

REGION 2

DTC BUS DEPOTS TO INSTALL FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY TO MONITOR DRIVER'S SHIFTS



BANKING & FINANCE 6

WORLD BANK UPGRADES INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST TO 7 PER CENT FOR FY24-25



POTPOURRI 8

BOMBAY HC TO CBFC: DECIDE ON CERTIFICATION TO 'EMERGENCY' BY SEP 18; NO RELEASE ON SEP 6



Delhi Liquor case: SC holds its order on Kejriwal's pleas for bail, against CBI arrest

Supreme Court reserved its order
OUR CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi



The Supreme Court has reserved its order on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's pleas seeking bail and challenging the Delhi High Court's ruling that upheld his arrest by the CBI in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. After hearing arguments from both sides, a bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan reserved the verdict.

Kejriwal should have first sought bail from the sessions court. He implied that Kejriwal's status as a prominent political figure might have influenced the legal process. Raju further warned that granting Kejriwal bail could risk witnesses turning hostile.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the CBI, raised objections to Kejriwal bypassing the trial court and directly approaching the Delhi High Court for bail. Raju argued that such an approach is usually reserved for exceptional cases, and Ke-

previously granted Kejriwal bail twice: once in May to campaign for elections and a second time with interim bail in a case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) linked to the excise policy. Singhvi noted that Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI on June 26 occurred despite no arrests being made for two years, calling it an "insurance arrest."

Singhvi further argued that Kejriwal posed no threat to society, emphasizing that he was not a hardened criminal. The Supreme Court is currently deliberating on his plea against the arrest as well as a separate

plea for bail. On August 5, the Delhi High Court upheld Kejriwal's arrest, stating that the CBI had collected sufficient evidence before proceeding. The court found no malice in the CBI's actions and noted that Kejriwal's influence over witnesses only became apparent following his arrest.

Olympian Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia join Congress

KAVITA SHARMA
New Delhi

Two prominent and popular Olympian wrestlers, Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, today joined the Indian National Congress. They were inducted into the party by the general secretary in charge of organization KC Venugopal in presence of several other senior leaders.

Welcoming them into Congress, Venugopal said, it was a moment of great pride for INC that the two great Olympian wrestlers and medallists had joined the party.



He said, the two Olympians had not only made their mark in the field of sports, but had also participated in social causes like fight against sexual harassment, protest against three farm laws and fight against the Agnipath scheme.

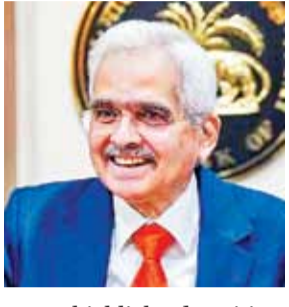
Venugopal said they had chosen the Congress party as it stood by them in their fight for justice. "Indian National Congress is proud to accept them into the party", he said.

The Congress general secretary criticised the Railways De-

partment for issuing show cause notices to Phogat and Punia over their meeting with Rahul Gandhi. He asked whether it was a crime to meet the Leader

India on Track for 7.2% GDP Growth: RBI Governor

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das affirmed on Thursday that despite a slowdown in India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth during the first quarter, the South Asian economy is on track to achieve the projected full-year growth rate of 7.2 per cent.



per cent GDP growth rate for 2024-25 remains reasonable," Das stated.

India's GDP growth for the April-June quarter decelerated to 6.7 per cent year-on-year, falling short of the anticipated 6.9 per cent and the RBI's forecast of 7.1 per cent. This moderation was attributed to a decline in government spending during the national elections.

Das highlighted positive indicators for the remainder of the year, noting that agriculture is expected to perform better due to a favourable monsoon, which will likely boost rural demand.

Speaking at the annual FIBAC banking conference, Das emphasised that the fundamental growth drivers of the Indian economy are not diminishing but rather gaining momentum.

He pointed out that disinflation efforts have been challenged by fluctuating and high food prices, noting, "It is the headline inflation, particularly with food inflation comprising 46 per cent of the index, that affects public perception."

He expressed confidence in India's economic trajectory, stating, "The Indian growth story remains intact."

Das expressed optimism that favourable monsoon conditions could improve the food inflation outlook over the year. He emphasised the need to remain vigilant about inflationary pressures and to navigate the final stages of disinflation while upholding the credibility of the flexible inflation targeting framework, which he described as a significant structural reform.

ED raids RG Kar ex-principal's house in financial irregularities case



NEW DELHI: Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers on Friday conducted simultaneous search operations at the houses of Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, and three of his associates in connection with alleged financial irregularities at the institute, an officer said. The raids were carried out at Ghosh's residence in Beliaghata and at two locations in Howrah and Subhasgram. All four are already in CBI custody. "We reached these places around 6.15 am and started our raids," the officer told to media. The ED has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against Ghosh. On August 23, the Calcutta High Court ordered the transfer of the investigation into the alleged financial irregularities at the hospital from a state-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) to the CBI. The decision followed a petition by Dr Akhtar Ali, the former deputy superintendent of the facility, who sought an investigation by the ED into multiple allegations of financial misconduct during Ghosh's tenure.

Manipur Crises: Bomb attack at former Manipur CM Koireng's residence kills 1, injures 5



NEW DELHI: An elderly man was killed and five others were injured after suspected militants launched a bomb attack on a residential area of Moirang in Bishnupur district on Friday afternoon, officials said.

The rocket which fell on the compound of former chief minister Mairembam Koireng's residence seemed to be an improvised one.

It is the second rocket that was fired in the district on Friday. "The elderly man was preparing for some religious rituals in the compound when the bomb exploded. He died on the spot," the official said.

Five others, including a 13-year-old girl, were injured in the explosion. The rocket fell at a spot around two km from the Indian National Army (INA) headquarters complex.

On April 14, 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Shaikat Ali of INA hoisted the Tricolour of free India for the first time on Indian soil under the guidance of INA Supreme Commander Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Moirang.

Earlier in the day, a rocket was fired from an elevated position in the nearby hill areas toward the low-lying residential locality of Tronglaobi, located around 45km from the state capital Imphal.

Government to Launch Online Portal for Transparency in Commerce Ministry & DPIIT

NEW DELHI: The Indian government is set to introduce a new online portal for the Commerce Ministry and the Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on September 13, 2024.

This initiative, announced by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on September 5, aims to enhance transparency and reduce physical interactions in governmental processes.

The portal will feature video conferencing capabilities for stakeholder interactions, a grievance logging system, and archival of all meetings conducted via the platform.

Minister Goyal emphasised that this platform is expected to mitigate corruption by eliminating the need for in-person meetings.

He stated, "We are starting an open video link for all stakeholders so they don't have to visit the ministry or department. They can log their grievances."

SC grants bail to ex-Bhushan Steel MD Neeraj Singal in money laundering case

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday ordered the release of Bhushan Steel Ltd's former Managing Director Neeraj Singal on bail, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged bank fraud of Rs 46, 000 crore.



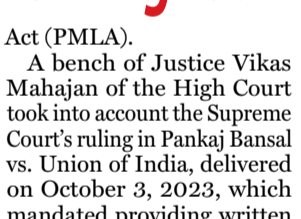
A bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna was hearing a special leave petition filed by Singal against the decision of the Delhi High Court dismissing his bail plea and upholding the validity of his arrest by the federal anti-money laundering agency.

to be released on bail on such terms and conditions as may be set by the trial court.

Taking into consideration the fact that conclusion of the trial is unlikely in the near future and Singal has suffered a long incarceration pre-trial, the Bench, also comprising Sanjay Kumar, directed Singal

In January this year, the Delhi HC dismissed Singal's plea challenging his arrest on June 9, 2023, stating that at that time, oral communication of the grounds of arrest was considered proper compliance with Section 19(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering

AAP's dalit face Rajendra pal Gautam joins Congress party



OUR CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi

Former Delhi minister and AAP MLA Rajendra Pal Gautam officially joined the Congress party on Friday at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters. His induction was witnessed by senior Congress leaders, including general secretary KC Venugopal, Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav, and the head of Congress' media and publicity department, Pawan Khera.

Welcoming Gautam, Venugopal said, "It is a proud mo-

ment for us to have Shri Rajendra Pal Gautam join the Congress party." He credited the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra for shaping a new national narrative, which Gautam found compelling. "Inspired by the programs led by Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, he has decided to join Congress," Venugopal added.

Earlier in the day, Gautam announced his resignation from AAP in a post on X, where he stated in Hindi that he was leaving the party to further the cause of social justice and enhance the participation of the Bahujan Samaj across all sectors.

Gautam had resigned as Delhi's social welfare minister in October 2022 following a controversy over remarks attributed to him regarding Hindu deities.

of the Opposition. He asked the Railways Department that they must relieve the two players without creating any difficulties. Speaking on the occasion,

from jails. By adopting silence nothing will be achieved. Rahul Gandhi should reply with a 'Yes' or 'No' whether he supports NC manifesto."

Appealing to voters to support BJP candidates, Shah referred to the main points of the party manifesto released today by him. "What happened in 10 years has made us reach closer to our goal. I promise that if the people give us the mandate to govern J&K, we will change the face of J&K in four years. Youth will write their own destiny. College students will get Rs 3, 000 travelling allowance. To coach local youth for UPSC exams, we will give Rs 10, 000 per month to promising aspirants for two years," he said.

"Dal Lake will be reclaimed to its past glory. We will set up a fun city in the Tattoo ground in Srinagar from where the visitors will not leave for three days because of the attractions offered to children and families," he said.

No talks with Pakistan unless terrorism ends, says Amit Shah

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah unequivocally said on Friday that Article 370 is a thing of the past and those promising to restore it are deceiving the people of J&K.



He also said that there can be no talks with Pakistan as long as terrorism exists in J&K. "Right from the Independence of the country, we have been closely associated with J&K. From the agitation started by Pandit Prem Nath Dogra to the sacrifice of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, our party, first as the Jana Sangh and then as the BJP, strived for complete integration of J&K with the rest of the country," Shah, who arrived here to release the BJP election manifesto for the coming Assembly elections, told a large gathering of party workers, BJP supporters and the media.

days worked with an appeasement policy for the separatists. During the last 10 years after 2014, J&K's history will be written in golden words. Today J&K is part of India and it will always remain part of India. Article 370 and 35A are no longer part of the Indian Constitution. These articles are a thing of the past and will never come back. Those promising to restore article 370 are deceiving the people of J&K," he said.

He said 58 per cent votes were polled in the Lok Sabha elections, and "in the past if there would be 10 per cent voting, that would be highlighted by newspapers."

Pakistan, the Home Minister said: "There is no question of talking to Pakistan as long as terrorism exists in J&K. Yes, we will talk to the youth of J&K as they are our own children."

About the National Conference (NC) election manifesto that promises to revisit reservations in J&K, he said: "Omar Abdullah is now saying that if he gets power, they will revisit reservations to Gujjars, Paharis and other underprivileged classes. I want to tell Omar Abdullah that reservations are a part of the Indian Constitution and will never give him the power to undo these reservations."

About the NC-Congress alliance, Shah said: "Congress has supported the NC manifesto. I am again asking Rahul Gandhi whether he supports the restoration of Article 370, the restoration of the dual constitution in J&K and releasing all anti-national elements

ICICI Bank-Videocon loan case: SC notice to Chanda Kochhar, husband on CBI's plea

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from ICICI Bank's former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Chanda Kochhar and her businessman husband Deepak Kochhar on a plea filed against the Bombay High Court order declaring their arrest as "illegal".



A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar issued notice to the couple and sought their replies on the appeal filed by the central probe agency.

February 6 held as "illegal" their arrest while confirming a January 2023 interim order passed by another bench granting the duo bail days after their arrest in the case. The couple was arrested by the CBI on December 23, 2022, in connection with the Videocon-ICICI Bank loan case. They immediately moved the high court challenging their arrest and sought it to be declared as illegal. By way of an interim relief, they also sought to be released on bail.

SAM PITRODA HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO FOCUS ON PURPOSE-DRIVEN ECONOMICS



The rising income inequality



India has already lifted millions out of poverty. However, what it has done is simply not enough. More needs to be done with brave and bold initiatives that copycat solutions will not achieve. The new economics is all about moving from “economies of scope and scale” to “economy of purpose”. And the purpose is

local production and “small is beautiful” makes huge sense in a hyper-connected world in order to ensure local employment and prosperity in India. Investment in small and medium-sized enterprises and local innovations is equally critical to network to scale for global markets. Unfortunately, banks prefer large loans to big companies as opposed to small loans to SMEs. This must change with digital technology for financial services. India has 800 districts with unique climate, natural resources, capabilities and talent to build 800 production centres for a variety of goods and services. It also means 800 digital platforms to network to build supply chain, logistics, markets and distribution centres.

Where the future lies

Future jobs even in the AI-dominated world will come from food, education, health services, tourism and manufacturing. In fact, young Indian talent is the workforce for the world. This issue is thus about assessing progress in terms of human and technology development and a new economic model based on decentralisation and digital platforms to network needs and change consumption patterns and behaviours. The future definitely lies in a new tech economic model to deliver on inclusion, basic human needs, decentralisation, conservation and non-violence. The future also lies in a change in lifestyle that values happiness from “sharing and caring” as opposed to a “vulgarity of conspicuous consumption”.

Sam Pitroda is a telecom technocrat with 60 years of experience, an inventor, policy maker and global thinker. Views are personal.

Addressing income inequality is a serious global challenge. It is a complex and multifaceted endeavour which demands examining, trying and implementing several different strategies to find a suitable way to foster a more equitable society. Here are some key areas to act on.

First, progressive taxation. Progressive tax policies are required to redistribute wealth from the affluent to the marginalised. It is not about stealing from the rich to pay the poor. It is about using tax money to improve health, education, skill development, the environment, and facilitate job creation.

Second, education and skill development. Access to quality education, skill development and lifelong learning is critical to enhance employability and increase earning. Third, fair labour laws. Enforcing labour rights, minimum wages, safety, security, eliminating child labour, protection against exploitation, and collective bargaining are essential to ensure that all workers benefit from economic growth.

Fourth, investment in infrastructure. This will reduce regional disparities, assure inclusion and sustainability. It is critical to invest in infrastructure that is related to the environment, water, sanitation, forests, energy, climate change, housing, and transportation.

Fifth, the contribution of the super rich. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet began a global campaign called the ‘Giving Pledge’ for the super rich to donate more than half their wealth in order to benefit the public.

As of 2023, more than 235 super rich people in 28 countries have committed \$600 billion for public good. In many advanced countries there is a special in-

heritance tax (Japan 55%, South Korea 50%, France 45%, and the United States 40%) before transferring wealth to the next generation. However, it applies only to the super rich and large asset transfers. This tax has been proposed by several people in the past in India. The World Inequality Lab says that in India, the share of the top 1% in the national income is among the highest in the world, and that India is today more unequal as a society than it was under British rule. Is this acceptable?

About inclusion and equity

This is not a debate about increasing or introducing new tax for the middle class, the rich or the super rich. It is about locating the resources needed to lift millions more out of poverty and joblessness, and to do this in ways that encourage value addition through production and efficiency, quality and consumption as well as inclusion, sustainability, dignity and justice. The need is for analysis and debate, not for inventing falsehoods to cause a scare.

ANUPRIYA DHONCHAK ON HOW HER STORY DEFIES STEREOTYPES OF THE STATE’S GENDER ROLES



Vinesh Phogat redefines feminism in Haryana

On August 15, the Indian Olympic Association expressed its disappointment after the Court of Arbitration for Sport dismissed wrestler Vinesh Phogat’s appeal for a shared silver at the Paris Olympics. Phogat was disqualified after she was found to be 100g overweight on the morning of her gold medal bout. A day after her disqualification, Phogat announced her retirement on social media. She wrote, “...I don’t have any more strength now. Goodbye Wrestling, 2001-2024.”

Last year, Phogat had been in the news worldwide for protesting with other wrestlers against the former president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, alleging that he sexually abused multiple women athletes for years. During their sit-in protests at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, the wrestlers were manhandled by the police.

Following her disqualification at the Paris Olympics, the current WFI chief Sanjay Singh, who is an aide to Brij Bhushan Singh, had the audacity to suggest that “India won six medals in Paris. Those six could have been in wrestling alone if it was not for the protests in the last 15-16 months.”

The rhetoric of ‘our daughters’

In India, the achievements of women, as well as the gruesome crimes against them, are milked for political gain. These women become “our daughters,” bringing “pride” or “shame”, bolstering or tarnishing the image of the state/community. This rhetoric invokes possession, control, kinship, and community that especially find resonance in Haryana. Many feminists may find this rhetoric de-humanising for justifiable reasons: it constructs women almost entirely



are denied access to basic freedoms. However, mega sporting events such as the Olympics lay threadbare the profound contradictions of this State whose dismal gender demographics sit rather uncomfortably against its routine production and celebration of award-winning women athletes.

vis-à-vis their relationships with others and deprives them of selfhood.

However, the protesting wrestlers have also demonstrated the ability to deploy this language to influence people. In April 2023, Phogat posted on X, “In honour of the country’s daughters, the entire nation will emerge in protest.” In a video in May 2023, she appealed to the elders of the State and members of khap panchayats who had shown their support for the protest by noting that the country’s daughters are sitting in the streets for the vindication of their constitutional rights. Recently, she was honoured by the Sarvkhap Panchayat in Rohtak and said, “The fight for our daughters’ honour has just begun.”

Phogat’s living legacy evidences her remarkable resilience and indomitable spirit, which shines even brighter when contrasted with the forms of power that she has been up against. She hails from Haryana, which exists in the urban Indian imagination as a violently patriarchal State where women

Translations on the ground

This success is affected by neoliberal dynamics where economic precarity is on the rise as agriculture becomes less profitable over time. An Olympic medal comes with the promise of international recognition and a prestigious government job.

Fieldwork in rural Haryana demonstrates that gender, caste, age, and class roles, which are defined by society, determine women’s mobility, making their access to masculine public spaces conditional on some compelling reason and requiring adherence to a behavioural code of conduct. In that sense, sporting success becomes a badge of honour, disciplining, and morality. It becomes a culturally sanctioned avenue for conditional, fragile, and temporary freedoms, which author Rupal Oza has written about. At the same time, sport and international recognition allow women access to role models who demonstrate the bodily strength, confidence, and presence which a vast majority of non-sporting women in Haryana are discouraged from exhibiting, by covering

up or veiling. Against this context, the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of Phogat carry possibilities for a unique vernacularisation of feminism in Haryana. Vernacularisation is the process by which universalistic human rights are converted into local understandings of social justice. It has the advantage of fashioning change in communities from within.

Among the wrestlers who stayed put despite the use of force by the state to disrupt their protests were Phogat, Bajrang Punia (Olympic medalist wrestler), Sakshi Malik (Olympic medalist wrestler), Satyavrat Kadian (Malik’s husband and wrestler), Somvir Rathee (Phogat’s husband and wrestler), Sangeeta Phogat and Priyanka Phogat (Phogat’s sisters) and Rahul Yadav (wrestler). The men risked their careers to support their partners’ fight against sexual harassment. This is crucial for a State like Haryana whose men have been derided in popular culture as un-feminist. It reveals that cultures and communities are neither static nor homogenous. They should not be demonised or uncritically accepted in a wholesale fashion.

Phogat’s story resists the temptation to essentialise both the men and women of Haryana. In a post on X on August 16, she emotionally expressed her husband’s sacrifices, mother’s courage, and father’s aspirations. “My father, an ordinary bus driver, would tell me that one day he would see his daughter high in a plane while he would drive on the road below,” she wrote. These stories open up space not just for the women of Haryana to imagine a differently constructed future, but also for the men to embody gentler and kinder forms of masculinity.

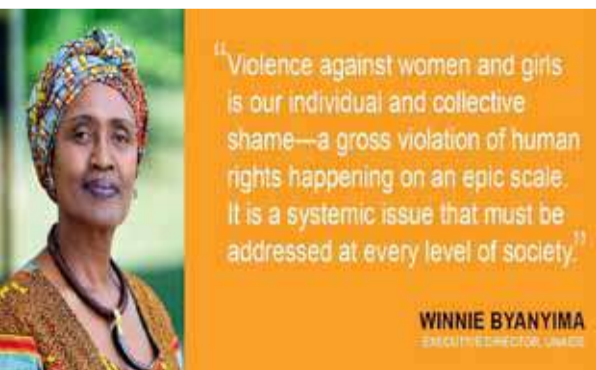
Anupriya Dhonchak hails from Haryana, and is a lawyer and Rhodes scholar, with a BCL and an MPhil in Law from the University of Oxford. Views are personal.

Streamline GST rates, address complexities

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is scheduled to convene on September 9, marking its second meeting within a span of three months after a nine-month hiatus. This meeting comes at a critical juncture, as the Council, led by the Union Finance Minister and comprising representatives from various States, is responsible for addressing taxpayer issues and shaping the broader policy direction of the seven-year-old indirect tax regime. Given the complexities and the evolving nature of GST, it is imperative that the Council meets more regularly to ensure a consistent and responsive approach to emerging challenges. A key agenda for this meeting is the long-anticipated review of GST’s complex multiple-rate structure. The Council had earlier resolved to assess the progress of a ministerial group (GoM) formed in 2021 to streamline the tax structure. However, recent submissions by State Ministers to the GoM indicate that progress might be slow, with many members expressing reluctance to make significant changes, especially when revenue collections are robust. It is crucial for the Council to set a definitive timeline for the GoM to conclude its deliberations and consider presenting a few alternative rate structures for discussion. Incorporating public feedback could also enhance the decision-making process. Beyond the rate structure, the Council should also consider revisiting the 18% GST on essential services like health insurance and life cover, which have been under scrutiny. Additionally, the inclusion of items such as electricity, petroleum, and alcohol under the GST ambit remains a contentious issue. With some States having acrimonious relations with the Centre, further ceding of taxation powers appears unlikely. While these broader issues are significant, the Council must also focus on the day-to-day functioning of GST, particularly the uneven pace of taxpayer refunds, which has led to fluctuating net GST receipts. Addressing these operational challenges is essential to maintaining industry confidence and preventing further complications in the tax landscape.

LETTERBOX

Readers’ feedback adds value to the newspaper. Please email comments on reports, features and columns to fwletters@gmail.com. We will publish them on this page.



THE FINANCIAL WORLD

RNI NO. DELENG/2011/38860
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY SWINDER BAJWA
ON BEHALF OF FW MEDIA
PRINTED AT JAGJIT PUBLISHING CO. PVT LTD
D-12, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-1, MOHALI,
PUNJAB 160059
PRINTER & PUBLISHER SWINDER BAJWA
OWNER : FW MEDIA
PUBLISHED AT: BUILDING NO-23, NEHRU PLACE
NEW DELHI 110019; PHONE: 9888040061
EDITOR* ABDUL WASEY
(*RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTION OF NEWS UNDER THE PRB ACT)

BOOKS: REVIEW

R. Ashwin recounts his rise from the streets to stardom

Ravichandran Ashwin, a name synonymous with the art of spin bowling in modern cricket, carries with him a legacy that is as rich as it is daunting. In a country where spin has traditionally been a weapon of choice on the cricket field, Ashwin’s journey is nothing short of remarkable. “I Have the Streets,” co-authored by Ashwin and Sidharth Monga, encapsulates the off-spinner’s rise from the lanes of Chennai to the grandeur of international cricket, offering readers an intimate glimpse into the mind of a cricketer who is as cerebral as he is talented.

The title of the book, “I Have the Streets,” is a nod to Ashwin’s roots, where street cricket played a pivotal role in shaping his early understanding of the game. The book begins by delving into Ashwin’s child-

hood, where he transitioned from being a promising batter to discovering his true calling as a spinner. What sets this narrative apart is the raw honesty with which Ashwin discusses his journey—highlighting not just the successes, but also the numerous challenges and doubts he faced along the way.

In many ways, the book is a reflection of Ashwin’s relentless pursuit of excellence. His quest to constantly improve is a recurring theme throughout the narrative. Whether it is his interactions with coaches or the conversations he had with fellow players in the nets, Ashwin’s story is one of continuous learning and adaptation. He shares how he sought out feedback and opinions, not just from his coaches but also from the batters he bowled to, always eager to refine his craft. The spinner’s self-awareness shines through

as he admits, “In my case, acceptance will come only with performance because, aesthetically, nothing stands out about me when I bowl in the nets. No one watches me bowl and goes, ‘Wow.’”

Sidharth Monga, a seasoned cricket correspondent with ESPN Cricinfo, plays the role of a scribe who transcribes Ashwin’s copious voice notes into a coherent and engaging narrative. Monga’s experience in the cricketing world adds depth to the book, as he is able to weave in broader contexts and observations that complement Ashwin’s personal insights.

One of the strengths of the book is its candidness. Ashwin does not shy away from discussing his vulnerabilities—whether it is his struggle to be recognized as a good athlete and fielder or the challenges he faced in the early days of



I Have the Streets
By R. Ashwin and Sidharth Monga
Penguin Random House
200 pages; Rs 599

his romantic relationship with Prithi. This openness makes Ashwin’s journey relatable, as readers see not just the celebrated cricketer, but also the human being behind the wickets and the records.

The book is also a love letter to Chennai, Ashwin’s hometown, and Tamil culture. There are endearing descriptions of his street-cricket friends and the local influences that shaped his early years. The narrative, infused with nostalgia, is a reminder of how deeply rooted Ashwin is in his cultural and geographical origins, even as he has risen to global acclaim.

However, as comprehensive as the book is, it leaves the reader yearning for more.

The narrative concludes with India’s triumph in the 2011 World Cup, which was just the beginning of Ashwin’s illustrious Test career. Given that much of Ashwin’s cricketing journey post-2011 remains unexplored in this book, there is a strong case for a sequel that would cover the subsequent years, including his numerous records and his evolution into one of the finest spinners in the world.

“I Have the Streets” is more than just a cricket book; it is a story of perseverance, intellectual curiosity, and an unwavering passion for the game. For fans of Ashwin, as well as those interested in the intricate world of cricket, this book offers valuable insights into the mind of a player who has continually pushed the boundaries of his craft. Priced at Rs 599 and published by Penguin Random House, this book is a worthy addition to any cricket enthusiast’s collection, providing both inspiration and an understanding of what it takes to succeed at the highest levels of sport.

Sheikh Hasina must stay silent in India till Dhaka seeks her extradition: Muhammad Yunus

Muhammad Yunus, the head of Bangladesh's interim government, has said that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina making political remarks from India is an "unfriendly gesture", asserting that she must remain silent to prevent the discomfort to both countries until Dhaka requests her extradition.



"If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh (government) wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet," he said. In an interview with news agency PTI at his official residence in Dhaka, Yunus, who was appointed the country's Chief Advisor after Hasina's ouster, stressed that while Bangladesh values strong ties with India, New Delhi must move "beyond the narrative that portrays every other political party except Awami League as Islamist and that the country will turn into Afghanistan without Sheikh Hasina."

"No one is comfortable with her stance there in India because we want her back to try her. She is there in India and at times she is talking, which is problematic. Had she been quiet, we would have forgotten it; people would have also forgotten it as she would have been in her own world. But sitting in

India, she is speaking and giving instructions. No one likes it," he said. Yunus was apparently referring to Hasina's statement on August 13 in which she demanded "justice", saying those involved in recent "terror acts", killings and vandalism must be investigated, identified and punished.

"It is not good for us or for India. There is discomfort regarding it," he told PTI agency. Following unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India. Her presence in India for nearly four weeks has fuelled speculation in Bangladesh. When asked whether Bangladesh has communicated its stance to India, Yunus said it has been conveyed verbally and quite firmly that she should keep quiet.

"Everyone understands it. We have said quite firmly that she should keep quiet. This is an unfriendly gesture towards us; she has been given shelter there and she is campaigning from there. It is not that she has gone there on a normal course. She has fled following a people's uprising and public anger," he said.

Yunus stated that the interim government is committed to ensuring justice for the people of Bangladesh against the atrocities, and justice requires that she be brought back to the country.

"Yes, she has to be brought back or else the people of Bangladesh won't be at peace. The kind of atrocities she has committed, she has to be tried in front of everyone here," he emphasised.

Discussing the future of the India-Bangladesh relationship, Yunus expressed a desire for good ties with India but insisted that New Delhi must abandon the narrative that only Hasina's leadership ensures the country's stability. "The way forward is for India to come out of the narrative. The narrative is that everybody is Islamist, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is Islamist, and everyone else is Islamist and will make this country into Afghanistan. And Bangladesh is in safe hands with Sheikh Hasina at the helm only. India is captivated by this narrative. India has to come out of this narrative. Bangladesh, like any other nation, is another neighbour," he said.

Referring to the recent incidents of alleged attacks on Hindu minorities in the country and India raising concerns about it, Yunus said this is just an excuse.

"The issue of trying to portray the conditions of minorities in such a big way is just an excuse," he said.

The minority Hindu population has faced vandalism of their businesses and properties, as well as the destruction of Hindu temples, during the student-led violence that erupted following the ouster of Hasina.

First phase of Gaza anti-polio campaign reaches 187,000 children: UN



UNITED NATIONS: The first three-day phase of the first round of polio vaccinations has reached 187,000 children under 10 years of age in Gaza's central zone, UN humanitarianists said. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Wednesday that the campaign now turns to Gaza's southern zone for three days, beginning on Thursday, and the northern zone will follow, Xinhua news agency reported. More than 640,000 children are targeted to receive two oral doses of the vaccine, each dose four weeks apart.

OCHA said World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reported that health workers had vaccinated 187,000 children since Sunday. The UN Children's Fund (Unicef) said regional pauses in the conflict are necessary for the remaining phases of the campaign, "otherwise we will fail to protect the children of Gaza and place other children at risk".

The campaign was launched after a 10-month-old was partially paralysed with polio. OCHA said 510 teams were deployed across central Gaza for the vaccination effort, with 40 health partners participating -- 17 operating health service points to administer vaccinations and 23 informing communities about the campaign.

Health experts have warned of disease outbreaks in the territory, where the vast majority of people have been displaced, often multiple times, and where hunger is widespread.

Hundreds of thousands of people are crammed into squalid tent camps with few if

any public services. The vaccinations were being undertaken even as fighting continued in Gaza, with the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry saying 42 people had been killed over the past 24 hours and 40,861 people since the war began.

The head of the UN's main agency for Palestinian refugees, Philippe Lazzarini, wrote on Wednesday: "Great progress! Every day in the Middle Areas of Gaza, more children are getting vaccines against #Polio."

"While these polio 'pauses' are giving people some respite, what is urgently needed is a permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages and the standard flow of humanitarian supplies including medical and hygiene supplies (into Gaza)," Lazzarini posted on X.

Despite the success of the polio campaign, diplomatic efforts to secure a permanent ceasefire, release hostages held in Gaza and return many Palestinians jailed by Israel, have faltered.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, insisted on Monday that Israeli troops would remain in the Philadelphi corridor on the southern edge of Gaza bordering Egypt, one of the main sticking points in reaching a deal.

PM Modi meets counterpart Lawrence Wong at iconic Sri Temasek in Singapore



SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at the historic Sri Temasek bungalow - the official residence of the Singaporean Prime Minister - for a "private dinner" on Wednesday, a few hours after his arrival in the country on the final leg of his two-nation tour.

The ongoing visit at the invitation of Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong is PM Modi's fifth visit to Singapore. He had last visited the country in 2018.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Modi will receive an official welcome at the Parliament House, call on Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and meet Prime Minister Wong. PM Modi will also meet Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Following the bilaterals, the PM is scheduled to participate in a business roundtable with Singaporean business leaders organised by the Singapore Business Federation, interact with Singapore's semiconductor ecosystem players, and engage students from Singapore in the India Ready Talent Programme who did internships in India, and the Odisha World Skills Center interns in Singapore companies.

PM Modi arrived in Singapore Wednesday afternoon after wrapping up a historic two-day trip to Brunei, the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to the southeast Asian nation.

Upon his arrival in Singapore, PM Modi was received by Singapore's Minister of Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugam.

At the hotel, members of the Indian diaspora gave a rousing welcome to the Prime Minister with traditional Maharashtrian dance and drums.

PM Modi visits chip manufacturing unit in Singapore, discusses collaborations

SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accompanied by his counterpart Lawrence Wong, on Thursday visited AEM Holdings, a leading company in semiconductor and electronics sector, here and discussed opportunities for collaboration.

PM Modi also invited the Singaporean semiconductor companies to participate in the 'SEMICON INDIA' exhibition, to be held in Greater Noida from September 11-13.

According to an MEA statement, the Prime Minister also interacted with Indian interns



from Odisha's 'World Skill Center', undergoing training in Singapore, as well as Singaporean interns who had visited India under the 'CI-Enterprise Singapore India Ready Talent Programme' and Indian engineers working at the AEM facility.

Both the leaders were briefed about AEM's role in the global semiconductor value chain, its operations and plans for India.

President Biden: Harris has 'ramrod' backbone, moral compass of 'saint'

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden pitched Vice President Kamala Harris to American workers and unions at their first joint rally on Labor Day on Monday as someone with a "ramrod" backbone and the moral compass of a "saint".

Vice President Harris, in turn, was effusive in her praise of Biden calling him "one of most transformative presidents in the United States".



Biden had not appeared together with Harris at an election rally after dropping out of the White House race in July and endorsing her to replace him on the Democratic ticket. He delivered the keynote address

on the first day of the Democratic convention in August in Chicago. He had not appeared in a rally either by himself or jointly since, until Monday in Pittsburgh, a strong union city in Pennsylvania -- a key battleground state on the road to the White House.

"She has a backbone like a ramrod, she has a moral compass of a saint," President Biden

said to loud cheers from the audience. "This woman knows what she's doing. Folks, I promise you, if you elect Kamala Harris as President, (it) will be the best visit you will have ever made. Kamala thinks, as I do, unions are the spine of this economy. She'll be a historic pro-union president."

Biden remains popular with labour unions. But there are questions about the clout of the once powerful unions. Only one in 10 members of the American workforce is now represented by a union, half the percentage of the representation in the 1980s, according to The New York Times.

BALUCH FACE GENOCIDE

Dragon Pitches for the Pakis to Continue Loot in the Region

GOPAL MISRA

It is to be ascertained whether the US has consented to Pakistan's agenda for repressing the unarmed devout Muslims of Balochistan or being scared of its main financial partner, China, that might be the reason for its knee-jerk reaction to the impending human catastrophe in the mineral-rich region.

ermment and the GHQ have released a few casualties, but the details regarding killing of the Baloch Muslims are still under wraps.

The crackdown on Balochistan has been unleashed following the high-level visits from Beijing in recent months.

The Pakistani army and the Chinese companies have common financial interests in the province. They have been mining precious metals worth millions of US dollars thus cornering huge unaccounted wealth.

It is no more secret that the ongoing military operation named as the Azm-e-Istekam or Resolve for Stability, has been initiated with the support of China and the blessings of the US. The two countries have been the beneficiaries of this loot for the past 20 years. Therefore, the ongoing protests in the troubled region has to be crushed without being bothered about the human rights issues and democracy.



not only endorsed the genocide committed by the Pakistani Muslims, he has also threatened India for supporting the movement for democracy. It appears history is repeating itself. In 1971, India was accused of supporting the democratic rights of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Again, the Pakistani politicians and media are blaming India for the uprising of the poor Muslims of Balochistan demanding their legitimate democratic rights.

It is being asked whether the USA would prevent the repeat of the ongoing genocide in the province, the answer, perhaps, may not be encouraging, especially in the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War and the Hamas-Israeli conflict. The Biden Administration has done little to defuse the crisis in the war zones.

Meanwhile, there are indications that both the US and China have told Pakistan to crush Balochistan without worrying about issues like human rights and adverse media coverage.

Forty nine years later after the Bangladesh War, China is again supporting the Pakistani army, however, with unlimited financial assistance and state-of-the-art weapons, including drones and howitzer guns.

It also reconfirms that the West and China have little concern for the poor Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. They had ensured that the Pakistani army should not be tried for the war crimes in Bangladesh, where it had decimated about three million Bengali Muslims and more than two million Bengali

During the 1971 Bangladesh War the US and China had joined hands to crush the movement for democracy. The allegation that India is supporting the BLA may not have much substance, because the people of Bangladesh could be rescued with the help of the USSR., but China has already invested millions of US dollars in the province and assured full support to the Pakistani army with latest weapons.

The recent military coup in Bangladesh believed to be a joint venture of the CIA and China with the Jamaat-e-Islami indicates that the Whitehouse has reverted to its old tricks. The recent anti-democratic rhetoric being adopted by the US-led West and its media on the forceful eviction of the prime minister, Sheikh Hasina in Dacca recently.

Their policies remind us of the 1971 uprising in the then East Pakistan, The then US President Richard Nixon had

eral, the womb of this region has it. Apart from the huge reserves of copper and gold, the province has silver, lead, zinc, chromite, gypsum, coal, steel, high quality marble and other precious minerals in the belly of this region blessed by Indus Suture Trieste silhouetted against the formidable high Himalayan region.

The Colonial Agenda

Interestingly, since 1999s, especially after the fragmentation of the USSR, China has emerged as the closest ally of the West. It has been serving colonial interests as a proxy of the West. In fact, it has excelled the West in looting the poor countries of Asia and Africa exploiting their natural resources. Therefore, it is not surprising that the West is keeping a Sphinx-like silence against the repression of the Baloch people.

The British had one corporation, East India Company (EIC), to promote unprecedented profits and expand the British Empire, but China has a number of private outfits to outwit its challengers across the continents. The EIC could bribe the members of the House of Commons for getting exclusive rights to occupy huge territories of Asia and could flood opium in China, and also to raise army and sign treaties with the Indian kingdoms, including the Mughal rulers.

It appears, Beijing has excelled the colonial powers with the setting up of Chinese companies owned by the ruling Communist Party and its People's Liberation Army.

In South Asia, with the blessings of the USA, it has been endorsing the crushing of the democratic movement in Myanmar, the unceremonious removal of the elected government in Bangladesh and now the ongoing crack down on the people of Balochistan seeking democratic rights.

Zarada's Dilemma

With the tacit approval of Beijing, the Pakistani Army has begun its military operations against the hapless Muslims of Balochistan. It appears that the Pakistani President, Asif Ali Zardari, a Baloch, who had been married to Benazir Bhutto, appears to be helpless. She was eliminated by the country's Deep State, presumably the proxies of the Inter Services Intelligence or ISI. He, however, never criticized the army or the ISI. Before Benazir's killing, the army dictator, Zua-ul-Haq had got PM Z.A. Bhutto, father of Benazir, was deposed and later hanged in a sham judicial trial. In spite of the murders in his family, Zardari has always tried to be on the right side of the GHQ.

The civil society in Pakistan is scared of the ongoing military operations against the unarmed people of this region. The political analysts, such as Nazam Sethi, who favor a meaningful dialogue between the army and the people of the region, are not sure of the outcome.

Both the army and the two foreign powers are not ready to sacrifice their financial interests. The army generals have also been minting huge profits by collaborating with the Chinese companies. They jointly conduct illegal mining of gold and copper in the region. The superannated army bosses of Pakistan acquire huge properties in Canada, Australia, America and Britain. The juniors in the uniform, however, earn by smuggling on the sensitive borders with Afghanistan and Iran.

Kamala Harris team calls itself 'clear underdogs' and Trump 'formidable'

WASHINGTON: In a bid to lower expectations and energise Democrats, US Vice-President Kamala Harris's campaign team described itself as the "clear underdogs" in a note on Sunday and said the 2024 White House race will be decided by "razor-thin" margins in the battleground states as in 2020.

The note, by Harris campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon, acknowledged former President Donald Trump, who is the Republican nominee for the White House, remained a "formidable candidate" and said he has a "motivated base of support, with more support and higher favorability than he has had at any point since 2020."

"Make no mistake," Dillon wrote, "We head into the final stretch of this race as the clear underdogs."

Harris leads Trump 48 per



cent to 46.2 per cent in the average of national polls computed by RealClearPolitics, and 47.1 per cent to 43.8 per cent in the weighted average of national polls compiled by FiveThirtyEight. But the difference is slim, and within the margin of error and the campaign is cautioning Democrats against complacency. The race is tight in the battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

"In 2020, the election came down to about 40,000 votes across the battleground states," Dillon wrote.

Philippines accuses China of ship ramming in South China Sea



MANILA: The Philippines has expressed "serious concerns" over a Chinese Coast Guard vessel "deliberately" ramming and colliding with the BRP Teresa Magbanua - the Philippine Coast Guard's largest and most modern vessel - deployed to Escoda Shoal in the South China Sea on Saturday.

"Well, the position of the government, especially the National Maritime Council, we take this with serious concern," Alexander Lopez, spokesperson for the Philippines' National Maritime Council (NMC), said during a media briefing.

State-owned Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported that a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel 5205 on Saturday repeatedly rammed into BRP-Teresa Magbanua, the biggest ship of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) deployed in April to Escoda Shoal, which is about 75 nautical miles from Palawan.

It mentioned that due to the collision, BRP Teresa Magbanua sustained damage in its bridge wing and freeboard though no injuries to the crew were reported and the ship remained anchored inside the Sabina Shoal.

'Happy that I gave my 100% everytime', says Saina Nehwal on life without Olympic stage

KAVITA SHARMA New Delhi

The 2012 London Bronze medalist Saina Nehwal opened up on missing out on Paris Olympics, but expressed happiness that she gave her best each time she managed to make it to the Olympics. The Indian star shuttler competed across three editions of Olympics (2008, 2012, and 2016), and also scripted history by becoming the first female badminton player to win an Olympic medal.



I am also thinking about it. It will be sad because it is like a job that a normal person does. Obviously, a sports person's career is always a short one. I started at the age of 9. I will be 35 next year"

able to find solutions. My ranking dropped to 9th or 10th. I thought I needed to do something different. I had never gone out of the house to train. It was such a big decision to move out. I also felt emotional. But I had to make the decision. It was a question of my career," she recalled.

She discussed with her coaches and her family and went to Bangalore in September 2014 for two months to train in a new environment. By December, her results started turning and by March 2015, she regained her World No. 1 Ranking once again. Saina said that athletes sometimes have to take breaks because of injuries but have to pay the price of taking the break by missing out on many important tournaments. She said even to recover from injuries, athletes do not have the luxury of taking a long break.

"When you become a big player, your friends, family, coaches, sponsors, everyone wants you to perform. There are a lot of stakeholders involved. With already a short career span, athletes cannot afford to take a four-year break and have to keep performing continuously," Nehwal said.

will be sad because it is like a job that a normal person does. Obviously, a sports person's career is always a short one. I started at the age of 9. I will be 35 next year. So, I have also had a long career. And I am very proud of that. I have broken my body to a great extent. I am happy with what I have done and given it all. Will assess how I feel by the end of this year," she said.

Saina also opened up on the challenging phase of her career in mid 2010s when she struggled to get wins under her belt, and made the tough call of training away from Gopichand Academy.

"From November 2012 to August 2014, I could not get results. I was upset about not getting performances for almost two years. It had never happened before and was un-

ISST Announces Scholarships for deserving Athletes to Foster Holistic Sports Education



Dr. P. C. Shejwalkar Athlete Scholarship Program Empowers Athletes with Academic Excellence and Strategic Knowledge Alongside Sports Training

FW DESK New Delhi

The Institute of Sports Science & Technology (ISST) is proud to announce the launch of the Dr. P. C. Shejwalkar Athlete Scholarship Program, designed to provide deserving candidates with the opportunity to enhance their sports training with academic excellence. Recognizing the growing importance of a holistic approach to sports education, ISST is offering these scholarships to ensure that athletes are not only physically prepared but also equipped with the management and strategic knowledge required to succeed in the competitive world of sports.

able for a variety of classroom and distance education courses, making it possible for athletes to pursue their academic goals alongside their sports training. By providing this support, ISST aims to create a new generation of well-rounded sports professionals who can excel both on and off the field.

Dr. Vipul Lunawat, Director of ISST, shared the institute's vision behind the scholarship program: "With initiatives like Khelo India and various government schemes supporting athletes, it is imperative for us as educators and sports enthusiasts to contribute to their development. The Dr. P. C. Shejwalkar Athlete Scholarship Program is our commitment to ensuring that athletes are not only physically prepared but also academically equipped to face challenges on the global stage. By offering this scholarship,

PM Modi hails para-athletes for 'phenomenal performance' in Paris Paralympics

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated India para-athletes Mariyappan Thangavelu, Sharad Kumar, Sundar Singh Gurjar and Ajeet Singh for their medal-winning performances at the Paris Paralympics.



Sharad clinched the silver medal in men's high jump T63 with the best jump of 1.88m; setting the new Paralympic Record in T42 category; Sharad also upgraded his bronze medal from Tokyo in the event.

Thangavelu, meanwhile, bagged bronze medal with the best jump of 1.85m, making India's second double podium finish in athletics at Paris Games.

He also achieved the historic feat of becoming the first Indian para-athlete to win medals at three consecutive Games.

Thangavelu won the gold medal at Rio 2016 with a jump of 1.89m and silver at Tokyo 2020 with a 1.86m attempt.

"Sharad Kumar wins silver in Men's High Jump T63 at #Paralympics2024! He is admired for his consistency and excellence. Congrats to him.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurates 1st Hockey India Junior Men Inter-Zone Championship 2024



LUCKNOW: Extending his unparalleled support for hockey, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath graced the inaugural day of the prestigious 1st Hockey India Junior Men Inter-Zone Championship 2024 which commenced here at the Padma Shri Mohammad Shahid Synthetic Hockey Stadium, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on Sunday.

The beloved Chief Minister met with the budding hockey stars, encouraged them with his inspiring words as he inaugurated the marquee event. The opening ceremony was also graced by Dr Dilip Tirkey, President, Hockey India and Shri Bhola Nath Singh, Secretary General, Hockey India and Sekar J Manoharan, Treasurer of Hockey India.

Air India Group Launches Major MRO Facility in Bengaluru: A New Era for Indian Aviation

ARUN KUMAR RAO Bengaluru

In a significant move to bolster India's aviation infrastructure, Air India Group has officially broken ground on a state-of-the-art Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bengaluru. The groundbreaking ceremony, held at Bangalore International Airport, marks the beginning of a project that underscores Air India's commitment to advancing a self-reliant aviation ecosystem in India.



The new MRO facility, situated on a sprawling 35-acre site, will serve as a pivotal hub for maintaining the Air India group's aircraft. As the airline continues to modernize its fleet and expand its global reach, this facility will play a crucial role in supporting its operations and ensuring top-notch service standards.

distinguished guests including Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development & Director of the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Karnataka; Mr. Chin Yau Seng, CEO of SIA Engineering Company; and Mr. Hari Marar, Managing Director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL). The event was also attended by senior leaders from Air India and other key stakeholders.

This milestone follows the earlier signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Air India and the Government of Karnataka, which laid the foundation for the MRO facility. Additionally, Air India has partnered with SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC) to jointly develop this significant infrastructure. Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Air India, highlighted the importance of this development, stating, "India's aviation sector is experiencing remarkable growth, and Air India is at the forefront of this transformation."

Pro-Panja league to popularize arm wrestling sport across India

Kochi KDs Team Introduced at Pro Panja League in New Delhi

KAVITA SHARMA New Delhi

The Pro Panja League proudly introduced the Kochi KDs, champion team from the first season, at a press conference in New Delhi. The event was attended by key figures from the Pro Panja League and garnered widespread media attention.

promoting the sport across the nation. The league has been a significant force in elevating the profile of arm-wrestling and engaging audiences with thrilling competitions.

Kochi KDs Team: Champions of the first season of the Pro Panja League, aim to bring together talent and passion for arm-wrestling. With a focus on strength, strategy, and teamwork, Kochi KDs are the Champions and team to beat in the second season and inspire a new generation of arm-wrestlers.



Praveen Shetty expressed his excitement about the new season and the potential of the Pro Panja League to further popularize arm-wrestling in India.

He stated, "We are thrilled to bring Kochi KDs into the second season of the Pro Panja League and look forward to an exciting season ahead."

Pradeep Raj emphasized the importance of inclusivity and the growth of para sports, saying, "I am very happy to be associated with the Pro Panja League. I hope that our team will win again this year, and I have also requested Preeti ji and Parvin Dabas ji to consider developing Para Panja because para sports are emerging very fast today, and our players are bringing glory to the country. It is encouraging to see para sports being promoted under Pro Panja. I hope that this year, Pro Panja reaches even greater heights."

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Despite challenges, India is making significant strides in the global semiconductor industry, leveraging government support, a growing domestic market, and international partnerships.

Challenges in Semiconductor Journey



companies looking for alternatives to regions like China to explore opportunities in India.

2026. This facility will have the capacity to manufacture up to 50,000 wafers per month, focusing initially on 28-nanometer chips, with potential future upgrades to 22-nanometer technology. In addition to this, Tata is establishing an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test facility in Assam, further expanding India's semiconductor ecosystem. These projects align with the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

Indian market, further underscoring India's growing prominence as a semiconductor hub. Despite the optimistic outlook, India faces several challenges in becoming a semiconductor manufacturing powerhouse. Semiconductor fabrication requires enormous investments in infrastructure, technology, and talent.

The government is pivotal in driving this industry forward through initiatives like the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which encourages domestic manufacturing of semiconductors and electronics. The Semicon India Program, announced with an investment exceeding \$10 billion, aims to develop a comprehensive semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem. These incentives have attracted global semiconductor

While India excels in semiconductor design, building world-class fabrication plants (fabs) necessitates advanced technological expertise and substantial financial resources. A fully developed semiconductor supply chain, including access to raw materials, water, and a reliable electricity supply, is also crucial. India is making significant strides in the global semiconductor industry, leveraging government support, a growing domestic market, and international partnerships. While challenges in establishing large-scale fabrication plants remain, India's ongoing efforts suggest that the country will become a significant semiconductor manufacturing and design hub in the coming decade.

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

Odisha : War of words to move the change of name of iconic Ravenshaw University

ARABINDA MOHAPATRA Bhubaneswar

The Bharatiya Janata Party's bid to change the name of the iconic Ravenshaw University at Cuttack has triggered a war of words between the ruling BJP in Odisha and the Opposition. The controversy erupted following Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's statement that there should be a debate over the

need to change the name of the institution named after Thomas Edward Ravenshaw who was the commissioner of the Odisha division in 1868 when the Ravenshaw collegiate school which was later upgraded into a college and then into a full-fledged university a few years ago, was established.

whether we need an institute named after Ravenshaw Saheb during whose tenure the 'Na' Anka Durbhikshya (devastating famine in 1866) occurred in Odisha. What did the administrative officials do during the famine in Odisha? Is the person who was helpful in tormenting Odia people a matter of pride for us?" Pradhan had said while making it clear that it was his personal opinion.

"The people of Odisha as well as intellectuals should ponder upon the fact that,

Bombay HC to CBFC: Decide on certification to 'Emergency' by Sep 18; no release on Sep 6



MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday ordered the Censor Board to decide by September 18 any representations of Sikh bodies, groups or individuals who have objections to the September 6 release of the film, "Emergency". A division bench comprising Justice Burgess Colabawalla and Justice Firdosh Pooniwalla asked the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to take its decision on the objections by the Jabalpur Sikh Sangat and/or others vis-a-vis the film starring Kangana Ranaut, the Bharatiya Janata Party MP who is playing the lead in the film.

the MP court's directive. Accordingly, declining the petitioner's plea to direct the CBFC to issue the certificate, it ordered the Censor Board to consider any objections by September 18, stalling the film's release.

The plea was filed by Zee Studios, the co-producer of the film "Emergency", citing a CBFC email of August 29 to the producer, Manikarnika Films, owned by Ranaut, informing them about the "successful certification" of "Emergency" but when they went to pick up the certificate they were not handed it over. Opposing the arguments, the CBFC counsel Abhinav Chandrachud said the email was a 'system-generated' communication and the Censor Certificate is issued only after it is signed by the Board Chairman. Zee Studios Senior Counsel Venkatesh Dhond argued that, citing unrest against the film, the CBFC had withheld the certificate, and that it had nothing to do with the law-and-order situation.