this challenge, it still needs to

develop a structured approach

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.

reported Business standard

Malaysia Showcases Its World-Class Healthcare Avocado imports a stepping stone for improved Offerings at Oman Health 2023 bilateral relations between Kenya and India FW DESK FW DESK

Muscat (Oman)

official said.

Brazil is the largest producer

the technology used for ethanol

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 agen-

cy 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 Malaysian Pavillion, 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 Pavillion.

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.

Jaafar had the opportunity to share key highlights on Malaysia's approach to healthcare reforms and advancements within the country's healthcare sector outlined in its recently launched Health White Paper. "With a keen focus on the well-being of its people, the Sultanate of Oman has taken numerous efforts through Oman's Health Vision 2050 to develop a strong healthcare ecosystem that is sustainable, inclusive, and highly responsive to the needs of the community. In this perspective, Oman and Malaysia share an aligned aspiration for healthcare reform. Under the Health White

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 Easterners, especially the Omanis, addressing the trend among Omanis seeking healthcare treatments abroad," added Farizal.

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



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.



'Still Rollin India Tour' cancelled after reported support for Chalistan

vhose real name is Shubhneet Singh, has landed into trouble afer his alleged support for Khading to the cancellation of his 'Still Rollin' tour in India.

BookMyShow took to Twitter, formerly called X, to announce that the Punjab-born, Bramp ton, Canada-based 26-year-old rapper's multi-city 'Still Rollin India Tour' has been cancelled.

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

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

New Delhi

anadian rapper Shubh, BookMyShow also promised a complete refund of the tickets within 7-10 days. The tweet read: "Still Rollin Tour for India stands cancelled

To that end, BookMyShow has initiated a complete refund of Ticket booking application the ticket amount for all consumers who had purchased tickets for the show The refund will be reflected

within 7-10 working days in the customer's source account of the original transaction." Today,

the hashtag #UninstallBook-MyShow 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 per-petrating the June 23 killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar at a gurudwara in Surrey, Vancouver.

It happened over an Ins tagram post by the rapper, which was captioned 'Pray or Punjab', along with two olded 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 Shub neet's 'Still Rollin India Tour was announced. The threemonth long tour included cities

such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmed abad, 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 Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu visited Parliament and witnessed the introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Raiya 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



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

NEW DELHI: On the 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

happiness at the prospect meaningful manner.



will eventually help bring gender equality in a more

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 Ŭdaipur 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 loosefitting casual clothes.

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

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

MUMBAI: Veteran writer and had become a virtue because lyricist Javed Akhtar said on of Saigal. However, as the so-Ťhursday evening that Indian ciety grew, this self-destructive films have been faithfully revirtue also vanished, "he said. "When the Nehruvian era flecting the sentiments of the came, everyone thought that

society. "Indian films have always depicted and reflected what is happening in our society. The cinema comes from the society. the 'rebel star' in the form of It is the same with dreams. Shammi Kapoor. Who was What is there in the conscious and subconscious mind will get this 'rebel star' fighting? He reflected in dreams as well, ' Akhtar said at the launch of ents and society. In most of his book, 'Talking Life: Javed the cases this 'rebel star' was Akhtar in Conversation with fighting Lalita Pawar. So, here Nasreen Munni Kabir'. the feudal system." He said in

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



"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-

soon things would be fine,

" Akhtar continued. "But as

people felt that not much was

changing, cinema gave society

was fighting against his par-

the virtue was the negation of

the films of this generation the

villain invariably used to be the

"In the pre-Emergency days

mill owner or landlord.

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. Jaimala: 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.

- 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.

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 nd efficient utilisatio

Asian Games to begin on September 23 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 cap- star boxer Lovlina Borgohain



on 23 Septemberin 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 started. However, the opening tain Harmanpreet Singh and will be India's flag bearers at will compete for medals in 39

sports. The Indian cricket team the grand opening ceremony 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 medallists, will also compete in Hangzhou.

Chandrayaan 3

Big Bang Moment for ISRO and India

 First country to reach lunar south pole. · Fourth country globally to reach moon.

declared as the



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.

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.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the importance of

development has been recognized. His

ensured that space sector applications

space exploration as a catalyst for national

tryst with the space sector began when he

was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. His vision

were translated into solutions for effective

governance. The same technology is being

av is extensively used for

leveraged in PM Gati Shakti, where space

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.

IS NOT THE LIMIT

National Space Day celebrating Chandrayaan 3 landing. Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (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 · 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.



+ 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 tific experiments Cost - Rs. 615 crore. ng po



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