

<b>REGION</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>CORPORATES &amp; INDUSTRY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>POTPOURRI</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NSUI'S JATINDER SINGH ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF PANJAB UNIVERSITY</b>		<b>BATTERY SHOW INDIA 2023 SPARKS INDIA'S \$150 BILLION ENERGY REVOLUTION</b>		<b>GIPPY GREWAL TO MAKE A SPECIAL APPEARANCE IN OTT SHOW 'CHAMAK'</b>	

## G20 Presidency Spurs India's Trade Relations & Investments: Experts

**NEW DELHI:** According to experts, the G20 Presidency is helping India to strengthen its trade ties with member nations and provides an opportunity to attract investments from those countries in sectors like infrastructure, reported BQ Prime. They said that the G20 (Group of 20) holds a strategic role in securing future global economic growth and prosperity, as its members represent about 85% of the global GDP (Gross Domestic Product), 75% of global trade and two-thirds of the world's population.

India can showcase its strengths and achievements while presiding over this multilateral forum to attract investment and deepen its trade relations with



these large economies, the experts added. Fast-tracking negotiations for a free trade agreement, ease of doing business, development of modern infrastructure, skilled manpower, and a large population with growing income are some of the positives that help India enhance trade realizations

with these member countries.

Trade experts suggested the government fast-track ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with countries like the UK and EU, as it would help India gain better market access to these countries as well as facilitate investment.

However, they also asked not to use trade platforms to achieve climate aspirations, as that could harm progress in both trade and climate discussions. The largest trade bloc in the G20, the EU, will set in motion the carbon border adjustment mechanism on October 1 this year, making exports from countries like India expensive. In the first eight months of 2023, the EU introduced five regulations on climate change and trade.

**Modi to hold bilateral meetings with over 15 world leaders**



**NEW DELHI:** With the G20 Leaders' Summit scheduled to commence from Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with more than 15 world leaders, sources said. On Friday, he will hold bilateral meetings with leaders of Mauritius, Bangladesh and the US at his official residence, 7, Lok Kalyan Marg. On Saturday, in addition to the G20 meetings, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with the UK, Japan, Germany and Italy. On September 10, he will hold a working lunch meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron.

**Punjab transfers Rs 2.69 Cr cotton seed subsidy to over 15k Farmers**

**CHANDIGARH:** As promised by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led state government to provide a 33 per cent subsidy on cotton seeds, Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare department transferred cotton seed subsidy amounting to Rs 2.69 crore into the bank accounts of as many as 15,541 farmers of the state.

Disclosing this here today, Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian said that a total of Rs 17.02 crore has been transferred to 87,173 farmers so far through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. This subsidy is being provided for the cotton seeds certified by the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU).

Notably, the Agriculture Department had earlier released Rs 14.33 crore to 71,632 beneficiary farmers under the first phase.

The further subsidy would be released to eligible farmers in the coming days, said the Agriculture Minister.

Reiterating the commitment of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to make the agriculture sector profitable for farmers, the Agriculture Minister said that the high-yielding cotton seeds were made available to encourage farmers to shun water-guzzling paddy crop.

## SGPC will soon visit USA under leadership of Dhami

**MATTER OF SETTING UP PRESS FOR PUBLISHING HOLY SAROOPS IN CALIFORNIA**

**AMRITSAR:** A high-level delegation of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) will soon visit the United States of America to set up a press for publishing holy saroops (scriptures) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji in California. This delegation will be led by SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami. The SGPC executive committee has decided to establish this press in the city of Tracy, California. Along with

this, the SGPC is also planning to establish Dharam Prachar Kendra (religious preaching center) and Gurdwara Sahib there. The SGPC was offered land and other necessary support for setting up this religious preaching center and



press by the founder of Diwan Todarmal Heritage Foundation, a Sikh scholar Gian Singh Sandhu of Canada, the patron of the foundation, eminent businessman Karnail Singh Sandhu of USA and Punjab representative of the foundation Lakhwinder Singh Kahneke. SGPC President Harjinder

Singh Dhami said in a press statement that for a long time, there has been a great demand for the holy saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib from the Sangat of USA and Canada, in view of which this decision has been taken. He said that the SGPC center to be established in Tracy, California will not only print the holy saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, but it will also represent the SGPC for the USA and Canada.

## SGPC President expresses grief over demise of Prof. Prithipal Singh Kapur

**AMRITSAR:** The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami has expressed grief over the demise of eminent Sikh scholar Prof Prithipal Singh Kapur. He said that Prof Kapur contributed to the field of research and teaching of Sikh history for more than half a century. His original research works related to Sikh history, traditions and heritage will always guide students and readers of history. Harjinder Singh Dhami said that Prof Prithipal Singh Kapur also rendered memorable services while being a member of the SGPC's Dharam Prachar Committee and continued to give many valuable suggestions for Sikh Prachar (preaching). He said that with Prof Kapur's demise, the Sikh panth has lost an enlightened scholar, whose replacement is impossible.



## Mann Govt Cheating Punjab by Recruiting Outsiders: RMS Chhina

**AMRITSAR:** Senior BJP leader and Amritsar Lok Sabha Constituency in-Charge Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina took strong exception to the working of Bhagwant Maan's government, which is hell bound to recruit outsiders in government jobs. He said it is a matter of great concern and shock for all Punjabis that only one person from Punjab has been selected during the recruitment of sub inspectors in the Punjab Police by the 'AAP' government in

the Mansa district recently. Chhina said Bhagwant Maan is pleasing Kejriwal by choosing the youth of Haryana and Rajasthan during the recruitment for jobs while he is ignoring Punjabi youth who are facing acute unemployment. He said that already the youth of Punjab are moving to foreign countries for employment as the AAP government in the State has betrayed the state by forgetting the Punjabi youth and giving priority to the youth of Haryana and Rajasthan.

## New India's mantra: Reform, Perform and Transform

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speeches have aimed at engaging with the nation. As he addressed the public from the ramparts of the Red Fort for the 10<sup>th</sup> time, he referred to them as 'parivaar jan', a sign that he regards Indians as his chosen family. With the longest average duration among all previous Indian Prime Ministers, his speeches averaged 83 minutes. By doing so, he demonstrated his commitment to communicating with the nation about his government's performance, India's progress in transformation, and his vision for a Vikasit Bharat. Presented below are some highlights based on his latest speech on India's Independence Day, blending India's past achievements with reminders of our duties in the Kartavya Kaal.

Today we have **Demography, Democracy and Diversity**, and this 'Triveni' has the potential to make every dream of India come true.



### Highlights from the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Speech

- Nurturing Reverence for our National Heroes who helped us**  
PM Modi remembered the revered Nation Builders.
- Vishwa-Mitra Bharat**  
Mother of democracy now leads the world order, as India advocates for new stability that is fruitful for humanity.
- Sins of Appeasement, Corruption, Dynasty**  
The sins endanger the idea of Bharat, PM Modi ensured to end it for the growth of the nation.
- A Millennium Lost, a Millennium to Look Forward to**  
India's development was ruined by 1,000 years of subjugation however the coming thousand years will be different as India will rise to newer heights.



## Encapsulating the transformation of Vikasit Bharat in the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Speech

- Rs. 20 lakh crore+ in loans disbursed under MUDRA Yojana and 8 crore new entrepreneurs.**
- Savings of Rs. 20,000 crore with low cost, high quality medicines under Jan Aushadhi Kendras.**
- Ease of Doing Business enables India to become the 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Startup Ecosystem of the world.**
- Honouring our Bravehearts with One Rank One Pension by providing Rs. 70,000 crore to soldiers.**
- 13.5 crore people lifted from Poverty (in just 5 years) who entered the neo-middle class.**
- Central Government devolution to State Governments increased from Rs. 30 lakh crore to Rs. 100 lakh crore, indicating government's commitment towards co-operative federalism.**
- Over 4 Crore houses sanctioned under PM Awas Yojana. Spending on affordable housing increased from Rs. 90,000 crore to Rs. 4 lakh crore.**
- Local development spends increased from Rs. 70,000 crore to Rs. 3 lakh crore. No more glitches due to lack of budget, the only path now is local development.**
- Rs. 2 lakh crore spent for tap water connections under Har Ghar Jal of the Jal Jeevan Mission.**

- Interest subsidy on bank loans for urban poor living in urban slums, chawls, rented houses, unauthorised colonies.**
- The Government has announced to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras from 10,000 to 25,000 for sale of medicine at reasonable prices benefiting the poor.**
- Government announced to provide skill development to 2 crore women from rural areas to encourage them for starting micro-enterprises under 'Lakhpati Didi'.**
- Government has announced 15,000 women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) would get agri-drones.**
- Vishwakarma Yojana, financial outlay of Rs. 13,000 crore where 18 Traditional trades to be covered in 1<sup>st</sup> instance**







## India and Bharat must coexist, as they always have

India and Bharat - two names that have stirred the hearts of patriots for generations. Yet, today, these cherished labels are being manipulated for political maneuvering. The decision by the Bharatiya Janata Party government to prioritise 'Bharat' over 'India' in official communications is not just a departure from tradition but a deliberate political statement. The Constitution itself refers to the nation as "India, that is Bharat," signifying the harmonious coexistence of both identities. The cultural significance of 'Bharat' is undeniable. However, the current fervor to sideline 'India' is a misguided attempt to paint it as a foreign imposition, undermining our national dignity. Such a perspective is not only historically inaccurate but also divisive. Both 'India' and 'Bharat' have emerged from our nation's rich tapestry of history and culture. To pit one against the other, especially in a country celebrated for its ethnic, linguistic, and genetic diversity, is to create unnecessary societal rifts. The controversy should have naturally faded, but the Opposition's hasty reactions amplified it, turning a naming debate into a national identity crisis. While the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's preference for 'Bharat' is well-known, the Opposition's choice to adopt 'INDIA' as an acronym might have further spurred the BJP's renaming zeal. This political tug-of-war does not showcase national pride; instead, it diminishes our global standing and soft power. Both 'Bharat' and 'India' are deeply embedded in our cultural, political, and literary lexicons. They are invoked by millions, both domestically and internationally, who dream of our nation's bright future. While the contexts in which they are used might differ, their essence remains unchanged. It's crucial to recognise that the beauty of our nation lies in its diversity and unity. Let's not allow a mere naming dispute to overshadow the shared aspirations of its people. India and Bharat must coexist, as they always have, representing the soul of a united nation.

### 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.

## THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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**NANDLAL MISHRA** DELVES INTO INDIA'S STATE-LEVEL HUNGER INDEX THAT ASSESSES LOCALISED UNDERNOURISHMENT EXTENTS

## Gauging hunger disparities



Despite being a major food producer with extensive food security schemes and the largest public distribution system in the world, India still grapples with significant levels of food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition. The Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2022, ranked India 107 among 121 countries, behind Nigeria (103) and Pakistan (99). The GHI provides a composite measurement and tracks undernourishment and hunger at the national level across three dimensions: calorie undernourishment, child malnutrition, and under-five mortality.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report of 2022, India is home to 224.3 million undernourished people. Disparities are evident among States. Leveraging subnational data that encompasses the three dimensions of the GHI enables the development of an India-specific hunger index at the level of States and Union Territories. This plays a pivotal role in evaluating the extent of undernourishment at a more localised scale, which is critical for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

The GHI is computed using four indicators — the prevalence of calorie undernourishment; and of stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five; and under-five mortality rate. The State Hunger Index (SHI) is calculated using the same indicators except calorie undernourishment, which is replaced by body mass index (BMI) undernourishment among the working-age population, as data on calorie undernourishment are not available since 2012.

Data for stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five are sourced from the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), while the

prevalence of BMI undernourishment is computed using NFHS-5 (2019-21) and Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (2017-18). The calculation of the SHI score involves combining the normalised values of the four indicators using the techniques recommended by the GHI. The SHI scores range between 0 and 100, with higher scores indicating more hunger. Scores below 10 signify low hunger, 10-20 moderate, 20-30 serious, 30-40 alarming, and 50 or above extremely alarming.

In the SHI, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh scored 35, which places them in the 'alarming' category. Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, and West Bengal all scored above the national average (29). The performance of these States resembles that of African nations such as Haiti, Niger, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. On the other hand, Chandigarh scored 12, and Sikkim, Puducherry, and Kerala all scored below 16. These States, along with Manipur, Mizoram, Punjab, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, And-

man and Nicobar Islands, and Tamil Nadu, fall under the 'moderate hunger' category. All the other States, which scored below the national average and above 20, have a problem of 'serious hunger'. No State falls under the 'low hunger' category. The impact of COVID-19 on the SHI is not captured here since post-pandemic estimates are not yet available.

In 2008, Purnima Menon, Anil Deolalikar, and Anjan Bhaskar made a comparable effort to grasp the variation in hunger at a subnational level using the then methodology of computing GHI. Among the 17 States they assessed, Punjab led the list, with Kerala and Andhra Pradesh following closely as top performers. On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh were ranked as the least-performing States.

Over the last half a decade, India's GHI score has deteriorated primarily due to the increasing prevalence of calorie undernourishment. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the proportion of calorie undernourishment in India has

been escalating since 2017, reaching 16.3% in 2020, equivalent to the 2009 statistic. The Indian government has disputed these conclusions by raising concerns about the data and methodology used in calculating the GHI. However, it has not been able to provide empirical evidence to support its claims. Notably, no National Sample Survey (NSS) round on nutritional intake has been conducted by the government since 2011-12, which used to offer insights into the prevalence of calorie undernourishment at national and subnational levels. In the 78th round of the NSS conducted in 2020-21, four key questions were included to gauge household food insecurity. Unfortunately, information on these is missing from the NSS report.

While the GHI has faced significant criticism from experts regarding its conceptualisation, indicator selection, and aggregation methods, it does provide critical insight into the state of undernourishment and child nutrition. India's poor performance in the GHI is primarily attributed to its high prevalence of undernourishment and child malnutrition. India ranks unfavourably in child wasting, performing worse than many low-income African nations. The NFHS-5 indicated that one-third of children under the age of five are stunted and underweight, while every fifth child suffers from wasting. Despite India's notable progress in alleviating extreme poverty over the last 15 years, as indicated by the recent National Multidimensional Poverty Index, challenges persist in addressing the disparity in food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition.

*Nandlal Mishra is a doctoral fellow at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. Views are personal.*



**TALMIZ AHMAD** EXPLAINS HOW GLOBAL MULTIPOLAR ORDER ALIGNS WITH ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND INFLUENCE

## BRICS' widening influence and ramifications

On August 24, the 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg announced that the five-member grouping (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) had invited six new members — Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from West Asia; Egypt and Ethiopia from Africa, and Argentina from Latin America. It was reported that 40 countries have shown interest in BRICS' membership, with 22 having submitted formal applications. From 2009, BRICS has met annually at summit level, and is backed by several ministerial and expert conclaves. It has spawned two major institutions — the New Development Bank (NDB) to provide development assistance and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement that supports countries facing short-term balance-of-payments pressures. The NDB has already financed 96 projects valued at \$33 billion.

BRICS members have been united in their dissatisfaction with the West-dominated international institutions that had emerged after the Second World War — the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and its various bodies, particularly the Security Council, and more recently, the World Trade Organization. At Johannesburg, the UN Secretary General António Guterres described them as reflecting "yesterday's world". The United States has led the western alliance in both the political and economic areas.

BRICS challenges this West-led world order: it promotes intra-BRICS economic and political cooperation, builds institutions outside western control, and agitates robustly for wide-ranging reforms to accommodate the presence and interests of emerging economies. The Johannesburg Declaration categorically asserts that the



members' "strategic partnership" will be directed at achieving "a more representative, fairer international order". The recent expansion of BRICS' membership has shaped a grouping that is aligned in terms of global perceptions and interests, and collectively provides considerable economic clout to the enlarged conclave. With the proposed expansion, BRICS will have 46% of world population, while its share of the global GDP will go from 31.5% in PPP terms to 37%, far ahead of the GDP of 30.7% of the G-7. The five core members account for 23% of global exports and 19% of global imports; with the new members, these figures will be boosted by 3.7% and 3%, respectively. The major impact will be on the energy sector: out of global oil production of about 90 million barrels per day (mbd) in 2022, the earlier five BRICS members had accounted for 20% of global output; this will go to 42%.

### Geo-strategic value

The new BRICS members will bring con-

siderable geo-strategic value to the grouping. Those from West Asia are already closely tied to BRICS members: 35% of Saudi oil production goes to China and India; Russia, already a major oil supplier to China and India, is now looking at Brazil as a market. Despite sanctions by the United States, Iran has increased oil production from a low of 400,000 barrels per day in the Trump period to 2.2 mbd in August this year, most of it going to China. Egypt and Ethiopia are an important presence in the strategically important Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, while Argentina is the second largest economy in Latin America.

Rather than look at the issues being raised at BRICS' summits and other meetings, western commentators have disparaged the grouping as having no shared vision and being a "talk-shop" with no worthwhile achievements. These criticisms have little substance. BRICS leaders have met over 15 years and every time have overcome their internal divisions and competitions to issue a consensual "Declaration". Over the years, the declarations have expanded in content, focused on specific deliverables and have steadily expanded their areas of interest.

In the Johannesburg Declaration, while several paragraphs call for wide-ranging reforms in international organisations, the bulk of the document focuses on intra-BRICS cooperation and outreach to other developing countries. Thus, members have agreed to "encouraging the use of local currencies in internal trade and financial transactions" between BRICS and other trading partners.

The Declaration also reflects the shared views of its members on several political issues — the centrality of the United Nations; the problems in West Asia, i.e., Syria, Yemen, Palestine, the Arab Peace Initiative,

and the Iran nuclear agreement; the war in Ukraine and global terror.

Outlook for regional and global affairs  
The new BRICS members, particularly those from West Asia, naturally fit into this political and economic framework. From 2020, both Saudi Arabia and the UAE have shrugged off the U.S. yoke and shaped independent foreign policy paths for themselves. Saudi Arabia has pursued de-escalation and dialogue, ending the Qatar blockade in January 2021, engaging with Turkey, and opening interactions with Iran from April 2021. These regional engagements culminated in the China-brokered accord with Iran in March this year.

The UAE has also normalised ties with Iran and is focusing on expanding its maritime footprint across the Gulf, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. Iran's entry into BRICS is propitious in that, besides its role in the energy sector, it opens up opportunities for accelerated regional economic cooperation, besides the revival of the moribund north-south connectivity projects through the Chabahar port with which India is associated.

While western writers continue to harp on the emerging global binary divide and the "new cold war", India and other BRICS members reject this short-sighted view and insist on asserting their strategic autonomy in a multipolar world order, with member-nations demanding that their voices be heard and their interests respected. It is not surprising, then, that a recent media report described the Johannesburg summit as a "turning point in modern history".

*Talimz Ahmad is a former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates*



### BOOKS: REVIEW

## Book highlights stories of racial resistance and collective action

In a world where the dreams of free citizens are overshadowed by the looming specter of state-sanctioned intolerance and violence, Sonali Kolhatkar's "Rising Up" emerges as a beacon of hope. This timely work delves deep into the personal narratives of racism, challenging the official histories that have long dominated our understanding.

Kolhatkar, with over two decades of journalistic experience, masterfully illustrates the importance of these personal stories in advancing social justice, especially in a U.S. landscape marred by white supremacy. Despite the increasing diversity of its populace, deceptive narratives persist, often sidelining the voices of people of color.

"Rising Up" is not just a book; it's a call to arms. It advocates for a literature of affirmation, emphasizing the power of news media, entertainment, and individual discourse in reshaping the American cultural narrative. Kolhatkar's cen-

tral proposition is clear: the media must listen, and people must learn to speak in diverse voices.

The book is a testament to the transformative power of words. It champions the idea that through dialogue and participation, society can rebel against those who remain deaf to its cries. Kolhatkar's commitment to social justice advocacy shines through, as she intertwines her liberation with the stories she shares. Her message is one of solidarity, urging readers to rise up against racism together.

Kolhatkar also confronts the deeply ingrained stereotypes that perpetuate violence and discrimination. She challenges the accepted norms, such as the unquestioned reliance on policing, and highlights the systemic racism evident in sectors like Hollywood.

The killing of George Floyd serves as a poignant backdrop, emphasizing the urgent need for change. Kolhatkar echoes the sentiments of Pete Seeger and Agha

**The book is a testament to the transformative power of words. It champions the idea that through dialogue and participation**

Shahid Ali, underscoring the transformative potential of narratives.

In essence, "Rising Up" is a literature of witness. It captures the raw emotions of those marginalized by the powerful. As Brecht aptly puts it, writing the truth in such times requires unparalleled courage, discernment, and judgment.

Kolhatkar's narrative is not just a critique but also a guide. She meticulously maps out the journey of activists, writers, and everyday citizens who have dared to challenge the status quo. Through their stories, readers are introduced to



*Rising Up: The Power of Narrative in Pursuing Racial Justice*  
By Sonali Kolhatkar  
City Lights  
144 pages, Rs 1,461 (Kindle)

the myriad ways in which individuals can make a difference. Each chapter serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, showcasing how, even in the face of adversity, people have found ways to rise up and make their voices heard.

One of the standout features of "Rising Up" is its emphasis on the role of media. Kolhatkar sheds light on the media's complicity in perpetuating harmful stereotypes, but she also highlights its potential as a tool for change. By showcasing examples of media outlets and journalists who have chosen to prioritize stories of resistance and hope, she paints a picture of what ethical journalism can look like. This section serves as a call to action for media professionals to recognize their responsibility

and use their platforms to amplify marginalized voices.

Furthermore, the book delves into the historical context of racial injustice in the U.S., providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of how deeply rooted these issues are. Kolhatkar seamlessly weaves together past and present, illustrating how history continues to shape contemporary realities. By drawing parallels between historical events and current incidents, she underscores the cyclical nature of racial injustice and the importance of continuous vigilance.

Lastly, "Rising Up" is also a celebration of community and solidarity. Throughout the book, Kolhatkar emphasizes the importance of collective action. She showcases the power of communities coming together, united by a shared vision of a more just and equitable world. Through stories of grassroots movements and community-led initiatives, readers are reminded that change is not only possible but achievable when people come together. In a world that often feels divided, "Rising Up" serves as a timely reminder of the power of unity and the potential of collective action.



# Bank of Baroda enables UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across country

Bank said it is the first public sector bank to launch UPI ATMs, in coordination with NPCI and powered by NCR Corporation



NEW DELHI: State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Friday announced that it has enabled the UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across the country.

Customers as well as customers of all participating issuer banks using any UPI-enabled Mobile app can withdraw cash from Bank of Baroda UPI ATMs without using their debit card, it said.

Using the Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) technology, which facilitates cardless cash withdrawals through ATMs, the UPI ATM enables seamless QR-based cash withdrawals,

doing away with the need to carry a Card to withdraw cash. Joydeep Dutta Roy, Executive Director, BoB said, "The UPI ATM facility is a convenient and secure way for people to withdraw cash without the use of a card. The UPI ATM marries the popularity & security of UPI with the extensive reach & availability of ATMs." "Some of the major benefits of the UPI ATM facility is that customers can withdraw cash from multiple accounts linked to UPI. UPI ATM transactions are also quicker, convenient, and secured as it generates a single-use dynamic QR code for every transaction and ensures a safe banking experience," the Bank said.

# Panasonic to invest another Rs 300 cr in Andhra facility by 2026, aims higher exports from India



VARANASI: Panasonic Electric Works India (PEWIN) will invest another Rs 300 crore to increase capacity at its unit in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, company officials said on Friday. The Japanese company is looking to use the facility for exports and will primarily target the Middle East and African markets, they told reporters here. "We have invested Rs 300 crore as part of the first phase of the project, and will be investing another Rs 300 crore by 2026," PEWIN Director for power business unit, Rajesh Nandwani, said. At present, the overall production capacity of the company, which operates plants in Daman and Haridwar as well, is 62 crore pieces per year, which will grow to 70 crore by 2025 and 100 crore by 2030, Nandwani said. The company produces various products such as switches and switchboards. PEWIN Managing Director Yoshiyuki Kato said the company's revenues stood at Rs 5,100 crore in FY23, and is aiming to increase it three times by 2030 because of the opportunities it sees here.

# States use PM GatiShakti approach to connect Industrial Regions

NEWDELHI: The States and UTs are extensively using the PM GatiShakti approach for planning connectivity to Industrial Regions, said Special Secretary (Logistics), DPIIT, Sumita Dawra.



Reviewing a meeting convened for the Western and Central Zones States/UTs of India, she said the state governments are also using this approach for selecting the location of social infrastructure assets, such as anganwadis, schools, hospitals, etc.

Similarly, the Gujarat Government used the PMGS for planning its coastal corridor to promote tourism. State of Goa planned the disaster management/evacuation route during floods to minimize loss of life, using the PMGS NMP/SMP portals," she said.

# Flipkart to create over 1 lakh jobs in supply chain ahead of festive season

NEW DELHI: E-commerce major Flipkart on Monday said that it will generate over 1,00,000 direct and indirect jobs across its supply chain, including fulfilment centres, sorting centres, and delivery hubs, ahead of the festive season.



These seasonal jobs include local Kirana delivery partners, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and others, thus creating avenues for diverse supply chain talent. "This year, we are also creating over a lakh new job opportunities in our supply chain while also investing in skilling initiatives to deliver an elevated customer experience as we strengthen our footprint across the country. This year, we plan to deliver more than 40

per cent of shipments through our Kirana delivery programme," Hemant Badri, Senior Vice President and Head of Supply Chain, Customer Experience, and ReCommerce, Flipkart Group, said in a statement. Moreover, the company said that Flipkart has scaled its supply chain with last-mile distribution hubs and large-scale fulfilment centres this year, strengthening its reach in tier-III cities and beyond. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told

# Legislation introduced in US House to remove high-tech export barriers to India

WASHINGTON: As President Joe Biden visited New Delhi, two powerful lawmakers have introduced legislation in the US House of Representatives to remove high-tech export barriers to India to give a big boost to the unrestricted export of sensitive technologies to the country and bolster bilateral technology cooperation. The legislation was introduced on Friday by Congressmen Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Andy Barr, vice chair of the House India Caucus.



The "Technology Exports to India Act" aims to facilitate the sale of high-performance computers and related equipment to India and strengthen United States-India technology cooperation. "As President Biden visits India for the G-20 Summit, we are happy to introduce the 'Technology Exports to India Act' to bolster technology cooperation between the United States and India," the two lawmakers said in a joint statement. "This bill removes restrictions on the sale of US products, such as digital computers and electronic assemblies, to India without a Department of Commerce license, thereby enhancing US-India technology trade, linkages between our technology companies, and supply chain resilience for a critical industry," they wrote. "In light of the further

strengthening of our strategic partnership with India, this legislative change reduces regulatory barriers to technology cooperation," Meeks and Barr said. The bill says Congress feels that greater technological and defence cooperation with India is critical to tackling shared geopolitical and security challenges. As such it is important to reduce regulatory barriers to technological cooperation with India in ways that enhance national security and advance strategic priorities, the bill says. The bill says President Biden providing flexibility to export high-performance computers to India would bolster United States-India technological cooperation and demonstrate Congress's commitment to India as a strategic partner. As such, removing India from the "Computer Tier 3" eligible countries' list in section 740.7(d) of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations would help to strengthen the bilateral relationship, the bill says. Noting that the United States designated India a US Major Defence Partner, providing it access to a wide range of military and dual-use items regulated by the Department of Commerce, the bill says for the items controlled for national security reasons by the Department of Commerce, India is subject to a general policy of approval for licenses for civil or military end uses in India or for the Government of India so long as the items are not for nuclear, missile or chemical or biological activities. However, currently, the export of high-performance computers meeting certain specifications to India requires authorisation of the United States Government under section 1211 of the National Defence Authorisation Act for Fiscal Year 1998. The US President does not have the authority to remove or delete India from the excluded Computer Tier 3 eligible country list. The bill once passed by Congress would help facilitate that.

# Centre may explore green masala bonds, InVITs to meet long-term renewable energy capacity investment



NEW DELHI: The Central government's target of scaling up its renewable energy capacity to 500 Gigawatt (GW) by 2030 will require an investment of Rs 17 lakh crore for long-term commitments, and it may explore green masala bonds and infrastructure investment trusts (InVITs). However, this would also include associated transmission costs and the country would need an annual investment of Rs 1.5-2 lakh crore in renewable energy sector, against which the estimated investment for the last few years has been in the range of Rs 75,000 crore only.

To meet this huge gap between the required and actual investment, and the fact that the overall debt requirement is large and reducing the cost of financing to the renewable energy developers is important, the renewable energy ministry aims to work towards exploring innovative financing mechanisms. According to sources, it is likely to look at alternative funding avenues like infrastructure development fund (IDF), infrastructure investment trusts (InVITs), alternate investment funds, green masala bonds and even crowd funding for the renewable energy sector.

# Global Biofuels Alliance likely to be launched at G20: Sources



NEW DELHI: India's proposal for setting up a Global Biofuels Alliance is likely to get through at the G20 summit with sources indicating that the new grouping may be launched on Saturday to help accelerate energy transition. A group photo of the G20 world leaders may take place on the first day of the summit on Saturday after it begins at Bharat Mandapam, the venue for the two-day summit, sources said. The Global Biofuels Alliance, which the world's third biggest oil consumer wants to push during its G20 presidency, mirrors the International Solar Alliance (ISA) piloted by New Delhi and Paris in 2015 to bring clean and affordable solar energy within the reach of all. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told

to media in an exclusive interview that India's proposal for a global alliance on biofuels among members of the Group of 20 major economies will help accelerate sustainable biofuels deployment in support of the global energy transition. "Such alliances are aimed at creating options for developing countries to advance their energy transitions," he had said. "Biofuels are also important from the perspective of a circular economy. Markets, trade, technology, and policy - all aspects of international cooperation are crucial in creating such opportunities," Modi had said. Biofuel is a renewable source of energy which is derived from biomass. India, which imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs, is gradually building capacity to produce fuel from items including crop stubble,

plant waste and municipal solid waste. While India is on schedule to double the mixing of ethanol extracted from sugarcane and agriculture waste to 20 per cent with petrol by 2025, dozens of compressed biogas (CBG) plants are being set up. The Global Biofuels Alliance is aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector. Its focus is primarily on strengthening markets, facilitating global biofuel trade, developing concrete policy lesson-sharing and providing technical support for national biofuel programmes worldwide. Such an initiative is also aimed at helping India's transition to alternative fuels and cutting its import bill, as it seeks to achieve its net zero carbon emissions goal by 2070. Apart from this, the ministry may also explore the possibility of prescribing renewable finance obligation on the lines of renewable purchase obligation for banks and financial institutions in order to make them invest a specific percentage of their investment in the renewable energy sector, sources aware of development said. Since green banks have emerged as an innovative tool for accelerating clean energy financing globally, the government may also explore setting up of a green bank system, which can address the persisting finance related challenges being faced by the renewable energy sector in the country.

# Status of Hindi in Banking Sector



SATISH SINGH

Due to the provisions of the Official Languages Act, banks have made available the option of Hindi to the customers in the use of technology. Today, the option of choosing Hindi is available in the operation of many apps, passbook printing, ATM machine etc. If the customer wishes, the passbook may be printed in Hindi by choosing the option of Hindi; With choosing Hindioption, you can also withdraw money from ATM machine or any app of the bank can be used in Hindi, but most of the customers use technical devices or apps related to banking in English instead of Hindi. While they do not even have knowledge of English. There is a need for change in such a state. Banks are making continuous efforts for the promotion of Hindi. In this matter, it is also the responsibility of the common men that they should not be ashamed of working in Hindi. No one becomes illiterate or stupid by communicating or writing in Hindi. Since banks have provided the facility to opt for Hindi in the use of technology to promote Hindi, therefore, whether the customers are opting for Hindi or not, banks should also be concerned, and customers should be encouraged to do banking work in Hindi. The condition of Hindi in banks is so bad that no senior officials want to discuss or talk in Hindi internally. Hindi is considered the language of employees and junior officers in banks. Nonetheless, bank personnel in all branches in many regions of the country have to speak Hindi, as customers communicate in Hindi. Today many customers in South India also communicate in Hindi. Especially in big cities. Despite this, the employees and officers posted in the bank's branch do internal correspondence in English. Since the nationalization of banks, English has remained dominant in banks. To a large extent, the top executives of banks are responsible for the present plight of Hindi in banks, because they themselves



do not work in Hindi, as well as the bankers who are working or want to work in Hindi at lower levels. Sometimes those who work in Hindi are also punished. It is common in banks to harass the employees and officers working in Hindi. Employees who communicate in Hindi are looked down upon. Broadly speaking, everyone in banks is doing all banking related work in English. Even if, they do not have knowledge of English. Due to compulsion, the officers of the bank are ready to write, read or speak in Hindi. They eat bread of Hindi and remain stuck in the love of English. Their love for English is so unbreakable that their children are educated in convent schools. Hindi has become the language of translation in banks. Various departments of the bank work in English, but to comply with the rules of the official language, they get it translated into Hindi from the official language department. If seen, the official language department of banks does the work of translation only. However, many times the meaning gets lost in translation. Because banking terminology is very difficult and transla-

tors usually have only bookish knowledge, they are not familiar with colloquial language, due to which translation in colloquial language is not being done. Another important reason is the lack of banking experience of the Rajbhasha Adhikari. Due to these reasons, the translation made in Hindi of deposit slips, withdrawal slips, loan documents etc. is not understandable even to the educated people, leave alone the common man. The employees and officers posted in the Official Language Department and the top executives of the bank expressed their concern about the bad condition and direction of Hindi in the banks, but after September 14 or after the month of September, they forget Hindi. Although the Top Management of the bank do not want to lag at any cost in performing the annual ritual of "Hindi Divas", but what will happen with such formality? Will this lead to the promotion of Hindi in the banks or will the desire to imbibe Hindi by heart develop in the minds and hearts of the bank employees? The mental slavery that Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi talked about; our banks are also trapped in the same mental slavery in the context of English. In banks, English has dominated everyone's mind. One reason for this has also been the policy of promoting Hindi half-heartedly by the policymakers of the country after independence. As a result, today the banking system is deeply entangled in the web of English. However, despite all kinds of obstacles in front of Hindi

in banks, it would be appropriate to say that the condition of Hindi has improved in banks as compared to earlier. Change doesn't even come in a day. So, we can expect that the future of Hindi in banks will be bright in the coming days. A beautiful picture can be made of Hindi if the thinking is changed. In this case, the employees of Hindi heartland can take the initiative to work in Hindi. Language is not only the identity of a country but also of a person. Speaking in your own language does not detract from one's worth. Today, many central ministers including Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi communicate in Hindi. Several instances have been seen of many central ministers including the Prime Minister communicating with bank heads in Hindi. In such a situation, it is beyond comprehension not to do business in Hindi in the bank. The way the sense of support towards Hindi is visible in the functioning of the present government, it is possible that there will be a change in the thinking of the bank employees as well and they will move towards becoming free from the English mindset. The Top Management of the bank should take cognizance of the prevailing situation and take initiative to change the situation. Slowly but surely, bankers are moving in this direction. Therefore, it can be expected that betterment of Hindi in banks will continue to move forward. Satish Singh, Ahmedabad based Senior Columnist. Views are personal.

# Froth accumulating in small cap stocks segment: Analysts

NEW DELHI: There is froth in the small-cap segment which is driven by momentum, says V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.



The market has turned excessively volatile responding to fast changing incoming data. DIIs have been consistent buyers on the back of good flows to domestic mutual funds. But FIIs have been consistently selling in the cash market this month with a net sell figure of Rs 7,850 crore, he added. The FII selling has been triggered by the rising US bond yields and the strengthening dollar. With the yield from the US 10-year at 4.29 per cent and 2-year at 5 per cent, the FIIs are

likely to sell further impacting market sentiments, he said. A major concern in the market is the Brent crude rising above \$90 with negative implications for India's macros and inflation. Investors may exercise caution and on correction buy only high quality stocks, preferably in banking, IT and capital goods, he said. BSE Sensex is up 50 points at 65,931 points on Thursday morning. L&T is up almost 2 per cent.

# India, US settles last trade dispute at WTO

NEW DELHI: India and the US have settled the last trade dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over poultry products, according to a joint statement released on Friday. With this, the two countries have mutually resolved all the seven pending trade disputes at the WTO. "The leaders lauded the settlement of the seventh and last outstanding WTO dispute between India and the United States. This follows the unprecedented settlement of six outstanding bilateral trade disputes in the WTO in June 2023," the joint statement said. It was issued after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Joseph R Biden, Jr., here. Biden is here to attend the G20 Summit to be held on Saturday and Sunday. Modi and the US President vowed to "deepen and diversify" the bilateral major defence partnership while welcoming forward movement in India's

procurement of 31 drones and joint development of jet engines. In their over 50-minute talks, the two leaders deliberated on India's G20 presidency, cooperation in nuclear energy, critical and emerging technologies such as 6G and artificial intelligence, and ways to fundamentally reshape multilateral development banks. Earlier, the seventh dispute was discussed during the visit of US Trade Representative Katherine Tai's meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal meeting last month here. They had tasked their respective teams with continuing discussions on this dispute in order to reach a solution soon. During Modi's visit to the US in June, the two countries announced ending of six trade disputes at the WTO and India's removal of tariffs on certain US products (chickpeas, lentils, almonds, walnuts, apples, boric acid, and diagnostic reagents).



# Gippy Grewal to make a special appearance in OTT show 'Chamak'



Singh Cheema, Mohit Malik, Mukesh Chhabra, Isha Talwar, Akasa Singh, Prince Kanwaljit Singh, Suvinder Vicky, Navneet Nishan, Rakesh Bedi, Mahabir Bhullar, Hobby Dhaliwal, Sharan Kaur, Ankita Goraya, Dhanveer Singh, Raj Shoker, Kapil Redekar, Jarnail Singh and Malkeet Rauni.

**MUMBAI:** Punjabi star Gippy Grewal, who has doled out countless chabuster tracks and blockbuster films, is all set to make his foray in the long format content in the OTT. The actor, who has 'Carry on Jatta 3' on the horizon, will be soon seen in the upcoming streaming series 'Chamak' in which he will be seen in a guest appearance along with Mika Singh, MCSquare, Afsana Khan,

Asees Kaur, Kanwar Grewal, Shashwat Singh and Harjot Kaur. The track 'Ganda Banda' from the show was also released on Thursday marking the run-up to its release. The track is an upbeat trap hip-hop number and has been performed by Vikram Montrose who has also composed the piece. The headlining star cast of the series includes Manoj Pahwa, Paramvir

The fictional show is based on the premise of Punjab and its music industry. It has been created and directed by Rohit Jugraj from a script by Rohit Jugraj and S. Fakira. Produced by Geetanjali Mehlwal Chauhan, Rohit Jugraj Chauhan, Sumeet Dubeay and RG Rudram Productions, 'Chamak', will soon drop on Sony LIV.

## Ragneeti : Wedding reception invite goes viral as Parineeti, Raghav gear up for big day

**NEW DELHI:** The reception invite of Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha, who are all set to tie the wedding knot in Lake City Udaipur this month, has gone viral on social media. A picture of the reception card has gone viral on social media. The card is ivory and gold in colour, and it reads as: "WITH THE HEAVENLY BLESSINGS OF OUR MOST REVERED SHRI P.N. CHADHA JI SMT. VIMLA CHADHA SMT. USHA & SHRI H.S. SACHDEVA ALKA & SUNIL CHADHA INVITE YOU FOR



THE RECEPTION LUNCH OF THEIR SON RAGHAV AND PARINEETI, DAUGHTER OF REENA & PAWAN CHOPRA ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023 TAJ CHANDIGARH 1:00 PM ONWARDS".

The wedding rituals will be held at Hotel Leela Palace and Udayavilas on September 23-24, according to the sources. During this period, many big personalities from politics and Bollywood will come to Udaipur. If sources are to be believed, mehendi, haldi and sangeet events will start from September 23. Also there are discussions that a reception will be held in Gurugram after the wedding. Several film personalities, including Parineeti's sister Priyanka Chopra and her husband Nick Jonas, and leaders from Delhi and other states are expected to attend the event.

## 'Parineeti-Raghav wedding this month in Udaipur'

**JAIPUR:** AAP party leader Raghav Chadha and actress Parineeti Chopra will reportedly tie the wedding knot in Lake City Udaipur this month, said sources. The wedding rituals will be held at Hotel Leela Palace and Udayavilas on September 23-24, they added. During this period, many big personalities from politics and Bollywood will come to Udaipur. If sources are to be believed, mehendi, haldi and sangeet events will start from September 23.

## Ayushmann : 'I always wanted to make Punjab proud of my work'

**MUMBAI:** Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana said that since he is a Punjabi, it matters to him a lot that the state of Punjab is proud of his body of work. Ayushmann said: "Being a Punjabi, I have always wanted to make Punjab proud of my work, and I'm indebted to the people of Punjab for the love that they have always showered on me." He added: "From my first film, Punjab has cheered me on, supported me through thick and thin and ensured that it always had my back no matter what.



I have only got unconditional love from them." The 38-year-old actor says he is proud to represent Punjabi culture through his movies and songs. Ayushmann said: "Whatever I'm today is because of their blessings, their support, and their feedback. I consider myself lucky to be a Punjabi and to have represented its culture and traditions through my craft."



Indian artist Jagjot Singh Rubal gives final touches on a painting of US President Joe Biden, in Amritsar on Tuesday. The artist, Jagjot Singh made a 7ft by 5ft hand-made painting of US President Joe Biden in Amritsar, to welcome him in India for the G20 Summit. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL AMRITSAR



Farmers from Punjab shout slogans as they hold effigy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a protest against upcoming G20 summit, which will be held in India. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

## 'Reserve' Day Indo-Pak Match in Asia Cup

**SUNIL THAPLIYAL New Delhi** A reserve day has been set aside for this Asia Cup Super Four match for the next encounter between India and Pakistan on September 10. Apart from the final, this is the only match with a reserve day. The change in the match conditions was communicated by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which advised fans to hold on to their tickets in case a reserve day is required. According to the PCB, the



match between India and Pakistan will be made up on September 11 if it is not played on September 10. As a result, the Indian team would have to play two matches in a row. As per the schedule, India will play Bangladesh on September 12. The only match in the Su-

per-4 that has a reserve day is India against Pakistan; all other matches will be cancelled in case of rain. Earlier, on September 2, the match between India and Pakistan was called off due to weather. Due to rain in the middle of the match, only one innings could be played and no balls could be thrown in the second innings. India won the toss and batted first, scoring 266 runs. Neither the spectators on the field nor those watching the India-Pakistan encounter after a year on TV could enjoy the match adequately.



BCCI President Roger Binny and Vice-President Rajeev Shukla arrive to cross the Attari-Wagah border to visit Pakistan for Asia Cup 2023, about 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Amritsar on Monday. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

## Paloma Dhillon among 100 actresses who auditioned for 'Dono' part

**MUMBAI:** Actress Paloma Dhillon, who is making her debut with the upcoming film 'Dono', was among 100 actresses who auditioned for the part in the film. She had to wait for seven months before actually securing the role, and was deemed as the perfect fit for this love story. Excited about this opportunity, Paloma said: "Being part of 'Dono' is a dream come true. It's a relevant tale about today's youth and I can't wait for people to watch the film." The trailer of the film, which was released recently, promises a heartfelt story of two strangers who are trying to make their way around life after moving on from their respective love interests. The film marks the debut of Rajveer Deol, the son of actor Sunny Deol, who is currently basking in the blockbuster success of his recent release 'Gadar 2', and Paloma Thakeria, the daughter of Poanam Dhillon.

## 'Chura liya hai tumne': Asha Bhosle & R.D. Burman's melodious journey, discordant end

Intrinsically talented, both, separately and jointly, gave a new direction to Hindi film music. But to achieve this, Asha Bhosle and Rahul Dev Burman had to surmount a major "hurdle" -- creating a new identity distinct from their illustrious and established kin: elder sibling Lata Mangeshkar and father Sachin Dev Burman. And both succeeded -- with a combination of luck, support, their own undeniable virtuosity, and above all, their first joint effort. Asha Bhosle -- who is still going strong at 90, having worked with four generations of music composers from O.P. Nayyar to A.R. Rehman -- added a sensuous allure and element of forthrightness for the Hindi film heroine, without becoming risqué or boisterous, even as Burman adroitly used pop and jazz to good effect in electrifying film music -- bringing the age of Elvis Presley and the Beatles to India. Rejected at a trial for a film in 1947 as the sound recording engineer "did not like" her voice -- as of her co-singer, who happened to be Kishore Kumar! -- Asha slowly persevered over the next decade as the voice of supporting actors, as her sister and other established



### Bollywood ignores Asha Bhosle's 90th B'day

**MUMBAI:** The legendary playback singer, Asha Bhosle, turned 90 on Friday, and it was disheartening to see that Bollywood celebrities forgot to acknowledge her birthday. Known for her versatility, and melodious voice, Asha is one of the most successful singers in Hindi cinema though her body of work extends beyond just the Hindi cinema. In her career spanning over eight decades she has recorded songs for films and albums in various Indian languages. She has received several accolades, in addition to two Grammy nominations. Bhosle is also honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, and Padma Vibhushan. The Guinness Book of World Records acknowledged Asha in 2011 as the most recorded artist in music history. Given her immense contribution to the Indian music industry, and her status as an iconic figure, Bollywood celebrities overlooking her birthday raises questions about the industry's appreciation of its own icons, and the importance of recognising their contributions. It was only in the late 1950s

that two top music directors gave her a break -- Nayyar, for he did not work with Lata Mangeshkar and the elder Burman, who had a falling out with Asha's elder sister. "Le ke pehla pehla pyar" ("CID"; 1956), where Asha stung her ground with main singers Mohammed Rafi and Shamshad Begum, made her a voice to look out for; B.R. Chopra's "Naya Daur" (1957), where she first sang for the heroine, cemented her as a viable voice. It also made her a permanent feature of Chopra's films -- with gems like "Aage bhi na jaane tu" and "Hum jab simatke apki bahon mein aa gaye" ("Waqt"; 1965), and "Uljan suljhe na rasta sujhe na" ("Dhund"; 1973) -- among those standing out. S.D. Burman used Asha's voice to good effect for Madhubala in Kishore Kumar's "Chalti ka naam gaadi" (1958) -- "Main sitaron ka taraana" and "Haal kaisa hai janaab ka" -- as well as in "Kaala Pani", 1958 ("Achha ji main haari, chalo maan jao na"), "Kaala Bazaar" (1960), "Bombai Ka Babu", 1960 ("Deewana mastana hua dil"), "Sujata", 1959, and "Teen Deviyaan", 1965 ("Arre yaar meri tum bhi ho ghazab").



Union Minister Anurag Thakur at an event to collect the country's soil as part of BJP's 'Kalash Yatra' remembering the unsung heroes and martyrs of the freedom struggle, in Phagwara on Monday. PHOTOS: PRABHJOT GILL

## POTPOURRI

## LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2023 Shweta Sharda returns to a Glorious Homecoming in Chandigarh



**KULBIR KALSI Chandigarh** and enthusiastic reception. Her remarkable achievement in winning this prestigious title at the grand finale of LIVA Miss Diva 2023 was celebrated with immense joy and delight by her family and friends. India now pins its hopes on Shweta as she prepares to represent the nation at the upcoming

Miss Universe pageant, with high expectations for her to bring home the coveted crown. Shweta's journey from Chandigarh to making her mark in Mumbai is a testament to her relentless pursuit of her dreams. Raised by a resilient single mother, she learned to embrace courage from a young age in the face of adversity. At the age of 16, she took a leap into the unknown by relocating to Mumbai to chase her aspirations. You may recognize her from your screens, where she has captivated audiences with her performances on renowned shows like DID, Dance Deewane, and Dance+. Her innate, self-taught brilliance even shone through as a choreographer on Jhalak Dikhla Jaa. During her journey to the crown, she also earned the subtitles Times Miss Body Beautiful and Times Miss Talented. Shweta envisions a world where people are open about crucial issues like mental health awareness, gender equality, and accessible education. She aspires to collaborate with organizations that share these goals and leverage her influence to drive positive change, inspiring individuals worldwide to contribute to a better society. Outside of her pageant endeavors, Shweta enjoys a diverse range of hobbies. She is passionate about daily workouts, and her curiosity leads her to engage in meaningful conversations with older individuals, finding wisdom in their stories. Music holds a special place in her heart, and she often finds herself grooving to its beats while sitting by her window.

## 'Ayush Visa': An Initiative of Indian Govt to promote Medical Tourism

**KAJITA SHARMA New Delhi**



In an effort to provide medical benefits to the foreign tourists coming to India every year for traditional treatments, Government of India has started a new initiative. "Ayush Visa" is a special category of Visa that allows foreign nationals to avail the Traditional Indian medicine system in India. This new initiative started by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ayush Visa will be a great help for the foreign nationals who are interested to take medical treatment including therapeutic care, wellness and especially Yoga during their stay in India. With the introduction of this new special visa scheme for foreigners the medical tourism will also boost in India, Union Minister of Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal said at its launch this month. It will also strengthen their endeavor of making Indian traditional medicine a worldwide phenomenon. Every year hundreds of patients

from neighboring countries come to India for medical treatments, organ transplants etc. for which they have to stay in India for a longer time. In the year 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the need of this special visa system for foreign nationals under the Heal in India initiative. After which the Ministry of Health and family welfare and Ministry of Ayush jointly started worked on it to develop one stop Heal in India portal for foreigners. It is an initiative of the Indian Government aimed to promote medical tourism in the country. Heal In India program of Indian Govt. It is a global initiative of the Health Ministry which aims to promote India as a global leader in Health sector and encourage

As we all know that India has a rich history of traditional way of medical treatment. Ayurveda stands to be the most ancient, most widely accepted, practiced and flourished indigenous system of medicine. The other systems of traditional medicine are yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy and Naturopathy. Yoga which has its roots in India has also emerged as the most popular exercise form of treatment not only in India but worldwide. According to the International Yoga Federation around 300 million people practice yoga globally, with 36 million in US alone. Yoga tourism is also growing fast. We have certified yoga teachers in Indonesia, Thailand, Canada, UK, France, Germany and Europe. The practice of Yoga is a well established form of spiritual and physical exercise in Spain and Bali. The Ayush Visa initiative of the government along with traditional way of treatment will also give a significant boost to India's Medical Tourism system.