

NEW DELHI • CHANDIGARH • WEEKLY • SATURDAY • OCTOBER 21, 2023 • VOLUME 13, ISSUE 30 • Rs 5

**SHOCKING REVELATIONS IN LOKNITI-CSDS SURVEY, WHO ARE THE MIGRANT WORKERS** LIVING IN DELHI?

#### BANKING & FINANCE



**FESTIVE SPENDING TO DRIVE INDIA'S GROWTH AT 6.5-6.8 PER CENT: DELOITTE** 



**DRAUPADI MURMU PRESENTS AWARDS TO THE WINNERS OF 69TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS** 

## Delhi CM assures social security to Gig Workers

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met the Gig Workers Association and assured them that the government stands with the common people at every step.

"We will create robust laws to provide social security to gig workers, but it may take some time, "the Chief Minister said

Kejriwal instructed Minister Atishi to ascertain whether gig workers fall under the Construction Workers Welfare

"If the Central government issues clarification that gig workers also fall under the Construction Workers Welfare Board. then there won't be a need for separate legislation, "he said.

It's a fight to save

**Constitution not** 

on Delhi HC order

official residence.

MP said.

suspended."

"I thank the Hon'ble Delhi

High Court for setting aside

the order of the trial court,

He further added that this

was for the first time a Rajya

Sabha member had been tar-

geted in this manner. "Till now, I have delivered two speeches

in Parliament holding the **BJP-led Central Government** 

accountable. After my first

speech, my official accommo-

dation was cancelled. After my

ship as a parliamentarian was

Chadda further added that

truth and justice prevailed.

Tuesday set aside an order

by the Patiala House court

that allowed the Rajya Sabha

secretariat to evict Chadda

from his official residence in

house: Raghav Chadda



state governments have a "significant amount of funds under the Construction Workers Welfare Board, which often remains underutilized".

The association sought sepa- ambit of policies solemnly

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA** 

Cabinet approved 7% MSP

hike for 6th Rabi crop and 4%

DA hike for central govern-

New Delhi

ESIC, PF, and other benefits for gig workers in app-based companies. Kejriwal assured them that the government would consider their demands within the

ct<u>ober 2023</u>

#### India to become \$7 trillion Economy by 2030: JP Morgan

ture of the Indian economy,

which present clear oppor-

tunities for sector selection

within what we think will

be a strong overall market,"

He pointed to the below-

average earnings revision in

China, a trend not seen since

2005, suggesting that China

may be at an inflexion point

in its economic trajectory.

Based on the

The MSP of

wheat has been

increased by Rs

150 per quintal

recommendation

he said.

grow into the world's thirdlargest economy by 2027, with its GDP more than doubling to USD 7 trillion by 2030, said JP Morgan's Managing Director of Asia Pacific Equity Research, James Sullivan.

"I would argue very strong long-term tactical drivers that make India a key overweight from a structural perspective from JPMorgan, James Sullivan said in an interview with CNBC-TV18.

Sullivan expects the manufacturing contribution to India's GDP to rise to nearly 25% from 17% and exports to more than double, to over a trillion dollars.

"From a longer-term per- Such an inflexion point can spective, we see massive often lead to new opportunichanges in the overall structies and challenges, making

**National** 

it a topic of keen interest for investors, he said.

"In China, we are very focused on specific sectors, if we can focus in line with government policy, if we can focus on deeply beaten down sectors that offer significant valuation support, then we see opportunity. So, it's a slightly different portfolio allocation strategy in each market," he said.

There are indications that China is contemplating a boost in its 2023 budget deficit through a new stimulus initiative. This strategy involves the issuance of at least a trillion yuan, equivalent to USD 137 billion, in additional government debt. with the aim of channelling these funds into infrastructure projects.

## India, China main sources for half of Global Growth in 2023 & 2024: IMF



MUMBAI: India and China regional growth, it said, adding tries are expected to jointly account for half of the world's growth in 2023 and 2024, with the Asia Pacific remaining the 'most dynamic' region this year, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific, the IMF said that growth in Asia Pacific is expected to rise from 3.9% in 2022 to 4.6% in 2023. IMF staff estimate that Asia's growth will slow to 4.2% in 2024 and to 3.9% in the medium term - the lowest in the past two decades except for

The IMF revised upwards India's growth estimate to 6.3% in FY24, due to resilient domestic demand and strong investment inflows. Meanwhile, the Chinese economy, it said, is expected to expand 5% in 2023 and 4.2% in 2024, lower than 5.2% and 4.5%,

"In Asia's advanced economies, tight financial conditions will hold back demand, while the outlook for exports will depend on price movements of global commodities (Australia, New Zealand) and the technology cycle (Korea, Singapore, Taiwan Province

of China)," it said. Per IMF, in Asia's emerging markets, relatively accommodative financial conditions will aid domestic demand despite downward revision relative monetary policy tightening, to April. The downgrade, it emand an sluggish investments will pose

China's weaker near-term growth outlook will weigh on

the two neighbouring coun- that the Chinese economy is expected to expand by 5% in 2023 and by 4.2% in 2024. Compared to the April 2023 World Economic Outlook this is a downward revision of 0.2 and 0.3 percentage points, respectively on account In a report titled Regional of renewed weakness in the property sector despite more policy support than previously

assumed. The report pointed out that the global economic backdrop has remained challenging for economies in the Asia and Pacific region, with central banks tightening monetary policy cross the globe. However, a fall in global commodity prices from the 2022 peak supported

disinflation. "The boost from China's reopening in the first half of the year was above expectations. Strong private demand yielded positive growth surprises in

While China's inflation remains low and well-below

#### 1.25 cr families in UP to get ownership of land leased under PM Svamitva Yojana: CM Yogi

LUCKNOW: A total of 1.25 crore families in Uttar Pradesh will be given ownership rights of land leased under the PM Svamitva Yojana by December 2023, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said. He targetted the previous govern-

ment in the state before 2017 for "neglecting the rights of people belonging to the Schedule Caste.' According to an official release,

the Chief Minister emphasised that economic progress should be measured not by the prosperity of those at the pinnacle of society, but by the advancement of the most underprivileged.

"Before 2017, SC/ST people used to face identity crises. They no longer grapple with this problem due to the combined efforts of the double-engine government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The government's efforts able energy project in Ladakh. are dedicated towards realizing the harmonious society env sioned by Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar throughout the country, exemplifying the essence of Ek Bharat, Shreshta Bharat, "he said.

India," it said. respectively, estimated in April.

target, reflecting falling food and fuel prices and still sizable economic slack, headline inflation in India rose in the third quarter due to a weatherrelated vegetable price shock. According to the IMF, the emerging market economies

of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are expected to see growth of 4.2% in 2023 and 4.6% in 2024-a 0.3 percentage point external demand, but also lacklustre domestic demand as a result of monetary policy

#### of CACP, we ment employees. Good news for government have increased employees in the festive season, the Union Cabinet approved the MSP of 6 4 percent increase in dearness Rabi crops.

Cabinet approves 4% DA hike for Govt

employees, 7% MSP hike for 6 Rabi crops

allowance under the Seventh Pay Commission! Till now the central government employees were getting 42 percent DA, after the increase of 4 percent, they will get 46 percent dearness allowance. Employees will Raghav Chadha on October 17 said that it was not a fight get increased DA from July 2023, as a result, they will get to save a house or a shop, but a fight to save the Constitution arrears or dues of the last few months. This will benefit 47 Chadha's reaction came lakh central govt. employees after the Delhi High Court and 68 lakh pensioners. DA for central government employset aside a trial court order ees is calculated on the basis cancelling allotment of his

> applicable for the next market- wheat has increased from Rs ing season of 2024-25. Union 1,400 in 2014-15 to Rs 2,275 Information Minister Anurag in 2024-25.

of the latest Consumer Price

Index for Industrial Workers

Singh Thakur further said that the Cabinet has approved 7 percent increase in MSP for lentils, barley and sunflower. The highest increase in MSP has been approved for lentils by Rs 425 per quintal. The government has increased the MSP of wheat by Rs 150 per quintal to Rs 2,275 per quintal for 2024-25. This is the highest increase by the Narendra Modi-led govern- son has been increased from The 7 percent increased ment since it came to power Rs 2,125 per quintal to Rs

Anurag Thakur said the CCEA has approved the increase in MSP for all essential Rabi crops for the 2024-25 marketing season. He said, "Based on the recommendation of CACP, we have increased the MSP of 6 Rabi crops. The MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs 150 per quintal." He said the support price of wheat for the 2024-25 marketing seafor six major Rabi crops will be in an ex-post that the MSP of Wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop, sowing of which begins in October, while harvesting takes place in April. MSP is

the minimum rate ensured to protect the interests of farmers and below this rate grains are not purchased by government procurement agencies. The Cabinet approved Rs

20,773.7 crore for setting up transmission lines to draw power for the 13 GW renew-Modi in his Independence Day speech announced setting up of 7.5 GW solar park

#### Twenty rescued after giant Madhya Pradesh, if we come in power but the youth of the wheel stops

## at Navratri fair

least 20 people, including four children, were rescued after a giant wheel in Navratri Mela at outer North Delhi stopped working, a fire department official said on Thurs-

day.
Sharing the details, received at 11:10 p.m.

"Acting on the call, two fire tenders along with the rescue teams were rushed to the site. "A total of 20 peo-

ple, including four men, 12 women and four children were safely rescued from the jammed wheel swings, " said Garg. No casualty was reported. Particulars could not be traced

## Navratri puja held at Kashmir's Kupwara after 75 years



**FW DESK** Kupwara

The Sharda Devi Temple, located near the Line of Control (LoC) in Teetwal village of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, hosted Navratri Puja for the first time since 1947. The event took place on the first day of Sharad Navratri, attracting a considerable number of pilgrims from across the country.

Swami Govindananda Saraswati of Hampi led the celebrations, reaching Teetwal village with his followers on a Rath Yatra from Kishkinda, the birthplace of Lord Hanuman in Karnataka. The Puja also saw the presence of Kashmiri Pandit pilgrims, in-

personality known for his role in the movie 'Kashmir Files.' Amit Shah, while celebrating the Navratri Puja at the historic temple, expressed its profound spiritual significance.

"It is a matter of profound spiritual significance that for the first time since 1947, the Navratri pujas have been held in the historic Sharda Temple in Kashmir this year," he said. This not only signifies the return of peace in the valley but also marks the rekindling of our nation's spiritual and cultural flame under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Sharda Devi Temple is an ancient shrine and one of the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas. cluding A.K. Raina, a theatre Situated in the Neelam Valley

to the Hindu Goddess Maa Sharda, often regarded as an incarnation of Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge and wisdom. According to legend, the temple's origins can be traced back to the period of exile of the Pandavas. King Lalitaditya Muktapida, who ruled the region during the 8th century, is believed to have undertaken the temple's renovation. The Maa Sharda Devi Tem-

of Pakistan-occupied Kash-

mir, the temple is dedicated

ple holds significant religious importance for Hindus, especially within the Kashmiri Pandit community. Devotees from various parts of India visit the temple to seek blessings and offer prayers to the Goddess.

## Rahul attacks Adani Group over coal pricing issue

New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi second speech, my memberhas accused the top corporate Adani Group of over invoicing the coal imports to India and hiking he was glad that in the end, power tariff, he also accused the group of taking 32,000 crores The Delhi High Court on from the pockets of the poor in India. Rahul also blamed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi of protecting Gautam Adani. Addressing mediapersons in New Delhi Congress MP Rahul Gandhi cited a report of a UK



based daily newspaper "Financial Times" and said this man is protected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Taking note of the rising electricity prices in India, Rahul said "We are providing subsidies in

"As soon as you switch on the fan or light, the money goes in to the pocket of Gautam Adani. People are paying more for each unit, this overpricing is heavy on poor man's pocket. Inquiries are happening in other countries but

not in India. Adani buys coal in Indonesia and when it reaches India its price is doubled, Rahul added. This is a big theft and we will initiate probe on this if we come to power said Gandhi.

Karnataka and will also do in

as per Sikh tenets there was no room for same-sex marriage as it was utter violation

House of Commons, Vedanti described it as 'anti-Gurmat' trend that had no place in Sikhism. The directive, the first of its kind, has been issued under the seal of Akal

not allow such marriages.

### country must understand, that rotating in Delhi NEW DELHI: At

the director of Delhi Fire Service (DFS) Atul Garg said that a rescue call was on Wednesday from Subash Ramleela Maidan in Narela that more than 20 people were trapped in a giant wheel.

out, "Garg added.

#### No room for same sex marriage: Akal Takht **JAGMOHAN SINGH**

Amritsar

the national Capital.

Akal Takht the highest Sikh Temporal seat taking serious seat of same sex marriage, disqualified the Sikh priests to perform religious services in the Gurdwara ( Sikh shrine) Sri Kalgidhar Sahib in Bathinda after the marriage of two girls on September 18 inside the Gurdwara in the presence of their Akal Takht Jathedar Giani

Raghbir Singh said that as per Sikh tenets there was no room for same-sex marriage as it was utter violation of Sikh religious customs In this regard the the five

high priests led by Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh taking a serious note of the marriage of two girls which was solemnised at Gurdwara Sri Kalgidhar Sahib in Bathinda on September 18, disqualified the entire managing committee

the marriage of same sex for of the Gurdwara concerned

Head Granthi (priest) Hardev Singh, Priest Ajaib Singh, Raagi Sikandar Singh and Tabla vadak Satnam Singh were blacklisted for five years for being part of the controversial wedding which was solemsied in their presence in the Gurdwara. In future, Sikh community not to allow all these people would never be allowed to perform any religious service in any of the Gurdwara or religious event, said Jatehdar.

Akal Takht deadly against

the last several decades and had issued Hukamnama (religious edict) when Giani Jogidner Singh Vedanti was Jatehdar Akal Takht in January 2005, while issuing a 'hukumnama' (edict) denouncing the same-sex marriages and urging the worldwide

such marriages to take place t any Gurdwara. Taking serious view of the proposed move of the Government of Canada to introduce same-sex marriage bill in the of Sikh religious customs"

Takht. The directive reads that the rising trend of same-sex marriages in western countries was a matter of concern. The move of certain countries to give legal accordance to such marriages had already initiated a worldwide debate. He said Sikh code of conduct did

## Shocking revelations in Lokniti-CSDS survey, Who are the migrant workers living in Delhi?

8 out of 10 people belongs to UP, Bihar and Bengal

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA** New Delhi

According to Lokniti-CSDS Study, Most of the migrants in the NCR Capital Delhi are young - 48.2% of them are under 35 years of age. The population is overwhelmingly male - six out of ten are male, and 81.9% are

CSDS conducted a survey on how many people from other states live in the national capital Delhi and from which states the maximum number of people live in Delhi. In which many shocking revelations have been made. According to the survey, 8 out of 10 people living in slums and parts of unauthorized colonies in Delhi are from three states -Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Most of them moved to the city for work. More than 78%

Corruption, separatist agendas,

Jammu and Kashmir Lieuten-

Friday identified three critical

problems in the Union Ter-

ist agendas, and anti-India

In a recent address at the in-

auguration of the Apsara Road

project under the Smart City

India, has not provided sup-

Regarding a statement at-

tributed to him regarding the

desire to contest elections in

Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha

clarified that he did not make such a statement and attrib-

uted it to a media report. He

emphasized that his role was not to contest elections but

to work in the interests of the

"I have not come here to contest elections. I have con-

tested elections in the past

In reply to another question

about his reported remarks

that 80 percent people would

vote in favour of the current

system of central rule if a sur-

vev is conducted in Jammu

and Kashmir, he said, "I have

not said anything like this."

Union Territory.

port to these groups.

in Jammu,

Sinha as-

serted that

the admin-

istration,

under the

Govern-

ment of

and will contest in the future in the national Capital on Tues-

too," Sinha told reporters on day settled at 17.2 degrees Celsius,

anti-India ecosystem are

challenges in J&K: LG

**FW DESK** 

ecosystems.



have a family income of less than Rs 20,000 per month.

A study conducted by the Center for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) with a sample size of 1,017 people living in different parts of Delhi city shows that most of them, almost 45.5% have been living in Delhi for more than 10 years. While 28.7% were born and brought up here in Delhi. It has been

that Delhi is a city of migrants. According to the 2011 census, Delhi has the highest proportion of inter-state migrants. The majority of migrants in Delhi are young, 48.2% of them are under 35 years of age. The population is overwhelmingly male, 6 out of 10

are male, and 81.9% are married.

The CSDS survey was also

Most migrants workers almost 83.7% had LPG connection. while slightly more than half like

Delhi's domestic expatriates feel

about the proposal for strong

remote voting system in the

country. The survey shows that

27.8% of people would trust the

secrecy of their ballot "to a great

extent" in remote voting system,

with another 18.8% trusting it

in all low-lying households in

slums, slums and unauthorized

Colonies. "Respondents lived in

small houses - none have with

more than two rooms," said

Sanjay Kumar, co-director of

CSDS's public policy program.

More than 60% of respondents

had no education beyond middle

school. More than a quarter were

non-literate and only 8.5% were

had higher educational qualifi-

The survey was conducted

'to some extent".

a bank or post office account but only about 40% had ATMs/debit cards/credit cards. More than 96% had Aadhaar cards too.

According to survey, 1 out of 3 people said, they are benefited from Delhi government's welfare schemes. Of them, about 60% get the benefit of electricity subsidy, while 40% have received free ration. About 27% are benefited from the government's free water scheme. The proportion of people from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes was the highest at 48%, while around 20% did not state

Sanjay Kumar said, that this figure is not surprising at all. either in college (graduate) or "There is a very strong relationship between caste and class, so in those areas that have been targeted, such as slums and unauthorized colonies, the ratio will be similar," he said.

#### **UP government to felicitate retiring** employees on last day of each month LUCKNOW: In a heartwarm-

ing gesture, the Uttar Pradesh farewell and felicitation functions for all its officers and employees at a special programme to be organised on the last working day of the month of their retirement.

The retiring employees will be given mementoes and a One District One Product (ODOP) stole. The government will also ensure that all the dues of those retiring persons are cleared well before they bid adieu to the government which they served for years. The superannuating staff will also be requested to travel down memory lane and share experiences that could inspire colleagues and others. This is for the first time that directives have been issued for showing due courtesy and respect to retiring officers and employees as they say goodbye. "I have been asked to say that farewell and felicitation functions should be organised on the last working day of every month for all categories of officers/employees at the offices of

tor undertakings. commis sions and institutions In addition

to this, respective heads of department, divisional commissioners and district magistrates should ensure that their retirement dues- PPO (pension payment order, gratuity and computation), leave encashment. group insurance payment and 90 per cent of government provident fund is paid at the same function as per rules. "Keeping in view the long service period of retiring officer/ employee, they should be given a memento and 'angvastram' (stole) of ODOP and their experiences should be shared to inspire others," said Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra in an order sent to all the departmental heads, district magistrates and others on October 13.

#### 6247 cyber fraud cases registered in a month in Haryana



Haryana state police has launched a massive campaign to bring awareness among people for fast increasing cyber crimes in the state. Police information reveals that during the month September this year 6247 cyber fraud cases has been registered with the police stations in Haryana state as against 6064 cyber fraud cases registered in the previous month August this year. Information reveals that as a result of immediate action by the cyber crimes cell in various districts across the state fraud amount of value worth Rs 3 crore 79 lakh was saved during month August 2023 and fraud amount worth Rs 4 crore 14 lakh was saved in month September 2023.

Director General Police, Haryana Shatrujit Kapoor while talking to media persons said an Helpline Number 1930 has been launched in the state with excessive manpower to curb cyber fraud cases and take quick action to stop transfer of amount from the bank accounts. Kapoor said that all banks have been advised to appoint Nodal Officers even on bank holidays to take immediate action to hold such bank transactions and frreze

the bank accounts. Meanwhile, a couple of days ago police on a clue arrested two persons travelling on a motorcycle, both were identified as Junaid a resident of Rajasthan and Manovar a resident of Hatheen in Haryana while both were on way to Punhana in Mewat and during preliminary investigation they admitted running a racket for supply of fake mobile sim cards. During search police recovered 25

## Congress to release manifesto for MP polls, special focus on youth & farmers

**Pradesh Congress Committee** ant Governor Manoj Sinha on (MPCC) on Tuesday will release its manifesto, named Vachan Patra' for the November 17 Asritory: corruption, separatsembly election.

The 'Vachan Pratra' has prom-

ises for every section and voters -- youth, women and senior citizens. The party is likely to include special packages for the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste voters. The document will be unveiled by MP Congress President Kamal Nath and AICC General Secretary Randeep Sur-

jewala at Bhopal's Ravindra Bha-

van, a party spokesman said.



The party has already announced 12 promises, which includes -- Rs 1, 500 per month for women under 'Nari Samman Yojana', implementation of the old pension scheme (OPS), free electricity up to 100 units, farm

Congress General Secre-

ture had reached 30.5 degrees,

three notches below the normal.

at 8.30 a.m was recorded at 80 per

cent. As per IMD, the national

capital recorded five mm of rain-

fall till 8:30 a.m. this morning.

Meanwhile, the air quality was un-

der the "moderate" category as the

quality index was recorded at 169

level. According to the System of

M 10 in the environment was

recorded at 169 and 156 respec-

tively under moderate category

respectively. Notably, the AQI

between zero and 50 is considered

300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very

Moreover, the relative humidity

Delhi records min temp of 17.2 degrees

after rain, air quality improves

Vadra in her last public rally in Dhar made two major announcements -- free education for school children (in and cash incentives

-- Rs 500 for students

up to Class 8 and Rs 1, 500 for students of Class 11 and 12. As likely to promise a fixed monthly income to farmers, a guaranteed minimum support price for crops and a youth unemployment allowance of up to Rs 8,000 in its poll manifesto.

#### MP Poll: 41 new faces, five BJP turncoats in Congress 2nd list of 85 candidates BHOPAL: Congress has given

tickets to 41 new faces and five BJP turncoats in its second list of 85 candidates for the Assembly election in Madhya Pradesh, and replaced three candidates in its first list.

The list came out late on Thursday. With this the party has declared 229 candidates for the 230-member Assembly.

The Congress has fielded Ravish Singh Tomar against Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar from the Dhimni seat of Morena district, while, from Gwalior Assembly constituency, which is the bastion of Union Minister JyotiradityaScindia, the Congress has fielded Sunil Sharma. In its second list, the Congress has fielded 41 new and five those who shifted from the BJP to the party.

Former BJP MLA Abhay Mishra, who has been making headlines for his frequent party hopping, has been fielded from the Semaria seat, which he lost



in 2018 to BJP's K.P. Tripathi with a close margin.

At least five BJP leaders, who shifted to the Congress in the past few months, managed to get tickets. These are -- Deepak Joshi, the son of former Chief Minister Kailash Joshi from Khategaon seat of Khandwa district, AbhishekChoukase (Jabalpur Cant), Bhavar Singh Shekhawat (Badnvar), Samandar Patel (Javad) and Girjashan-

kar Sharma (Hoshangabad). The Congress replaced its candidate for the Datia As-

Nayak. He will contest against BJP candidate and Home Minformer MLA, had defeated Mishra in the past but lost the last election by

a slender margin. The ruling BJP has announced 136 candidates so far in four separate lists.

Expressing his good wishes to all candidates of his party, Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath has appealed to the party cadres to work for the party and to uproot the BJP from Madhya Pradesh.

"I wish all the candidates good luck. The candidates of Congress Party are not just standing to become MLAs, but have also entered the election field to shape the future of sembly constituency, fielding

## Farmers in Haryana suffer heavy paddy crop loss Worth about Rs 180 crore due to rains and strike in grain markets

**SATISH HANDA** 

The farmers in Haryana had sufabout 4.04 lakh acre land due to waterlogging in Ambala, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Yamunanagar, Sirsa and Fatehabad districts following incessant rain and floods in the region. In Kurukshetra, agriculture department teams visited the fields on Wednesday and met farmers to ascertain the ground situation and take inputs about the damage to the crops due to floods in their area. Not only this, the farmers are now suf-

fering further losses due to strike



millers, as a result the farmers are compelled to sell out their crops

at much reduced prices. Information reveals that over 45 lakh metric ton rice in the country being exported at pres-

ent, which include 23 lakh metric

paddy crop in the grain markets in the state are finding limited customers due to ongoing strike and huge stocks of unsold paddy crop is lying in open in grain markets in the absence of buvers. A infor-

mation reveals that 50 thousand

quintal paddy is lying unsold in

Kaithal, 1500 thousand quintal

the farmers

bringing their

ton rice export paddy in Kurukshetra, 300 thoufrom Haryana sand quintal paddy in Karnal, 46 only to various thousand quintal paddy in Jind, year as a result in Yamunanagar, 70 thousand quintal paddy in Panipat and 20 thousand quintal paddy is lying unsold in Ambala grain market.

However, Kurukshetra deputy director agriculture Pardeep Meel said that the state government supported affected farmers with technical knowhow and advised them to cultivate late variety paddv like PB 1692, PR 126. He said, the teams also ascertained the ground situation of waterlogging, crop health and so on.

#### Rice exporters' strike hits basmati procurement in Haryana

**NEW DELHI:** After overnight

rains, the minimum temperature

according to the India Meteoro-

The weatherman has predicted

a generally cloudy sky with light

rain. However, the maximum

temperature is expected to hover

around 27 degrees Celsius. On

Monday, the maximum tempera-

logical Department (IMD).

**SATISH HANDA** 

The strike by the rice exporters in Haryana against decision of the Union government to keep minimum export price on basmati rice exports at \$1,200 per tonne has severely hit basmati procurement in all grain markets in the state as well in the country The exporters said that no procurement of basmati



paddy will took place in all grain markets till the an office bearer

the issue of exporters going on with the Centre will be resolved.

of government roll back their decision. Meanwhile, rice millers as well as basmati growers also extended support to the exporters. Amarjit Chhabra, president of Rice Millers and Dealers Association in Haryana and Saurabh Gupta an office bearer said that we will not purchase basmati paddy until

#### **Fake drugs manufacturing** industry raided at Ambala, owner arrested



**SATISH HANDA** 

Air Quality and Weather Forecast-State Health Deopartment team ing And Research (SAFAR), the from Panchkula and Ambala acconcentration of both PM 2.5 and companied by the police during turing unit working in a posh residential area Defence Colony Ambala Cantt. The owner of the manufacturing unit Avneet "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", Bhatia also a former Mr India 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and was nabbed by the police near the factory while attempting poor", and 401 and 500 "severe". to flee from the site in his car carrying huge stocks of fake medicines (supplements) in tablet and injection forms in prominent Pfizer brand in his car. The raiding team seized stocks of the fake medicines, packing material, raw material and huge stocks of fake medicines.

According to the health department officers including Hemant Grover, Sunil Dahiya Parjinder Singh the raid conducted at around 4 pm on Saturday continued till late night.

## 542 farmers in Haryana fined over Rs 10 lakh allegedly burning paddy crop wastes in open

**SATISH HANDA** 

Burning crop residue in the open is a major problem being faced in Haryana state, spreading pollution in the atmosphere extremely harmful for health of the residents. In-spite of all efforts by the state government ,Haryana state has witnessed nearly three times increase in paddy crop waste burning cases this year. Information reveals that the state has recorded more than 542 crop residue burning cases so far in which the farmers accused of burning crop residue in the open were fined over Rs 10 lakh, as compared to 168 cases reported last year.

Among 10 top towns in Haryana state witnessed maximum number of crop residue burning cases include Fatehabd district recorded 80 cases as cmpared to 11 cases last year followed by 79 cases reported in Ambala district as compared to 17 burning cases reported last year, 67 burning cases reported in Kurukshetra district as compared to 45 burning cases reported last year, 59 burning cases in Jind district as compared to 17 burning cases reported last year, 51 cases in Kaithal dis-

trict as compared to 26 burning



cases last year, 42 cases each in Sonipat and Yamunanagar districts as compared to two cases each last year, 39 crop residue burning cases in Karnal district as compared to 34 burning cases reported last year, 24 cases in Palwal district as compared to only one burning case last year and 14 cases in Panipat district as compared to three cases reported in the previous year.

It was shocking, paddy crop residue was illegally burnt in open this Sunday at 127 places as per information by sattelite pictures which revealed the carelessness of the concerned agriculture department staff,inspite of all efforts and vigilance by the state government as a result the services of two employees were also suspended by the state government according to

an information. Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal while talking to media persons unveiled a comprehensive plan to tackle crop residue management in the state, marking a significant step while addressing a persistent environmental concern.

During a virtual meeting of the High-Level Task Force for Management of Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR, chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister. Sanjeev Kaushal Haryana Chief Secretary said that the state government has taken a momentous step towards harnessing paddy straw for sustainable energy and eliminating crop residue burning by 2027. This groundbreaking move is marked by the introduction of the Haryana Ex-Situ Management of Paddy Straw Policy 2023, a significant stride in pro-

harmful residue burning. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khatter expressed deep concern over increasing pollution by burning crop reesid ue in NCR and Delhi. Recently, a high level meeting was organized by P.K. Misra Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister in which chief secretaries of Haryana, Punjab, U.P and Rajasthan states were also present along with senior officials of Pollution Control Board to discuss this vital issue of burning crop residue and spreading pollution.

moting efficient paddy straw utilization and discouraging

Dr. MM Kutty President of Pollution Control Board disclosed that out of 240 industrial areas in Delhi and NCR 211 has already been shifted to use of CNG, apart from total number of 7759 industrial unit functioning in NCR - Delhi 7449 industrial units have been changed to the alternate neat and safe fuel systems. He said that in the same way e-buses and other e-vehicles have been introduced in Delhi and NCR where as many as 4.12 lakh e-vehicles are registered at present, besides every care is being taken for safe collection and storage of waste material in the area.

## **Truecaller and Delhi Police Conduct CyberWise Training Session to Enhance Safety in Digital Communication**

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police, in collaboration with Truecaller, organized a cyber safety training session for citizens. as part of their ongoing partnership aimed at preventing cyber frauds, scams and raising cyber safety awareness among citizens. The CyberWise training session was conducted in Hindi, and focused on empowering individuals under the Delhi Police's Yuva program with essential digital safety skills. The training program included educating participants about fundamental digital hygiene practices, safeguarding personal information online, and tips to avoid cyber scams. Its primary goal is to reduce citizens' exposure to online harm while fostering trust in digital communication

In addition to raising awareness, the cyber safety training sessions encourage citizens to



ing online scams, spam, fraud, and harassment to Delhi Police.

Sharing her thoughts on the initiative, Suman Nalwa, DCP & PRO, Delhi Police said, "Delhi Police is actively dedicated to increasing cyber safety awareness and empowering citizens to stay safe online. Our collaborative efforts with Truecaller have successfully reduced the impersonation of Delhi Police officials by verifying official numbers through Truecaller's

Through the CyberWise training sessions, our mission is to provide citizens and young participants of the Yuva Programme with the essential knowledge and skills needed to make informed choices for their protec-

tion while harnessing the op-portunities in the digital world." Sharing her thoughts on the partnership Pragya Misra, Director of Public Affairs, at Truecaller, said, "We are truly delighted to

continue our mission of foster-

ing online safety, with the Delhi Police, in line with the Government of India's aim of making the internet open and safe, trusted and accountable for its citizens. CyberWise has already benefited over 1.6 million citizens nationwide, and we remain committed to contribute towards creating a digitally resilient community that can harness the internet's potential while staying safe from rauds and scams. As part of the Truecaller &

Delhi Police partnership, a variety of initiatives have been conducted to combat cybercrime. These initiatives include a range of capacity-building measures for the Delhi Police, online safety training sessions on emerging cybercrimes, and verifying all official numbers of Delhi Police personnel on Truecaller's Government Directory Services to tackle impersonation

## Center Government approves Rs 20,774 cr inter-state transmission system for Ladakh Mega Solar Project

**NEW DELHI:** Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved the Rs 20,773.7 crore project on Green Energy Corridor Phase-II - Inter-State Transmission System for the 13 GW Renewable Energy Project in Ladakh

The project is targeted to be set up by FY 2029-30 in which the Central financial assistance at 40 per cent of the project cost which works out to Rs 8,309.48 crore, according to an official statement issued after the CCEA meeting. The project will create a state-of-the-art inter-state transmission infrastructure to link the Ladakh green energy project to the National Grid.

"Keeping in view the complex terrain, adverse climatic condi-



tions and defence sensitivities of Ladakh region, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited will be the implementing agency for this project. A state-of-the-art Voltage Source Converter based High Voltage Direct Current system and Extra High Voltage Alternating Current systems will be deployed for the project, "a statement said.

evacuating this power will pass through Himachal Pradesh and Punjab up to Kaithal in Haryana, where it will be integrated with the National Grid. An interconnection is also planned from this project in Leh to existing Ladakh grid so as to ensure reliable power supply to Ladakh. It will also be connected to

provide power to Jammu &

The project will entail setting up of 713 km transmission lines and 5 GW capacity of HVDC terminal each at Pang (Ladakh) and Kaithal in Haryana.

The project will contribute to achieving the target of 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuels by year 2030. The project will also help in developing long term energy security of the country and promote ecologically sustainable growth by reducing the carbon

It will generate large direct and indirect employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled personnel in power and other related sectors, esstatement said.

This project is in addition to Intra-State Transmission System Green Energy Corridor Phase-II (InSTS GEC-II), which is already under implementation in the States of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh for grid integration and power evacuation of approximately 20GW of RE power and is expected to be completed by 2026.

The InSTS GEC-II scheme targets addition of 10753 ckm of transmission lines and 27, 546 MVA capacity of substations having estimated project cost of Rs 12, 031.33 crore and Central financial assistance at 33 per cent, i.e. Rs 3, 970.34 crore.

country thanks to the wrong policies of the BJP government Congress General Secretary at the centre, the Congress Priyanka Gandhi today made government in Rajasthan had an impassioned appeal to the tried its best to ameliorate the people of Rajasthan to break problems and suffering of peothe tradition and reelect her party's government for uninstate government was holding terrupted progress and devel-"inflation relief camps" across Addressing a massive pubpeople from the backbreaklic rally here today, Priyanka ing inflation. She cited the Gandhi said, the Congress had example of 'Indira Rasois' in

experience and young and dynamic Sachin Pilot working for the progress of the state, the Bharatiya Janata Party was a divided house.

Priyanka Gandhi said, despite the unprecedented in-

leaders like the Chief Minister

Ashok Gehlot with such a long

Dausa (Rajasthan)

opment in the state.

ple. She pointed out how the the state to provide relief to

Re-elect Cong in Rajasthan for uninterrupted progress, says Priyanka Gandhi

full meal for Rs 8 only. The Congress general secretary also referred to the Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme under which people were provided up to Rs 25 lakhs for treatment for various diseases. She said Rajasthan was the only

rural areas where people get a

state in the country to have such a healthcare insurance scheme.

She asked people to make a careful choice at the time of voting and ensure that they voted for the party, which looked after and worked for their welfare like the Congress party and not delivered hollow promises without any intent to fulfill them.

Quoting the example of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi donating Rs 21 to a temple in Rajasthan in a closed envelope, she said, the BJP does the same everywhere. She said, their election promises are like closed envelopes, which are found empty after the elections. She said, while the Prime Minister can afford to buy two aeroplanes for himself for Rs 16,000 crores and build a parliament building for Rs 20,000 crores, he had no money for waiving off the debt of farmers or providing old pension scheme to government employees.

The Congress leader also referred to the Agniveer scheme and how it had led to a lot of youth deciding against joining the army. She said, a number of youth she spoke to told her that there was no point in getting recruited in the army after a lot of hardwork to get unemployed

#### **Jammu and Kashmir** sets-up panel to identify foreigners illegally staying in UT

GOVERNMENT

**FW DESK** 

The Jammu and Kashmir has established a high-level panel with the primary objective of identifying foreign nationals who have been residing illegally or overstaying in the Union Territory since January

The panel includes key officials such as the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO), Bureau of Immigration Amritsar (Punjab); Senior Superintendent of Police, CID, Special Branch, Jammu; Senior Superintendent of Police, CID, Special Branch, Srinagar; all district SSPs/SPs (FROs) and State Coordinator, IVRFT

As per its terms of reference, the panel's primary responsibility is to compile a monthly report identifying foreign nationals who have gone missing within Jammu and Kashmir. These reports are to be submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs by the 7th of each month.

#### **Ethics committee** summons to BJP MP **Nishikant Dubey to** submit documents against Mahua Moitra

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA** New Delhi

Now Nishikant Dubey has been summoned by the Parliament's Ethics Committee to submit Documents against Trinamool MP, Mahua Moitra. Advocate Jai Anant Dehadari, the main complainant, has also been summoned. Nishikanta will have to appear in Parliament on October 26

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey has written a letter to the Speaker of the Loksabha, demanding the dismissal of Mahua Moitra's membership alleging her asking questions in exchange for money. He claimed that this Trinamool MP raised questions against Adani group's in the Lok Sabha in exchange for money and gifts from some businessman Besides, Nishikanta also demanded that she be suspended from the Lok Sabha for the time being. The letter of the BJP MP was sent to the Ethics Committee by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. On the basis of that letter, Nishikanta was summoned by the Ethics Committee of the Parliament to show evidence.

Nishikant is not alone, lawyer Joy Anant Dehadari has also written to the CBI seeking an investigation against Mahua. He is the one who brought this allegation against the Trinamool MP. That lawyer has also been summoned by the ethics committee of the parliament. Mahua may also be summoned in the coming days.

Mahua has already filed a defamation case against Nishikant and lawyer Joy Anant Dehadri. However, Mahua had already hinted that this was going to happen.

## SC refuses to legalize same-sex marriage, disappoints the LGBTQIA+Community

KAVITA SHARMA New Delhi

As the Supreme Court declines the legalization of same sex marriages the LGBTQIA+ community is left with disappointment and anger. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud along with Justices SK Kaul, SR Bhat, Hima Kohli and PS Narsimha gave a decision that "Court can't make a law, can only interpret it". The five judge bench has left it to the parliament now to change the Special Marriage Act. Now the parliament would decide whether any law should be made on it or not.

We tried to reach to various same-sex couples to get their reactions on this SC decision. Tanmay Singh and Gudiya ( both girls) are in a relationship for years now. They were waitfavour of the same sex mar- and wants divorce". Gudiya is riage but the Supreme Court's also happy with Tanmay and



disappointed them, Both girls of Darbhanga in Bihar know each other since school days. While talking to FW correspondent Tanmay said "I told my parents I have no interest in Boys, I like girls only but still they forcefully married me to a man who used to touch me, tried to have sex with me, but I resisted and finally told him one day ing for years to get a verdict in that I have no interest in boys

are staying in Gurgaon. If the Supreme Court's decision would have been in favour of same sex couples, Gudiya and Tanmay would have married each other. Now Tanmay is left with no other option but to become a

Though the SC's decision on same sex have pleased many political parties like VHP, RSS who believe legalizing same sex marriage would distort the social fabric of the country, but has disappointed the queer community at large. The Congress party has not given any statement yet and

party of India has shown disappointment. Various Bollywood celebs have also expressed their sadness over it. Bollywood star and LGBT activist Čelina Jaitley says she is let down by the verdict. " LGBT community is only asking for rights that every other Indian citizen has, what's wrong in it" I hope parliament would upgrade the Special Mar-riage Act, she said. Athlete and Olympian Dutee Chand said she was hopeful that the centre would bring a law on same sex marriage as every individual has a right to live with the person he/she wants. Reacting on SC decision, Film maker Onir says "we know many political parties are against it and now that the court has left it to the parliament so we know the answer". There are many same sex couples who are living together for years, what they want was legal recognition says Actor singer Sushant Divgikr.

#### Complaint filed against Rahul in UP court over pup's name **NEW DELHI:** A complaint nad, it is considered pure and

has been filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at Prayagraj district court in Uttar Pradesh for giving a name to a dog that also finds place in the Holy Quran.

The complaint has been filed by AIMIM spokesperson Mohd Farhan through his lawyer Amjad Ali. Interestingly, an FIR was also lodged against Farhan himself for making objectionable comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi three months ago. Farhan has received a stay on his arrest. Mohd Farhan said in the complaint that he gathered through English and



gifted his mother and party chief Sonia Gandhi a puppy on October 4, the World Animal Day.

Farhan claimed that the puppy was named 'Noori' by Rahul and said that since the name is con-

nected to the Prophet Muham-

holy. "Noori' has been mentioned in the Holy Quran multiple times. Many mosques are also of the same name and thus using this name for a dog has hurt the sentiments of Muslims, "the AIMIM spokesperson said. The complaint has been filed before the chief judicial magistrate.

Farhan's lawver Ali said the chief judicial magistrate has fixed November 8 for recording statements of the complainant. He said that Rahul Gandhi also shared the photograph of the puppy on his Facebook and

## **Union Minister for Road Transport and** Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurates highest National Flag of 418 fts at Attari Border



JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari during his visit to Punjab has inaugurated the highest National Flag of 418 fts at Attari Border in Amritsar Punjab.

On this occasion Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant to pay obeisance. Singh Mann, Member parliament from Amritsar Gurjit Singh Aujla and senior BSF officials were accompanying Gadkari in the well-organized brief function. On this occasion the Golden Temple here today. the surrounding environment so I feel blessed. After paying was beautifully decorated with a variety of flowers by the BSF at Attari border.

Talking about the specialty

of the flag Gadkari said that a special surveillance system has been fitted atop of the flag with latest technology which would greatly be helpful to the BSF troops to keep a hawk eye on all kinds of activities around the Attari border.

During stay in Amritsar, he also went to Harmandhar Sahib

Talking to media persons after paying obeisance at Harmandhar Sahib, he said, "I got the privilege to pay obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum of obeisance, I prayed before the Almighty for the wellbeing, good health of all Indians and development of the country".

## **NEW DELHI:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) slammed the

AAP slams BJP govt over Agniveer Scheme

government over its Agniveer scheme saying the real truth about scheme has emerged as Amritpal Singh didn't receive military honors or status of Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters

Chadha said, "Agniveer Amritpal Singh, who was born in Punjab, passed away on October 11, 2023, in the Rajouri sector while on duty at the Line of Control." He said that when his mortal remains were brought to his village in Punjab's Mansa district, the truth of the Agniveer scheme came to the light in front of the country.

"When the BJP government launched the Agniveer Yojana concerning the recruitment of soldiers in the army, many concerns were being raised about this scheme. The AAP also expressed significant concerns about the Agniveer scheme and raised several important questions related to it, but at that time, the BJP-led central government turned a deaf ear.

Chadha alleged. He said that when the mortal remains of Amritpal were brought to his village, no unit of the army accompanied them and only a Havildar of the army



and two soldiers in civilian attire brought his body in a private

"No army vehicle was provided for them. The most shocking part is that no military honors were given to him during the final farewell. Due to the Agniveer Yojana, neither he nor his family will receive any pension, and he will not be granted the status of a soldier who died on duty," the AAP leader said.

Slamming the government, Chadha said, "Shame on the central government for not respecting soldiers who died in the line of duty." "Is this the real truth of the Agniveer scheme?" Chadha asked.

He said that Arvind Kejriwal's AAP cannot tolerate any disrespect to the soldiers and is always standing for the honor of soldiers and their families.

"The AAP's Punjab government has decided to provide a Rs 1 crore honorarium amount true, "he added.

to the family of Agniveer Amritpal. The Punjab government will stand shoulder to shoulder with the bereaving family, "he said.

Blasting the BJP government at the Centre, Chadha said that when the BJP-led Central government did not provide any military honors or a final farewell to Agniveer Amritpal, BJP's Lok Sabha MP Nishikant Punjab gave him the state honors during his last rites.

"This incident raises a significant question mark on the policies of the BJP government at the center. This country stands tall because of its soldiers, not because of the leaders. The sooner the BJP government understands this, the better it is for the country. Since the beginning, we have said that the Agniveer Yojana is a dangerous experiment with the country's army, "he said.

The AAP leader said that it will have an impact somewhere on the strength of the army and the morale of the soldiers.

"Don't implement this scheme, but the BJP government won't even listen to a word of criticism. An example of this has been seen today in the case of fallen soldier Amritpal. This scheme has been introduced in a rush, and it has proven nearly all the concerns about it to be

## **BJP MP daims Mahua Moitra** took 'cash & gifts' to ask questions in Parliament

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA** New Delhi

namool Congress MP Mahua Moitra of taking "cash and gifts" from businessman Darshan Hiranandani to "ask questions in Parliament".

Moitra, on her part, responded to the allegations, saying the CBI is welcome to investigate the matter. Dubey wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking an inquiry against Moitra and her immediate suspension from the House for taking cash for question.

In his letter, Dubey said that he is in receipt of a letter from Jai Anant Dehadrai, an advocate, wherein, he has shared irrefutable evidence of bribes exchanged between Moitra and Darshan Hiranandani, a well known business tycoon, to ask question(s) in Parliament in exchange for 'cash' and 'gifts'. "It appeared that the representationist, Dehadrai has made elaborate and painstaking research on the basis of which he has concluded that quite recently, Moitra asked approximately 50 questions in Parliament of the total 61 posted by her, which shockingly pertain to the protect the business interests of Darshan Hiranandani and his company, " the BJP MP alleged.

He further said that the entire conspiracy does not end here but an attempt has been cleverly crafted to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister (Amit Shah) so that everybody gets an impression that being in opposition, Moitra is criticising the government. "The representationist has also forwarded all the relevant papers/documents in support of his information which I am enclosing along with my instant letter, "he claimed.

"After having meticulously gone through all the papers or documents, there is not an iota of doubt about a criminal conspiracy hatched by Moitra, Member of Parliament to garner and protect the business interests of Hiranandani - by asking Parliamentary Questions, which is reminiscent of 'Cash for Query' episode of 12 December, 2005. All these nefari-



ous and abhorable acts of Moitra is a clear case of 'Breach of Privilege', 'Contempt of the House' and also a criminal offence under Section 120-A of the Indian Penal Code, he said.

He further said that whenever there is Parliament session, the shouting brigade of All India Trinamool Congress, led by Moitra and Saugata Roy, are in habit of disrupting the proceedings of the House by their continual abuses on each and every body on one pretext or the other.

"I along with scores of other Members of Parliament were always perplexed as to why this 'shouting brigade' of TMC, lead by Moitra indulges in such tactics, which is purely snatching the Constitutional rights of other members to debate and discuss the issues of common people and policies of the government, "Dubey said. "Now, with the unmasking of quid pro quo in form of the ugly and deliberate motive of Moitra to raise money from a businessman in lieu of asking questions in Lok Sabha, it has become amply clear that the edifice of 'morality' being exhibited by Moitra was nothing but a 'Machiavellian Camouflage for committing a crime by entering into a criminal conspiracy and at the same time enjoying the title given to Smt Mahua Moitra as a 'firebrand Memb of Parliament', which is nothing but a sham, "he alleged. "Since the instant episode is nothing but a re-emergence

## Competition law regime necessary to safeguard the interests of small market players & attract investments: Central Information Commission

**NEW DELHI:** At the Bharat define the objective of Indian Legal Conclave hosted by ASSOCHAM, Guest of Honor Suresh Chandra, Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission, Govt. of India; & Former Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India, offered his legal expertise. He enlightened the audience by saying that whole legal system operates under a scheme and has 4 componentsbasic principles and values enshrined in the constitution, rights and obligations contained in the various statutes, organization structure of laws

and legal personnel. Preamble of Constitution emphasized the unity of nation and it proceeds further to

republic, he added. Increased transparency in law and emphasis of all inclusive approach is the new aspiration for legal structure in India. Talking about competition

law he added, In developing economy like ours, new competition policy is expected to play a dual role of raising the power of underprivileged economic agents to become participants in the process of competition on the one hand and of establishing the rules of fair and free competition on the other. Fair and free competition is vital for requirement for sustained

economic growth. Offering his keynote address Rajiv Mani Ådditional



Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India shared that Indian legal system should be reinvented to meet the challenges of present times and achieve improved reforms and judicial efficiency by 2047 under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. There is a need to examine the existing obsolete laws that hinder the legal framework.

We should strive to improve the access of justice by use of technology and alternative dispute management systems for ease of doing business. Several parameters can help reduce the compliance burdens for the businesses. Jan Vishwas Bill has decriminalized many laws, taking all stakeholders in mind. He further talked about the new reservation system of women in parliament and legislative assembly is a ground breaking step and it is a time to empower young minds with legal education. Bharat legal conclave covered

the pertinent themes including ESG, Disputes, Digital Competition Law and M&A.

Other eminent dignitaries at

the conclave included Hemant Sahai Immediate Past Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Legal Affairs and Regulatory Reforms; & Founding Partner, HSA Advocates; . Rajinder Kumar Co-Chairperson, ASSOCHAM National Council on Legal Affairs and Regulatory Reforms; & Managing Partner, Kumar Law Associates; Basudev Mukherjee Assistant Secretary General, ASSOCHAM; Samir Gandhi, Partner & Co-founder Axiom5 Law Chambers: Dr Lalit Bhasin, Advocate Supreme Court of India and Managing Partner Bhasin & Co; Sumeet Malik Director EBC group of companies, Publishers of SCC and SCC online.

of 'Cash for Query' by Moitra, I humbly request your goodself to constitute an 'Inquiry Committee', by following the past precedent. I also request you that during the interregnum period, i.e. constitution of an 'Inquiry Committee' and its submission of Report, Moitra may be immediately suspended from the services of the House so that she may not be able to enter into Parliament precincts and does not further attempt to vitiate the serene atmosphere of Parliament, "Dubey added.



## Inflation eases, but is relief temporary?

eptember brought a sigh of relief for consumers as inflation rates eased to 5%, a significant drop from July's alarming 15-month high of 7.44%. This dip not only brings us back within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2% to 6% tolerance range but also aligns with the bank's revised estimate of an average 6.4% inflation for the July-September quarter. However, with the RBI's ideal target being 4%, there's still a long way to go. The RBI's projections for the upcoming quarters suggest that the inflation rate will hover around 5.6% and 5.2% for the October-December 2023 and January-June 2024 periods, respectively. However, these figures might be optimistic. Both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have recently adjusted their inflation estimates for 2023-24 to 5.5% and 5.9%, respectively. This suggests that the recent dip in inflation, influenced by factors like a decrease in vegetable prices and LPG price cuts by the Centre, might be short-lived. While food inflation has shown a decline, dropping to 6.6% in September, this figure is skewed. The decline in vegetable prices masks the rising inflation rates for pulses, fruits, eggs, and sugar. Moreover, cereals and spices continue to see high inflation rates of 11% and 23.1%, respectively. The rural populace, in particular, is feeling the pinch more than their urban counterparts. While wholesale prices have remained in deflationary territory for the past six months, this trend might soon reverse. With global oil and gas prices on the rise and urea prices up by inevitably trickle down to retail prices. To sum it up, while the recent dip in inflation offers a momentary respite, it's crucial to remain cautious. External factors and global price trends suggest that the battle against high inflation is far from over.

#### LETTERBOX

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"I never dreamed about success – I worked for it."

> Estee Lauder, co-founder of Estee Lauder

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ADITYA SINHA EXPLAINS WHY COUNTRIES SHOULDN'T WEAKEN REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITIVENESS

## 8

## Time to confront AI's long-term risks

concept, susceptible to shifts in societal values, technological advancements, and scientific discoveries. For instance, before the digital age, sharing one's personal details openly was relatively risk-free. Yet, in the age of cyberattacks and data breaches, the same act is fraught with dangers. A vivid cinematic example of evolv-

ing perceptions of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

risk is the film, Ex Machina

In the story, an AI named Ava, initially viewed as a marvel of synthetic intelligence, reveals her potential to outwit and manipulate her human creators, culminating in unforeseen hazards. Such a tale exemplifies how our understanding of AI risk can drastically change as the technology's capabilities become clearer. This underscores the importance of identifying the short- and long-term risks. The immediate risks might be more tangible, such as ensuring that an AI system does not malfunction in its day-to-day tasks. Long-term risks might grapple with broader existential questions about AI's role in society and its implications for humanity. Addressing both types of risks requires a multifaceted approach, weighing current challenges against potential future ramifications.

#### Over the long term

The risks that present themselves over the long term are worth looking at.

Yuval Noah Harari has expressed concerns about the amalgamation of AI and biotechnology, highlighting the potential to fundamentally alter human existence by manipulating human emotions, thoughts, and desires. In a recent statement by the Center for AI Safety, more than 350 AI professionals have voiced their concerns over the potential risks posed by AI technology.

One should be a bit worried about the intermediate and existential risks of more evolved AI systems of the future — for in-



stance, if essential infrastructure such as water and electricity increasingly rely on AI. Any malfunction or manipulation of such Al systems could disrupt these pivotal services, potentially hampering societal functions and public well-being. Similarly, although seemingly improbable, a 'runaway AI' could cause more harm — such as the manipulation of crucial systems such as water distribution or the alteration of chemical balances in water supplies, which may cause catastrophic repercussions even if such probabilities appear distant. AI sceptics fear these potential existential risks, viewing it as more than just a tool — as a possible catalyst for dire outcomes possibly leading to extinction.

The evolution to human-level AI that is capable of outperforming human cognitive tasks will mark a pivotal shift in these risks. Such AIs might undergo rapid self-improvement, culminating in a super-intelligence that far outpaces human intellect. The potential of this super-intelligence acting on misaligned, corrupted or malicious goals presents dire scenarios. The challenge lies in aligning AI with universally accepted human values. The rapid pace of AI advancement, spurred by market pressures, often eclipses

safety considerations, raising concerns about unchecked AI development.

The world does not have a unified approach. The lack of a unified global approach to AI regulation can be detrimental to the foundational objective of AI governance — to ensure the long-term safety and ethical deployment of AI technologies. The AI Index from Stanford University reveals that legislative bodies in 127 countries passed 37 laws that included the words "artificial intelligence".

One of the most celebrated regulations out of these is the European Union's AI Act. It adopts a 'risk-based' approach, tying the severity of risk to the area of AI deployment. This makes sense when considering AI applications in critical infrastructures, which demand heightened scrutiny. However, tying risk solely to the deployment area is an oversimplified strategy. It might overlook certain risks that are not directly tied to the deployment area. Therefore, while the area-specific approach is valuable, a more holistic view of AI risks is necessary to ensure comprehensive and effective regulation and oversight.

However, there is a conspicuous absence of collaboration and cohesive action at the

international level, and so long-term risks associated with AI cannot be mitigated. If a country such as China does not enact regulations on AI while others do, it would likely gain a competitive edge in terms of AI advancements and deployments. This unregulated progress can lead to the development of AI systems that may be misaligned with global ethical standards, creating a risk of unforeseen and potentially irreversible consequences. This could result in destabilisation and conflict, undermining international peace and security.

Thus, nations engaging in rigorous AI safety protocols may be at a disadvantage, encouraging a race to the bottom where safety and ethical considerations are neglected in favour of rapid development and deployment. This uneven playing field can inadvertently encourage other nations to loosen their regulatory frameworks to maintain competitiveness, thereby further compromising global AI safety.

#### The dangers of military Al

Furthermore, the confluence of technology with warfare amplifies long-term risks. Addressing the perils of military AI is crucial. The international community has formed treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to manage such potent technologies, demonstrating that establishing global norms for AI in warfare is a pressing but attainable goal. Treaties such as the Chemical Weapons Convention are further examples of international accord in restricting hazardous technologies. Nations must delineate where AI deployment is unacceptable and enforce clear norms for its role in warfare. In this ever-evolving landscape of AI risks, the world must remember that our choices today will shape the world we inherit tomorrow.

Aditya Sinha is Officer on Special Duty, Research, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Views are personal.



SONALDE DESAI DELVES INTO GENDER NORMS THAT PUSH WOMEN TO FAMILY DUTIES AS MEN FOCUS ON CAREERS

## Eliminate the gender pay discrepancy in the professional world



hen women were missing from the labour force, that was because they were home caring for children; when they were paid less than men, that was because they had lower education than men. Or so said the economic orthodoxy, including theories popularised by the 1992 Nobel Prize winner Gary Becker. A few feminist economists and sociologists protested, but their voices were drowned out until Claudia Goldin stood on the podium as the President of the American Economic Association in 2013-14 and argued that the answer to the solution of missing and underpaid women did not lie at home but rather, in the market.

When Betty Friedan wrote in 1963 about college-educated women who were frustrated stay-at-home mothers, she noted that their 2023 Economics Nobel Prize winner, has spent half a century giving a name and voice to their problems. She has chronicled the evolution of the American economy from agriculture to manufacturing to services and noted that as economic production moved from home to factories, women were excluded from market activities. It was not until offices, schools, and hospitals began to offer more jobs than factories that women found jobs. However, even when they entered the workforce in droves, overtook men in educational attainment, did not congregate in "female jobs," and did not drop out from the labour force to have children, women continued to earn less than men.

Professor Goldin argued that this disadvantage is due to their inability to take on jobs that involve all-consuming responsibilities.



Parental responsibilities make it difficult for women to take on jobs requiring long hours and irregular work schedules. The private equity partner who saw the deal through and stayed for late-night dinners and meetings had the chance of getting a fat bonus and promotion. These demands are incompatible with raising children, and one partner of a couple often chooses to go on a slower and safer track, the track dubbed the "mommy track," even at the cost of a high-profile career. While women need not be the ones choosing this slow track, gender ideologies often prompt couples to assign women to take over extra family duties while men remain free to concentrate on their careers.

Professor Goldin blamed this inequality on "greedy work" that demands extraordinary efforts from workers rewarded with high salaries, big bonuses, stock options, and fast promotions. Rising income inequality leads couples to forgo gender equity within the household and concentrate on increas-

ing family income via specialisation. Her solution to this dilemma is restructuring a workplace that does not rely on heroic efforts, has moderate work hours, and predictable schedules.

In some ways, Professor Goldin's work dovetails with that of Juliet Schor, who argued in her book The Overworked American that it was far more beneficial to companies to hire two workers who worked long hours than three workers who worked regular hours since it reduced costs such as health insurance, office space, and personnel services. I suspect that Indian workers in Bengaluru struggling to keep up with Zoom calls at 9:30 p.m. to confer with their American counterparts arriving in the office at 9 a.m. while helping their children with their Algebra homework will relate to this.

Although women's employment rates in India remain low, secular changes suggest that there is no reason why this must continue. Building on Professor Goldin's

observations, the growth of the service sector should offer jobs for women that are not offered by the manufacturing sector; rising education should increase their employability; and declining fertility should free up women's time. But how can we take advantage of these fortuitous circumstances?

#### Reshaping the environment

While increased male participation in household work and childcare would help, we must also find ways of reshaping both the work and social environment so that they are conducive to developing a work-life balance for both men and women. This means having work structures that are respectful of workers' time and do not emphasise very long work hours. This makes both social and economic sense. Stanford economist John Pencavel has shown that longer working hours do not mean more productivity and, in some jobs, lead to increased mistakes

But if we need to rein in the greedy workplace, we also need to rein in a variety of institutions that demand more and more of our time. This includes schools that rely on parents to supervise homework and urban developments that place homes far from workplaces. Until we can create these supportive institutions, it will be hard to write the last chapter for the grand gender convergence in labour market outcomes that Claudia Goldin advocates for so fiercely.

Sonalde Desai is a Professor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research and University of Maryland. Views are personal



**BOOKS: REVIEW** 

## New novel finds ways to balance civil dreams and heartfelt bonds

SATISH SINGH

n the vast expanse of contemporary literature, Kailash Manju Bishnoi's debut novel, "UPSC Wala Love Collector Sahiba," emerges as a poignant reflection on the dreams, aspirations, and challenges faced by civil service aspirants in India. Drawing from his personal experiences and insights, Bishnoi crafts a narrative that is as much about the rigorous journey of civil service preparation as it is about the complexities of human emotions.

The story revolves around Girish, a renowned columnist whose writings grace the pages of the country's most prestigious newspapers and magazines, and Angel, a diligent civil service aspirant. Their paths cross when Angel stumbles upon one of Girish's articles, leading to a bond that blossoms into love. As the narrative unfolds, we witness the

contrasting fortunes of the two protagonists: Angel achieves her dream of becoming an IAS officer, while Girish grapples with the weight of unfulfilled aspirations. Yet, their love remains unwavering, even in the face of adversity.

Bishnoi's portrayal of the mental and emotional turmoil experienced by both successful and unsuccessful aspirants is commendable. He delves deep into the psyche of these individuals, highlighting the immense pressure, the shadow of failure, and the resilience required to navigate this challenging path. The novel also sheds light on the often-overlooked stories of aspirants hailing from lower-middleclass backgrounds, villages, and impoverished families, adding layers of depth and authenticity to the narrative.

A unique aspect of the novel is its incorporation of contemporary issues. Bishnoi touches upon the Corona period, corruption, and

Bishnoi's portrayal of the mental and emotional turmoil experienced by both successful and unsuccessful aspirants is commendable

bureaucratic red tape. While these elements aim to ground the story in the realities of modern-day India, they occasionally feel out of place and detract from the central narrative. Some dialogues between characters also come across as forced or illogical, suggesting areas for improvement in potential future editions.

However, these minor shortcomings do not overshadow the novel's strengths. Bishnoi's writing is engaging, and his characters are well fleshed out, making it easy for readers to empathize with their struggles and triumphs.



Love Collector Sahiba By Kailash Manju Bishnoi Seekosity Books; 185 pages; Rs320

The intricate dynamics of Girish and Angel's relationship, marked by love, understanding, and occasional conflicts between the heart and mind, are portrayed with sensitivity and nuance.

Beyond the central love story, Bishnoi's novel serves as a commentary on the broader societal structures and expectations that shape the lives of young Indians. The civil service, often viewed as a prestigious and secure career path, is emblematic of the societal pressures many face, especially when juxtaposed against the backdrop of personal relationships and aspirations. Bishnoi's decision to set his love story amidst this high-pressure environment is a testament to the multifaceted challenges today's youth face, where personal de-

UPSC Wala sires often clash with familial Love Collector and societal expectations.
Furthermore, the novel subtly

Furthermore, the novel subtly underscores the transformative power of love and support. In a world where success is often narrowly defined by professional achievements, the relationship between Girish and Angel serves as a poignant reminder that true success might lie in the connections we forge and the love we share. Their journey, filled with highs and lows, becomes a metaphor for the broader human experience, where love, understanding, and mutual respect can become guiding lights in the face of adversity. Bishnoi's "UPSC Wala Love Collector Sahiba" is not just a love story; it's a reflection on modern life, ambition, and the values that truly matter.

To sum it up, "UPSC Wala Love Collector Sahiba" is a heartfelt exploration of love, ambition, and perseverance set against the backdrop of the demanding world of civil service preparation. While it has its flaws, Bishnoi's debut effort is commendable and offers readers a glimpse into a world that is both challenging and rewarding.

## BLUE JET Healthcare Limited announces Rs 840 crore IPO

BLUE JET Healthcare Limited here recently announced its Initial Public Offering (IPO) priced at between Rs 329 to Rs 346 per equity share, with offer for sale of 2.42 crore equity shares aggregating Rs 840 crores.

The IPO will open on October 25 and close on October 27, 2023. The equity shares are proposed to be listed on BSE and NSE. BLUE Jet Healthcare Limited is a specialty pharmaceutical and healthcare ingredient and intermediate company, offering niche products targeted towards innovator pharmaceutical and multinational generic pharmaceutical companies.

Executive Chairman Akshay Arora said that the company had started with producing highintensity sweeteners for the industry, besides contrast media technology with med-tech for prevention and life-saving drugs. "We are now a hardcore technology' company involved in taking up challenges through our R&D Center," he said while reiterating that "the company's expansion plans are all focused on India only due to the massive scope of business in the country, and maintaining negligible

**AVer Joins Astrogate** 

**Partnership Program** 

to Strengthen Video

**Conferencing Solutions** 

Information Inc., an award-

winning provider of video

conferencing solutions, has

joined the Astrogate Partner-

ship Program as a validated

technology partner. This pro-

gram expands the capabilities

of AVer's video conferencing

cameras to include ASTROS

Conference, Astrogate's wire-

solutions and ASTROS Confer-

ence streamline the process of

virtual meetings. AVer video

conferencing solutions ensure

that remote workers have high-

quality audio-video meeting

Conference gives in-office work-

ers an intuitive wireless collab-

orative experience. Setting up

and starting meetings through the joint solution is a simple,

straightforward process—after connecting the AVer camera

solution to the ASTROS Station,

plug in the ASTROS Pod to the laptop, open Microsoft Teams

or Zoom, and the meeting is

Taneira embraces

the launch of its

**Queen's collection** 

**NEWDELHI:** This Diwali, Tanei-

ra, a TATA product, adds a spark

to your celebration by launching

its festive edit -The Queen's col-

lection. Featuring the stunning

Mrunal Thakur, the brand un-

veiled a TVC to launch its exquisite

range of designer sarees hand-

crafted in diverse clusters of pure

silk. Mrunal Thakur lights up the

screen with her elegant presence,

swirling and twirling, dancing,

and reveling in the festive spirit,

her individuality.

festive fervour with

now ready to go.

AVer's video conferencing

less conferencing solution.



dependence on China." Noting that the Pharma Intermediates and APIs segment was incubated 5 years back, Shiven Arora, Managing Director of the company, said that the company's focus was now on: De-risking dependence on China by global API and formulation players; Growth in global pharmaceutical market; Self-sufficiency with import substitution, and focus on sustainability through its manufacturing facilities. "In order to build additional production capacity to meet the envisaged increase of customer demands, we are continuing to invest in our R&D infrastructure and capabilities," he emphasized while adding that "Most of our business is export-led (90-95%)."

Pointing out that the company's R&D has doubled, he said the company's 'Green' and 'Sustainability' activities included: creating +carbon sinks+ through tree-planting, effluent treatment, investment in windmills

resources. The company was incorporated in the year 1968 as Jet Chemicals Private Limited by the late B L Arora and is promoted by its Executive Chair-

with 3.3 MW installed capacity

company's energy requirements

would be met through its energy

which meant that 80% of the

man Akshay Bansarilal Arora. It operates under the "Blue Jet" brand name and has competencies and manufacturing capabilities in contrast to media intermediates and high-

saccharin and its salts as well as active pharmaceutical ingredients. Its business model focuses on collaboration, development and manufacturing of complex chemistry categories. Over the past five decades, through its R&D center, the company has developed over 100 products with over 40 products commercialized.

Over three years, the company has catered to more than 400 customers across 39 countries in the oral care and the non-alcoholic beverages space.

The company operates three manufacturing facilities in: Shahad, Ambernath and Mahad in Maharashtra with an annual installed capacity of 200.60 KL, 607.30 KL and 213.00 KL respectively.

During capacity expansion in FY 21, it acquired a 'greenfield' industrial facility on a leasehold basis in Ambernath. Its total annual production is expected to reach 1,513.6KL.

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Ltd, ICICI Securities Limited and J P Morgan India Private Limited are the book running lead managers and Link Intime India Private Limited is the registrar to the

'Housing for All' and Smart City

projects are propelling urban

infrastructure and construction

development," he said, adding

that the surge in demand for

residential housing - driven

by increased urbanization and

rising household incomes - fur-

ther underscores the industry's

Describing this Expo as a

commitment to this landscape

and its perfect alignment with

urban infrastructure, Mudras

said a white paper on "Artificial

Intelligence in Construction"

## **Wipro Announces Financial Results for** the quarter-Ended September 30,2023

**ARUN KUMAR RAO** Bengaluru

Indian IT services company Wipro Announced during the press conference financial results for the Quarter-Ended September 30, 2023, A marginal decline in its July-September revenue at Rs 22.516 crore due to the macroeconomic slowdown and cut backs on discretionary IT spending by clients. The IT major Wipro profit after tax (PAT) rose 0.70% year-on-year (yoy) to Rs 2,667 crore.

Wipro had reported profit of Rs 2,649 crore and revenue of Rs 22,540 crore in the corresponding quarter of last year. The IT services revenue is seen to contract 3.5% to 1.5% constant currency (CC) terms. IT services segment revenue stood at \$2,7133.3 million, down 2.3% quarteron-quarter (QoQ).

Thierry Delporte, CEO and Managing Director, said "We continue to win in the market despite the uncertain macro environment", and "We ended the second quarter with 22 accounts above the \$100M range, which is double the number we had in RY'21. Our large deal total contract value



on profitable growth despite a in the last nine quarters." He

Delporte said, "We are investing in our technology infrastructure and streamlining our operations and delivery to drive profitable growth. We are training and reskilling our people so they can be ready for an AI-driven future. The investments we made in our ai360 strategy are helping us realize significant efficiencies across our organization and rating an early leadership position in this fast-evolving space. We are confident that these investments will keep us resilient and competitive in an ever shifting business and economic landscape." He

Newly took over Chief Finan- the quarter was Rs 5.06 (\$0.06), cial Officer (CFO), Aparna c. an increase of 4.1% YoY.

#### Concrete Expo highlighting environmentfriendly solutions DOMINICK RODRIGUES

Mumbai

The three-day "World of Concrete 2023" held here recently is paving a promising path for 'sustainable" construction with the participants highlighting environment-friendly solutions in the wake of climate change occurring globally.

The event highlighted environmental, land, air and water pollution that has become a grim reality worldwide, but is being gradually addressed in various ways by numerous players in the construction

India's total power production sector scenario is witnessing 1,491,859 MUs (2021-22): Thermal (75.2% at 1,122,213), Nuclear (47,112), Hydro (151,622) and Renewable 170,912).

India has 200 power sta tions with 213,620 MW generating 1,122,213 Mus, consuming 759 million tons of coal, and generating 271 million tons ash out of which 260 million tons is utilized. Coal's average ash content is 35.68% and 95.95% is utilized in different ways by industry.

Meanwhile, Indian industry is rising to the challenge of dealing with the problems involved in this scenario through a sustainable and productive

Ashtech India Pvt. Ltd has created value through management of fly ash from power plants of: Reliance Power, GMR, NTPC (Badlapur), TNEB Ennore TPS and Reliance DTPS, besides having 900 plus BTB clients. Its products include: processed flyash, cement, gypsum powder, readymix plaster, concrete blocks, aggregates, admixtures and GBFS (Slag).

The company highlighted 'Total Ash Management" and ash utilization beyond 100%.

the construction industry.

## "Green and sustainable" are mantra for Concrete Industry 2023

**DOMINICK RODRIGUES** Mumbai

"Green and sustainable" the mantra that drives change and continues to evolve in every industry was the focus of the "World of Concrete 2023" that was held here from Oct 18 to 30.

As many as 200 exhibitors and 10,000 industry professionals, policy-makers, decision-makers, influencers and technical experts highlighted this Expo, which featured a wide range of products and technologies related to concrete, masonry, construction and equipment.

"While Internet of Things (IOT) and Blockchain technology are playing a major role in this industry, Trust remains an important factor in this also," according to Sanjay Bhatia, IAS, Upa Lokayukta, Maharashtra State and former Chairman, tion sector employed around

Narrating the case of the proposed CIDCO-Navi Mumbai economic growth



airport here, he said lack of trust between CIDCO and the PAPs (Project-Affected Persons) had witnessed this project being stalled from the 90s to 2014 before the concerned stakeholders "meditated" upon it and finally resolved 99% of the concerned Yogesh Mudras, Managing

Director, Informa Markets which organized the event, noted that India's construc-Vice-Chairman & MD, CICDO. and aimed at reaching 100 million by 2030 to support national

lenges and milestone achievements - would be unveiled here. Another speaker said that India is on the "cusp" of takeoff in

growth with this year's statistics highlighting technology and sustainability as +core+ factors. Even private stakeholders were ready to "stick their necks out" provided there was a silver linng here, he said. Over 70 speakers delivered

coming off CEOs and CTOs

discussions on industry chal-

insightful sessions on various topics including sustainable concrete construction practices, digital and automation technologies in construction, net zero concrete. The expertly curated confer-

ence was envisaged to highlight innovations in the construction sector. India's concrete industry, which is pivotal for infrastructure development and diverse projects – roads, bridges, airports, railways and housing

#### Nikon Zf camera launched at Amritsar

**JAGMOHAN SINGH** 

Amritsar

Nikon India introduced the highly anticipated Nikon Z camera in India during a launch event at Amritsar on Nikon India solidifies its

mirror less camera line-up with the launch of this hybrid camera that is set to redefine the art of videography as well as photography. To revolutionize the imaging landscape, the Nikon Z f comes equipped with a full-frame sensor, the **EXPEED 7 image-processing** engine, and top-tier specifications which are at par with Nikon mirror less flagship products - the Nikon Z 9 and

The new Z f offers the versatility of a full-frame Nikon sensor. This makes the camera a hallmark of image quality. depth and dynamic range. The cutting-edge Autofocus built with Deep Learning technology allows the user to economic growth, is experienc- capture stunningly sharp imlow-light performance and image stabilization the Zfencompasses form and function



challenging market. Our dis-

ciplined approach to improve

efficiency, productivity and uti-

lization has led to an increase of

100 BPS YoY in our IT services

operating margins. Our abso-

lute IT services segment EBIT

grew 6% YoY. We generated

strong operating cash flow of

145% of net income for the

quarter" she stated. Highlights

of the Wipro Results. Gross

revenue reached Rs 225.2 bil-

lion (\$2.7 billion), a decrease of

0.1% YoY. IT services segment

revenue was at \$2,713.3 mil-

lion, a decrease of 2.3% QoQ.

IT services segment EBIT for

the quarter was Rs 36.1 biliion

(\$434.0 million) an increase of

6% YoY. Earnings per share for

f is poised to elevate creativity, setting new standards in performance, and promising to transform every moment and 'Make it Iconic'. Commenting on the launch,

Mr. Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director of Nikon India Pvt. Ltd. said, "We, at Nikon India, are extremely thrilled at the launch of our new mirrorless camera, the Nikon Z f. The camera is perfect for modernday creators as it is packed ZIGMA INTERNATIONAL with AI-driven features like Portrait Impression Balance, Skin Softening, and Advance Auto Focus and be a good companion for wedding and wildlife photography. We are happy to be in Punjab – a state known for its vibrant wedding hours of added protection" customs and magnificent fe

Meanwhile, with fires being vitnessed constantly -- especially in residential and commercial highrise buildings and skyscrapers that tower above the reach of fire engines -- fire safety remains a problem for

showcased its product "pyroguard" - a fire-resistant, pre-bagged dry mix mortar for use with water at site on concrete and steel structures. This product "allows 2 to 4 down of structure and allowing extended time for rescue

## with First Flagship Store in Bengaluru



Bengaluru

Iconic denim and lifestyle brand Wrangler announced the opening of its first flagship in Bengaluru. The store is a significant milestone for Wrangler's expansion in India. With this store, Wrangler continues to elevate consumer experience through technology innovation, customized shopper experiences and a wide product assortment for the Indian consumers.

unveiling the Queen's Collection - a heartfelt tribute to the spirited women of today-those who com-This said to be the largest pose their own stories, choreostore of Wrangler® in India. The Wrangler® store offers graph their own journeys, and script unique narratives. Crafted the newest range of fits for in a language that speaks to its diboth men and women in line verse audience across the country, with the latest trends, and Taneira's campaign portrays a premium collections and collaborations. This includes woman experiencing unfettered the special Wrangler x Smriti joy, embracing her authentic self, and expressing her intrinsic feeling Mandhana that features handof being a queen as she adorns the picked pieces that stick with six yards, transforming the saree consumers through thick and into a beautiful canvas that mirrors and growth through the Ride

store is India's first ever Augmented Reality (AR) mural by a fashion brand in India. ace turtle is the exclusive li-

censee of Wrangler® in India. Commenting on the launch, Nitin Chhabra, CEO, ace turtle said, "We are excited to launch Wrangler®'s first flagship store in Bengaluru. It will allow us to engage with Wrangler®'s consumers who are looking to create a style statement and connect with one of the mostloved apparel brands in the world. At ace turtle, we have been able to leverage our extensive omnichannel commerce expertise and unique technology-driven operating model to scale Wrangler®'s business in India significantly. We aim to expand Wrangler®'s retail footprint and reach across the country and take the brand to millions of Indian consumers via the webstore and the chain thin, symbolizing resilience of offline retail stores being set up across the country." He said.

## Wrangler Expands Retail Footprint in India Indian Pharma sector transcationing from Generics-Oriented **Hub to Innovation-Driven Pharma Economy: Report**

**NEWDELHI:** The Convention on Pharmaceutical Ingredients (CPHI) annual report pointed out that the Indian pharmaceutical industry is transitioning from a generics-oriented hub to an innovation-driven pharmaceutical economy, largely attributed to its prominent Contract Development and Manufacturing Organizations (CDMOs), reported Business Today. The report, accompanied by a

pharmaceutical index, engaged over 250 industry executives from more than 35 countries, offering an annual snapshot of the global pharmaceutical industry's progress and evolution.

The survey conducted showed the potential trends for 2024 and assesses the standing of



major pharmaceutical markets across more than ten distinct

As per the report, US maintains its top-tier position across all assessed criteria. However, India has been steadily ascending year after year, positioning itself for substantial growth in 2024.

Notably, India has excelled in the «growth category,» consistently scoring 7.8 out of 10 for the second consecutive year, surpassing even the United States. Furthermore, India has made substantial

strides in <a href="https://sinding.com/biologics quality-and">biologics quality-and is closely trailing the US</a> in <overall competitiveness, It

CPHI has also unveiled a Pharma Index, amalgamating cumulative scores for various countries, evaluating their performance in the pharmaceutical industry across categories such as Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API), Finished Dosage Form (FDF), Overall Competitiveness, Knowledge of Professionals, and Growth.

The United States distinguishes itself with the highest scores in Overall Competitiveness Knowledge of Professionals, securing its top position in the index with an overall score of

### **Bisleri Continues Its #CarryYour-Game Campaign with Five Indian Super League Teams**

MUMBAI: Bisleri, India's leading packaged drinking water, has forged an exciting partnership with five teams of the prestigious Indian Super League (ISL) as the Official Hydration partner. The five prominent ISL teams include Mumbai City FC, Bengaluru FC, Kerala Blasters FC, Chennaivin FC and FC Goa. The ongoing league promises to captivate football enthusiasts for the next six months, culminating in April 2024.

tivities and happy to bring our

new portfolio of products to

Bisleri x ISL Partnership: Bisleri has introduced limited edition bottles starting with Kerala Blasters FC and FC Goa. Football aficionados in Kerala can look forward to collecting these specialedition bottles featuring images of Rahul KP, Adrian Luna, and Jeakson Singh from the Kerala Blasters FC squad. Meanwhile, in the scenic state of Goa, football enthusiasts will be treated to limited-edition bottles featuring Sandesh Jhingan, Udanta Singh, and Brandon Fernandes, all representing the fervent spirit of FC Goa. These collectible bottles will be made available in two SKUs - 500ml and 1ltr.

Commenting on the association, Tushar Malhotra, Head of Marketing, Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd., said, We are thrilled to bring the exciting world of football to our consumers with our association with five of the most popular teams of Indian Su-



per League. The partnership reflects Bisleri's commitment to nurturing Indian sports and celebrating exceptional talent within the country. The association is part of our larger campaign #ČarryYour-Game that celebrates the love for sports and highlights the importance of hydration in everyday life." Talking about the col-

laboration crafted by the agency, Shekhar Banerjee, Chief Client Officer & Office Head - West, North and East, Wavemaker India said, "Wavemaker is thrilled to facilitate the first-ever partnership for Bisleri as the official hydration partner for 5 Indian Super League teams. #CarryYourGame campaign is all about encouraging individuals to make hydration an integral part of their daily life, including sports. Whether you are a professional athlete, a weekend warrior, or someone who enjoys an occasional game of football or a jog in the park, Bisleri believes that hydration should never be overlooked. In the dynamic world of sports and marketing, partnerships like these exemplify the power of synergy.

#### Airtel in partnership with Ericsson successfully tests India's first RedCap technology on its 5G network **KULBIR SINGH KALSI** the use cases that are not yet

Chandigarh

Bharti Airtel (Airtel), India's premier communications solutions provider and Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) today announced the successful testing of Ericsson's pre-commercial Reduced Capability (RedCap) software on the Airtel 5G network. Carried out in collaboration with Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. using its 5G RedCap test module, the testing on 5G TDD network represents the first implementation and validation of RedCap in In-



dia. Ericsson RedCapis a new radio access network (RAN) software solution that creates new 5G use cases and enables more 5G connections from devices such as smartwatches other wearables, and industrial sensors and AR/VR devices.

RedCap is the next evolution of 5G technology to cater for

best served by current new radio (NR) specifications. Compared to LTE device category 4, RedCap offers similar data rates with improved latency, device energy efficiency and spectrum efficiency. There is also the potential to support 5G NR features such as enhanced positioning and network slicing. Commenting on the testing, Randeep Sekhon, CTO, Bharti Airtel says, "At Airtel we are constantly pushing the

boundaries on technological innovations to find ways to enhance customer experience.

## Festive spending to drive India's Growth at 6.5-6.8%: Deloitte

expected to grow in the current fiscal in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarily due to upcoming festive spending, as per Deloitte

According to its report released on Wednesday this growth will also be driven by higher government expenditure before the national elections mid-next year. In its India economic outlook report, released earlier this month, Deloitte said India will need at least 6.5 per cent growth every fiscal to become the world's third largest economy by 2027, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) crossing USD 5 trillion.

The country needs 8-9 per cent economic growth to become a developed country by 2047, it added. The Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the June quarter, higher than the 7.2 per cent in the year-ago period. "In light of the Q1 GDP growth, we have revised our

FICCI identifies financing and

high costs as major issues

faced by SMEs in India

& Industry (FICCI).

the resilience

tion of SMEs in

India which sug-

gests that bank

loans were the most common

source of finance for setting up

by own capital or self-funding

among SMEs. Among all, the

highest proportion of SMEs have

taken bank loans (85%) for setting

up and running their enterprises

followed by firms that have used

their own capital/ self-funding

(50%), NBFCs (30%), informal

lenders - moneylenders, friends,

family (26%). The report suggests

that digital infrastructure that

supports end-to-end solutions, access to finance, payments,

inventory, operations, trading, sales, etc. would be instrumenta

for enterprises to adopt digital

The report says that 60% of

Indian SMEs use digital tools for

human resource functions, while

sales and marketing, and finance,

respectively. It further says that

the majority of the surveyed SMEs

reported experiencing improve-

ments in productivity and a reduc-

tion in operational costs through

the use of tools such as Customer

Relationship Management (CRM)

and Enterprise Resource Planning



growth estimate for this year to reflect it. We expect GDP to grow in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarily due to festive spending in the coming months followed by higher government spending before the upcoming national elections mid-next year," Deloitte India said.

Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar said navigating geopolitical uncertainties and the slowdown in global economy, undoubtedly, would not be easy. India will have to destination," Majumdar said. India, with a GDP size of

USD 3.4 trillion, is the fifth largest economy in the world, after US, China, Japan, and Germany. Deloitte said India's GDP growth will be over 6.5 per cent next year as geopolitical uncertainties subside, and the global economy bounces back n a stronger growth path. Deloitte said India's micro,

ent, technology and innovation

capabilities, India continues

to be an attractive investment

small, or medium enterprises (MSME) will be key in generating income, capabilities, capacities, and ecosystems needed for sustained growth in consumption and investment that is broad-based and comes from all sections of the economy. The MSME sector will also drive innovation and new opportunities in a cost-effective manner. It will drive job creation and entrepreneurship, especially for women in rural India, it added.

## **CBI takes over probe into Financial Cyber** Scam involving suspected Chinese national

**NEW DELHI:** Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the probe into an alleged scam involving a suspected Chinese national in which Indian citizens were targeted in the name of investments, loans and job opportunities, and their deposits siphoned off through more than 137 shell companies.

The role of a Bengalurubased payout merchant, who was central to the scam and linked with the suspected Chinese national, is under the scanner, the agency said.

"This merchant, central to the fraudulent operation, controlled around 16 distinct bank accounts, where a huge sum of Rs 357 crore (approx) was funnelled. The funds were then dispersed across various accounts deliberately to obscure the (money) trail," CBI said in a statement.

Under Operation Chakra-2 that targets cyber criminals, the central probe agency had recently conducted searches at Bengaluru, Cochin and Gurugram, and these yielded substantial evidence, shedding light on the alleged activities of the shell companies' directors.

The agency registered the case in connection with the scam based on inputs from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which comes under the Union home ministry, according to the statement.

The case is related to "sophisticated, organised cybercrime being perpetuated on Indian citizens by foreign scamsters in the name of investment, loan and job opportunities", it said. The CBI conducted a detailed analysis of the complex money trail and followed it by conducting the

"The fraudsters allegedly exploited various social media platforms and their advertisement portals, encrypted chat applications, and SMS to entice victims with promises of lucrative part-time jobs through ponzi schemes and multi-level marketing initiatives," were targeted by cyl nals based in India.

"To evade detection, these

criminals utilised a multilayered approach involving UPI accounts, cryptocurrencies, and international money transfers," the official said.

The scamsters used the advertisement tool of a popular web search engine besides sending bulk SMSes through "rented headers" to create a "web of deception", according to the statement. The victims were lured to deposit funds through UPI accounts.

The ill-gotten money was laundered through a complex network of UPI accounts, ultimately converging into cryptocurrency or gold purchases using falsified credentials," the spokesperson said in the statement. The statement said that the CBI has identified 137 shell companies, mostly registered with the Registrar of Companies, Bengaluru, which were used to siphon off the money collected from gullible investors.

Following the registration of the case, the CBI spent considerable time identifying the directors of these shell companies. Some directors were also associated with a Bengaluru-based payout merchant, which was under the agency's scanner.

"The roles of two chartered accountants from Bengaluru were found in altering directorships and contact information associated with these fraudulent entities," the official said.

Searches at their premises led to the recovery of certain documents, e-mail communications, and WhatsApp chats, providing critical insights into their alleged role in facilitating the said foreign national's involvement in these operations," the spokesperson said.

Under the operation, the CBI has also registered another case based on inputs from the Singapore police through Interpol in which 400 citizens of the Southeast Asian country were targeted by cyber crimi-

The agency has found 300 cyber frauds against Singapore citizens involving more than 100 Indian bank accounts spread across 10 states and UTs. "It was further alleged that these criminals employed various cyber techniques, including social engineering methods such as phishing, vishing, smishing, and fraudulent tech support, targeting

over 400 Singapore citizens,'

the agency said.

During the search operation under Chakra-2, the CBI searched the premises of these accused. "It was found that the accused utilised various cyber techniques, including social engineering methods such as phishing, vishing, smishing, and fraudulent tech support. Exploiting these techniques, the accused made the victim transfer funds from Singaporean accounts to various accounts in India. The defrauded funds were then distributed among other accounts or withdrawn by these cyber criminals," the statement said.

It said the agency had deciphered the money trail after analysing 150 bank accounts by reconstructing the complex network of interconnected entities based on financial communications. Sleuths recovered documents related to identity proofs, fraudulent banking transactions, and other crucial evidence during searches at the premises of the accused spread across 35 locations in Patna. Kolkata, Lucknow, Varanasi Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Bhopal, Chennai, Kochi and Madurai. "The operation uncovered multiple gangs involved in targeting Singaporean nationals, and their identities were ascertained during the investigation," the statement said. The agency has already registered three more cases under Operation Chakra-2, including two related to cheating foreign nationals from nine call centres in the name of Amazon and Microsoft tech support, and a Rs 100-crore cryptocurrency fraud.

#### Trustworthy data necessary for India to achieve High-Income **Status: World Bank**



countries like India need to make policies based on reliable data to get into the league of high-income nations in next 3-4 decades as achieving sustainable growth will become harder, World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill said on Thursday.

Addressing an event here, Gill said, to grow into higherincome countries, MCIs (Middle Income Countries) will have to reduce deficits in their midsized firms. Gill pointed out that relatively few countries (31) have grown into high-income countries between 1990 and 2021.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set an ambitious target of making India a developed nation by 2047. According to the World Bank, the world's middleincome countries (MICs) are a diverse group by size, population, and income level.

They are defined as lower middle-income economies - those with a GNI (Gross National Income) per capita between USD 1,036 and USD 4,045; and upper middle-income economies those with a GNI per capita between USD 4,046 and USD 12,535. Middleincome countries are home to 75 per cent of the world's population and 62 per cent of the world's poor. At the same time, MICs represent about one-third of global GDP and are major engines of global growth.

Countries with annual per capita income of over USD 12,000 are defined as high-

#### Piramal files Tranche I for public issue of non-convertible debentures



**DOMINICK RODRIGUES** 

formalities. "SIDBI and GAME Mumbai

> Piramal Enterprises Limited, a non-deposit taking, RBI registered systemically important NBFC engaged in providing has filed Tranche I prospectus for public issue of secured, rated, listed, redeemable, nonconvertible debentures of the face value of Rs 1,000 each.

> > The base issue size is Rs. 200

crores with a green shoe option of up to Rs. 800 crores, aggregating up to Rs 1,000 crores "Tranche I Issue"), which is within the shelf limit of Rs 3,000 crores ("Issue"). The Tranche I Issue opens on October 19 and closes on November 2, 2023 with an option of early closure or extension in compliance with SEBI. The NCDs are proposed to be listed on BSE and NSE, with BSE being the Designated Stock Exchange for the Issue. The NCDs have been rated [ICRA] AA (Stable by ICRA Limited and CARE AA; Stable by CARE Ratings Limited. Out of the net proceeds of the

Tranche I Issue, at least 75% shall be utilised for the purpose of onward lending, financing and for repayment / prepayment of interest and principal of existing borrowings of the Company and a maximum up to 25% will be utilised for general corporate purposes. A. K. Capital Services Limited,

JM Financial Limited, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited), and Trust Investment Advisors Private Limited are the lead managers to the Issue ("Lead Managers"). IDBI Trusteeship Services Limited is the Debenture Trustee to the Issue and Link Intime India Private Limited is the Registrar to the Issue. Piramal Enterprises Limited

is the flagship company of the Piramal Group, one of the leading conglomerates in India engaged in providing wholesale and retail lending through its wholly owned subsidiary, Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Company Limited ("PCHFL"), a housing finance company registered with the National Housing Bank ("NHB").

## **MSME Dominated Diamond Polishing Industry Revenue May Drop 30-35% in 2023-24: CRISIL**

mand to firepower its growth,

specifically, private consump-

tion and investment spending,

she said. "What works in India's

favour on the private consump-

tion front are the size of its con-

sumer base, the rising income,

and the aspirations of its young

population, which is the largest

"As for investments, with the

size and scale of operations it

has to offer to global companies,

the availability of skill and tal-

in the world," she added.

NEW DELHI: Despite govern-**NEW DELHI**: India's diamond polishing industry is expected to ment incentives and schemes, the witness a revenue drop by 30-35 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in India face inherent per cent to USD 14-15 billion challenges in financing, as per a in current fiscal year on poor demand from the US, EU and new report by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce China, rating agency CRISIL said on Wednesday. The FICCI report highlights

India exports 75 per cent of its polished diamonds to US,

Rahul Guha, Director, CRI-SIL Ratings said, "Israel imports USD 1.25 billion worth of polished diamonds annually from India. With the country now declaring a war on the Palestinian militant group Hamas, this number could be at risk."

There is some increase in demand in the second half of every fiscal from festivities such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and the Chinese New Year, but this is unlikely to provide a significant offset this time," he said.

BENGALURU: Razorpay, In-

dia's Leading Full-Stack Pay-

ments, and Banking Platform

for Businesses has secured

the top spot at the RBI's 2nd

ger 2023' for its remarkable

product, 'DrishtiPay', which

tive Card and UPI payments

Designed by Razorpay's

POS Team (earlier known

for the visually impaired.

Hackathon - 'HaRBIn-

facilitates easy-to-use, innova- tate digital payments for the

as Ezetap), the solution nection, in case of card trans-

'DrishtiPay' integrates with actions. With a tap of a card



Guha added that the Indian diamond industry is likely to shrink by over a third on an annualised basis this fiscal.

According to CRISIL, with theinventory of higher-cost polished diamonds piling up to over four months of sales, profitability of polishers will be chiselled 50-100 basis points amid lower retail

The silver lining is that a shrinking business translates to reduced debt, which will offset the pressure on credit risk profiles of diamond polishers, it said.

Razorpay POS wins 1st Prize at RBI's Global Hackathon for 'DrishtiPay',

Which Facilitates Ease-to-Use Digital Payments for Visually-Impaired

CRISIL further said that the demand for polished diamonds started weakening since last fiscal amid slowing economic activity leading to a volumetric drop of 25 per cent. But worries about supply of rough diamonds following western sanctions on Russian mining major Alrosa supported prices. Polished diamond price on an average was up nearly 10 per cent last fiscal on-year, it added.

This helped arrest the decline in India's polished diamonds exports to USD 22 billion last fiscal from USD 24.2 billion in fiscal 2022. The report added that in 2023-24, not only has demand fallen further in major markets, but also there has been no disruption in the supply of roughs. Consequently, prices of roughs have corrected, leading to polished diamonds getting cheaper by 10-15 per cent.

phone, it allows visually im-

paired users to provide OTP

securely for transacting in-

stead of struggling to enter a

accessibility of financial ser-

vices while bringing efficiency

and inclusion. The prestigious

award was presented by Shri

T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Gov-

ernor of the Reserve Bank

of India, recognizing the

exceptional innovation and

inclusivity brought forth by

o contribute to

## **SIDBI-GAME with NGAP for growing finances to MSMEs**

**DOMINICK RODRIGUES** 

SIDBI and Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) here recently onboard-PIN. DrishtiPay is designed ed the first cohort for the NBFC (NGAP), which has been designed to scale small NBFCs through design interventions that enable them to apply for institutional funding based on holistic evaluation parameters.

The five-month intense program, that includes mentoring from domain experts on: Risk, Operations, Governance and

main issues at the global level

with investing in government

bonds in India: one is tax ben-

efits and the other is payment



Technology, has been structured to encourage and facilitate peer learning, reviews and networking through a blend of in-person, virtual and individualized sessions.

Ravi Venkatesan, Founder, GAME, said only 15% of MSMEs are able to access credit

are creating this NBFC accelerator to identify growth-oriented MSMEs and strengthen their capacity through this program to make them more creditworthy."

atleast 80% of the cohort receiving funding after the program and, over the next year, we will have a larger pool of lendable NBFCs who can service a large number of MSMEs. The aim is to build capacities of a 100+ NBFCs in 3 years, thereby enhancing the credit flow to

## Now Govt Bonds will be listing at JP Morgan

visually impaired. DrishtiPay

operates seamlessly with

feature phones, even in the

absence of an internet con-

o o d that the globally renowned JP Morgan group has announced to incorporate the bonds of the Indian government into its in the near future. Currently, esteemed Global Bond Index. However, the impact of this announcement will be visible only after June 2024. It's important to note that governments often borrow from the market to bridge financial gaps, and these borrowings are facilitated through government bonds. Financial deficits occur when dian banks and the insurance expenses exceed revenue in any economy. In the present context more than 60 per cent in them. of the Indian economy, the government proposed a financial borrowing of 15.43 trillion rupees under the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24. This borrowing aims to address the financial deficit or fiscal deficit in the economy. Government bonds can have both short-term and mal sector at very high interest

stand that "global bond index" of J P Morgan group lists government bonds only. This index used to be 40 percent. That is, is similar to what Sensex and Nifty are for equities in India. had to invest about 40 percent

they are generally proposed for

The Modi government has now

set a maximum tenure of 50

years for these bonds.

economies of the world. Hence, embracing this strategy could prove highly lucrative for India on the global stage. It offers the prospect of attracting capital from diverse foreign investors through government bonds foreign investments in Indian government bonds are just over 2%, which does not effectively contribute to India's financial stability globally. The responsibility for investments under bonds for government loans since independence has largely been shouldered by Insector.At present, banks invest Due to this, financial facilities given by banks to other sectors in Indian society, including MSMEs, are comparatively very low. Consequently,the small and micro industries are able to get their financial facilities and loans only through the inforlong-term durations, although rates. These high financial costs always hamper the financial efthe long term by governments. ficiency of Indian MSMEs and small and medium industries. This commitment on Indian banks remains due to the Statu-It is also important to under- tory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) rate of the Reserve Bank. It is noteworthy that in the 80's the SLR

during that time, Indian banks



of their financial liquidity in government bonds. As a result, the Indian economy could not expand much at that time and later in the recommendations of various financial committees. a demand was made to reduce the SLR, but even today this rate remains at 19 percent. Similarly, the insurance sector in India primarily invests in various Triple A-rated" government bonds, limiting the expansion of insurance companies into sectors beyond life insurance, creating challenges in customercentricity and profitability.

What future benefits this accomplishment of the Modi government will have for the Indian economy and society is currently a topic of discussion. One thing is certain that the commitment to invest in government bonds will give some relief to Indian banks in the future. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will likely reduce the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) in the future, due to the increased flow of foreign investments into government bonds listed in J.P. Morgan's index after June 2024. Consequently, in the upcoming years, Indian banks will be able to obtain loans easily for their financial needs, especially in sectors like MSMEs, enhancing their profitability. Another potential benefit lies in the current highinterest rates on bonds, which impose a significant financial burden on the government. Data indicates that the interest rate on government bonds has remained around 10% since 2000. Although it briefly dropped to around 5% in 2005-06, but it is presently over 7%. With the anticipated increase in foreign investments following J.P. Morgan's listing, these costs are likely to decrease. As a result, the government can al-

locate its financial funds towards

infrastructure development and

various social welfare schemes,

focusing mainly on education

in foreign currency outside India. We also need to understand that despite being listed on JP Morgan, government bonds will be issued in Indian Rupees, and foreign investors will be attracted to invest at the maximum interest rate due to the exchange rate impact on the global level compared to the dollar. It's essential to note that when the flow of foreign investors increases, the demand for Indian Rupee will rise significantly, making it stronger against the dollar. However, it remains to be seen whether the Indian export lobby will accept this situation as it might impact their profits. Another significant concern is how the Reserve Bank of India will control inflation in the domestic market due to the increased demand or supply of Rupee. Undoubtedly, when there will be a reduction in the cost of government bonds through foreign investors, there

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

will be a change in the tax rates

in the domestic market, which

will ultimately benefit the In-

#### Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank with largest branch network earns Rs.222 crore as net profit: Chairman



**JAG MOHAN THAKEN** Haryana

Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank, a joint entity of Central Government, Punjab National Bank and the state having the largest branch network in the state with 680 branches, released its financial results for the half year ended September, 2023 on Tuesday in a press conference convened at its Head Office at Rohtak.

Highlighting the financial results of the bank, P.K. Mohanty, the Chairman of the Bank stated that the Net profit of the Bank increased 2.5 times from Rs.88 crore of the half year ended September 2022 to Rs.222 crore of the half year ended September, 2023. And Bank's total business increased by 13.63% YoY from Rs.31169 crore as on 30.09.2022 to Rs.35418 crore as on 30.09.2023. Bank's total deposits reached to Rs.21514 crore and total advances Rs.13904

Chairman also divulged that the Gross NPA of the Bank has decreased from 6.34% to 3.65%and the CRAR of the Bank has increased from 14.21% to 15.03%.

P.K. Mohanty, the Chairman said that the Bank has fixed the target of total business of Rs.40,000 crore for the year ending 31.03.2024 with total deposits of Rs.24000 crore and advances of Rs.16000 crore. Bank's focus will remain on increasing loans to MSME & retail sectors besides agriculture sector during the current financial year. The bank has announced full waiver of upfront/processing fee and documentation charges on housing loans, car loans, loans against property, personal loans and MSME loans up to 31.12.2023 under Festival Bonanza offer to promote lending under MSME and retail sectors.

Mohanty also revealed that the bank has started internet banking facility for its account

DR P S VOHRA This index gives priority only to some of the fastest growing and healthcare. However, this path won't be so easy because there are two

UPI apps and cards, to facili- or through an NFC-enabled DrishtiPay.

## US pushing Israel not to initiate war with Hezbollah

istration has privately been urging Israel not to launch a military campaign against Hezbollah, as Washington works to keep the current war from spreading beyond Gaza, media reports said.

The US recognises that Israel must respond to the increased targeting of its northern border by Hezbollah since the shock Hamas onslaught on October 7 in which over 1, 400 Israelis were killed, the officials clarified.

But the repeated attacks by the Lebanese group and the fact that Israel failed to anticipate the brutal assault by Hamas from Gaza have led to the intensification of discussions about whether Israel must be the one to initiate a battle against Hezbollah to

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind

over brutal attack on

expresses deep anguish

**Gaza Hospital & violence** 

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind has con-

demned the attack by Israel on a

Gaza hospital that killed around

one thousand people many of

them women and children.

In a statement to the media, the

President of Jamaat-e-Islami

Hind, Syed Sadatullah Hu-

saini said, "We condemn and

express utmost disgust at the

heinous bombardment of Al-

Ahli Hospital in Central Gaza.

Around 1000 are reported to

women and children. The hos-

order from the Israeli military.

Jamaat terms this as a massa-

cre and a crime against human-

continuously targeting schools

and hospitals in clear viola-

human values. The powerful



maintain the upper hand.

Such talk has been cause for concern for the US, which has been privately and publicly warning Hezbollah and Iran not to open a war on Israel's northern front, the officials said, Times of Israel reported.

The US has cautioned Israel to be careful in its military responses to Hezbollah fire, the officials said.

explaining that an IDF mistake in Lebanon could spark a much larger war, the officials

Biden officials have indicated to Israel in recent days that if Hezbollah initiates a war against Israel, the US military will join the IDF in fighting the militant group,

> ism.Today, and always." In a separate post, Sunak added: "To have a child taken from you is a parent's worst nightmare.This morning I heard from families going through this unbearable agony.

even children and women,

the interruption of food, wa-

ter, medicine, and electricity

supply, and the continuous

bombing of populated areas

and attempts to evacuate Gaza.

We must always remember

that the Zionist government

has been continuously evicting

Palestinians from their homes

and lands for the past years and

brutally oppressing the native

inhabitants of this land, the

**JOOR Raises \$25M to** 

**Accelerate Growth and** 

Innovation; Expand in Payments and New

leading digital wholesale ecosys-

tem, today announced that it has

raised \$25M in new funding

led by Brightwood Capital and

Tamarix Capital Partners. Exist-

ing investors Macquarie Capital,

Battery Ventures, and Canaan

Partners also participated. This

additional raise will allow JOOR

to deliver an increasingly en-

riched platform experience in

service of its extensive global

network of fashion brands and

plans to enhance its JOOR Pay

footwear, sports and outdoors.

record of enabling growth for

world class brands and retail-

ers," explained Kristin Savilia,

CEO of JOOR. "Amidst a tough

macroeconomic environment,

we're thrilled that our inves-

tors recognize the value that

JOOR's solution provides and

share our vision of accelerating

"JOOR has a proven track

**Categories** 

Minister Rishi Sunak on Thursday reiterated that the UK stands with Israel and

condemed the unprecedented

October 7 Hamas attack on the Jewish nation as an "unspeak-

able, horrific act of terrorism".

while addressing reporters out-

side the airport in Tel Aviv. He

is the third world leader to visit

the war-torn nation after US President Joe Biden and Ger-

man Chancellor Olaf Scholz on

Tuesday made day-long trips

forward to my meetings later with the Prime Mnister and

President and I very much

hope they'll be productive

meetings, "the BBC quoted

Shortly after his arrival, he

said in a post on X: "I am in

Israel, a nation in grief. I grieve

with you and stand with you

against the evil that is terror-

"I'm very much looking

on Tuesday.

Sunak as saying.

Sunak made the remarks

"Working with our partners, we're determined to secure the

release of the hostages taken by Hamas terrorists.

UK stands with you, Rishi Sunak tells Israel

According to the Israeli military, the Hamas has taken some 203 people as hostages since the conflict erupted.

Sunak will meet his Israeli

counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu and President Issac Herzog in Jerusalem later in the afternoon. A BBC report also said that he will offer his condolences for the civilians killed in the deadly Hamas attacks, as well as press for humanitarian aid to be delivered to Gaza as soon as possible.

Sunak's trip comes two days after the deadly bombing of the Al Ahli Arab Baptist Hospi-

**Ensure restoration of Palestinian people's rights:** 

tal in Gaza City, which killed hundreds of people, including children and healthcare

After his visit was announced on Wednesday night, the Prime Minister had said that "every civilian death is a tragedy. And too many lives have been lost following Hamas's horrific act of terror". "The attack on Al Ahli hos-

pital should be a watershed moment for leaders in the region and across the world to come together to avoid further dangerous escalation of conflict. I will ensure the UK is at the forefront of this effort, " he added.

#### tional summit on cities and smart urban solutions, organized by Fira De Barcelona. will hold its biggest edition to date in 2023. Taking place from November 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, the event's theme is "Welcome to the New Urban Era" and it is set to break records with a 55%

space and 20% more attendees

compared to previous years.

Over 1,000 exhibitors, 25,000

delegates, and representatives

goal, the congress will struc-

ture its program into eight

main tracks: Enabling Tech-

nologies, Energy & Environ-

ment, Mobility, Governance,

Living & Inclusion, Economy,

Infrastructure & Buildings,

Safety & Security, and Blue

The event will feature a lineup

of 600 speakers, including no-

table figures such as computer

scientist and expert in Algo-

rithmic bias Margaret Mitchell,

AI-specialized lawyer Micaela

Economy.

from more than 800 cities and 140 countries are expected to travel to Barcelona. SCEWC is a global showcase for innovative urban solutions and projects that focus on transforming cities into more sustainable, efficient, and livable spaces. To achieve this

> The event will also feature pavilions from cities and countries including Brazil, China, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nordics, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, and

Siemens, Smart Ports: Piers of

SCEWC will feature three co-located events, Tomorrow. Building, Tomorrow. Mobility, and Tomorrow.BlueEconomy, that focus on specific topics such as construction, transportation, and the opportunities of the sea for coastal cities, further establishing Barcelona as a global hub for innovative

Amongst the highlights of SCEWC are the keynotes from

## **Smart City Expo to hold in 2023** its biggest edition ever



Airbnb and FC Barcelona. The Smart City Expo World Conco-founder and Chief Stratgress (SCEWC), the internaegy Officer of Airbnb, Nathan Blecharczyk, who will discuss how the company faces the future and wants to help tackle overtourism through new features to help disperse guests and benefits across Europe. The representatives of FC Barcelona will explain how the club is leading the transincrease in exhibition floorformation of the surroundings

> ability aiming to build a new city landmark and improve the quality of life for its residents. In addition, SCEWC has fully booked its exhibition floorspace, with companies such as AWS, Aramco, Axis, Cisco, Dassault Systemes, Dell, Deloitte, FCC, Honeywell, Microsoft, Nvidia, PWC, Roshn,

of its stadium to redefine the

urban fabric through enhanced

infrastructure and sustain-

the Future, and Veolia. USA, among others.

urban solutions

Mantegna, and sustainable development expert Claire O'Neill, the former UK Minister for Energy & Clean Growth.

### **Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer**

KUALA LUMPUR (MALAY-SIA): Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Mohamed Ali Abu Bakar, effective 16th October 2023.

Dr. Ali will be spearheading all aspects of MHTC's operations, ensuring its commitment to facilitating and promoting the nation's healthcare travel industry. With his vast experience and leadership, he brings a fresh take to Malaysia Healthcare's growth, furthering Malaysia's vision to be the trusted and leading global healthcare destination. In his position as the new

CEO. Dr. Ali will continue to build strategic and valuable partnerships with stakeholders in both private and public sectors at home and abroad. Under his leadership, Malaysia Healthcare will remain committed to building the Malaysia Healthcare brand and simultaneously raising Malaysia's profile as a safe and trusted provider of quality be died in the precincts of healthcare for across the globe. the hospital which was full of

Dr. Ali has 28 years' experipital was facing an evacuation ence in C suite positions, specialising in Strategic, Financial, Digital, and operational turnaround of companies. The businesses ity. Israeli occupying forces are that he had managed range from high tech equipment including medical, Hospital Management, tion of all war laws and basic Merger and Acquisition, Startups, Rapid turnaround of discountries and international tressed assets, Clinical Research, bodies who remain silent spec-Software development manage- the brand "Malaysia Healthcare" ment Digital Transformation selves from the heinous war and nurturing Cross Border ing Malaysia the leading global partnership into successful lo- healthcare destination.

cal operations. He has extensive experience in Health tourism from the early days of working with Malaysia Tourism Board, subsequently during his tenure in Pantai Holdings and more recently whilst he was the Group COO in Vinmec, Vietnam. He is trained in medicine, has an active practicing license, and furthered his studies in management and Islamic Finance.

The Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) is a government agency under the Ministry of Health Malaysia that has been entrusted with the responsibility of curating the country's healthcare travel scene, making it a key export service industry. Founded in 2009, MHTC works to streamline industry players and service providers in facilitating and growing Malaysia's healthcare travel industry under with the intended goal of mak-



Palestinians. The continuous settlement in new localities of the Palestinian territories and the continuous desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other such aggressive policies is clear violation of all international laws are the biggest roadblock in the way of sustained peace and order in the region.

There is a need for the in-

stop the bloodshed. Restoring the rights of the Palestinian people and ensuring the implementation of international laws in this regard is indispens-

able for sustained peace in the We also demand the Government to continue India's

ternational com-

munity to act

immediately and

long-standing anti-colonial and pro-Palestinian foreign policy advocated by Gandhi to Vajpayee and use its sphere of influence in realizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

## **MHTC and Cancer Care Experts join forces** to shine a light on Breast Cancer

KUALA LLUMPUR (MALAY-**SIA):** In conjunction with breast cancer awareness care Travel Council (MHTC) together with Subang Jaya Medical Centre, organised a thought-provoking panel discussion titled "My family has a history of breast cancer, should I be worried? What screening should I do?" at the MHTC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. The event aimed to create more awareness on the importance of early detection and provide valuable insights into breast cancer prevention and screening methods.

tic), and Ms. Yoon Sook Yee, a Certified Genetic Counsellor, both shared their expertise and knowledge on breast cancer



and the latest advancements in screening techniques.

The panel discussion is aligned with this year's breast cancer prevention and encourages individuals to prioritise their overall well-being throughout the year.

Breast cancer affects both ronment and lifestyle.

U.S. Chamber's U.S.-India Business Council Concludes Global

genders, and it is crucial to raise awareness about the disease among men as well. According to recent statistics, breast cancer cases in Malaysia have been on the rise, with approximately 5,000 new cases reported each year. While some cases are hereditary, comprising only 5-10%, the majority of breast cancers result from factors like envi-

#### to wire fraud, and faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years of supervised release. Vaid has been detained pending further proceedings and his

sentencing is set for February 14. 2024, the US Attorney's Office in Montana said in a release.

The prosecution alleged in court documents that a large enterprise originating from India was involved in stealing monev from the elderly in the US. In February, various fraudsters stole \$150,000 from a 73-year-old woman, identified as Jane Doe, in Kalispell, a city in northwest Montana. The fraud occurred because of a pop-up notice that appeared on Jane Doe's computer screen,

Doe complied, and fraudsters directed her to remove cash from her bank accounts for safe keeping at the "Fed". Doe complied and gave \$150,000 in cash to the fraudsters, US District Judge Donald W Molloy heard. In March, Doe told the fraudsters she still had \$50,000 in cash, which was a ruse set up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Vaid travelled to Montana, along with co-defendant Eddly Joseph, of Gainesville, Florida, to steal the money from Doe. Law enforcement arrested the pair when they arrived to collect the money. The investigation determined that the fraudsters remotely accessed Doe's computer using Ultra-Viewer, which they installed on her computer. Joseph pleaded guilty in August to wire fraud and is pending sentencing. The court will determine any sentence after considering the US Sentencing Guidelines and

## First P20 Summit under India's **G20 Presidency Concludes**

**MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA** New Delhi

Every Nation and Parliament is

Sovereign, their Internal Issues should not be Discussed by others, Lok Sabha Speaker said to President of European Parliament. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla registered protest against bringing proposal on India's internal issues in European Parliament. Lok Sabha Speaker said, Collective

On the conclusion of India's P20 presidency, the Lok Sabha Speaker handed over the presidency to Parliament of Brazil.

determination of parliaments

of G20 will pursue shared com-

mitments at COP28, G20 and

The first ever G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20 Summit) hosted by the world's largest democracy concluded at India International Convention Centre. Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, Delhi today, October 14, 2023, with parliamentarians from across the world coming together and reaffirming their commitment to continue their joint work to make an effective and meaningful parliamentary contribution to the G20 process. The 9th edition of the P20 Summit, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 13, 2023, came to a close with Lok Sabha Speakers Om Birla delivered the valedictory address at the concluding session today.

Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Harivansh; President of Inter-Parliamentary Union, Duarte Pacheco; Presiding Officers of Parliaments of G20 nations and other dignitaries graced the concluding session. The two-day



mentary Forum on Mission LiFE on October 12, 2023. Mentioning the parliamentary dimension of G20, the Speaker noted that the discussions held over the past two days have clearly underlined the importance of the parliamentary dimension of G20 and have also established how Parliaments can work together to achieve the collective goals of "One Earth, One Family and One Future".

Addressing to fellow parliamentarians and other leaders at the closing session today, the Lok Sabha Speaker thanked Presiding Officers of Parliaments of G20 nations and of invited nations for contributing to the success of this P-20 Summit on "Parliaments for One Earth, One Family and One Future". The P20 process has been further strengthened by the adoption of the Joint Statement, highlighted by Birla. He expressed confidence that the valuable views and inputs shared during the sessions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), green energy, women-led development

and digital public infrastructure

will further strengthen the G-20

process for human-centred development. Stressing on multilateralism, Birla observed that in today's inter-connected world, we cannot view any particular issue in isolation. He reiterated Paragraph 27 of the Joint Statement, which reads as follows: "We will continue parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue in relevant for as a catalyst for promoting international peace, prosperity and harmony while supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes." Birla also reiterated the col-

lective determination of Parliaments of G20 nations to pursue the shared commitments at the COP-20, G-20 and beyond, in the times to come. Speaking on the role of parliamentarians, the Speaker noted that as public representatives, the Members of Parliament are in a special position to formulate the policies and laws necessary to fulfill the hopes, aspirations and needs of the public. "Our role is to complement the efforts of the government; we have a special contribution in ensuring good governance for

the purpose of public welfare".

hanced platform capabilities." Over the past decade, JOOR's platform has evolved into the fashion industry's most comprehensive wholesale management solution—enabling brands and buyers to connect, present collections, build assortments, place and manage orders, and process payments. By digitalizing the entire wholesale buying and selling process, JOOR allows brands and retailers to operate more efficiently and leverage data to optimize their

With more than 14,000 brands and 600,000 curated fashion buyers across 150 countries, the JOOR platform hosts the world's leading wholesale marketplace in the Luxury, Contemporary, Accessories, Footwear and Lifestyle verticals, processing nearly \$20 billion in wholesale transactions annually.

#### retailers. Alongside new data-led initiatives, the company also cancer awareness month The panel was joined by theme, Thrive 365. This theme solution, as well as expand its Dr. Teh Mei Sze, a Consultant emphasises the importance of Breast Surgeon (Oncoplasfootprint in categories such as a holistic approach to breast

prevention, genetic factors,

NEW DELHI: The U.S. Chamthe platform's growth through ber of Commerce's U.S.-India additional innovation and en-Business Council (USIBC) today concluded its 2023 Global Board of Directors Mission to India, held from October 17th through 19th in New Delhi and Mumbai. The Mission – convened annually by organization's leadership - featured landmark investment and manufacturing announcements by USIBC Global Board companies that will further un-

lock India's long-term growth, empower the next generation of homegrown talent, and reinforce the flourishing economic business and inform decision linkages between the U.S. and India, the world's oldest and the largest democracies.

First and foremost, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Indian Cabinet Ministers, American officials, government and industry stakeholders, and USIBC Global Board Members and representatives who joined us for this impactful mission," said Ed Knight, USIBC Global Board

of Directors Chairman & Executive Vice Chairman of NASDAQ. "Their dedication to advancing the U.S.-India comprehensive global and strategic partnership is commendable and reaffirms our shared commitments as stewards to strengthening the enduring bond between our

Held on the heels of India's historic hosting of the G-20 last month and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent State Visit to the United States in June, the Mission saw over thirty industryleading executives and high-level representatives from the U.S. and India partake in substantial meetings and commercial diplomacy across New Delhi and Mumbai, as well as additional programming in GIFT

Led by USIBC Global Board

City, Guiarat.

of Directors Chairman Edward Knight, Executive Vice Chairman of NASDAQ, and Amb. Atul Keshap, President of USIBC, the Mission showcased

**Board of Directors Mission to India With Historic Announcements** USIBC's continued commitment and centrality as a robust platform for dialogue on economic, trade, and strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Indian public and private sectors. Across three days of meetings, the directors stressed the mounting importance of the U.S.-India relationship. On the economic front, pockets of economic stagnation and inflationary-pressures mean the world will increasingly look to the Indian and American economies as promising long-term growth engines. Geopolitically, the directors emphasized India and the United States as joint pillars of stability in a fraying international system, including within the Indo-Pacific region through shared forums like the Quad Security Dialogue between the U.S., Japan, Australia, and India; as well as their shared responsibility in tackling global challenges in the Middle East

through the India, Israel, U.A.E.,

U.S. (I2U2) initiative.

### Indian hacker arrested in US for stealing \$150k from elderly woman MONTANA: A 24-year-old

Indian national has admitted to his role in stealing \$150,000 US state of Montana through a computer-hacking scheme. Sukhdev Vaid pleaded

guilty on Tuesday

which said it was 'haked' and asked Doe to call on a number for customer support.

other statutory factors.













## Draupadi Murmu presents awards to the winners of

New Delhi

n the presence of both Hon'ble Information and Broadcasting Ministers and Bollywood stars President Draupadi Murmu presented awards to the winners of 69th National Film Awards in Delhi.

In the month of August 2023, the country's pres-

Sonakshi Sinha

Yo Yo Honey Singh

reunite after 9 years

**MUMBAI:** Actress Sonaksh

Sinha, who was recently seen

in the streaming series 'Da-

per Yo Yo Honey Singh after

9 years. The two released

The song is an exten

sion of Sonakshi and Yo

Yo Honey Singh's previous

music album 'Desi Kalaakar

which was released in 2014

The music video of the song

features a palpable chemistry

between Ŷo Ŷo Honey Singȟ

Talking about this col-

laboration Sonakshi Sinha

shared: "Associating with

Yo Yo Honey Singh once again after 9 years was an

utter pleasure. Working with Honey is always fun, and

and Sonakshi

their new track titled 'Ka

announced, where the list of winners was released. In which many veteran actors of Hindi and South Indian film industry were included in the winner list.

Indian cinema's biggest award presented to veteran actress Waheeda Rehman. Shreya Ghoshal, Allu Arjun, Ranbir Kapoor & Alia tigious awards 'National Bhatt, Kriti Sanon, Pankaj

The higher reaches of the

keted in a fresh layer of snow

on Monday morning, while the

plains received heavy rainfall,

causing a noticeable decrease

higher areas of the valley

experienced snowfall, while

the plains were drenched by

heavy rains. The continuous

rain and snowfall in areas

such as Razdan Top and its

surroundings led to the clo-

sure of the Bandipora-Gurez

A fresh snowfall has also

been recorded on Mughal

road. Officials said that the

Peer Ki Gali and adjoining

areas along the historic route

which connects Kashmir val-

ley with Poonch also experi-

enced the snowfall.

According to officials, the

in maximum temperatures.

**FW DESK** 

vek Agnihotri, Pallavi Joshi, R Madhavan attended the

All the artists started coming to Delhi from yesterday evening itself to attend the award ceremony. Allu Araward Dadasaheb Phalke jun, who won the Best Actor award, RRR director SS Rajamouli and music composer MM Keeravani reached Delhi on Monday evening. Alia Bhatt, who won the Best

Fresh snowfall hits Kashmir's

higher reaches, temperature drops

cal Department Jammu

and Kashmir has forecasted

widespread rainfall in Jammu

and Kashmir while snowfall is

predicted to occur in higher

Additionally, rain showers

drenched various other parts

of the Kashmir valley, result-

maximum temperatures. Due and rainfall.

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA Film Awards 2023' were Tripathi, Karan Johar, Vi- Actress award, reached Delhi on Tuesday morning with husband Ranbir Kapoor.

> Alia Bhatt has received the first National Award of her career. On this special occasion, the actress reached Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi with husband Ranbir Kapoor. Alia came to receive this award wearing her wedding saree. He has received the National Award for the film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'. When Alia goes

feeling very proud after President Draupadi Murmu gave the National Award to Alia is regional, good regional Bhatt. He has captured this entire moment in his camera.

on the stage to receive the

award, Ranbir captures every

moment of her. The happi-

ness of wife Alia receiving the

National Award can be seen

on Ranbir's face. He is seen

Alia has expressed her happiness on winning the National Award for 'Gan- on AVGC soon".

gubai Kathiawadi'. For this he thanked Sanjay Leela Bhansali. She said that she can never forget Sanjay Leela Bhansali and that because of him she is where she is today.

Hon'ble Minister Anurag Thakur said, "No content content will find global audience. Government stands with film fraternity in its fight against piracy, policy

# Navratras, the powerful Nine Nights of Devi...!

(DHYAN ASHRAM)

Navratras are the nine nights of Devi. What is Devi, is beyond the scope of this article. It is a subject of lifelong sadhna under a Guru...I will attempt here to throw light on just a small aspect of it.

That Devi, which resides in every being as Shakti. Everything manifests as a union of Shiv and Shakti. Shiv without Shakti is shav (corpse). Just like a car cannot run without fuel, no aspect of creation can run without Shakti. Shakti is the propelling force, pure energy. Even gods cannot function

without Shakti. For Shiv, it is Parvati. For Vishnu, it is Lakshmi. For Brahma, it is Saraswati. First the Shakti is invoked, then Shiv manifests. No event or anushthan is complete without invoking the Shakti. In the battle between Lord Ram and Ravan, Ram invoked the Shakti of Durga, Ravan invoked Kali. When Guru Gobind Singh created Khalsa, he performed a Chandi yagya. On the path of yog, the evolution of sadhak is impossible without the transference of Shakti from the Guru, in

the form of Shakti-path. To get a first-hand experience of what the Shakti is, light a diya with desi cow ghee and place it at eye-level at a distance of 2ft from the eyes. Fixing your gaze on the flame, repeatedly chant the mantra "Ya devi sarvbhuteshu Shakti rupen sansthitaa, Namastasyai namastasyai namastasyai namo namah". First out loud, then internally, for as long as comfortable. Next close your eyes and internalise on the flame. Mail me your ex-



Navratras are a powerful time to manifest the swaroop of Devi in its myriad forms. It is Devi which holds the universe together as the force of attraction Vishnu Maya). The protection provided to Duryodhan by Gandhari in the war of Mahabharat was Devi in the form of mother's force (Matri). The protection provided to Prahlad when he was thrown off the cliff by his father was Devi in the form of devotion (Bhakti).

Our shastras detail various shakti sadhnas and dashmahavidyas towards specific ends. These are taught in a Guru's ashram as per the Guru-shishya parampara. I have personally initiated many into devi sadhnas, with amazing results. Shakti mantras are tools to awaken shakti inside us but they have to be given by a siddha Guru, not by a business man guru. They are given and the Guru awakens them, you have visions of shakti and experience its myriad forms. Navratras are the perfect time to awaken them

So find a siddha and earn them, you can never buy them. They are not tied to maya, they untie you. Om asato maa sadgamayo, om tamaso maa jyotirgamayo, om mrityurmaa

## Irfan Pathan showed a mirror to Pakistan over the fans behaviour

SUNIL THAPLIYAL New Delhi

Former Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan revealed on Tuesday that a fan once hit him with an iron nail during a tour of Pakistan. Pathan made this filed a complaint of inapproshocking revelation while commentating on India>s match Pakistan team during the India against Bangladesh in the ICC vs. Pakistan match on October ricket World Cup. He said that the incident took place Earlier, the PCB had exduring a match in Peshawar when a fan suddenly threw an iron nail at him, hitting him below the eye. Despite this, Pathan said he never made it

an issue and had always appreciated the hospitality in Pakistan. He also asked Pakistan to stop making an issue of mob behaviour in India. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) filed a complaint with the International Cricket Council (ICC) over the fans inappropriate behaviour towards



ressed disappointment over the visa issue, stating that journalists and fans from Pakistan could not get Indian visas to cover Pakistan>s matches in the ICC World Cup.

The PCB also said it was unsure what to do about the matter. They reminded the ICC and the BCCI of their obligations. PCB chief Zaka Ashraf met with Pakistanss

Foreign Minister Cyrus Sajjad Qazi and asked him to take up the matter with the Indian Home Ministry. Moreover, Pakistan alleged that their team>s visas were issued a day before their scheduled departure, causing them to miss the training camp ahead

## The PCB tweeted about the of the World Cup in Dubai. MTV Rap music 'HUSTLE 03 REPRESENT' season begins Oct 21

## 'Haan Mei Savarkar Hoon' Play wins the Heart

the vibe this song has is full She further mentioned: Γο top that, it's an extension of 'Desi Kalkaar' that was loved so much by fans. I hope we get the same response this time too, since Kalsaa-

star is quite the trooper in the current music space

'Kalaasatar' is available to stream on Zee Music Company's YouTube channel.

Meanwhile, Sonakshi who made her OTT debut with 'Dahaad' earlier this year, is gearing up for her period drama 'Heeramandi' helmed by Sanjay Leela

'Heeramandi', set in pre-Independent India, is based on the life story of three generations of courtesans in Heeramandi district. The series also stars Richa Chadha, Sharmin Sehgal and Manisha Koirala, and will release on Netflix.

dom fighter Vinayak Damodardas Savarkar popularly known as veer savarkar was presented in Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi on 14 th October. The struggle and sacrifices of our Freedom Fighters cannot be ignored. Keeping in mind the struggle and ideas of Veer Savarkar, Writer Rishi Sahni wrote a script on him under the guidance of Mr. Pramod Kumar Kashyap. Rishi sahni believes Savarkar's role in the freedom leaders of that time. struggle was not only different 
It ends on his strugbut dominant. We would have

A play based on the life of Free-

gained independence much before if we had fought with Britishers, because of which Savarkar is known as a revolutionary Freedom fighter. Veer Savarkar was not in favour of dividing India. This Play on Savarkar starts from his birth, to his interest in writing poetries, his college life, Lon-

don visit on scholarship and



Meanwhile, Metrologi- to fresh snow accumulation

ing in a significant drop in notable effects of the snowfall

at the Zojila pass, authorities

closing the Srinagar-Kargil

road for traffic movement.

have impacted travel routes

and daily life in the region,

with both road closures and

cooler temperatures being

These weather conditions

his association with Bal Gangadhar Tilak and some prominent gle in Andaman jail.

Actor Shashank Sasha perfectly embodies the freedom fighter and made a good attempt to put across thoughts and philosophies by presenting some major events of his life. His

role in putting India's indepen- the play is Rishi Sahni and Asdence on International forum sistant Director is Ankit Malik.

from the public and the entire team is happy and excited with the good response of the audiences. They are planning to stage this play again on some other platform. The Director of

in the play.

This play is

receiving laurels

youth highlights celebration of one's ideologies, beliefs, issues, music, passion, culture, hood. stories and identity, while reinforcing MTV as a +culture catalyst+ that put 'desi hip hop' on the global map. Visionary multi-genre Music

## **Game-changing moments in cricket** and insurance booked by FGII

**DOMINICK RODRIGUES** Mumbai

Game-changing moments happen anytime and anywhere be it in when the two come together, it's a celebration.

ance here chose to highlight its annual report for FY 2022-23 by celebrating the game changing moments through launching a book that also included such moments in cricket. The book, penned by veteran sports journalist Avaz Memon and released at the hands of cricketing legspinner Anil Kumble, featured 18 have taken the precaution of diverse and epic "Game-Changing Moments" from 'India's first Test match' to the recentlyconcluded Women's Premier League. The unique cricketing moments across different eras featured exclusive interviews by Memon with four legendary cricketers: Mohinder Amarnath, Anil Kumble, VVS Laxman and among the spectrum of emotions.

DOMINICK RODRIGUES

blockbuster season.

and JioCinema.

with focus on the country's

Producer in India Hip-Hop

India's biggest 'Rap" music

battleground will soon be

Mumbai



anchored the event where Anil

Kumble launched the memoir-

cum-annual report in the pres-

ence of Memon and Anup Rau,

MD&CEO, Future Generali India Insurance. Memon then narrated a chapter from the book beautifully brought to life through a "sand presentation." Kumble added fun to the event by "bowling to Anup Rau" and instead striking the LED screen shattering it to reveal the 'Annual Report.' Kumble later described cricket as a sport that epitomizes: hope, joy, celebration - and sometimes even gloom among India's

the Pakistani team during the World Cup. The PCB lodged an official protest after the match billion-plus population, though against India in Ahmedabad inspiration remained a constant on Saturday.

Boss EPR of EPR Rebels all highlighted MTV Hustle for its contribution towards showcasing the country's musical rap talent. EPR said the heart of Rap music was in its storytell-

> own trajectory. This 3rd Hustle 3.0 season, JioCinema will be introducing a "Fantasy League" designed to allow audiences to make their own squad to win point for predicting which contestants get a Radio Hit, highest

ing, especially conscious poetry

and desi hip-hop that had its

highlighting higher stakes, where the Squad Bosses will battle it out with 16 contes-

at the contestants going thru their 'rap' paces also witnessed their unique singing choices including one rapster describing an episode of him and two other friends being caught riding triple-seat on a bike by the local cop and then apologizing

profusely for their mistake.

witnessing the next generation of rap stars, even as the POCO "MTV Hustle 03 REP-RESENT" gears up for a new Global trailblazing rap artiste Badshah, with eminent rap powerhouses Squad Bosses Ikka, Dee MC, Dino James and EPR—are set to usher in these rapsters through the rap reality television show that will air Karan Kanchan, whose bigstarting October 21, Saturday and Sunday at 7. Pm on MTV gest tracks include "Baazigar, Satva and Aane De," said the This season's clarion call talent on this show was only "India Ab Tumhari Bari"

the "tip of the iceberg" and it will be elevating the musical spectrum, while contestants showcase their talent before celebrity guests.

Music producer Anurag Saikia of Panchayat fame, who will bring in sounds of the country's heartlands relatable to the youth, said that this season of MTV Hustle

would highlight a remarkable

portrayal of India's diverse musical influences and history. Badshah, while expressing excitement on the new MTV season, noted that this represented India's 'only' hip-hop

> Squad Boss Ikka, who leads the "Ikka Gangsters," Squad Boss Dee MC of Dee MC Dynamites, Squad Boss Dino James of Dino Warriors and Squad

> stage featuring the Indian

vouth's dreams and aspira-

squad scores and eliminations. The latest season is also tants for the glory. Meanwhile, a sneak peek