

NEW DELHI • CHANDIGARH • WEEKLY • SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 04, 2023 • VOLUME 13, ISSUE 32 • Rs 5

ED SEARCHES 12 PLACES INCLUDING PREMISES OF DELHI MINISTER IN HAWALA TRANSACTION CASE

BANKING & FINANCE



RBI GOERNOR EXPECTS INDIA'S Q2 GDP NUMBER TO REPORT POSITIVE **GROWTH**



HARVEN PRO TENNIS LEAGUE **2023: VAISHNAVI ADKAR, ARJUN KHADE INVITE BIGGEST BIDS AT AUCTION**

CM Kejriwal misses Delhi LG's Toxic smog turns Delhi-NCR in a gas chamber review meet to discuss AQI

ernor V.K. Saxena on Friday chaired a meeting to review the situation arising out of rising air pollution in the

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was out of Delhi, could not attend the meeting. However, Environment Minister Gopal Rai attended the meeting as did the Chief Secretary, DPCC Chairman, the Environment Secretary, and DPCC Member Secretary.

Saxena reiterated that the situation was worrisome and expressed grave concern over the unmitigated rise in AQI

Congress will resume

INDIA alliance talks

after Assembly polls:

Kharge pacifies Nitish

NEW DELHI: Days after

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar stated that the opposi-

tion INDIA bloc was inactive

as the Congress is busy with

the Assembly elections in five

states, party chief Mallikariun

Kharge spoke to the Janata

Dal (United) leader and as-

sured him of resuming the

alliance talks after the polls.

According to party sources,

Kharge spoke to Nitish Kumar

over phone on Friday night.

the issue of Indian National

Developmental Inclusive Alli-

ance (INDIA) bloc. Kharge has

assured Kumar that talks over

the INDIA Alliance will be

continued after the Assembly

polls in five states conclude.

(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 Con-

gress party is busy in Assembly

elections in five states. After

these assembly results, we will

sit together and plan the next

course of action." The CPI had

organised the rally with the tag

line 'BJP Hatao Desh Bachao

in Patna where Nitish Kumar

was invited.

The two leaders spoke over

All departments/agencies directed to prioritise pollution

The report reveals that

on an average, 1,264

accidents and 462

deaths every day or

53 accidents and 19

the country.

YOGESH KANT

New Delhi

While addressing a rally of highways, 41,012 (24.3 per cent)

deaths every hour in

A total of 4,61,312 road ac-

cidents 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 previ-

Out of the total of 1,68,491 fa-

talities reported in 2022, 61,038

(36.2 per cent) were on national

66,441 (39.4 per cent) were on

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

The fatal road accident vic-

tims largely constitute young

people in the productive age

groups. Young adults in the age

other roads," it added.

report said.

mitigation in their activities. It was decided in the meet that of the government, irrespec- the Environment Department tive of their mandate were will issue advisories for the public asking for children and

group of 18 - 45 years accounted

for 66.5 percent of victims dur-

ing 2022. People in the working

age group of 18 - 60 years share

83.4 per cent of total road ac-

cident fatalities, the report read.

the two-wheeler riders in total

fatality has been the highest

(44.5%) during 2022 followed

by the Pedestrian road-users

with 19.5 percent of persons

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 percent and 15.3 percent

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

respectively

killed in road accidents.

The annual report said that

19 deaths every hour in country due to road

accidents: (MoRTH)Annual report 2022-23

care and remain indoors as far as possible.

It was decided the CAQM measures with regards to GRAP, should be strictly implemented on ground, with compliance being ensured by all stakeholder departments and officers. The meet further decided that all mechanised road sweepers, water sprinklers and anti-smog guns static, mobile and those over high-rises should be optimally used, even in double shifts, if required.

The Health Department has been directed to ensure

in respect of the number of fa-

talities due to road accidents

followed by Tamil Nadu (17,884

The data reads that 'over

speeding' constitutes the main

violation associated with acci-

dents, fatalities and injuries, in

2022. "Over speeding" accounts

for 72.3 percent of the total road

accidents, 71.2 percent of to-

tal deaths and 72.8 percent of

total injuries. The number of

ries 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.

violations are 'drunken driv-

ing/consumption of alcohol

and drugs', 'jumping red light',

'driving on wrong side', 'use of

mobile phones' etc. registered

an increase in 2022 compared

The other major traffic rule

i.e., 10.6%)

state of readiness to assist any resident of the city, who needs help. It was also decided that appeal will be made to the neighbouring states, especially Punjab, which accounted for 1, 921 (71.57 per cent) incidents of stubble burning out of a total of 2, 684 such events on November 1, to curtail crop residue burning, by incentivising farmers, so that the resultant smoke/smog in the

Apart from Punjab, 99 cases of stubble burning were reported in Haryana, 95 in Uttar

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

Drunken driving/consump-

tion of alcohol and drugs,

jumping of red light and use of

mobile phones taken together

accounted for 7.4 percent of

total accidents and 8.3 per

cent of total deaths. The other

category which would include

reasons like road environment,

vehicular condition etc. ac-

counted for 18.2 percent of

the accidents, 18.1 percent of

fatalities and 18.1 percent of

injuries. State wise details on

various types of traffic rules

During 2022, road accidents

involving drivers with learn-

ers' license and without valid

license together constituted

The number of accident cases

driving licenses had reduced

from 37,182 in 2021 to 35,925

in 2022, registering a decline

of 3.4 percent corresponding

to the same period last year.

license were reduced from

19,184 in 2021 to 18,298 in

2022, registering a reduction

of about 4.6 percent over 2021.

It may be seen that in 69.4

percent of the road accidents

cases, the drivers were having

valid driving licenses.

Accidents involving learner's

violations for the year 2022.

last year.

region could be checked.



Delhi remains shrouded in a dense blanket of smog, with the air quality in various parts of the national capital still categorized as 'severe.' The overall Air Quality Index (AQI) currently stands at 346, as reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Specifically, the air quality in areas like Lodhi Road, Jahangirpuri, RK Puram, and IGI Airport (T3) in Delhi continues to be in the 'severe' category, with AQI readings of 438, 491, 486, and 473, respectively. To address this critical situation, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has initiated water-sprinkling measures in the Lodhi Road area in an attempt to mitigate the air quality concerns. In neighboring Uttar Pradesh's Noida, areas such as Sector 62, Sector 1, and Sector 116 are also experiencing 'severe' AQI levels. In response to the deteriorating air quality, authorities have taken swift action by imposing a ban on nonessential construction activities and closing primary schools in the capital to protect public health. Dr. Nikhil Modi of Apollo Hospital highlighted the increasing health issues arising from the rising pollution levels, including more cases of breathing problems, coughs, colds, and eye irritation. He stressed the importance of wearing masks and limiting outdoor activities, especially for individuals of all

age groups. Delhi's Environment Minister, Gopal Rai, recently announced a five-day ban on con- Ayodhya. This is probably go-11.8 per cent of total accidents. struction work in areas with an ing to be the largest mosque in AQI exceeding 400. Additionally, efforts to curb vehicular pollution have led to the launch of the "Red Light On Gaadi Off" campaign and the introduction of 1,000 private CNG buses to enhance public transportation.

> Concerns are growing among scientists as farm fires continue to burn, and unfavorable weather conditions persist, potentially leading to a significant escalation in pollution levels over the next two weeks in the Delhi-NCR region.

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 Minis-

India Targets 20 per cent GDP through Digital

Economy b FY26: MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar

ter 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."

The delegates included international digital ministers, technology sector leaders, top academics and civil society representatives. They discussed shared risks from emerging AI technology and explored mitigations.

Chandrasekhar said the Indian government has maintained that International collaboration such as this (Global AI summit), international conversations between countries, are extremely important as we move forward to shaping the future of tech at a time and in a year where technology is certainly throwing up the most exciting opportunities ever in the history of mankind.

The Global AI Summit is a conference that brings together policymakers, investors, and

innovators to discuss AI. The summit explores the state of AI. investment cases, commitments, and governance.

Further in his address Chandrasekhar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has argued for several years that the future of tech, whether it be innovation. whether it be partnerships or indeed the institutional framework for regulating the technology and innovation for the common good of all humans and all mankind should be driven by a coalition of nations rather than just one country or two countries and that the institutional framework should be less episodic and a lot more sustained and with strategic clarity.

He said, "So for us, all things digital represent real bread and butter, real goals and real objectives and artificial intelligence is a kinetic enabler of the already accelerating digital economy, growth and governments."

The UK and its global partners on Wednesday announced an 80 million pound project for funding artificial intelligence projects around the world. beginning in Africa.

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 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-

IICF chairman Zufar Fa-



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 the design has been changed. According to the Trustee Chairman, one of the largest mosques in the country will be built on the ing the naming of the mosque. model of mosques in Middle

Top security officials meet in J&K after 3 successive killings by militants

FW DESK

Top security officials in Jammu and Kashmir held a highlevel meeting in Srinagar to review the security situation in the Union Territory in light of the three successive militant attacks which killed one police officer, one migrant labour and critically injured a police officer. The meeting was attended by senior officers from the police, Army, CAPFs, and civil administration. The officials discussed measures to prevent further civilian and police casualties in the region.

Security agencies are actively working to track down and neutralize the militants responsible for the attacks. The meeting addressed the security situation along the borders.

Senior officers also assessed the effectiveness of the security grid and examined various security-related aspects within the Union Territory

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



and the work on the first floor has also been completed by 80 percent. Amil Mishra said that 70 per-

cent 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. Trust members said that this will revent excessive crowding during the Pran Pratishtha program in Ayodhya and at the same time, crores of Ram devotees will get a chance to watch this historic program across the country. According to him, arrangements for bhajan-kirtan are also being made for the devotees in various temples of the country.

Congregation to commemorate martyrs of November 1984 Sikh Genocide by SGPC

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.

cluded SGPC additional secre-

tary Kulwinder Singh Ramdas,

Balwinder Singh Kahlwan, man-

ager of Sri Darbar Sahib Bhag-

want Singh Dhangera, assistant

Present on this occasion in-

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



Meanwhile, SGPC General charan Singh Kuhala, Manjit Secretary Bhai Gurcharan Singh Singh Talwandi, superintendent Grewal said that in November Nishan Singh, in-charge Mal-1984, Sikhs were massacred in kit Singh Beharwal, Palwinder various states of the country, Singh, manager Harpreet Singh, Jaspal Singh Dhade and Sangat. including Delhi, at the behest of the then Congress government. Even after the passage of He said that it was a heinous 39 years, the scars of the Sikh act, the stigma of which will always remain on the forehead of the Congress party. He also

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 Dhami said this in a statement released here. He said that in November 1984, the fury was unleashed on the Sikhs for several days at the behest of the government, which shook every sensitive person in the world to the core.

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.

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 por-

tals Bigbasket and Otipy 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

The minimum rate is Rs 17 per kg.



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.

ED summons Delhi CM Kejriwal in excise policy case NEW DELHI: The Enforce Arrived Voirius Leking ED summons Delhi Minister in hawala transaction case

ment Directorate has sum-moned Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal for questioning on November 2 in alleged liquor policy scam

According to sources, Kejriwal has been asked to appear before the ED on November 2. Keiriwal was questioned by

the Central Bureau of Investi-

gation (CBI) in April this year. The summon comes on the day when the Supreme Court dismissed former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's

bail plea.

A bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and S.V.N. Bhatti also directed that Sisodia's trial should be completed within six to eight months. The bench further added that if the trial



proceeds slowly, Sisodia can file an application for bail

Justice Khanna, while delivering the judgement, said that even as many questions remain unanswered, one aspect with regard to the transfer of Rs 338

crore is tentatively established. The ED case is based on the CBI FIR registered in August last year. The ED had earlier this month arrested

AAP Rajya Sabha member

Sanjay Singh in connection

Arvind Kejriwal skips ED summons

NEW DELHI:Delhi Chief tivated." Minister Arvind Kejriwal skiped the Enforcement Directorate summons for questioning in connection with the alleged liquor policy scam.,

Kejriwal, who was summoned by the ED to appear before it on November 2 for questioning, will be skipping the ED questioning and participate in a roadshow along with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli.

On Wednesday he dubbed his summons as illegal and politically motivated.

Responding to ED summons, Kejriwal said in a post on X in Hindi, "The summons are illegal and politically moHe said that the notice was

sent at the behest of the BJP. "Notice was sent to ensure that I am unable to go for election campaigning in four states. ED should withdraw

the notice immediately, "Ke-

iriwal alleged. This is the first time that the Chief Minister has been summoned by the ED in relation to the alleged scam.

He was scheduled to visit Rajghat before appearing before the ED, and in view of the same the Delhi Police had also heightened the security at ED office and Rajghat with deployment of large number of police personnel, including the paramilitary force.

NEW DELHI: Ahead of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's questioning in connection with the alleged excise policy scam case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out searches at more than 12 locations in the national capital, including the premises of Minister and AAP leader Raaj Kumar Anand.

The raids were carried out in connection with false declaration of imports for customs evasion of more than Rs 7 crore and international hawala transactions. An ED source told to media, "Raaj Kumar Anand, Cabinet Minister is being searched by ED today in connection with money laundering Investigations initiated under PMLA." The source said: "The



investigations were initiated based on the Prosecution Complaint filed by DRI alleging false declarations in imports for customs evasion of more than Rs 7 crore and international hawala transactions." The court has taken cognisance of the complaint, the source said.

"Around 12 premises are being searched at different locations including Delhi, " the source added. Meanwhile,

Kejriwal is scheduled to appear before the ED during the day for questioning in the case, in which AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh have already been arrested.

This is the first time that the Chief Minister has been summoned by the ED in relation to the alleged scam. He was earlier questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the case in April this year.

Paddy procurement touches 161 LMT till November 1

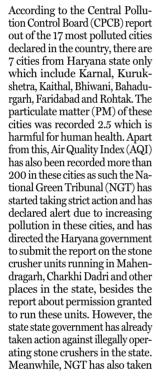


of 161.47 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy has been procured till November 1 under the ongoing Kharif marketing season, benefitting about 9.33 lakh farmers with minimum support price (MSP) value of Rs 35, 571.14 crore, an official statement said on Thursday.

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 maior contributors are Punjab (66.42 LMT), Haryana (36.11 LMT), and Tamil Nadu (3.26

CPCB Report: 7 cities in Haryana Amit Shah launches five Antyodaya Upliftment schemes in Haryana recorded most polluted

SATISH HANDA





stern action against the illegally

running stone crushers in NCR The Harvana government had submitted a report to the NGT last month, which stated that out of 133 stone crushing units operating in Mahendragarh district, 49 stone crushers have been closed. These stone crushers were being operated illegally. Moreover, 104 such stone crushers were found in Charkhi Dadri which were being operated against the norms and the government has closed 40 of these units. Harvana State Pollution Control Board also closed a large number of stone crushers functioning illegally in Naraingarh area in Ambala district in the past

. Apart from this, five manual monitoring stations have also been established by thr Harvana Pollution Control Board. According to the Pollution Control Board. AQI of few cities in NCR has been declared extremely bad, recorded as 322 in Faridabad, 304 in Noida, 354 in Greater Noida and 313 in Delhi. According to the report three days ago AQI was recorded as 284 in Bahadurgarh, 255 in Gurugram, 243 in Karnal, 269 in Kaithal and 256 in Kurukshetra which according to the doctors is bad for the health. Information revealed that there was no town

identified as safe (having 0 to 50

SATISH HANDA

In view of completion of nine

years BJP rule, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar during a gathering at Karnal launched five Antyodaya Uplifting Schemes In the ongoing efforts for the welfare of the people in the state initiated by the state Haryana government.

The Haryana government under the leadership of the Double Engine government is making efforts to provide health facilities to the citizens. Under the Central Government>s Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana 15 lakh families in Haryana receive free annual treatment of up to 5 lakh rupees.

The Haryana government>s Chirayu Scheme has already benefited approximately 11 lakh families. The Union Home Minister after inaugurating this scheme included 14 lakh new families in this scheme, combining the schemes of the central and state governments nearly 40



Haryana having annual income between Rs can avail the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat - Chirayu Scheme. Furthermore, this scheme also includes around 38,000 families with an annual income ranging from Rs. 1.80 lakh to

The Haryana Income Growth Board has been con-

ana. This Board will oversee and review the schemes run by the state government for Antyodaya families. Moreover, the board will also create new schemes to increase income and ensure their effective implementation.

The Union Home Minister also inaugurated the Haryana Antyodaya Parivar Parivahan

families with an annual income of less than Rs. 1 lakh having three or more members will receive the benefit of free travel on Haryana Roadways buses for up to 1000 kilome-

The Union Cooperation Minister also launched the Mukhyamantri Antyodaya **Dugdh Utpadak Cooperation** Incentive Scheme to provide incentives to Antyodaya families who wish to start minidairies by taking loans. Under this scheme when these families sell milk in the milk unions, they will receive an additional Rs.10 per litre above the cooperative unionss price Union Home Minister Amit

Shah also inaugurated the Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Scheme. Under this scheme, members of families with an annual income of less than Rs. 1.80 lakh who are over 60 years of age will be taken for pilgrimages to Ayodhya, Varanasi, and other sacred places the state government will bear all the expenses for their travel.

Omar Abdullah calls

for investigation into

Apple's snooping

15-point strategy to reduce road accidents increase by 20% in a year in Haryana port & Highways Ministry report than 66000 accident victims had

SATISH HANDA

Information reveals, this year so far 9.951 road accidents have been reported in Harvana 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 meet-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 influ-



ence of liquor, parking vehicles on 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 major reason for increase in road in 2020 and 2021 as compared to 2019 due to limited movement of the vehicles on roads during the spread epidemic outbreak

According to the Road Trans-

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 sustained serious injuries, wit- their vehicles at the wrong place ase in road mishaps, 9.4 increase in deaths and 15.3 increase in ijnnured as compared to the previous year. Information also revealed that the 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

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 velost lives and 4,43,366 persons hicle from the wrong side, parking and use of mobile ph driving which identified that 3395 persons were reported dead due to this. Information also reveals that during the year 2022 the number of road accidents was 11.9% higher than the previous year, whereas victims died 9.4 % higher and the injuries was15.3 higher as compared to the year 2021. As many as 93 road accidents are being reported in an hour.

Gurugram festival like in Dubai proposed in Haryana: Dushyant Chautala

SATISH HANDA

Gurugram festival will be held at Gurugram in Haryan similar to one being organized in Dubai been propoed, while talking to media persons Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that after having a talk with the Chief Minster action will be taken. He sais that in Dubai festival people come from far and wide to buy everything from electronic goods to gold jewelry in the Dubai Festival in which big companies participate and in the same way big indigenous



companies will also be able to display their products for sale in proposed Gurugram Festival, which will also prove to be a big platform for new companies for branding their products.

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that after discussing with the Chief Minister the outline of the Guru-

gram Festival will be finalized. He said, the idea of Gurugram Festival came up during a conversation with the entrepreneurs at the expo organized in entrepreneurs advised that the Gurugram Festival could be organised to benefit in promoting their sale as well branding of their products. Chautala said, since Gurugram is a big industrial hub, auto hub, IT hub and real estate hub in NCR, there is a lot of potential for organizing the proposed Gurugram Festival here and making it successful.

alerts **FW DESK**

Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, has called for a thorough investigation into the probe alerts sent out by Apple to opposition lead-

Former Chief Minister of

ers. Abdullah, who currently serves as the vice-president of the National Conference, expressed concerns over potential snooping activities and urged Apple to share all pertinent information regarding the alerts. "It should be investigated. Information was received earlier also that Israel's software Pegasus was sold to this country and used to spy on people,' Abdullah said during his address at a rally at Karnah in North Kashmir district of Kupwara. "Apple should share all the details and after proper investigation, the truth should be told to the people." Abdullah also criticized the central government for the delay in holding elections and pledged that his party, the National Conference, would make every effort to reinstate statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He firmly stated, "The NC will participate in the elections and will get Statehood back, come what may," he said. Abdullah reiterated his stance regarding his direct participation in elections held under the Union Territory. He announced that he would not personally contest the polls, but assured that the National Conference

would actively engage in

every election to represent

the interests of the people.

AMU VC Elections: For the first time women professor in the panel

KAVITA SHARMA Aligarh

cellor Elections of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) are round the corner. The Executive Council of the University has five potential candidates for this position of which one is a women. In the history of the century old University this is the First time when a woman Dr Naima Gulrez is shortlisted for the post. Dr Naima is the Principal of the Women's College of AMU and she is also a wife of acting Vice Chancellor Professor Mohd Gulrez. The other four are Professor Faizan Mustafa, Prof Qayyum Hussain, Prof Furqan Qamar and Professor M U Rabbani. Out of the 20 names that were proposed for consideration, these five candidates have been chosen through a voting process through ballot papers. The AMU authorities have

The most awaited Vice Chan-

already initiated the process of appointing a new VC. According to the AMU Registrar Imran the Election Council special meeting was convened on 30 October. From the list of 20 candidates, the five names have been shortlisted and now the University court will sit on November 6 to finalize the



go to the visitor (President of India) who has the authority to select one name from the three. Speaking to the Media in University premises today the Acting V-C Prof. Dr Gulrez said " it was a long pending demand and for which I was appointed. I am happy we have fulfilled the promise, total 32 applied for the post and 20 contestant were shortlisted, of which 19 voted...now five names have been recommended, and we have a Court's meeting on 6th November, he added. The court will finally select three

sent to the Visitor. According to Mohd Amir Minto, Ex student Of AMU, This is the first time a women applicant name is mentioned

out of five and the list will be

cause after the UGC guidelines now the professors and lecturers with 10 years of teaching experience can apply for the VC post. Earlier only retired Bureaucrats were considered for it. This is the reason we have a woman name in the panel, Amir added.

The Vice chancellor seat has been lying vacant since April this year. After being nominated as a member of the UP legislative council Vice Chancellor Tariq Mansoor who was Vice Chancellor since 2017, resigned from this post. Mohd Dr Gulrez was the acting VC since then, but the AMU Teachers Association (AMUTA) along with prominent Alumni and students were demanding for a permanent VC.

Kharge, Sonia, Rahul offer floral tributes to Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary Congress General secretary

NEW DELHI: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday offered floral tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 39th death anniversary.

The Congress leaders offered floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at Shakti Sthal here.

Kharge took to X and said, "As long as I have breath, my service will never stop and when I die, I can say that every drop of blood that is mine, every drop of blood will keep India alive, '



"Humble tribute to Indira Gandhi, India's first woman Prime Minister and our icon, who played an important role

in building a strong and progressive India with her strong will, efficient leadership, unique working style and foresight, on her martyrdom day, " he said.

"Every single part of India, every community and every person felt the benefits of her tenure and her legacy on social welfare, national security and India's progress will stand the test of time for many generations to come, "he said.

(organisation) K.C. Venugopal

said, "Our heartfelt tributes to

Indira Gandhi ji, the Iron Lady

of India, on her death anniver-

sary. Let us never forget that 39

years ago on this day, she made

the ultimate sacrifice for India's

unity and integrity."

Adani group to set up Food Better policy formulation and support developing industries in Haryana state: Dushyant Chautala **Processing unit in Haryana**

SATISH HANDA

Adani group is going to set up a Food Processing unit in an 80 acre area on Gohana-Kharkhoda road in Sonipat district on which amount between Rs 1500-1600 crore will be spent. Talking to the media persons, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that the proposed unit will produce essential commodity products including wheat flour, oils, ghee, a variety of biscuits & confectionery and other food products. Chautala said, Haryana state government has also launched 'One District, Product Product' scheme to boost small scale manufactur-



ers in the state in which state government will also assist such entreoreneurs in sale, branding and packaging their

products. Chautala said that industrial investment in the state is fast rising and some time ago Maruti Suzuki has started commissioning of their manufacturing unit in 800 acres area at IMT Kharkhoda and another plant in 100 acre area in the same complex by Suzuki. He said, the state government is getting a large number of proposals for industrial investment in the state.

SATISH HANDA

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala presiding the closing ceremony of Industrial Expo and Trade Fair at Gurugram on Sunday stated that there is no trade in the country that is untouched in Haryana and the state government is continuously working on policy formulation to better the support to the industries in the state. He said that at present the industrial institutions operating in the state believe that no state has a better and safer business environment other than Gurugram on Sunday.



Haryana. The Deputy Chief Minister was addressing as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the Gurugram Industrial Expo and District Trade Fair organized by the District Administration Gurugram under the joint aegis of MSME Directorate and Federation of National Industries at the Leisure Valley Parking Ground, Sector 29, 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 lebelled 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

Mahua Moitra asked ques tions on Govt.-Adani link in the Loksabha 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 said with disgust, "(asking) a Parliamentary Ethics Committee summoned her to ap-

pear before the committee. Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra appeared before the her. Parliamentary Standing Committee at the appointed time with three bags. At 3:55 PM, she came out like a storm people from BJP. In the opas soon as she came out, she

bad question". Alongwith her all opposition members also walked out from the Committee meeting and supported

Among the 11 members of that committee, 5 are from the opposition camp and 6

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 spokes 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 spokes 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

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 in-

"BJP has nothing to do with the freedom struggle of the country. They are trying to erase the contribution of Bapu (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

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,

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

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

t Indian officers have been under detention since August last year by Qatar on allegations of spying

PM greets people of fives 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 Chaturvedia and closely with the families in said, "Priyanka Chaturvedi, lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai on that regard, "he added further. you and I and three other In- Tuesday. Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sab-

ha 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 vour 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

The email titled "ALERT: State-sponsored attackers

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

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 may be targeting your iPhone. advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai These attackers are likely tar- gave "oral evidence" to the geting you individually because 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

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra heard the arguments

mittee (SGPC) President Advo-

cate Hariinder Singh Dhami has

taken notice of the statement

about 'uprooting Gurdwara

Sahibs upon forming govern-

ment', during a political rally

of Bharatiya Janata Party

and condemned the same in

said that Gurdwara Sahibs are

established all over the world

without any discrimination.

rally is a conspiracy of BJP lead-

ers to defeat the holy thought

of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, which

was done in the old times also.

Harjinder Singh Dhami

strong words.



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

Statement of uprooting Gurdwaras during BJP

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-

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

maintaining the required data litical parties who have received

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



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 in an opaque manner'.

He said that the answer to this was a transparent crowdfunding 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



batch of petitions filed against the electoral bonds scheme.

As per the causelist 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

today to promote the principle tendency is being deliberately of Sarbat Da Bhala (welfare of propped up in the country. He all), blessed by Sri Guru Nanak said that Sri Guru Nanak Dev Dev, the first Sikh Guru. He had brought the country and the said that the Gurdwaras have society out of the narrow-mindalways helped the distressed edness and gave the message of and the needy. Whenever there Sarbat Da Bhala, but today the is a calamity in the country and BJP leaders are again moving abroad, Gurdwaras and Sikh towards the same thinking. He bodies have always been at the said that the doors of Gurdwaras forefront and served humanity are always open to everyone and such a small-minded conspiracy of BJP leaders can never Hariinder Singh Dhami said that the hate statement about succeed. Gurudwara Sahibs during the

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, He said that now again this

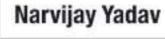
oppose such hateful statement on the spot. But it is sad that even as the CM of a state; Shri Adityanath has also become a part of this phenomenon. He said that history is a witness that the Congress also attacked Sikh shrines under the same thinking and today the BJP is also seen walking on the same path.

The SGPC President said that for the anti-Sikh statement during the rally in Rajasthan, including the UPCM Adityanath, the organizer of the rally and the person who made the statement should immediately apologize to the Sikh community and the Bharativa Janata Party should also clarify and it was his responsibility to its position in this regard.

Supreme Court notified the composition of a five-judge Constitution bench that will hear a funding for political parties.

has opened doors to unchecked

Talking Points



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.

on the roads are 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

uses and trucks running the factory, while the bodies of on the roads are often trucks and buses are made by outside craftsmen. Due to a lack of standards for body making, safety is ignored at every level. That is why many times you see similar messages on the rear parts of these vehicles, for example, Buri nazar wale tera muh kaala; Beti bachao Beti padhao; Horn OK Please, etc. For the past few years, wellestablished automobile companies have definitely started paying attention to the design of the body. However, most of are manufactured directly from the bodies of large vehicles are purchasing a vehicle, people can

still largely made by unskilled

craftsmen. On a positive note, the gov-

ernment 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 (BN-CAP), 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

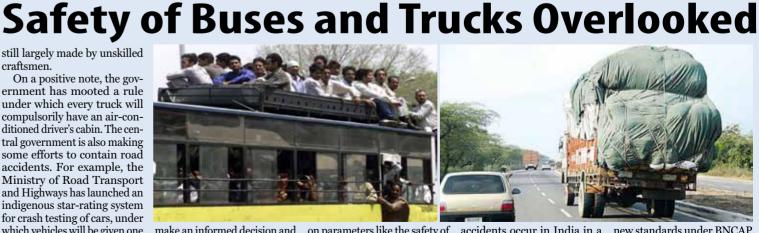


make an informed decision and evaluate the safety of the vehicle. India is now the fifth country in the world to have its own car crash test rating system.

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 accidents occur in India in a 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 accidents by up to 50% by the crash test is proposed for the buses, after which they will be

given one, two, three, four, or More than 1.5 lakh road



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 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

midst 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-onyear 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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"Every day may not be good...but there is something



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E P

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

Reconciliation over retribution



e 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 quarries 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



he 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 copyrightrelated questions. These include whether the use of copyrighted materials, including training data infrii 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 co-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 thir 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

n "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

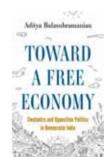
The book challenges popular conceptions of the Swatantra Party, often dismissed as a relic of royalty or a mouthpiece for big business

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.

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

Balasubramanian's decade-long



Toward A Free Economy:

Swatantra and Opposition Politics in Democratic India By Aditya Balasubramanian Princeton University Press;

352 pages; Rs799

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 Protean eGov Technologies Ltd launching Rs 490 cr IPO Ltd launching Rs 490 cr IPO

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 muthy'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 hous put it by an individual, companies should see how productive they are in their professional assign-

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

be prepared to work 70 hours a week if India must compete with other global economics. 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 velahanka 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

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

"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 authencity 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 proosed to be listed on the BSE. ICICI Securities, Equirus

Capital, IIFL Securities and Nomura Financial Advisorv and Securities (India) are the book running lead managers

"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 healthconscious nature of the Indian population and their readiness to invest in highquality mattresses to enhance heir 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 romoting 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

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

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 NU-CAP Industries Inc. in Canada

"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

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 awardwinning, 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 map-



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, ping software partners were Hemant Agarwal. Tushar

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 "Dataton" and "Watchout", in Srivastava, Director - Digi- 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

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

Concern for the environment alongside the need

for "expanding the Sustainable Value Chain" was emphasized during the 7th BIMTECH Insurance Colloquium" held here Professor Bejon Kumar Misra,

International Consumer Policy Expert, Member Executive Committee—General Insurance Council, narrated the story of Jamshetji 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

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

should ensure this fact.

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 +customercentric+ focus where criticism

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

was viewed constructively.

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 proprietary technology which

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 cans' 'precarious' status," he said, coming together of IKS and AQuity would help enable 'Clinicians' with their chores across the continuum of healthcare "U.S. healthcare is in a deep-

ening crisis due to financial the U.S. instability, large-scale staffing challenges and many Ameri-



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

Noting that 250,000 deaths

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 occur annually due to healthcare the same," he said, "We built

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 Ĥealth'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

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.

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



MEERUT: In a significant championed by the Central milestone for the 'Make in In- and State Governments. dia' 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 transformers resilience under short-circuit conditions, a critical aspect of its operational safety. The 500 MVA 400/220/33kV Autotransformer meticulously designed and crafted at KANOHAR>s stateof-the-art facility located in Meerut, within the Delhi National Capital Region.

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

emphasizing the prowess of domestic manufacturing and engineering capabilities. KANOHAR

distinguished player in the power equipment manufacturing sector and an eminent EPC (Engineering, Procurement, 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 sustransition to green mobility and

tainable 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

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 electric vehicles to accelerate the to set up Gigafactory for bat-



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)

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.

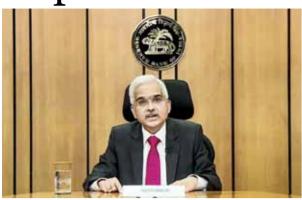
to complement ethnic wear for the festivities. Bata's festive campaign kicked off with a film featuring popular social media influencers - Adventurer VisakhaFulsunge, extreme athlete Aakash Malhotra, digital creator Jahnavi-

"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, shopin-shops, franchise stores and online platforms," he added.

FM Sitharaman inaugurates

SBI branch in Jaffna

RBI Gov Expects India's Q2 GDP Number to Report Positive Growth Test Phase of 5 MSME Lending Products Completed Under RBI's Sandbox Scheme The RBI had invited applications for the first cohort in November,



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 come amid some major banks report- the last quarter.

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

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 fastestgrowing 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

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 adop-

LENDING

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

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 Octoapplications 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

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

comalee.

Ministry of Finance posted

on X, "Union Finance Min-

ister Smt. @nsitharaman

inaugurated the State Bank

of India @TheOfficialSBI

Branch in Trincomalee, to-

day, during her official visit

to Sri Lanka. H.E. Mr. @S_

Eastern Province, Sri Lanka;

Gopal Baglay, India's High

Commissioner to Sri Lanka, and Chairman @TheOfficialSBI Dinesh Khara were

also present at the inaugu-

The event was attended by

several dignitaries, including

H.E. S Thondaman, the Gov-

ernor of the Eastern Province

in Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay,

India's High Commissioner

to Sri Lanka, and Chairman

of SBI, Dinesh Khara,

The RBI had invited applications for the first cohort in November, 2019 and for the second cohort with theme of 'Cross Border Payments' in ber 30 to November 30, 2023. December, 2020.

said Sanjay Tripathy, Co-Founder & CEO of BriskPe. BriskPe's ap-

proach offers exporters an op-

portunity to thrive in the global

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

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 Thondaman, Governor of

> 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

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

It facilitated the smooth

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

to traditional in-branch operations

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 be-

ESAF Small Finance Bank launching Rs 463-crore IPO



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 nvestment 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 cet.

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

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 secondlargest 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- ing of the announcements.

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

Centre intends to ensure

that the country doesn't slip

into a middle-income trap

that several countries have

fallen into at similar stages

outline of reforms and out-

comes to be achieved by 2030,

along with structural changes

of development.

months.



vestment 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 tim-

The plan will include an trillion economy by 2047 with that has been in the works

The Niti Aayog is giving

a per-capita income of USD

18,000-20,000.

in governance that will be criti-finishing touches to the plan

cal to make India a USD 30 called 'Vision India@2047'

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

for almost two years and was

presented to Cabinet Secretary

In November, parleys will

be held with thought leaders,

Rajiv Gauba last Monday.

BriskPe Introduces Cross-Border Payments Solution for MSME Exporters MUMBAI: BriskPe has launched the global stage like never before,"

cross-border payments solution, particularly for Micro. Small and Medium-sized enterprise (MSME)

The Mumbai-based crossborder 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

including corporate honchos

such as Tim Cook, Sundar Pi-

chai, Gautam Adani, Mukesh

Ambani, K.M. Birla, N. Chan-

drasekharan and Indra Nooyi,

the draft version of the plan

ready, and several States are

also in the process of prepar-

ing their own road maps," Niti

Aayog Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

The national plan also seeks

to address regional cleavages

in economic development

and reforms of government

said on Sunday.

"By December, we will have

market. By removing the financial and administrative complexities associated with crossborder 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.

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 (Insolresulting 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 todav. 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

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 highlight-

ing 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, rmed "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 unac-

ceptable 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.

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

India to Change its Governance Pattern

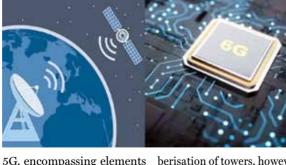
to become \$30 Trn Economy by 2047

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 ambi-Susannah Streeter, head of tious 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



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

"6Ğ will require 100% fi-

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

Yezdi 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

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"

> 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.

Nirmala Sitharaman meets Sri Lankan president, assures help in matters related to debt restructuring recent negotiations on the economic and technology cooperators. NYC Mayor to Sikhs

remesinghe 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 his 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

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

> you. We can do it together, " "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

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

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.

terrorism. It means protect-

ing, 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

"Your turban does not mean

Adams addressed members

not mean terrorism".

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.

and harm your community.'

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".

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 with his son. 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 group in the nation.

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

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 Trudeauled 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**



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 Sergt (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 Abstinence

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.

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

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



drones, Times of Israel reported. The rocket launches triggered

sirens in Eilat in the morning and were intercepted by the Arthat this was the third attack car- row air defense system. Israeli

jets reportedly shot down the The Prime Minister of the

Houthi government, Abdelaziz bin Habtour, declared earlier in the day that the drones used in the attack "belong to the state of Yemen", Times of Israel re-

Wistar Scientists Engineer New NK cell Engaging Immunotherapy **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 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 hundreds of Indian students.



mostly from Punjab, whose

till 2022 through Jalandhar-

based Education Migration

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

Services, which was headed by 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

> stitute 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 rep-

admission fees to a premier in-

issued deportation notices to resenting one of the student

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 monoantibodies th 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 MAbs 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



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

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



years is around fifty-fifty. Ovarian cancer demonstrates a low response rate to standard-of-care treatments like chemotherapies. PARP inhibitors and the widely used checkpoint inhibitor, PD-1.

In the small proportion of ic; according to the NIH, the ovarian cancer patients that do respond to these treatments, resistance becomes problematic

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

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 antitumor immune cells, through a conserved glyco-immune marker found on the surface of most NK cells called Siglec-7 (Sialic acid-binding immunoglobulintype lectin). NK cells have been recently described to express

Siglec-7, so the team tested two

over time - resulting in tumor 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 ovarian cancer this year in the that certain anti-Siglec-7 mAbs could activate human - 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 treat-

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 (MALAY- Changes in breast size or shape detected at Stage 4. Research

encourages global citizens to

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.

tious 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.

SIA): Malaysia Healthcare 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 Sun-

way 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 thirdmost 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

have also shown that patients have a 10% chance of their breast cancer recurring after undergoing a breast-conserving surgery or mastectomy1. 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 Sze, 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 for-

ward 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 Kimoon, 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 ris-

ing 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.

practice regular examination and screenings as a crucial step in preventing breast cancer. With healthcare facilities that

"Individuals should be cau-

Vaishnavi Adkar, Arjun Khade invite biggest bids at auction



New Delhi

Vaishnavi Adkar and Arjun Khade drew the biggest bids in women's and men's categories at the Harven Pro Tennis League 2023 auction conducted at the Davis Cup Lounge of the RK Khanna Stadium in New Delhi.

Ahead of the fifth season of the tennis league which brings together current players alongside upcoming and former professionals, it is the opportunity to youngsters that remains the focus. During the auction to pick players in Men's Pro, Women's Pro, Next-Gen Men's and Next-Gen Women's categories, each team was allocated a virtual budget of 1,00,00,000 points for the



auctioning process. Moreover, one Master Player was allotted to each team prior to the auction. Vaishnavi Adkar was the pick of the teams joining Mumbai Acers for 44 lakh points. After a bidding war between Lucknow Aviators, Indraprastha Warriors, Paramount Proec Tigers and Mumbai Acers, the India top-20 singles and No 17 in doubles player will ply her trade with the Acers.

The second-highest bid across the categories also came from the women's professional pool of players. Saĥaja Yamalapalli, who made her Billie Jean King Cup debut against Japan earlier in the year, was bought by Rebound Acers for 44 lakh points. There was a race for her signature between Indraprastha Warriors, Lucknow Aviators, Paramount Proec Tigers, Mumbai Acers and Rebound Acers before going to

Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi, who went to Paramount Proec Tigers for 40 lakh points and Riya Bhatia, heading to Sankara Stag Babolat Yoddhas for 35 lakh points. Bhatia had been the biggest bid at last year's auction.

Among the men's professional players that were up for auction, Khade - India's top 10 in singles and doubles - went to Sankara Stag Babolat Yoddhas for 41 lakh points. It came as a surprise that the No. 17 singles player in the country drew bigger amount than a more seasoned Mukund Sasikumar (38.5 lakh points) or Karan Singh (36.5 lakh points) who was coming in fresh as a runner-up at the nationals.

Quartet of Paramount Proec Tigers, Lucknow Aviators, Sankara Stag Babolat Yoddhas, Mumbai Acers and Rebound Ace he was eventually snapped by the Jodhpur-Meerut based Sankara Stag Babolat Yoddhas. Siddhant Banthia, US Collegiate star and India's top-20 player, was also a top bid with Mumbai Acers getting him for 36 lakh points.

In the Next-Gen categories, Delhi's Road to PTL winner Vansh Bisht went to Sankara Stag Babolat Yoddhas, Mumbai's Road to PTL champion Arush Nitture joined Mumbai Acers while the women's Road to PTL winners Gauri Mangaonkar and Somya Arya are headed to Rebound Acers and DMG Delhi Crusaders respectively.

"As we conclude the play-

ers' auction for the Pro Tennis

League, I am thrilled to envision the exciting journey that lies ahead. This league isn't just about winning or losing; it's about building a platform where talents are discovered, nurtured, and celebrated. Through our commitment to excellence, we aim to provide the perfect stage for the next generation of tennis stars to shine. With this auction, we have not only formed teams but laid the foundation for dreams to come true. Together, we are creating a legacy that will inspire and empower the champions of tomorrow," said Abhijeet Dangat, PTL Business Development



Women pose for photos showing their hands decorated with henna during Karva Chauth festival on Wednesday. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

Indian Cancer Congress begins in Mumbai



DOMINICK RODRIGUES

Congress was held here recently with as many as 2,000 abstracts (oral and video) being presented, even as the various speakers highlighted the global efforts in overcoming the dreaded cancer disease.

Maharashtra Minister Girish

Mahajan, who was the Chief Guest, said that the State too is witnessing increasing cancer cases and is bearing responsibility with the Central Government through various schemes besides the BPL cards and Rs. 5 lakhs treatment costs.

Lamenting the huge numbers of Indian youth addicted to tobacco, alcohol and calling for greater awareness in people's mentality towards such deadly

addictions, he said the government is focusing on supplying related cheaper generic medicines to reduce cancer

The Maharashtra Government is also increasing the number of medical colleges and treatment centres in urban and village areas, due to which, he said, the present scecoming to India for treatment instead of the reverse.

The various speakers highlighted the present witnessing a +revolution+ in cancer treatment and its affordability alongside changing from "End of Life" to living a healthy life.

Dr Raman Deshpande, Chair, Reception Committee, said that over 6,500 people from 20 countries had registered for this Congress.

Noting that the medical world is "constantly pushing the boundaries in the fight against cancer," Dr Manoj Gupta said the 4,700 members of the Oncologists Association of India were evolving their knowledge and expertise in this regard and soon this treatment would witness cancer treatment time being +reduced+ from "8 weeks to one week and soon even to one day itself.

About 10 million new cancer cases are diagnosed annually, said one speaker, while another noted that "Removing ignorance, pain and suffering while ushering the light of

cet Oncology show that lack of action would see millions of lives needlessly lost and a predicted US\$6.2 trillion in cumulative gross domestic product would be wiped out by 2030. "The disruptive and expensive advent of new technology, worsening workforce challenges, a global pandemic, and increasing political instability and conflict have changed the cancer care landscape." "The way in which surgeons and other stakeholders involved in cancer control aim to improve cancer surgical care is now infinitely more difficult than in 2015."

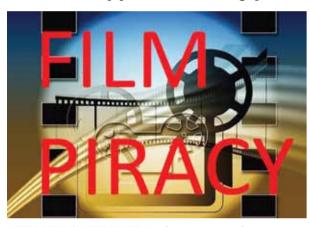
Statistics in The Lan-

POTPOURRI

The First Lancet Oncology Commission on Global Cancer documented the extraordinary need for cancer surgery, stating that +over 80% of 15.2 million cancer diagnosed patients worldwide in 2015 would need a surgical procedure at some point in their treatment.

healing in the world" is the common effort of the medical community. Oral cancer is one of the most common cancers in the Indian sub-continent, while cervical cancer is the most common cause of cancerrelated deaths in southern parts of Africa

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.

the Cinematography (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

I have reached

Neeraj Chopra

this stage through

series of defeats:

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

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.

I have reached this stage. In

2017 I had started compet-

ing in international events

in Diamond League, so since

2017 till 2021, I kept los-

the Hindustan Times Lead-

World Championships in

Doha due to bone spurs in

his right elbow, forcing him

to go under the knife.

"It is through defeats that

champion athlete.

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 film content for free, piracy has seen a rise. With the above action, immediate action will case basis to determine the Information and Broadcasting in the case of piracy and the

industry will get relief. Regarding the bill, Union Minister of Information and links providing pirated content Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur within a period of 48 hours had said in the Parliament after receiving instructions that the purpose of this law from the nodal officer.

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, Apur-

va 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 IPC. With the spread of the made by a person who does Internet and almost everyone not hold the copyright or is not being interested in watching authorized by the copyright holder, the Nodal Officer may hold a hearing on a case-bybe taken by the Ministry of genuineness of the complaint efore issuing directions. He further clarified that under the law, the digital platform will be bound to remove such internet

'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 sea-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 sons and more to come. As fan of OTT. It has given me an actor I have grown. But if time to flesh out charachave 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.



Sunny Deol is into Teddy

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'. ond 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 Kahaani', Sunny Deol said: "My could destroy a country with Dad can do whatever he likes a hand pump, can actually be and he gets away with it."



into teddy bears.

Karan also appreciated Sunny's massive success with 'Gadar 2'. He goes on to give him a standing ovation, saying: give you a standing ovation." Discussing Sunny and Bobby's father, the iconic Dharam Paaji's kiss in 'Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem

Ankita Lokhande talks about break up with SSR in 'BB17':





ing 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

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

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.

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.

ing. It was in 2022 Diamond League when I first got a position in the podium. So Batting first, India scored 357 runs for eight wickets at the winning didn't start all of a sudden," Chopra said 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 ership Summit here. Injuries also made him stronger as Chopra missed the 2019 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.

dismissed five batsmen. Mohammad Mohammad Siraj took three wickets. Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra ODI tournament.

most successful pitcher for

India. Mohammed Shami

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, Shubhman 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 Mohammed Shami was the 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

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 marte hai, shaadi bhi ek baar hoti hai... aur pyaar bhi ek baar hota hai" from the 1998 movie 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' redefined friendship tum joh nahi ho" from the



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 jaisa pyar koi nahi kar

sakta kyun ki kisi ke paas

and love at the same time. No 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 ar 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 kardeta 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

bears, reveals Karan Johar