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LAUNCH CRUSADE AGAINST **POLLUTION: PUNJAB CM BHAGWANT SINGH MANN MAKES APPEAL ON I-DAY**



BMW RECALLS 1.3 MILLION VEHICLES IN CHINA THAT MAY HAVE TAKATA AIRBAG INFLATORS



SARA CELEBRATES 'ABBA' SAIF ALI KHAN'S BIRTHDAY WITH BROTHER IBRAHIM, **KAREENA KAPOOR**

Doctor's Rape & Murder: Health services hit in Chandigarh, Punjab CHANDIGARH/AMRTISAR:

Health services were severely impacted in various hospitals/Institutes like SGRDID-SR Amritsar and PGIMER Chandigarh, the premier health institute here with a daily footfall of around 10,000 patients, and across Punjab as all Outpatient Department (OPD) services were shut on

in Kolkata. For the last five days, the institute was attending to around 5,000 follow-up patients in OPDs from 8 A.M. to 9.30 A.M., with no new

registration of patients.

Saturday, protesting against

the alleged rape and murder

of a 31-year-old PG trainee

The Faculty Association of PGIMER in Chandigarh had decided to support the daylong strike call of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) along with other associations in solidarity with resident doctors, following the gruesome

However, emergency and critical care services will continue as before, an official spokesperson for PGIMER said. Holding placards, the protesting doctors and students demanded action against then principal of the medical



(CPA) for healthcare profes-

In a media briefing by the PGI Faculty Association to apprise the public about the ongoing resident doctors' protest and demands put forth by them, it said the associaheinous act that happened

college and implementation in RG Kar Medical College of the Central Protection Act and Hospital. "We demand immediate implementation of CPA and justice to the victim and victim's family by awarding strict punishment to all the perpetrators involved in the crime, "they said.

In Punjab, OPD services remained crippled in 829 tion strongly condemns the Aam Aadmi Clinics, 550 rural medical dispensaries, medical

colleges and primary health centres.

Also private hospitals and nursing homes have shut OPD services for 24 hours on Saturday.

"All private hospitals and nursing homes have responded positively to the call made by their union to withdraw healthcare services from 6 A.M. on August 17 till 6 A.M.

on August 18, "Sunit Hind, secretary, Punjab Hospitals and Nursing Homes' Association, said.

CREATE

In Faridkot town, over 200 resident doctors at state-run Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital kept all non-essential and elective services, including OPDs, ward duties and operation theatres

CBDT Reports 22 pc Surge in Direct Tax Collections

Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has released data indicating a significant rise in direct tax collection for the current fiscal year.

As of August 11, the net direct tax collection, after adjusting for refunds, reached Rs 6.92 trillion, marking a 22.48 per cent increase from the Rs 5.65 trillion collected during the same period last year.

Personal income tax collections have shown remarkable growth, surging by 30 per cent year-on-year to Rs 4.47 trillion. Corporate taxes, while growing at a more modest rate of 6 per cent, still contributed Rs 2.22 trillion to the total. A noteworthy development is the performance of the Securities Transaction Tax, which has more than doubled compared to the previous year, amounting to Rs 21,599 crore. The government has set ambitious targets for the fiscal year 2025, aiming to collect Rs 10.2 trillion in corporate taxes and Rs 11.87 trillion in personal income taxes.

Before adjusting for refunds, the total direct tax collection stood at Rs 8.13 trillion, a 22.19 per cent increase from the previous year's Rs 6.55 trillion. This figure comprises Rs 3.08 trillion in corporate taxes and Rs 4.81 trillion in personal income tax

The trend of personal tax col-



lections outpacing corporate tax growth has continued for the econd consecutive year.

Analysts attribute this to rising incomes, changes in dividend taxation policy, and improved compliance through technological advancements.

Other taxes, including equalisation levy, fringe benefit tax, and various legacy taxes, have also seen an uptick, rising to Rs 1,617 crore from Rs 1,383 crore in the previous fiscal year.

During the recent budget presentation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised the government's commitment to simplifying the tax structure, enhancing taxpayer services, and reducing litigation while ensuring adequate revenue for development and welfare schemes.

The finance minister also noted the increasing adoption of simplified tax regimes, with 58 per cent of corporate tax revenue in FY 2022-23 coming from the new regime, and over two-thirds of personal income taxpayers opting for the new structure in the last fiscal

Bill Liao Inam Pao Scheme: 2601 winners win prizes worth ₹1.52 crore: FM Cheema



the remarkable success of the "Bill Liao Inam Pao" scheme, which has garnered widespread participation and enthusiasm among the public, Punjab Finance, Planning, Excise and Taxation Minister Advocate Harpal Singh Cheema on Saturday said that a total of 97443 bills were uploaded on the Mera Bill app, resulting in 2601 winners receiving prizes worth Rs 51, 62, 335.

Revealing this in a press communique issued here, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said that the scheme has also led to a significant increase in tax compliance, with penalties worth Rs 7, 92, 72, 741 being charged to those who found guilty of irregularities in bill issuance. "To date, penalties worth Rs 6, 16, 98, 869 have been recovered", he added.

Adding further, the Finance Minister said that the prizes worth Rs 1, 10, 22, 885 have been already distributed to 1892

Sharad Pawar slams PM **Modi for 'one nation** one election' pitch



Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar nouncement citing the Election Commission's decision not to announce the Assembly election in Maharashtra is contradictory.

"PM Modi, while speaking from

the Red Fort on August 15, announced that the elections across the country should be held simultaneously proposing 'one nation one election'. However, less than 12 hours after making that announcement, we heard that the elections of J& K and Haryana were announced while Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections were not announced. PM Modi is proposing the policy of holding elections simultaneously while the Election Commission's decision regarding the elections in Maharashtra is contradictory,

Ardas at Akal Takht Sahib in memory of lakhs of Punjabis who lost their lives during 1947 partition

AMRITSAR: In memory of lakhs of Punjabis who lost their lives during the partition of the country in 1947, an ardas (Sikh prayer) was organised today at Sri Akal Takht Sahib by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC). After the bhog (concluding ceremony) on Saturday slammed Prime of Sri Akhand Path Sahib, the Minister Narendra Modi on hazuri raagi jatha of Sri Harbani Kirtan. Ardas was offered by Bhai Prem Singh and the holy hukamnama was recited by Giani Malkeet Singh, head granthi of Akal Takht Sahib. said that Punjab, the heritage On the occasion of the event, head granthi of Sri Harmandar Sahib and Jathedar of Akal Takht Sahib Giani Raghbir Singh, SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami, and other prominent personalities were present.

Addressing the gathering on this occasion, Giani Raghbir Singh said that during the partition of 1947, Punjabis suffered a lot, and especially the Sikhs suffered the most. The line that was drawn during this partition was drawn on the chest of Punjab. He



country of the Sikhs, was divided into two parts, due to which the Gurdwara Sahibs, dear to the lives of the Sikhs were separated. The Sikhs who owned large lands and businesses in the Western Punjab (now Pakistan) had to leave their properties and millions of Punjabis lost their lives during these partitionrelated disturbances. He said that the leaders of India forgot the promises they made with the Sikhs and on the contrary, called the Sikhs as criminals by profession. He said that it

is sad that even after 77 years. the governments of both countries have not even said two words of regret for the people

who were killed at that time. Giani Raghbir Singh said that injustice to Sikhs continues even today. Many Sikhs have been lodged in jails for three decades even after completing their sentences and the government is not releasing them. He questioned the Union Home Minister that he should tell under which law and authority the Sikh prisoners are kept in jail even after completion of their sentences.

He also asked why there is a separate law for Sikhs in the country. He urged the Sikh community to renounce factionalism and mutual division and unite in the struggle against injustice. He said to tackle and prevent conspiracy to divide the Sikhs on social media, the attacks on Sikh Marvada and traditions, the Summit, Modi also assured the khs should be matured in Gurmat (teachings of Sikh Gurus) by getting initiated into the Sikh way of living and connecting to Gurbani.

On the occasion, SGPC member Gurinderpal Singh Gora, head granthi Giani Malkeet Singh, SGPC secretary Partap Singh, Balwinder Singh Kahlwan, Kulwinder Singh Ramdas, Tejinder Singh Padda, Preetpal Singh, manager of Sri Darbar Sahib. Bhagwant Singh Dhangera, assistant secretary Balwinder Singh Khairabad, Harbhajan Singh Vakta, superintendent Nishan Singh, Malkit Singh Beharwal, manager Narinder Singh, additional manager Gurpreet Singh Rode, Gurtinderpal Singh and Sangat were present.

'Terrorism, extremism and separatism serious threats to our societies': PM **Modi at Global South Summit**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged concerns over the consequences of global uncertainties on developing countries, especially in areas of food and energy securities.

In his opening remarks at the third Voice of Global South dia's unwavering commitment to extend full support to them in various key areas, including in the domain of digital public infrastructure. "We are not only facing the challenges of climate change, but now there are also concerns about health security, food security, and energy secu-

rity," he said. The prime minister also referred to challenges of terrorism, extremism and separatism. "Terrorism, extremism and separatism remain serious threats to our societies," he said. "Technology divide and new economic and social challenges related to technology are also emerging," Modi said. He said, "The global governance and financial institutions created in the last century have been unable to meet the challenges of this century. Modi said the Voice of Global South Summit has become a platform to discuss issues relating to development.



During India's leadership of G20, it made the agenda of the grouping based on expectations, aspirations and priorities of the Global South, the prime minister said. Modi also said that India took forward G20 in a development-oriented approach. India hosted the summit in a virtual format. "Today we are meeting at a time when there is an atmosphere of uncertainty all around. The world has not yet completely come out of the impact of Covid. On the other hand, the situation of war has created challenges for our development journey," Modi said. The strength of the Global South lies in its unity, Modi said, adding, "On the strength of this unity we will move towards a new direction".

"Voice of Global South Summit is a platform where we are giving voice to the needs and aspirations of those who have been unheard till now," he added.

IMF Deputy Chief Bullish on Índia's **Economic Prospects**



attention of economic analysts worldwide, Dr. Gita Gopinath, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), expressed optimism about India's economic trajectory. Speaking to India Today, Dr. Gopinath projected that India could ascend to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, a milestone that would mark a significant shift in the global economic landscape. The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook' report has revised India's growth projection for the 2024-25 fiscal year upward to 7%, surpassing the Indian government's own forecast of 6.5%. This bullish outlook is underpinned by several key factors, according to Dr. Gopinath. "India's growth performed better than expected during the last fiscal year," Dr. Gopinath noted, highlighting the carryover effects influencing

Prez Murmu, PM Modi pay tributes to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar paid tributes to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death

anniversary on Friday at his memorial 'Sadaiv Atal' here. Union Ministers and NDA leaders also paid their homage to the former Prime Minister.

Home Minister Amit Shah in his tribute to the former PM wrote on X in Hindi, Whenever there is talk of political correctness, loyalty to national interest and steadthe country, Atal ji will definitely be remembered. On one hand, by establishing BJP, he popularised the ideology of

he strengthened the country strategically and economically. I pay my deepest respects to Bharat Ratna respected Atal ji on his death anniversary." Minister for Road Trans-

port & Dighways Nitin Gadkari in a post on X, said, 'Former Prime Minister Bharat ipayee ji is a source of inspifastness towards principles in ration for crores of workers of the country. As a skilled organiser, Atalji's life based on ideology and principles was always dedicated to the nanational interest, on the other tion. Millions of salutes to him hand, as the Prime Minister, today on his memorial day."

Centre government deliberately doing injustice with Sikhs in cases of Sikh prisoners: Dhami **JAGMOHAN SINGH**

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) raised sharp questions to the Government of India after passing a resolution in its executive meeting today, in the cases of Balwant Singh Rajoana who is facing the death penalty and other Bandi Singhs (Sikh prisoners) and also decided to send a report of the entire matter to Akal Takht the highest Sikh temporal seat.

Addressing the press conference after the SGPC executive meeting, the SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Ratna revered Atal Bihari Va- Dhami said that the Government of India is deliberately oppressing and doing injustice to the Sikhs. A big example of this is the discrimination adopted in the matter of releasing Sikh prisoners. He said that this matter was seriously discussed in the executive meeting and it was



agreed that a detailed report should be sent to Akal Takht Sahib in this regard so that the Jathedars would provide lead according to the community's

He said that although the SGPC has been raising its voice for the release of Sikh prisoners for a long time and is taking up the matter at all levels, the sad aspect is that the five-member committee formed by Akal Takht Sahib to take up the cases of Rajoana and other Sikh prisoners with the Centre government, has not been given any positive response by the government despite continuous efforts made by the panel.

He said that in response to the letter sent to the Prime Minister for an appointment, his office asked the SGPC to contact the Home Minister's office. After correspondence with the Ministry of Home Affairs, at the beginning of February of this year, the five-member panel was given a schedule for a meeting. However, this meeting was cancelled a day before the scheduled time and the SGPC had to cancel the booked flights. Even after this, no response is given on continuous efforts to meet with the Home Minister. He said this negative attitude is not good.

Loss worth cores due to closure of Shambhu border since past 185 days

SATISH HANDA

A ray of hope was seen by the residents, traders and industry owners of Haryana and Puniab states suffering huge loss since past about 185 days due to closure of highway at Punjab and Haryana border Shambhu, where farmers from Punjab are protesting since 10th February this year demanding to move to Delhi in support of their demands, when Haryana government sealed the border deploying police force and paramilitary staff as a result people in trade and industry, transporters and travelling passengers on this route are suffering a lot since past several months. Those suffering due to the sealed border were shocked when the Haryana state government moved



a writ in the Supreme Court of India in protest of the High Court decision to open the sealed border. Now after the recent Supreme Court direction to open a part of the highway enabling emergency services are not affected residents of both states may find relief to some extent.

Shambhu on Haryana and Punjab border is an important transit place and the

meeting point between Delhi and Jammu-Kashmir and for the people travelling between Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir and rest part of country from where between 60 and 65 thousand vehicles pass daily having a Toll Plaza near Shambhu border operated by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) suffered heavy revenue loss worth Rs 135 crore towards toll tax so far.

Launch crusade against pollution: CM listens grievances of people during Punjab CM makes appeal on I-Day 'Sarkar Tuhaade Dwaar' at Jalandhar

farmers had to pay a heavy price for over-exploitation of natural resources in terms of water and fertile soil, Puniab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday appealed to people to launch a crusade to check environmental pollution and preserve natural resources on lines of teachings of Gurus.

Addressing the gathering after hoisting the Tricolour at the state-level function to mark Independence Day here, the Punjab Chief Minister recalled the immense contribution of Punjabis in the national freedom struggle.

CM Mann said Punjabis had made the maximum sacrifices during the freedom struggle, adding more than 80 per cent of the people who attained martyrdom during the Independence movement or were exiled, hailed from Punjab.

CM Mann said heroic gems like Baba Ram Singh, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev,

ED attached assets

of value Rs 122

crore of Haryana



Lala Lajpat Rai, Udham Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Diwan Singh Kalepani and several others shed every drop of their blood to achieve the ultimate goal of Independence. Likewise, CM Mann said, Punjabis have played a leading role in preserving the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country in

the post-Independence era too. He also said the hard working exporting "grains to other coun1960s when we were dependent for grains on other countries".

CM Mann said the country can progress only if Punjab is prosperous and on the path of

CM Mann added that curbing environmental pollution was a serious challenge and all Punjabis should play a proactive role in it. The CM said the government has launched a crackdown against the drug menace by adopting a 'zerotolerance' policy against it and added that 14, 381 drug peddlers have been put behind bars and 10, 393 First Information Reports (FIRs) have been launched against them.

Properties worth Rs 173 crore belonging to 379 drug smugglers have been confiscated and more are in the process of being

CM Mann said it was a matter of great satisfaction that the conviction rate against drug peddlers was 83 per cent.

Hooda said, people in trade



JALANDHAR: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday held Sarkaar Tuhaade Dwaar program at his official residence in the city and resolved the grievances of

The Chief Minister during interaction with people said that this first of its kind initiative is aimed at facilitating the people. He said that now the governments are not run from Chandigarh but it is being managed from the cities and towns across the

state. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that now the officers are visiting villages to resolve the grievances of people whereas earlier they had to visit the government offices.

The Chief Minister said that he had set up his residence in Jalandhar so as to facilitate people from Majha and Doaba region for getting their works done. He said that it is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that people who are coming here with complaints are getting their works done. Bhagwant Singh Mann said

desired results and is acting as a catalyst for resolving the issues of public on one hand and ensuring feedback to the government

Meanwhile, a woman who had came all the way from Ludhiana praised the Chief Minister for this unique initiative. She said that her matter has been pending since years as none of the previous governments had ever bothered to get her work done. However, she said that now the Chief Minister has patiently heard him and passed on necessary directions to get her work done.

Meanwhile, Sukhwinder Kaur who had also came to meet the Chief Minister said that this is a laudable step aimed at mitigating woes of common man. She said that the Chief Minister has given necessary directions to officers for getting her work done at the earliest. She said that this initiative of the Chief Minister is unmatchable as none of the other leaders had bothered about it.

Time has arrived to wipe out BJP govt from Haryana: **Deepender Hooda**



Kurukshetra/Pehowa

Welcoming the announcement of the Assembly elections in the state, Congress MP Deepender Hooda while talking to media persons said the time has finally arrived to wipe the ruling BJP government from Haryana by the residents of the state. Deepender Hooda while holding 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' campaign in the town said that similar to the farmers wait for the rainfall in the fields, people of Haryana were waiting for the Election Commission's announcement and a new shine on their faces is visible since most of the people in the state want to get rid of the ruling BJP government in Haryana.

The Rohtak MP said, Congress has raised some questions regarding fast increasing unemployment, crime, illegal immigration, inflation and drug addiction among people in the state, especially in youths to the ruling BJP government, but it has not been able to give satisfactory answers. The BJP must give the account of its 10-year rule in Haryana, Hooda said that in democracy, the public and the opposition seek account from he ruling party, but in Haryana BJP government seeking account from the opposition, which indicates the BJP has accepted that it is going to sit in the opposition

soon in Haryana state.

Hooda said by introducing Kaushal Rozgar Nigam and Agnipath Yojana, the BJP government had trapped people in the net of temporary jobs without reservation, without merit and without pension, moreover the BJP government has crushed the rights of SCs, OBCs, abolished two lakh permanent jobs and converted the remaining into temporary jobs on contract basis. He said, Congress has already declared that soon after coming to power in Haryana would provide relief to the people by increase old age monthly pension to Rs 6000, provide benefits of old pension scheme to retired persons, make available LPG cylinder at Rs 500 Advocate Dhami requested the each to consumers, provide 300 Congress has already prepared a roadmap for five years rule in Haryana, assuring to fight against unemployment, corruption in government offices, increasing crimes and drug addiction among

> people in the state. On the other hand, Haryana CM Saini blamed Congress for making fake, baseless allegations abha polls who refused to share in-spite of Supreme Court of India orders

'Inspector Raaj' will be abolished when Congress comes to power

and resilient farmers of the state

acted as a pivot for heralding

an era of green revolution in

the country thereby making

the country self-sufficient in

food production. CM Mann

said Punjabi farmers had to pay

a heavy price for it by over-ex-

ploitation of natural resources.

food growers, the nation is today

The CM said due to Punjabi



SATISH HANDA

Enforcement Department (ED) attached nearly 145 value worth Rs 122 crore including more than 100 acres of agricultural land, commercial plots and buildings of leading political leaders and highly influential persons across Haryana state in Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonepat, Karnal, Yamunanagar, Panchkula, Chandigarh and Mohali in Punjab belonging to Surinder Pawar Congress MLA in Sonepat, a former INLD MLA Dilbag Singh closely related to Abahy Chautala, Inderpal Singh a renowned builder, Manoj Wadhwa Coneader from Karı and many others. Their properties were attached under the anti-money

Enforcement Directorate on August 12, 2024. Surinder Panwar and former MLA Dilbag Singh were allegedly involved in illegal mining. ED team had conducted raid at Panwar's Sector 15 residence in Panipat on January 4 this year allegedly running illegal mining business in Haryana and Rajasthan to collect important documents against him, which continued for 36 hours and arrested him on July 20 this year, presently lodged in Ambala Central jail under trial in money laundering case

for amount worth Rs 25

Similarly, action was

laundering law by the

taken by ED against Dilbag Singh a former MLA alleged having number of properties registered in his name and running a syndicate managed and controlled by him indulged in largescale illegal mining of sand, boulder and gravel in the Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana and some adjacent districts. said a spokesperson of the central agency. The team had raided his Yamunanagar office near Maharana Partap Chowk and farm house at Kalesar and claimed recovery of Rs 5 crore currency notes, three gold biscuits, more than 100 imported English wine bottles, five imported rifles, 300 cartridges and documents of several properties. After a five days ED raid, he was arrested on January 8 this year, but released on bail

after a month.

in Haryana: Hooda assured during Trade & Industry conference



Panipat

Addressing a large gathering of people from trade and industry in a conference at Panipat on Sunday, the chief guest former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that prior to year 2014 when Congress employment and in the field or will have to leave Haryana

of sports in the country, but today the state has become No. 1 in crimes and unemployment and in case Congress comes to the power after coming assembly polls likely to be held in October this year, it is assured that 'Industry Raaj' will be abolished immediately from the state, whereas criminals was ruling in the state Hary- and anti-social elements will ana was No. 1 in investment, be either pushed behind bars

property ID and 'Meri fasal Mera Biyora' Portal Hooda said these will be removed

and industry are powerful pillars for the development of a state and its prosperity depends upon the traders, industries, farmers and traders similar to an ATM. On the issue of GST, Hooda said the amount paid Rs 7 towards tax is being reimbursed for the develo-ments with hardly Re 1. Former CM said that the Congress government after coming to power in the state will immediately roll back taxes on fruits, food-grains and shoes of value less than Rs 500 as imposed by the ruling government. As regards PPP,

in the state when Congress

comes to power since these

are providing no gain to the

Attention Chandigarh residents: Tricity Metro Project proposal hanging in files since past 16 years yet likely to be delayed

SATISH HANDA Chandigarh

On a question raised by the Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari regarding the Chandigarh Metro project in the recent Parliament session on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs there is no proposal for this project or any detailed project report (DPR) has been submitted to them by the Chandigarh administration to the central government. Information reveals, in July last year, 23 members of the Unified Metro Transportation Authority had approved nearly 82 kilometer Tricity Metro project and decided to extend the scope of this project in three phases: from New Chandigarh to Sector 28 Panchkula (about 31.70 km), from Sukhna Lake to ISBT Zirakpur via ISBT Mohali and Chandigarh Airport (about 35.70



fixed for its completion.

Chandigarh Metro project to cover Tricity for which nearly 140 meetings have already been Metro Project was planned in a phase-wise manner and requested details of the progress made so far and the reasons for the delay in this project and whether any timeline had been

held so far and huge amount worth crores of rupees has been spent so far, but this important project is still hanging in files since past about 16 years, which is now becoming a political issue in coming Vidhan Sabha polls and the Congress is likely to 'gherao' ruling BJP government on this burning issue and taking no action to finalise this most wanted project for the conve-It is really surprising that the nience of residents of Tricity.

Three years old brain dead child likely to gives new life to many by donating her organs

Chandigarh

It was an act of real appreciafamily of a three year old brain

daughter of Lal Singh a resident of Kaimbwala, who lost her life after being hit by a car donated her organs to give a new lease of life to many those in dire need. Kanchan was admitted to the GMSH-16 on July 28 and later referred to the PGIMER on the same day, despite all efforts of doctors who could not be saved, was declared brain dead on August 6. However, her father made a brave decision and consented to donate all her organs to save many lives. Under unimaginable grief, the father of a child's decision to donate his beloved daughter's

and the noble gesture to save

dead female child Kanchan multiple lives due to organ donation will forever be re-membered and appreciated," said Prof Vivek Lal, Director, PGIMER.

A 26-year-old female matching recipient from Chandigarh whose both kidneys had stopped working was lucky enough resulting in the successful retrieval and transplantation of Kanchan's both of kidneys were transplanted into her body to save her life. Information reveals, the entire process was coordinated by the PGIMER staff, involving extensive laboratory investigations and inter-departmental collaboration to ensure the organs is an act of humanity successful completion of the transplant.



Chandrachud wrote in the visitor's book, "A true fulfillment of a dream to pray at divine Harmandir Sahib. A special blessing to be able to pray and worship here, in service of the nation and humanity." On this occasion, SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami honoured Justice Chandrachud with a golden model of Sri Harmandar Sahib, Siropao

(robe of honour), and a set of

historical books and handed

over a memorandum to stop

the hate propaganda being

done against Sikhs on social media platforms. Harjinder Singh Dhami



Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud

said that Sikhs have made great sacrifices for India, and some mischievous people are deliberately making hateful comments on social media platforms about Sikh principles, history, Maryada (conduct), and identity. He said that in this regard resolutions

have been passed during the General House sessions of the SGPC and sent in the past to the Government of India and the state governments, but the phenomenon of hatred against Sikhs continues. Governments are also not taking any concrete steps to stop this hatred.

serious issue while holding the highest position in the Indian judicial system. On this occasion, SGPC Gen-

eral Secretary Bhai Rajinder Singh Mehta, Member Bhai Gurcharan Singh Grewal, Advocate Bhagwant Singh Sialka, S. Surjit Singh Tugalwala, Secretary Partap Singh, Amritsar Deputy Commissioner Amritsar Ghanshyam Thori, Commissioner of Police Ranjit Singh Dhillon, assistant secretaries Jaswinder Singh Jassi, Shahbaz Singh and Harbhajan Singh Vakta, Legal Advisor Advocate Amanbir Singh Siali, Manager Sri Darbar Sahib Narinder Singh, information officer Amritpal Singh, Jatinderpal Singh, Sarabjit Singh, federation leader Bhai Paramjit Singh Dharam Singhwala were present.

on BJP demanding «Hisab» for 13 irregularities during 10 years when Congress rule in Haryana, raising question as regard forcible acquired farmers valuable agriculture land sold to the builders, offering jobs against Kharchi-Parchi>, why Congress had alliance with Kejriwalss government during recent Lok SYL canal water with Haryana

Six held with Rs 13.66 lakh fake currency notes



PARVESH HANDA Yamunanagar

Police team of Yamunanagar CIA-1 staff arrested six persons of a gang allegedly printing and supplying fake Rs 200 and Rs 500 currency notes. The accused were identified as Arun, alias Lusi, and Shahrukh, both residents of Yamunanagar, Prabhjot a resident of village Gola in Ambala district, Ashok Kumar resident of Raipur Rani in Panchkula district,

Om Singh resident of Chandigarh and Rahul resident of Patiala. They were arrested after raids at Yamunanagar and Panchkula districts on Saturday. The police seized fake currency notes of value worth Rs 13.66 lakh, a printer, a laptop and plain papers during the raids at their office in Peer Muchalla in Zirakpur. CIA-1 in-charge Yadvender

Singh said that based on in-

puts, they arrested Arun who

was earlier booked in a similar

police remand.

drug smuggling. Police had recovered fake currency notes of value Rs 91,200 in fake currency notes from them, and based on their information conducted raids near Panchkula where the notes were printed arresting the rest of the four accused with the remaining fake currency notes seized from their possession along with Laptop, Printer, paper and ink. During preliminary investigation the arrested accused said that Prabhjot had learnt manufacturing fake currency notes on U-tube. They had opened new office at Peer Muchalla in Zeerakpur on a week earlier and had already supplied 11.50 lakh fake currency notes. The CIA-1 in-charge said Ashok, Prabhjot and Om Singh were presented before court on Saturday and sent to a three-day

Payments worth crores alleged released on fake bills

SATISH HANDA

Ambala

The residents of Ambala raise questions over no action taken against those officers who released payments to the contractors and suppliers on the basis of fake bills in which work was either not done or material was not supplied in several beneficial projects which are left incomplete for a long time. During a recent press conference with the Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta who took charge a few days ago, he assured to investigate the matter and visited these projects left incomplete since a long time on which an amount worth hundreds crore has already been spent.

Surprisingly, the concerned officers of PWD (B&R) released payments of fake bills in which the contractor had not done work or goods were not sup-



plied. Information reveals, when the frauds attracted headlines in the newspapers government had assured to take action against those involved in embezzlements, transferred few of them just for an eyewash, but no stern action was taken against any one, rather few of the alleged accused were promoted and the case was dumped in files. However, PWD (B&R) has failed to recover the excess amounts paid to the contractors and the suppliers without work done or receipt of goods and several

buildings are left incomplete in twin city Ambala thus causing

heavy loss to the government. Parth Gupta DC Ambala assured to look into the matter after having a meeting with PWD (B&R) officers. According to the residents of twin city Ambala as well as political parties in opposition, why no action has been taken against the contractors and suppliers who raised fake bills as well as concerned government employees released payments on the basis of fake bills for their

self-vested interest, demanding to hand over the case to the state Anti-corruption Bureau (ACB) or CBI for investigation in the embezzlements. A fraud worth crores of rupees was allegedly xposed in the construction of the football stadium in War Heroes Memorial Stadium Ambala Cantt in which the project cost increased to Rs 115 crore and excess payment worth Rs 65.87 crore was released to the contractor by the concerned government staff without receipt of material at site.



Congress faces backlash over Shah Bano, Emergency after Congress launches 100 day Jairam slams PM Modi's 'communal' civil code remark 'Save Constitution Campaign

on Thursday questioned Congress' claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "communal civil code" remark made during his Independence Day speech was a "gross insult" to B.R. Ambedkar.

They argued that it was the Nehru-Gandhi family which undermined the Constitution shaped by Baba Saheb Ambed-

The debate heated up following Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day speech from the Red Fort on Thursday, wherein he criticised the existing civil codes as "communal" and "discriminatory", making a compelling argument for adopting the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

On social media, critics and experts are pointing out that it was the Congress government which overturned the Shah Bano case judgment and imposed Emergency, which many view as a flagrant disregard for the Constitution

"Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution was always secular. It was the way Nehru-Gandhi Parivar implemented it that



turned the SC judgement in the Shah Bano case? Was it Dr. Ambedkar who mangled the Constitution during Emergency? In fact, it is Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution which has Article 44 as Directive Principles - something which successive generations of Nehru Parivar have scuttled," the post added.

The X post went on to say, "Here is what Dr. Ambedkar said when the provision for a Uniform Civil Code was being debated - 'My friend, Mr Hussain Imam, in rising to support the amendments, asked whether throughout the country. Then it was possible and desirable to

"Was it Ambedkar who over-have a uniform code of laws for a country so vast as this is. Now I must confess that I was very much surprised at that statement for the simple reason that we have in this country a uniform code of laws covering almost every aspect of human relationship. We have a uniform and complete Criminal Code operating throughout the

country, which is contained in

the Penal Code and the Criminal

Procedure Code. We have the

Law of Transfer of Property,

which deals with property re-

lations and which is operative

there are the Negotiable Instru-

ments Acts. I can cite innumerable enactments which would prove that this country has practically a Civil Code, uniform in its content and applicable to the whole of the country. The only province the Civil Law has not been able to invade so far is Marriage and Succession'."

'So Jairam, better start schooling third time fail Rahul Gandhi on true history of his family rather than continuously feeding him with venomous lies, the expert pointed out.

Earlier, Congress' Communications chief Jairam Ramesh wrote on X, "The non-biological PM's capacity for malice, mischief, and maligning of history knows no bounds. It was on full display today from the Red Fort. To say that we have had a "communal civil code" till now is a gross insult to Dr. Ambedkar, who was the greatest champion of reforms in Hindu personal laws that became a reality by the mid 1950s. These reforms had been bitterly opposed by

the RSS and the Jan Sangh." Ramesh also quoted a 21st Law Commission's consultation paper on reform of family law dated August 31, 2018, which said UCC "is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage".

New Delhi

The Congress today launched 100-day Samvidhan Rakshak Campaign' to enrol people as protectors of the Constitution, who will work to protect Constitution at all costs. This campaign will conclude on November 26, 2024, to coincide with 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution of India.

Launching the campaign here today, senior Congress leader and Treasurer Ajay Maken, along with the Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav and Chairman of the SC department of the AICC, Rajesh Lilothia, said that the campaign will cover all the seventy assembly egments in Delhi.

Maken said, the challenges and threats to the Constitution were still prevailing as the same people were in power who wanted to change the Constitution before the elections.

Maken pointed out, India was the only country in the region, which was strong and stable while all others were facing turmoil and unrest. He observed that India succeeded as a democracy just because of the Constitution.

He said there was a continuous

Maken said, as Congress ader Rahul Gandhi had committed during his campaign that the party will ensure to defend and protect the constitution at all costs, the campaign was being launched all across the country.

Maken said, so far three lakh Constitution Protection Volunteers had enrolled themselves. He said, the Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and he himself had also enrolled as the Constitution Protection Volunteers.

Giving further details of the campaign, Chairman of the SC department of the AICC Rajesh Lilothia said that the same forces who had opposed the Constitution while it was being drafted and had even burnt its copies were in power today.

threat to the Constitution.

Lilothia disclosed that the campaign will be extended across the country to every village. He said, two Constitution Protection Volunteers, one male and one female, will be identified in every village who will be trained for the purpose.

He said the campaign in Delhi will conclude on November 26 with a massive programme in Talkatora Stadium. This will also mark 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution.

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav said, the campaign was being launched at the right time since the forces who wanted to change it were still in power and the threat to the Constitution

MUDA CASE Karnataka Guv gives consent for prosecution against CM



BENGALURU: In a major development, Karnataka Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot gave sanction for prosecution against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday in connection with the irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The development is a major setback for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Congress government in Karnataka.

The Karnataka Governor's Secretariat released an official order in this regard on behalf of Governor Gehlot. R Prabhushankar, Special

Secretary to the Governor issued an order in this regard on Saturday.

"As directed by the Hon'ble Governor, I am enclosing herewith, the copy of the decision of the Competent Authority on the request of sanction for prosecution against the Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah, under Section 17 of the Prevention of the Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences mentioned in the petitions, the order stated. Social activists Pradeep Kumar SP, TJ Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna had filed petitions against CM Siddaramaiah in connection with the alleged MUDA land scam. They had claimed that CM Siddaramaiah had misused his office to create fraudulent documents over 3.17 acres of land near Mysuru city and got 14 sites allotted from the MUDA

in the name of his wife. CM Siddaramaiah had refuted the allegations and maintained that the Congress government would fight politically and legally if the permission for prosecution against him in the case was granted by the Governor. The Karnataka Cabinet had also taken a decision and advised the Governor to reject "The central BJP government the petitions against CM Sidcannot tolerate the rise of a leader daramaiah and not to accord

Congress party & Karnataka govt stand firm behind **Siddaramaiah: Shivakumar**



BENGALURU: Deputy Chief BJP's attempt to turn the Gov-Minister and Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar declared on Saturday that the party and the state government stand firmly behind Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asserting that there is no question of his resignation.

Shivakumar made these comments during a press conference to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the MUDA scam.

"A conspiracy is underway to destabilise the government by misusing the Governor's office and trapping Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in false cases. The entire Congress party and the government stand firmly behind Siddaramaiah. There is no question of his resignation, "declared Dy CM Shivakumar. "Siddaramaiah is our Chief Minister and will continue as Chief Minister. Our Chief Minister will not succumb to any pressure. He will continue in his role, and together we will continue to serve the people of the state," the deputy CM asserted.

"Not just the Congress party, but the entire INDIA bloc will stand with our Chief Minister. False cases have been created against him. Therefore, we will continue our fight within the legal framework and politically among the people, "he said.

We will fight against the

ernor's office into a BJP office. We must protect democracy and the Constitution. The permission for investigation against the Chief Minister is unconstitutional. We respect the law and trust that the judicial system will not allow injustice. We are prepared for a legal battle, " he added.

rom the backward classes as Chief Minister for the second time. We will fight against this conspiracy," he said. "The Governor's office should not be a puppet of the BJP. Our government allocates Rs 56, 000 crore annually for the poor. This conspiracy is aimed at undermining a government that has implemented such historic schemes. This attempt to remove the government will not succeed under any circumstances, " he declared, "Various courts have guided how Governors should act in such cases. Examples include cases from West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Telangana, and Punjab," he said.

"This morning, the Governor made a constitutionally and democratically damaging decision. We had responded to the notice issued on July 26, 2024, from the Governor on August 1 with a detailed reply. We also requested a cabinet meeting to reject this malicious complaint, Dy CM Shivakumar stated.

Army captain killed in encounter with terrorists in J&K's Doda



FW DESK

An army officer lost his life in an encounter with terrorists in the Akar forest area of Doda on Wednesday. According to official sources, Captain Deepak ed the operation from the front, guiding his team in their efforts to eliminate the terrorists. During the intense exchange of fire, Captain Deepak sustained gunshot wounds. He was evacuated to a hospital but succumbed to

ARABIND MOHAPATRA Those who know him say that his expertise and experience Odisha government had ap-

Bhubaneswar

pointed 1990 batch IPS officer, well known for his achievements, as the new Yogesh Bahadur Khurania as the new director general of police (DGP) of the state. He takes over from Arun Sarangi. The move has been hailed widely as Khurania enjoys the reputation of being

police officer. Sources said that the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) had recommended three names for the top post and state government selected Khurania to head the state police force. Khurania, who was serving as the special director general (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF), western command in Chandigarh, was repatriated

a highly efficient and honest

to his parent cadre on August 2. The 1990 batch officer who had served as police commissioner of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack before he proceeded on Central deputation has vast experience in Odisha where he



he has held is that of vigilance director and Bhubaneswar-Cuttack police commissioner before he left on central deputation and joined the BSF in 2018.

One of his major achievements as a police officer was to arrest arrest Dara Singh who had led a mob and set afire a station wagon in which Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons were burnt to death in their sleep in January 1999. The incident took place at Manoharpur village in Keonjhar district and Khurania was then

He also served as SP of Naya-

deputy inspector general, he was posted as DIG southern range, Berhampur and others. Khurania also held the post of Director, Biju Patnaik State Police Academy-cum-IG Training, Bhubaneswar.

A highly efficient officer Khurania, during his service, has received many commendations and rewards. Notable among them are the Governor's Medal and President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service. Ati Utkrisht Seva Medal and Police Antrik Suraksha Seva As special DG of BSF, Khura-

garh, Jajpur, Ganjam, Mayurb- nia played an important role in

would be invaluable for the state police and come in handy when he discharges his duty as the head of state police force. Born in the small district of

Kaithal, Haryana, on 9 March 1966, Khurania rose through the ranks and earned a reputation for his integrity and commitment. He has left a lasting impact on all the jobs he has carried out so far in his long and illustrious career.

Most importantly his career has been untarnished by controversies which often dog senior police officers. Instead he has left a lasting imprint on every assignment he has carried out so far including the crucial role of Commissioner of Police for the Twin City of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. His tenure as police commissioner was particularly noted for its effectiveness and innovation. He set a high standard for policing in the region. He is expected to bring the same kind of efficiency to his new with cabinet colleagues at the assignment. Policing in the Vidhana Soudha on Saturday

Probe into Pandian's chopper rides to begin soon

ARABINDA MOHAPATRA Bhubaneswar

Once the most powerful bureaucrat of the state, VK Pandian, who took voluntary retirement from IAS to join full time politics, seems to be in serious trouble following the installation of state's first BJP government. Now the government has decided to launch a probe into expenses made from the state exchequer to build helipads and to pay for his chopper rides to various

'As 5T secretary, Pandian did not have the provision to use the helicopters. How the Prithiviraj Harichandan said government gave permission recently adding "The previous and the expenses were made and facilitated the landing

parts of the state.



bearing the helicopter costs government passed the order from the state exchequer. All

for the construction of helipads and those were constructed for Pandian's visit? It should at the government's expense. be clear," state law minister Pandian had visited nearly 400-500 places in a helicopter

these will come under the purview of the investigation." Pandian, who was former

chief minister Naveen Patnaik's Man Friday for 11 years, was appointed as chairman of 5T (transformational initiatives) after he opted for voluntary retirement. He had earlier served as private secretary to Patnaik. In his capacity as chairman 5T with cabinet rank he did a lot of work, much of which has become questionable now. Recently state state commerce and transport minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena said a probe into the statewide chopper tours of the 2000-batch Indian Administrative Service officer between 2020 and 2023 was going to be launched soon

J&K LG Manoj Sinha leads Tiranga Rally in Srinagar

FW DESK

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led a 'Tiranga Rally' in Srinagar on Monday, emphasizing the importance of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. Sinha noted that the campaign has evolved into a people's movement, with widespread support from citizens across the Union Territory. The rally, which drew approxi-

mately 10,000 participants, began at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) by Dal Lake and concluded at the Botanical Garden. It was part of the broader 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative encouraging citizens to display the national flag at their homes in celebration of India's In-



dependence. During his address, LG Sinha urged all communities-Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and Hindus—to work together for the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. He also paid tribute to Pingali Venkayya, the designer of the Indian national flag, and encouraged citizens to participate in various related activities,

including Tiranga Rallies, Tiranga Concerts, and Tiranga Melas. Since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, hoisting the national flag on August 15 has become mandatory at all government buildings, schools, colleges, and universities, symbolizing the unity and integrity of India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

for the over 150 missing people continued on Monday, the 14th day of the Wayanad landslide

tragedy, said officials here.

The biggest-ever natural disaster in a single place in the state took place on July 30 which has left 416 dead.

On Monday, according to authorities, the first set of DNA test results are expected. These are of the victims who have been buried in the 64 cents of land in the Meppadi village council, where a mass burial took place last week over three days of unidentified bodies and numerous body parts.

Each of the graves has been numbered. The survivors will be able to identify their near and dear ones after the DNA results are out. And, if they need any further religious events or rituals to be done after identi-



fication, they can do so accordingly, said the officials. Another important activity of the day is that all the survivors will apply for lost certificates at special counters set up in and around the relief camps. More than 11, 000 people are now housed in over 100 relief camps.

The authorities have promised they will do everything to move people from relief camps

to homes and other places in the area. Around 250 locked homes have been identified and the authorities will be making allotments to those in the relief camps. The Pinarayi Vijayan government has started deputing government officials from various departments to Wayanad to help the current staff in various offices to speed up the rehabilitation process.

are being deployed in the affected areas. The day-long visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when he spent three hours more than planned on Saturday, brought cheer to the survivors when he met them and those in the hospitals, and assured them that the government would help them in every possible way. Even though the Vijayan government has submitted a preliminary report seeking a Rs 2, 000 crore assistance, PM Modi after seeing a detailed presentation, while chairing a special review meeting at Wayanad on Saturday, has promised all help and has asked the state to submit a detailed report. Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan has asked the state government to submit its report at the earliest.

ficials, especially counsellors,

converted the lived-reality into a ghastly communal experience, said an expert in a post on X. Khurania to head new DGP of Odisha Doc's rape & murder: Rahul Gandhi accuses Bengal govt, hospital



KOLKATA: The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday launched a scathing attack against the West Bengal government on the heinous rape and murder of a junior doctor at state-run RG Kar Medical College &

Hospital last week. The Congress MP accused the state administration and the hospital authorities of try-

ing to save the accused.

The attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises seriand the local administration. Among the important positions On promotion to the rank of preventing cross-border crimes. under him. This incident has forced us

to think that if doctors are not safe in a place like a medical college, then how can parents send their daughters outside for studies? "Why are even the strict

laws made after the Nirbhaya case unsuccessful in preventing such crimes?" LoP Rahul Gandhi said in a strong statement posted on his official X According to him, the RG

Kar incident is bound to create an atmosphere of insecurity in the medical fraternity and women. "The entire country is

shocked by the gruesome incident of rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata. The way the layers of the cruel and inhuman act against her are being revealed, there is an atmosphere of insecurity among the doctors' community and women, "Rahul Gandhi commented. "Every party, every section of society will have to hold

serious discussions and take

concrete steps on the contin-

uously increasing incidents

against women from Hathras

to Unnao, and from Kathua

to Kolkata, " he added while

emphasising that the culprits

in the case should be given

such a punishment that it is presented as an example in Political observers said that this post by the Congress MP is quite significant especially in the backdrop of his sister and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi's recent post in the matter, just appealing to the West Bengal government to take immediate and strict action in the case.

"I appeal to the state government to take immediate and strict action in this case and ensure justice to the victim's family and fellow doctors, her post on X read.



Transparency key to uphold SEBI's trust

ndia's securities market, now a \$5.3 trillion powerhouse, faces its most significant challenge since the 1992 Harshad Mehta scam, as allegations of conflict of interest against SEBI

Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch emerge. Hindenburg Research claims that Buch and her husband invested in offshore funds linked to the Adani Group, which has been under SEBI's scrutiny for 18 months over alleged stock price manipulation. Further concerns arise from consultancy firms operated by the Buchs, allegedly still active despite their claims of dormancy. The implications are profound. SEBI, established as a statutory body in 1992 to safeguard the integrity of India's financial markets, has long been trusted for its stringent regulatory framework. However, these allegations cast a shadow on its reputation. Even if Buch's actions did not directly influence the ongoing investigation into the Adani Group, the mere perception of bias could erode public trust in SEBI's impartiality. In a scenario where the integrity of the regulatory body is crucial, SEBI must maintain its credibility. For this reason, it may be appropriate for Buch to step down, allowing an independent investigation to proceed without the cloud of conflict hanging over it. Such a step would reaffirm SEBI's commitment to transparency and its role as a guardian of the financial system. The stakes are too high to allow any doubt to linger over the body entrusted with overseeing India's financial markets. SEBI's reputation and the trust of millions of investors hinge on the resolution of these allegations with complete transparency. Ensuring this will protect not only SEBI's legacy but also the broader integri ty of India's financial market. The government also needs to play a role in ensuring that investors' confidence in the stock market remains intact and that the transition occurs smoothly. Meanwhile, the general public keeps its fingers crossed as further developments unfold.

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C.P. RAJENDRAN ON GOVT'S STRATEGY BEHIND ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Corporatising science research



uring the inaugural address of the 107th Science Congress in Bengaluru in January 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on the government's take on how science should be conducted in India. It was conveyed to young researchers in his usual aphoristic manner of speaking: "innovate, patent, produce, prosper". By expressing it in a maxim, the Prime Minister was hinting at the birthing of a new policy on knowledge production under his leadership.

Over several years, the current ruling regime has been directing laboratories and other research centres to earn their revenue from external sources by marketing their expertise and investing the surplus to develop technologies for national missions. This policy position can be traced to the 'Dehradun Declaration' prepared by the directors of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research labs in 2015, where it was decided to market patents as a means to self-finance research. In other words, this was a call for the corporatisation of science research — a process of converting any state-owned entity into a market commodity and being able to follow the business model to support itself, rather than relying on public support. Science institutes are now encouraged to develop research centres registered as Section 8 companies, wherein private companies or shareholders can invest money.

The ANRF and research

This line of thinking can be seen in the formulation of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Established under the ANRF Act of 2023, this new mechanism is designed to fund research in the country and to improve linkages between research and development, academia and industry. The Finance Minister echoed the same in her July 23,



2024 Budget speech: "We will operationalise the ANRF for basic research and prototype development." The "prototype development" is a significant part of the innovation cycle to assess the marketability of a product — yet another hint of the government's overriding interest in funding the research that will cater to the market. Another giveaway is the way funding proportion is designed. The ANRF will receive Rs 50,000 crore over five years, 72% of which is expected to be from the private sector. Judging from the way the resources are currently scheduled for the ANRF, it is clear that the government intends to reduce its role in funding the research and expects

private entrepreneurship to pitch in a big way.

Even in the United States, where research and development has significantly outstripped government funding over the last decade, it is clustered mostly in IT and pharmaceuticals. The knowledge thus generated through research is considered a commodity to be marketed. The entrenchment of marketoriented perspectives comes from two sources, as discussed by Prabir Purkayastha in his book, Knowledge as Commons. What makes science different from the Renaissance period and after that is that science and technology

are now more closely integrated than ever, and scientific advances can now end up as marketable products more rapidly. This transformation has also led to intellectual property rights allowing universities to sell the patents to private corporations, even if the research is publicly funded. The adoption of neoliberal economic policies across the globe has also accelerated the greater involvement of the private sector in funding science.

Signals despite the stated objective

The understated objective of the ANRF is to fund research in natural sciences, but in reality, there are sufficient hints that the government is planning to place the university research system subservient to what Ellen Meiksins Wood calls "the dictates of the capitalist market". The curiosity-driven research in natural sciences involves understanding and predicting natural phenomena based on empirical evidence and experimentation. The private sector cannot be expected to finance curiosity-driven science because it will not invest money unless the research finds some immediate application that maximises its profits. Interestingly, the same stringency in government funding is not shown while supporting the branches of the 'Indian Knowledge Systems', which are not part of evidence-based science. Science is driven by the zeal to understand the world through scientific tools. This can be encouraged only by increasing the share of public funding. The research proposals in pasic science need to be assessed based on the proposers' ability to acquire knowledge about a problem defined by conducting observations, experimentation and analyses. The application

part of the result may not be apparent at all.
A generally accepted working definition of basic scientific research reads: "the pursuit of knowledge to understand a natural process irrespective of the potential applications that might arise from such knowledge".

Country comparison

Although India is ranked among the top 10 y gross domestic product (GDP), the ratio of public funding for science research in India has been 0.6% to 0.7% of GDP for the last decade. A country such as South Korea, only a third the size of India and its population, spends about 2% to 3% of its GDP. While the private sector is encouraged to fund, the government must increase its basic science and non-profit research allocation. If that does not happen, the country will eventually witness the decline of curiosity-driven science in our universities, which could also undermine public trust in science when it gets dominantly mediated by private interests. Equally important is to nurture an ambience of free enquiry and maintain the financial and administrative autonomy of the institutes. This should have been amplified in the ANRF Act itself. As Niraja Gopal Jayal writes in the India Forum, although the heavy hand of the educational bureaucracy has always been hovering over public universities, constraining their autonomy, in recent times "the state intervention has become more manifestly political in a partisan way, and openly ideological within an ecosystem that attaches no value to academic freedom". It all boils down to a grand vision, but it does not evolve in a repressive society.

CP. Rajendran is an Adjunct Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. The views expressed are personal



KANIKA AGARWAL HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF PRECISION NUTRITION IN SPORTS

Nutrition strategy to avert Olympic-like agony



he high-stakes case, of the disqualification of Indian woman wrestler Vinesh Phogat from the women's 50kg wrestling final in the Paris Olympics 2024, was a setback for India. She was found to be 100 grams heavier than permissible limits. This incident highlights the role of support staff including the sports nutritionist, doctors, and the team management in the Indian contingent.

A myopic view indicates a slip, but the situation highlights the need to integrate precision nutrition in sport. Precision nutrition tailors dietary recommendations based on specific individual requirements, characteristics and circumstances. This process focuses on better understanding and meeting an athlete's individual requirements, particularly their individual response to different food/supplement intakes and avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach.

Precision nutrition involves understanding an individual's metabolism, microbiome, and now their body responds to food and calo expenditure to determine the best dietary practices for them. It focuses on systems biology and a multi-omics approach (including genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, microbiomes, and epigenetics), integrated with bioinformatics and machine learning to provide evidence-based individualised nutrition recommendations. This data-driven approach allows for adjustments based on an athlete's physiological responses, ensuring they are in peak condition for a competition. The integration with bioinformatics and machine learning will help in the identification of patterns and predict how different nutritional strategies affect an athlete's performance. The gut microflora may be influenced by diet, especially a plant-based diet and regular exercise, resulting in the production of short chain fatty acids which may support athletic performance and post-exercise metabolic recovery.

An effective nutrition recommendation rides on high granularity of an individual's dietary



intake and physical activity data. Traditional questionnaire/interview-based methods of collecting such data have drawbacks such as self-reporting, memory bias, high respondent burden, and socially information with targeted individual continuous monitoring (for example, continuous blood glucose monitoring) can provide more specific and individualised recommendations for athletes that not only address dietary requirements but also check the regulatory requirements of sport. Many wearable sensors track and provide information on physical activity levels, stress, sleep quality, and heart rate monitoring. This incident with Ms. Phogat underscores the importance of continuous and real-time tracking of targeted outcomes for athletes during training sessions, making it easier to achieve and maintain target weight.

Glucose monitoring

Continuous glucose monitors (CGM) are commonly used by people with diabetes to monitor interstitial blood glucose responses to food. These devices, implanted in the subcutaneous layer (just under the skin), record blood glucose levels minute

by minute. The use of CGMs, under the supervision of a trained nutritionist, can help monitor athletes' blood glucose responses to food. The information collected can be used to individualise recommendations for building muscle, boosting energy, reducing inflammation, and maintaining body weight — important parameters for an athlete.

A few players have reportedly improved their sports performance using CGM. Retired Olympic gold medal-winning Australian swimmer Chelsea Hodges, once admitted that CGM helped manage her fuel levels and exhaustion during training sessions. Long-distance runner Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya has been using the CGM since 2021 to build personalised nutrition plans that give him a competitive advantage. The Union Cycliste Internationale (the world governing body of cycling and recognised by the International Olympic Committee) has banned the use of CGM by healthy athletes during competitions. However, these could potentially be used during training sessions to see s respond to food. This use of technol for personalised nutrition recommendation is still in its early stages and requires further exploration.

The need for such personalised approaches becomes more apparent in weight-based sports, where "making weight" is crucial. Athletes in weight-based sports, such as boxing, wrestling, and martial arts, often struggle to stay within their designated weight class. To do so, they resort to extreme measures such as starvation, intentional dehydration, and using saunas or sweat suits to reduce weight quickly before weigh-ins. These drastic measures jeopardise their mental and physical health and adversely impact their performance. Reports indicate that Ms. Phogat spent an entire night trying to shed extra weight. Likewise, another Indian woman wrestler, Antim Panghal, reportedly starved herself for two days to make weight. Such instances would severely impact the capabilities of such sportspersons in such high-level competitions.

A role for sports nutritionists

A study found that coaches and fellow players play an influential role in deciding what dietary regimen works best for the athlete during training and competition. Athletes need sports nutritionists trained in precision nutrition to monitor their nutritional requirements, intake, and understand their body composition and metabolism.

It would be in everyone's best interest if nutritionists are assigned to different types of sports and become involved with the athletes longer, allowing their recommendations and body responses to be tracked and tested over time. These nutritionists must familiarise themselves with the rules of the sports, weight categories, weigh-in procedures, and methods to reduce weight without compromising an athlete's performance and annual training cycles.

Flourish logoInteractive content by Flourish

Integrating precision nutrition into sports involves not only individualising dietary plans but also continuously monitoring and adjusting them based on the athlete's changing needs. This approach can help prevent the drastic measures often resorted to by athletes, in turn promoting healthier, and more sustainable practices.

In conclusion, the disqualification of Ms. Phogat underscores that there is a critical gap in the Indian sports support system. Precision nutrition, a data-driven approach to dietary planning, is imperative to prevent such setbacks and optimise athlete performance. By integrating technology and expert nutritionists, India can revolutionise its sports training, ensuring that sportspersons reach their full potential while prioritising their health and their well-being.

Kanika Agarwal is Faculty Fellow, Koita Centre for Digital Health, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University. Views are personal.



BOOKS: REVIEW

Book explores the depths of Souza's artistic vision

Artist, authored by Janeita Singh, is a profound exploration of the works of Francis Newton Souza, one of India's most celebrated modern painters. Through a collection of 21 essays, Singh delves into the cultural, psychological, and philosophical underpinnings of Souza's art, offering a multifaceted interpretation that draws on psychoanalysis, feminism, Eastern and Western philosophy, and Jungian analysis.

Souza's significance in the Indian art scene is indisputable. As a founding member of the Progressive Artist's Group in Mumbai in the 1940s, his contributions were instrumental in shaping modern Indian art. His journey from India to the UK and eventually to the US mirrors his evolving artistic vision. Over the years, Souza's works have gained immense recognition, commanding high prices at art auctions. However, for those who cannot

own a Souza painting, Singh's book offers an opportunity to appreciate and engage with his art through detailed reproductions and insightful analysis.

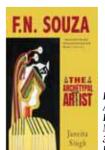
Singh's approach is both scholarly and accessible. She challenges readers to confront the often provocative and unsettling nature of Souza's paintings, particularly his depictions of nudes and heads. Singh interprets these works through the lens of psychoanalysis, exploring concepts like the male gaze, the perception of the nude, and alternative ways of seeing. Her analysis is rooted in the idea that Souza's art taps into the collective unconscious, drawing on archetypal imagery that resonates on a deeply personal level with viewers.

One of the book's strengths is its examination of the female form in Souza's work. Singh connects Souza's depictions of women to the iconography of fertility goddesses, suggesting that his art celebrates

female confidence and sexuality in a way that challenges conventional social codes and religious authority. She argues that Souza's paintings offer a vision of the female body imbued with self-assurance and authority, contrasting sharply with the often submissive and objectified portrayals of women in Western art history.

Singh's writing is particularly compelling when she describes her first encounter with Souza's art. She reflects on how his female subjects defy traditional representations, appearing neither shy nor self-effacing but instead exuding a raw, almost primal energy. This connection to nature, Singh suggests, is central to Souza's artistic vision. He was deeply attuned to the natural world, and this affinity is evident in the vitality and vigor with which he

expressed himself on canvas. The book's exploration of Souza's use of the collective unconscious is another intriguing aspect. Singh



F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist By Janeita Singh; Niyogi Books; 320 pages; Rs4,500

draws on Jungian psychology, particularly the concept of the 'anima,' to interpret Souza's work. She posits that his art reveals a deep connection to the archetypal feminine, a force that is both nurturing and powerful. This interpretation adds a layer of psychological depth to Souza's paintings, inviting readers to consider the ways in which his work speaks to universal human

experiences and emotions.

In addition to its rich textual analysis, F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist is visually stunning. The book includes around 130 images of Souza's artworks, reproduced in excellent color and detail. These images allow readers to fully appreciate the complexity and richness of Souza's artistic output. The visual component of the book comple-

ments Singh's analysis, providing a comprehensive understanding of Souza's oeuvre. Singh's work is not just an art

historical study; it is a meditation on the cultural constructs of life, body, and sexuality. She offers readers a lens through which to view Souza's art as a commentary on these themes, highlighting the ways in which his work challenges and subverts traditional narratives. For those interested in modern Indian art, psychoanalysis, or cultural studies, F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist is an essential read.

In conclusion, Janeita Singh's

F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist is a thought-provoking and richly layered exploration of one of India's most important modern artists. Through her insightful analysis and the inclusion of a wide range of visual and theoretical sources, Singh offers readers a new way of understanding Souza's work, one that is deeply informed by both art history and psychoanalysis. This book is a valuable contribution to the study of Souza and a must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of art, culture, and psychology.

BMW recalls 1.3 million vehicles in China that may have Takata airbag inflators

BEIJING: BMW was recalling more than 1.3 million vehicles in China that might have Takata airbag inflators following a similar recall in the United States last month, officials said Friday.

The recall covers nearly 600,000 vehicles made in China between 2005 and 2017 and more than 750,000 imported vehicles made between 2003 and 2018, the Chinese State Administration for Market Regulation said. It includes a wide range of models, from series 1 to series 6 cars and the X1, X3, X4, X5 and X6 SUVs. A small number of vehicles

in the recall may have Takata inflators if the owner changed the steering wheel, the Chinese regulatory body said. The in-



airbag deploys, sending fragments into the car and injuring the occupants, it said.

Takata airbag inflators have been blamed for the deaths of at least 35 people since 2009 in the United States, Malaysia and Australia.

U.S. regulators said last month that BMW would recall more than 390,000 vehicles because the original steering wheel may have been replaced with a sport or M-sport steering wheel equipped with a Takata inflator.

Ford and Mazda warned the charge in affected vehicles.

owners of more than 475,000 vehicles in the U.S. earlier this week not to drive them because they have Takata airbag inflators. The vehicles were built between 2003 and 2015. Stellantis, following a fa-

tal explosion in the U.S. last year, urged the owners of some 2003 Dodge Ram pickups to stop driving them if their air bag inflators had not been replaced. The Chinese regulator said

that BMW owners can visit a dealer to have their steering wheel checked or upload a photo of their steering wheel and their vehicle identification number to get an answer in two weeks. BMW will replace the driver's side airbag free of

EEPC India and ISSDA Collaborate to Boost MSME Exports of Steel Products

NEW DELHI: In a move aimed at boosting exports from India's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) and the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The agreement, signed on Tuesday, outlines a collaborative effort to enhance the export potential of MSME members in the engineering and stainless steel sectors.

The partnership encombasses several key initiatives designed to promote export growth. These include the identification of potential export products, organisation of



Jakson-SBI tieup to facilitate consumer solar energy financing

technical collaborations.

The MoU was formally signed by EEPC India's Execu-

trade exhibitions, buyer-seller tive Director, Adhip Mitra, and ISSDA's Executive Director, Rohit Kumar.

> The signing ceremony was senior officials from EEPC India, underscoring the importance of this collaborative

Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Sunday slammed the latest Hindenburg report against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband

Hindenburg trying to

malign SEBÍ, creating market trust deficit:

Mutual Funds body

Dhaval Buch, saying the US short-seller is trying to create a trust deficit in market ecosystem. In a statement, the AMFI said that external comments on the markets regulator's Chairperson "not only attempt to undermine Madhabi Buch's contribution to the Indian capital market, but it also undermines our country's economic progress, and creating a trust deficit in

done in the past". The mutual fund industry body warned that if the allegations were left unchecked, they can create unnecessary hurdles in the path of the world's fastest-growing economy.

the market ecosystem must

be seen for what they truly are

-- attempts to create sensation

by connecting random events

"Hindenburg's claims lack context and understanding of the Indian regulatory environment, said the AMFI, adding that the report also "seeks to malign the hard-earned achievements of our nation".

The AMFI further said that the market structure in India is "strong".

"Over a period, the regulator has created a well-functioning market trusted by both local

According to the IMFI have been taken under the leadership of the current SEBI Chairperson, and SEBI regulations have made mutual funds the most transparent and ef-

meets, and economic summits.

Additionally, the agreement facilitates the exchange of trade information and encourages international investment through joint ventures and

attended by ISSDA President Rajamani Krishnamurti and

Walmart Vriddhi Announces Webinar on Global Opportunities for Women-Owned **Businesses**



NEW DELHI: Walmart Vriddhi, a supplier development initiative, has announced a webinar titled 'Unlock Your Global Business Potentials' specifically targeting women entrepreneurs. The virtual session is scheduled for August 21, 2024, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and will be led by Poonam Mehdiratta, India Market Lead, WEConnect International. The webinar aims to provide insights into learning, networking, and global business opportunities available to women-owned businesses through the WEConnect International network. Key topics will include the advantages of supplier diversity, the exclusive Women-Owned business certification, and success stories from the field. Participants will gain knowledge on leveraging these resources to enhance their business profiles and engage with large buyers and multinational corporations.

'Make in Bharat for the World' has become a reality: Ashwini Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Railways, Electronics and IT and I&B, Ashwini Vaishnaw, on Tuesday said the aim of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme is to build scale in domestic manufacturing, as tech giant Apple exceeded its export targets in the first four months of the current fiscal. The company exported 85 per cent of the freight-on-board production value of its iPhones, worth more than Rs 40, 000 crore, in the April-July period. 'Make in Bharat for the

World has become a reality, " Minister Vaishnaw posted on X social media platform. Apple registered about \$8



billion revenue in India in the last fiscal year (FY24). Driven by the PLI scheme of the government, Apple's iPhone market in the country is all set to reach 7 per cent by the end of this year, surpassing \$9 billion in revenue.

The tech giant achieved record export numbers around \$3.8 billion in the April-June period (Q2 FY25) in the coun-

try. According to industry ex- over 20 per cent this year on perts, the long-term growth outlook remains positive with Apple being well-positioned to capitalise on India's growth trajectory over the next decade. In 2023, Apple achieved a milestone of 10 million shipments in one full year.

According to Apple CEO Tim Cook, the company set a quarterly revenue record in India in the June quarter. "And we set an all-time revenue record in services, which grew 14 per cent, "Cook told analysts during the company's quarterly results.

According to industry estimates, iPhone shipments are projected to increase by

the back of domestic manufacturing support and strong distribution.

Meanwhile, the tech giant is set to make its 'Make in India' iPhone 16 Pro and 16 Pro Max models available in the country right after the global launch this fall. iPhone 16 is set to be made available on the first day of global sales in India, just like last year when iPhone 15 arrived in the domestic market on the very first day of the global sale. It will be shortly followed by iPhone 16 Plus models. The company is attracting many first-time users for its newly-launched

This collaboration, which is part of the "Surya Shakti Solar Finance" initiative, aims to empower a broad range of consumers across commercial, industrial and institutional sectors to embrace solar energy

DOMINICK RODRIGUES

In a significant move to promote

solar energy adoption across In-

dia, Jakson Engineers Limited

here recently signed an MOU

with the State Bank of India.

Mumbai

solutions. This partnership, while reflecting a strategic alliance shaped by a shared dedication to sustainability and reducing energy costs, also brings together SBI's extensive banking experience and Jakson's innovative

solar technology expertise. Noting that this initia-

financial backing needed for adopting solar energy, Anurag Garg, Chief Executive Officer. Jakson Solar, said that through accessible financing solutions, the company sought to make solar energy affordable for all segments while also contributing to a greener and more sustainable India.

providing consumers with

The Surya Shakti Solar Finance initiative is expected to provide financial support to a wide range of customers adopting solar solutions, including SBI offering loans upto Rs 10 crore for commercial and industrial users. This dynamic partnership

seeks to expedite the development of rooftop solar projects, while also supporting the Prime Minister's ambitious goal of achieving 100 GW of rooftop tive marked a pivotal step in solar capacity by 2030.

and global investors with several measures taken under the current leadership of SEBI Chairperson, "said the industry body. several important measures

fective product.

SMIORE announces new CEO, COO in its forward journey

DOMINICK RODRIGUES Mumbai/Bengaluru

The Sandur Manganese & Iron Ores Ltd (SMIORE or the Company), a leading player in the mining and metals industry, recently announced the appointment of Krishnendu Sanval as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Manjunath Prabhu as Chief Operating Officer (COO).

The Company made these stated.



appointments in augmenting its management bandwidth and driving forward its ambitious plans for integration and sustainability in the metals and mining industry, a release

Describing this as a milestone, the SMIORE Managing Director Bahirji A Ghorpade said the Company's transition towards a sustainable and integrated future emphasized building the required management bandwidth to drive the execution of its crucial strategic priorities.

Highlighting the experience and qualities of the new CEO and COO, Ghorpade said "I look forward to working closely

with both of them as we scale new heights and continue to innovate and excel, creating a future-ready organisation poised for sustainable value

SMIORE CEO Krishnendu Sanyal said that with many potent triggers in the offing, including its recent mining expansion, SMIORE is on a path to creating a lasting legacy in the Indian metals and mining

DIFFERENT ROUTES AND SAME DESTINATION

Indian Pharmaceutical & FMCG Companies in Wellness Segment





DR. ANIL KUMAR

ANGRISH harmaceutical companies and companies from Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector are tapping opportunities in Indian Consumer Healthcare Market. Traditionally, Pharmaceutical and FMCG sector are Health, Sports Nutrition, Diet considered different from each other but this distinction gets blurred if we look at the manner in which prominent companies from both sectors are exploring Wellness Segment. If we dig deeper then we can find certain recognizable differences in their approach towards Wellness Seg- which cater to general nutriment in terms of product portfolio, marketing and consumer

Health is defined by the World Health Organization as being "a state of complete physical mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." The Global Wellness Institute defined wellness as "the active pursuit of activities, choices, and lifestyles that lead to a state of holistic health". Several key areas of one's and P&G Hygiene & Health Care lifestyle are considered different has 5 products namely Evion, dimensions of overall Wellness which include social connectedness, nutrition, exercise, sleep, and mindfulness as Wellness is an individual endeavour. Wellness Universe now comprises varied and diverse sectors such as Traditional & Complementary Medicine, Workplace wellness, Wellness tourism comprising Giloy Neem Juice with Tulsi, wellness resorts, wellbeing centers, retreats, and ashrams, Healthy eating, Nutrition & in Health Supplements category Weight Loss - Wellness Cuisine which comprise Chyawanprash, has Zandu Triphala capsules,

etc.), Thermal/Mineral Springs Industry, the Spa Economy, Preventive & Personalized Medicine and Public Health, Fitness -Body (Exercise, Gyms, Yoga, Fitness Centers, etc.) and Mind (Mental Health and Wellbeing), Personal Care, Fitness Wear, Beauty & Anti-Aging Industries, among others.

Pharma and FMCG companies' portfolio categories in Focus under Wellness Segment include Supplements, Skin Care, Personal Care, Gut. Health, Women's Health, Pain Management, Respiratory and Weight Management, and Children's Health and Baby Care. Supplements Category encompasses a broad range of products aimed at enhancing overall health and addressing specific nutritional needs. This category includes multivitamins tional supplementation. This category also features specific vitamins and minerals. It also comprises specialized supplements like Omega-3 fish oil for heart health, probiotics for gut health, weight management supplements and immune boosters. For example, Sun Pharma has 7 products in 'Supplement' category such as Revital, Prohance, etc. Torrent Pharma has Shelcal 500, LupinLife has BE ONE, Livogen, Polybion, Neurobion, and Seven Seas. Cipla Health has 6 products, and Morepen Labs has 17 products, e.g., Fat Burner, Omega-3 Deep Sea Fish Oil. FMCG companies such as

Dabur India has 17 products

such as Vedic Suraksha Tea, Glu-

cose D. Honey, Chavawanprash.

etc. under Health Supplements

category. Emami has 41 products

(Organic, low-carb, farm-to-fork Nityam Vati, Honey, Detox juice range, etc.

Skin Care category is also prominent category for Pharma as well as FMCG companies and includes products targeted at diverse skincare needs, providing solutions for daily care as well as specialized treatments for conditions like acne, eczema, and fungal infections, e.g., Sun Pharma has Abzorb Powder and Abzorb Bar, Cipla has Cipladine Povidone Ointment, Cipladine Microbicidal Solution, Clocip Antifungal dusting Powder etc. Mankind Pharma has AcneStar Soap/gel, Ring Out, Heal-O-Kind, Piramal Pharma has Lacto Calamine Oil Balance Lotion, Tetmosol, Neko, etc. FMCG major Zydus Wellness has at least 19 Skincare products with Everyuth range including Scrub,

Face Wash, Lotion, etc. Women's Health category is designed specifically for women's health needs across various life stages. Cipla Health has a range of products under Mamaxpert, LupinLife Consumer Healthcare has one product (V-Bath), Piramal Pharma has products like i-pill, i-know, and i-can, and Amrutanjan Health Care has Comfy pads. Mankind Pharma has at least 9 products such as Unwanted-72, Prega News, etc.

Gut Health is gaining momentum and it focuses on digestive health and related issues. The category includes Probiotics, and digestive aids such as laxatives. The market focus of this category is on addressing digestive disorders, supporting gut flora balance, and promoting overall digestive wellness with products tailored for different age groups and specific digestive issues. Cipla Health has Prolyte ORS, Probiotics Sachets, Mankind Pharma has KABZEND, and LupinLife has SOFTOVAC, LUPIZYME, AP-TIVATE. FMCG major Emami



and Pancharishta. Pain Management category provides relief from various types of pain through topical and oral formulations. Key products include topical pain relief gels, creams, sprays, as well as oral pain relievers. This category targets consumers seeking effective pain relief solutions for headaches, muscle pains, joint pains, and other discomforts. Companies like Sun Pharma has Volini Gel, Cipla Health has omnigel, Amrutanjan Health Care has Pain Balm, Roll-on, Stick-On Patch, whereas FMCG major Emami has six products such Zandu Balm, Ortho Vedic Oil, Knee Pain Relief Patch, etc.

Products in respiratory health category focus on treatment and prevention of respiratory ailments. This includes cough syrups, nasal sprays, and respiratory supplements for allergy relief and congestion management. Sports Nutrition category provides nutritional support for athletes and fitness enthusiasts. Key products include protein supplements, energy boosters for stamina and recovery, and the market focus is on active individuals looking to enhance performance, muscle growth, and recovery through nutritional supplementation. Diet and Weight Management category aims at supporting weight loss, weight gain, and overall

dietary management. Personal Care products encompass a wide range of hygiene and healthcare items for daily use. This category includes oral care products such as tooth paste, mouthwash, and pain relief solutions, hygiene products like hand sanitizers, face masks, etc. Finally, Children's Health and Baby Care category focuses on health and hygiene products for infants and children. This includes baby care products like lotions, diaper rash creams, washes, as well as children's supplements.

Top pharmaceutical companies have become dominant player in Consumer Health Care business. For example, Sun Pharma's Consumer Health Care business ranks as the 5th largest in the segment, and the company operates in about 25 emerging markets and has a strong portfolio of scientific formulations, featuring prominent brands such as Revital Abzorb, and Volini. The company's consumer healthcare products are available in about 500,000+ pharmacy and retail outlets. Cipla Health Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cipla Limited, is no. 2 player in India's consumer health space. By March 2023, the company had consumer reach through 450,000 retailers, 65,000+ grocers and others, and 7,700+ modern trade outlets. The com-

through digital platforms. Torrent Pharma is another notable 500 in OTC segment which was previously prescription-based. Torrent Pharma had acquired Shelcal from Elder Pharma in

LupinLife, Consumer Healthcare Division of Lupin Limited has expanded brand portfolio from one to multiple brands since 2017. Softovac, the flagship product has recorded 14% YoY growth in FY23. It has transitioned products like Vovilup in Pain Management and Lupihist in Cough and Cold categories. Glenmark Pharma has expanded its product range across three flagship brands namely Candid Powder, La Shield and Scalpe+. Candid Powder had 17 per cent revenue growth in FY23, La Shield portfolio had 73 per cent revenue growth during the same period whereas Scale+ portfolio had 13 per cent revenue growth in FY23.

Piramal Pharma, a subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises has the Consumer Products Division which caters to the Indian selfcare market and is one of the fastest-growing businesses of the company. Piramal Enterprises forayed into the Overthe-Counter (OTC) market Duphar in the early 1990s. The Consumer Products Division has a diverse product range of 21 brands across categories such as algesics, and Baby-Care. Most of its brands are either no. 1 or no. 2 in their respective markets and product categories. In addition top 100 OTC brands. Product innovation and expansion can be observed from the fact that it launched 26 new products and

lakh retailers by March 2023 (SKUs) in FY2023 along, and lakh retailers through a robust new launches since April 2020 accounted for 18 per cent of the player that launched Shelcal Consumer Business revenues in FY23. Kerala Ayurveda Limited is also a notable early entrant (set up in 1945) that has vast wellness product range with more than 170 products in diverse

categories Companies from FMCG sector have significant presence in Wellness Segment, e.g., Dabur India's Health Care Segment contributes 31.7 per cent to the company's overall FMCG business in India. This segment encompasses various sub-categories such as Health Supplements (Chyawanprash, Honey, Glucose, Vita and Vedic Tea), Digestives (Pudin Hara, Hingoli, Nature Care, Sat Isabgol etc.), OTC products (Honitus, Dabur Baby range, Dabur Lal Tail, etc.), and Ayurvedic Ethicals such as Rheumatil, Nectolac granules, etc.

Zydus Wellness, established in 1988, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zydus Lifesciences also falls in FMCG category, and has seven leading brands in its portfolio, namely Complan, Glucon-D, Sugar Free, Nycil, Everyuth, I'm lite and Nutralite.

Emami is another leading FMCG company that has a Domestic Consumer Care Division. after acquiring Saridon from Emami initiated Project Khoj Roche and Lacto Calamine from as a market reach expansion strategy that focuses on enhancing rural distribution coverage. It is also leveraging digital and geo-coded initiatives to gain Skin Care, antacids, Vitamins & insights into buying patterns Nutrition, Gastrointestinal, An- and consumer behavior. Impact of the project can be observed from the fact that before the project, Emami covered 32,000 villages, but within two years, to this, six brands feature among the company added 20,000 villages, reaching a total of 52,000 in FY2022-23. Emami's Domestic Consumer Care Division boasts an extensive retail reach pany had onboarded over 1.35 37 new Stock Keeping Units that covers approximately 9.4

multi-layer network of direct distributors, super stockiest, subdistributors, and wholesalers. Emami launched over 20 new products and integrated 'Dermicool' brand that it acquired from Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare in March 2022 for Rs. 432 crore.

Regarding their approach towards Wellness segment, pharmaceutical companies are dedicated to offering a diverse range of wellness products, and their product line includes vitamins, dietary supplements, OTC products, herbal and traditional remedies, and contraceptives. These companies heavily rely on scientific credibility to promote their products. Their retail presence gets enhanced through extensive pharmacy networks and a growing presence of epharmacy platforms. Pharmaceutical companies engage with healthcare professionals and prescribers to ensure their products remain visible and credible in the medical community. In contrast to this, FMCG majors are focusing on integrating wellness into their existing product portfolios, placing a strong emphasis on natural and traditional health solutions. FMCG companies are developing fortified foods, herbal supplements, and home remedies by leveraging their brand's legacy in personal care and food products to meet increasing consumer demand for health-oriented options. Dr. Anil Kumar Angrish,

Associate Professor (Finance and Accounting), Department of Pharmaceutical Management, NIPER, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab

Shubham Sahu, MBA (Pharm.), Department of Pharmaceutical Management, NIPER S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) **DISCLAIMER:** Views are personal and do not represent the views of the Institute.

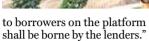
RBI cracks whip on NBFC P2P platforms

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued a new master direction on Friday to tighten rules for NBFCs on their peer-to-peer lending platforms.

The RBI said it has been observed that some of these platforms have adopted certain practices which are violative of its directions.

Such practices include, among others, violation of the prescribed funds' transfer mechanism, promoting peerto-peer lending as an investment product with features like tenure-linked assured minimum returns, providing liquidity options and at times acting like deposit takers and lenders instead of being a platform.

The new master direction states: "An NBFC-P2P shall not provide or arrange any credit enhancement or credit guarantee. NBFC P2P shall not assume any credit risk, either directly or indirectly, arising out of transactions carried out on its platform. In other words, the entire loss of principal or interest or both, if any, in respect of funds lent by lenders



The RBI has also stated that an NBFC-P2P will not cross-sell any product except for loan-specific insurance "An NBFC-P2P shall be

required to disclose the following: publicly disclose portfolio performance including share of non-performing assets (NPAs) on a monthly basis and segregation by age on its website. It may be noted that such disclosures shall also include all losses borne by the lenders on principal or interest

The P2P platform is also barred from promoting peer-

to-peer lending as an investment product with features like tenure-linked assured minimum returns and liquid-

ity options.

The master direction further stipulates that the aggregate exposure of a lender to all borrowers at any point of time, across all P2P platforms, shall be subject to a cap of Rs 50 lakh provided that such investments of the lenders on P2P platforms are consistent with their net worth.

The lender investing more than Rs 10 lakh across P2P platforms shall produce a certificate to P2P platforms from a practicing Chartered Accountant certifying minimum net-worth of Rs 50 lakh, the RBI said.

The platforms shall not utilise funds of a lender for the replacement of any other lender, the RBI said.

The direction further states that the pricing policy shall be objective and NBFC-P2P shall disclose the fees liable to be charged at the time of lending itself. The fees shall be a fixed amount or a fixed proportion of the principal amount involved in the lending transaction.

The fees shall not be dependent upon the repayment by the borrowers.

The practice of matching the participants within a closed user group, whether sourced through an outsourced agency or otherwise, is not permitted.

It also lays down that an NBFC-P2P shall explicitly and prominently mention its name (as mentioned in the Certificate of Registration) along with its brand name. if any, in all its touch points/ customer interfaces including promotional materials and any communication with stake-

Private Banks Increase Risk Weights on Microfinance Loans Following Regulatory Directive



NEW DELHI: In a recent development, several large private banks have raised the risk weights on their microfinance loans from 75 per cent to 125 per cent over the past ten days.

This adjustment comes in response to a directive from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), according to sources familiar with the matter, reported Mon-

The RBI has reportedly communicated this mandate to at least five major private banks, effectively placing microfinance loans in the same risk category as unsecured loans.

A senior official from one of

the affected banks, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that this change has been implemented with immediate effect. This increase in risk weights will require banks to allocate more capital to cover potential loan losses, which

The move stands in contrast to lower-risk loans such as affordable housing, which carry a risk weight of only 35 per cent.

could impact their profitability.

Industry insiders suggest that this regulatory action aims to ensure bank capital positions accurately reflect the risk profile of their assets.

Some in the sector anticipate

further tightening of regulations on microfinance loans in the coming months.

Sources cite concerns over lapses in determining household incomes, overall borrower exposure, and the number of loans availed by individual borrowers.

These practices have reportedly led to signs of overheating in the microfinance sector. There are indications that if these concerns persist, risk weight increases may be extended to all banks.

The lack of adequate end-use monitoring for microloans is another factor believed to have prompted regulatory action. Some industry executives ar-

gue that microfinance loans, originally intended to improve borrower productivity, are increasingly being treated similarly to unsecured loans due to reduced lender scrutiny. Bandhan Bank, in its recent quarterly earnings report, disclosed that it had increased risk weights on its microfinance loans (classified internally as emerging entrepreneurs' business) to 125 per cent from 75 per cent.

Govt simplifies FDI rules to help Indian firms expand via mergers, acquisitions



NEW DELHI: The Finance Ministry on Friday issued a notification amending the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019, to simplify FDI rules for enabling easier cross-border share swaps between Indian and foreign companies, as announced in the Budget 2024-25.

This will facilitate the global expansion of Indian companies through mergers, acquisitions, and other strategic initiatives, enabling them to reach new markets and grow their presence worldwide, said a Finance Ministry statement, "In pursuance of the Union Budget 2024-25 announcement made by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman to simplify rules and regulations for Foreign Direct Investment and Overseas Investment, as one of the initiatives, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Minstry of Finance, has amended the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019, vide notification dated 16.08.2024, "the official statement said.

The amendments aim to simplify cross-border share swaps and provide for the issue or transfer of Indian company equity instruments in exchange for foreign company equity instruments. Another key change brings further clarity on the treatment of downstream investments made by Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)-owned entities on a non-repatriation basis, aligning it with the treatment of Non-Resident Indian (NRI)-owned entities, the statement explained. The amendments will also enable Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in White Label ATMs to boost financial inclusion nationwide. ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-banks are called White Label ATMs (WLAs). Non-bank ATM operators are authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). For a customer, using a WLA is just like using an ATM of any bank. The rationale to allow non-bank entities to set up WLAs is to increase the geographical spread of ATMs for enhanced customer service, especially in the semi-urban and

Wholesale inflation falls to 3-month low of 2.04% in July



NEW DELHI: Wholesale inflation fell to a 3-month low of 2.04 per cent in July on decline in prices of food items especially vegetables, government data released today showed.

The decline in wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation in July came after it rose for four months in a row till June, when it was 3.36 per cent. It was (-) 1.23 per cent in July last year.

In April wholesale inflation stood at 1.19 per cent.

As per the data, food inflation in July was 3.45 per cent, down from 10.87 per cent in June, mainly due to monthon-month decline in prices of vegetables, cereals, pulses

Vegetables recorded a deflaagainst a 38.76 per cent infla- Airtel from 1997 to 2001. us month.

Bharti to acquire 24.5 pc stake in British Telecom Group worth \$4 bn

Bharti Global to buy 9.99 per cent stake in BT Group from Patrick Drahi's Altice

New Delhi: Telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's conglomerate ing a board position. will buy a 24.5 per cent stake in Britain's largest broadband and mobile company, British Telecom (BT) Group, worth about USD 4 billion.

Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, will buy 9.99 per cent stake in BT Group from Patrick Drahi's Altice immediately and purchase the remainder after it had secured the necessary regulatory approvals, the firm said in a statement.

However, it did not disclose financial details but market watchers say that at BT's valuation of roughly USD 15 billion dollars, the deal could be in the ballpark of USD 4 billion

Bharti, India's second largest telecom operator with about 400 million subscribers. has had a relationship with BT previously as well. BT owned tion of 8.93 per cent in July, a 21 per cent stake in Bharti

on making an

acquire the whole of BT, nor is it seek-

Altice, an investment conglomerate controlled by billionaire Drahi, is exiting BT as it struggles with high debt. It first took a stake in BT in 2021, acquiring a 12 per cent holding which it later increased to 24.5

BT's shares have fallen by about a third since Altice first became an investor.

"Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, a leading Indian business group with world-class companies in telecoms, digital infrastructure and space communications. has reached an agreement to acquire an interest in 24.5 per cent of the issued share capital of BT Group plc from Altice UK," Bharti said in a statement.

Bharti hopes the investment will further help create new synergies in the telecom sector the areas of AI and 5G R&D

BT Group "offering great po-

tential to collaborate on industry best practices and emerging technologies"

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises said, "Bharti and BT have an enduring relationship going back more than two decades wherein BT owned 21 per cent stake along with two board seats in Bharti Airtel Limited from 1997-2001. Today, marks a significant milestone in Bharti Group's history as we invest in BT - an iconic British company"

Bharti's investment in BT aims to support the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards his vision in elevating and broadening the India-UK ties, the release said.

It noted that during the recently concluded visit of UK Foreign Secretary, David Lammy to India, the UK-India Technology Security Initiative was announced to expand collaboration in critical and between India and the UK in emerging technologies across priority sectors including tele-

India Targets Sustainable Development to Become **Developed Nation By 2047: Economist Shamika Ravi**

NEW DELHI : In a departure from traditional growth models, India is aiming to become a developed nation by 2047 through a sustainable approach, according to economist Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Min-

Speaking

at the Youth Sabha 2047: Shaping India's

Future' event in New Delhi, Ravi emphasised that India would not follow the 'growth at all costs' strategy adopted by OECD countries, reported

Instead, the nation is committed to a growth trajectory that is both equitable and environmentally responsible.

The government's Viksit Bharat @2047 vision outlines ambitious targets, including expanding the GDP from USD 3.4 trillion to USD 30 trillion by 2047.

This comprehensive plan encompasses economic growth, social progress, good governance, and environmen-

NITI Aayog Proposes Guidelines to Enhance Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

NEW DELHI: In a move to strengthen the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the government think tank NITI Aayog has recommended establishing guidelines for assessing creditworthiness and conducting background verifications for loan

This proposal comes as part of a comprehensive report titled «Impact Assessment of PMMY,» recently published on the Aayogss website. The PMMY, launched in 2015, has been a cornerstone in supporting India>s vast Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. To date, the scheme has provided credit support of Rs 18.39 lakh crore to 34.93 crore accounts, playing a crucial role in fostering entrepreneurship and driving socio-economic development. Key recommendations from the report include implementing E-KYC authentication for loan underwriting to enhance assessment checks. The Aayog also suggests developing a set of guidelines for creditworthiness sessment and background verification to provide a security net for banks, given the collateral-free the report proposes establishing hanism for banl



based on their scale of operation and performance. To streamline data collection, the creation of a portal for real-time upload of beneficiary data has been recommended. These suggestions aim to address the challenges faced by banks in verifying small entrepreneurs with limited documentation, while also ensuring the sustainability and success of the scheme. The report highlights the significant growth in credit disbursements to MSMEs across all segments, which have doubled compared to pre-pandemic levels. However, it also notes a concerning trend in the rise of Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts, growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 22.51 per cent since FY 2017. The MSME sectors importance to the Indian economy cannot be overstated. It contributes 33 per cent of the country's total manufacturing gross value output, nature of these loans. Furthermore, accounts for over 40 per cent of exports, and adds more than 28

In Perfect Balance - Inflation and Development



development. in the latest monetary review, the Monetary Policy Committee has not changed the reporate for the 9th consecutive time and has kept it unchanged at 6.5 percent. Earlier, the repo rate was increased in February 2023.

The Reserve Bank mainly tries to fight inflation by in- in the financial year 2023-24 creasing the reporate. When and it is estimated to be bethe repo rate is high, banks—tween 14 to 14.5 percent in the get loans from the Reserve financial year 2024-25. Such Bank at a higher rate, due to a situation is very positive for which banks also give loans the Indian economy. Howevto customers at a higher rate. er, this can be called an excep-By doing this, the liquidity tional situation. However, due of money in the economy decreases and due to lack of money in the pockets of the people, the demand for goods decreases and due to the high Bank of India has increased price of goods and products, its growth forecast for the fitheir sale decreases, due to nancial year 2025 from 7.00 which a decline in inflation percent to 7.2 percent. is recorded.

Similarly, when there is a slowdown in the economy, 2024 was 7.8, while it was 6.1 efforts are made to increase the liquidity of money in the market to accelerate the de- the GDP growth rate in the velopmental work and for this financial year 2023-24 was also the repo rate is reduced, 8.2 percent, which is 1.2 perso that the banks get loans at cent more than the estimate cheaper rates from the Re- of the Reserve Bank of India serve Bank and after getting i.e. the Reserve Bank had banks also give loans to the customers at cheaper rates.

cording to Care Edge Rating, rate remained fast during the despite the loan rate not soft- period under review due to ening, the loan growth rate strong performance in the but it was slightly higher than



has been around 16 percent manufacturing and mining to the rapid pace of lending, both economic activities and growth rate are accelerating. For this reason, the Reserve

The GDP growth rate in the fourth quarter of FY 2023percent in the same quarter last year. At the same time, loans at cheaper rates, the estimated the GDP growth rate to be 7 percent during the financial year 2023-24. At present, the inflation The GDP growth rate was 7 rate remains a matter of con- percent in the last financial cern for the government and year. According to the Minthe Reserve Bank of India. Ac- istry of Statistics, the growth

sectors. The manufacturing sector has grown by 9.9 percent, which was minus 2.2 percent in the financial year 2022-23. Similarly, the mining sector grew at the rate of 7.1 percent during the financial year 2023-24, which was 1.9 percent in the financial year 2022-23. It is noteworthy that the manufacturing sector plays an important role in employment generation.

Retail inflation remains a matter of concern, as the price of food items is expected to remain high in the months of July, August and September due to floods and rains. However, there may be some softening in it in winter. Although the Reserve Bank of India has projected inflation to be 4.5 percent in the financial year 2025, this level is not enough to take decisive decisions for development.

According to the National Statistical Office, retail inflation in June rose by 0.33 percent to 5.08 percent as compared to May, while it whose prices the retail inflawas 4.75 percent in previous tion rate is determined. month, which was a 12-month low. There was some reduction in retail inflation in April,

May at 4.83 percent. Retail prices of both goods and serinflation was 4.81 percent in June 2023, while it was 4.44 percent in July 2023.

to purchasing power. For example, if the inflation rate is Rs.94/-. Therefore, investors should invest according to the level of inflation, otherwise they will get less returns. The increase and decrease of inflation depend on the demand and supply of the product. If people have more money, they will buy more products and buying more products will increase the demand and if the supply is not according to the demand, the price of the

products will increase. In this way, the market will get caught in the vicious circle of inflation. Excessive flow of money in the market or shortage of products causes inflation. On the other hand, if the demand is less and the supply is more, then inflation will be less.

Customers buy goods from the retail market and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the change in the price of products available in the market. The CPI measures the average price paid for products and services. Apart from crude oil, prices of products, cost of production, there are many other things which play an important role in determining the retail inflation rate. Currently, there are about 300 products based on

Thus, inflation plays an important role in determining one's purchasing power. When inflation increases, the

vices increase, which reduces the purchasing power of an individual and reduces the de-Inflation is directly related mand for goods and services. Then, their sales decrease, their production decreases, 6 percent, then the value of the company incurs losses, Rs.100/- earned will be only workers are laid off, employment generation decreases, etc. Due to this, economic activities slow down, and the pace of development is hampered.

Despite the lending interest rate remaining high for the last few months, loan disbursement is increasing, and the pace of growth also remains high. However, such a situation is an exception.

HSBC India's PMI figure stood at 58.1 in July 2024, which was 58.3 points in June and 57.5 points in May, while it was 58.8 points in April. This figure reflects the boom in economic activities and this figure being more than 50 points means that economic activities in the country are booming.

Inflation in India is at a worrying level despite being within the tolerance limit set by the central bank. Therefore, the policy rates have been kept unchanged in the monetary review by the Reserve Bank of India. The central bank is very sensitive about inflation, and it wants to keep the economy strong by maintaining a balance between inflation and growth rate, so that the common man does not face any problem and the pace of development also remains fast.

Satish Singh, Ahmedabad based Senior Columnist. Views are Personal

Nifty, Sensex rally on positive global cues MUMBAI: Indian equity in-

dices opened strong on Friday following positive global cues, including optimism around a potential rate cut by the US Federal Reserve next month.

At 9:50 a.m., Sensex was up 608 points or 0.76 per cent at 79, 714 and Nifty was up 166 points or 0.69 per cent at 24, 310. The market trend was bullish in the opening trade. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 1, 704 shares opened in green mark and 345 shares in red. INDIAVIX was trading at 14.79, down 4.21 percent compared to the previous trading session. This showed that the market remains stable.

Along with largecap, positive trends were being seen in midcap and smallcap stocks. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was at 57, 057, up 522 points or 0.92



per cent, and the Nifty Smallcap 100 index was at 18, 274, up 187 points or 0.25 per cent.

All indices were trading in the green. Auto, IT, PSU Bank, fin Service, pharma, FMCG, realty and energy and healthcare were major gainers. Vaishali Parekh, Vice President (Technical Research) of intact."

Prabhudas Lilladher, said, "Nifty witnessed a consolidated session with very narrow rangebound movement and as mentioned earlier, would have the 24,000 zone as the crucial and important support as of now which needs to sustain to maintain the overall trend

ASSOCHAM shares I-Day resolve to make India a developed nation

NEW DELHI: Sharing the optimism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address, ASSO-CHAM today said India Inc would be an active partner in the national resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047 when we could celebrate

100 years of Independence day. The Prime Minister has a great ability to connect with the people of the country. His address from the ramparts of Red Fort would reinforce enthusiasm of 140 crore Indians to work together and realise the national objectives of achieving excellence with the help of technology and innovation in agriculture, manufacturing, health services and education to make our country Atmanirbharta across different sectors of the economy", said ASSOCHAM



Secretary General Deepak Sood. In his congratulatory mes-

sage, the chamber secretary general said, "it is reassuring to see the Prime Minister conveying his resolve to make lives easier for the people of India. Stress on minimum government interference, reforms in governance would help the nation leverage the innate strength of our people, particularly the youth who form the majority of the human resource".

Citizens' aspirations to live a

better life and participate in national progress forms the core of the PM's address to the nation. The I-Day address has em-

bhasized upon scaling up India's

health services. Introduction of 75,000 new medical seats, as announced by Shri Narendra Modi, reflects the government's commitment towards making Swasth Bharat' along with 'Viksit Bharat', the chamber said. ASSOCHAM secretary general Deepak Sood said the

initiative to rope in states to

establish clear policies to attract investments would be a doubledown approach for scaling up investment-led growth. Reiteration of India's goal for

a sustainable economic growth provides an impetus to the goal of 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Indian-Owned Textile Factories

Resume Operations in Bangladesh Following Unrest

Kamala Harris unveils 'populist' UN chief calls for banning economic agenda to cut costs UN chief calls for banning nuclear testing 'for good'

ident Kamala Harris on Friday unveiled a plan to "lower costs for American families" that included proposals to ban price gouging, build 3 million new housing units and grant a tax credit of \$6,000 per newborn.

These much-awaited economic proposals, which Harris will announce at an election rally in North Carolina, offer the first public view of her governing agenda as president in coming three weeks after she was catapulted to the top of the Democratic ticket after President Joe Biden exited the race bowing to pressure from with the party following his disastrous performance in the first presidential debate. The Harris campaign said in a statement these proposals for her first 100 days in office are intended to "bring down costs for American



families" and will "cut taxes for the middle class, reduce grocery costs, take on price gouging, lower the costs of owning and renting a home, continue to bring down the costs of prescription drugs, and relieve medical debt for millions

High prices are the focus of the 2024 presidential election.

Former President Donald Trump has made it a key element of his re-election bid and held a news conference on Thursday focussing on inflation, which dropped under 3 per cent for the

data released for the annual inflation rate for the month of July. Acknowledging the centrality of the issue, Harris, unlike President Joe Biden, has taken on the issue headlong. The plan, which was called "aggressively populist" by The Washington Post, proposes the "first-ever federal ban on price gouging on food and groceries' and empowering regulators to crackdown on violations; the expansion of the Child Tax Credit to provide a \$6,000 tax cut for families with newborn children for the first year of their life; lowering the costs of prescription drugs and relieving medical debt; and a slew of measures to offset high costs of buying and renting homes by building 3 million new units over 4 years and a \$25,000 down-payment subsidy for first-

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for banning nuclear testing "for good" in an observance message for the International Day against Nuclear Tests, observed annually on August 29.

In the message, Guterres said on Thursday that across nearly eight decades, more than 2,000 nuclear tests were conducted at more than 60 sites around the world, leaving "a legacy of destruction, rendering lands uninhabitable and creating long-term health problems for people", Xinhua news agency reported. The UN chief warned that recent calls for the resumption of nuclear testing demonstrate that the terrible lessons of the past "are being forgotten, or ignored". "On the International Day against Nuclear Tests, the world must speak with one voice



to end this practice once and for all, "he stressed

Noting that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is the only prohibition on all nuclear testing, and an essential, verifiable security tool, Guterres lamented: "But it is not yet in force." "In the name of the victims of nuclear tests and future generations, I call on all countries whose ratifications are needed for the Treaty to enter into force to do so -- immediately and without conditions. Guterres said. "Let's pass the test for humanity -- and ban nuclear testing for good, "he added.

NEW DELHI: In the On Saturday, Minister Sitharaman expressed concerns aftermath of recent civil unrest regarding Indian investments in Bangladesh, textile factories owned by Indian companies in Bangladesh, with a specific have recommenced operations,

according to a senior official from the Commerce Ministry. Concurrently, cross-border truck movement between India and Bangladesh has resumed at the Petrapole border crossing. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated, «After a period of disruption and uncertainty lasting several days, these manufacturing remarked. units have now reopened.» He added, «They have communicated to us that operations are

issues.» This development is particularly noteworthy in light of recent comments made by India>s Finance Minister, Nirfocus on the textile sector.

She highlighted that many of these investments originated from entrepreneurs based in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. «These investments were made in good faith, anticipating success in the textile and garment industries, which indeed materialised,» Minister Sitharaman

She further expressed hope for the safety of these investments amid the recent turmoil. currently proceeding without

The resumption of factory operations and cross-border trade suggests a return to normalcy in the region, though the situation continues to be monitored closely by both gov-

Lack of adequate geographic representation hobbling UNSC: India



adequate geographic representation in the Security Council is responsible for its failures, and giving Africa permanent membership will be essential to make the highest decision-making body effective, R. Ravindra, charge d'affaires of India's UN mission has said.

Speaking on behalf of the G-4, the group of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, on Monday at an open debate of the Council on reforming itself, he said, "A primary reason for the underperformance of this critical institution remains the nonrepresentation of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the under-representation of Asia-Pacific in the permanent category". "We are convinced that African representation in both permanent and nonpermanent categories will be an indispensable part of UNSC reform for a more representative and effective Council," he said. The meeting of the Council was convened by Sierra Leone, which holds the rotating presidency, to push Africa's case for reforming the Council to give the continent better representation.

Putin lauds India's 'widely-recognised track record of success' in I-Day greetings to President Murmu, PM Modi MOSCOW: Lauding India's "well-deserved authority" in the

"widely-recognised track record Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Moscow attaches great importance to the privileged strategic partnership between the two countries.

hailed the longstanding partsaying that India now enjoys a President Droupadi Murmu

UNITED NATIONS: India ex-

pects that the landmark interna-

tional treaty to fight cybercrime

will be a very strong force to

fight the threat through interna-

tional cooperation, according to

its delegate to the negotiations

The 193 members of the

world organisation reached a

consensus for a comprehensive treaty to fight cybercrimes, rang-

ing from terrorism and hacking

to financial fraud and child porn

after more than two years of

will establish a very strong foun-

dation for international coop-

effectively combat cyber threats

while respecting the sovereignty

of each nation, "Arvinder Singh,

lia's representative at

session of the negotiating com-

negotiations has said.

We anticipate that this treaty

eration, one that allows us to crimes.'

Speaking at the concluding assured

for the landmark pact.

world arena. "Over the course of of success", Russian President 77 years of its development as an independent nation, your country has achieved a widely-recognised track record of success in social, economic, scientific, technical affairs, as In another statement, the well as in many other spheres, Russian Foreign Ministry also and has earned great prestige on the international stage, nership between the countries, Putin wrote in his message to

India expects landmark global cybercrime

mittee on Friday, he said, "This

will act as a strong deterrent

against the cyber criminals who

exploit the boundaries of na-

tions while committing cyber

The negotiators for the

landmark treaty reached their

raft will go before the General

Assembly where its passage is

pact will be strong force to fight threat



and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of India's Independence Day.

40 countries have signed it.

"The finalisation of this Con-

vention is a landmark step as

the first multilateral anti-crime

treaty in over 20 years and the

first UN Convention against

Cybercrime at a time when

threats in cyberspace are grow-

e evecutive director of the

strategic partnership with India, and I am certain that our consistent efforts to fulfil the agreements resulting from our recent talks in Moscow will contribute to further expanding the multifaceted cooperation between doubt that this would serve the interests of our friendly nations, while strengthening international stability and security, "he

to the relations of a privileged added. Meanwhile, the Russian Foreign Ministry also hailed the diplomatic relations between the two countries, saying that the friendly Russian-Indian ties are based on equality, mutual respect and trust. "India enjoys well-deserved authority in the Russia and India. There is no world arena, playing a major constructive role in international affairs. Today, our relations can be defined as a special and privileged strategic partnership.'

US welcomes India's peace efforts in Russia-Ukraine war



Wednesday while addressing potential upcoming travel by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Ukraine later this month. "I will let the (Indian) Prime

Minister's office speak to any of his own travels. I don't have anything to offer there, "he said during his daily news conference on Wednesday.

"We are in touch with our Indian partners on a number of issues and, of course, would welcome India's engagement Ukraine especially as it relates UN Office on Drugs and Crime to ensuring that we get to a just President Volodymyr Zelen-(UNDOC), which served as the and durable peace that is re-skyy expressed disappointment secretariat for the negotiations. flective of what our Ukrainian over PM Modi's visit to Russia,



partners are attempting to do, which is to defend their territorial integrity and sovereignty, Patel added.

PM Modi is likely to visit Poland and Ukraine from August 21 to 23. No official announcement in this regard has been made yet.

Earlier, PM Modi was on an official visit to Russia from July in the war between Russia and 8-9 and met Russian President in humanity is hurt when there Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian

which he termed a "devastating blow to peace efforts".

During his bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, PM Modi raised the issue of killings of children during conflicts and said it is "heart-wrenching" when innocent children die.

The Prime Minister said that everyone who believes children were killed in a recent blamed on a Muslim migrant missile strike at a children's hospital in Kyiv.

UK Police arrest 1,000 people following riots



LONDON: More than 1,000 people have been arrested by the UK Police in connection with the riots involving violence, arson and looting as well as racist attacks which took place over the last two weeks in Britain, officials said on Tuesday. The riots, which followed the killings of three young girls in the northern English town of Southport, began after the based on online misinforma-

TWO-NATION RHETORIC REINVENTED

agreement on Thursday and the ing rapidly, "said Ghada Waly,

Pakistan Army Hopes to Claim Intimate Ties with Pro-Islamists Regime in Dacca



Bangladesh.

GOPAL MISRA

einvigorated with the success of his brethren in who were paying homage to uniform in deposing Sheikh Hasina, an elected civilian prime minister for 15 Forty nine years ago, on this years, in Bangladesh, with the day, he along with his family support Jamaat-E-Islami, Pakis invoke two-nation theory. The ideology was dead in 1971, when A section of the army having Pakistan's majority Muslim close ties with the Pakistani province in the east decided to intelligence agencies, ISI, and

In spite of the reports of some Muslim students guarding Hindu temples, the interim government led by Mohammad Yunus, an economist and Nobel of radical Islamists in the new setup. Younus has inducted Abul Fayez Mohammad Khalid Hossain, president of Hafazat Islam, a known anti-India outfit in Bangladesh. He is also for the laws in the country's judicial

become a secular democratic

the supporters of the erstwhile to Pakistan as an unfinished secular democratic regime of agenda of India's partition Sheikh Hasina cause concerns in India, but the democratic gathering of Islamic scholars regimes in the US-led West are at Islamabad. maintaining silence officially, but their media is supporting the military coup in Bangla-

moval of Sheikh Hasina from power, are scared of the supporters of democracy and the identity of Bangladesh. On August 15, they attacked those the founder of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. was martyred. Mujibur could escape gallows in Pakistan. Mullahs had committed this heinous crime History might remember

Younus, not as an economist, but as a Trojan horse of the new military rulers responsible for ending democracy laureate, has a strong presence with the Pakistani -backed

Kashmir -an Unfinished Agenda

Mirth and happiness was irresistible for Pakistan's army chief Syed Asim Munir, stated implementation of the Sharia to be well-versed in the Holy Koran, when he claimed that Kashmir as a majority Muslim The continuous attacks on area should have been given in 1947. He was addressing a

The new camaraderie is natural between Asim Munir and the Bangladesh army chief General Waker-The frustrated Islamists uz-Zaman. Both control the



respective countries. They draw their political strength from radical Islamists and are being blessed by China and the US-led West.

Munir's Initiative

It was a calculative move of the Pakistani army chief to raise the two -nation theory to camouflage the bloody past of his predecessors.In 1971, the blood-thirsty Paki soldiers had committed genocide in Bangladesh, then the eastern province of Pakistan. They had massacred more than 20 million Bengali Muslims and violated at least one million women in the age-group of 16-60.

In an upbeat mood, Asim Munir asserted before a select audience of Ulemas and Mashaikhs, experts in Islamic laws and scholars of Islam respectively, that the recent events in Bangladesh have reaffirmed the ideology of two-nation is

bloodless coup in Dacca that toppled the secular government of Sheikh Hasina, he reiterated his commitment to the

Sharia law. If anyone dared to oppose the Islamic law would be branded a non-Pakistani, told the gathering of radical Muslims held recently in Islamabad.

The Mashaikhs and Ulemas were also appreciative of the timely coup by the Bangladesh army. For them, it was the return of the Muslims to return to the faith in Bangladesh from the influence of secularism and democracy. Forty nine years ago, they were a part of Pakistan. Also, they were on the forefront of the movement for a Muslim country i.e. Pakistan.

Ulema's Hope

The conference didn't pass any formal resolution welcoming Hasina's removal, but their that despite the physical re- civilian governments of their alive. Without referring to the discussions centered around

emphasizing Islam's role in 1947, thus the twins, Pakistan the governance.There was a sense of satisfaction that like Pakistan, Bangladesh too would become an aggressive Islamic regime. The meeting was held within a week of the bloodless coup, jointly conspired by the chiefs of army, navy and airforce in Dacca. The chiefs prevailed upon Hasina to resign and escape in a helicopter before the menacing crowd of students led by Islamists decimated her like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father, was killed along with

never punished. It was quite satisfying for the Ulemas and Mashaikh that despite being under the anti-Islamic forces for halfa-century, the Islamists have reasserted in Bangladesh. They also hoped that with the defense forces occupying the pivotal role, Bangladesh is expected to adopt the Sharia

his sons, brothers and even

their spouses and children

by a group of young army

officers. These officers were

Since 1971, a secular and democratic Bangladesh had become a challenge to the basic concept of the partition of India i.e. the two-nation theory. It was cleverly implemented by the outgoing colonial power. The British Parliament had enacted the Indian Independence Act in

laws in near future.

and India, were delivered by the white mother. Pakistan had two wings in East and the West, separated by 1500 kilometers of Indian territories.

Partition Negated

During British rule, seeds of India's partition were sown with the setting up a provincial unit of the Muslim League in Bengal, especially enrolling the rich landlords. In a bid to win the support of the poor Muslims, a series of communal riots were engineered. The Razakars, though noticed when they resisted the merger of Nizam's state, Hyderabad, with India, were being nurtured by Muslim landlords on the advice of the British. These Razakars were sent to Bengal to spread communal

General Munir, who is known as a zealot Muslim, who has learnt Holy Koran by heart and could recite the holy text without reading it, was so happy that it is heartening that the two- nation theory propagated by Muhammad Ali Jinnah is back on the agenda of the sub-continent.

Gopal Misra has been associated with national and international media. His books on journalism and geo-politics have been well-appreciated. Views are personal.

Parliament elects Thaksin's daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra as Thailand's prime minister



BANGKOK: Thailand's Parliament elected Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the youngest daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, as the country's new prime minister

Paetongtarn becomes Thailand's third leader from the Shinawatra family, after her father, who was ousted by coup before returning from exile last year, and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, who lives in exile. Paetongtarn also became Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt and the

country's youngest leader at 37. She is the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai party but was not an elected lawmaker, which was not required for her to be a candidate for prime minister. Paetongtarn was the sole nominee and got a majority of the votes in Parliament with the voting ongoing. The last prime minister had been removed by the constitutional court two days ago over an ethics violation.

Thaksin is one of Thailand's most popular but divisive political figures and was ousted by a military coup in 2006. He is widely seen as a de facto

leader of Pheu Thai, the latest in a string of parties linked to him. His residual popularity and influence is a factor behind the political support for Paetongtarn. Her public entry into politics came in 2021 when the Pheu Thai party announced she would lead an inclusion advisory committee. She was appointed as leader of Pheu Thai last year, after she was named one of its three prime ministerial candidates ahead of the polls.

When Paetongtarn was on the campaign trail for Pheu Thai, she acknowledged her family ties but insisted she was not just her father's proxy. "It's not the shadow of my dad. I am my dad's daughter, always and forever, but I have my own decisions," she told a reporter.

However, her father's shadow

is too big to be dismissed and her work will not be easy with him continuing to call political shots for Pheu Thai, said Petra Alderman, a political research fellow at England's University of Birmingham. "Thaksin was a political force to reckon with, but he was also a liability," she said, "He has a tendency to overplay his political hand, so serving in his shadow has never been easy." Paetongtarn's nomination followed the removal of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on Wednesday after less than a vear in office. The Constitutional Court found him guilty of a serious ethical breach regarding his appointment of a Cabinet member who was jailed in con-

nection with an alleged bribery

attempt.

Indian Hockey team pays obeisance at Sri Harmandir Sahib

Amritsar

The Indian Hockey team was accorded a warm welcome on reaching Shri Guru Ramdas ji International Airport by the Member Parliament Gurjeet Singh Aujla and Punjab Cabinet Minister Kuldip Singh Dhaliwal here today.

On reaching the airport, the team went to Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden temple) where they were received by SGPC officials. The ten players who paid obeisance at the Golden Temple all belonged to Punjab whereas five belonged to Amritsar.

During visit to Sri Harmandir Sahib the family members of the Hockey team were also seen enormously happy while seeing the winning team here.

All the Blue turbaned players hugged their family members when they reached outside the Golden Temple from Airport. Team took a full round of

marbled periphery around the water pool of Golden Temple before entering in the sanctum sanctorum where they

paid obeisance. Thereafter, team also paid obeisance at the highest Sikh temporal seat Akal Takht.

Due to Sunday, there was heavy footfall of devotees in the Sri Harmandir Sahib, but the team was provided fool proof security by the SGPC task force. The visiting devotees were seen making mobile selfies with players who happily obliged everybody who asked them for a mobile selfie.

Talking to media, Indian hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh said, "We are

(Almighty) the unseen power which has given us the enormous internal strength in the playground to maintaining stamina which led us to victory

to clinch medal for the nation.

In future in the coming Olympic

in 2028 the team will do more

hard practice to change the color of the present medal in Gold with the Grace of Waheguru". "It was a unique, inexpressible feeling when the team won the bronze medal the Indian

flag was seen everywhere in

the limelight at Foreign land

here to thanks the Waheguru in Paris", said emotional team captain Harmanpreet Singh.

Another player Germanjeet Singh said the team was thankful to SGPC which accorded a warm welcome here that boosted up the morale of the team as special honor was accorded to the entire team by the SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami.

Later the team was honored by the SGPC president Dhami in the information centre of the Sri Harmandir Sahib with a gold plated replica of the Sri Harmandir Sahib, set of Sikh

Manoj Bajpayee: Feel very proud that Gulmohar' is chosen

for 3 awards

religious books and shawls to each team player.

Dhami said that it was matter of honor for the State of Punjab when Punjabi guys brining medal for the nations which brought the Punjab in limelight in Foreign land as it was a matter of pride for the Sikh community since all Sikh players gave wonderful and unmatchable performance in the playground while securing a bronze medal with a 2-1 victory over Spain at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium in Colombes on Thursday in 2024



Sara celebrates 'Abba' Saif Ali

Khan's birthday with brother

Ibrahim, Kareena Kapoor

MUMBAI: Actress Sara Ali Khan on Friday celebrated the 54th birthday of her father and actor Saif Ali Khan, by bringing him a delicious chocolate cake

Sara took to Instagram and shared pictures from Saif's birthday celebration at his residence.

The snap shows birthday boy Saif wearing a half

white sleeve T-shirt and blue denim jeans. Sara is wearing a blue sleeveless crop top and off-white trousers. Ibrahim, the vounger brother of Sara. looked dapper in white shirt and blue denim jeans.

The photo also features Saif's second wife and actress Kareena Kapoor, who is donning an all denim outfit. The decoration shows balloons with 'best dad' written on it. Saif is seen

cutting a chocolate cake. The post is captioned as:

Happiest birthday Abba". Kareena's elder sister Karisma Kapoor, and Saif's sister-in-law posted a photo with the birthday boy and wrote: "Happy birthday

Abhay Deol to star alongside 'Elvis' actress Natasha Bassett in 'Don't You Be My Neighbor!



will be seen sharing screen space with "Elvis" actress Natasha Bassett in the upcoming indie romantic comedy titled "Don't You Be My Neighbor!"

The film will portray an unlikely connection between Jay essayed by Abhay and Emily played by Bassett, who have different perspectives on love and life. As they work through their contrasting

beliefs and life experiences, they are challenged to confront their preconceptions and open their hearts to unexpected possibilities, per the synopsis, reports deadline.com. The film is directed by Harry Grewal and

the script is penned by David Lambertson "We are excited to bring this lighthearted and thought-provoking story to life. Abhav Deol and Natasha Bassett bring their immense talent and dedication to the lead roles, making them perfect for these

characters," Grewal said. Grewal produces through his Grewal Films International banner alongside production partner Donna Grewal. Raman Palta and Payal Palta produce through their Palta Film Production label, and Jason Cherubini is the

executive producer. Producer Raman Palta added that the film would "resonate with audiences as it delves into the heartache of losing love and the joy of finding it again, saying: "It's a story that needs to be told, and we are thrilled to be working with such an exceptional team.

Bassett was seen playing Dixie Locke, Elvis Presley's first girlfriend, in Baz Lurhmann's "Elvis" and portrayed Britney Spears in the 2017 Lifetime movie, "Britney Ever After".

star Manoj Bajpayee says he feels proud that his film "Gulmohar" has been including Best Film, Best Screenplay awards and the actor getting a Special Mention at the 70th National Film Awards.

MUMBAL: Acclaimed

too happy for my director and feel very proud that Gulmohar is chosen for 3 awards! A film which holds a very special place in my eart, " Manoj told IANŠ. "Gulmohar", which also

stars Sharmila Tagore, released in March 2023. It told the story of a family drama revolving around the multi-generation familv who is all set to move out of their 34-year-old family home. It also marked the return of Tagore on the screens after 13 years as she was last seen in "Break Ke Baad" starring Imran Khan and Deepika Padukone.

Manoj is a recipient of numerous honours including three National Film Awards and two Asia Pacific Screen Awards. He was feted with India's fourth-highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri, for his contributions to art in 2019. In 2003, he won named for the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in 2016 for his work in filmmaker Hansal Mehta's "Aligarh' The actor was last seen

in the action thriller film 'Bhaiyaa Ji" directed by Apoorv Singh Karki, with whom he had previously Bandaa Kaafi Hai" The Ministry of Infor-

mation and Broadcasting revealed the winners in the National Capital. On Ocincluding the recipient of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, will the Special Jury National be honoured by President

Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony. The awards were announced by the chairperson of the Feature Film Jury, Rahul Rawail; Nila Madhab Panda, chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury; and Gangadhar Mudalair, chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema

Rishabh Shetty was named the Best Actor for his performance in the Kannada film "Kantara, while Nithya Menen and Manasi Parekh shared the Best Actress award for their work in "Thiruchitrambalam" and "Kutch Express" respectively.

When Sunny Kaushal had a full-on boxing match with brother Vicky in Punjab

al has recounted his mischievous Kaushal, sharing a story about their childhood vacation to Punjab, where the duo had a full-on boxing match with each other.

Sunny appeared on the new episode of 'Aapka Apna Zakir', hosted by comedian and actor Zakir Khan.

He was accompanied by the stellar cast of the romantic thriller, 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba'-- Taapsee Pannu, and Vikrant Massey. In a fun conversation, the cast

opened up about their relationship with their beloved siblings, diving deep into some fun and unknown secrets.

With excitement in their eyes, Vikrant and Sunny shared their action director Sham Kaushal, TV in the house.



experiences as younger brothers, revealing the common struggles of being the target of their older siblings' playful pranks. Taapsee of sibling rivalry. We'd fight also chimed in with her own sibling stories.

Spilling the beans, Sunny, who is the son of Bollywood

said: "Vicky and I are only a year and four months apart, but that was enough to cause plenty over everything from clothes to what to watch on TV. He was into sports, and I was more of a cartoon fan as we had only one

Karnataka tops India with 19% youth aspiring to be digital influencers, 16% to found startups; "The iQOO **Quest Report 2024"**

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

iQOO, a sub-smartphone brand of the vivo group, proudly announces the release of its inaugural "iQOO Quest Report 2024" in collaboration with CyberMedia Research (CMR). This report provides an in-depth analysis of Gen Z traits and trends related to dreams, careers, and aspirations, capturing the journey of one of the world's largest and most optimistic generations. With insights from 6,700 respondents aged 20-24 across seven countries—India, the United States, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia—the report explores three core areas: the spirit and motivation driving Gen Z Questers to achieve their dreams, the obstacles and barriers that disrupt their pursuit of passion, and the career choices that fuel their interests.

In today's fast-paced social media world, fame and success are increasingly measured by online popularity, with Gen Ž often seeking their 15 minutes of fame. This trend raises important questions about the allure at 8.0, and Brazil at 7.8.

JAGMOHAN SINGH

from the Indo-Pak Attari bor-

der and would culminate at the

Golden Gate of G.T. Road, Am-

ritsar showing protest against

the BJP Government led by

PM Narendra Modi for not

considering grunted legal MSP

law for farmers.

Amritsar



and ethics of such careers. While influencer culture thrives, India's startup ecosystem is also booming, now ranking as the world's third-largest. This dynamic underscores a critical consideration for the youth: whether to aspire to be "job creators" or "digital celebrities" in this rapidly evolving landscape.

The report delves into various aspects of what success means to Gen Z, decoding their drive, passion, and ambition through a quantitative metric known as the Quest Index, or "QI." The findings reveal India's QI at 9.1, followed by Malaysia at 8.7, Thailand and the USA at 8.2, Indonesia at 8.1, the United Kingdom



Manisha Koirala calls Richa Chadha, Ali Fazal 'best couple in the film fraternity' MUMBAI: Actress Manisha Koirala met new parents Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal and said that they are the best couple in the film fraternity she has met.

Manisha met Richa, with whom she worked in the series "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar", weeks after she welcomed her firstborn, a girl.

Sharing a picture from their home, Manisha wrote: "Most definitely the best couple in the film fraternity that I have met. Love the cozyness that surrounds their home... Thank you Richa Chadha and Ali

Tractor march by farmers in Amritsar Punjab



Fazal for yesterday!! See you guys soon!! with Heeramandi writer n dear friend Moin Beg

In the image, the 53-yearold actress is seen posing with Richa, Ali, and the writer of the Sanjay Leela Bhansali directed series Moin Beg.

On July 18, Richa and Ali

announced the arrival of their first child, a daughter. In a joint statement, Richa and Ali confirmed that they welcomed a "healthy baby girl" on July 16. The statement read: "We

are tickled pink with joy to announce the arrival of a healthy baby girl on 16.07.24! Our families are overjoyed, and we thank our well-wishers for their love and blessings! Love, Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal." In February, the couple an-

nounced on social media that they were expecting their first

Bollywoods Kareena Kapoor highlights GJEPC Gems & Jewellery Show 2024 role as 'hub' of innovation and



DOMINICK RODRIGUES Mumbai

A new bigger Exhibition & Convention Centre in Mumbai and "Smart Manufacturing" will be included in Maharashtra's new Industrial Policy which will be announced in September 2024, according to Dr Harshdeep Kamble, IAS, Principal Secretary, (Industries), Government of Maha-

40th edition of the India Inter-

national Jewellerv Show 2024 (IIJS) Premiere Show organised by The Gem & Jewellery **Export Promotion Council** (GJEPC) in Mumbai recently.

Noting that the future of the Gem & Jewellery sector lies in smart manufacturing and technological advancements, he said 'Magnetic' Maharashtra is poised to lead the way in this new era of industrial development, where this event showcases the brilliance of gems He stated this during the and jewellery industry, and also highlights Maharashtra's

excellence. Vipul Shah, Chairman, GJEPC, while noting the growth of IIJS into the world's second-largest B2B gem and jewellery show, said the overwhelming participation of over 2.500 international visitors and 15 international delegations underscored the global impact of this industry and this show. "With the continued government support and the industry's collective efforts, we are confident of achieving our vision of elevating India's gem and jewellery exports to US\$ 100 billion by 2047," he said. Varghese Alukkas, Man-

aging Director, Jos Alukkas, while commending the GJEPC for this outstanding jewellery show and also the IIJS's important role in furthering domestic and international exports, noted that the recent Union Budget and the duty cuts have "spurred new energy and dynamism into the gem & jewellery business."

A Large group of farmers led by its leader Sarwan Singh Pandher here today took out Tractor March which begins

Activists of Kisan Mazdoor Angry farmers also burnt Sangharsh Committee from the copies of all laws including all the villages of Amritsar disnew criminal procedure code, electricity amendment Act and trict participated in the tractor march along with 600 tractors. Have covered nearly 30 the alleged anti-public face of

the Central government led by legal guarantee for it is ac-BJP. Pandher said that the protest that was presently going on at Haryana border would continue till their demands others in order to highlight regarding minimum support price (MSP) for crops and a



cepted.

Pandher said that a tractor parade would be taken out all over the country as per the programme announced by Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political).

He said the PM was claiming credit for the new improved varieties of seeds, whereas, he utterly failed to understand that unless a profitable price was assured for crops, the farmers will not get its benefit.