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FOUR MORE AIRLINES TO START DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM AMRITSAR TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

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INFOSYS FOUNDER NARAYANA MURTHY'S 70-HRS WORK WEEK REMARK TRIGGERS NETIZENS

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PUNJABI MOVIE SARABHA OPENS IN RECORD THEATRES IN US, CANADA

SYL is a saga of treachery, betrayal against Punjab and Punjabis by its own leadership : CM Mann

LUDHIANA: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the Congress leaders shamelessly sang peacens in favour of Satluj Yamuna Link (SYL) canal through white paper brought on the floor of Punjab Vidhan Sabha in early 1980s.

Addressing the gathering during the 'Main Punjab Bolda Haan' debate organised here on November 1, CM Punjab said that SYL is a saga of treachery, betrayal and sin against Punjab and Punjabis by its own leadership. He said that while a single act "Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956" is applicable throughout India for resolving water disputes among States but, Punjab is the only State where a separate arrangement has been made for the distribution of water between Punjab & Haryana, in the "Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966". Hence, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the Union Government has always discriminated against Punjab but the leaders



of Punjab brought white paper to justify this treacherous move which is shameful.

CM Punjab further said that as per the Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966, all the assets were divided between Punjab and Haryana in the ratio of 60:40 but the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi vide a notification dated March 24, 1976, divided the Ravi-Beas waters between Punjab & Haryana in the ratio of 50:50 in a forcible manner, which was

against the interests of Punjab. He said that the then Chief Minister of state Giani Zail Singh ignored the interests of Punjab and acted as a puppet of the Union Government. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that not only this, but on November 16, 1976 he also received a cheque of Rs. 1 crore and accelerated the construction of SYL.

Punjab Chief Minister further said that after assuming the charge of state in 1977 Parkash Singh Badal didn't even once

stop the work of giving water to Haryana through SYL. Rather, he said that Badal vide letter no. 23617 Dated July 04, 1978 demanded another Rs. 3 crore for the construction of SYL adding that on March 31, 1979, the then Akali Dal Government received Rs. 1.5 crore from the Government of Haryana for constructing SYL canal.

Chief Minister said that Badal acquired the requisite land for constructing SYL Canal, in a very short period by imposing emergency clauses. He said that the complicity of Akali Dal with the Government of Haryana is also clear from the fact that in the Vidhan Sabha session (Held from March 1, 1978 to March 7, 1978), the then Chief Minister of Haryana Chaudhary Devi Lal said that "Due to my personal relation with Badal, Punjab Government has acquired the land under Section 4 and Section 17 (emergency clause) for SYL canal and Punjab Government is trying its best for this work." Bhagwant Singh

Mann said that this reflected the connivance of these leaders to deprive the state of its waters.

Punjab Chief Minister said that the story doesn't ends here as in 1998 when Parkash Singh Badal again became the Chief Minister, he raised the height of banks of Bhakra Main Line Canal by average one feet with the intention of giving more water to Haryana and took Rs. 45 crore too from Haryana for this purpose. He said that Badal did this sin only for the sake of constructing 'Balasar canal' which was constructed till his farm house by Haryana as reward for his treachery with the state. So, Bhagwant Singh Mann said that in this way, the Badal gave water to Haryana for its own interests and Haryana rewarded him by constructing a canal to their farm. Chief Minister said that it is evident from this, that the then Akali Government was betraying the interests of the people of Punjab as personal interests were preferred over those of the public.

Intellectuals, litterateurs and industrialists hails Main Punjab Bolda Haan debate

LUDHIANA: Intellectuals, litterateurs, industrialists, and other stakeholders in Punjab have collectively described the debate under the 'Main Punjab Bolda Haan' banner as a significant initiative for addressing the SYL canal issue and fostering a new era of meaningful discussions on key issues pertaining to Punjab.

Witnessing the debate on Wednesday, lyricist Babu Singh Mann said that this initiative has managed to break the ice on serious debate including crucial SYL issue and Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has unveiled the venal and vested agendas of previous leaders that plagued Punjab for so long. Likewise, Punjab writer Shamsher Singh Sandhu said that listening to Bhagwant Singh Mann, it seemed as if the land of Punjab was expressing its pain. He emphasized that this debate marks a meaningful beginning, shedding light on crucial aspects of this long-standing issue for the public.

Former President of Punjabi Sahitya Akademi Ludhiana, Prof. Ravinder Bhattal, stated that CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has gingerly presented the facts about the

Opposition runs away from debate on public issues, says Punjab CM

"These leaders were not able to find even a single thing against me or my government during 'preparatory holidays' of the past 25 days due to which they were not able to muster courage to face me on issues concerning Punjab," said the Chief Minister during his address at 'Main Punjab Bolda Haan' debate here.

double-faced approach of political leaders and made people aware about this long pending sensitive issue.

Similarly, renowned industrialist and President of Ramgarhia Educational Institutions in Ludhiana, Ranjodh Singh said that Punjab's first position in the registration of medium and small industries is a remarkable achievement for the state, for which the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann deserves to be appreciated.

India Targets 20% GDP through Digital Economy by FY26 : MoS

Rajeev Chandrasekhar



NEW DELHI: India has moved the needle on the digital economy from about 4.5 per cent of the total GDP to a target of 20 per cent by 2025-26 and is at 11 per cent today, said Minister of State (MoS) for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

Speaking at the global AI summit hosted by Britain, he said, "India has rapidly digitised its economy in the last eight years, we have moved the needle on the digital economy from about 4.5 per cent of the total GDP to a target of 20 per cent by 2025-26. We are at about 11 per cent today but the digital economy and the innovation economy are growing 2.5 or 3 times faster than the non-digital part of the GDP."

Congress will resume INDIA alliance talks after Assembly polls: Kharge pacifies Nitish

NEW DELHI: Days after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar stated that the opposition INDIA bloc was inactive as the Congress is busy with the Assembly elections in five states, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge spoke to the Janata Dal (United) leader and assured him of resuming the alliance talks after the polls.

According to party sources, Kharge spoke to Nitish Kumar over phone on Friday night. The two leaders spoke over the issue of Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc.

Kharge has assured Kumar



that talks over the INDIA Alliance will be continued after the Assembly polls in five states conclude. While addressing a rally of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in Bihar's Patna, Nitish Kumar said: "We have formed the

INDIA to uproot BJP from the country but no progress is taking place in it. The Congress party is busy in Assembly elections in five states. After these assembly results, we will sit together and plan the next course of action."

IICF changed the design of the Mosque in Ayodhya

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA

New Delhi

After the Ram temple, the construction of the biggest mosque is going to start in Ayodhya. This is probably going to be the largest mosque in the country. The construction of this mosque has already started in Dhanyipur village of Ayodhya. The design of the mosque was changed at the beginning of the construction. Chairman of Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF), Zufar Faruqi, said that it has been decided to design it on the model of mosques in Middle Eastern countries. A decision has already been taken regard-



ing the naming of the mosque.

IICF chairman Zufar Faruqi said the new design by a Pune-based architect has been finalised. Earlier this mosque had no dome in its design. The dome is kept in the new design. In addition, earlier its design was modeled on Indian mosques, now

a mosque in Ayodhya. The meeting was attended by representatives of various groups of Muslims including Sunni, Shia and various political parties. The design of the mosque including naming was also discussed in this meeting. The Trustee Chairman said, "it has been decided to name it after Islamic cleric Mohammad bin Abdullah". Besides, the size of this mosque will be more than the previous proposed size.

Trustee Chairman Zufar Faruqi said that when the construction of this mosque built on 5 acres of land in Dhanyipur village of Ayodhya is completed, 5 thousand people will be able to pray together there.

Ram Mandir: After the crown, Ram Lala's throne will be made of marble, it will be 8 feet high, it will be studded with gold

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA

New Delhi

In the grand Ram temple being built in Ayodhya, Ramlala will be seated on an eight feet high 'Singhasan' studded with gold marble. After Crown, now his throne also, which is being prepared by the artisans of Rajasthan, will reach Ayodhya by 15th December. Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust member Anil Mishra said that the eight feet high, three feet long and four feet wide throne will be kept in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram temple. The idol of five year old Ramlala will be placed on it. The Trust member Mishra



said that devotees of Lord Ram have also donated gold and silver items in large quantities. He said that since these gold and silver items, coins and bricks donated

before and after the formation of the Trust will melt, they are facing a lot of difficulties in keeping them safe. Therefore, they will be melted and kept safe and this

work will be done under the guidance of a reputed institution. He said that the ground floor of Ram temple will be ready by December 15 and the work on the first floor has also been completed by 80 percent. Amil Mishra said that 70 percent of the work on the Ram temple is likely to be completed before the consecration ceremony. Meanwhile, the Ram Mandir Trust has started preparations for live telecast of the temple's consecration ceremony across the country. The Trust has started the work of installing TV screens in temples in every village and town, where the entire ceremony will be telecast live.

Onion prices soars to Rs78 in Delhi, all India average price remains Rs 50

FW CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi

Onion prices remained at a high level in the national capital on Monday and were ruling at an average price of Rs 78 per kilogram in the retail market, according to government data.

However, the all-India average price of onion was at around Rs 50.35 per kg while the maximum rate was Rs 83 per kg and modal price was at Rs 60 per kg, as per the data compiled by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The minimum rate is Rs 17 per kg. Local vendors are selling onions at Rs 80 per kg while the key kitchen item is available at Rs 75 per kg on e-commerce



portals Bigbasket and Otpy.

On Saturday, the Centre imposed a Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 800 per tonne on onion exports till December 31 to boost availability of the vegetable in the domestic market. The USD 800 per tonne MEP translates into about Rs 67 per kg. The MEP is there for all varieties of onion except Bangalore Rose and Krishnapuram onions, and for cut, sliced or broken in powder forms.

Besides, the Centre has announced that it would procure an additional 2 lakh tonnes of onion for the buffer, over and above the 5 lakh tonnes already procured.

An official statement issued on Saturday said that the step to impose MEP will help in maintaining sufficient availability of onion to domestic consumers at affordable prices as the quantity of stored Rabi 2023 onion is declining. Onion from the buffer stock has been disposed continuously since the second week of August in major consumption centres all over the country, and also supplied to retail consumers at Rs 25 per kg through mobile vans operated by NCCF and NAFED.

19 deaths every hour in country due to road accidents: (MoRTH)Annual report 2022-23

The report reveals that on an average, 1,264 accidents and 462 deaths every day or 53 accidents and 19 deaths every hour in the country.

YOGESH KANT

New Delhi

A total of 4,61,312 road accidents were recorded across India in 2022, resulting in the death of 1,68,491 people and injuries to another 4,43,366 persons, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The data claims an increase of 11.9% in accidents, 9.4% in fatalities, and 15.3% in injuries compared to the previous year.

Out of the total of 1,68,491 fatalities reported in 2022, 61,038

(36.2 per cent) were on national highways, 41,012 (24.3 per cent) were on state highways and 66,441 (39.4 per cent) were on other roads," it added.

Amongst the States, Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accidents on National Highways in 2022, whereas, the number of persons killed in road accidents was the highest in Uttar Pradesh, the report said.

The fatal road accident victims largely constitute young people in the productive age groups. Young adults in the age group of 18 - 45 years accounted for 66.5 per cent of victims during 2022. People in the working age group of 18 - 60 years share 83.4 per cent of total road accident fatalities, the report read.

The annual report said that the two-wheeler riders in total fatality has been the highest (44.5%) during 2022 followed



by the Pedestrian road-users with 19.5 per cent of persons killed in road accidents.

The number of road accidents in 2022 increased by 11.9 per cent compared to previous year 2021. Similarly, the number of deaths and injuries on account of road accidents also increased by 9.4 per cent and 15.3 per cent respectively. Tamil Nadu with 64,105 accidents (13.9 %) recorded the highest number of

road accidents in 2022 followed by Madhya Pradesh (54,432 i.e., 11.8%). Uttar Pradesh (22,595 i.e., 13.4 %) topped the States in respect of the number of fatalities due to road accidents followed by Tamil Nadu (17,884 i.e., 10.6%)

The data reads that 'over speeding' constitutes the main violation associated with accidents, fatalities and injuries, in 2022. "Over speeding" accounts

for 72.3 percent of the total road accidents, 71.2 percent of total deaths and 72.8 percent of total injuries. The number of accidents, fatalities and injuries increased by 12.8 percent, 11.8 percent and 15.2 percent respectively in 2022 relative to 2021. 'Driving on the wrong side' was the second highest cause of the total road accidents during 2022 accounting for 4.9 percent.

The other major traffic rule violations are 'drunken driving/consumption of alcohol and drugs', 'jumping red light', 'driving on wrong side', 'use of mobile phones' etc. registered an increase in 2022 compared to 2021. However, the number of accidents and deaths due to traffic rule violation in 'Others' category showed an increase of 28.3 percent and decrease of 14.4 percent respectively in 2022 relative to the same period last year.

Congregation to commemorate martyrs of November 1984 Sikh Genocide by SGPC

AMRITSAR: To commemorate the martyrs of the Sikh Genocide in November 1984 in different cities of the country and Delhi, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) today organized a congregation and held bhog (concluding ceremony) of Akhand Path Sahib (uninterrupted recitation of Guru Granth Sahib) at Gurdwara Jhand Bunga Sahib situated inside Sri Darbar Sahib complex.

On this occasion, Gurbani Kirtan was performed by hazuri raagi jatha of Bhai Navneet Singh of Sri Harmandir Sahib. Ardas (Sikh prayer) was offered by Bhai Gurcharan Singh and the holy hukamnama (edict) was recited by Giani Rajdeep Singh, Granthi of Sri Harmandir Sahib. On this occasion, Giani Rajdeep Singh paid tribute to the martyrs of November 1984 and called the massacre of Sikhs as big attack on the community. He said that



whenever there was a need in the country, the Sikh community made the most sacrifices. But the Sikhs were always made to feel alienated within the country. He said that the tragedy of November 1984 was extremely painful, which the community can never forget.

Meanwhile, SGPC General Secretary Bhai Gurcharan Singh Grewal said that in November 1984, Sikhs were massacred in various states of the country, including Delhi, at the behest of the then Congress government. He said that it was a heinous act, the stigma of which will always remain on the forehead of the Congress party. He also severely criticized Congress Punjab president Amarinder

Singh Raja Warring's statement of attempting to innocence of Congress leader Kamal Nath in the case of the Sikh massacre.

Present on this occasion included SGPC additional secretary Kulwinder Singh Ramdas, Balwinder Singh Kahlwan, manager of Sri Darbar Sahib Bhagwant Singh Dhangera, assistant secretary Gurdial Singh, Gurcharan Singh Kuthala, Manjit Singh Talwandi, superintendent Nishan Singh, in-charge Malkit Singh Beharwal, Palwinder Singh, manager Harpreet Singh, Jaspal Singh Dhade and Sangat. Even after the passage of 39 years, the scars of the Sikh Genocide by the then Congress government in November 1984 in different places of the country, including Delhi, are painful and the Sikh community has not received justice. SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhani said this in a statement released here.

Four more Airlines to start direct flights from Amritsar to Australia, New Zealand & South-East Asian countries

RAJU WILLIAM
Amritsar

As the winter season approaches, a new era of convenient seamless travel is set to begin in the upcoming winter season for travellers between Punjab, Australia, New Zealand and other South-east Asian countries.

Punjabi community residing in these countries will now have the privilege of multiple flight options than ever before for flying directly to Punjab's biggest and busiest Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International (SGRDJI) Airport in Amritsar without the need to fly from Delhi Airport, disclosed Sameep Singh Gumtala, global convener of FlyAmritsar Initiative (FAI), a civil society advocacy for development and direct flights from SGRDJI, Amritsar.

This remarkable opportunity for direct flights to Amritsar has been made possible through the operations of four prominent



airlines from Malaysia (Batik Air, Air Asia X & Malaysia Airlines) and Singapore (Scoot), all of which will operate flights to Amritsar via their respective hubs in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. All these airlines are now competing and eyeing the Punjabi diaspora to facilitate easier travel for them.

In a detailed report, Gumtala shared that starting November 8, 2023 Malaysia's leading air-

line Malaysia Airlines, will commence 2-weekly direct flights from its hub in Kuala Lumpur to the sacred city of Amritsar, providing very convenient direct connections from Punjab to multiple cities across Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Vietnam and more. These cities include Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Auckland, Bangkok, Phuket, Bali, Ho Chi Minh City, Manila, etc.

This will be the third airline from Malaysia starting its operations to Amritsar providing a total of 700 seats a week. The airline is also part of the One World Alliance that codeshares with airline carriers of many countries including Qantas in Australia providing onward connections to many other cities. The journey to cities in Australia and New Zealand can be completed in

just 15-17 hours.

Scoot is changing its time schedule during the winter season from November to March end. The flight will now arrive at Amritsar in the morning at 9:05am and depart for Singapore at 10:30am. The airline operates its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft with either 335 or 375 seats on this route providing a total of about 3430 seats a week.

The new flight timings will now offer seamless connectivity for both inbound and outbound travellers to a wide network of its destinations beyond Singapore, both through Scoot and Singapore Airlines, added Gumtala.

AirAsia X and Batik Air, two other prominent Malaysian airlines, will continue their four weekly non-stop services to Amritsar from Kuala Lumpur connecting Amritsar to a significant number of destinations across Southeast Asia and Australia. Air Asia X operates its Airbus A330 aircraft with 376 seats.

Punjab CM impose a complete ban on doing dangerous stunts with tractors & other agricultural implements

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday announced to impose a complete ban on the dangerous stunts involving tractors and other agricultural implements in the state.

CM Punjab expressed deep anguish and sorrow over a tragic incident in which a person lost his precious life during one such incident of dangerous display of stunts on tractors. He said that this is an unfortunate incident adding that any such mishap needs to be avoided in the coming future. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that for this a complete ban on the stunts involving tractors and other agriculture implements is imposed in the state.

Punjab Chief Minister said that the tractor is



called the king of farms and it should not be transformed into a catalyst of death. He said that thus the use of tractors and other agriculture implements for dangerous display in such stunts is the need of the hour. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the state government is duty bound to protect the precious lives of people adding that this decision has been taken in larger public interest.

Finance Minister Harpal Cheema hands over appointment letters to 13 Section Officers



CHANDIGARH: Finance, Planning, Excise and Taxation Minister of Punjab Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema on Friday handed over appointment letters to 13 Section Officers, who have recently cleared the SAS examination, here at 'ViteYojnaBhawan' during a brief but impressive function.

On this occasion, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said that under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab government's mission of providing maximum employment opportunities to the youth, the recruitment process of appointing another 52 candidates of Section Officers by Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) and 53 candidates of Assistant Treasurer by the Subordinate Services Selection Board, Punjab is almost complete, and the appointment letters will be handed over to these candidates soon.

Reiterating the Punjab government's commitment towards sound financial

management and complete monitoring of expenditure of government-run welfare schemes, the Finance Minister said that these appointments would help in bringing more transparency in the functioning besides preventing the leakage of funds. He said that with these appointments the financial management of the state will be strengthened, and at the same time, better services can be provided to the employees and pensioners of the state.

Cheema congratulated the newly appointed Section Officers and encouraged them to do their job with full honesty and dedication. Meanwhile, Principal Secretary Finance Ajoy Kumar Sinha encouraged them to keep on updating their skill and qualification to cope with the emerging challenges.

Additional Director (Treasury and Accounts) Simarjit Kaur and Joint Secretary (Planning) Rakesh Kumar were also present on this occasion.

Paddy procurement touches 161 LMT till November 1



NEW DELHI: A quantity of 161.47 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy has been procured till November 1 under the ongoing Kharif marketing season, benefitting about 9.33 lakh farmers with minimum support price (MSP) value of Rs 35, 571.14 crore, an official statement said on Thursday.

Rice procurement estimates for Kharif marketing season (KMS) 2023-24 (Kharif crop) are 521.27 LMT out of which 20.76 per cent (108.23 LMT) has already been procured of which major contributors are Punjab (66.42 LMT), Haryana (36.11 LMT), and Tamil Nadu (3.26 LMT), it said.

Hooda is sure to go to jail, he is making statements to hide the nervousness: Anil Vij



SATISH HANDA
Ambala

Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij, while hitting back at Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's allegations of calling the ED notice a political notice, said that 'Arvind Kejriwal is scared, if he were right, he would have reached ED office and answered the questions.' While interacting with the media persons, Vij said that he (Kejriwal) is scared and hence is adopting such methods. He said that ever since the Aam Aadmi Party came to power, it has not accepted any constitutional institution and has always opposed it. As regard former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that he is sure to go to jail, he is making statements to hide the nervousness.

On completion of nine years of the BJP government in the state, Home Minister Anil Vij, while countering the allegations leveled by Congress leader Bhupendra Singh Hooda on the government, said that Hooda ruled Haryana for 10 years. He gave cheap land of farmers to the builders, committed many corruption cases on which cases are going on and now it is certain that he will go to jail. Vij said that Hooda is now making statements to hide his nervousness.

At the same time, countering the statement of Congress leader Deependra Hooda, Home Minister Anil Vij said that Rs 100 crore has been approved for the roads of Ambala and the roads of Ambala are being built but a room is needed in the jail for the father of Deependra Hooda and it is being made.

MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney announces Rs 1 cr for beautification of Heritage Street of Darbar Sahib

FW DESK
Amritsar

On the occasion of 554th Guru Purab next month, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha announced a grant of rupees 1 crore for beautification and cleanliness of the Heritage walk to Sri Harminder Sahib.

Sahney said that during his recent visit to Darbar Sahib for pledge of 40,000 youth against drugs, he was pained to



notice that the pathway going towards Sri Harminder Sahib,

has not been maintained properly and there is a lot of dirt on

the street of Heritage Walk.

Sahney informed that he will be providing a Road sweeper machine truck which will deep clean the Heritage street frequently. Along with this he will be providing grants of around 50 lakhs rupees for the beautification of the street which will include better lightening, greenery in both sides of the lane and facilities for smooth mobility of people with disabilities.

Sahney stated that being a

people's representative it is our moral responsibility to ensure preservation and beautification of our culture and heritage and Darbar Sahib is not just a state heritage but it is a global heritage site which also serve as one of the most important tourist destinations of India. "Preserving our heritage is like safeguarding the pages of our history books. I am deeply committed to cherish and preserve treasures of Sikh Heritage" said Sahney.

Chetan Singh Jauramajra bats for promotion of mushroom production in Punjab

CHANDIGARH: In a bid to promote the mushroom production for further encouraging the crop diversification thereby increasing the income of state farmers, Punjab Horticulture Minister Chetan Singh Jauramajra, directed the departments concerned to address the issues of the mushroom growers on priority.

Presiding over a meeting with the officials of eight concerned departments here at Punjab Bhawan, Chetan Singh Jauramajra also emphasized on the need to process surplus mushrooms to avoid high influx of mushrooms and low rates in the markets during the season.

Cabinet Minister stressed that mushroom production is connected to agriculture, hence it should be exempted from the provisions of the Factory Act. The action in this regard should be taken by expediting the process, directed the Cabinet Minister, while instructing Er. Dwarka Das, Deputy Director Factories, Labour Department to immediately submit a report by conducting physical verification of mushroom units in the state.



Cabinet Minister asked the Director Horticulture Shailender Kaur that mushroom growers should also be brought under the scheme, wherein the subsidy is being given to the farmers for the installation of solar panels for cold stores. She was directed to immediately prepare and send this proposal to the government for further approval.

Referring to the demand of mushroom growers to supply power to their units at subsidized rates, S. Jauramajra asked the Deputy CE Power . D.S. Toor to make arrangements in this regard and submit a report at the earliest. Deputy CE apprised the Minister that this matter is related to the PSTCL and he will soon contact the concerned authorities and discuss to take an appropriate decision in this regard.

15-point strategy to reduce road accidents increase by 20per cent in a year in Haryana

SATISH HANDA

Information reveals, this year so far 9,951 road accidents have been reported in Haryana in which over 4,500 people lost their lives and nearly 8,500 people were injured.

While reviewing the action taken in this regard in the meetings of Road Safety Council, the Haryana government decided to opt for a 15-point strategy to reduce road accidents by nearly 20% in a year, which includes fixing of illegal road cuts on the highways made by the dhaba and petrol pump owners and keeping a strict watch on illegal liquor vends on roads. Among other major reasons for road accidents include driving a vehicle under the influence of liquor, parking vehicles on the road side and over speeding. Information reveals that the accidents recorded in the state during the past six years indicate a large reduction in road incidents. In state witnessed nearly 16% decline in 2020 and 2021 as compared to 2019 due to limited movement of the vehicles on roads during the spread epidemic



outbreak in the state.

According to the Road Transport & Highways Ministry report the number of road accidents and persons died and injured in road mishaps was disappointing. The number of road accidents in the country in 2022 was 4,61,312 in which 1,68,491 accident victims lost lives and 4,43,366 persons sustained serious injuries, witnessing 11.9% increase in road mishaps, 9.4 increase in deaths and 15.3 increase in injured as compared to the previous year. Information also revealed that the major reason for increase in road mishaps was high speed while

driving on the highways and expressways as well as limited number of traffic police staff to check the vehicles. Police data revealed that during the year 2022 more than 66000 accident victims had lost lives because they were driving a two-wheeler without helmets while driving or without seat belt while driving a car. Among other prominent reasons for the accidents were found, driving the vehicle from the wrong side, parking their vehicles at the wrong place and use of mobile phones while driving which identified that 3395 persons were reported dead due to this.

Khattar highlights plans, achievements, hike in exports & MSME sector

SATISH HANDA

While addressing media persons, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar presented a report card on the achievements, hike in exports and industrial development in micro, small, medium enterprise (MSME) sector on completion of nine years of BJP government in Haryana state. He said, when he took over the charge of the state in 2014, the state was having talks of discrimination, corruption and an atmosphere of despair. Haryana CM also presented a report card on the completion of nine years tenure of his government, highlighting several achievements as well as people-oriented and public welfare programmes carried out in his nine years tenure as chief minister in the state.

Khattar said that BJP after successfully ruling in the state now BJP government have peacefully completed over four years of the second term since BJP do not have the kind of experience the previous Congress government had of indulging in loot and corruption, though we have the experience of serving the people. He continued that nepotism and regionalism have been replaced by a commitment to equitable development.



Khattar said, BJP government in Haryana working on five S: Shiksha, Swasth, Suraksha, 'Swambhiman' and 'Swavlaban' with good governance. He said that his government's tenure has been marked by a transformative change in the state's administrative systems, culture of sensitivity, responsibility and transparency in the past over nine years. The Chief Minister said, during the past nine years, ruling Haryana government has always focused on economic growth, industrial development, and the overall well-being of its residents.

Khattar said, the state's exports have increased from Rs 68,032 crore in 2014 to Rs 2,45,453 crore during the year

2022-23, also exhibiting a remarkable upswing in economic prosperity in the state. He further added that Haryana has attracted investments worth Rs 18,422 crore, leading to the establishment of 1,59,622 MSME units in the state as such the industrial expansion generated employment opportunities for about 12.60 lakh individuals. Khattar said that 'Beti Bachao Beti Pado' campaign launched in Haryana state by the present government brought much improvement in female -male sex from 871 in 2014 to 932 at present, adding that it would improve further.

On the agriculture front, Khattar said his government raised the compensation

amount for crop loss because of natural calamity from Rs 6,000 per acre in 2013 to Rs 15,000 per acre. He said in the last nine years, his government disbursed a compensation of Rs 11,000 crore to farmers while the previous government paid Rs 1,158 crore in 10 years. On the health segment, Khattar said the number of medical colleges in the state rose to 15 at present as against six in 2014, adding that eight more medical colleges will come up in the state. The number of MBBS seats has risen to 2,185 at present in the state as against 700 in 2014. He said that nine significant tasks in past nine years include creating Parivar Pehchan Patra providing the benefit of 397 schemes and services to 45 lakh families, clean drinking water to every 31.41 lakh households in rural areas, 24-hour electricity is being supplied to 5,791 villages (86 per cent of the total villages), Antyodaya Saral Portal brought 675 schemes and services from 54 departments online which also led to the removal of 36.75 lakh fake beneficiaries, the state government had started Mission Merit as such on brought transparency resulting 1.10 lakh youths have got government jobs and there are plans to provide 60,000 more.

Chandigarh Smart City Limited unveils BIRBAL: A revolutionary Chatbot for citizen services

CHANDIGARH: To provide efficient and user-friendly citizen services, the Chandigarh Smart City Ltd. has launched BIRBAL, an innovative Chatbot aimed at transforming citizen-centric services.

Anindita Mitra, CEO, Chandigarh Smart City Ltd. formally launched the ground breaking initiative, which reaffirms the city's commitment to leveraging technology to create seamless experiences for its residents. While sharing about the initiative, the CEO, CSCL briefed that BIRBAL, the interactive chat-based interface, merged all major citizen services provided by the Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation Chandigarh into one seamless platform. Its primary objective is to provide accurate information and guide citizens towards the appropriate resources. Through BIRBAL, citizens will have access to comprehensive information on the major services offered by the Chandigarh administration and Municipal Corporation,



making it a one-stop platform for information dissemination and grievance redressal. Citizens can interact with BIRBAL using keywords, predefined questions, and even voice commands. Notably, BIRBAL incorporates features such as voice assistance, live agent support, and AI-based response updates, said the CEO.

She further said that BIRBAL enables citizens to provide suggestions and feedback directly to all services in Chandigarh, fostering continuous improvement and updates. In cases where the Chatbot cannot address specific queries, a live chat option is available for citizens to engage with dedicated support operators who will promptly provide accurate information. The CEO said that accessible through the official CSCL website and the iamchandigarh mobile app, BIRBAL has already gained significant attention during its beta testing phase. Over 12,434 users engaged with the bot, resulting in approximately 32,000 messages exchanged.

Mahua Moitra: 'Personal Question!', Mahua Moitra Storms Out of Ethics Committee Meeting

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA
New Delhi

Vinod Sonkar, MP & Chairman of the Ethics Committee said, "Such unruly behavior of the MP is Offensive. The Committee asked question on the allegation labelled by another MP Nishikant Dubey." According to Sources, Chairman of the Ethics Committee is consulting with Legal Authority and other Members of the committee and may direct strict action against AITC MP Moitra.

Mahua Moitra asked questions on Govt.-Adani link in the Lok Sabha session of Parliament in exchange of bribe as BJP MP Nishikant Dubey recently sent this complaint through a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker Omprakash Birla. Then the debate started in the letter, it was alleged that Mahua had asked questions about the Adani Group in Parliament with a bribe from businessman Darshan



Hiranandani. After that, the Parliamentary Ethics Committee summoned her to appear before the committee.

Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee at the appointed time with three bags. At 3:55 PM, she came out like a storm as soon as she came out, she

The Chairman of the Ethics Committee wanted to know which hotel Mahua stayed in while on a foreign trip, who she stayed with and who paid the bills too. Who are those calls Mahua at night and she spoke to them"

the Trinamool but two from the Congress, one from the JDU, one from the CPI and one from the BSP are there. According to sources, opposition MPs stood by Mahua during the meeting.

JD(U) MP Giridhari Yadav was present in the meeting along with Mahua Moitra. He was also heard saying, "They were asking Mahua Moitra personal questions. They have no right to ask personal questions". The MPs of the oppo-

sition camp alleged that the head of the Ethics Committee himself asked Mahua unethical and indecent questions.

Expressing anger, opposition BSP MP Danish Ali said that the head of the Ethics Committee is stripping Draupadi. He said, "The Chairman of the Ethics Committee wanted to know which hotel Mahua stayed in while on a foreign trip, who she stayed with and who paid the bills too. Who are those calls Mahua at night and she spoke to them".

Congress MP Uttam Kumar Reddy said, "Listening to his (Ethics Committee Chairman) question, it is clear that he is asking the questions according to someone's advice. It's very very bad, for the last two days we have been asking.. while they (Mahua Moitra) were asking where are you going? Who are you meeting with? Can you give me your phone call record?..they don't have any proof of allegation or money transaction".

Nitish says work not happening in INDIA bloc as Congress is busy with Assembly polls in 5 states

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that work related to INDIA is not taking place thanks to the Congress party which is busy in assembly elections in five states.

While addressing a rally of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in Patna, Kumar said: "We have formed the Indian Nation Development Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to uproot BJP from the country but work is not taking place in it. The Congress party is busy in assembly elections in five states. After these assembly results, we will sit together and will plan the next course of action against the BJP."

The CPI had organized a rally with the tag line "BJP Hatao Desh Bachao" in Patna where Nitish Kumar was invited.

"BJP has nothing to do with the freedom struggle of the country. They are trying to erase the contribution of Babu (Mahatma Gandhi) and other leaders. The leaders of



the BJP are always trying to create conflict between Hindus and Muslims but there is no dispute between them. Still, they are doing it. I have been controlling communal violence since 2007. Keeping this in view, we came together on one platform. We held a meeting of opposition parties in Patna and other places to uproot the BJP from the country," Nitish Kumar said while thanking the CPI leaders for inviting him to the rally.

Reacting on the statement of Nitish Kumar, Nityanand Rai, BJP's MoS home at the Centre, said: "The Bihar chief minister has opened a front against the Congress party."

SC issues notice to Centre on plea against provision of SC/ST Act mandating death penalty

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a plea challenging a provision of the SC/ST Act providing for the compulsory punishment of death penalty.

A bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued notice to the Centre and sought its response on the plea challenging constitutionality of section 3(2)(i) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

The impugned provision of the Act provides only the punishment for death to the person who gives or fabricates false evidence for an innocent member of SC and ST and if such innocent member be convicted and executed in consequence of such false or fabricated evidence.

"This section mandates mandatory death penalty without the exercise of judicial discretion and therefore it needs to be struck down for being ultra vires the Constitution of India and the fundamental tenets of the Constitutional law," said the plea filed through advocate Jyotika Kalra.

It added that the mandatory death penalty goes directly in contravention of the judgments delivered by the Supreme Court in the cases of Mithu v. State of Punjab and State of Punjab v. Dalbir Singh and therefore, the impugned section mandatorily providing death penalty without any alternative to other forms of punishment be declared as unconstitutional for infringing the guarantee contained under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Jaishankar meets families of 8 detained Indians, says govt attaches highest importance to case



NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met the families of eight former Indian Navy officers who are detained in Qatar and have been given death sentences on allegations of spying. "Met this morning with the families of the 8 Indians detained in Qatar. "Stressed that Government attaches the highest importance to the case. Fully share the concerns and pain of the families," Jaishankar posted on X. "Underlined that Government will continue to make all efforts to secure their release. Will coordinate closely with the families in that regard," he added further.

PM greets people of five states on their formation day



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday greeted citizens on the foundation day of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

In a series of posts, Modi wishes citizens on the occasion. "On the momentous occasion of Andhra Pradesh Formation Day, my heartfelt felicitations to the people of this dynamic state. With their exceptional talent, unwavering resolve and steadfast perseverance, the people of AP have etched their mark across diverse domains of excellence. I pray for their continued prosperity and success," he posted on X wishing people of Andhra Pradesh on its formation day.

"On this Kannada Rajyotsava, we celebrate the spirit of Karnataka - a cradle of ancient innovation and modern enterprise. Its people, a blend of warmth and wisdom, fuel the state's relentless march towards greatness. May Karnataka continue to thrive, innovate and inspire," Modi greeted people of Karnataka in another post. The Prime Minister also greeted people of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Haryana on their formation day on X.

Mahua Moitra, Pawan Khera & Priyanka Chaturvedi allege Centre trying to 'target' their phones



NEW DELHI: Several opposition leaders, including Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, Congress leader Pawan Khera on Tuesday alleged that their mobile phones were being targeted by the Centre.

In a post on X, Moitra said, "Received text and email from Apple warning me that the government is trying to hack into my phone and email. Home Minister's Office - get a life. Adani and PMO bullies - your fear makes me pity you."

She also tagged Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi and said, "Priyanka Chaturvedi, you and I and three other Indians have got it so far."

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi was to flag it on Monday night. In a post on X, she said, "Wonder who? Shame on you. Cc: Home Minister's Office for your kind attention."

In another post, she tagged Union Ministers and said, "Kind attention Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rajeev Chandrasekhar."

Khera, who is a Congress Working Committee (CWC) member of the grand old party too came forward and said, "Dear Modi Sarkar, why are you doing this?" He also attached the screenshot of the message.

The email titled "ALERT: State-sponsored attackers may be targeting your iPhone. These attackers are likely targeting you individually because

of who you are or what you do. If your device is compromised by a state-sponsored attacker, they may be able to remotely access your sensitive data, communications, or even the camera and microphone."

"While it's possible this is a false alarm, please take this warning seriously," the warning mail read.

The development comes ahead of the Delhi High Court hearing the defamation suit filed by Trinamool Congress MP Moitra in alleged cash for Parliament questions against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai on Tuesday.

She has been asked by the Ethics Committee to appear before it on November 2.

Moitra was first asked by the Ethics Committee to appear before it on October 31. Following the first summons, she sent a letter to the Ethics Committee Chairperson Vinod Sonkar saying that she will depose on any date after November 5 after her pre scheduled constituency programme ends and not on October 31.

The ethics committee is probing BJP MP Dubey's allegations that Moitra accepted cash and favours for asking questions in Lok Sabha on businessman Gautam Adani at the behest of businessman Hiranandani.

On Thursday, Dubey and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai gave "oral evidence" to the panel against Moitra.

Supreme Court reserves judgement, asks EC for data on funds received via electoral bonds within two weeks

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its order on the challenges posed to the Electoral Bond Scheme after listening to the hearing for three days in a row.

The court has however, directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to submit the details of the funds received by all the political parties through Electoral Bonds till September 30 to the court within two weeks.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gavai, J.B. Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra heard the arguments



from both sides - the Centre and petitioners challenging the scheme. After the Centre concluded its submissions the Bench asked the ECI to submit the data on funding received through Electoral Bonds to date.

However, Advocate Amit Sharma appearing for the ECI told the Bench that he did not have the required data.

The Bench expressed its displeasure to the ECI for not

maintaining the required data despite an interim order passed in April 2019 which directed the commission to maintain the data of electoral bonds received till date. Advocate Sharma told the Bench that the ECI thought that the April 2019 order was limited to only the electoral bonds issued in relation to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

However, the Bench refused to accept the submission and said that the data had to be continuously collected according to the order and said the ECI should have asked for clarification. In the April 2019 interim order, the apex court had directed the ECI that all the po-

litical parties who have received donations through Electoral Bonds should submit to the poll panel in a sealed cover, detailed particulars of the donors and amount received against each Bond along with bank details.

The petitioners have so far argued that the Electoral Bond scheme violates the citizen's fundamental right to information under Article 19 (1) and it enables backdoor lobbying and quid pro quo; opaque instrument that is not entirely anonymous; promotes corruption and eliminates level playing field for political parties in Opposition; is unfair to shareholder of the companies.

Statement of uprooting Gurdwaras during BJP rally in Rajasthan is highly condemnable : SGPC

AMRITSAR: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhama has taken notice of the statement about 'uprooting Gurdwara Sahibs upon forming government', during a political rally of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at Tijara in Rajasthan, and condemned the same in strong words.

Harjinder Singh Dhama said that Gurdwara Sahibs are established all over the world today to promote the principle of Sarbat Da Bhala (welfare of all), blessed by Sri Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh Guru. He said that the Gurdwaras have always helped the distressed and the needy. Whenever there is a calamity in the country and abroad, Gurdwaras and Sikh bodies have always been at the forefront and served humanity without any discrimination.

Harjinder Singh Dhama said that the hate statement about Gurdwara Sahibs during the rally is a conspiracy of BJP leaders to defeat the holy thought of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, which was done in the old times also. He said that now again this



tendency is being deliberately propped up in the country. He said that Sri Guru Nanak Dev had brought the country and the society out of the narrow-mindedness and gave the message of Sarbat Da Bhala, but today the BJP leaders are again moving towards the same thinking. He said that the doors of Gurdwaras are always open to everyone and such a small-minded conspiracy of BJP leaders can never succeed.

The SGPC President said that at the time of this BJP rally, the Chief Minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh (UP) Yogi Adityanath was also present on the stage, and it was his responsibility to

Statement of uprooting Gurdwaras during BJP rally in Rajasthan is highly condemnable : SGPC

BJP's intentions clear on raising funds from big corporates: Chidambaram

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Monday took a jibe at the Centre on the electoral bond issue, saying that the 'BJP has made its intention clear as it will raise its funds from big corporates in an opaque manner'.

He said that the answer to this was a transparent crowd-funding from small donors through recordable digital transactions. In a post on X, Chidambaram said, "On the eve of the hearing of the Electoral Bonds case, the BJP has made its intentions clear. The BJP will raise its funds from big corporates in an opaque, secretive and conspiratorial manner. "The answer to this is transparent crowd-funding from small donors through recordable digital transactions. Let's see who wins: the Big corporates or the Small citizen who takes pride in contributing to a political party," the former Union minister said.

His remarks came after the Supreme Court notified the composition of a five-judge Constitution bench that will hear a



batch of petitions filed against the electoral bonds scheme.

As per the caustic published on the website of the apex court, a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gavai, J.B. Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra will take up the matter for hearing on October 31. On October 16, the Supreme Court had decided to refer the pleas to a five-judge Constitution bench in view of the importance of the issue raised having regard to Article 145(4) of the Constitution. The batch of pleas challenges the electoral bonds scheme introduced by the Centre through amendments made to the Finance Act of 2017, alleging that the scheme has opened doors to unchecked funding for political parties.



Talking Points
Narvijay Yadav

In the crash test, it is seen how much damage is caused to a car after the collision. The same crash test is proposed for the passenger buses, after which they will be given one, two, three, four, or five stars.

Buses and trucks running on the roads are often responsible for fatal accidents. In that respect, these heavy vehicles are mostly leveled as 'villains', while their own safety gets ignored. Such news often remains in the headlines that a bus full of passengers fell into a deep ditch or a truck loaded with goods overturned on the highway. One of the major causes behind such road accidents is the unsafe body structure of these big public vehicles. In India, cars and two-wheelers are manufactured directly from

Safety of Buses and Trucks Overlooked

still largely made by unskilled craftsmen.

On a positive note, the government has mooted a rule under which every truck will compulsorily have an air-conditioned driver's cabin. The central government is also making some efforts to contain road accidents. For example, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched an indigenous star-rating system for crash testing of cars, under which vehicles will be given one to five stars in terms of safety in case of a collision. This rating system, called the Bharat New Car Assessment Program (BNCAP), is voluntary and came into effect on October 1, 2023. This is India's own car crash test rating system. It conforms to global crash test protocols. The higher the BNCAP score or stars, the safer is the car. The idea behind this is that while purchasing a vehicle, people can



make an informed decision and evaluate the safety of the vehicle. India is now the fifth country in the world to have its own car crash test rating system.

Under BNCAP, cars voluntarily enrolled by automobile manufacturers are crash-tested, according to the prescribed protocol. This system is applicable to passenger vehicles with more than eight seats. The cars are given a rating between one star to five stars after being tested

on parameters like the safety of adults, the safety of children, and other safety measures available in the vehicle. The vehicles undergo stringent crash tests before being put on the road. In the crash test, it is seen how much damage is caused to a car after the collision. The same crash test is proposed for the buses, after which they will be given one, two, three, four, or five stars.

More than 1.5 lakh road

accidents occur in India in a year. According to a World Bank study, road accidents are estimated to cost the Indian economy 5 to 7% of GDP every year. The government is trying to reduce the loss of life and property due to road accidents by up to 50% by the year 2030. To make passenger buses safe on the road safety criteria, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved

new standards under BNCAP. There will now be new standards for the manufacturing of bus bodies and these will apply to both original equipment manufacturers and bus body manufacturing companies. This is a big step in view of the increasing number of bus accidents in the country.

The writer is a senior journalist and columnist. Views are personal. Twitter @narvijayyadav



Slow growth and rising inflation are key concerns

Amidst the bustling economic activity, recent data from India's core industries and manufacturing sector signal a concerning deceleration in economic momentum. The government's provisional figures for September reveal a marked slowdown in the production growth of key infrastructure industries, including cement, coal, steel, and electricity, to a four-month low of 8.1% year-on-year growth, down from 12.5% in August. This deceleration was evident across all but the fertilizer sector, which saw an uptick as farmers prepared for the rabi cropping season. The heavy monsoon rains in September, which exceeded expectations by 13%, likely played a role in dampening demand and production, particularly affecting cement, electricity, and steel industries. A sequential analysis shows a contraction across all eight core sectors, with a notable 4.8% decline from August. Coal production, however, remained a bright spot, with a slight dip in growth but maintaining a robust 16.1% year-on-year pace. The weakening demand, especially for consumer goods, has led to the slowest rise in new orders in a year, with international sales also losing momentum. Alarmingly, less than 4% of the surveyed companies reported workforce expansions, indicating a significant slowdown in job creation within the manufacturing sector since April. Manufacturers are also grappling with accelerated input cost inflation, yet factory gate inflation has slowed, suggesting producers are hesitant to pass on the higher costs amid uncertain demand. Business confidence is waning, with inflation expectations identified as a primary concern that could further dampen demand and production in the coming year. Additionally, the anticipated lower kharif crop output could signal limited support from the agricultural sector, potentially impacting rural incomes. Policymakers are now faced with the daunting task of addressing the dual challenges of slowing growth and persistent inflation, a balancing act that requires strategic foresight and decisive action to sustain economic stability and progress.

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"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible'"

AUDREY HEPBURN

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ASHOK LAVASA EXPLAINS HOW UNCIVIL ACTIONS BY NATIONS YIELD ENDURING WOUNDS, NOT SOLUTIONS

Reconciliation over retribution

The image of shattered solar panels in Gaza amid billowing smoke is a grim reminder that peace is a prerequisite for progress. If the political leadership of the world cannot ensure a peaceful present, how do we expect them to protect us from other threats like "global boiling"? Francis Bacon in his essay *On Revenge* describes revenge as "a kind of wild justice." 'Wild' means raw or not regulated by judicial restraint or civilised conduct. Revenge is an act of retaliation implying an earlier act of provocation. Even if that is the case, and whatever its irrationality, an act of vengeance by the establishment can never be justified like the earlier act. The state can punish an unlawful act through its statutory organs but can it subject an entire community to retribution by mindless annihilation? There cannot be any apology for the perpetrators of violence but the responsibility of the state lies in bringing them to justice as administered by the strong arm of law and not in bulldozing its way in a manner that grinds everything to dust.

Revenge may never be able to settle issues, let alone settle scores. It creates its own vicious cycle, a chain that keeps adding links to an unending series of self-destructive events. The human mind is designed to react but it also possesses the capacity for restraint. Animals understand risk and restrain themselves if they perceive an action as risky. But take away restraint from a human being and you remove the foundation of social behaviour. The laws of any land, international law and treaties bind people and countries to acceptable conduct. Its absence would lead to disorder and unmanageable conflicts. Nations that



cross the boundaries of civilised behaviour can only give lasting wounds, not lasting solutions, even as they achieve the myopic objective of causing mayhem by taking revenge.

Nobody should be forgiven for acts of terror but even the anachronistic Hammurabi code demanded "an eye for an eye", and not the entire human body. Gandhi thought that even that would make all of us blind in the long run. He was not a preacher but a practitioner of non-violence who was ultimately able to defeat the worst form of colonial violence where others who followed retaliatory tactics, were defeated. Recall Gandhi's response in South Africa when a police officer's wife saved him from a violent mob that manhandled him upon his return from India. When asked to lodge a complaint against those who used force against him, he refused because that would fuel acrimony and cause a scar difficult to heal. His accepting their behaviour as a manifestation of

deviant conduct not meriting his response had a greater chance of not perpetuating animosity between the two communities.

It is possible that in the real world, this behaviour is dismissed as fictional. It may not be held viable in statecraft too although there are examples where cooperation has lasted longer than divisive action that has invariably led to permanent conflicts. Forces of unity and adjustment provide longer lasting solutions. In the short run, the ability of an individual to subdue his opponent and a nation's success in subjugating a community might seem as a triumph. Still, it might not be so easily possible to extinguish subterranean sentiments that take their own time to erupt. Inhuman destruction generally leaves cinder that smoulders underneath.

It is the responsibility of the judicial system to punish the offenders and that of governments to find solutions to minimise conflict. Lack of efforts to find consensual solutions gives opportunity to fringe elements to rise and be perceived as crusaders for a cause and creates disorder. This invites the wrath of law thus discrediting the cause and giving the establishment a legitimate ground to retaliate. The champions become the quarry along with the cause and the wave of government retaliation causes more collateral damage nullifying the legitimacy of its action. This is the vicious conundrum of violence that gives those in power, the image of being ruthless, inconsiderate and disproportionate in their response to acts of unlawful aggression by the fringe.

Encounters staged by the police against hardened criminals might be approved by a frenetic crowd but this is not sustainable for a civilised society. The establishment must punish as per due process but not as a desperate avenger.

Retaliation has a strong logic that sounds convincing when passions are inflamed. The forces of evil inflict indiscriminate injury, invite the wrath of the victims and approval for consequential action however disproportionate. We crave instant justice but an exchange involving more innocent deaths can never be fair. Such an exchange does entail unintended casualties of the innocent being used as shields. So, while the first set of deaths were of innocent victims, the second set of innocent unintended victims is a price people are willing to pay in order to carry out a seemingly justified retaliation. In the heat of the situation, nobody has the patience to go to the root of the problem and the manner in which grievances are allowed to take the form of ghastly terror.

One of the strengths of an effective administrator or an empathetic human being is the ability to retain equanimity and restraint in any situation. Those in power cannot act as angry bystanders or the instruments of nemesis due to their inflamed egos. The unreasonable hubris of a sovereign can only lead to retribution, not reconciliation. Dialogue is the only reasonable way forward in a civilised world where might can't determine who is right.

Ashok Lavasa is a former Election Commissioner and former Vice President of Asian Development Bank. Views are personal.



ARUL GEORGE SCARIA BELIEVES AI-GENERATED WORK REQUIRES CAREFUL IP PROTECTION EXTENSION CONSIDERATION

Adapting copyright law for the human element in AI

The Executive Order in the United States, issued by the Biden administration on October 30, on 'Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI)', illustrates the changing attitude of global leaders towards AI regulation. Implementation and the use of AI without the necessary safeguards can have enormous implications for the future of humanity, and the changes in regulatory approaches are a welcome development.

One of the many areas wherein AI has raised tough questions is ownership and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. For example, while generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Midjourney allow people with minimal creative skills to produce reasonably beautiful outputs with the help of a couple of text prompts, their use has raised a number of copyright-related questions. These include whether the use of copyrighted materials, including texts and images, as training data infringes the rights of millions of authors and artists on the Internet. A related query revolves around copyright ownership over output generated by AI, autonomously or with inputs from humans.

A recent decision of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in *Stephen Thaler vs Shira Perlmutter* is remarkable because it provides some insights on whether copyright can exist in work autonomously created by AI. In this case, Mr. Thaler owned an AI system named 'Creativity Machine' which he claimed had autonomously created a piece of visual art. In his application for copyright registration before the U.S. Copyright Office, 'Creativity Machine' was mentioned as the author of the work. Mr. Thaler also added that the copyright of the work would be transferred



to him, as the owner of 'Creativity Machine'.

The copyright office rejected the application on the ground that the submitted work lacked human authorship. His pleas to the Office to reconsider its decision were also rejected on the same rationale. He challenged the rejection before the District Court subsequently. The primary legal question before the Court was whether a work autonomously generated by an AI system could be copyrightable. After reviewing the relevant statutory provisions, case laws, and theoretical justifications for copyright protection, the court concluded that human creativity was essential to copyright protection.

The court's line of reasoning is in tune with the general position of the U.S. Copyright Office thus far vis-à-vis work created autonomously by an AI system. In a document entitled 'Copyright Registration Guidance: Works Containing Material Generated by Artificial Intelligence', released in March 2023, the copyright office had categorically stated that "copyright can protect only

material that is the product of human creativity. Fundamentally, the term 'author,' used in both the Constitution and the Copyright Act, excludes nonhumans".

The office also clarified that copyright applicants had a duty to disclose the inclusion of AI-generated content in any application, followed by detailed guidelines on doing so in registration forms. Recently, it also initiated a public consultation on various copyright-related questions posed by AI.

The case in India

Compare the U.S. episode with the prevailing situation in India. In 2020, the Indian Copyright Office registered a work of art called 'Suryast', for which an AI system named "RAGHAV Artificial Intelligence Painting App" was listed as a coauthor. The Copyright Office had previously rejected an application in which the same system had been listed as the sole author. While India has not effected any legislative changes in the Copyright Act 1957, the Copyright Office ignored the human authorship requirement in Indian copyright law when granting registration with an AI system as a co-author.

When the matter became controversial, the office sent a notice to the human author in the application declaring its intent to withdraw the registration. But the data from the Indian Copyright Office website suggests that the work concerned continues to remain registered. The Copyright Office is also yet to articulate mandatory disclosure requirements on the use of AI or even initiate broader consultations on this important issue.

It may also be useful to review the current scenario in light of the recommendations of the 161st Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce entitled 'Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India' (July 2021). The report had suggested reviewing the Copyright Act 1957 and the Patent Act 1970 to "incorporate the emerging technologies of AI and AI-related inventions in their ambit".

A careful reading of the report suggests some of its recommendations aim to relax the standards for securing copyright and patents. But these recommendations do not appear to be informed by any study of IP-related challenges and needs of the AI innovation ecosystem in India. The committee did not consider the potential adverse implications of such an approach for the startup ecosystem in India. This is alarming.

IP rights confer monopoly protection, and as any monopoly rights can have extensive negative consequences on society, we need to be cautious about extending, in a straightforward way, existing IP protections to AI-generated work. Many of the traditional economic arguments such as the need to incentivise authors and inventors through copyright or patents, do not hold with the autonomous creative output of AI systems, since machines are not influenced by such incentives.

In sum, policymakers and courts in India also need to assume a more cautious approach against diluting the human-centricity in copyright law. There needs to be a cautious approach in extending existing IP protections to work generated by Artificial Intelligence

Arul George Scaria is an Associate Professor at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU). Views are personal.



BOOKS: REVIEW

Resilient opposition: Swatantra's impact on India's economic policy

In "Toward A Free Economy: Swatantra and Opposition Politics in Democratic India," Aditya Balasubramanian provides a meticulous dissection of India's early post-independence political landscape, focusing on the opposition's role in shaping the nation's developmental trajectory. This scholarly work is not just a historical account; it's an exploration of the ideological battles that defined a nascent democracy's path.

Balasubramanian's narrative weaves through the lives and legacies of influential opposition figures and institutions, such as C. Rajagopalachari and the Swatantra Party, the Libertarian Social Institute, and publications like 'The Indian Libertarian'. He paints a vivid picture of a time when India's political and economic discourse was rich with debate and diversity of thought.

The book challenges popular conceptions of the Swatantra Party, often dismissed as a relic of royalty or a mouthpiece for big business.

Instead, Balasubramanian uncovers a complex entity that grappled with issues of inflation, taxation, and property rights, offering a stark contrast to the Congress-led narrative of the time. His impartial treatment of these opposition figures is commendable, providing a balanced view while not shying away from critique.

One of the book's highlights is the intriguing tale of the Lotvalas, a Bombay-based family that championed libertarianism through their publication, advocating for a 'free economy' and making a case for English as India's lingua franca. Their story is a testament to the power of ideas and the impact of intellectual investment in shaping societal views.

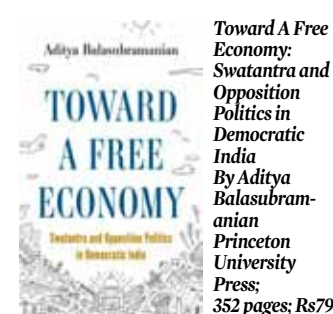
Balasubramanian's work is a treasure trove for researchers, laying the groundwork for further exploration into India's liberal traditions, the geographical spread of political ideologies, and the reasons behind the success or failure of

The book challenges popular conceptions of the Swatantra Party, often dismissed as a relic of royalty or a mouthpiece for big business

certain economic thoughts. He prompts questions about the indigenous roots of liberalism in India and the factors that confined the opposition's influence to specific regions.

The book is dense, perhaps not a casual read, but it's a goldmine for the serious student of Indian politics and economics. It's a call to delve deeper into the rich tapestry of India's developmental narrative, offering insights into the country's past and potentially guiding its future.

Balasubramanian's decade-long



research journey culminates in a work that celebrates India's pluralistic and diverse democratic ethos. His contribution is a crucial addition to the understanding of India's political economy, inviting readers to reflect on the nation's past decisions, current direction, and future possibilities. "Toward A Free Economy" is a profound acknowledgment of the power of opposition in shaping a democracy, and a recognition of the need to preserve the multiplicity of voices in the ongoing discourse of development.

Balasubramanian's book is not just a historical narrative; it's a critical analysis of the ideological underpinnings that have shaped India's economic policies. He delves into the philosophical debates that raged behind the

scenes, debates that were as much about the soul of India as they were about its economic direction. The Swatantra Party and its contemporaries are presented not merely as political entities but as carriers of a vision for India that starkly differed from the socialist path taken by the ruling Congress. This vision, rooted in principles of a free economy and individual liberty, was a bold counter-narrative in a time when central planning and state intervention were the norm worldwide.

The book also serves as a mirror to contemporary politics, reflecting on how the debates of the past continue to resonate in modern India's policy-making. The discussions on the role of the state in the economy, the importance of individual freedoms, and the impact of government policies on entrepreneurship and innovation are as relevant today as they were in the era of Swatantra. Balasubramanian's work prompts readers to consider the cyclical nature of politics and economics, where old ideas often resurface in new guises, and the battles of the past are never truly settled, only reframed for a new generation.

Infosys founder Narayana Murthy's 70-hrs work week remark triggers netizens

BY ARUN KUMAR RAO
Bengaluru

Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy recently stirred up a hornet's nest when he advocated 70 hours work weeks for youngsters so that India can compete with economies that progressed in the last two to three decades. Murthy said while speaking to former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai for a podcast, The Record, "India's work productivity is one of the lowest in the world. So therefore, my request is that our youngsters must say, 'This is my country. I'd like to work 70 hours a week,'" adding that this is exactly what the Germans and Japanese did after the Second World War. "They made sure that every German worked extra hours for a certain number of years." He added.

Karnataka IT minister Priyank Kharge giving opinion on murthy's statement said, Companies cannot force individuals to work extra hours and "cannot run seat shops",



Kharge who appreciated Murthy contribution to the IT industry and his 'wisdom', said instead of stipulating the number of hours put it by an individual, companies should see how productive they are in their professional assignments.

Murthy's comments drew critical reactions from netizens, although several industry leaders such as JSW Group CMD Sajjan Jindal, Ola Cabs Co-Founder Bhavish Aggarwal of Ola, and Pai supported his view. While IT

employees said, "will we ever find time for family, mental health? When it comes to returning to office, soem IT companies wield the stick, otheroffers carrots. Infosys has asked select employees at the junior and mid-level to return to office ten days in a month beginning November 20. Breaking away from some of its peers who are enforcing a five-day work week. Its internal communication comes days after Infosys founder NR Narayana murthy comment on youngsters should

be prepared to work 70 hours a week if India must compete with other global economies. Infosys has maintained its stance to allow employees to have the flexibility to work remotely and in physical offices. Infosys, for instance, has set up a plug-and-play facility in yelahanka office in Bengaluru to encourage employees to work from this facility that became operation in June.

Infosys CEO Salil Parekh said, "We are seeing more and more employees back into the campus and we believe this will continue. There are some instances, for example, with specific client work or specific type of engagement where we feel it is better that everyone is working together in the office for that employees are back anyway". TCS, on the other hand, is asking employees to return to office on all five days of the week. Work from home has ended for some teams. Cognizant is not mandating its employees to return to office any time soon.

Protean eGov Technologies Ltd launching Rs 490 cr IPO



DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

Protean eGov Technologies Limited is launching its Initial Public Offering (IPO) -- priced at Rs 752 to Rs 792 per equity share and aggregating Rs 490 crores -- from November 6 to November 8, 2023.

Describing the company's creation of digital public infrastructure for the national population scale projects in taxation, Suresh Sethi, MD & CEO, Protean eGov Technologies Limited, told media here

recently that it had enabled 19 national-level e-Government projects across 7 government ministries and was presently diversifying from three stacks to six stacks.

"We are building on the database business from our present business and taking these also to developing countries," he said while highlighting the company's success in creating 446 million 'PAN' cards, 800 million Aadhar authentication and 6 billion online PAN verifications.

"We are the only organiza-

tion providing a full bouquet of eGovt services for identity and authenticity alongside managing PAN database and pension database," he said, adding that its new businesses would be in infrastructure and innovation that would be expected to provide higher margins.

"While the company has 166,000 points of services nationally, we are expanding our footprint in various sectors as the macro-economy grows," he said, adding that "Cloud-hosted infrastructure is the 'need of the hour' as it is scalable and cost-efficient."

The company is also focusing on expansion into global markets, indigenous Cloud offerings and Cyber security advisory.

The Equity Shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE.

ICICI Securities, Equirus Capital, IIFL Securities and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) are the book running lead managers to the issue.

"Young India Willing to Invest in Quality Sleep": Magniflex Sleep Index



FW DESK
New Delhi

A recent study conducted by Magniflex India, Europe's No. 1 luxury mattress brand, shows that consumers are aware that a premium-quality mattress has a substantial impact on both health and quality of sleep. The 'Magniflex Sleep Index' that was conducted across India among age groups of 18-70, demonstrated that a remarkable 53% of participants recognized the positive impact of high-end mattresses on alleviating back pain. These results underscore the health-conscious nature of the Indian population and their readiness to invest in high-quality mattresses to enhance their overall well-being.

On factors influencing the decision to purchase a high-end mattress, comfort and support emerged as the top priorities for 50% of respondents. Additionally, 42% of participants cited health benefits such as improved sleep quality and pain relief, highlighting the growing awareness of the role that quality mattresses play in promoting good health.

Commenting on the sleep index, Anand Nichani, MD, Magniflex India, said, "We rolled out this initiative to garner deeper insights to cater to the latent needs and preferences of our target audience. The most encouraging part of the survey was that an overwhelming 84% of participants were aware of the availability of high-quality mattresses in the market. Over two-thirds (67%) of the respondents said upgrading to a better-quality mattress underpinned their purchase decision, while 10% focused on comfort and support while buying a mattress."

ASK Automotive Limited launching Rs 834 crore IPO



DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

ASK Automotive Limited is launching its Initial Public Offer (IPO) of equity shares priced at Rs 268 to Rs 282 per equity share, opening on November 7 and closing on November 9, 2023. The IPO offer is a total size of upto 29,571,390 shares aggregating Rs 834 crores and are proposed to be listed on BSE and NSE.

ASK Automotive Limited is the largest manufacturer of brake-shoe and advanced braking systems for two-wheelers in India with 50% market share in FY23 for production volume for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and the branded independent aftermarkets.

Kuldeep Singh Rathee, CMD, ASK Automotive Limited, said the company is based nationally in India and had Revenue of Rs 25,551.67 million in FY22, besides collaboration with NUCAP Industries Inc. in Canada for disc brake pads.

"Our offerings -- including Aluminium Lightweighting Precision Solutions -- are powertrain agnostic, catering to electric vehicle as well as combustion engine OEMs," Rathee said, adding that ASK is recognized as the leading brand in the 2W IAM in terms of production volume for Fiscal 2023 in India.

He said 41.77% of the company's revenue (Rs 10,672.27 million in FY23) came through its A.B.Systems. With the EV industry evolving and growing, the company has approached all involved players in this segment and its pipeline included 16 necessary products that are under development.

Immersive 3D cutting-edge Technology brings alive history at infoComm

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

History and culture comes alive through immersive 3D background of technology, where one sails the seas aboard an old "Spanish galleon" and meets the "Tree of Life" in the modern day world.

This unusual occurrence was highlighted recently at the three-day InfoComm India 2023 through 'Axis Three Dee Studios' 3D Qube by Avijit Samajdar, CEO of the company. Axis Three Dee Studios (ATDS), an award-winning, world-renowned visual media and projection mapping studio, hosted the theme of a Holographic Presentation on a Six Feet Tall Cube in Partnership with Delta Electronics, using their "Digital Projection (DP)" brand of projectors in India. The hardware and mapping software partners were "Dataton" and "Watchout", in



the InfoComm-India, 2023, exhibition held from October 25 to October 27 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.

"We wanted to do something, quite different for Delta's booth at the Infocomm 2023 and we are happy to have achieved it through the Qube", said Vice President, Delta Display Solutions, Hemant Agarwal. Tushar Srivastava, Director - Digi-

tal Projection, further added, "Our high-brightness projectors come with some of the most true-to-life colours, and the vivid results can be seen here in the Qube. These projectors power some of the most prestigious installations in the country".

Dataton's Regional Manager, APAC, Mr. Ashok Sharma mentioned, "Dataton servers and our Watchout mapping software have always been

the preferred choice, for top AV designers worldwide, where it comes to mapping the most complex surfaces as well as integrating multiple AV technologies to create visual wonders. Avijit has once again proved it, by brilliantly creating the technically complex Qube, for Infocomm".

In an Out-of-the-Box approach using hi-technology, Samajdar's surrealistic visionary art focused on using the 5 elements of "Air, Water, Fire, Space and Earth" to highlight humanity striving for release from their pushy "ego" cubes -- termed as the "Qube".

"Technology meets rationality as the six-foot "Qube" highlights choice of 'sailing through calm and stormy seas' or remaining stuck in the quagmire of one's own doing," noted Samajdar, even as curious visitors at the Expo tried to immerse themselves into the Qube's photos.

Environment, Sustainability and Insurance in Limelight at BIMTECH Colloquium

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

Concern for the environment alongside the need for "expanding the Sustainable Value Chain" was emphasized during the 7th BIMTECH Insurance Colloquium held here recently.

Professor Bejon Kumar Misra, International Consumer Policy Expert, Member Executive Committee--General Insurance Council, narrated the story of Jamsheji Tata whose first concern was to lay roads with trees for creating a "green environment" before setting up the Steel plants there. Emphasizing the need for protecting the related environment before setting up any business, Misra said sustainability remained the core focus and even the insurance sector should ensure this fact.

"Insurance is a +noble+ business. We should stop trying to 'ape' others as Indians can do miracles and the world is one



family which needs to be taught to be innovative and create an ecosystem to deal with the environmental challenges," Misra said while noting that innovation occurred during a +customer-centric+ focus where criticism was viewed constructively.

Pointing out about the insurance sector being viewed the lowest in insurance penetration due to lack of customer focus, he said LIC however did well due to its customer centric efforts.

"Let's create a +WOW+ factor by researching customers' needs," he said while describing the 'Bimtech Insurance Colloquium' as a great initiative alongside India growing into "AmritKaal" with a Rs 5 trillion economy and achieving the "17 Sustainable Goals" by 2030, besides working towards eradicating poverty and making healthcare affordable for all.

IKS Health acquires Aquity Solutions to scale up U.S. Healthcare

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

IKS Health acquired Aquity Solutions to become the "Most Comprehensive Provider of Administrative, Clinical and Financial Services" for healthcare organisations in the U.S.A. The acquisition size is \$200 million.

Sachin K. Gupta, Founder and CEO, IKS Health, told media here recently that the coming together of IKS and Aquity would help enable 'Clinicians' with their chores across the continuum of healthcare in the U.S.

"U.S. healthcare is in a deepening crisis due to financial instability, large-scale staffing challenges and many Ameri-



cans' 'precarious' status," he said, adding that the combined company -- IKS Health -- will have revenues of \$330 million and global workforce of over 14,000 employees serving an installed base of 150,000+ Clinicians in the U.S.

Noting that 250,000 deaths occur annually due to healthcare

providers being 'overburdened' with work, Gupta said with life expectancy going up, patients face a wait of about 26 days for a medical appointment.

Quoting statistics that showed "one-in-five MDs will quit in next 2 years, besides two-in-five RNs doing the same," he said, "We built

proprietary technology which takes care of these chores for Clinicians. Our technology helps doctors do away with the two hours spent daily by them on writing daily patients' documentation."

He said that this acquisition would advance IKS Health's 'Care Enablement Platform' comprising technology and service offerings that span Revenue Optimization, Clinical Support, Value-based care and Digital Health Solutions.

"Specifically, Aquity's rich datasets enable IKS to rapidly mature and scale its proprietary AI solutions with critical expertise and guidance from "Reinforced Learning Through Human Feedback (RLHF)."

Bata India highlights "RampWalk" festive season footwear



DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

Bata India is highlighting this festive season with its latest 'Celebration Collection' highlighting using its products like "Walking the Ramp."

Announcing the second leg of their "Every Walk is a Rampwalk," Bata India is focusing on global fashion and premium designs comprising embellished heels and mojaris, sleek formals and casual loafers from Hush Puppies, besides open sandals to complement ethnic wear for the festivities.

Bata's festive campaign kicked off with a film featuring popular social media influencers - Adventurer VisakhaFulsunge, extreme athlete Aakash Malhotra, digital creator Jahnavi Dasetty and actor RaghavendraMahat -- all made their own style statement by turning each step into a "runway" moment.

Badri, Beriwal, Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer, said here recently "This season we have amplified our marketing investments, especially in TV and digital channels." "We have strategically invested in ICC Men's Cricket World Cup as an Associate Sponsor," he said while noting that Bata's 85-year-legacy highlighted it as an enduring pillar of India's fashion and retail space through consistent infusion of innovation in footwear.

"Bata left an indelible mark in 2022 by selling 35 million pairs of shoes, while serving a dedicated customer base exceeding 259,000 daily through its 2,000 owned outlets, shop-in-shops, franchise stores and online platforms," he added.

KANOHAR - 1st MSME & 3rd Indian Company to Have Successfully Passed Short Circuit Test on 500 MVA 400kV Transformer



MEERUT: In a significant milestone for the 'Make in India' initiative, KANOHAR, a pioneering SME based in Meerut, India, has achieved a ground-breaking achievement by successfully conducting Type Testing on a 500 MVA 400kV Autotransformer.

This accomplishment firmly establishes KANOHAR as the first SME and the third Indian company to achieve this remarkable milestone, following the lead of industry leaders BHEL and Toshiba.

The Type Testing encompassed a dynamic short-circuit withstand test carried out at the prestigious National High Power Test Laboratory (NHPTL), strictly adhering to the international standard, IEC 60076-5. This demanding examination evaluates the transformer's resilience under short-circuit conditions, a critical aspect of its operational safety. The 500 MVA 400/220/33kV Autotransformer was meticulously designed and crafted at KANOHAR's state-of-the-art facility located in Meerut, within the Delhi National Capital Region.

This monumental accomplishment stands as a testament to the resounding success of both the <Make in India> and <Make in UP> campaigns

championed by the Central and State Governments, emphasizing the prowess of domestic manufacturing and engineering capabilities.

KANOHAR is a distinguished player in the power equipment manufacturing sector and an eminent EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) contractor for substations and transmission lines. Led by a team of highly skilled technocrats and a cadre of IITians, KANOHAR has now achieved a remarkable milestone, becoming the first Indian private sector company and, more notably, the third company overall to successfully conduct a Type Test on a transformer of this magnitude. The other two entities achieving this feat include a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) and a Multinational Corporation (MNC). Conducting a Type Test on a transformer with such a high rating is a momentous accomplishment and is regarded as an impressive technical achievement. What sets this endeavor apart is the fact that KANOHAR passed the test on its very first attempt, affirming the unwavering commitment to quality and reliability that defines KANOHAR transformers.

Both Centre, states accelerating India's e-mobility: ASSOCHAM, NRI Consulting & Solutions joint report

NEW DELHI: The most sustainable way for India to reduce its dependence on import of crude oil which is being subjected to heightened geo-political stress, is to speed up the country's shift towards electric mobility which is being promoted not only by the Centre but also by several states offering competitive incentives for vehicle buyers and manufacturers and the trend would pick up even faster, an ASSOCHAM-NRI Consulting & Solutions joint report has noted.

Several states like Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are implementing policies for promoting electric mobility.

"The current geo-political situation in different parts of the world only makes a stronger case for India to speed up our electric mobility", ASSOCHAM Secretary General Mr Deepak Sood said. He said India is vigorously promoting adoption of electric vehicles to accelerate the

transition to green mobility and to achieve India's net-zero target by 2070. The country has set an ambitious target of 30% electric vehicle penetration by 2030.

According to the report, with a staggering 87% of oil being imported, resulting in an import bill of approximately \$158.4 Bn in the FY '23, the transportation sector alone consumes 40% of this imported oil, significantly impacting energy security.

Good thing is that different states are following pro-active roles for EV promotion. "The State EV policies are largely aligned with central policies targeting demand inside incentives and infrastructure improvements for EV adoption," the ASSOCHAM-NRI Consulting & Solutions report pointed out.

Maharashtra's EV policy aims to achieve at least 10% EVs by 2025 with 25% electrification of public transport. The state provides strong demand promotion fiscal incentives even as it actively aims to invite players to set up Gigafactory for bat-



tery production coupled with various incentives under the industrial policy. Maharashtra also provides capital subsidies for equipment purchases up to 50% for fast charging.

The Uttar Pradesh government has set ambitious targets for adopting electric vehicles. The state aims to have 1 million EVs on the road by 2024 and to transition 100% of public transportation to EVs by 2030. It has formulated Comprehensive Electric Mobility Plan (CEMP)

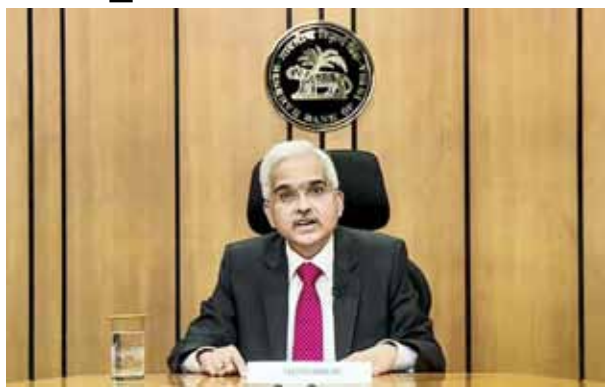
to guide the transition to EVs and invest in charging infrastructure. The government is also offering incentives to encourage the purchase of EVs, such as tax breaks and subsidies and has allocated an investment target of INR. 300 billion

Tamil Nadu EV policy targets investments for EV OEM, component and battery manufacturers with capital and operational subsidies depending on size investment. The state targets installing 500,000 public

charging stations (PCS) across cities, highways, and public parking areas. Andhra Pradesh (AP) aims to electrify commercial & logistics fleets in the top 4 cities by 2024 and all cities by 2030. In terms of demand incentive, it provides a 100% road tax exemption. Its policy focuses on supply-side incentives including components and the development of clusters. It provides a 25% capital subsidy on Fixed Capital Investments (FCI), fixed power tariff reimbursements, and skill development incentives.

Haryana's EV policy aims to make the state a global hub for electric mobility development and manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (EVs). The state provides subsidies up to 30% of subsidy on-road price of EVs as reimbursement directly to the buyer, along with exemption on registration, including incentives even for electric tractors. For charging infra developments, there is a 25% capital subsidy, land in major cities, and aims for standard creation in charging.

RBI Gov Expects India's Q2 GDP Number to Report Positive Growth



MUMBAI: India's GDP number for the second quarter will surprise everyone on the upside, said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday.

As the growth momentum in the economy continues to be strong, Das said that geopolitical uncertainty is the biggest risk to global growth but was quick to add that India is better placed to

deal with any potentially risky situation.

Speaking at the annual BFSI Insight Summit organised by Business Standard, Shaktikanta Das said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is watching the issue of attrition at some private sector banks "closely".

In the comments that came amid some major banks report-

ing attrition rates of over 30%, Das said every bank has to build a core team to take care of such issues.

He also said that the career outlook of youngsters has changed with regard to job switching and added that the youth is "thinking differently" on the aspect now. He said that the RBI is looking at the issue as part of the regulatory supervision efforts.

India recorded GDP growth of 7.8% during the April-June period of 2023-24, the highest in the past four quarters, on the back of double-digit expansion in the services sector, retaining its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recorded a growth of 13.1% in the first quarter (Q1) of 2022-23, 6.2% in the second, 4.5% in the third and 6.1% in the last quarter.

Test Phase of 5 MSME Lending Products Completed Under RBI's Sandbox Scheme



MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said five products related to MSME lending have completed the test phase under its regulatory sandbox cohort and regulated entities may consider them for adoption.

Regulatory sandbox usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment, for which regulators may (or may not) permit

certain relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

Meanwhile, the central bank has also announced the fifth cohort under the regulatory sandbox scheme. Innovative products, services and technologies cutting across various functions in RBI's regulatory domain are eligible to apply for the sandbox scheme, the central bank said. Applications may be submitted from October 30 to November 30, 2023.

The RBI had invited applications for the first cohort in November, 2019 and for the second cohort with theme of 'Cross Border Payments' in December, 2020

The RBI said products of the entities which completed the 'Test Phase' were evaluated based on mutually agreed test scenarios and expected outcomes.

Products of FinAGG Technologies Private Limited, Mynd Solutions Private Limited, Rupifi Technology Solutions Private Limited, Small Industries Development Bank of India, and SysArc Infomatrix Private Limited have completed the 'Test Phase'.

The RBI had invited applications for the first cohort in November, 2019 and for the second cohort with theme of 'Cross Border Payments' in December, 2020.

FM Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Jaffna



COLOMBO/DELHI: Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, marked her official visit to Sri Lanka by inaugurating the State Bank of India (SBI) branch in Trincomalee.

Ministry of Finance posted on X, "Union Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman inaugurated the State Bank of India @TheOfficialSBI Branch in Trincomalee, today, during her official visit to Sri Lanka. H.E. Mr. @S_Thondaman, Governor of Eastern Province, Sri Lanka; Gopal Baglay, India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, and Chairman @TheOfficialSBI Dinesh Khara were also present at the inauguration".

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including H.E. S Thondaman, the Governor of the Eastern Province in Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, and Chairman of SBI, Dinesh Khara.

During the inaugural ceremony, Sitharaman acknowledged the remarkable legacy of the State Bank of India, which has been serving Sri Lanka for 159 years.

She commended SBI's dedication to expanding its operations both domestically and internationally.

The presence of SBI in Sri Lanka has played a crucial role, particularly during the recent Sri Lankan economic crisis.

It facilitated the smooth

extension of a Line of Credit worth USD 1 billion from the Government of India to Sri Lanka, further strengthening the bilateral relationship.

Furthermore, SBI Sri Lanka continues to play a vital role in supporting corporates engaged in international trade.

The bank has been actively promoting remittances through a robust digital platform, including the SBI Sri Lanka YONO app and online banking services, in addition to traditional in-branch operations.

Following the inauguration, Sitharaman had the opportunity to interact with the new branch officials and distribute passbooks to new customers. She also left her mark in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, by filling the visitor's book.

There are currently five branches of SBI Sri Lanka in operation - the Fort and Foreign Currency Banking Unit (FCBU) branches in the main Fort building, the Colpetty branch, the Wellawatta branch, and the Kandy branch. Every Branch is connected to every other Branch via a network.

Trincomalee, a region in Sri Lanka, hosts several Indian businesses, including oil marketing companies and petrochemical infrastructures, underlining the robust economic ties between the two nations. This initiative further strengthens the financial and economic cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

ESAF Small Finance Bank launching Rs 463-crore IPO



DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

ESAF Small Finance Bank is launching its Rs 463-crore Initial Public Offering (IPO) priced at Rs 57 to Rs 60 per equity share from November 3 to November 7, 2023.

Describing ESAF Small Finance Bank as one of the leading small finance banks in India, Kadambelil Paul Thomas, MD & CEO, ESAF, said the proceeds from the fresh issue of equity shares would be used to augment the Bank's Tier 1 capital base.

He said the Net Proceeds would also be used for increasing the Bank's business of primarily onward lending that is expected to arise out of growth of the bank's assets; primarily the Bank's loans/advances and investment portfolio, and to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements on capital adequacy prescribed by the RBI from time to time.

The equity shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE and NSE.

ICICI Securities Ltd, DAM Capital Advisors Ltd, and Nuvama Wealth Management Ltd are the IPOs book-running lead managers.

Oil prices fall again as Israel-Hamas conflict deepens

Oil prices on Monday fell again as there are fears that Israel's move to expand its military operations in Gaza can lead to a regional conflict which can adversely affect the global economy, media reports said.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell by 1.2 per cent to \$89 a barrel, and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude, the US benchmark, dropped by 1.3 per cent to trade at \$84 a barrel. Last week, Brent fell by 1.8 per cent and WTI by 3.6 per cent.

Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown, wrote in on Monday that while the risks of regional escalation are still clear and present, the ground offensive in Gaza had been widely expected. CNN reported. "Although supply concerns are still hanging around, keeping a floor on oil prices, concerns about a drag on (global) growth ahead leading to weaker demand have prompted a fall in oil prices," she said. Concerns about global economic growth were underscored again when Germany -- Europe's biggest economy -- reported that its gross domestic product shrank in the third quarter as consumers reined in spending, CNN reported.

UAE plans to Invest \$50 bn in India : Report

NEW DELHI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is considering to invest about USD 50 billion in India as part of a larger strategy to capitalize on the world's fastest-growing major economy.

Provisional commitments from the UAE to its second-largest trading ally could be announced early next year. These potential investments come after discussions between Indian PM Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed in July. Both nations aim to boost non-oil bilateral trade to USD 100 billion.

Potential deals being considered involve shares in crucial Indian infrastructure projects and government-owned assets, with announcements expected before elections next year.

Some investments might include sovereign wealth funds including the Abu Dhabi In-



investment Authority, Mubadala Investment Co, and ADQ.

However, a significant portion of the investments is unlikely to have definite timelines, and no final decisions have been made regarding the size or timing of the announcements.

Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan's entities hold early-stage talks Companies supervised by Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE president's brother and Chairperson of International Holding Co, have engaged in these discussions.

Sheikh Tahnoon's firm recently revealed a 5% stake in Gautam Adani's Adani Group. Spokespeople for India's finance and trade ministries, the UAE government, and Sheikh Tahnoon's private investment firm Royal Group, are yet to make any comments.

Gulf state-backed investors boost ties with India Investors backed by Gulf States, attracted by a growing middle class and looking to diversify from traditional investment locations like Europe, have strengthened ties with India.

BriskPe Introduces Cross-Border Payments Solution for MSME Exporters

MUMBAI: BriskPe has launched cross-border payments solution, particularly for Micro, Small and Medium-sized enterprise (MSME) exporters.

The Mumbai-based cross-border payments platform is poised to transform the landscape where the hurdles of high transaction costs, exchange rate fluctuations, and payment delays have long thwarted businesses' international aspirations. BriskPe aims to eliminate the burden of excessive transaction fees and the unpredictability of exchange rates.

"Our mission is clear to revolutionise cross-border payments and bring the world closer for Indian businesses. With the launch of BriskPe, we're empowering entrepreneurs, MSMEs, and the entire business landscape to flourish on

the global stage like never before," said Sanjay Tripathy, Co-Founder & CEO of BriskPe. BriskPe's approach offers exporters an opportunity to thrive in the global market. By removing the financial and administrative complexities associated with cross-border transactions, BriskPe is transforming the way businesses approach international trade, making it more accessible and lucrative for all.

"At BriskPe, our vision is to simplify international trade to the level of local commerce. We believe that every local business in India has the potential to flourish on the global stage. With our innovative solutions, we're leveling the playing field and empowering local businesses to compete globally without the traditional barriers and complexities," Tripathy said.

India to Change its Governance Pattern to become \$30 Trn Economy by 2047

NEW DELHI: The Indian government is working on a national vision plan to make India a developed nation by 2047 which is expected to be released within the next three months.

Centre intends to ensure that the country doesn't slip into a middle-income trap that several countries have fallen into at similar stages of development.

The plan will include an outline of reforms and outcomes to be achieved by 2030, along with structural changes in governance that will be critical to make India a USD 30



trillion economy by 2047 with a per-capita income of USD 18,000-20,000.

The Niti Aayog is giving finishing touches to the plan called 'Vision India@2047

that has been in the works for almost two years and was presented to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba last Monday.

In November, parleys will be held with thought leaders,

including corporate honchos such as Tim Cook, Sundar Pichai, Gautam Adani, Mukesh Ambani, K.M. Birla, N. Chandrasekharan and Indra Nooyi, to glean their insights.

"By December, we will have the draft version of the plan ready, and several States are also in the process of preparing their own road maps," Niti Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said on Sunday.

The national plan also seeks to address regional cleavages in economic development and reforms of government processes.

5G/6G, SatCom and Semiconductor to Contribute \$240 bn to Indian Economy in 5 Years: KPMG Report

NEWDELHI: Three technologies, 5G/6G, Satellite Communication (SatCom) and Semiconductors, collectively will add USD 240 billion to the Indian economy in the next five years and add 1.6% to India's GDP by FY28, estimates KPMG in a report titled Expanding Tech Horizons: Unlocking India's Digital Potential released at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023 on Friday.

The report projects an ambitious and positive outlook for the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector in India, saying the country was readying itself for an epochal shift to make it a global digital powerhouse and is focussing on developing and adopting cutting-edge technologies.

India followed the world in 4G, marched with the world in 5G and now aims to lead the world in 6G. Having demonstrated its prowess in mobile manufacturing, the country must move up the value chain to enhance domestic value addition ICT manufacturing, KPMG recommends.

The think-tank's report also suggests that infrastructure providers must adapt to meet the evolving needs of



5G, encompassing elements like fiber capacity, optical transport, tower count, 5G repeaters, edge sites, small cells, and DAS (distributed antenna system) for indoor and outdoor solutions.

For India to achieve this "epochal" shift, "the country needs to transition from an assembly-only approach in electronics to a holistic, integrated, end-to-end manufacturing-led approach," the report stated.

India must continue investing in research and development (R&D) to contribute to the advancement of 6G technology -- to strengthen the global knowledge base and help shape the future of this technology, according to the survey.

"6G will require 100% fi-

berisation of towers, however, given that the current state of fibreisation of towers stands at 38%, the country will have to develop an expedited plan to meet the above targets," the KPMG study suggested.

Yezi Nagporewalla, India CEO, KPMG said, "the digital economy in India is on an exponential growth trajectory. The country's forward-looking 6G vision document has positioned its digital prowess on the global technology forefront. It's population dividend and technological progress give it a tremendous advantage and can help India achieve its goal of becoming a dependable global digital leader."

For the SatCom sector to take-off, the government must allocate additional funding to

the space sector, encourage academic R&D initiatives, make it easier for people to access financing through grants, sovereign funds, and other sources to increase private sector participation. Also Space Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms must be liberalised, the document further advocated.

The survey also highlighted investing in skill development for the workforce, with special focus on skill sets relating to all three areas: 5G/6G, semiconductors and satellite communication.

Over 42,000 cases have been brought for resolution under IBC, says Sudhaker Shukla- Member of IBBI

FW DESK
New Delhi

In the realm of Sustainable Practices, "More than 42,000 cases have been brought for resolution under IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code), resulting in the realisation of significant value. The positive outcomes have led to a behavioural change in the business landscape, encouraging companies to prioritise financial stability and sustainable practices", stated Sudhaker Shukla, Whole Time Member, Research and Regulation Wing, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) at the International Conference on "Charting a Sustainable Path: Addressing Corporate Stress organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi today.

Shukla revealed that there are several positives since the IBC code was introduced in 2016. The Code has levied a time-bound framework for resolution of creditor situations in India. "Over 26,000 cases have been settled before admission, releasing nine lakh crores of value, demonstrating the positive impact of IBC-induced behavioural change," he said.

Shukla emphasised the crucial role of resolvability in ensuring the longevity of companies in today's competitive market. He stated, "Competition and innovation are the driving forces behind any successful company. Companies must follow competitive paths and embrace innovations to thrive. Resolvability is a goal to cherish; it ensures that companies remain sustainable and adaptable."

Highlighting the importance of timely action, Shukla mentioned, "Timely resolution is essential. Companies resolved within the timeline specified in the code fetched a realisable value of 41%, compared to a significant drop to 21% for those resolved after a prolonged period. Time is of the essence."

Shukla also commended the efforts of ASSOCHAM and the Association of Certi-



fied Chartered Accountants (ACCA) in promoting sustainability through robust accounting standards. He stressed the need for companies to maintain resolvability and have a 'living will' in place, enabling them to explore alternative solutions during stressful periods.

He concluded by highlighting the IBBI's commitment to continuous improvement, stating, "We have undertaken 90 regulatory interventions in less than seven years, showcasing our agility and responsiveness to market needs. The evolving regulatory framework ensures the IBBI remains at the forefront of facilitating sustainable corporate practices."

Dr. Praveen Kumar Tiwari, a Full-Time Member of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) in India said, "The statutory recognition of accounting standards in 1999 and the establishment of NFRA in 2018-mark crucial milestones." Regarding NFRA's functions, he said, "Our role involves setting high-quality standards and exercising effective oversight over accounting and auditing matters. This is aimed at protecting public interest, investors, creditors, and prescribed classes of companies."

He clarified, "NFRA does not set separate accounting and auditing standards but recommends and reviews proposals for new Indian accounting standards or amendments. These are prescribed by the central government after consultation." He further elaborated, "NFRA has reviewed and recommended numerous proposals related to Indian accounting standards, including

the effective accounting of lease obligations, fair value measurement for investment properties, and classification of liabilities."

Anita Shah Akella, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, informed, "Over the past few years, there has been tremendous improvements in the accounting and auditing sector and the stakeholders have faced some well-documented challenges. A series of high-profile failures led to wide-ranging and systemic reforms, including the separation of accounting firms' audit and consulting businesses, the introduction of new regulators, and the prospect of joint audits. Accounting firms are beginning to adapt to the new environment, but the sector is still enduring a period of transition. Instances of unacceptable audit behaviour that surprises us from time to time."

She also emphasised the critical importance of addressing accounting, auditing, and ESG compliance in the context of corporate stress. "ESG performance can influence the value of distressed assets during insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings," she noted. "Potential buyers, investors, or creditors increasingly take into account a company's environmental and social impact when assessing its value and potential for recovery." The Joint Secretary, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs urged Indian Corporates to consider sustainability beyond the present, emphasising the need to prepare for future perspectives.

Helen Brand OBE Chief Executive, ACCA, UK discussed about the economic fairness with the right business ethics with the right values and opportunities for people. It is a matter of stakeholder concern to run a business in a sustainable manner with proper security and addressing corporate stress. Various business risks can be daunting and a new way of doing business should be explored. Social and governance factors are likely to find higher significance as companies strive to contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

INTERNATIONAL

Nirmala Sitharaman meets Sri Lankan president, assures help in matters related to debt restructuring

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met Sri Lankan president Ranil Wickremesinghe during her visit to the island nation and discussed a host of issues.

After the meeting, in a post late on Thursday night, the Finance Ministry informed that Wickremesinghe acknowledged the multi-faceted support to Sri Lanka provided by India during the economic crisis.

Sitharaman stated that India would continue to collaborate with the Sri Lankan Government on matters pertaining to debt restructuring.

They discussed India-Sri Lanka joint initiatives in the economic and commercial sphere. Sitharaman highlighted that the 'Vision document on Economic Partnership' adopted during her visit to India in July 2023 will further strengthen the countries' maritime, air, digital, energy and people-to-people connectivity.



The Finance Minister thanked the Sri Lankan president for inviting her as a guest of honour at the 200th anniversary celebrations of the arrival of Indian origin Tamils to Sri Lanka and complimented him for the excellent organisation of the event. President Wickremesinghe emphasised on Sri Lanka's vision to build

a new market economy with focus on tourism, sustainability, agricultural modernisation and digitisation and welcomed collaboration with India in these areas. Sitharaman offered that India could become the lead partner in the initiative through technical collaboration. She also expressed satisfaction on the progress made in

recent negotiations on the economic and technology cooperation agreement and UPI based digital payments and shared her views on investment based support and bilateral investment treaty.

They also had discussions on cooperation in Inter-grid connectivity, aviation, power projects, oil exploration in Mannar. In continued tradition of friendly relations between India and Sri Lanka, Sitharaman and Wickremesinghe witnessed the exchange of Letter of Exchange and Acceptance on Memorandum of Understanding for promotion of Buddhism ties between India and Sri Lanka.

They also witnessed exchange of MoU on solar electrification of religious places in Sri Lanka. For this project, India will allocate Rs 82.40 crore out of the government of India grant assistance of Rs 107.47 crore earmarked for the promotion of Buddhist ties.

'You are not about terror, you are about protecting': NYC Mayor to Sikhs

NEW YORK: Acknowledging the contributions of the Sikh community in the US and pledging to protect them in future, New York City Mayor said he takes full responsibility for the recent hate-motivated attacks against its members, and that their "turban does not mean terrorism".

Adams addressed members of the Sikh community at Baba Makhan Shah Lubana Sikh Center in South Richmond Hill on Sunday after two back-to-back incidents in New York, which left an elderly Sikh dead and saw another punched and beaten for wearing a turban.

"Your turban does not mean terrorism. It means protecting, it means community, it means family, it means faith, it means city, it means us coming together. We will change the dialogue and narrative with you. We can do it together," Adams said.

"It is so ironic that my knowledge of what your turban represents. It represents your history of being a protector that is now being used as a target and a tool to seek out and harm your community."

Adam's remarks came in reference to the 19-year-old Mani Sandhu who was punched and an attempt was made to remove his turban onboard a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) bus in New York City this month.

Sandhu was on his way to a Sikh temple in Queens and was about to get off near Liberty Avenue and 118th Street when Christopher Philippeaux, who has been arrested, walked up and assaulted him.

Sandhu, who moved to the US 10 months ago said that the attack had left him "shaken and angry".



Adams said that Sikhs have served as an "anchor" and their presence have uplifted the Richmond Hill community.

"You are not about terror, you are about protecting. That is what needs to be taught throughout this entire city. Our young people need to know that, our adults need to know that, the Mayor said, speaking of the rich history of the community.

The Mayor also called the killing of 66-year-old Jasmer Singh, who died after being beaten during a road rage incident October 19, as a "violent senseless act", and vowed to protect the community and educate people about Sikhism.

"Jasmer should still be with us. He should still be living out the American dream, watching his son, who's now an immigration attorney. He should still be looking and part of this community. That dream turned into a nightmare the other day when his life was taken from us prematurely," Adams said.

"I will commit myself to educate, to protect and to continuously be a part of this community. This community

means so much to me," he said.

Joining Adams was New York Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar who said that as the first Punjabi ever elected to state office, she will "not stop working until we end this hate".

"When a crime occurs against any of us, it is a crime against all of us, and we come together in solidarity. Sikhs are our protectors... Every practitioner of this beautiful faith deserves our unyielding respect. As the first Punjabi-American ever elected to New York State Office, I will always fight for the freedom and dignity of Sikh Americans," Rajkumar had said in a statement posted on X.

Local activists told CBS News that they are in the process of fundraising to start a patrol group as recent police data has shown that crimes have gone down where civilian patrols are conducted.

Releasing its annual report of hate crimes statistics in 2022 this month, the FBI recorded 198 cases of hate crimes against the Sikhs, stating that the community still remains the second-most targeted group in the nation.

Indians to benefit most as Canada to admit 500,000 immigrants each year



TORONTO: Though Canada will admit 485,000 new immigrants in 2024 as in 2023, it plans to raise the numbers to 500,000 by 2025.

Unveiling immigration plans for 2024-26, Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, said on Wednesday that immigration levels will be capped at 500,000 from 2026. As India is Canada's biggest source of immigration and students, Indians will be the biggest beneficiary of these levels because they are going to get the lion's share of a record 281,135 newcomers under the economic category and 114,000 under the family category.

Last year, over 118,000 Indians took up Canadian permanent residency (PR), accounting for a quarter of all 437,120 newcomers to Canada. The new immigration targets will push up Canada's population each year by 1.3 per cent. In fact, record immigration levels have helped the Canadian population cross the 40-million mark even as the country faces an acute housing shortage. The Justin Trudeau government is sticking to high immigration levels despite opinion polls showing opposition to the plan because of the housing crunch.

"Canada will continue to welcome newcomers and ensure that they are supported in their new lives," Miller added. He however, admitted that immigration levels were being capped at 500,000 because "we recognise that housing, infrastructure planning, and sustainable population growth need to be properly taken into account".

Israeli military names 4 more soldiers killed in Gaza ground offensive

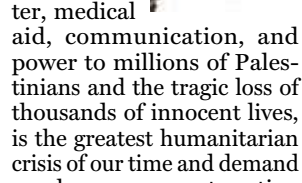


The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Friday named four more soldiers of the 23 troopers killed in action in Gaza since the launch of the ground offensive into the Hamas-controlled enclave on October 27. The four slain soldiers are Capt Benni Wais (22), Master Sgt (Res) Uriah Mash (41), Master Sgt (Res) Yehonatan Yosef Brand (28) and Sgt Major (Res) Gil Phishitz (39). Since the Hamas launched its massive assault against Israel on October 7, at least 335 Israeli soldiers have died in the fighting. So far, a total of 9, 061 Palestinians have been killed in the war, mostly women and children, while more than 32, 000 people have been injured as a result of the raging violence, according to the latest update by the Gaza Health Ministry. In Israel, there were about 1, 400 casualties with some 5, 400 people injured.

JIH Welcomes UN Resolution for Humanitarian Truce, While Expressing Disappointment over India's Abstention

NEW DELHI: President of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH), Syed Sadatullah Husani welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution calling for immediate durable, and sustained humanitarian truce in Gaza Strip and has urged the signatory countries to ensure its immediate enforcement.

Precipitous violations of human rights, ranging from the deprivation of food, water, medical aid, communication, and power to millions of Palestinians and the tragic loss of thousands of innocent lives, is the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time and demand much more concrete action from the international community. However, he expressed his disappointment over India's abstention at the UN General Assembly call for a humanitarian truce in Gaza.



He expressed his disappointment over India's abstention at the UN General Assembly call for a humanitarian truce in Gaza.

Iran-backed Houthis claim missile, drone attacks on Israel from Yemen

TEL AVIV: Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have claimed responsibility for a series of attacks against southern Israel, media reports said.

Yahya Saria, a spokesman for the group, said that the aerial assault, comprising drones as well as ballistic and cruise missiles, was carried out "out of a sense of religious, moral, humanitarian, and national responsibility" for the people of Gaza, in the face of the "weakness of the Arab world, and of the collusion of some Arab countries with Israel", Times of Israel reported.

The operation was prompted by "the demands of the Yemeni people", he added. Saria noted that this was the third attack carried



by the group against Israel since the start of the war, and vowed to carry out further strikes against Israel with missiles and drones, Times of Israel reported.

The rocket launches triggered sirens in Eilat in the morning and were intercepted by the Arrow air defense system. Israeli

jets reportedly shot down the drones.

The Prime Minister of the Houthi government, Abdelaziz bin Habbour, declared earlier in the day that the drones used in the attack "belong to the state of Yemen", Times of Israel reported.

Immigration agent denies issuing fake admission letters to Indian students in Canada



TORONTO: An immigration agent, accused of cheating several Indian students of tens of thousands of dollars by issuing fake college admission letters to procure study permits to Canada, has denied charges against him.

Brijesh Mishra, who has been under arrest in a British Columbia jail since June, said he has been scapegoated by dozens of international students from India, the Toronto Star reported. "They are blaming me to cover their mistakes," Mishra said, making his first public appearance before an immigration tribunal in Toronto via video link on Wednesday. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has charged Mishra with offering immigration advice without a licence, and with counselling a person to directly or indirectly misrepresent or withhold information from authorities.

In March this year, CBSA issued deportation notices to hundreds of Indian students,

mostly from Punjab, whose admission offer letters to educational institutions were found to be fake.

A majority of these students facing deportation had filed visa applications from 2018 onwards till 2022 through Jalandhar-based Education Migration Services, which was headed by Mishra. They had gone to Canada on a study visa but the fraud came to light after they applied for permanent residency (PR). Mishra reportedly charged each student between Rs 16 to Rs 20 lakh for all expenses including admission fees to a premier institute Humber college.

"He has no answer when he was asked as to what was he doing in Canada, why so many students had accused him as the primary architect of the fraud, and why he has been charged by CBSA and was still in jail," said Sumit Sen, a lawyer representing one of the student victims, said.

Wistar Scientists Engineer New NK cell Engaging Immunotherapy Approaches to Target and potentially Treat recalcitrant Ovarian Cancer

PHILADELPHIA: The Wistar Institute's David B. Weiner, Ph.D., executive vice president, director of the Vaccine & Immunotherapy Center (VIC) and W.W. Smith Charitable Trust Distinguished Professor in Cancer Research, and collaborators, have engineered novel monoclonal antibodies that engage Natural Killer cells through a unique surface receptor that activates the immune system to fight against cancer.

In their publication titled, "Siglec-7 glyco-immune binding MAb or NK cell engager biologics induce potent anti-tumor immunity against ovarian cancers," published in Science Advances, the team demonstrates the preclinical feasibility of utilizing these new cancer immunotherapeutic approaches against diverse ovarian cancer types, including treatment-resistant and refractory ovarian cancers — alone or in combination with checkpoint



inhibitor treatment.

The research started as a collaboration between Wistar's Drs. Weiner and Mohamed Abdel-Mohsen, who were exploring the development of new glycosignaling biologic tools that may be important in the fight against cancer.

Ovarian cancer (OC) is frequently diagnosed late in the disease process, and OC resistance to currently available treatments make it especially problematic; according to the NIH, the chances of someone diagnosed with OC and surviving for five

over time — resulting in tumor escape and cancer progression. Genetic mutations, such as the well-known BRCA gene mutations, predispose women to a high risk of progressive OC. The CDC expects more than thirteen thousand women to die of ovarian cancer this year in the U.S. alone.

To combat ovarian cancer treatment resistance, the team hypothesized that they might be able to engage not only the traditional T cell immune arm of the immune system which PD-1 and known checkpoint inhibitors (CPI) activate, but also implement a strategy to activate Natural killer cells (NK cells), a subset of important anti-tumor immune cells, through a conserved glyco-immune marker found on the surface of most NK cells called Siglec-7 (Sialic acid-binding immunoglobulin-type lectin). NK cells have been recently described to express Siglec-7, so the team tested two

new strategies to engage and activate NK cells against ovarian cancer through Siglec-7. The first approach used human monoclonal antibodies (mAb) discovered and developed at Wistar and novel assays to visualize and demonstrate that certain anti-Siglec-7 mAbs could activate human NK cells — which, in the presence of the antibodies, responded against multiple human OC cell lines. These now-activated NK cells would kill OC but not non-cancer cells with the Siglec-7 mAb treatment.

The researchers demonstrated that multiple OC carrying mutations, including BRCA1 and BRCA2, could be targeted by Siglec-7 antibodies through activated NK cells. The group moved to study the treatment of OC in a humanized mouse model and observed that the Siglec-7 treatment could impact OC growth slowing the tumors and increasing the animals' survival.

Malaysia Healthcare Promotes Regular Screenings for Breast Cancer Prevention

ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY TO CUTTING-EDGE SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR BREAST CANCER EARLY DETECTION

KUALA LUMPUR (MALAYSIA): Malaysia Healthcare encourages global citizens to practice regular examination and screenings as a crucial step in preventing breast cancer. With healthcare facilities that are equipped with innovative screening procedures, Malaysia Healthcare is committed to making breast cancer early detection accessible for global citizens. In conjunction with the breast cancer awareness month, Malaysia Healthcare shed light on the significance of early diagnosis as well as the cutting-edge screening procedures provided by several of its healthcare facilities.

"Individuals should be cautious about any lump in the breast or underarm (armpit), thickening or swelling on any part of the breast, skin irritation or dimpling, redness or flakiness around the nipple area or the breast, nipple inversion, pain in the nipple area, unusual nipple discharge that may include blood.

Changes in breast size or shape and unexplained breast pain should also be regarded warning signs," said Dr. Nik Munirah Nik Mahdi, Consultant Radiologist at KPJ Perdana Specialist Hospital. "Doing regular breast self-examination is crucial to help you be aware of how your breasts normally look and feel, as well as detect symptoms such as lumps, pain, or abnormal changes in size. In addition to this, a clinical breast examination and screening every year should be done even if you do not detect any abnormalities, as breast cancer often does not present any symptoms at its earliest, which is the most treatable stage," said Dr. Normayah Kitan, Consultant Breast and Endocrine Surgeon, Sunway Medical Centre in Sunway City.

"We strongly advocate regular self-examination and frequent breast screening especially for women aged 40 and above to detect breast cancer at an early



stage. It is also advisable for women to seek medical help if any breast lumps are found. The importance of early detection cannot be overstated in the fight against breast cancer," said Dr. Melissa Tan Ley Hui, Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon at Prince Court Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Since its first cancer treatment centre opened its doors in 1981, Malaysia has achieved international recognitions for its quality of care.

Recently, the country was proclaimed second in the care and delivery of cancer treatment in the Asia Pacific and the third-most prepared country overall by the Economist Intelligence Unit. "When discussing cancer, we focus on survival and recurrence rates rather than recovery rates. Studies have found that patients with breast cancer have more than 85% 5-year survival rate when detected early compared to a 19% 5-year survival rate when

detected at Stage 4. Research have also shown that patients have a 10% chance of their breast cancer recurring after undergoing a breast-conserving surgery or mastectomy". At SJMC, we advocate for early detection and are proud of our remarkable 100% 5-year survival rate for patients with Stage 1 breast cancer. This is one of the highest in the region and is evident on the quality of care we provide. With the advancement of technology, 3D mammograms enhance the chances of detecting breast cancer at its earliest, where it is most treatable, potentially saving lives and improving outcomes for women everywhere. By providing a three-dimensional view of breast tissue, this screening enables earlier detection of abnormalities, reducing false positives and unnecessary follow-up tests," Dr. Teh Mei Ze, Consultant Breast Surgeon (Oncoplastic), Subang Jaya Medical Centre (SJMC).

Tribute to Professor Saleemul Huq from Professor Patrick Verkooijen

DHAKA (BANGLADESH): I am devastated by the death of my friend and dear colleague Professor Saleemul Huq, whose passing has ripped a colossal hole in the fabric of the global climate science community.

I learned of Saleem's passing on arrival in Bangladesh within the last 24 hours. One of my principal reasons for making this journey was to sit with him to discuss issues close to both our hearts; the quest for justice for vulnerable people everywhere in the face of climate change.

But I was also looking forward to spending time with this kind, deeply thoughtful and remarkable man. He lived and breathed the mission to which he had dedicated his professional life. I first met Saleem



four years ago when Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kristalina Georgieva, International Monetary Fund Managing Director, and I toured Bangladesh to get a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on some of the world's most vulnerable people. Saleem introduced us to local communities who are taking their own steps to protect themselves from rising temperatures, constructing

cyclone shelters and building alert systems.

Through Saleem's eyes we were able to see for ourselves how innately resilient people are — no matter how humble or constrained their circumstances. And from those experiences I think we all took away the greatest lesson of all; that moving communities from vulnerability to resilience is a goal which is urgent, vital and achievable. Saleem also gently insisted to us that investing our faith in the energy, resourcefulness and agency of people living on the frontline of the climate emergency was the key to unlocking solutions. He is the intellectual architect of what we now call Locally Led Adaptation. Saleem is de facto the voice of the voiceless.



Sikh devotees watch fireworks, on the occasion of birth anniversary of the fourth Sikh Guru Ramdas Ji at the illuminated Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) on Monday. PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL



Punjabi movie SARABHA

opens in record theatres in US, Canada

CHANDIGARH: Sarabha, the Punjabi film on young Indian revolutionary Kartar Singh Sarabha, who was hanged by the British at the age of 19 in Lahore in 1915, has drawn a huge response from audiences in Canada and the US as it hits theatres worldwide on Friday.

Sarabha, who was one of the youngest Indians to be hanged by the British, inspired Bhagat Singh to become a revolutionary. Directed by Los Angeles-based director Kavi Raz, Sarabha is the first-ever Punjabi film (with English subtitles) to open in a record 55 theatres across the US alone. In Canada too, the movie is being screened at multiple theatres in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and other cities.

Enthusied by the huge response to his film, director Kavi Raz told IANS: "Sarabha isn't your typical Punjabi film. It is a historical document on the role of Gadar heroes in India's Independence. 'Sarabha' was a young boy of just 19 who gave his life for his motherland. He inspired the great revolutionary Bhagat Singh."

Kavi said: "I am overwhelmed by the response to 'Sarabha'.



There has been a rush for advanced bookings. It is something new for a Punjabi film in North America. People in cities such as Surrey (Canada) and Fresno (US) printed and distributed posters and flyers to promote this patriotic film. I am overwhelmed." The director said he will try to meet Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to request him to make this film a part of school curriculum to inculcate inspiration and pride in the future generations of Punjab. Born at Sarabha village, now part of Ludhiana, Sarabha sailed to the US at the young age of 15 to study at the University of Berkeley.

But once in the US, young Sarabha was sucked into the Gadar movement launched by Indian expatriates on the west coast of the US and Canada to free India from British rule.

CBFC and Information & Broadcasting Officer authorized to direct blocking/removing any website/app/link having pirated film content



MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA
New Delhi

Since the film industry suffers a loss of Rs 20,000 crore every year due to piracy, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken strict steps to stop piracy. Now, CBFC and Information & Broadcasting Officers are authorized to direct blocking, removing any website/app/link having pirated film content.

After Parliament passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act 1952 during the monsoon session this year, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up a set of nodal officers to receive complaints against piracy and

direct intermediaries to remove pirated content on digital platforms. As of now, there is no institutional mechanism to take direct action against pirated film content except legal action under copyright law and IPC. With the spread of the Internet and almost everyone being interested in watching film content for free, piracy has seen a rise. With the above action, immediate action will be taken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the case of piracy and the industry will get relief. Regarding the bill, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur had said in the Parliament that the purpose of this law

is to fulfill the long-standing demand of the film industry to curb film piracy. The law was amended 40 years later to include provisions against film piracy, including digital piracy, with the last significant amendment being made in 1984. The amendment includes stricter punishment of minimum 3 months imprisonment and fine up to Rs 3 lakh. The punishment may extend up to 3 years and a fine up to 5% of the audited gross production cost may be imposed.

Secretary of the I & B, Apurva Chandra clarified, Who can apply to do so? The original copyright holder or any person authorized by him for this purpose may apply to the nodal officer for removal of pirated material. If a complaint is made by a person who does not hold the copyright or is not authorized by the copyright holder, the Nodal Officer may hold a hearing on a case-by-case basis to determine the genuineness of the complaint before issuing directions. He further clarified that under the law, the digital platform will be bound to remove such internet links providing pirated content within a period of 48 hours after receiving instructions from the nodal officer.

'Aarya is still not my best work, I have a lot more coming': Sushmita Sen

MUMBAI: Sushmita Sen has revealed that the web series 'Aarya' which is now streaming with its third season, is still not her best work. She has a lot more to come and offer to the audience.

Sushmita Sen is one actress who got a wonderful opportunity to showcase her acting skills on the OTT platform with her show 'Aarya'. The team has had two wonderful seasons and now they are back with its third season which was released on November 3 on Disney+Hotstar. The actress spoke about the show coming with its third season, what impact it has had on her filmography and much more.

Talking about what impact has Aarya had on her filmography she said, "Everything. I had an institution like Ram Madhvani teaching me not over 40 days of one film but 60-60-60 days of three seasons and more to come. As an actor I have grown. But if you say this is my best work, I would say no. I have a lot to come. It has revived the thirst of an artist in me. I got to work with such great actors with whom you can not work without proper preparation. I had many hit songs, hit films



but never had 'Aarya' in my life. It has added a lot to my filmography."

Talking about the third season of the show, she said, "We have received so much love for the first two seasons. This is the reason why we have come up with season 3. We have told a story with great honesty. We are very excited for the third season."

Talking about the change OTT has brought into our lives, she said, "I am a big fan of OTT. It has given me time to flesh out characters that I would otherwise have to show quickly. It has made us reach the houses of the people where they can watch us anytime and anywhere. Not only the country, we can showcase our work globally."



An Indian potter paints earthen lamps ahead the Hindu festival of lights. Hindus light lamps, wear new clothes, exchange sweets and gifts and pray to goddess Lakshmi. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

Sunny Deol is into Teddy bears, reveals Karan Johar

Actor Sunny Deol, who registered massive success with his latest release 'Gadar 2' may be the alpha guy beating up baddies in dozens on screen but, in reality the actor is a kind-hearted person. Sunny along with his brother Bobby Deol is set to grace the couch on season eight of popular chat show 'Koffee With Karan'.

During the course of the second episode, show host Karan Johar revealed that Sunny is into Teddy bears. Dropping the secret bomb, KJo said: "Who would know that a man who could destroy a country with a hand pump, can actually be



into teddy bears."

Karan also appreciated Sunny's massive success with 'Gadar 2'. He goes on to give him a standing ovation, saying: "The first thing I have to do is give you a standing ovation." Discussing Sunny and Bobby's father, the iconic Dharam Paaji's kiss in 'Rocky aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani', Sunny Deol said: "My Dad can do whatever he likes and he gets away with it."

Ankita Lokhande talks about break up with SSR in 'BB17': 'Things changed in one night'



MUMBAI: Actress Ankita Lokhande was seen discussing her breakup with late actor Sushant Singh Rajput on the 17th edition of 'Bigg Boss' with co-housemate Munawar Faruqui.

This is the first time Ankita discussed her break up for the first time in public.

The actress started dating Sushant on the sets of the show 'Pavitra Rishta' in 2010 and broke up seven years later.

Ankita in the show was seen walking in the garden area with Munawar and discussing her past relationship. "Wo ek dum rak raat mein gayab ho gaya. Success mil rahi thi toh log uske kaan bhar rahe the," Ankita was heard telling Munawar.

The actress shared that Sushant had not given any reason for a break up and things just changed in one night.

Ankita also shared that when she looked into his eyes she realised there was no love and that's when she figured that it was all over.

Munawar and Ankita also talked about the trolling she received after his death. To which, she said that she wanted to talk about the person she knew and was with for so long and did not care what others thought.

Ankita and SSR became a household name after essaying the characters of Archana and Manav in 'Pavitra Rishta'. It was in 2020 when Sushant Singh Rajput died by suicide. Ankita is now married to Vicky Jain, who is also a part of the show.

I have reached this stage through series of defeats: Neeraj Chopra



NEW DELHI: Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Friday said he braved many adversities and defeats in the initial days of his career to become what he is today, a champion athlete.

Introduced into the game to overcome obesity, Chopra scaled the pinnacle of javelin throw event by winning the Olympic gold as well as the World Championship. But by his own admission the journey was far from rosy.

"It is through defeats that I have reached this stage. In 2017 I had started competing in international events in Diamond League, so since 2017 till 2021, I kept losing. It was in 2022 Diamond League when I first got a position in the podium. So the winning didn't start all of a sudden," Chopra said at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit here. Injuries also made him stronger as Chopra missed the 2019 World Championships in Doha due to bone spurs in his right elbow, forcing him to go under the knife.

India qualifies for the ICC WC 2023 semi-finals

This is the team's best score in the current season. In the second inning, the Indian bowlers bowled Sri Lanka out for 55 runs in 19.4 overs

SUNIL THAPLIYAL
New Delhi

The Indian team, which was in excellent form, defeated Sri Lanka by 302 runs in the World Cup. This is India's biggest win in the history of the World Cup. India improved its 16-year-old record. In the 2007 World Cup, the team defeated Bermuda by 257 runs. With seven consecutive wins in the on-going World Cup, the team also reached the semi-finals and secured the top spot in the points table with 14 points. Sri Lanka remains in seventh place with four points. The team will now have to rely on the other teams to reach the semi-finals.

Batting first, India scored 357 runs for eight wickets at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. This is the team's best score in the current season. In the second inning, the Indian bowlers bowled Sri Lanka out for 55 runs in 19.4 overs.

The Indian bowlers displayed excellent bowling. The Indian fast bowlers had no match for the Sri Lankan



batsmen. Sri Lankan batsmen looked helpless in front of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Mohammed Shami. Five Sri Lankan batsmen returned to the dressing room with zero scores.

The Sri Lankan team, which came in response to the Indians' 357 runs, got off to the worst possible start. Jasprit Bumrah dismissed Pathum Nishanka with the very first ball of the Sri Lankan innings. Dimuth Karunaratne was then the victim of Mohammad Siraj. Dimuth Karunaratne also failed to open his account. When the third Sri Lankan player was also run out, the team was down to two runs. Mohammed Shami was the most successful pitcher for India. Mohammed Shami dismissed five batsmen.

Mohammad Mohammad Siraj took three wickets. Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra

Jadeja were also successful once each. Mohammed Shami became the most successful Indian wicket-taker for India in the ODI World Cup. With this historic record, he left former legendary fast bowlers Javagal Srinath and Zaheer Khan behind. Shami took 45 wickets in the 14th inning of the tournament. Veterans Javagal Srinath and Zaheer Khan took 44 wickets for India in the ODI World Cup.

Earlier, Shubham Gill (92 runs), Virat Kohli (88 runs), and Shreyas Iyer (82 runs) missed out on scoring a century. Virat Kohli missed out on scoring his 49th ODI century and could not equal Sachin Tendulkar's century record. Sachin has 49 ODI centuries to his credit. Kohli has scored 48 centuries so far. In this match, Virat overtook Chris Gayle in terms of the most runs scored in the ICC ODI tournament.

Shah Rukh Khan turns 58

MUMBAI: It's Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's birthday on Thursday and it wouldn't be wrong to say it is nothing less than a festival celebration.

Known as the 'King of romance' and the 'Badshah of Bollywood', Shah Rukh in an illustrious career of 31 years in Hindi cinema, has not only given us many memorable films but also numerous dialogues that one can even use on a regular day.

A year after his debut film 'Deewana' in 1992, SRK played an over obsessive lover in 'Darr', and "I love you KKK... Kiran" dialogue in that movie also starring Juhi Chawala and Sunny Deol was a catchline.

"Agar yeh tujhe pyaar karti hai to ye palat ke dekhegi... palat...palat!": This line from the 1995 film 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' has its own fanbase. Shah Rukh's iconic opening arm gesture and lines are unforgettable. "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" also stars Kajol, among many others. "Meri shaadi mere sapne se ho chuki hai" from the 1997 film 'Yes Boss'; SRK not only taught us romance but also how to be goal-oriented to reach the top of the ladder of success with these lines.

"Pyaar dosti hai" and "Hum ek baar jeete hai, ek baar marate hai, shaadi bhi ek baar hoti hai... aur pyaar bhi ek baar hota hai" from the 1998 movie 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' redefined friendship



and love at the same time. No wonder he is called the King of Romance.

"Mohabbat bhi zindagi ki tarah hoti hai. Har mod aasan nahi hota, har mod par khushi nahi hoti. Par jab hum zindagi ka saath nahi chodte, toh mohabbat ka saath kyun chode?" from 'Mohabbatein' - Every line that SRK has said in this film is about love and romance making him the undisputed 'King of Romance'.

"Zindagi mein agar kuch banna ho, kuch haasil karna ho, kuch jeetna ho ... toh hamesha dil ki suno ... aur agar dil bhi koi jawab na de toh aankhen band karke apni maa aur papa ka naam lo...jeet tumhari hogi, sirf tumhari" from the 2001 film 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...': These lines not just hit the chord with the younger audiences but their parents too making SRK desh ka "adarsh beta". "Pyaar toh bahut log karte hai ... lekin mere jaise pyar koi nahi kar sakta kyun ki kisi ke paas tum joh nahi ho" from the

2003 film 'Kal Ho Naa Ho'. If one wants to propose this is the line. An iconic scene, where SRK mouths this line while reading from a black diary to impress Naina on behalf of Rohit.

"Ek tarfa pyaar ki taaqat hi kuch aur hoti hai Aur rishton ki tarah do logon mein nahi banti. Sirf mera haq hai ispe, sirf mera." from the 2016 film 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'. A cameo role, but an impactful dialogue and expression etched in everyone's mind.

"Ek Soldier ye nahi puchta desh ne uske liye kya kiya, puchta hai wo desh ke liye kya kar sakta hai," from 2023 film 'Pathaan': A whistle worthy scene in the film.

"Ek bank jo sirf Rs 40,000 ke liye ek gareeb kisan ko uski jaan lene par majboor kareta hai, usi bank ne tumhare dad ke Rs 40,000 crore yunhi maaf kardiye," from 2023 blockbuster 'Jawan'. The dialogues were very difficult to pick because each and every line said by King Khan in the movie is top notch impactful.