

REGION

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## OPPN LEADERS OPPOSING CMIE REPORT AS 6 PER CENT UNEMPLOYMENT IN HARYANA



**CHANDIGARH:** In order to save precious human lives and property as per the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the State Government machinery has been working round the clock to mitigate the situation created by floods in the state.

To speed up the relief operations and as per the directions of CM Bhagwant Mann, 27286 persons have been evacuated and taken to safe places. In Patiala 14296, Rupnagar 2200, Moga 250, Ludhiana 300, SAS Nagar 1400, SBS Nagar 200, Fatehgarh Sahib 600, Tarn Taran 241, Jalandhar 670, Kapurthala 380, Ferozpur 5400, Sangrur 263, Fazilka 17 and 1069 persons have been evacuated to safe places in Mansa District.

Spokesperson informed that 1472 villages have been affected by the flood till 8 am on July 26. A total of 159 relief camps are running in the state in which 1478 people are staying.

Currently, 19 districts are affected by floods including Tarn Taran, Ferozpur, Fatehgarh

Sahib, Faridkot, Hoshiarpur, Rupnagar, Kapurthala, Patiala, Moga, Ludhiana, SAS Nagar, Jalandhar, Sangrur, SBS Nagar, Fazilka, Gurdaspur, Mansa, Pathankot and Bathinda.

According to the report received by the revenue department from different districts, a total of 42 people have lost their lives due to floods in the state, which includes 3 in Rupnagar, 2 each in Fatehgarh Sahib, Hoshiarpur & SBS Nagar, 8 in SAS Nagar, 3 each in Faridkot & Jalandhar, 10 in Patiala, 4 in Sangrur, 1 each in Ferozpur,

Moga, Fazilka, Bathinda and Ludhiana. Similarly, 19 persons have been injured due to floods. According to the information received from different districts, 377 houses have been fully/severely damaged due to floods while 770 houses have been partially damaged.

As per the information received from the animal husbandry department, on July 25, a total of 1450 animals treated in the state while the number of vaccinated animals is 1210.

On the other hand, the teams of the health department are

CORPORATES & INDUSTRY

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## ADANI TRANSMISSION RENAMED AS ADANI ENERGY SOLUTIONS



### CM launches online portal to facilitate NRIs for getting their documents embossed at a single click

**CHANDIGARH:** In a major relief to the NRI brethren, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday launched an online portal [eservices.punjab.gov.in](http://eservices.punjab.gov.in) of the Revenue department to apply for the embossing of documents on a single click of mouse.

Describing it as a revolutionary step towards e-governance, the Chief Minister said that sometimes, a person residing outside India (an NRI or an OCI) needs to sell / buy / rent out / take possession of a property located in the state. However, he said the concerned person is not able to visit India and attend the sub registrar office in person to get the docu-



ments registered. Bhagwant Mann said that in order to facilitate such NRIs, the entire process has been now digitized, allowing applicants to apply for the embossing of documents.

The Chief Minister said that these documents can be submitted at various locations, such as the district, Divisional Commissioner, or the Financial Commissioner, based on the specified conditions.

working in the flood-affected areas with full attention. According to the spokesperson, 425

Rapid Response Teams (RRT) have been working at flood-affected areas.

POTPOURRI

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## PUNJABI FILM 'MASTANEY' GENERATES ENTHUSIASTIC, AUDIENCE BUZZ WITH UNIQUE & FRESH CONCEPT IN TEASER

## Star marked series of notes legal tender, RBI clarifies

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday clarified that banknotes with a Star (\*) symbol present on the number panel are legal.

The central bank issued this statement addressing concerns surrounding the legitimacy of banknotes with a Star (\*) symbol present on the number panel circulating on various social media platforms.

The symbol is incorporated in the number panel of a banknote when it is used as a replacement for defectively printed banknotes within a packet of 100 serially numbered banknotes, said the RBI in its clarification.

"In this connection, it is informed that the Star (\*) symbol is inserted in the number panel of a banknote that is used as a replacement for defectively printed banknotes in a packet of 100 pieces of serially numbered banknotes," RBI said.

"A banknote with a Star (\*) symbol is identical to any other



legal banknote, except that in the number panel a Star (\*) symbol is added between the prefix and the serial number," the central bank added.

Before August 2006, fresh banknotes issued by the RBI were serially numbered, each with a distinctive serial number and prefix consisting of numerals and letters. These banknotes were issued in packets containing 100 pieces.

The «Star series» numbering system was introduced by the RBI specifically for the replacement of defectively printed banknotes within a packet of 100 serially numbered banknotes.

The Star series banknotes are identical to regular

A banknote with a Star symbol is identical to any other legal banknote, except that in the number panel a Star symbol is added between the prefix and the serial number"

banknotes in all aspects, except for the additional character - a \*(star) - in the number panel, placed between the prefix.

Simply put, these banknotes are valid legal tender and should not be a cause for concern among the people.

They are merely replacements for defective banknotes and hold the same value and acceptance as other banknotes in circulation.

## Modi urges G20 for Int'l legally binding document to end plastic pollution

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called upon the G20 to work on an international legally binding document to end plastic pollution in a virtual address at the inaugural session of the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Ministerial meeting in Chennai, Modi said, "I call on the G20 to work constructively to

work on an effective international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution."

He also highlighted responsible management of oceanic resources. "Responsible use and management of ocean resources is of vital importance. I look forward to the adop-



tion of G20 high-level principles for a sustainable and resilient blue and ocean-based economy," the prime minister said.

PM Modi pointed out that India is one of the top five countries in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity.

## CAIT urges govt for early roll-out of e-commerce policy and rules

**NEW DELHI:** Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Thursday, appealed to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal for an early rollout of the E-commerce policy and E-commerce Rules under the Consumer Protection Act.

In a letter to the Commerce minister, CAIT called for an even playing field for traders competing with the "foreign e-commerce companies" against alleged challenges such as uneven competition created by predatory pricing, exclusivity and inventory management.

"Through e-commerce, no substantial FDI is entering into India rather which comes under the guise of FDI, is used for cash-burning or to support huge losses incurred by global e-tailers," it said. CAIT in the letter alleged that several foreign-funded e-commerce companies practice predatory pricing, deep discounting, loss funding, and owning inventory; and use a preferential



seller system in their operations, causing unfair practices that add to the vulnerability of Indian e-commerce companies.

The umbrella body also sought the prohibition of flash sales and predatory pricing along with urging to make e-commerce companies responsible for the products they sell on their platform, reported Financial Express. As per reports, the trader's body has also urged for setting up

grievance redressal mechanisms by e-commerce companies against mis-selling of goods and services. BC Bhartia, National President and Praveen Khandelwal, Secretary General of CAIT said, "We are not urging for any special favour for the traders but are certainly inclined to ensure that laws, rules & regulations and policies of the government must be followed by one and all both in letter and spirit."

## Fully aware of your theatricals, couplets & self-proclaimed honesty: CM Mto Manpreet Badal



**CHANDIGARH:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday assailed the former Finance Minister Manpreet Badal and said that he was fully aware of the theatricals, couplets and self proclaimed honesty of the BJP leader. In a statement, the Chief Minister said that entire Punjab is well aware of misdeeds of the former Minister. He said that Manpreet Badal who had remained Finance Minister of state for fairly long period is hand in glove with the elements who ruined the state. Bhagwant Mann said that the coffers of state were empty for welfare of people during his stint but the brazen loot of public money was allowed. The Chief Minister said that the Finances of the state were used as per the whims and fancies of the former Minister without bothering about the well being of masses.

## India's UN envoy Ruchira Kamboj assumes Chair of 62nd Session of Commission for Social Development

**UNITED NATIONS:** India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, has assumed the chairmanship of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development, the first time in nearly 50 years the country has held this position within the UN agency.

"India takes immense pride in assuming this Chairmanship and remains steadfast in its commitment to leading with its core principles, working diligently for the welfare and prosperity of the global community," Kamboj said in a tweet on Thursday as she assumed the Chair for the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development on behalf of India.

In a statement, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN said Kamboj assumes the role with a primary focus on bolstering international cooperation concerning social development matters. India's election as the Chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development on February 15 marks a «momentous occasion» as it was the first time since 1975 that India has held this position within the Commission



for Social Development, it said. The Chair is backed by vice-chairs from Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Dominican Republic, and a forthcoming African State election.

The central theme for the 62nd session is «Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies to accelerate Progress on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication».

The theme underscores the vital connection between social development and social justice as they form the bedrock for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the statement said.

## GatiShakti a well-developed logistics & supply chain network to boost India's economy: Som Parkash

**NEW DELHI:** PM GatiShakti aims to build a well-developed logistics and supply chain network, which will allow goods to flow seamlessly across borders and increase access to global markets, said Som Parkash, Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry at the National Conference on Gati Shakti-Boosting connectivity for New India: Logistics - Warehousing - Supply Chain" organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

While addressing the conference Som Parkash, Union



Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Government of India said that states/ Union Territories of the country are extensively using the PM GatiShakti approach for planning connectivity to In-

target to bring efficiency in logistics services and human resources. The Policy aims to reduce the cost of logistics, improve India's ranking in Logistics Performance Index, enabling data-driven decision support mechanism for an efficient logistics ecosystem.

This is a strong indicator of India's global positioning, with this development being powered by our government's laser focus on reforms for improving logistics infrastructure through PM GatiShakti and National Logistics Policy," he said.

## Preneet Kaur writes to PM Modi, seeks relief for flood-hit Punjab

**PATIALA:** Member of Parliament from Patiala, Preneet Kaur, on Friday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking relief for people badly affected in Punjab.

In her letter, she wrote: "As you are aware, the incessant floods have devastated 19 districts in Punjab, including my constituency, Patiala, which has been the worst affected. Around 500 villages have marooned and 1.25 lakh acres of farmlands are still under deep waters. Patiala city, many towns, and a large number of 'bastis' (villages) in the constituency have been badly hit."

Describing the damage to the crops, she further wrote, the Kharif crop is totally destroyed, over three feet sand and silt brought in by the Ghaggar river is deposited all over the fields, leaving little chance for re-sowing of paddy and other crops, for it is not immediately possible to reclaim the lands. "It needs a great deal



of effort and funds, too. The loss of dwellings and cattle heads has further added to the despair of these people."

Requesting a special one-time special assistance for Punjab, she wrote: "While I would like to thank you and the Central government for sending Rs 218.40 crore to Punjab for undertaking various measures to deal with the disaster, I would like to suggest for your consideration that a special one-time assistance may be directly given to the farmers which could be released through the Prime Minister's Kisan Sanmaan Nidhi Yojana."

## Silent protest march held in London over Manipur violence



**LONDON:** A UK-based Indian-origin women's group organised a silent protest march here to register their protest against the violence in Manipur.

The Women of North East India Support Network (WNESN) organised a group of men and women in face masks to signify silence and carried placards outside the Indian High Commission here.

The group then marched towards Parliament Square to conclude their protest at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi opposite the House of Parliament complex on Wednesday evening.

"Together we marched in solidarity to share the pain and anguish of our two Kuki-Zo sisters of Manipur who were paraded naked and gang-raped," WNESN said in a statement. The group was formed in 2020 during the pandemic as a community-based women's support network.

## Muharram procession held in Kashmir after three decades

FW DESK

For the first time in 34 years, thousands of Shia Muslims in Kashmir Valley participated in a procession to commemorate the eighth day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar. The mourners dressed in customary black, beating their chests and chanting elegies passed through streets of Srinagar. However, the procession was held amid heavy security arrangements. Muharram is an important month in Islam during which Muslims worldwide conduct processions to mourn the martyrdom of Hussain Ibn Ali al-Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, who died in 680 AD at the Battle of Karbala in present-day Iraq.

## Delhi court summons Tytler on Aug 5 in 1984 Sikh Genocide case

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court on Wednesday summoned Congress leader Jagdish Tytler on August 5 in connection with the Sikh Genocide in 1984 in the national capital's Pul Bangash area.

Gurdwara Pul Bangash at Azad Market was set on fire by a mob on November 1, 1984 and three persons, namely Sardar Thakur Singh, Badal Singh and Gurcharan Singh, were burnt to death. The incident took place a day after then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Vidhi Anand Gupta of a special MP-MLA court passed the order after taking cognisance of a Central Bureau of Invest-



igation (CBI) chargesheet in the case. In its chargesheet filed before the court, the CBI has said that Tytler incited, instigated and provoked the mob that had assembled at gurdwara on November 1, that resulted in the burning down of the gurdwara and killing

of three persons of the Sikh community. Charges under Sections 147 (rioting), 109 (abetment) read with 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), among others, have been invoked against Tytler by the probe agency. On June 2, the Rouse Avenue

Courts had approved a supplementary charge sheet filed by the CBI against Tytler in the riots case and also transferred the case to the special MP-MLA court for trial. The court had earlier also instructed the CBI to expedite the process of obtaining the forensic report of Tytler's voice sample.

Senior advocate H.S. Phoolka, representing the riot victims, had requested the court to accelerate the FSL report process. The Congress leader was named in the chargesheet following fresh evidence against him. In April, the central probe agency had collected Tytler's voice sample in connection with the violence in Pul Bangash. Tytler is accused of inciting a mob that murdered the victims.

## Up to Rs. 25 lac freight subsidy to MSME export units in Haryana



SATISH HANDA

Chief Minister Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar in Cabinet meeting a couple of days ago has approved the freight assistance scheme notified under the Haryana Enterprise and Employment Policy (HEEP) - 2020 in order to bring relief to the industries registered with Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME) in the state involved in exporting goods manufactured by them. According to the new amendment Rs 25 lakh will be provided as subsidy in view of freight reimbursement towards transportation cost from the unit premises to the port, air cargo or international borders. The Chief Minister said that along with other non-financial incentives launching of subsidy on freight scheme will make MSME exports competitive in the global market.

# CM Mann announces to start ex-gratia grant for the armed forces personnel in cases of physical casualty

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday announced to start ex-gratia grant for the Armed forces personnel in cases of physical casualty during service along with doubling the ex-gratia of physically disabled soldiers and hiking the financial assistance of non-pensioner ex-servicemen of World War I and II.

The Chief Minister led the state in paying homage to Kargil Martyrs, who laid down their lives for safeguarding the borders of the country, in a function to mark Kargil Vijay Diwas here at Punjab State War Heroes Memorial and museum.

Addressing the gathering after paying homage to the war heroes, the Chief Minister said that recognizing the immense contribution of soldiers, the state government has now decided to start ex-gratia worth Rs 25 lakh to Physical Casualty cases in the



Armed forces. He said that, earlier, there was no such provision but his government has taken this initiative as these valiant warriors also sacrifice their lives during call of duty. Likewise, He said that ex-gratia for the physically disabled soldiers have also been enhanced by the state government. The Chief Minister said that soldiers with 76% to 100% disability will now get Rs 40 lakh ex-gratia instead of Rs 20 lakh, soldiers with 51%-75% disability will now get Rs 20 lakh instead of existing Rs 10 lakh and

those with 25%-50% disability will now get Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia instead of Rs 5 lakh. Likewise, he said that the monthly financial assistance of non pensioner ex-servicemen of World War I and II or their widows has been enhanced from existing Rs 6000 to Rs 10000. Mann said that the state government is duty bound to secure the interests of these brave soldiers who had served the country selflessly. Mann said that the countrymen will ever remain indebted to these national heroes for their

bravery and selfless service to the nation.

The Chief Minister said that after assuming the charge of office his government has decided to give Rs 1 crore to the distressed families as a mark of respect for the supreme sacrifice made by these heroes for the country. He said that this humble initiative of the state government is in recognition of the immense contribution of these sons of soil towards preserving the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country.

The Chief Minister recalled that during the Kargil War he was an artist and to express solidarity with these national heroes they had organized a charity show. He said that the charity show was held at Patiala in which a number of other artists also took part. Mann said that all the collections from the show were handed over to the Army authorities as a token of gratitude towards their heroic deeds.

The Chief Minister said that as a colony of the British Empire, our country had suffered a lot but the brave and determined heroes of our freedom struggle made enormous sacrifices to remove the shackles of foreign imperialism. He said that it is on record that more than 90% of the great patriots who laid down their lives or were subjected to British tyranny in one form or other were Punjabis. Mann said that a string of gems like Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh and several others, shed their blood to achieve freedom for us..

## Oppn leaders opposing CMIE Report as 6% unemployment in Haryana



SATISH HANDA

Information reveals, Haryana state has the fourth highest rate of unemployment in the country as per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Information also reveals that there was an unemployment rate of 9% for year 2021-22, which was higher than the neighbouring states including Uttar Pradesh recorded 3.9%, Himachal Pradesh recorded 4.0%, Rajasthan recorded 4.7%, Punjab recording 6.4% as against the national unemployment rate of 4.1%.

However, according to central government data the Haryana state recorded 9% unemployment during the year 2021-22, whereas the opposition, especially Congress leaders claimed the unemployment rate in Haryana state as 30% and sometimes as 36% misguiding people in the state. Senior Congress leader and also the former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda highlighted the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)'s report in January this year that put the State's unemployment rate at 37.4%, the highest in the country. Hooda said while there was maximum unemployment in the State in spite of the fact nearly two lakh government posts are lying vacant.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal's media adviser Amit Arya, however, said while the PLFS figures were not entirely correct, also disproved the CMIE data. Unemployment rate in the State was around 6% as per data based on Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) scheme, he maintained. Arya said, according to PPP data there are 8,17,072 unemployed persons between age 18 to 60 in the state, whereas total population

## Punjab Angels Network organizes startup pitch session



KULBIR SINGH KALSII Mohali

Punjab Angels Network, a leading platform in north India based in Chandigarh capital region and aimed at inspiring, empowering and facilitating the startup ecosystem in Punjab, organized a startup pitch session at Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) - ISB Mohali in which 20 startups took part.

As many as 10 startups were selected for funding and incubation of three to twelve months depending upon their respective stages. The selected startups will be receiving a funding of Rs 5 crores which will mainly be given by a single Punjab based investor Iqbal Singh of Innovative Financial Management. Punjab Angels Network has plans to increase the funding up to Rs 10 crore as per the future requirement of the startups and on the basis of suggestions by the investors.

"The idea behind the Startup Pitch Session was to take the startup ecosystem to newer heights in Punjab, which has a huge scope for building and expanding entrepreneurship. The event, organized in collaboration with AIC-ISB and India Network, was focused on sprinting and building the entrepreneurial and start-up ecosystem in the region," said CA Sahil Makkar, Chairman and CEO, Punjab Angels Network.

Anuradha Chawla, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Punjab Angels Network, said that the startup pitch session brought together top industry experts to act as jury and also investors for the event. They included Avik Sarkar, AI Head, NITI Aayog; Dr Atul Mehta, Senior Vice President, Sales, Razorpay; Sandeep Sehgal, CEO and Founder Global ScaleUp Pte Ltd, Singapore; Naman Singhal, CEO, AIC-ISB, Mohali; Sundeeep Gaba, CEO, AllesHealth from Switzerland and Saurabh Munjal, CEO Lahori zira.

## Demand to lift ban over export of rice other than 'Basmati': Bajrang Garg



SATSH HNADA

Chief General Secretary of All India Vyapar Mandal as well as President of Haryana Vyapar Mandal, Bajrang Garg has demanded immediate action by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to take up matter with Union Government for withdrawal of ban over export of rice other than 'Basmati' which is causing heavy loss to the farmers as well as rice exporters in the state. Garg said, a similar ban over rice other than 'Basmati' was imposed earlier also in 2008 when UPA was ruling in the country as well as Haryana and then chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda had taken up matter with the government in centre and the decision about ban over export of non-basmati rice was immediately rolled back.

Garg said that non-basmati rice is in much demand in a large number of countries across the world including Sri-lanka, Italy, Thailand, Spain, Nepal, China, Africa, USA and Europe. He said, due to the ban over export on non-basmati rice causing heavy loss to the farmers, rice millers and the traders in the state. Garg said that due delayed procurement of paddy crops by the government every year the traders used to purchase paddy from the farmers directly and sell in domestic as well as export markets after milling as a result not only traders but also farmers were able to earn handsome amount, also bringing reasonable profits to the farmers.

## Public bear brunt due to strike by Revenue Staff

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

In reaction against the alleged misbehaviour with Tehsildar (Revenue officer) by the ruling party (AAP) MLA Dinesh Chadha, today Revenue officers went on strike and their subordinate Staff Patwaris also joined the issue. With the ongoing strike, people who have come to the district Tehsil office were left high and dry as none of the officers was found present in its office. Hundreds of appointments were availed through the online system for the registration of property deed by the purchasers but people were forced to face hassle, said Mohinderpal Gupta a Vasseeka Navees by profession. Gupta said that due to the ongoing strike of the revenue department people were suffering a lot as all registration and mutation work of property came to a grinding halt. He said that the deadlock between the Government and Revenue officers should be settled down for the larger interest of the public who were feeling harassed for no fault.

## 'SGPC Sri Amritsar' web channel launched by SGPC for Gurbani broadcasting

President Dhama levels serious allegations on Punjab Govt

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has released its official YouTube/web channel today to broadcast Gurbani Kirtan (singing of holy Sikh verses) from Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib to Sangat across the world. In this regard, after the bhog (concluding ceremony) of Sri Akhand Path, a Gurmat Samagam (religious congregation) was held at Gurdwara Sri Manji Sahib Diwan Hall, where the web channel was officially launched. The channel started by the SGPC for the Gurbani broadcast has been



named as 'SGPC Sri Amritsar', which will be available on YouTube and Facebook.

Addressing the gathering on this occasion the SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhama has warned the Punjab government to stop interfering in the SGPC affairs said, "Punjab Government should focus on its affair rather to interfere in the Sikh religious affairs as

SGPC is capable to carry out its all religious works. So we don't need any kind of help from the Punjab Government. SGPC is capable to set up its own channel", he quipped.

He asked the gathering don't follow the Punjab Government as they were misleading the Sikh community by spreading wrong propaganda against the SGPC.

## 42 persons suffered snake bite after floods in Ambala, 2 teen girls dies

SATISH HANDA Ambala

As many as 42 persons suffering from snake bite due to flood situation in the area were admitted in the Civil Hospitals in twin city Ambala. However, two teen age girls suffered snake bite could not be saved due to lack of timely treatment, since in a case victim's parents took her to a 'Tantrik' for spiritual treatment instead of taking her to the hospitals for treatment. Almost all snake bite victims admitted in the hospitals for treatment are reported saved.

Among those succumbed to snake bite injuries were identified as Rukmani (14) originally hailing from Darbhanga in Bihar state presently residing along with her parents in a tubewell room in agriculture field at village Durana in Ambala district. The victim was attacked during night when she was sleeping on a bed. Deceased's father Gobind was working as a labourer in a paddy crop field.

## United Sikhs launches comprehensive 3-Phase rehabilitation program for flood-affected areas of Punjab

Renowned actor Gurpreet Singh Ghuggi supports United Sikhs' rehabilitation program

KULBIR SINGH KALSII Chandigarh

Carrying out extensive relief efforts across the flood-affected regions, United Sikhs, a noted global non-profit organization, is aiming to rehabilitate affected lives with their comprehensive 3-phase relief program.

In the wake of the devastating floods that have inundated large parts of rural Punjab including, their on-the-ground volunteers have reached more than 500 villages with medical aid, and emergency relief items in the villages of Rupnagar, Anandpur Sahib, Kiratpur Sahib, Chamkaur Sahib, Machhiwara (Ludhiana), Patiala, Shahpur (Jalandhar), Mansa, and Sardulgarh. Their teams have also reached out to extend relief work in the inaccessible villages in Dera Baba Nanak.

In the ongoing first phase, they



are providing immediate relief to the affected families across the breadth of the affected regions of Punjab. During this phase, having carried out rescue operations, they are continuing to provide emergency relief supplies to affected families and their livestock. Their volunteers are reaching out to the affected families with urgent needs for food, water, clothing, tents, fodder, and other essential items. The dedicated teams are working tirelessly to ensure that basic necessities reach the affected individuals during this challenging time. Additionally, they are providing ambulance services, medical care and essential medicines to

address the health needs of those impacted by the floods.

Once the initial rescue and relief efforts have been completed, their focus will shift toward rebuilding and rehabilitating the affected communities in the second phase of the relief efforts. They will work towards rebuilding homes that have been destroyed and providing assistance to those who have lost their farm animals. Additionally, they aim to offer urgent monetary aid for miscellaneous needs that arise during the recovery process, helping families get back on their feet. Medical camps will be held to continue to provide education, medicine, and check-ups.

## Ambala police seized drugs of value Rs 5 cr

SATISH HANDA Ambala

A team of Sadar police station Ambala Cantt on a secret information that a youth carrying 1 kg heroine of international value worth Rs 5 crore moving on Ambala - Jagadhari Road and immediately held a police bsrrier opposite the grave yard to check all suspected vehicles on July 25 and 26 night, when stopped a I 20 car bearing registration number HR-85B 3044 and during thorough checking recovered 1 kg heroine in a bag and arrested the youth driving the vehicle who identified as Dishant Kumar alias DK a resident of 'Jali Mill' compound area near the place of police barrier. SP Ambala Jashandeep Singh told media persons that a



case was registered against arrested accused under NDPS Act under sections 21/27A/29 of IPC against the arrested youth who was produced in the court on 26th July and remanded to police custody for six days. SP told that Ambala police has registered 112 cases under NDPS Act and arrested 149 drug smugglers so far during this year.

## Hooda accuses ruling Haryana responsible for flood situation in the state



SATISH HANDA

Talking to media persons at Sirsa, the former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda also leader of opposition in Haryana Vidhan Sabha after having a talk with flood affected people said media persons that in case ruling BJP-JJP government had taken timely action prior to rainy season the present situation would have been saved to large extent, as a result residents as well as farmers would have not suffered present loss worth crores of rupees due to water overflowing from the rivers. Hooda said, Ghaggar river water has played havoc in Sirsa and Fatehabad districts.

Information reveals that 50000 cusec water released from the river first time in the history of the state have completely destroyed standing wheat and paddy crops in the area for which the state government should provide Rs 50000 compensation to the farmers for each acre area of agriculture land. INLD General Secretary Abhay Chautala who also reached at the floods affected areas after leaving his (Parivartan Yatra) on the way, too, repeated that the worst affected farmers should be given compensation towards the loss suffered by them at an early stage enabling them to cultivate their agriculture land once again.

Among others visited for the survey of flood affected areas at Sirsa and Faridabad to review loss to the people included for-

mer HPCC president Dr Ashok Tanwar presently an Aam Aadmi Party leader, Dushyant Chautala Deputy Chief Minister Haryana and Ranjit Chautala Power Minister Hooda. All leaders of political parties in opposition demanded immediate relief to the people suffered property loss as well as the farmers who suffered crops loss. Hooda raised a question over Haryana government's decision to upload loss incurred by them on portal at this stage. He said suffering people as well as farmers need immediate financial assistance at this stage and the government in the centre should also release relief funds as in case of Himachal Pradesh.

Dr Ashok Tanwar said that air survey by Manohar Lal Khattar Chief Minister Haryana over flood affected districts in Haryana state was merely a joke as well as a formality and he should have met suffering people as well as farmers to find out their grievances personally, raising a question how air survey by the chief minister may save people in flood affected districts at this stage adversely suffered losses due to floods. According to information, as a result of sudden breakage of dam on Markanda river in Ambala district five villages Harda, Hamidpur, Allahapur, Harvali and Shergarh have been severely affected when water entered in about 600 acre area in these villages completely destroying crops as well as damaging residential houses.

## Sixteen years old minor raped by Head Constable inside police station

SATISH HANDA Kurukshetra

It was a nasty spot on the reputation of Haryana state police in which the accused an head constable of the police station at Babain in Kurukshetra district was arrested for reportedly raping a 16-year-old girl. Superintendent of police Surinder Singh Bhoria said that the incident took place in the Police 'Mitra Kaksh' room of the police station, which was located in a separate building adjoining the police station. He said a case has been registered against the rapist policeman who was also terminated immediately. The accused head constable had come in contact with the victim girl after a complaint about her missing was filed at the police station by her family and now she was called by the accused. The accused had called her



to the police station and later took her to the Police 'Mitra Kaksh' adjoining police stations to facilitates people in lodging complaints. The accused head constable tactfully sent the family member accompanied victim minor to bring a non-judicial stamp paper for recording the statement, asked her grandmother to wait outside, closed the room from inside under a conspiracy and raped her on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. However, the girl in her statement that she had accompanied one of her female relatives and was not missing,

## Ashok Singla elected as New Chairman of Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana

ADITI CHAHAR Chandigarh

The elections for office-bearers of Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana were held today under the supervision of Learned Advocate General Baldev Raj Mahajan who was the returning officer as per rules. Ashok Singla elected as the New Chairman of Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana whereas Ranvir Singh Dhaka became the new Vice Chairman.

For the post of Chairman, Ashok Singla and Karanjit Singh were in fray, and for the post of Vice Chairman Ranvir Singh Dhaka and Hargobinder Singh Gill (Bagga). Total 27 votes were polled, and the counting was conducted in the presence of all Members.

Ashok Singla emerged victorious with 14 votes polled in his



favour, whereas his contender Karanjit Singh secured 13 votes. Similarly, Ranvir Singh Dhaka secured 14 votes, and his contender Hargobinder Singh Gill (Bagga) secured 13 votes. All Members present congratulated the newly elected office-bearers of the State Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana. Noteworthy is that Raj Kumar Chauhan was already chosen as the Honorary Secretary on July 2nd. Ashok

Singla and Ranvir Singh Dhaka thanked the outgoing Chairman Suvir Sidhu and Gurtej Singh Grewal Honorary Secretary for their exemplary services towards the Institution. Ashok Singla, who has earlier served as Honorary Secretary in 2005-06 and then the Vice Chairman in 2022-23. Ashok Singla belongs to Sangrur and his father was also a renowned lawyer of Distt. Sangrur.

## Yasin Malik's appearance in Supreme Court raises concerns



FW DESK

Yasin Malik, the chief of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and serving a life sentence in Tihar Jail for a terror funding case, appeared in person before the Supreme Court. The court was taken aback as there was no prior order requesting his physical presence.

The Central government also expressed concern over Malik's appearance in the Supreme Court, questioning the absence of any such order from the top court mandating his presence.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, informed the court that there was no official order directing Yasin Malik to appear before the Supreme Court for the hearing related to a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) plea against a Jammu court order. Moreover, Mehta stated that the Ministry of Home Affairs had issued a directive not to bring Yasin Malik out from jail.

Due to the unexpected nature of the situation and the serious security implications it posed, the bench of justices, Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta, recused themselves from hearing the matter. They acknowledged that there was no prior order for Malik's physical appearance and pointed out that virtual modes of appearance were available.

The court scheduled the matter to be heard by another bench in which Justice Datta would not be a member, listing the case after four weeks.

The Jammu Court had sought Malik's physical appearance for cross-examination of witnesses in relation to the killing of four Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel and the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, back in 1989. However, during the last hearing, the Supreme Court had stayed the Jammu court's order, preventing Malik's physical presence until further notice.

## No alliance with BJP for LS polls: JD(S) supremo Deve Gowda

ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru

JD(S) party Supremo and former PM Deve Gowda said, The JD(S) will fight the coming Lok Sabha elections alone. His clarification comes in the wake of speculations about the JD(S) joining the BJP-led NDA. Speaking to reports, Gowda said that his party will not have ties with any other party. "Whether we win five, six, three or two seats, we have decided to go it alone and keep the existence of the party afloat. We will decide on the future course of action based on the prevailing situation", he said.

While ruling out electoral ties with the BJP in Karnataka for next year's parliamentary polls, the JD(S) patriarch hinted that in the long run possibility of a tie-up with NDA or INDIA could not be



ruled out. What fuelled speculation of JDS and BJP alliance were Gowda's son and former CM HD Kumaraswamy being spotted hobnobbing with BJP during the recent monsoon session. Gowda also said that his party will field candidates only in constituencies where it has a strong presence.

Deve Gowda revealed that he was not invited for the opposition parties meet held in Bengaluru earlier this as a sec-

tion of the congress in Karnataka was opposed to such a move, even though Bihar CM Nitish Kumar was keen he attend.

BJP functionaries feel an alliance with JD(S) will not be beneficial to them as Kumaraswamy's party does not have much of presence outside the Old Mysuru region, where 18 seats are up for grabs. Sources from BJP said, this is primary factor for the JD(S) not be-

ing invited to the meeting of prospective NDA partners convened by PM Modi in Delhi last week.

Kumaraswamy said few days back that his party would work together with BJP against the Congress government in Karnataka on various issues, fuelling speculation of the two party's joining hand for next year's polls. Both JDS AND THE BJP MLA'S boycotted the assembly session after 10 BJP legislators were suspended from the House for 'Indecent and disrespectful conduct' in the House. The JD(S) and Congress fought the 2019 Lok Sabha elections together and secured one seat each, while the BJP won 25 out of 28 seats.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah said even if JD(S) and BJP join hands, the Congress is sure to win 15-20 seats in the state.

## Government withdrew DNA Bill to avoid elaborate safeguards recommended by Standing Committee, says Congress

NEW DELHI: Congress in Tuesday took a swipe at the BJP government for withdrawing the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019 saying that it did not want the elaborate safeguards recommended by the Standing Committee.

Yesterday the Modi government quietly withdrew the The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019. The Bill had been examined in detail by the S&T Standing Committee which had suggested a number of important amendments to ensure that the provisions in the Bill were not misused or abused. A few members had submitted notes of dissent as well. The Committee's report was submitted on Feb 3, 2021, "party general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

Now, the Modi government says most of the provisions of the Bill have already been made part of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act,



2022 and hence the DNA Bill is not required, he added.

"Actually, the real reason is that the Modi government did not want the elaborate safeguards recommended by the Standing Committee and decided to just ignore it after having pressed for early submission of its report. The fears of the critics of the government's DNA Bill now stand fully justified," the veteran leader stated. His remarks came after Science minister Jitendra Singh withdrew the DNA

Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019, on Monday. Introduced in July 2019 in Lok Sabha, the bill was referred to a Parliamentary panel on science and technology, environment, forests and climate change for examination.

## My govt pulled down by crabs: Thackeray attacks Shinde group



MUMBAI: In a stinging attack, Shiv Sena (UBT) President and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that his government was brought down in June 2022 by crabs who were hiding in the dam and broke it.

"My government was not washed away in the heavy rains last year... The crabs broke the dam, they were hiding there in the mud. We could do nothing as a crab is a crab, whatever effort you make to straighten them, they keep going sideways," said Thackeray.

He pointed out that crabs have a certain mindset, there's no need to cover a basket containing crabs, as when one goes up the others will put it down -- referring to the rebellion in the erstwhile Shiv Sena, and Eknath Shinde becoming Chief Minister after toppling the Maha Vikas Aghadi government headed by Thackeray.

He also slammed Shinde for going to perform a 'mujra dance' before the Delhi Darbar when the state was reeling under the huge hill-slide tragedy in Irshalwadi, Raigad on July 19, which killed 27 people.

Thackeray's sharp comments came in his annual marathon multi-media interview on the eve of his 62nd birthday on Thursday, given to Saamana Group Executive Editor Sanjay Raut the first instalment of which was published on Wednesday.

## Kamal Haasan likely to contest from Coimbatore in DMK alliance



COIMBATORE: Tamil Superstar and founder president of MNM, Kamal Haasan is likely to contest the Coimbatore Lok Sabha constituency in the 2024 general elections.

Highly placed sources in the MNM told to media that the DMK is interested in allocating the Coimbatore seat to Kamal Haasan as he had performed extremely well in the 2021 Assembly polls losing to BJP's Vanathi Sreenivasan by a slender margin of 1, 728 votes.

Kamal Haasan on Sunday inaugurated a state-level reach-out campaign of the MNM, 'Makkalodu Maiam' in the Coimbatore South Assembly constituency. The MNM is planning to meet people in all the 234 Assembly constituencies of Tamil Nadu with the party leaders and cadres meeting people at the ward and panchayat level on the difficulties faced by them. This includes the issues overlooked by people's representatives in their respective constituencies.

The MNM, according to a senior leader of the party, would chalk out its election manifesto

based on the feedback from the people at the grassroots levels.

The party leadership said that each ward secretary is given a list of 25 binary questions on basic amenities in their area in a Google Form and the feedback will be used to get a clearer picture on each constituency.

Sources in the MNM told to media that the party Coimbatore district functionaries have already appealed to the Tamil superstar to contest from Coimbatore seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It may be noted that Kamal Haasan had recently gifted a car to Sharmila, a Tamil Nadu bus driver who was ousted from job following a controversy of DMK leader Kanimozhi boarding the bus driven by her. Sharmila entered into a verbal duel with the conductor of the bus who asked for the ticket fare from Kanimozhi. This led to the owner of the bus dismissing Sharmila. Kamal Haasan invited her to his Chennai home and handed over her a new car which she can drive for a living.

## SGPC delegation led by Harjinder Singh Dhama meet Union Minister Anurag Thakur for satellite channel

JAGMOHAN SINGH  
Amritsar

A high-level delegation of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has today met the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur in Delhi as part of the efforts being made to establish its own satellite channel for broadcasting Gurbani from Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib.

The delegation included SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhama, General Secretary Bhai Gurcharan Singh Grewal, Members Bhai Rajinder Singh Mehta, Kulwant Singh Mannan, and Sarvan Singh Kular. Apart from



this, Union Minister of State Shri Som Prakash was also present on this occasion. During the meeting with the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, the SGPC delegation also handed over a letter, in which, a request has been made to expedite the process of SGPC's satellite chan-

nel. In a statement issued here in this regard, SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhama said that after the SGPC started its own web channel, now efforts have also been started to establish a satellite channel.

"Primarily the concerned Union Minister has been in-

formed so that the process can be completed soon. There has been a long-standing demand of the Sangat from across the globe for establishing the channel, and the SGPC is committed to fulfilling it", said Dhama.

He said that an expression has also been shared with the Union Minister that the SGPC's effort is to reach the maximum number of Sangat (devotees + community) on Doordarshan's Free Dish after establishing its own satellite channel. He said the Union Minister has assured to take the process forward with serious consideration. He expressed the hope that the SGPC will establish its own satellite channel in the near future.

### MONSOON SESSION

## Cong condemns suspension of AAP MP Sanjay Singh



NEWDELHI: Congress on Monday condemned the suspension of AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh from rest of Parliament's monsoon session.

Congress said that it is not for the first time that someone was walked to the well and urged the government to restore Singh's suspension.

"Sanjay Singh got up to speak. It is not the first time that someone has walked up to the Well (of the House) to protest. Many representatives go in the well to protest. There is freedom of speech in a de-

mocracy. If someone comes to Parliament to speak then he or she should get a chance," Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said while addressing media persons.

He said that the intention of the government is to stifle the voices in one or the other.

"We want discussion as per rule but they are not ready. They must restore Singh's suspension so that the Manipur issue, which is a major issue, can be discussed. Manipur is not a small issue," the Congress President said.

There is need for discussion on Manipur issue. The Prime Minister should say what action government is going to take. Why is he (Modi) not taking any action is beyond one's understanding"

He said that Manipur has witnessed mob-ripping and mob-harassment. "There is need for discussion on Manipur issue. The Prime Minister should say what action government is going to take. Why is he (Modi) not taking any action is beyond one's understanding," he said. Sanjay Singh was suspended for rest of the monsoon session of Parliament for 'unruly' behaviour while raising the issue of Manipur violence.

## INDIA alliance members attend parliament in black clothes as a mark of protest



NEW DELHI: MPs belonging to the INDIA alliance made a powerful statement by wearing black clothes in parliament to condemn the atrocities and brutality faced by the people of Manipur. Raghav Chadha emphasised that the gesture was a symbolic protest to show solidarity with the people of Manipur during this distressing time. He further added that the aim is to convey to the government that silence on the suffering of Manipur's people is unacceptable, and they must take decisive action.

AAP Senior Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha hit

out at the BJP for its failure in curbing the ongoing violence in Manipur. He said that the state, which is an integral part of India, is facing turmoil while the Modi government is consistently failing to fulfil its constitutional obligations to restore peace.

Raghav Chadha stressed that it is the central government's responsibility to intervene and protect Manipur as mandated by the Indian constitution, specifically referring to articles 355 and 356. He called for the immediate dissolution of the state government and the removal of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

## INDIA's no-confidence motion will compel PM to speak on Manipur: Raghav Chadha



NEWDELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Senior Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha slammed the BJP on Wednesday. He said that the BJP doesn't want the parliament to function but the INDIA does therefore, we are bringing a no-confidence motion in the parliament.

Through his twitter Raghav Chadha wrote, "Manipur is burning, and there are growing concerns that the instability could potentially spread to other states in the Northeast region. In response to the situation, INDIA is bringing a no-confidence motion against the ruling BJP-led central government in the

Lok Sabha." He expressed his concerns about the current state of affairs in Manipur and the Northeast region. He stated that the ruling BJP seems to be obstructing the functioning of Parliament and evading accountability, which led them to bring a no-confidence motion against the BJP-led central government in the Lok Sabha.

He clarified that although INDIA alliance lacks numbers in the Lok Sabha, their objectives are to hold the government accountable and initiate a discussion on the situation in Manipur. He believes that a no-confidence motion will force the Prime

Minister to address the issues raised and highlight the urgency of the situation.

Regarding the suspension of fellow AAP MP Sanjay Singh, Raghav Chadha asserted that they will not be intimidated and will continue their protest in the parliament premises. He accused the BJP of trying to stifle opposition and undermine democracy due to the growing popularity of Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party.

Discussing the controversial Delhi ordinance, he criticised the BJP for attacking the mandate of the people of Delhi and India's judiciary. He argued that the ordinance was a response to BJP's inability to win in Delhi despite several attempts. He humorously suggested that instead of such ordinances, the BJP needs a doctor to treat their political "indigestion."

On Vijay Divas, the AAP MP paid tribute to the martyrs of the Kargil war and acknowledged the sacrifices of the Indian Army. He highlighted the plight of a Kargil subedar's wife who faced brutality in Manipur, urging the Prime Minister and the BJP-led government to address the pressing issues in the region.

## Scientists of BHU-IIT conduct research to get villagers daily products from cow dung & urine

MEENAKSHI  
BHATTACHARYA

Dilip Ghosh, the former state president of Bengal BJP and current vice-president of the Party, had said one day gold can be obtained from the cow, perhaps this is going to be proved soon. Will the countries economic development of the farming community possible by making durable and everyday products from cow dung and urine? Researchers of BHU-IIT (Banaras Hindu University) engaged in research on the orders of the Central Government. They believe that if the research is successful, the economic landscape of rural India can be changed. A recent study, "Scientific Characterization Methods for Better Utilization of Cattle Dung and Urine: A Brief Review" also makes the same claim.

The Ministry of Science and



Technology, Government of India has also provided financial assistance to BHU-IIT for research in this way.

One of the members of the research team and a professor at the School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU), says that even farmers can benefit financially from without milk

cow urine and cow dung.

However, he acknowledges that there are many flaws in this type of scientific research. Their efforts will be to work out from that deficiency. Scientists believe that this research not only increases the overall knowledge, but also opens doors for more progressive

research in the future. By 'profiling' cow dung and cow urine it is possible to incorporate ancient and traditional rural ideologies into scientific parameters.

Due to which toothpaste, hair oil, shampoo, conditioner etc. made from cow dung and urine can pave the way for eco-

"We express our gratitude to our director Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain for this kind of research which has an impact on the students of the village"

economic progress in the village life. In a personal conversation, BHU-IIT teacher said, "We express our gratitude to our director Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain for this kind of research which has an impact on the students of the village". He also believes that such specialized research will strengthen the utility of cows in India's rural life and its economy.

## Uneven growth threatens global economic outlook

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) recent update on the global economic outlook suggests a potential 3% expansion in 2023, indicating that the world economy may have weathered recent challenges, including bank collapses in the U.S. and Switzerland. However, this slight upgrade of 20 basis points from the April projections, released amidst banking failures and the then unresolved U.S. debt ceiling standoff, offers little reassurance of a stable global economy. As IMF's chief economist, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, warned, the economic landscape is still fraught with numerous challenges, and the balance of risks remains tilted to the downside. The slowdown in the world's two largest economies, the U.S. and China, is a significant concern. The U.S. is grappling with the depletion of pandemic-era cash transfers, initially intended to alleviate the financial distress caused by COVID-19 and the subsequent cost-of-living crisis. Meanwhile, China's economy is faltering due to a contraction in the critical real estate sector, weakening consumption, and declining overseas demand for its exports. The euro area, another crucial driver of the global economy, is still recovering from the Ukraine-war induced spike in gas prices. This has led to a deceleration in momentum, particularly in Germany and France, the region's largest economies. Furthermore, the S&P Global's latest HCOB flash PMI survey indicates a rapid decline in Eurozone business output, hinting at a deepening downturn in the coming months. Inflation remains a concern, with core inflation well above central banks' targets. This may force policymakers to continue with monetary tightening measures, which while controlling inflation, could also retard demand. Additionally, Russia's termination of the Black Sea grain deal could escalate grain prices by up to 15%, impacting low-income African economies. It is crucial for global economic leaders to understand that uneven growth, which overlooks vulnerable nations, could potentially destabilize the interconnected global economy.

### LETTERBOX

Readers' feedback adds value to the newspaper. Please email comments on reports, features and columns to [fwletters@gmail.com](mailto:fwletters@gmail.com). We will publish them on this page.

*Business opportunities are like buses, there's always another one coming.*

- Richard Branson

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APAR GUPTA HIGHLIGHTS THERE IS NO PROOF THAT INTERNET JAMMING PREVENTS INSTANCES OF VIOLENCE

## Internet ban isn't a solution

Manipur is burning but the rest of India did not care. The violence in the State began on May 3, 2023, but the nation was in deep slumber till July 19. It took a video clip of sexual violence by a mob to surface and go viral on social media that day and 78 days for the Prime Minister of India to break his silence. During this period an Internet shutdown has continued in the northeast State. What was its propriety and its role in our national apathy?

Data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India show that the people of Manipur access the Internet primarily through their smartphones; and wired Internet users primarily constitute institutional, commercial and higher socio-economic groups. Out of a total pie of 0.05 million wireline and 2.36 wireless million users, about 2.2 million connect to the Internet. The Internet shutdown in Manipur, first enforced on May 3, is a case of blanket prohibition. The entire State is affected, and it is not a case of some of a total of 16 districts being affected; it covers all web traffic and mediums of connectivity.

The orders issued by the Commissioner (Home) of Manipur under the Telecom Suspension Rules use vague language in order to "thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements... by stopping the spread of disinformation and false rumours, through various social media platforms". There is an absence of data or specific instances of violence being prevented due to the jamming of Internet connectivity. Before the weekly deadline lapses, a fresh order is passed, where each order is a mere reproduction of the earlier one but with minor changes in dates, thus making it clear that this could be indefinite. One may wonder about compliance following the reported Supreme Court of India judgment on Internet shutdowns in Jammu and Kashmir. There is a breach of directions that was made clear in Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India.

In this period, reports have filtered in — these are besides the protests in Delhi and



the information flow here — that document the injury being caused to the people of Manipur. The news is of extremes — from students from Manipur pursuing their education in the metropolitan cities running out of money to residents being unable to apply for their evacuation to relief camps. Around May 19, petitions challenging these orders — such as Aribam Dhananjay Sharma vs State of Manipur — were filed in the High Court of Manipur. This case in particular is vital to understand evolving jurisprudence of "limited internet shutdowns" not only in Manipur but also the rest of India. After 10 dates of hearing on July 7, a direction was issued for partial restoration. The primary objective as framed by the High Court has been to assess "whether it is possible to provide limited usage of internet service to the public". This is constitutionally incongruent to judicial review for it avoids determining the legality of impugned orders. However, this follows an institutional grammar on Internet shutdowns.

In Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India, the Supreme Court failed to adjudicate on even one Internet shutdown order. The decision by itself did not result in restoration of access but for "State/competent authorities to review all orders suspending internet

services". Its directions for transparency (such as publication of orders) have not been implemented as yet — as seen in the flurry of cases and recent joint report by Human Rights Watch and the Internet Freedom Foundation. Bringing lasting damage, this case carved out greater flexibility for, "limited internet shutdowns", with the possibility of access only to, "government websites, localized/limited e-banking facilities, hospitals services and other essential services, in those regions, wherein the internet services are not likely to be restored immediately."

### Judicial response

The High Court of Manipur has acted in congress with judicial doctrine and practices by its order on July 7. It directs provisional access for leased lines (primarily used by public departments and corporate offices), wired line services (with signed undertakings, a ban on social media, virtual private networks or VPNs and physical monitoring), and a technical trial for whitelisting of mobile Internet determined by the Home Department. There are no clear definitions on terms such as "social media" or examining continuing prohibition for Internet usage primarily through smartphones. Hence, in effect, a ban on Internet access continues

in Manipur. The response of the Supreme Court has been one of judicial avoidance. The top court had an opportunity twice to adjudicate when a petitioner challenged the Internet shutdown and later when the State government itself appealed the order of the High Court for partial restoration. Even otherwise, it is peculiar as the Supreme Court is examining a broader issue regarding violence in Dinganglung Gangmei vs Mutum Churamani Meetei. In this case, Internet shutdowns are an inherent element. For instance, the State government has in its Status Report dated July 10 before the Supreme Court, cited the Internet suspension as a security measure. Also, the Chief Minister on July 20, 2020, has in a media interview, stated, "[t]here are hundreds of similar cases and that is the reason why the internet is shut off in the state."

### The vital role of information flow

In an Internet ban, misinformation spreads rather than abates. For instance, a press report dated June 1, by Hoineliling Sitluou, and published by the online portal, NewsClick, points out in chilling detail that disinformation served as a pretext for the perpetration of sexual violence against Kuki-Zo women. For Manipur, the video clip is a vital moment for a national awakening that must be achieved without any reputational and social harm to survivors of sexual violence and communal hatred. Information flows are also necessary to ensure the accountability of the State and central governments in taking steps to ensure truth, justice and reconciliation. Accountability can only come when the courts improve on the precedent of the Anuradha Bhasin case and demand it from the State and central executive. So the question that needs to be asked again is: what was the propriety of the Internet shutdown and role in our national apathy? We will never have these answers till we hear the voices of Manipur.

Apar Gupta is an advocate and the Founder Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation. Views are personal.



CONSUMER COMPANIES ARE SO NERVOUS ABOUT THE CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS THAT SOME OF THEM HAVE STARTED HIRING METEOROLOGISTS AND WEATHER FORECASTING AGENCIES. UNSEASONAL RAINS OFTEN DISRUPT SUPPLY CHAINS AND THE BASIC SERVICES OF CONSUMER SERVICE COMPANIES.

## Brace up to deal with climate change

NARVIJAY YADAV

The changing weather patterns have started interfering with business and everyday life. In many cities of North India including Delhi, Amritsar, Mandi, etc., it suddenly rained so much that life became difficult. Flood conditions were created everywhere. The floods which used to happen in Bihar and Assam, have now entered the capital. Experts opine that due to climate change, such extreme changes in weather will increase further in the coming years. Now, one has to learn to live with such extreme conditions. It is natural for climate change to have an impact on both business and daily life. Food delivery platforms like Zomato and Swiggy are so nervous about the changing weather patterns that they have started hiring meteorologists and weather forecasting agencies. Unseasonal rains and storms disrupt supply chains and the basic services of consumer service companies. To deal with conditions like extreme heat, cold, and rain, both food aggregators have started working on weather forecasting to manage demand fluctuations and strengthen their delivery systems. In case of unseasonal rain, the delivery staff is required to wear rain gear. In hilly areas, even more difficulties arise.



Climate change can have far-reaching economic consequences. Extreme weather events such as storms, floods, and wildfires can damage infrastructure, disrupt supply chains and increase insurance costs. In agricultural areas, changing weather patterns can affect crop yields and food production, which can increase food prices. In addition, businesses that rely on natural resources, such as fisheries and forestry, may have reduced productivity. In addition, it may pose a risk to human health. Rising temperatures can lead to heat-related illness and deaths, especially in

vulnerable populations. Changes in rainfall patterns may increase the risk of waterborne diseases and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. Injuries and mental health issues can also result from extreme weather events. Climate change affects the energy sector too in a variety of ways. As the world moves towards cleaner energy sources, businesses involved in fossil fuel extraction and production may face challenges. Renewable energy industries such as solar and wind may experience growth opportunities as governments and businesses invest in clean technologies and

reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Governments around the world are implementing policies and regulations to combat climate change. These measures include emissions trading systems and stricter environmental standards. Climate change awareness is also influencing consumer behavior. Consumers are increasingly looking for eco-friendly products and services and favoring companies with sustainable practices. Businesses that fail to address climate change concerns face reputational risk and the potential loss of market share. Climate change can damage physical infrastructure including buildings, roads, and transport networks. Rising sea levels pose a particular threat to coastal areas, increasing the risk of flooding and erosion. Businesses and governments need to invest in adapting infrastructure to cope with climate-related risks. Climate change brings new risks to the insurance and financial sectors. Insurers may experience higher claims due to extreme weather events, which can lead to an increase in premiums. Financial institutions are also recognizing the potential for climate-related financial risks, including stranded assets and the devaluation of carbon-intensive industries.

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

### BOOKS: REVIEW

## India's cheetahs: A story of majesty, decline and hope

In "The Story of India's Cheetahs," the author presents a comprehensive, meticulously researched, and beautifully illustrated narrative of the cheetah's history in India. This book, while dense, is a treasure trove of insightful anecdotes, scientific details, and historical context, making it a must-read for anyone interested in the unique relationship between this fascinating creature and India.

Unlike the lion and tiger, which have been deeply ingrained in India's cultural fabric through folklore, religious texts, and colonial histories, the cheetah's story in India is primarily tied to coursing, the practice of using predators to track and hunt other animals. The author notes that despite the cheetah's significant presence in India's history, its life in the wild remains somewhat of

an enigma. The book delves into fascinating details about the cheetah's role in Indian society. From ancient texts describing the use of cheetahs in deer hunting to the intricate process of training cheetahs for antelope hunting, the author paints a vivid picture of the cheetah's importance in Indian culture. The book also highlights the long-standing tradition among both Hindu and Muslim rulers of capturing, training, and maintaining cheetahs.

However, the arrival of the East India Company marked a turning point in the cheetah's fortunes. While Mughal emperors and their predecessors used cheetahs for hunting, they were not the primary targets. The British, on the other hand, hunted cheetahs for sport and trophies, a practice that Indian princes and the privileged

**The author notes that despite the cheetah's significant presence in India's history, its life in the wild remains somewhat of an enigma**

classes soon emulated, leading to the cheetah's rapid decline and eventual extinction in India by the 1950s.

The author also addresses the recent controversy surrounding the translocation of cheetahs from Africa to India. He argues that African cheetahs have been imported into India since the early 20th century, primarily due to the



The Story of India's Cheetahs By Divyabhanusinh; Marg Books; 324 pages; Rs 2,800

demand from royals who could no longer source Indian cheetahs. He asserts that African cheetahs have successfully adapted to Indian conditions in the past.

Despite the book's extensive coverage of the cheetah's history in India, it reveals how little is known about the cheetah's behavior in the Indian wild. The author convincingly argues that cheetahs can once again thrive in India, but he does not delve into whether modern India, with its shrinking forests and increasing urbanization, can renew its relationship with the cheetah in the wild. The book could have also benefited from an analysis of the existing Project Cheetah plan

and a discussion of conservation practices in Africa.

"The Story of India's Cheetahs" is a commendable attempt to chronicle the cheetah's history in India. While it may not provide all the answers to the cheetah's future in India, it is an invaluable resource that offers a wealth of information and serves as a starting point for further exploration and discussion. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the cheetah's past, present, and future in India.

The author's meticulous research is evident in the extensive details provided in the book. For instance, the book includes a "chronology of extinction," detailing 316 recorded instances of cheetah kills from 1772 to 1997. This exhaustive record of the cheetah's history in India underscores the paradox of how much we know about the cheetah's interaction with humans, yet how little we understand about its behavior in the wild. This gap in knowledge is a poignant reminder of the need for further research and conservation efforts to ensure the cheetah's survival.

# Adani Transmission renamed as Adani Energy Solutions

**Adani Transmission posted a consolidated Q4 net at Rs 440 crore up 86% year-on-year on strong distribution revenue growth**

**NEW DELHI:** Adani Transmission country's largest private transmission company with presence across 14 states on Thursday said it has been renamed as Adani Energy Solutions with immediate effect.

"The company's name has been changed from Adani Transmission Limited to Adani Energy Solutions Limited w.e.f. 27th July, 2023 pursuant to the even dated 'Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name' received from the Registrar of Companies, Ahmedabad," a BSE filing said.

The Board of Directors of the company has on Monday approved the change of name for the company subject to the



approval of shareholders and the regulators.

The company's shares fell over 3.5% on Tuesday after the company announced an 86 per cent jump in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 31, 2023, at Rs 440 crore, up from Rs 237 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

The company's revenues from operations for the quarter stood at Rs 3,179 crore, (versus Rs 2,556 crore a year ago) indicating a 24 per cent rise includ-

ing the arrears of Rs 148 crore approved in MERC order in June 2021 determining and allowing MEGPTCL to claim incremental Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) based on Appellate Tribunal for Electricity order (APTEL).

For FY23, the company's net profit stood at Rs 1,281 crore, up 3.6 per cent from Rs 1,236 crore last year. Consolidated revenues for the year were Rs 12,537 crore (Rs 10,436 crore), including Rs 389 crore of ar-

rears for the fiscal.

The company's consolidated total expenses increased by 21 per cent for the fiscal to Rs 13,164 crore (Rs 10,843 crore a year ago).

Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group, said, "Adani Transmission is well positioned to deliver exponential growth, and we are working towards fulfilling our nation's massive electricity needs and strengthening our position as a world-class utility. We are accelerating the transition to a sustainable and reliable grid and are committed to our pursuit of energizing and ensuring continuous and reliable power supply across all regions through our assets in India. Our focus remains strong on cashflow generation, operational excellence, and governance."

The Board of Directors of the company also approved the reappointment of Anil Sardana as the Managing Director of

the company for a period of five years effective from May 10, 2023.

On a segment basis, the company's transmission revenues increased 11 per cent during the fiscal to Rs 3,557 crore (Rs 3,217 crore) whereas its distribution revenues for the year increased by 23 per cent to Rs 8,592 crore (Rs 6,966 crore)

Commenting on the results, Anil Sardana, MD, Adani Transmission Ltd, said, "Our pipeline of projects and recently operationalised assets will further strengthen our pan-India presence and consolidate our position as the largest private sector transmission and distribution company in India. ATL is consistently benchmarking to be the best-in-class and is pursuing disciplined growth with strategic and operational de-risking, capital conservation, ensuring high credit quality, and business excellence with high governance standards."

## Air India to start Delhi-Dhaka direct flights from Sep 15



**NEW DELHI:** Air India on Thursday said it will start direct flights between Delhi and Dhaka from September 15.

The airline already operates flights between Kolkata and Dhaka.

According to a statement, the flights between Delhi and Dhaka will be operated four times a week, using narrow body Airbus A320 aircraft.

Air India said the additional frequencies will help serve the increased demand for international travel to and from Dhaka on the back of Bangladesh's rapid economic growth and overall development.

With four additional weekly flights from Delhi, Air India offers enhanced frequency to Dhaka, enabling convenient connections via Delhi to and/or from 14 destinations in India and 14 destinations across North America, UK, Australia, the Middle East, and the Far East, the airline said.

## Build confidence by preparing the project as promised: RERA Chairman

**FW DESK  
New Delhi**

"Builders, developers, and collaborators must work in a transparent manner according to the rules and prepare projects as promised to the customers. The focus should be on building trust among the public," stated Anand Kumar, Chairman, Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), NCT of Delhi at the National Conference on "Real Estate Development and Action Plan for New India" organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

While addressing the conference Kumar gave a message to all the stakeholders related to the real estate sector to be alert and aware, he said, "while buying any land, plot, flat, commercial property sold as 'RERA registered,' check it on RERA's website." Anand Kumar urged the builders, developers, and entrepreneurs working in the real estate sector under the alliance to work with transparency to increase trust in the eyes of their agents, customers, and buyers. Before starting work on any project, it should be registered with RERA.

Urging everyone to work together for the progress of the real estate sector, Anand Kumar said



that even today there are a large number of builders and developers who do not want to register with RERA. He also enumerated the reason for this. "The first reason is that if he (developer) joins us, we will continue to investigate him, and secondly if he comes to us, he will have to deliver what he has promised," he said.

Kumar warned builders and developers who are spreading propaganda to sell flats or shops in projects without RERA registration, saying that strict action will be taken against them. RERA will not give any relaxation in this matter. He said that the atmosphere of mistrust that had developed in the real estate sector during the past years, the way home buyers had to suffer, resulted in the enactment of the RERA Act and a regulator for the sector.

In his long address, he gave information about all the things in which the developer is required to register the project.

He said that plots of more than 500 square meters are being developed, projects in which more than eight units, be it shops, flats, apartments, or commercial spaces, are being constructed and plotting of more than 500 square meters of land is being done. Yes, all such projects are required to be registered with RERA. He also made it clear that whether this project or land is in the planned area of Delhi or non-planned area, in both circumstances, they will have to come to the authority.

Anand Kumar also told the developers, "If you have any kind of difficulty, then you can contact us Any day now, we'll be able to tell you where the problem is with your registration. Get all your documents ready, if the documents are in proper condition, then registration will happen." He urged all the developers and builders to go through and understand the guidelines completely and follow them.

Kumar said that until all of us do our work with full seriousness and honesty, the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's house for everyone cannot be fulfilled. The success of the field is not for our benefit alone, but it will benefit everyone. The real estate sector is the second-largest employment-generating sector in the country.

## Blue Dart Express net profit goes down to Rs 59.74 cr



**NEWDELHI:** Owing to reduced income and increased outgo, logistics player Blue Dart Express Ltd's first quarter net came down to Rs 59.74 crore for the first quarter of FY24.

In a regulatory filing, Blue Dart Express said during Q1FY24, it had earned a total income of Rs 1, 253.29 crore (against Q1FY23's Rs 1, 303.54 crore) and a net profit of Rs 59.74 crore (Rs 117.17 crore).

Curiously, the company's other expenses went up to Rs 93.17 crore during the first quarter of FY24 from Rs 69.47 crore expended during Q1FY23.

## Promoting Quality Nationwide: QCI Extends its Physical Presence with NABL & NABH inaugurate Bengaluru office

**ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru**

The Quality Council of India (QCI), in order to promote and enhance quality standards across diverse sectors, takes a significant step towards expanding its physical presence across the States as it inaugurates the Bengaluru Office of the National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH). The inauguration witnessed the esteemed presence of Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, QCI; Dr. Ravi P. Singh, Secretary General, QCI; Prof. Subbanna Ayyappan, Chairperson, NABL; N Venkateswaran, CEO, NABL; Dr. A. Raj, CEO, NBQP and dignitaries from ASSOCHAM, ASQ (American Society for Quality), CII ONDC and other stakeholders.

Their participation underscored the significance of the moment and their determination to ensure quality practices reach every corner of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, Quality Council of India (QCI), said, "Inaugurating the Bengaluru Office of NABL & NABH represents our collective determination to enhance quality



infrastructure in India. We have been continuously working across the different states of India to inculcate quality consciousness, and now we are also expanding our physical presence across the states to foster strong partnerships with regional players and associations to build a robust network that ensures prompt response and grievance redressed for all stakeholders. We also urge the Government of Karnataka to partner with Quality Council of India in order to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the State. "We have laid the foundation for a future defined by impeccable quality standards. With this physical office extension of NABL, we envision better coordination in the upliftment of quality standards in various laboratories and testing facilities", said Prof. Subbanna Ayyappan, Chairperson, NABL.

## India should soon become a global hub for sustainable fashion; says international apparel and fashion experts at ASW 2023

**ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru**

Third edition of Apparel Sourcing Week (ASW) 2023 kick-started in Bengaluru on a makeable note with witnessing an inspiring display of specialized fabrics and sustainable technologies in Bengaluru. ASW 2023 was more than just a platform for fashion sourcing; it highlighted the significant benefits such efforts bring to society. By embracing sustainable practices, the event demonstrated the fashion industry's determination to create a positive impact on both the environment and the communities it serves.

ASW 2023 saw industry leaders representing some of the biggest and most popular apparel manufacturers sharing their thoughts on a host of important aspects of the future of manufacturing, retail, technology and sourcing in the industry. Popular manufacturers



such as Aitken Spence Apparel, Timex Garments (Pvt.) Limited, Sarasavi Exports, Colmans Garments Group (all from Sri Lanka); Azim group, Pakiza, Mitali Fashions (all from Bangladesh); Pratibha Syntex, SCM Garments, Creative Garments Pvt Ltd, Export Industries (all from India), and many more. The event's success has set the stage where industry stakehold-

ers will continue to tap into the immense potential of the booming Indian fashion retail market. "ASW 2023's ability to bring together over 15 countries and showcase 150 exhibitors exemplifies its pivotal role in shaping the future of apparel sourcing. The event has become more than just a platform; it's a catalyst for transformative change in the fashion industry.

## Religare-Nasscom CoE sign MoU, Collaborate to Drive Tech Innovation

**ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru**

Religare Enterprises Limited (REL), India's leading diversified financial services group, and Nasscom CoE for IoT & AI, have entered a strategic partnership to strengthen REL's business processes and solution landscape, making it future-ready through the infusion of cutting-edge technology and innovation. The collaboration will harness the collective strengths of both organisations to enhance customer experience and drive operational efficiencies and data security while creating long-term value within the sector.

Nasscom CoE's expertise in co-creation and vast network of startups and SMEs specializing in emerging technologies such as AI, ML, AR/VR, Robotics, Blockchain, Drones, and IoT, will present Religare Group the access to relevant innovators and their technology. The Group will continue to explore potential business collaborations tailored to the company's specific needs and seize possible opportunities to benefit the enterprise and BFSI sector. With the announcement, Nasscom CoE has also launched the Fifth version of the Healthcare Innovation Challenge (HIC), a one-of-its-kind initiative to tackle the challenges healthcare providers face in their journey to digital transformation. Religare Group's Care Health Insurance Ltd, a leader in the health insurance space, will work with Nasscom CoE in bringing digital technology solutions for the health insurance industry.

Announcing the partnership, during the Press Conference here Dr Rashmi Saluja, Executive Chairperson, Religare



Enterprises Ltd said: "Our collaboration with Nasscom CoE signifies a significant milestone in our journey towards becoming a 360-degree financial services provider by nurturing, adopting, and integrating technological innovations in our core and future businesses. By harnessing the power of emerging technologies, we aim to strengthen our business operations, enhance diligence, and deliver unparalleled value to our customers and shareholders. It is our vision that this partnership will not only accelerate our digital transformation but also enable us to support other players in the financial services sector to undertake this journey."

"Furthermore, our vision is to support startups that are born in India and focused on India-specific solutions. In doing so, we are aligning ourselves with the government's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat - a self-reliant and economically strong nation. Nurturing these start-ups will enable us to retain talent and ownership of India-centric solutions, thereby strengthening our global leadership in technology and innovations."

The strategic partnership

between Religare and Nasscom CoE encompasses several key initiatives that aim to shape the future of financial services. Religare will gain access to a curated pool of innovators through regular pitch sessions, opening doors for potential collaborations in the near future. Additionally, Religare will have an early advantage in identifying strategic investment opportunities in startups, fostering innovation, and driving growth.

Emphasizing the potential of this partnership Sanjeev Malhotra, CEO, Nasscom CoE said: "Religare and its entities will jointly work on use-cases and co-create solutions with the startup ecosystem that will promote home-grown tech innovation driving significant impact on enterprises and create business value." As part of this partnership, Religare will also have the opportunity to mentor two CoE-incubated startups, leading to the nurturing of entrepreneurial talent. This strategic partnership will propel Religare's digital transformation journey and position the company at the forefront of the industry, delivering cutting-edge solutions and unprecedented value to its customers.

## EESL forges inr 700 cr partnerships at 14th clean energy ministerial

**Collaborates for Energy Access, Clean Cooking, Decarbonization, and Energy Efficiency**

**FW DESK  
New Delhi**

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a prominent joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power, hosted an impactful event titled "Accelerating India's Net Zero Transition through Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Cooling & Mobility" during the 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) meeting in Goa. The notable attendees in the event were Shri Stanzhin Chosphel, Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh; Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, Chief Secretary Govt of Odisha; Shri



Ajay Jain, (Special Guest), Special Chief Secretary, Govt of Andhra Pradesh; and Mr. Tilman Kuban (Member of German Bundestag) apart from participants from BEE, Industry, Academia, State Nodal Agencies (SDAs), Development institutions, and International Organisations.

As part of the event, EESL unveiled its new Energy Efficiency Strategy crafted in close collaboration with USAID India, which reinforces its pivotal role in driving India's net-zero aspirations. Additionally, EESL solidified its commitment to

decarbonization by signing a strategic MOU with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), India to shape forward-looking strategies and programs. This transformational partnership encompasses key areas such as super-efficient cooling and heating, integrated energy efficiency services, utility energy management, demand flexibility, electric mobility, and regional expansion in South Asia.

This event under the aegis of the Clean Energy Ministerial witnessed the exchange of

15 crucial Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), showcasing EESL's dedication to exploring innovative solutions for energy access, clean cooking, decarbonization, and energy efficiency initiatives.

A noteworthy alliance was established with the Andhra Pradesh State Housing Company Limited (APSHCL), amounting to INR 110 crores. In this collaboration, EESL will provide energy-efficient appliances to beneficiaries residing in Jagannanna Colonies under the esteemed Navaratnalu Pedalanderiki Illu (NPI) scheme. The initiative will witness the dissemination of 6 Lakhs LED bulbs, 3 Lakhs LED tubelights, and 3 Lakhs BLDC ceiling fans through the nodal agency, Andhra Pradesh State Energy Efficiency Development Corporation Ltd (APSEEDCO).

## OPPO Reno 10 5G redlines Portrait Photography with Telephoto Camera



**ARUN KUMAR RAO  
Bengaluru**

OPPO, the leading global smart devices brand, has announced that its Reno10 will go on sale on 27th July at INR 32,999. The handset will be available from 12AM onwards at OPPO E-Store, Flipkart, and mainline retail outlets.

Addressing the Media, Karan Dua, Product Marketing Lead OPPO India said, "The Reno10 5G, featured Telephoto Camera for Ultra-Clear Portraits and packs a powerful camera system, comprising a 64MP OV64B ultra-clear main camera, a 32MP IMX709 telephoto portrait camera, an 8MP IMX355 112° ultra-wide camera, and a 32MP OV32C ultra-clear selfie camera. With this setup, users can capture every detail in pictures with exceptional clarity, whether in low-light, while shooting portraits, or even wide-angle shots. Ultra-Slim Body with 3D Curved Design: The Reno10 5G sports an ultra-slim body—available in Ice Blue and Silvery Grey—with a 3D curved design that is light and easy to hold. It features a 120Hz 6.7-inch AMOLED display and a 93% screen-to-body ratio for a borderless and immersive viewing experience.

## Enovix Establishes Research and Design Center in India

**Enovix India team will use advanced battery modeling and cutting-edge machine learning to accelerate the company's product development roadmap**

**NEW DELHI:** Enovix Corporation, an advanced silicon battery company, announced today it has established Enovix Research and Development Services India Private Limited ("Enovix India") in Hyderabad. The Enovix India team will develop advanced models to predict battery performance and support next-gen battery manufacturing and design.

"I'm pleased to announce we officially established our expansion into India with a

dedicated R&D center in Hyderabad," said Dr. Raj Talluri, President and CEO of Enovix. "The region is a strategic location for us due to its deep pool of technical talent in fields that are of utmost importance to our long-term success, as well as its business-friendly environment. This significant milestone marks another chapter in our journey to scale."

Enovix India will support the product and manufacturing teams in the U.S. and Malaysia. Dr. Chandra Saru Saravanan, who joined the company as a consultant in 2021 and has been working on this effort, will lead Enovix India. Prior to Enovix, he was Senior Vice President at Reliance Industries Limited in Mumbai where he used



cutting-edge crude-oil characterization technologies and advanced modeling including Machine Learning to improve and optimize business and manufacturing processes. Before moving to India in 2008, he was Principal Scientist at Nanometrics in Milpitas, Calif. Dr. Saravanan holds a Ph.D. in Computational Chemistry from the University of Massa-

chusetts Amherst and a Bachelor of Technology degree in Chemical and Electrochemical Engineering from the Central Electrochemical Research Institute in Tamil Nadu.

"I am excited to lead the talented Enovix team and establish a strong presence in India," said Dr. Saravanan. "In my experience, having a dedicated team focused on battery modeling, optimization, Machine Learning and data analysis will give us an even greater advantage in achieving new breakthroughs in battery innovation." Enovix India has established a board of directors including Dr. Saravanan. The team is hiring for multiple roles in the region and intends to grow significantly over the next 18 months.

# Indian companies will soon be allowed to directly list their shares overseas: Nirmala Sitharaman

**MUMBAI:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said domestic companies can now go in for direct listing on foreign exchanges and the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Ahmedabad.

The provisions for direct overseas listing were approved by the government, as part of the Covid relief package announced in May 2020, but the rules in this regard are yet to be notified. The direct overseas listing will allow Indian companies to access foreign funds on various exchanges overseas. "A direct listing of securities by domestic companies will now be permissible in foreign jurisdictions. I'm also pleased to announce that the government has taken a decision to enable the direct listing of listed and unlisted companies on the IFSC exchanges."

"So, this is a major step forward. This will facilitate access to global capital and better valuation," Sitharaman said here. A senior govern-



ment official said the rules for direct overseas listing of Indian companies will be notified in a few weeks.

To begin with, Indian companies will be allowed to list on the IFSC, and later, they will be permitted in specified seven or eight foreign jurisdictions, the official said. Sitharaman made the announcement about the direct overseas listing of domestic companies while speaking at an event to launch a corporate debt market de-

velopment fund, which is a bailout facility for debt funds.

The facility will act as a backstop facility for specified debt funds during periods of stress in debt markets, and this was announced by Sebi last month. Its function will involve purchasing investment-grade corporate debt securities when debt markets face a crisis.

The move is likely to bolster the confidence of mutual funds and investors in the corpo-

rate debt markets while also improving secondary market liquidity in corporate debt securities. SBI Funds Management will serve as the investment manager of the CDMDF.

Existing market norms mandate a domestic firm looking for overseas float make a secondary listing on the domestic equity bourses or first going for domestic float.

Currently, overseas listings by domestically listed entities are carried out through American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs), which companies like Infosys and Wipro have done.

The new policy could be a shot in the arm for unicorns or startups valued at more than \$1 billion, and the digital unit of conglomerate Reliance, which is eyeing a US listing after raising more than \$20 billion from investors, such as KKR, Google and Facebook, among others.

Earlier, media reports said

the government was considering allowing foreign listings in seven countries initially, including Britain, Canada, Switzerland and the US.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had previously recommended a framework within which such direct listing will be facilitated, and it is expected that the Sebi framework will be the basis for future regulation in this area.

Sebi had proposed allowing listings on stock exchanges in ten "permissible jurisdictions" with strong anti-money laundering regulations, including the NYSE, Nasdaq, the LSE and Hong Kong, along with other major exchanges in Japan, South Korea, France, Germany, Switzerland and Canada.

Meanwhile, the corporate debt market development fund will act as a backstop facility for specified debt funds during periods of stress in debt markets, and this was announced by Sebi last month.

## India's global share in GDP to cross 4 per cent by 2027: SBI report



20 trillion by 2047, at least on current numbers. India's global share in GDP will cross 4 per cent by 2027," the report mentioned.

It shows a movement of seven places upwards since 2014 when India was ranked tenth and two years earlier than our previous

**NEW DELHI:** India is likely to become the world's third largest economy by fiscal year 2027-28, as per State Bank of India's Economic Research Department's report, SBI Ecwrap.

Crediting the path taken by India since 2014, the SBI economists revealed that India is likely to get the tag of the third largest economy in 2027 (or FY28) based on actual GDP data as on March 2023.

"At this rate, India is likely to add USD 0.75 trillion in every 2 years, implying that India is all set to touch USD

forecast of 2029, said the experts. It further said that India should surpass both Japan and Germany in 2027 at the current rate of growth.

Interestingly, the incremental increase by India from 2022-2027, is more than the current size of Australia's economy at USD 1.8 trillion, the report said.

According to the report at least two Indian states, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, will break the USD 500 billion mark in 2027 (or FY28) when India achieves the third place in global economy.

## ADB, Centre sign USD 200 million loan for expanding urban services in Rajasthan



**NEW DELHI:** The central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday signed a USD 200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project.

The additional financing will support the Rajasthan government in reducing basic infrastructure gaps in its secondary towns by expanding water supply and sanitation services and improving livability in selected urban local bodies, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The project will incorporate various innovative and climate-resilient solutions for expanding basic urban services and incorporate nature-based solutions to rehabilitate heritage structures besides piloting public-private partnerships in the state's water and sanitation sector to deepen private sector engagement, the statement said. A total of 1,451 km of water supply pipes, 1,110 km of sewer pipes have been laid as part of the ongoing project, which was approved in September 2020, while 68,098 households have been connected to water services in selected secondary towns in the state. The additional financing will help improve water supply systems in at least seven towns by converting groundwater sources to surface water, replacing about 700 km of leaking water pipes, installing 1,400 km of new water supply pipelines, and providing 77,000 households with water meter connections, it said.

## Adani Enterprises arm raises USD 394 million from Barclays, Deutsche Bank



**NEW DELHI:** Adani New Industries, an arm of Adani Enterprises, on Thursday raised USD 394 million (Rs 3,231 crore) from Barclays PLC and Deutsche Bank AG.

The proceeds will be used to secure working capital requirements of its integrated solar module manufacturing facility, Adani Enterprises Ltd said in a regulatory statement on Thursday.

"Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) ecosystem today (Thursday) raised a trade finance facility of USD 394 million from Barclays PLC and Deutsche Bank AG," it said.

ANIL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, is building an ecosystem of one of the largest integrated green hydrogen businesses, including solar modules and wind turbine manufacturing, it said.

Adani Enterprises is the flagship company of the Adani Group

## IDBI Bank Q1 PAT at Rs 1,224 crore



**MUMBAI:** Private sector IDBI Bank Ltd on Monday said it closed Q1FY24 with a higher net profit of Rs 1,224.18 crore.

In a regulatory filing, IDBI Bank said it closed Q1FY24 with a total income of Rs 7,711.95 crore (against Q1FY23's Rs 5,774.11 crore) and a net profit of Rs 1,224.18 crore (Rs 756.36 crore).

During the period under review, the bank had made

provisions of Rs 1,190.43 crore (Rs 959.23 crore) of which provision for non-performing assets (GNPA) stood at Rs 110.03 crore.

As on June 30, 2023, IDBI Bank's gross non-performing assets (GNPA) stood at Rs 8,762.51 crore (against Rs 33,908.32 crore on June 30, 2022) and the net NPA at Rs 730.60 crore (against Rs 1,741.24 crore).

## Tata Motors Q1 consolidated net profit at Rs 3,300.65 crore

**It had posted consolidated net loss of Rs 4,950.97 cr in same quarter last fiscal**

**NEW DELHI:** Tata Motors on Tuesday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,300.65 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2023.

The company had posted a consolidated net loss of Rs

4,950.97 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing.

Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,01,528.49 crore, as compared to Rs 71,227.76 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Total expenses were at Rs 98,266.93 crore, as against Rs 77,783.69 crore in the same quarter a year ago, the company said.

## FPIs invested Rs 43,804 cr in India in July

**NEW DELHI:** FPI flows into India continue unabated in July, too. India is the largest recipient of FPI (Foreign portfolio investment) flows YTD among emerging markets, says V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Till July 21, FPIs have invested Rs 43,804 crore in India. This figure includes investment through stock exchanges, primary market and bulk deals.

FPIs continue to invest in financials, automobiles, capital goods, realty and FMCG. FPI buying in these sectors have contributed hugely to the surge in prices of stocks in these sectors and the Sensex and Nifty



scaling record highs, he said.

The concern, however, is the rising valuations. At high valuations some negative triggers can lead to sharp correction. This happened on Friday when the Sensex tanked by 887 points on negative news from Infosys and HUL, he added.

The US Dollar Index (DXY) has slipped below \$100 for the first time after April 2022. When the Dollar Index falls, the Indian Rupee appreciates and the dollar weakens, which leads to increased fund flow from FII and FPIs, SBI Securities said in a report.

## Bank of India Q1 profit surges nearly three-fold to Rs 1,551 cr

**NEW DELHI:** State-owned Bank of India (BOI) on Friday reported a nearly three-fold jump in net profit to Rs 1,551 crore in the June quarter due to a decline in bad loans. The Mumbai-based lender had posted a net profit of Rs 561 crore in the year-ago period.

The total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to Rs 15,821 crore as against Rs 11,124 crore in the same period a year ago, Bank of India said in a regulatory filing. The lender's interest income also increased to Rs 14,359 crore



from Rs 9,973 crore in the same quarter a year ago. On the asset quality side, the bank witnessed an improvement with the gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) easing to 6.67 per cent of the gross advances by June 2023 from 9.30 per cent a year ago.

The net NPA too declined to 1.65 per cent against 2.21

per cent in the same period of the previous year. As a result, provisions for bad loans came down to Rs 777 crore compared to Rs 1,304 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Provision Coverage Ratio of the bank increased to 89.52 per cent as of June 2023 against 87.96 per cent at the end of the first quarter of the previous financial year. The capital adequacy ratio of the bank declined marginally to 15.60 per cent at the end of June compared to 15.61 per cent a year ago.

## Gold drops Rs 350 to Rs 60,250/10 gm; silver nosedives Rs 1,900

**NEW DELHI:** Gold prices declined by Rs 350 to Rs 60,250 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid weak cues in the overseas market, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had ended at Rs 60,600 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also nosedived Rs 1,900 to Rs 76,000 per kilogramme. In the international market, both gold and silver were quoting lower at USD 1,951 per ounce and USD 24.15 per ounce, respectively. Gold

prices came under pressure after stronger-than-expected US second-quarter GDP data signalled the US economy is doing well and possibly holding up to higher interest rates for a longer time.

Meanwhile, the dollar index surged to a two-week high and is trading up by 0.10 per cent at the 101.50 level against the previous close, which also weighed on precious metals, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.



## DGCA imposes Rs 30 lakh fine on IndiGo



**MUMBAI:** Aviation watchdog DGCA has imposed a Rs 30 lakh fine on IndiGo for certain systemic deficiencies with respect to documentation pertaining to operations, training and engineering procedures.

IndiGo witnessed four tail strike incidents on A321 aircraft within a span of six months this year, following which the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) carried out a special audit of the airline. In a release, the regulator said that during the audit, it reviewed the airline's documentation and procedure on operations, training, engineering and FDM programme.

Monitoring. During the special audit, certain systemic deficiencies were observed in IndiGo's documentation pertaining to operations/training procedures and engineering procedures. A show cause notice was issued to the airline and DGCA said the carrier's reply "was reviewed at various levels and was not found satisfactory".

"Subsequently, DGCA has imposed a financial penalty of Rs 30 lakh on IndiGo Airlines and also directed them to amend their documents and procedures in line with DGCA requirements and OEM guidelines," the release said.

OEM refers to Original Equipment Manufacturer.

# Moving away from 'take-make-dispose' model

EXPLAINS WHY INDIA'S G-20 PRESIDENCY EMPHASIZES RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY



**LEENA NANDAN**

Resource efficiency and circular economy are powerful strategies that can effectively minimise dependence on natural resources, curtail waste and encourage sustainable design practices. In the collective global endeavour to ensure sustainable development and realise the Sustainable Development Goals, decoupling resource utilisation from economic growth is going to be the key. Recognising the need to switch from the 'take-make-dispose' to 'reduce-reuse-recycle' model, India has prioritised 'Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy' as one of the three core themes for deliberations in the G-20 forum.

India has embraced four priority areas for the circular economy during its G-20 presidency: circularity in the steel sector; Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR); circular bioeconomy and establishing an industry-led resource efficiency and circular economy industry coalition. There is now heightened recognition of resource efficiency and circular economy strategies

within the G-20 community. **Moving to a circular steel sector**

Most G-20 member countries have committed to net zero ambitions and are working to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. In order to ensure growing resource consumption in an environmentally responsible manner, there is also a need to raise the current recycling rates of 15%-25%. Given the crucial role of steel in infrastructure development, its efficient utilisation is important. The demand for steel is poised to grow especially in growing economies such as India. Globally, about 7% of energy sector emission is attributed to iron and steel production. Transitioning towards a circular steel sector is a key strategy to tackle steel sector emissions. The key lies in ensuring collaboration among the G-20 member countries for knowledge sharing, technology co-development and technology transfer. The presidency document for knowledge exchange on the 'Circular Economy in [the] Steel Sector' is a potential blueprint for a net zero pathway for the steel industry, reducing resource



utilisation and minimising wastage. Under India's G-20 presidency, there is an emphasis on the significance of the EPR framework in integrating circularity throughout the value chain. As different countries have implemented different EPR models, it is necessary that G-20 member-countries share best practices to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

**Recycling, a bioeconomy and biofuels**

Effective implementation of EPR plays a pivotal role in promoting the growth of the recycling infrastructure and establishing a streamlined waste collection system. With over 20,000 registered Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) and over 1,900 plastic waste processors on the centralised EPR portal, India boasts one

of the largest frameworks for EPR. The combined EPR obligation of registered PIBOs crosses 3.07 million tons. India has also notified comprehensive rules for e-waste and battery waste management.

Since 1970, the consumption of biological resources in G-20 member countries has risen 2.5 times. Biowaste such as municipal and agricultural residue has become a global issue as much of it is burned, causing pollution, biodiversity loss and global warming. Combined with crops well-suited for degraded lands, biowaste can serve as valuable primary raw materials and viable substitutes for mineral resources. Adopting a circular bioeconomy approach will reduce the need for extracting virgin resources and provide an effective waste

disposal solution.

The Government of India has been working towards the adoption of biofuels. The Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana provides financial support to integrated bio-ethanol projects to set up second generation (2G) ethanol projects. 2G bio-ethanol technology produces bioethanol from waste feedstock such as crop residues and municipal solid waste that would otherwise have no value. Additionally, India has also made it mandatory for coal-burning thermal power plants to use a 5% blend of biomass pellets along with coal. The Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources (GOBAR) Dhan scheme was launched by the Government of India to convert cattle dung and other organic waste into compost, biogas, and biofuels to promote sustainable agriculture and reduce pollution. With over 500 functional biogas plants, the scheme has also helped create rural livelihoods and ensured improved sanitation. The Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) Scheme, launched in 2018 to promote the use of Compressed BioGas (CBG) as an alternative green transportation fuel, has aided the

bioenergy sector by accelerating the development of infrastructure for the production, storage and distribution of CBG.

**On industry coalition**

As industries are crucial in advancing resource efficiency and circular economy practices, India has envisioned an industry coalition in these areas. The coalition will also aim to achieve enhanced technological collaboration, build advanced capabilities across sectors, mobilise de-risked finance, and facilitate a proactive private sector engagement.

Global platforms such as the G-20 play an important role in addressing key issues and presenting solutions by adopting a collaborative approach. Resource efficiency and circular economy have emerged as key solutions in collective efforts in tackling triple planetary challenges. India's G-20 presidency has focused extensively on these approaches which offer promising pathways towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

*Leena Nandan is Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Views are personal.*

## Indian-Americans hold protests against Manipur violence in 3 US states

**WASHINGTON:** Indian-Americans and allies held protests in US states of California, New Jersey, and Massachusetts throughout the weekend to condemn the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, which has left hundreds of people dead and thousands displaced.

The protests were in part a response to a horrific video last week, showing two young tribal women being paraded naked while being molested by a group of men in the violence-hit state.

In California, Indian-Americans and allies gathered on the steps of Oakland City Hall for a protest organised by several advocacy groups, including the North American Manipur Tribal Association (NAMTA), Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), and Ambedkar King Study Circle. "They chased us out of our homes. They burned our homes, our properties. They looted, they killed, they raped, they immolated, they beheaded, they left us broken and everything we own reduced to ashes," said Niang Hangzo, founding member of NAMTA.

"This is the butchery being done to the Kuki-Zomi... How



long will the world stay silent? We want the House to bring this issue and discuss it like the EU (Parliament) has done." The European Parliament had adopted a resolution earlier this month, calling on Indian authorities to take "all necessary" measures to stop the violence in Manipur and protect religious minorities, especially Christians. India condemned the resolution, calling it an "interference" in its internal affairs.

In Iselin, New Jersey, IAMC

organized a protest and candlelight vigil attended by people from diverse faith and ethnic backgrounds, including members of local churches, NAMTA, and the National Association of Asian Indian Christians.

"If those two women could be dragged and paraded, it could happen to any other woman, no matter what religion," said Pastor Prem Kankanala, representing the United Telugu Christ Church.

"Let us be united and raise

our voices to protect women and to protect minorities," he added.

In Boston, Massachusetts, several Indian-Americans and allies came together to express solidarity with the victims and urging President Joe Biden's administration to intervene and call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to halt the escalating violence in Manipur.

Following the protests, a senior Biden administration official said on Tuesday that the US is "shocked and horrified by the video of an extreme attack on two women in Manipur".

"We convey our profound sympathies to the survivors of this act of gender-based violence and support the Indian Government's efforts to seek justice for them," Vedant Patel, Deputy Spokesperson of the State Department, said.

In his first public comments on the situation in Manipur, Prime Minister Modi last week expressed pain and anger over the incident, saying it has shamed 140 crore Indians and asserted that the guilty will not be spared, even as opposition Congress said the remarks came "too little, too late".

## Indian student dies after being attacked by Canadian carjackers

**AFTER GETTING THE INFORMATION ABOUT HER SON'S DEATH "GURVINDER NATH'S MOTHER COMMITS SUICIDE"**



A 24-year-old Indian student, who worked as a food delivery driver in Canada, died after he was violently attacked during a carjacking incident, police said.

Gurvinder Nath from Punjab's Karimpur Chahwala village, was lured by his attackers in the area of Britannia Road and Creditview, Mississauga, on the pretext of placing a food order earlier this month. Upon arrival, Nath, a student of Loyalist College in Toronto, was violently assaulted and robbed of his vehicle, and succumbed to his injuries on July 14 at a trauma centre.

Investigators have reason to believe there are multiple suspects involved and that the food order was placed as a means of luring the driver to the area, the Peel Regional Police said in a statement. An audio recording of the Pizza Pizza order placed

before the attack has also been obtained by the investigators. "It is believed that Nath was an innocent victim although every potential motive is being explored," the police said.

Police have identified a suspect vehicle -- a 2012 to 2017 white Hyundai Accent sedan, which has a distinctive flashing blue light at the top of the windshield. In a CCTV footage, a male described as wearing dark clothing is seen exiting the vehicle, the police said, adding that there is no known connection between Nath and his attackers.

Phil King of Peel Regional Police's Homicide Bureau said Nath's vehicle was found abandoned in the area of Old Creditview and Old Derry roads, less than five kilometres from the

crime scene. The vehicle has been forensically examined and "several" pieces of evidence have been retrieved, King said. He said that at this moment police are unsure if a weapon was used in the attack. A GoFundMe page has been set up to raise money for Nath's repatriation and help the family with funeral expenses.

Shocked community members held a candlelight vigil in Mississauga on Saturday where more than 200 people gathered to mourn Nath's death. "The devastating loss of Gurvinder has left his family shattered and heartbroken. Their decision to send him to Canada was filled with great aspirations, hoping that he would one day achieve full settlement in a new and promising land.

## State of emergency declared in Canadian province of Nova Scotia to fight flooding



**OTTAWA:** A state of emergency has been declared in the eastern Canadian province of Nova Scotia to fight severe flooding, authorities said.

The Nova Scotia Government's Emergency Management Office said that the order is in place to protect the entire province as the storm progresses. "This is a very serious event. This flooding has been fast and furious, and we are taking strong action to ensure Nova Scotians are protected," said John Lohr, minister responsible for the Emergency Management Office, Xinhua news agency reported. Some areas in the province received up to 300 mm of rain in less than 24 hours since Friday afternoon.

According to Environment Canada, some areas could expect an additional 75 to 150 mm of rain. Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston's office said the storm continues to impact the province on Saturday, causing flooding and significantly damaging roads, bridges, dams and other critical infrastructure.

"As the rain and flood risk continues, we need people to stay off the roads so that first responders and critical infrastructure partners can do their work to restore our roads and power and keep people safe," Lohr said. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said four people were missing after the vehicles they traveled in were submerged in floodwaters. Nova Scotia Power said approximately 4,000 customers lost power at peak due to lightning impacts on power equipment and infrastructure. According to the office, the state of emergency remains in effect for 14 days, until Aug. 5, unless the government terminates or extends it.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on his social media that federal assistance is being provided, and the federal government is ready to provide additional assistance as needed.

## US Senate Republican leader McConnell freezes during presser

US Senate Minority leader Mitch McConnell froze during a news conference, but told reporters later that he was "fine".

In the middle of remarks at his regularly scheduled weekly news conference on Capitol Hill, the 81-year-old Kentucky Republican stopped speaking on Wednesday, reports CNN.

After a 30-second pause, his colleagues crowded around to see if "he was OK" and asked him "how he felt".

Wyoming Republican Senator John Barrasso was seen gripping McConnell's arm and whispered to him: "Hey Mitch, anything else you want to say? Or should we just go back to your office? Do you want to say anything else to the press?" He said nothing, and was led away from the press conference and toward his office by an aide.

He returned to the news conference a few minutes later.

When asked by a CNN reporter if the development was related to his fall earlier this



year, McConnell said "no, I'm fine".

In a statement issued later in the day, an aide to McConnell said that he "felt light headed and stepped away for a moment".

"He came back to handle Q and A, which as everyone observed was sharp," CNN quoted the aide as saying.

As he left the Capitol, the Senate Republican leader told reporters he was "fine" and said he had spoken with President

Joe Biden.

"So, the president called to check on me. I told him I got sandbagged," he said, in reference to Biden tripping over a sandbag last month.

In March, McConnell had tripped at a private dinner event and was later admitted to hospital for treatment of a concussion, as well as a minor rib fracture.

Serving his seventh term as Senator, McConnell was first elected to the Senate in 1984.

## Indian national dies after being hit by bus in Australia

A 28-year-old Indian national from Ludhiana, who had been working as a driver for the past six months in South Australia, died after being hit by a bus.

Gagandeep Singh from Ludhiana had parked his bus on Conroy Street and had exited when the bus rolled forward and pinned him against a gate this month, Australian broadcaster SBS Punjabi reported.

While Gagandeep received immediate medical response from paramedics at the scene, he died after being transported to a nearby hospital, police said.

"I talked to him (the) day before the incident. Excitedly sharing his plans for the future, he mentioned that it would be his final shift as a bus driver in Port Augusta. He had been eagerly looking forward to relocating to Melbourne later this month. Little did he know



that fate had other plans in store for him," Rubal Singh, a relative of the deceased, told SBS Punjabi.

Rubal Singh said that the Major Crash Unit was investigating the circumstances leading to his death.

"We believe somehow the handbrake wasn't applied to the bus that he parked at the yard. After exiting the bus,

he realised that it was still moving. He tried to stop it by shutting down the roller gate but was tragically crushed between the bus and the gate," he added.

A fundraiser has been set up by the community to take Gagandeep's body back to India and support the family that lost their only son and working member.

## Sri Lanka's minority Tamil-dominated regions observe shutdown over mass grave investigation

**COLOMBO:** A shutdown was observed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated northern and eastern regions on Friday with the minority community demanding a credible investigation into an alleged mass grave in the northeastern district of Mullaitivu.

The protest was called by the relatives of the disappeared people in the northern and eastern regions of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar and Mullaitivu by shutting down businesses and staying indoors. According to Sri Lankan government figures, over 20,000 people are missing due to various conflicts, including the three-decade brutal war with Lankan Tamils in the north and east, which claimed at least 100,000 lives.



The joint student organisation of the Jaffna University in a statement expressed solidarity with the shutdown. However, the protests were unsuccessful in Vavuniya, Amapara and Trincomalee districts. In June, an alleged mass grave was accidentally discovered at Kokkuthuduvai by the National Water Board workers while carrying out digging activities

for a development project in the area. On July 6, the Mullaitivu magistrate court supervised the digging of the alleged mass grave.

Tamil political party sources said human remains of at least 13 people were found there. The relatives of the missing people during the separatist armed conflict have demanded an international investigation into the grave.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ran a military campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the northern and eastern provinces of the island nation for nearly 30 years before its collapse in 2009 after the Sri Lankan Army killed its supreme leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

## Indian diaspora's success story has changed how US views India

The rapid rise of Indian-Americans from politics to administration, entrepreneurship to technology, medicine to hospitality, science to academia has put the global spotlight like never before on the high-achieving four million-plus strong diaspora.

The community happens to be the most educated with the highest median income in the US, with an average household earning of \$123,700 -- making them the top earners in the US among other Asians in the country. As the profile of the Indian American community -- now the second-largest immigrant group in the US -- has grown, so too has its economic, political, and social influence, according to a recent Carnegie Endowment study. In 2010, only 18 per cent of Americans saw India as "very important" to the United States, according to The Chicago Council survey.

Now, India is perceived by Americans as their seventh fa-



vorite nation in the world, with 70 per cent of people viewing India favourably in 2023, says a Gallup survey.

Much of how America views India today can be attributed to the success of this community, which according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has played a significant role in the all-round development of the nation they live in and also strengthened the India-US relationship.

The fifth largest economy of the world, India today is seen in the US as a strong bilateral

partner sharing common democratic values with broad-based and multi-sectoral cooperation in sectors like trade and investment, defence and security, education, science and technology, cyber security, etc. American businesses heavily rely on highly-skilled workers from India to fill the gaps in IT and engineering sectors via the H-1B visa programme. These visa holders create prospects for US citizens, by enabling companies to invest in domestic operations instead of sending jobs abroad.

## Saudi Arabia invests USD 10 billion to build Pakistan's largest oil refinery in Gwadar



**ISLAMABAD:** Four Pakistani state-owned petroleum companies have signed a memorandum of understanding with Saudi Arabia to build Pakistan's largest oil refinery with an investment of USD 10 billion in the strategic Gwadar Port, according to a media report on Friday.

The MoU to set up the facility with a production capacity of 300,000 barrels per day was signed on Thursday with the state-owned Oil and Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL), and Government Holdings Private Ltd (GHPL) signed the MoU to join hands and provide comfort to the Saudi firm to enter Pakistan with a major investment, the Dawn newspaper reported. The four SOEs would join the project through equity participation.

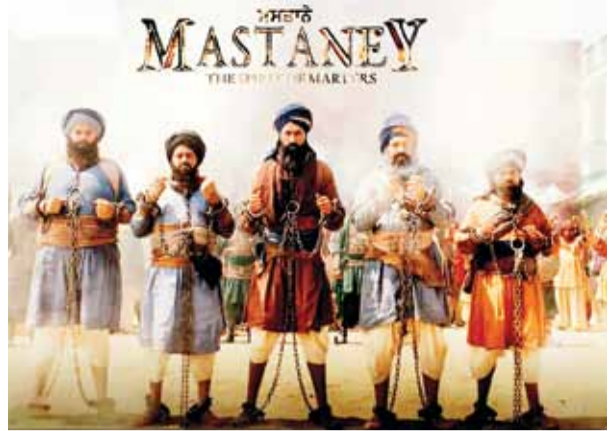
The government headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is reportedly in the advanced stages of negotiations with Saudi Arabia to execute the greenfield refinery project at the strategic Gwadar Port and wants to complete the initial paperwork before its tenure ends in two weeks. The tenure of Pakistan's current government will end on August 14. To facilitate the Saudi investment in refining, the government has recently passed a new policy

under which a new deep conversion oil refinery of a minimum of 300,000 bpd achieving financial close of the project within five years shall be eligible for a customs duty of 7.5 per cent for 25 years on petrol and diesel of all grades produced effective from the date of commissioning of the refinery. The project envisions setting up an integrated refinery petrochemical complex with a crude oil processing capacity of a minimum 300,000 bpd along with a petrochemical facility. The integrated complex shall comprise various components such as marine infrastructure, petrochemical complex, storage for crude oil and refined utilities, pipeline connectivity etc. According to the Petroleum Division, despite being integral to the growth of the economy, no new refinery project has materialised in Pakistan for more than a decade and only two refineries have been added in the last 40 years. Compared to the 20 million tonnes of refining capacity, the actual capacity utilisation is at around 11 million tonnes.

This is mainly due to the decreasing furnace oil demand in the country as a result of a change in the energy mix in the power sector and the fixed production slate of refineries that cannot produce just petrol and high-speed diesel and all products are produced simultaneously.

# Punjabi Film 'MASTANEY' generates enthusiastic, audience buzz with unique & fresh concept in Teaser

KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh



The Punjabi film «Mastaney» has created a lot of excitement in the audience. The first poster and teaser received an amazing response from the audience, who love the film's unique and fresh concept. The teaser has gone viral and reached an impressive 6.9 million views, setting a record for anticipation and support.

«Mastaney» has captivated audiences with its unique and unconventional storyline, offering a fresh and innovative perspective in Punjabi cinema. The teaser's release has generated immense excitement, attracting millions of views in record time, reflecting the audience's eagerness to experience this refreshing cinematic journey. This film «Mastaney» takes the audience into the depths of history which is

Based on True 18th Century Events: Nader Shah's Delhi Invasion and the Unyielding Stand of Sikh Warriors. An Epic Clash of Titans Unveiled on the Big Screen!

Tarsem Jassar, Simi Chahal, Gurpreet Ghuggi, Karamjit Anmol, Honey Mattu, and Baninder Bunny, in mesmerizing avatars that left the audi-

enthusiastic response to 'Mastaney.' Your support encourages us to create more meaningful and exciting stories. Thank you for being a part of this journey.»

Tarsem Jassar, the lead actor, is delighted to share the poster and states, «I am honored to be a part of 'Mastaney,' a film with a unique and compelling storyline. Working on this project has been a fulfilling experience, and I can't wait for the audience to witness it. Their love and appreciation mean everything to me.» Producer Manpreet Johal, Aashu Munish Sahni, and Karamjit Singh Johal shared their excitement, saying, «We are proud to present 'Mastaney,' a cinematic endeavor that holds a special place in our hearts. This film is a result of dedication, passion, and teamwork. We hope it touches the audience's hearts and leaves a lasting impression.»

## Legendry Punjabi Singer Surinder Shinda passes away at 64



LUDHIANA: Celebrated Punjabi singer Surinder Shinda, whose melodious voice touched hearts across generations, passed away on Wednesday after prolonged illness. He was 64.

The veteran singer was admitted to DMC Hospital in Ludhiana where he breathed his last breath after almost a month.

Some of his biggest hits include 'Jatt Jeonah Morh', 'Putt Jattan De', 'Truck Bnilliya', 'Balburo Bhabhi' and 'Kaher Singh di Mout'.

## Karisma Kapoor is all set to grace the stage of 'India's Best Dancer Season 3'

MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Karisma Kapoor, who is all set to grace the stage of 'India's Best Dancer Season 3', will be seen recalling an interesting event from the shooting of the popular song 'Husn Hai Suhana' with Govinda.

'Husn Hai Suhana' is a popular track from the 1995 comedy masala 'Coolie No 1', starring Govinda and Karisma in the lead. Over the years, the movie has become a classic in Hindi film history, and is now considered a cult film. The film is a remake of the 1993 Tamil film 'Chinna Mapillai'. In 2020, David Dhanu remade the film with the same name with his son Varun Dhawan, Sara Ali Khan and Paresh Rawal. It was released on OTT in the wake of the pandemic. For the special episode 'Andaaz Undekha', the audience will witness the talented



contestants and choreographers showcasing their exceptional moves, while using a prop to impress the esteemed judges, Sonali Bendre and Geeta Kapur. Karisma and renowned cho-

reographer, Marzi Pestonji, will be part of the episodes as guest judges, while music sensation, Harry Sandhu, will make a special appearance to promote his latest chartbuster, 'Psycho'.

## Punjabi movie 'Balle O ChalaakSajjna's new track, 'Aitbaar' out now; Movie releasing on Aug 4



KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh

The makers of the film Balle O ChalaakSajjna release its second song, 'Aitbaar' describing an emotional note expressing the elements of love ties. Mainland films (Canada) and Mainsite Pictures (India) have presented the film; produced by ParamSidhu, GuriPandher and SukhiDhillon. Hitting an emotional thrive of bond in marriage through the song, that will drive you through a lane of ups and downs of love, mesmerizingly sung by RzaHeer.

Moreover, the video of the

song emotionally connects the audience to the reality of marriage. The lyrics of the song are written by KuldeepKandiara and the music has been directed by Davvy Singh. The film stars an adept star cast including Raj Singh Jhinjar, VikramChouhan, Molina Sodhi, HarashjotKaur, Nirmal Rishi, MahabirBhullar, RupinderRupi, ParkashGadhu, Raj Dhaliwal, ParminderBarnala, AmanSutdhar, Gurpreet-Toti, DilrajUday, Sukhwinder Raj and Harman Virk. The film will be distributed by Omjee Star Studios in India. The movie 'Balle O ChalaakSajjna' will be released on 4th August 2023.

## Sara Ali Khan on a spiritual trip in Kashmir



FW DESK

Amid the picturesque backdrop of Kashmir, Sara was photographed sitting outdoors at night, exuding a sense of peace and contentment. Dressed in a comfortable sweatshirt and denims, she blended effortlessly with the lush green surroundings. Sharing her perspective on finding peace, Sara penned a thoughtful note in the caption. She wrote, "Q: Where and How can we find peace? A: Everywhere. Just look within." Her fans flooded the comment section with heartfelt messages of admiration and appreciation.

Sara's upcoming films are "Metro In Dino," "Ae Watan Mere Watan," and "Murder Mubarak."



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann during a function to mark 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' at the Punjab state war heroes memorial and museum, on the outskirts of Amritsar on Wednesday. India marks the 24th anniversary of its victory in the 1999 conflict with Pakistan that raged for three months across the disputed Kashmir region that had nearly brought the nuclear neighbors to a war. PHOTOS-PRABHJOT GILL

## Gadar 2: Ameesha Patel claims a father-daughter relationship with producer Anil Sharma



MUMBAI: Actress Ameesha Patel, who had accused filmmaker Anil Sharma of non-payment of dues during 'Gadar 2', claimed that she shared a father-daughter relationship with him. Ameesha is all set to reprise the role of Sakeena in 'Gadar 2', where Sunny Deol will once again play Tara Singh. On Wednesday, the cast of 'Gadar 2' launched the trailer of the much-awaited film. Ameesha shared her thoughts about the "bittersweet" relationship with filmmaker Anil Sharma. Dressed in her character, Ameesha took the mic and spoke about her fighting and her bond with Anil as she said that they block each other on social media. "We fight, we block each other on WhatsApp, social media. But we are back."

## Ayushmann Khurrana's 'Dream Girl 2' poster unveiled

NEW DELHI: The makers of Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer "Dream Girl 2" on Tuesday released the official poster of the movie.

Balaji Motion Pictures, headed by producer Ektaa R Kapoor, and Khurrana shared the poster, which provides a first look at the actor as well as his alter ego in the film Pooja.

"Yeh toh sirf pehli jhalak hai. Objects in the mirror are more khoobsurat than they



appear," Khurrana wrote on Instagram. "Dream Girl 2" is the follow-

up to the actor's 2019 comedy-drama which featured him as a man whose female voice impersonation as Pooja begets attention from others. Raaj Shaandilyaa, who had helmed the first part, has directed "Dream Girl 2" as well.

The upcoming movie also stars Ananya Panday, Annu Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Vijay Raaz, Manoj Joshi, Rajpal Yadav, Seema Pahwa, Manjot Singh and Abhishek Banerjee.

## India is in Pool A to make it to the 2026 FIFA WC

SUNIL THAPLIYAL New Delhi



The Indian football team has been drawn in Group A of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup, where they will face Qatar, Kuwait, and the winner of the Afghanistan-Mongolia match.

The United States, Canada and Mexico will co-host the World Cup in 2026. It will be different from any previous World Cup. The number of teams will be increased now. This edition, 48 teams will participate instead of

22, which are 16 more than the last edition. The AFC will have almost twice as many places available. There are now eight Asian

Championship final and drew with Qatar in the last World Cup qualifier. Later this year, Igor Stimac's side will begin their qualifying campaign which will last till June 2024. Qatar is the top-ranked team in Group A (WR -59), followed by India (WR -99) and Kuwait (WR -137). Following this, India will participate in the King's Cup in September, the Medric Cup in October and the World Cup qualifiers in November. These qualifying tournaments will be held for two years in which the Indian team has to remain among the top

eight teams. Iran, Uzbekistan, Japan, China and Korea will be a big challenge for India. If India is successful, it will be eligible to participate in the FIFA World Cup. India is currently ranked 99th in FIFA ranking and can learn from North Korea. North Korea qualified for the 2010 World Cup despite being ranked 105th. The Indian football team had qualified for the FIFA World Cup in 1950. FIFA had invited four Asian teams to the 1950 World Cup, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma) and India.

# Navigating a Rewarding Career in Business Development: Unleashing Growth and Building Relationships



**1. Defining Business Development**

Business development is a strategic approach that focuses on expanding a company's market presence and enhancing its profitability. Professionals in this field are responsible for identifying new business prospects, fostering relationships with potential clients and partners, and creating strategies to meet organizational objectives. Business development plays a pivotal role in boosting revenue and ensuring long-term

sustainability for companies across various industries.

**2. Key Responsibilities of Business Development Professionals**

A career in business development encompasses a diverse range of responsibilities. These may include:

- Market Research: Analyzing industry trends, market demands, and customer preferences to identify potential growth opportunities.
- Lead Generation: Prospecting and generating new leads to cultivate potential business relationships.
- Sales and Negotiations: Collaborating with clients and partners to close deals and negotiate contracts that align with the company's objectives.
- Relationship Management:

Building and maintaining strong relationships with existing clients, partners, and stakeholders to foster loyalty and repeat business.

- Strategic Planning: Developing and implementing strategies to achieve business growth targets and expand the organization's reach.
- Competitive Analysis: Keeping abreast of competitors' activities to identify areas for improvement and maintain a competitive edge.

**3. Skills for Success in Business Development**

To thrive in a career in business development, professionals must possess a unique blend of interpersonal, analytical, and strategic skills. Some key attributes include:

- Excellent Communication: Effective communication is paramount in business development. Professionals must articulate ideas clearly, listen actively, and build rapport with stakeholders.
- Relationship Building: The ability to connect with people on various levels and build lasting relationships is crucial for establishing trust and credibility.
- Analytical Acumen: Understanding market trends, data analysis, and interpreting insights help in making informed decisions and identifying growth opportunities.
- Business Acumen: A sound understanding of the organization's industry, market dynamics, and financials is essential to develop successful business strategies.
- Negotiation Skills: Strong negotiation abilities enable professionals to strike advantageous deals and foster win-win partnerships.
- Adaptability: Adapting to changing business environments and embracing new challenges is essential for continued growth and success.

**4. Impact on Organizational Growth**

Business development professionals are instrumental in driving organizational growth. Their strategic initiatives result in expanded market presence, increased sales, and enhanced profitability. By forging partnerships and collaborations, they unlock new avenues for revenue generation and create a sustainable competitive advantage.

**Conclusion**

A career in business development presents an exciting and challenging journey for ambitious professionals. The ability to identify opportunities, build meaningful relationships, and devise effective strategies are key attributes that make business development professionals indispensable assets for any organization. With their keen eye for growth and dedication to fostering success, these individuals play a pivotal role in shaping the future of businesses and contributing to the economy's overall prosperity. Embracing a career in business development promises a rewarding path filled with innovation, collaboration, and the thrill of unlocking new possibilities for organizations and their stakeholders.

## The Indian football team will compete at the Asian Games

SUNIL THAPLIYAL New Delhi



The sports ministry's approval of the Indian football team, both Men's and Women's to compete in the Asian Games gave Indian football supporters a reason to celebrate. On Wednesday, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anuraj Thakur announced on Twitter that the government has approved the participation of the Indian soccer team in the Asian Games. The fervent pleas of the Indian football coach and football fans in the country have changed the attitude of the Sports Ministry, which had earlier refused to allow the Indian football team to participate in the upcoming Asian tournament.

"Good news for Indian football lovers! Our national football teams, both Men's and Women's, are set to participate in the upcoming Asian Games. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has decided to relax the rules to facilitate participation of both the teams, which were not qualifying as per the existing criterion. Keeping in mind their latest performances in recent times, the Ministry decided to grant the relaxation. I am sure they will put their best foot forward in the Asian Games and make our country proud", Mr. Thakur wrote in his tweet. The Indian Olympic Association

(IOA) had earlier refused to allow the Indian football team to participate in the Asian Games on the grounds that it was not among the top eight teams in Asia.

The sports ministry had earlier written to the IOA and other national sports federations clarifying that only sports with a minimum ranking of eight in Asia should be eligible for participation in team competitions. The Indian men's football team is ranked 18th in Asia, while the women's team is ranked 11th.

It is worth noting that the Indian football team was not allowed to participate in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta because it was ranked too low at the time. The fact that the national team, led by Croatian coach Igor Stimac, has now won the SAFF championship despite the low ranking, while rising to 99th in the world rankings, has

helped the team get approval from the sports ministry.

Since 2002, the U23 players have been competing in the Asian Games football competition. However, each country has the option of including three of these players over the age of 23 in the team.

There are seven players under 23 in the current Indian team and there is a possibility that captain Sunil Chhetri, goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and defender Sandesh Jhingan may feature in the Asian Games.

The men's team has been drawn in Group A for the Hangzhou Asian Games with hosts China, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Indian women's football team will play in Group B with Chinese Taipei and Thailand. The official draw for the Asian Games teams was held in Hangzhou on Thursday.