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YUGMARG

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CIRCULATED IN DELHI, CHANDIGARH, PUNJAB, HARYANA, HIMACHAL AND J&K



5th PROGRESSIVE PUNJAB INVESTORS' SUMMIT 2023

INVEST IN THE BEST



Bhagwant Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab



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global and national investors for showing confidence and faith in futuristic and progressive industrial policy of Punjab and offering their full support to make it industrial icon of the nation.



Jit Reha Punjab, Niveshakan da Vishwas

Department of Industries & Commerce, Punjab

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Bajwa urges AAP govt to ensure proper power supply to wheat farmers

CHANDIGARH: Punjab's Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Partap Singh Bajwa on Saturday lambasted the Aam Aadmi Party Government in Punjab for its failure to ensure the required power supply to the farmers for the irrigation of the wheat crop. Senior Congress Leader Bajwa said that the untimely rise in the temperature has been observed this year, which, as per agriculture experts, requires farmers to increase the frequency of light irrigation of wheat to protect it from the negative impact of rising temperature. However, the AAP government in the state seems to have adopted a negligent approach toward this. "The price of diesel has been skyrocketing, therefore it is not a viable option for the farmers to irrigate their crop with the diesel-run-tube-wells", said Bajwa. While referring to some media reports, Bajwa said that the farmers' unions have been planning to launch a fresh agitation if the situation remains the same in the coming days.

Workshop held at CITCO's corporate office

CHANDIGARH : A meeting-cum-workshop was held on Friday at CITCO's Corporate Office under the Chairmanship of Shri Harjeet Singh Sandhu, PCS, Chief General Manager with the L-1 agency i. e. Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB). The bank PSB was called after due process of tender/quotations from Govt banks. Dr Parveen Kumar Mongia, Field General Manager of the Bank explained various features of Group Insurance Scheme for the regular, contractual and out-sourced employees of CITCO. He informed the employees gathered from various Units of CITCO that with the opening of their salary accounts with Punjab and Sind Bank, the employees of CITCO will enjoy benefits of Rs:40 lakhs accidental insurance along with natural death, Air accidents insurance cover of Rs:120 lakhs along with child education benefits of Rs: 24 lakhs maximum. Two months' net salary OD facility, Annual debit card charge waiver.

Chitkara Lit Fest, Celebrating the Written Word

CHANDIGARH / BANUR : The Chitkara Lit Fest commenced today at Chitkara University, Punjab. The two-day fest boasted an impressive line-up of renowned authors, poets, and literary enthusiasts from across the country. The diverse literary community gathered under one roof to celebrate the written word. The fest brought together some of the most brilliant literary minds in the country for a day of inspired discussions and engaging conversations. Laxmi Dhau launched the Sumit Samos – the young activist, writer and rapper's book - "Affairs of Caste", which set the tone for an exciting and thought-provoking weekend, was the event's high point. "Transcending the Caste Barriers," a conversation with Sumit Samos and Richa Lakhera, focused on the difficulties of overcoming caste-based hurdles in modern society.

Punjab CM lays foundation stone of canal water based Rs. 578.28 crores ambitious project at Fazilka

ANNOUNCES TO SUPPLY CANAL WATER FOR COTTON CROP FROM APRIL 1

BUREAU FAZILKA: With a motive to ensure clean and potable drinking water to every household, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday formally laid the foundation stone of first of its kind project to ensure cleaning, storage and supply of water at a cost Rs. 578.28 crore.

Addressing the gathering on this occasion, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said that the ground water of this area has great extent of TDS and other elements, which is the main cause of fatal diseases like Hepatitis C, cancer, skin diseases and others. He said that particularly the Balluana constituency was facing acute shortage of drinking water thereby the state government has decided to set up the project in this area. Bhagwant Mann said that this project will provide potable water to 122 villages and 15 Dhanian (Hamlets) hailing in various Blocks of Abohar, Khuhian Sarvar, Arniwala and Fazilka.

The Chief Minister said that once completed this project will cover population of 4,75,144 in 79,190 households. Bhagwant Mann said that this project is purely based on canal water system which will draw water from Gang Canal with capacity of 68 MLD and the project will be completed in record time of just 30 months. He said that people will be immensely benefitted by it as around 750 kilometre pipeline will be laid and 21 water supply schemes will set up to provide drinking water to every household by Larsen and Toubro.

The Chief Minister said that S&S Tank, Clariflocculator, Filter House, Pump House and Clear Water Tank will be established at the project site for cleaning & storage of water and other purposes. He said that this is first of its kind project in the country aimed at ensuring the well being of the residents. Bhagwant Mann envisioned that this project will go a long way in transforming the destiny of the people.

Inviting the women to come forward for bringing positive change in the society, the Chief Minister said that the women are blessed with basic instinct to meticulously plan the economy of their houses. He said that the women can plan and strategize the things better in positive direction adding that this can be very beneficial for society. Bhagwant Mann said that keeping in view this fact his government has deputed maximum women officers in this district to encourage the women populace for becoming an active partner in socio economic growth of the state in general and the district in particular.

The Chief Minister said that twelve tickets were allotted by his party to the women in assembly elections and all of them have won the seats by whopping mandate. He said that the motive is to ensure that women acts as catalyst of transformation to bring the much needed change in society. Bhagwant Mann hoped that with the concerted efforts of the state government, Punjab will soon lead the country in every field.

In a major announcement, the Chief



Minister said that from April 1 canal water will be available for cotton crop cultivation to the farmers. He said that Police will be deputed to check the stealing of canal water so as to ensure that everyone gets water as their own term. Bhagwant Mann said that he has already instructed the officials to desilt the entire canal system of the state within two months.

The Chief Minister also said that in another landmark initiative his government has decided to provide old age pension, Atta-Dal and

other 40 services at the doorsteps of the people. He said that the basic aim is to ensure that the beneficiaries of these schemes do not have to face any inconvenience in getting the benefits of these schemes. Bhagwant Mann said that his government is committed for well being of every strata of society and no stone is being left unturned for this noble cause.

The Chief Minister said that he has asked the officers especially the Deputy

Commissioners and Senior Superintendent of Police to maximize their field visits, especially in villages, and interact with the people by going to villages. He said that it is the need of the hour to facilitate the people in getting their day-to-day works done easily besides ensuring good governance to them. Bhagwant Mann said that this will help in better functioning of the offices along with better acquaintance with the ground realities.

26th All India Forest Sports Meet to be held in Haryana

Chief Minister Manohar Lal releases 'Logo and Mascot' for sports meet

BUREAU CHANDIGARH: Haryana, which is called the power house of sports, is once again ready for a mega sports event. The 26th All India Forest Sports Meet is going to be organized soon in the state. Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal released the 'Logo and Mascot' of the 26th All India Forest Sports Meet at his residence Sant Kabir Kutir today. School Education and Forest Minister, Sh. Kanwar Pal was also present on the occasion.

Sh. Manohar Lal said it is a matter of pride that Haryana is the host of the 26th All India Forest Sports Meet. Prior to this, the sports meet has been successfully organized twice in Haryana: 10th meet in the year 2003 and 13th meet in 2013. This time the sports meet will be organized from March 10 to 14, in which about 2,500 participants from all the states, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Union Territories



and Forest Research are expected to participate. Different sports teams will be formed by appointing players to the post of Forest Guard in Group C in the Forest Department. The Chief Minister named the mascot of the sports meet as Krish.

Notably, the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India, organizes the All India Forests Sports

Meet on an annual basis; the responsibility of which is assigned to a state. With the aim to promote sports in the Forest Department, the 1st All India Forest Sports Meet was organized at Hyderabad in the year 1993 and till date, this meet has been organized 25 times.

Haryana's culture and progress depicted in logo

The logo for the meet prominently displays 'Black Buck' - a magnificent animal that finds prominent place in our history and culture and is also the state animal of Haryana. The state animal of Haryana. The state which is hosting the sports meet is at the forefront of sports and one of the fast-progressing states in all fields.

The images between the spokes of the circle of the logo indicate the sports meet; popular events that will be played and also the popular games in Haryana.

India pressing for resolving Ukraine conflict through diplomacy, dialogue: PM Modi

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

India has been pressing for resolving the Ukraine conflict through diplomacy and dialogue and it is ready to contribute to any peace process, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday after holding wide-ranging talks with visiting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

The talks between the two leaders covered the entire gamut of bilateral ties as well as key regional and global issues, including the Ukraine conflict.

In his media statement, Scholz said the world is suffering as a consequence of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and asserted that no one can change borders through the use of violence.

The war in Ukraine has led to immense loss and destruction, he said, adding "it is a catastrophe".

The German Chancellor's visit to India came a day after the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



"We have to make sure that countries in Asia, Africa and America are not strongly and negatively impacted by the terrible war of aggression," Scholz said.

In his statement, Modi said since the beginning of the Ukraine conflict, India has been emphasising resolving the conflict through diplomacy and dialogue. "India is ready to contribute to any peace process," Modi said.

The prime minister said the impact of the covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine conflict has been felt by the entire world and developing countries are especially reeling under it. He said there has been active cooperation between India and Germany in the fight against terrorism and separatism, and that both countries agreed that concrete action is necessary to end cross-border terrorism.

Emergence of any third force will provide advantage to NDA: Congress's draft political resolution

AGENCY
NAVA RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 25

The Congress should go all out to identify, mobilise and align like-minded secular forces as well as include secular regional outfits who agree with its ideology, the party said in its draft political resolution on Saturday, asserting that the emergence of any third force will provide advantage to the NDA.

The resolution was being deliberated on the second day of the party's three-day 85th plenary session here and was expected to be passed by the evening.

The draft was prepared by the political affairs sub-group for the plenary and it is

being headed by former Union minister M Veerappa Moily and former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan.

"Unity of secular and socialist forces will be the hallmark of the future of the Congress party. The Congress should go all out to identify, mobilise and align like-minded secular forces," the draft resolution said.

"We should include secular regional forces who agree with our ideology. There is an urgent need for a united opposition to take on the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) on common ideological grounds. Emergence of any third force will provide advantage to the BJP/NDA," it said.

The draft resolution asserted that the

Congress will prepare a vision document for 2024, following a largest-ever mass contact programme, which will encompass issues of unemployment, eradication of poverty, inflation, women empowerment, job creation and national security.

"Specially, the Congress must reverse the current regressive path of growth without improving the lives of the poorest. Our growth mantra must have a human touch, creating livelihoods and employment opportunities," the draft resolution said.

It said the Congress will infuse new blood in leadership roles without creating new fault lines and cementing its ideological moorings.



Editorial

Dissent, even if unseemly, should not lead to arrest

The timely and resolute intervention of the Supreme Court to prevent the incarceration of Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera for cases registered against him over his comment that was critical of the Prime Minister has spared our blushes seeing as we call ourselves the oldest democracy in the world.

The court was categorical in its response — while registering its disapproval of the statement by Mr Khera, reminding him that a certain decorum needs to be maintained in public discourse, it held that the charges against him were unmaintainable and directed the magistrate to grant him bail. It also issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh and Assam governments to submit their opinions on Mr Khera's appeal to club the various first information reports filed against him in these states.

As admitted by Mr Khera's lawyer in the court, and the Chief Justice himself suggests, Mr Khera's comment leaves a bad taste in the mouth. He and his party may believe that the government favoured a particular corporate but they should realise that making disparaging remarks against an elected PM is not the way to advance their argument against policies made or administrative actions taken or not taken by his government. As a political party in the Opposition, the Congress' job is to explain and expose misdeeds of the government before the people. This is precisely why lowering the standard of discourse cannot be a part of its project.

That said, one cannot lose sight of how the BJP government at the Centre is using legal provisions to silence its critics. The Supreme Court was last year forced to suspend the operation of the Raj-era sedition law, Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, after it was seen being repeated invoked against dissenters. The Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation have, meanwhile, rendered themselves to be puppets in the hands of the establishment.

One condemnable tactic of the ruling party and its constituents is that organisations cause multiple FIRs to be filed against their opponents in various courts across the country. This is a gross abuse of jurisprudence. It is not the first time that the Supreme Court has stepped in to pre-empt this mode of harassment of citizens. The court must now consider putting in place a foolproof mechanism to end this once and for all as not all those in the dock can afford the services of top-notch lawyers. The leaders of the BJP, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, must know very well how the government sought to muzzle Opposition voices in the country during the Emergency and how the people of India punished it at the first opportunity.

It's been one hell of a fortnight, folks! Too much excitement and dhamaal. From the Adani thingie blowing up, to Air India taking off and startling the aviation world with that mind-boggling purchase of 470 aircraft (with IndiGo having ordered 500 Airbuses), to a super-glam Bollywood shaadi, topped with an I-T raid, sorry a survey, of the BBC offices, I'm ready to Tam Tam with the best.

Kick up your heels, guys! The fun has just begun. Soon it will be Holi (March 8) and great things are happening in India's courtyard. "The sky's the limit..." exulted Rish the Dish, after the historic and dramatic Valentine's Day deal was inked between Air India, Airbus and Rolls-Royce, making this the largest aviation contract in history (\$115 billion). Great news for Britain, which is struggling to keep that tiny isle afloat against daunting odds. India was equally ecstatic when Air India signed the staggering deal -- its first mega-aircraft order in 17 years. Everyone sounded bahut khush -- Rishibhai, Macron Saab, Bidenji and our beloved Prime Ministerji. Win-win for all involved, a "shining example of mutually beneficial cooperation..." Joe Biden declared, even as, around the same time, Indian-American Republican leader Nikki Haley showed off her toned legs in a coral



dress and announced she's running for Prez in 2024. Yup! She's ready to take on the two old boys Biden and Trump. I'll go with the one with the better legs, thank you! But Nikki darling, do spare us the "I am the proud daughter of Indian immigrants" spiel and focus on your agenda: to chase the two geriatrics out of town.

Throughout her political career, the Punjab di Kudi has boldly tackled race and gender issues, so the world can look forward to sizzling personal attacks and rousing debates from the fiery Sardarni. Married to Michael Haley, an officer in the South Carolina National Guard, Nikki has enough muscle power to plough through and make it to the White House.

Can't wait to see a rousing Balle Balle Bhangra at the Inaugural Ball! Now Nikki has a challenger in Vivek Ramaswamy, 37. Haven't seen his legs. I am guessing Nikki's are better. Rassam vs Butter Chicken... More bhangra coming up with Ajay Banga heading the World Bank. Tandoori Nights ahead!

While all this was going on, Queen Consort Camilla shrewdly gauged the mood of the natives (restless!) and agreed not to act vulgar by wearing "our" Kohinoor to the hubby King Charles' May 6 coronation in London's Westminster Abbey. Instead, she plans to create mini-royal history of her own by placing a recycled crown on her straw hair. A crown that was

commissioned and worn by Queen Mary, consort of King George V, for the 1911 coronation. It's a diamond-encrusted crown, mates, not an Alexander McQueen gown. Sorry, desh waasis, please don't hold your breath waiting for the disputed 105-carat Kohinoor to be meekly sent back to India -- especially not after how we've treated a Brit institution: the hallowed BBC. Accused by BJP MP Mahesh Jethmalani of being funded by the Chinese with the sole aim of destabilizing India, the raids on the BBC offices led to intense debates in our drawing rooms. The chattering classes are saying how badmaash all foreign channels are... how we should not trust a single firang journo... how it's time

we put these arrogant people in their place, etc. The issue of the raid's timing is dismissed as a mere coincidence, as the "survey" is only a routine procedural matter. It has nothing whatever to do with a certain documentary aired overseas by the channel and later banned in India. Heavens, no! Perish the thought! Didn't you read what our official statement said??? Even though our respected home minister categorically said in an interview that the naughty BBC documentary (India: The Modi Question) was part of a sinister plot to defame our hugely popular Prime Minister. Mind you, Amit Shah's ANI interview was recorded BEFORE the "survey".

While we mediawallas struggle to find a better euphemism for the word "raid" and settle uneasily for "survey", one can sense a slight change in the hawa regarding the coverage of recent significant events, like the Adani fiasco, which is still being (weakly) defended by our beleaguered finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, while the PM has sensibly distanced himself and steered clear of commenting on the biggest financial embarrassment to hit India ("Yeh dosti... hum nahi todenge"). It may take years to convincingly decode how and why the Adani mess happened, but even men and women on the street are aware that some

big "lafda" took place. It's only over-smart analysts with skin in the game who're trying to claim the Adani imbroglio was just an awkward money-blip that citizens don't really care about. Bak-was! Everybody knows. Everybody cares.

Oddly enough, it is three totally unconnected factors that have come together to alter the janata's perception of the BJP as an invincible party that's here to stay. First came the emotional/sentimental impact of Rahul Gandhi's "Bharat Jodo". He touched people's hearts and nobody can take that away from him. Whether or not the "Pappu" tag will be revisited and eventually discarded is a different matter. But like Princess Diana's instinctive, intuitive positioning of herself as "People's Princess" became her invaluable legacy, Rahul Gandhi with his approachable, touchy-feely walkathon provided a sharp contrast to aloof leaders, refusing to interact directly with the people of their country, while displaying their own insecurities surrounded by commandos and a phalanx of bodyguards. Here was this guy walking throughout the length and breadth of India, informally chatting and laughing with his people, despite the horrific personal history of assassinations in his own family. He effortlessly won the tag of "People's Politician".

Literature & Health

Diarrhoea decoded

Normal bowel habits in adults also vary. Diarrhoea is defined as an increase in frequency (more than three times a day) and change in consistency (watery) of motion.

Most diarrhoeas subside on their own within two or three days. It is most often due to food poisoning. The food may have been left outside, and bacteria may have grown. Reheating the food kills the live bacteria. Any toxins (poisons) released by the bacteria, however, are not destroyed by heat, so they can cause diarrhoea.

Often, diarrhoea is due to a viral infection. Then antibiotics (which act against disease-causing bacteria) will not help. Our intestines are full of good bacteria, which maintain equilibrium so that we do not get indigestion, bloating or diarrhoea. Antibiotics given for some infection in the body, or self-administered for diarrhoea, may kill the good bacteria in the gut and cause an overgrowth of diarrhoea-producing bacteria.

Artificial sweeteners like sorbitol or fructose remain in the intestine and are not absorbed. They pull fluid from the body into the intestine and cause diarrhoea. These may be found in syrups, "sugar-free" snacks or beverages, so labels need to be carefully read.

About 60 per cent of Indians are lactose intolerant. They either completely lack the enzyme lactase required to digest milk, or they are deficient in it. As a result, they can only tolerate small quantities of milk, curd and other partially digested milk. If they drink milk for "calcium" or because it is "nutritious", they



may develop diarrhoea after a few days. Diarrhoea can initially be tackled at home. Cook equal quantities of parboiled rice and moong dal with a little salt in a pressure cooker, mash it well, add water and boil again so that it is the consistency of dosai or pancake batter. Eat a tablespoon of this every half an hour. Alternate with sips of water. Eat small quantities of bananas. Watch out for dehydration. If you are dehydrated, consult a physician. If the diarrhoea does not subside within three days, see a doctor.

It is called persistent diarrhoea if it lasts for more than two weeks. It may be due to an infection, but it can be due to systemic diseases. Diarrhoea and dysentery are not terms to be interchanged. In dysentery, bowel movements are frequent with blood and mucous. It can last for days without treatment. It may be accompanied by abdominal pain and fever. It can be due to bacteria like shigella or a parasite like amoeba, but it can also be due to non-infective causes.

Coffee Kick



For two years, Steph Gaudreau gave up her daily cup of coffee. She switched to large mugs of herbal tea — not because caffeine was affecting her sleep or making her anxious, but to gain an edge in cross-country mountain bike racing.

Hoping to enhance the effect of caffeine as a performance aid, Gaudreau, who lives in San Diego, US, drank a cup of coffee on race day as she warmed up. Once that pre-race caffeine boost hit, Gaudreau, now a nutritional therapy practitioner and strength coach, said she felt a sense of euphoria, which helped her feel focussed and mentally prepared for her race. The strategy paid off. In 2010, she took first place in a regional amateur cycling race called the Kenda Cup.

How much of a boost? There's a good consensus among scientists that caffeine gives an exercising edge, whether it's running a marathon, lifting weights or playing soccer, said Nanci Guest, a dietitian, coach and researcher at the University of Toronto in Canada. Guest led a comprehensive review in 2021 of studies on caffeine and exercise.

Whether consumed via

coffee, a workout supplement or an energy drink, caffeine tends to improve performance by an average of 2 per cent to 5 per cent, said Brad Schoenfeld, a professor of exercise science at the Lehman College in the New York City borough of the Bronx, US, and director of the school's human performance and fitness programme. Although caffeine moderately improves anaerobic activities (intense, shorter workouts), such as weightlifting, sprinting and high-intensity interval training, it appears to show the most benefit with aerobic efforts (less-intense, longer exercises), such as swimming, cycling and jogging.

For instance, a 2020 analysis of multiple studies

about the effect of caffeine on rowing performance found that competitive rowers actually improved their time on a 2,000-metre row by about four seconds when using caffeine.

"It takes a lot of work to drop your 2,000-metre row, if you've been training for a couple of years," said Mike Nelson, an associate professor at the Carrick Institute for Clinical Neuroscience in Atlanta in the US. "But if you said, 'Hey, just take this supplement and we can decrease your time instantly by four seconds,' I'm going to take the supplement."

This response to caffeine varies from person to person, depending on factors such as genetics, sex, hormonal activity and even diet.

Hedgie desperate to clean up mess, as bojo all out to get back to no. 10



his desperation to claim that he would "Get Brexit Done".

BoJo signed a deal whereby the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland would remain open for the passage of goods. That meant goods travelling from mainland Britain to Northern Ireland would be subject to controls, checks, customs and import duties to ensure that Britain was not

sneaking goods into the Republic, which is an EU country.

This meant, as the Ulster Protestant political party, the DUP, describes it, that there would be a "hard border" between Northern Ireland and the rest of Great Britain. They said this was unacceptable and in protest refused to take their place as the Opposition party in the Northern Ireland parliament. The parliament became inactive, violating the Good Friday peace agreement between the representatives of the Catholic and Protestant populations.

Hedgie is desperate to solve this dilemma as Joe Biden has repeatedly implied that no trade deal between the UK and the United States can go ahead while the Good Friday peace deal is suspended. It gives Hedgie a huge

headache, especially as BoJo won't keep his mouth shut and is making noises which indicate that he will raise objections to any reversals that Hedgie thrashes out with the European Union.

My reading, gentle reader, is that BoJo is on manoeuvres to try and oust Hedgie and regain the prime ministership. He has just bought a £4 million mansion in Oxfordshire and perhaps intends to contest the next election from the constituency in which he will be living. Not that Hedgie was absent when all the apocalyptic horsemen were riding towards this happy land. He was chancellor of the exchequer and a Cabinet member when the protocol went through. He was at the Cabinet table between 2017 and 2020 when Priti "Clueless" and then "Cruella" Braverman, as

successive home secretaries, increased their ministry's outsourcing consultancy fees by 788 per cent on contracts dealing with "security, immigration and border preparations for leaving the EU". So, did one of these highly-paid consultants come up with the idea of sending immigrants to Rwanda? I mention the decisions of these home secretaries to point out that poor Hedgie is not only dealing with these "border preparations" but with the complete mess in which these consultants relied on by Clueless and Cruella have left security and immigration.

BoJo's ambition to return to 10 Downing Street may be a pie in the sky. He is undoubtedly smart and charming, if a bit economical with the truth. I met him several times when he was the edi-

tor of the right-wing weekly The Spectator and when he was a backbench MP. One of the first times we met was when, over breakfast at the house of one of the Speccie's writers, I introduced him to Charles Sobhraj, who had a story about selling nuclear triggers to some Arab customers. BoJo heard the story which would have, if it was believed and substantiated, supported George W. Bush and Tony Blair's claim that Saddam Hussein was in possession of, or was planning to possess, weapons of mass destruction. BoJo unselfishly concluded that the story was too big for his weekly publication and said he'd put Sobhraj in touch with a national daily. Nothing came of it as I've recalled in Hawk and Hyena, my memoir of my dealings with Sobhraj.

POEMS

Chain Of Pearls

Mother, I shall weave a chain of pearls for thy neck
with my tears of sorrow.
The stars have wrought their anklets of light to deck thy feet,
but mine will hang upon thy breast.
Wealth and fame come from thee
and it is for thee to give or to withhold them.
But this my sorrow is absolutely mine own,
and when I bring it to thee as my offering
thou rewardest me with thy grace.



Was a fool to vote for
Left in Kerala: NRI
businessman

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kuwait-based millionaire Keralite businessman K.G.Abraham on Saturday tore into the Pinarayi Vijayan-led government on reports that Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Funds were being swindled and not reaching the needy. "I was a fool to vote for the Left government. Going forward, I will not give a single rupee to any political party. The Left's policy of taxing a second home and homes kept locked smacks of arrogance. It's with great difficulty that the diaspora builds a home and to

pay extra tax if it's locked is unacceptable," said an angry Abraham. Abraham has business interests in Kerala and has been based in Kuwait for the past three decades. He has always been at the forefront to help his state when needed, especially during the worst floods that hit the state in 2018 and 2019. "During the floods, I extended financial help twice, the second time I paid Rs 50 lakh to the Relief Fund and now we hear it's being misused," said Abraham. The latest scam that has now surfaced is the gross misuse of the Relief Fund as reports have surfaced that it was an organised loot by a mafia consisting of agents, and government officials -- who work in tandem to hand over money from the Fund to ineligible people on the basis of fake certificates. A huge segment of the Relief Fund, especially during the floods, came from the Kerala diaspora. Terming it one-off incident, CPI(M) state secretary M.V.Govindan assured to check up on it and ensure that the party also does the same.



NEWS

YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Teachers' scam: Non-existent pvt colleges
conferring degrees under scanner

AGENCY
KOLKATA, FEB 25

A number of non-existent private colleges conferring Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) and Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) certificates in West Bengal are currently under the scanner of the two central agenciesprobing the multi-crore teachers' recruitment irregularities scam.

Initial findings by the central agencies, especially by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), have revealed that a number of primary teachers currently employed in different state-run schools, whose process of recruitments are under question, received their B.Ed or D.El.Ed certificates from these mushrooming private institutions in the state. Sources said that investigations have also revealed that many of those private institutes through having registrations are virtually non-existent with many of them having neither proper institute buildings nor necessary infrastructure nor faculty required to train on teaching skills. "However, many of these private



institutes are charging hefty amounts as course fees which are much higher than what are charged by state-run B.Ed and D.El.Ed colleges. Despite the essentials required for proper teachers' training, these institutes attracted enrolment by a substantial number of candidates every year and many of them at a later stage secured primary teachers' job by virtue of the degree or diploma certificates conferred by these institutes," an ED source said. Recently, the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) had arrested Tapas Mondal, president of All Bengal Teachers' Training Achievers' Association (ABTTAA), an umbrella organisation of such private teachers' training institutes.

Mondal, a close confidant of Trinamool Congress legislator and former president of West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBBPE) Manik Bhattacharya, had also been questioned by ED in this connection a number of times.

Now the question comes how these private institutes managed

K'taka Police form special teams to crack
murder case of 4 members of family

UTTARA KANNADA: The Karnataka Police said on Saturday that it has formed three special teams to crack the murder case of four members of the same family in Uttara Kannada district. Seventy-year-old Shambhu Bhat, his wife Madevi (60), son Rajiv (40) and daughter-in-law Kusuma (35) were hacked to death on Thursday in Onibagilu village near Bhatkal town. The police are suspecting the role of the elder daughter-in-law behind the murders and have taken two accused persons into custody. The teams have been formed under the DySP and CPI of Bhatkal. According to the police, Shambhu Bhat's elder son Sridhar died due to kidney failure and his Vidya demanded compensation and division of property. Shambhu Bhat owned three acres of land. Vidya Bhat was given 1.9 acres of land but she had demanded three.

Time to form UPA-
like alliance to take
on BJP: Kharge

AGENCY
RAIPUR, FEB 25

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said it's time to reach out to like-minded parties which are opposed to BJP and form a UPA-like alliance.

While delivering his presidential address at the ongoing 85th Congress plenary, Kharge said, "The Congress is ready to take along all the parties which are opposed to BJP".

He said in the past, many political parties were with the UPA and Manmohan Singh led the government honestly. However, there was a big conspiracy against the government.

This comes as a message to the parties which were part of the UPA government but are now unwilling to give Congress a lead role in the alliance now.

The Congress is trying to strike a balance between the political parties which are opposed to the idea of Congress leading the alliance.

Asserting that the BJP will not attain a majority, Kharge



said: "Congress will lead, and we will get the majority. We will follow the Constitution and democracy."

The Congress is likely to set up an alliance committee to reach out to other opposition parties, and this could be discussed during the party's plenary session in Raipur.

Sources have said that the Congress wants to build up a national alliance, but with the precondition of leading it. There are many like-minded parties who have no problem with Congress being the leading party in the alliance, but leaders like Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao, Trinamool Congress with Aam Aadmi Party are towing a different line.

India's global lithium dreams take
shape in Vaishno Devi's shadow

JAMMU, FEB 25

Till the beginning of 2023, Reasi district in Jammu and Kashmir was known only for the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine situated on the Trikuta Hills, where millions of devotees pay obeisance each year. Hardly could anyone image that the sleepy Salal village located in the backyard of Reasi district would rise to a global dawn in 2023. It is now time for scientists and miners to arrive in this village on a geological pilgrimage. On February 9, 2023, the ministry of mines said it has discovered huge deposits of lithium, 5.9 million tonnes in Salal village of Reasi district. The discovery of lithium in Salal village has an interesting history.

A team of Geological Survey of India (GSI) reached Salal village, 77 kms from Jammu city, in 2018 to collect samples for identification of different minerals. The team stayed in



Salal village and kept collecting samples for research, investigation and processing. After more than four years of sustained sample collection, testing and re-testing of collected samples the team of miners discovered that they had hit the jackpot.

Following the guidelines of the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) and the Mineral Evidence and Mineral Content Rules, the GSI team performed reconnaissance surveys, preliminary exploration and general exploration.

GSI staff had conducted detailed geophysical work, including borehole logging,

drilling and collecting core samples. The team found that the area where lithium deposits are located is 6 kms long and 3 kms wide.

With the estimated 5.9 million tonnes of reserves in Salal, India will have the fifth-largest lithium reserves in the world, ahead of the US. The discovery is vital as it comes at a time when India is going all out for a green transition in transportation, where electric vehicle adoption has become a national priority.

The discovery is a boost for the government's Make in India programme as lithium is used in the batteries that power EVs, mobile phones and other applications.

Man wanted in three
human trafficking cases
arrested from Ghaziabad

NEW DELHI, FEB 25

A 35-year-old man, wanted in three human trafficking cases and carrying a reward of Rs 25,000, was arrested from Ghaziabad by crime branch of Delhi Police, an officer said on Saturday. The accused, identified as Sanjay alias Prakash alias Mintu Mirdaha, a resident of Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, and a native of Purnia, Bihar, along with the gang members used to roam around the railway stations in Delhi and entice innocent girls on pretext of marriage and then sold them in different states for Rs 4-5 lakh for each girl.

According to police, in 2017, Sanjay along with others was arrested for kidnapping a 14-year-old girl.

"The girl was recovered. Two more minor girls were recovered from one of the accused's houses. These girls were trafficked for sexual exploitation by the gang members including Sanjay," said Ravindra Singh Yadav, the Special Commissioner of Police (Crime). On May 21, 2022, Sanjay was released on bail by court but he jumped the bail and absconded. He was declared a proclaimed offender.

On August 6, 2022 one 14-year-old girl went to school but did not return home. During inquiry, it came in notice that two more girls of the same class were also missing.

"All the three girls were enticed by Sanjay and he took all of them to Ghaziabad. He further sold two of them but somehow the third one succeeded in escaping from there. The girls returned to her home and revealed all the facts to the local police," said Yadav.

However, recently during investigation, police received specific inputs regarding Sanjay and he was nabbed from Vijay Nagar.

Protest against custody of environmental
activists during Stalin's visit to Erode

CHENNAI, FEB 25

Tamil Nadu activists have protested against the preventive custody of three environmental activists ahead of the visit of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to poll-bound Erode. The environmental activists led by R.S. Mugilan had sought permission from the Erode district police for conducting a democratic black flag protest against the Chief Minister during his arrival at Erode.

The protest was against the state government's failure to protect the lives of social activists who had brought to light an illegal mining activity at AChenniamalai in Erode district. But the police denied permission stating that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in force for the Erode East by-polls to be held on February 27. Despite this, Mugilan informed the police that he would conduct a protest near the Erode bus stand on Saturday. On Friday night, the police took Mugilan, P. Tamil Selvan, and Viswanathan into preventive custody, saying that they would be let off only after 6 p.m. when campaigning in Erode ends. Environmental and social activists protested against this. R. Sunderaswami, Professor of Social sciences at a college of Erode, told IANS: "This is purely against democracy. I don't know whether Chief Minister is in the know of things or whether



the police have gone one step ahead to please their masters in detaining the environmental activists who were to protest democratically. This is not the right way to be taken by a political party which swears by the Dravidian equality theory." Majid Khan, social activist and director of environmental group, Social and Scientific Study centre, based out of Salem, told IANS: "This is unfortunate. The DMK government has lowered itself by such an act. What is there for such a black flag demonstration? This is a democracy and people have all the right to protest." Mugilan had pointed out that a leader of a mainstream political party had conducted mining and extracted profits to the tune of Rs 16 crore from Chenniamalai in Erode district.

Bengal Assembly: No scope of discussion
on education sector in special session

KOLKATA, FEB 25

The West Bengal government has left no scope for discussion on the state education department in the forthcoming special session of the Assembly starting from March 6. The move is being seen as Mamata Banerjee-led government's "strategy" to avoid ruckus and fiercely adverse criticisms from the opposition against the backdrop of the multi-crore teachers' recruitment scam in the state. The four-day special session of the House is meant for floor debates on budgetary allocations for different state government departments. It is learnt that matters related to 33 departments, including that of the education and home, will be sent for "guillotine" (passed with discussion). The remaining six departments will be discussed



during the session. The development has provoked a political slugfest between the ruling and opposition parties. According to the chief whip of BJP's Legislative party in the state Assembly, Manoj Tigga, any issue becomes a matter of inconvenience for the state's ruling party, they avoid discussions on it on the floor of the Assembly.

Raids continue on Uflex
premises, Rs 3 crore seized

NOIDA, FEB 25

Income Tax department raids on premises of packaging company Uflex continued for the fifth day on Saturday during which an amount of Rs 3 crore was seized.

The department conducted raids after receiving an information about tax evasion and unaccounted transactions by the company.

Bogus transactions worth Rs 715 crore have been found. Besides this, Rs 635 crore transactions were carried out by shell companies. Around 140 people, mostly company's employees have been inquired and information about transactions was found from their mobiles and laptops. Irregularities



in around Rs 1,000 crore transaction on paper itself is being suspected, sources said. Searches have concluded in 38 locations across the country and now it is continuing in 28 places including Delhi and NCR. Around 100 teams are involved in the searches. On Tuesday, Income-Tax department sleuths have raided 70 places including manufacturing unit, premises and corporate office of Directors.

Indore college principal set
ablaze by ex-student passes away

BHOPAL, FEB 25

A principal of a private pharmacy college in Indore, who was set ablaze by a former student on February 20 and had been battling for life after having suffered 80 per cent burn injuries, passed away at a hospital on Saturday. According to reports, a team of doctors who had been monitoring Vimukta Sharma's health conditions, declared her dead at around 4 a.m. The incident took place in the premises of the BM Pharmacy College when the 54-year-old principal leaving for home. In the meantime, the accused Ashutosh Srivastava (24) approached her and after a short argument over delay in issuance of his mark-sheet, poured petrol on her and set her ablaze with a cigarette lighter.

Shrivastava was arrested just hours after the incident. "The principal has succumbed to her injuries during treatment. We found that the student had failed in the 7th semester. We have already arrested the accused," Bhagwat Singh Virde, Police superintendent (Indore rural) said.



Departmental inquiry against IAS
Rohini, IPS Roopa over public spat

BENGALURU, FEB 25

The Karnataka government has ordered a departmental inquiry against IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri and IPS officer D. Roopa Moudgil over their public spat, sources said on Saturday.

The sources confirmed that the inquiry has been ordered by Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma as per the orders of the Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The government had taken serious note of the public spat which continued between two senior officers despite warnings issued by the Chief Minister and state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra. The sources explained that the matters of issuing a public



statement, posting of private photos on social media would be probed against Roopa. The allegations against Sindhuri of construction of swimming pool, violating heritage structure and carrying out construction activities during Covid pandemic and a bag purchase scam

would be investigated. The probe will also look into the violation of service laws and guidelines. Both officers have been transferred from their present postings and were not allotted any new posts yet. The two had engaged in the public spat regarding corruption and personal matters in the wake of which they were given gag orders by the state government. The two public servants have been given strict instructions not to speak to the media or use any social media platforms. Sindhuri had also approached the court and got orders against Roopa for not issuing any damaging statements against her and not to post any material on social media handles.

CPI to stage statewide protests
on Feb 28 against TN Guv

CHENNAI, FEB 25

The Communist Party of India (CPI) will stage protest marches across Tamil Nadu against the state Governor R.N. Ravi's remarks on Karl Marx.

In a statement, CPI state secretary R. Mutharasan said that the Governor has been making regular statements against the Communist parties and that this was a political line of the RSS. He said that if Ravi does not stop making insulting remarks, the CPI would not allow him to come out of the Raj Bhavan.

Mutharasan also said that the Governor has been supporting Sanatan



Dharma and caste and had been speaking against the Constitutional provisions and secular principles prevalent in the country.

He said that the statement of the Governor that Marx's theory had led to

perpetual conflicts between the haves and have-nots was a deliberate attempt to bring in the RSS view on the same into the mainstream.

The CPI Tamil Nadu state secretary said that for the RSS, the communists were the prime enemy along with the Muslims and Christians.

During a book launch a few days ago, the Governor had said that colonised minds controlled the Indian intellectual space and Marx, Rousseau, and Abraham Lincoln were worshipped while sidestepping Indian scholars and intellectuals like Deendayal Upadhyaya, the founder of integral humanism.

NEWS AT A
GLANCE

In Raipur for 85th
Congress plenary,
Maken, Pilot engage
in long conversation

RAIPUR: Congress leaders Ajay Maken and Sachin Pilot were seen engaged in a long conversation just before the day two of the plenary session got underway here on Saturday. Both Pilot and Maken were at loggerheads with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot after majority of the MLAs boycotted the meeting of Congress legislative party called by Maken last year. On Friday, when members of the committee arrived in two buses, Chief Minister Gehlot and former Congress state incharge Maken were in the same bus. Both the leaders had drifted apart after the MLAs had defied party line and held parallel meetings. A miffed Maken had resigned as Congress General Secretary incharge of Rajasthan. The issue of ex-Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and Gehlot has yet not been resolved and now only months are left for the election in the state. Another issue of Chhattisgarh Health Minister T.S.Singh Deo aspiring to become the chief minister also needs a closure. The state and the High Command have to take decision on it. Speaking to IANS, Singdeho on Friday pressed for change since the incumbent Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel completed 2.5 years in his tenure had said, "Who doesn't want to become Chief Minister, there are now months left for new elections, but the high command has to take view on it." "If anybody is in politics he wants to definitely become CM if someone plays cricket he wants to become captain" Singh Deo had met Mallikarjun Kharge when he was elected as Congress President but he did not disclose it.

Inquiry initiated against
Goa teacher for giving
corporal punishment to
43 students



PANAJI: The Goa Education Department has initiated an inquiry into a teacher who allegedly gave corporal punishment given to 43 students, wherein some of them fainted and one was hospitalised after complaining of breathing problem. Director of education Shailesh Zingade told IANS that the incident occurred on Friday morning and the department has started its inquiry. "So far what we have come to know is that these students were from Class 7 and were making noise as their teacher was absent. The contractual teacher who allegedly gave them corporal punishment was teaching in Class 9, who got disturbed due to noise in the adjacent classroom," Zingade said. He said that the class 7 students were told to take continuous rounds of the volleyball court in the morning. "They were monitored by students of Class 9, while they were running. One student among them complained of breathlessness and soon he was taken to the health centre and later discharged," Zingade said. "We have started the inquiry of this incident and after getting a report of it will ask the management of the school to take action." According to Zingade, four teachers were absent on Friday and even the Headmaster was taking a class, hence the incident didn't come to the notice of the latter. Sources said that parents rushed to the school after they came to know about the incident and questioned management about the corporal punishment given to students. "Fifteen students out of the 43 are absent today (Saturday). The Deputy Director of central zone is inquiring in this matter," the top official told IANS.

6-yr-old girl dies after falling into pit at construction site in
B'luru

BENGALURU: A 6-year-old girl allegedly died after falling into the pit at an under-construction site within K.R. Market police station limits in Bengaluru on Saturday. The deceased child has been identified as Maheshwari. Her parents worked as labourers at the construction site in Sultanpet. They lived in the premises of the under construction building. According to police, the child fell into the pit made for lift installation late Friday night. The pit was filled with water. Unaware of this, the parents of the kid searched all over the place. They got to know about the the child only when the dead body came up in the morning. The building belonged to one Vikram. It has been alleged that no precautionary measure was taken at the construction site. Taking up the investigation in the case, K.R. Market police have inspected the spot.

My innings could conclude with
Bharat Jodo Yatra: Sonia Gandhi



AGENCY
RAIPUR, FEB 25

In an address to the ongoing 85th Congress plenary session here, senior leader Sonia Gandhi said the party's victories in 2004 and 2009 along with the able leadership of Dr Manmohan Singh "gave me personal satisfaction but what gratifies me

most is that my innings could conclude with the Bharat Jodo Yatra". She said that the yatra has come as a turning point for Congress and proved that the people of India overwhelmingly want harmony, tolerance and equality. "It (Yatra) has renewed the rich legacy of dialogue between our party and the public through mass contact program. It

Third force emergence
advantageous for BJP: Cong

RAIPUR: The Congress in its political resolution on Saturday stressed the need for national level alliance saying that emergence of third force will give advantage to the BJP. The resolution says, "Unity of secular forces will be the hallmark of the future of the Congress party." It said that the party will go out identify, mobilise, and align like-minded secular forces. "We should include secular

regional forces who agree to our ideology. There is an urgent need for a United opposition to take on the NDA on common ideological grounds."

Underlining the threat of third force which is being attempted by some parties, the Congress, without naming any party in its resolution, said, "Emergence of any third force will provide advantage to the BJP/NDA."

has shown us that the Congress stands with the people and is ready to fight for them," she said while congratulating party workers for making the mega walkathon a success.

Sonia Gandhi thanked all

leaders, and the people of the country for participation in the yatra as well as for their love and the support. "I especially thank Rahul ji whose determination and leadership was crucial in the Yatra's success."

Tejashwi accuses Centre of step-
motherly treatment towards Bihar

PATNA, FEB 25

Ahead of rallies of the Mahagathbandhan and the BJP in Bihar on Saturday, deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav accused the BJP-led Centre of step-motherly treatment towards the state.

"Amit Shah is coming to Bihar. So he should reveal to the people why the Central government cheated Bihar in the Union Budget. If the Central government has announced a lot of things for the state in the budget, then Shah should reveal it," Tejashwi said.

"People across the country have made their mind to remove the BJP led government from the Centre," Tejashwi said. Mahagathbandhan's rally will start shortly in Rangbhum ground in Purnia where Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Tejashwi Yadav, various leaders Sitaram Yechuri, D Raja, Dipankar Bhattacharya, Jitan Ram Manjhi and Akhilesh Singh will address people of Seemanchal and Bihar.

On the other hand, a rally of Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be held



in Valmiki Nagar in West Champaran district.

After the formation of Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar, this will be Shah's third visit to the state.

He had earlier addressed the Jan Bhawna Rally in Purnia on September 23 last year.

More trouble ahead for Ravindran as
his pvt chats with Swapna surface

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 25

Road ahead for C.M.Ravindran, the assistant private secretary of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, is likely to be bumpy with his intimate chats with Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the gold smuggling and Life Mission cases, surfacing on Saturday. Ravindran has been served a notice to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at its Kochi office on Monday. Ravindran had earlier feigned ignorance of Swapna Suresh, but was questioned by the ED in 2020 and left off then. But former top IAS official M.Sivasankar, who was also questioned in 2020 in the same Life Mission bribery case, was arrested early this month after three days' interrogation. Later, the ED had questioned him for nine days in succession and on Friday handed him back to judicial custody and is now placed in a jail at Kochi till March 10. It is against this background that Ravindran has been asked to appear for



questioning on Monday and all eyes are on if he will turn up, as in 2020, it was after three notices was served he

appeared. Incidentally, in the earlier chat messages that were recovered between Swapna and Sivasankar, there is a mention of she being asked to meet Ravindran and these messages coinciding with the signing of the Life Mission agreement in 2018. The latest chat messages between Ravindran and Swapna, that took place close to midnight, clearly indicates that Ravindran knew her very well and she soon after Sivasankar was arrested early this month, said Ravindran knows everything and if questioned the role of Vijayan and his family also will come out. Politically also for Vijayan, Ravindran has been asked to appear on Monday, when the assembly session resumes after a short break and the Congress led opposition will not lose any opportunity to strike at Vijayan, similar to what he did when former Congress Chief Minister Oommen Chandy came under a cloud when in office (2011-16) when the Solar scam surfaced.

On campaign trail, Stalin announces Rs 1K honorarium
to women heads of families in next budget

CHENNAI, FEB 25

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin said that the Rs 1000 honorarium to women heads of families will be allocated in the next state budget. Stalin made the announcement while campaigning for the Congress-DMK front candidate, EVKS Elangovan contesting in the by-polls to the Erode East constituency to be held on February 27.

He also said that the financial position of the state was very bad when the DMK government assumed office in 2021 as the AIADMK government rule of past 10 years had left the state coffers dry.

Stalin said that the AIADMK had left the treasury empty after looting and also had created a heavy debt burden for the state. Stalin said that his government was trying to set the financial things right and then will announce the Rs 1000



honorarium to the women head of the families.

It may be noted that DMK had drawn flak for not announcing the Rs 1000 honorarium to the women heads of families which the party had promised in its election manifesto for the 2021 assembly polls.

He said that all the poll promises

made by the DMK would be completed by this year even though the party had five years to fulfil the promises. While responding to the charges of the AIADMK leader, Edappadi K. Palaniswami that the DMK government had not met any of its poll promises, the Chief Minister said that 85 per cent of the poll promises were completed.

He called upon the people of the Erode East assembly constituency to vote for the Congress-DMK candidate, EVKS Elangovan.

The Erode East assembly by-poll was necessitated following the passing away of the sitting legislator, E. Thirumahan Everaa, on January 4 due to a massive heart attack. EVKS Elangovan is the father of the late E. Thirumahan Everaa and a former Union minister and ex-TNCC president. The AIADMK-led NDA front has fielded K.S. Thenarasu, a former legislator, for the bypoll.

Demand for lithium batteries to
surge over 5-fold; EVs to fuel more

NEW DELHI, FEB 25

From smartphones to laptops, from medical equipment to electric cars, lithium-ion batteries are providing portable electricity across electronic gadgets and power tools, and their demand is only going to surge. Called "White Gold", Lithium is a soft, silvery-white alkali metal that is highly reactive, incredibly light, and low in density. Though it had a diverse range of applications throughout history, in recent years, it has become a critical component of lithium-ion batteries due to its reactivity, lightness and ability to be recharged. The global lithium market size was valued at \$6.83 billion in 2021 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12 per cent from 2022 to 2030, according to Grand View Research. Electrification of vehicles is projected to attract a significant volume of lithium-ion batteries, thus anticipated to drive the market over the forecast period. Government subsidies for EVs, along with investments in this space, are acting as an additional booster to the growth of the market. According to public-private alliance Li-Bridge, the global



demand for lithium batteries is expected to surge more than five-fold by 2030. Global lithium production totalled 100,000 tonnes (90.7 million kg) in 2021, while worldwide reserves stand at about 22 million tonnes (20 billion kg), according to the US Geological Survey. In 2022, reserves of lithium in Chile amounted to an estimated 9.3 million metric tonnes, the largest worldwide. Australia comes in second, with reserves estimated at 6.2 million metric tonnes in 2022. The US had total lithium reserves of approximately one million metric tonnes. India has now joined the Lithium superpower club, with the discovery of 5.9 million tonnes of lithium at Salai village in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

PWD demolishes temple,
mosque at Delhi's ITO

NEW DELHI, FEB 25

A temple and a mosque in the national capital's ITO area were demolished by the Public Works Department (PWD) as a part of its anti-encroachment drive. A large number of police personnel have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order situation.

Saturday's development comes after the Delhi High Court on Thursday directed the PWD to carry out work to make a pedestrian pathway at "Jheel ka Piao" on Mathura Road, ITO, even if it called for demolishing a portion of the temple and the mosque.

The single judge bench of Justice Prathiba Singh observed that the issue



was concerning the development of a pathway on an extremely busy road wherein documents and other photographs show that the temple and

the mosque are abutting the pedestrian pathway. It observed that in the line sketch filed by the PWD, there was no uniformity in the pedestrian pathway which could affect the safety of pedestrians.

The court asked PWD to confirm with the caretakers of the mandir/masjid to arrive at a consensus on the time when the said demolition will take place.

The court was hearing a plea that was moved by caretakers of Sanatan Dharam Mandir, also known as Prachin Shiv Mandir, on Mathura Road.

They had challenged a letter by the PWD which said the mandir property was identified as obstructing the way.

Thackeray-Kejriwal-Mann tryst 'meeting
of minds' – no thought on poll tie-ups

MUMBAI, FEB 25

The morning after the late-evening rendezvous of two Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Chief Ministers -- Arvind Kejriwal of Delhi and Bhagwant Mann of Punjab -- with the former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray, may at best be a "meeting of minds", with no poll tie-ups on the menu yet.

Both Kejriwal and Thackeray said they were keen on meeting each other personally for a long time and Mann harped on the century-old connections between Maharashtra and Punjab.



Kejriwal heaped praises on Thackeray for the good work done during the Covid-19 pandemic in Maharashtra and how they learnt a lot to replicate it in Delhi. "Last night's meeting was intended to evolve a common platform for all parties willing to take the country aforward' since the demon called Bharatiya Janata Party is dragging the nation backward' and

deviating from the real issues confronting the people," AAP Mumbai Working President Dwijendra Tiwari said on Saturday. Interestingly, the conclave took place on the eve of the AAP State Executive meeting currently being held in Mumbai to discuss various issues including the upcoming civic elections. For AAP, the situation is

awkward since it is fighting on multiple fronts in Maharashtra -- the Opposition Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena (UBT) and the ruling alliance of Shiv Sena of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-Bharatiya Janata Party -- as it tries to carve its own niche in the state. Dwijendra Tiwari echoed Kejriwal's sentiments saying several issues like huge unemployment, spiralling inflation, crony capitalism and others need to be tackled through a common forum and the AAP was ready to cooperate with any party on this count.

SC allows EPS to remain interim AIADMK gen secy



NEW DELHI: In a setback to O Paneerselvam, the Supreme Court on Thursday affirmed the Madras High Court's order allowing E Palaniswami, or EPS as he is known, to continue as the interim general secretary of the AIADMK. "We have upheld the order of the Division Bench of the High Court, dated September 2, 2022, and made our earlier interim order permanent. We have not dealt with the matter of resolutions before the party that were being heard by the single judge. We leave it open for the said resolutions to be dealt with in accordance with law," a Bench of Justice Dinesh Maheswari and Justice Hrishikesh Roy said. The Bench, which had reserved the judgment on the matter on January 12, dismissed the petitions filed by O Panneerselvam. The verdict is likely to establish Palaniswami's position as the supreme leader of the AIADMK.

Food regulator sets norms for 15 types of millets



NEW DELHI: With an eye on quality production and availability of millets in domestic and global markets, the Indian food regulator on Thursday set group standards for 15 types of millets. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has specified the comprehensive group standard in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Second Amendment Regulations, 2023, notified in the Gazette of India today. These will be enforced from September 1. The standardisation is part of government's efforts to boost the use of millets in the ongoing International Year of Millets.

Scan-share service allows 5 lakh quick OPD registrations



NEW DELHI: Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission under the National Health Authority is facilitating quick OPD registration in 365 hospitals through scan and share service. More than five lakh patients availed the benefit of queue-less OPD registration using this service, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said today. The service was launched in October 2022. "Within five months the service has been adopted by 365 hospitals. The QR-code based instant registration service has helped over 5 lakh patients save time by drastically reducing the wait times in the (Out Patient Department) OPD registration areas of the participating hospitals," Mandaviya said.

Coal production rises 16 pc to 698.25 MT during Apr-Jan this fiscal

NEW DELHI: India's domestic coal production has shown impressive growth during the past few years and this rise in output has helped the nation to check the import of fossil fuel considerably, the government said on Friday.

In the current financial year, the country's total coal production recorded a more than 16 per cent rise to 698.25 MT during the period from April 2022 to January 2023, as compared to 601.97 MT during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

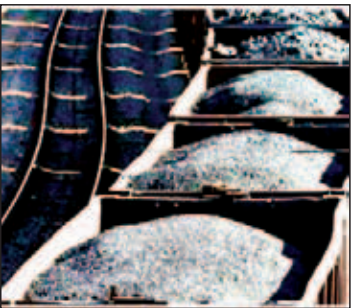
In this period, Coal India Limited (CIL) production has also gone up by about 15.23 per cent to 550.93 MT from 478.12 MT, the coal ministry said in a statement.

The increase in domestic coal production has helped the country curb import to a large extent in face of sharp increase in coal demand arising due to continuous rise in power consumption.

The country's total coal production has increased from 730.87 MT (Million Ton) in 2019-20 to 778.19 MT in 2021-22, achieving a growth of 6.47 per cent.

The Coal Ministry has fixed the target of 1.31 BT (Billion Ton) for FY 25 and the same is likely to go up to 1.5 BT by FY30.

The Ministry has been actively engaging with various state governments and central government agencies both for starting new coal mines and also for increasing coal production in the currently operational mines.



YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Not judges but system at fault, taking steps to improve it: Kiren Rijiju on pendency of cases

UDAIPUR, FEB 25

Voicing concern over the rising pendency of cases, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said it is "not the fault of the judge but of the system", and the government is taking more steps to address the issue.

"We are moving towards the kind of system that should be there in the country," he said while highlighting efforts to repeal redundant and obsolete laws, improve the infrastructure of courts and equip them with technology.

The minister was speaking at a conference on 'Sustainable Development in India: Evolution and Legal Perspective' organised by the Law Commission of India at Mohanlal Sukhadia University in Udaipur.

The minister said the number of pending cases has crossed 4.90 crore.

"It is not a good thing to have so many cases pending in any country or society. It has several reasons... the condition of judges is also bad. One judge handles 50-60 cases in a single day. They dispose of so many cases but the number which comes daily is double.

"The common man asks why the pendency is so high, but it is not known to people how much a judge works. It is not the fault of the judge, but of the system," Rijiju said. He said that a major solution for reducing pendency is "technology" and the courts are being



equipped with technologies across the country in order to make them paperless. "We are halfway there. Now we are giving the final shape to it. High courts, lower courts, and tribunals are being well-equipped with technologies.

"It was just because of the success of e-courts phase-II that hearings were conducted through video conference during the Covid pandemic," the minister said.

He said that several high courts have done a good job of conducting hearings through video conferencing. There are several ways to reduce the pendency. The biggest one is technology. The ministry is doing several things and "in the days to come, we are going to take a few other steps," he said.

He said that work is going on to make the judiciary paperless, which

HC verdict on pleas against Agnipath scheme on Feb 27

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court is likely to pronounce on February 27 its judgment on a batch of petitions challenging the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad had on December 15 last year reserved its verdict on the matter.

According to the cause list of Monday (February 27) uploaded on the High Court's website, the judgment will be pronounced by the Bench at 10.30 am.

The Agnipath scheme, unveiled on June 14, 2022, lays out rules for the recruitment in the armed forces. Earlier, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and central government standing counsel Harish Vaidyanathan, representing the Centre, had said the scheme was one of the biggest policy changes in defence recruitment and was going to bring a paradigm shift in the way armed forces recruit personnel.



is also important from an environmental point of view. "Everything has to be digital," he added.

Talking about sustainable development, he stressed the need for balance in economic growth and the environment. "The way we are living our lives has become a threat to our existence. The quest of achieving economic growth and the

haphazard things that are happening around us is threatening. We have a moral obligation and duty to do justice to planet earth," he said.

He also said that India is a global leader in the green energy field. "The world today realises that the vision of PM Narendra Modi is the best suitable vision for the world," he said.

Thousands of property owners of Chandigarh takes out candle march against registry ban



AVTAR SINGH BHANWARA
CHANDIGARH, FEB 25

Thousands of property owners of Chandigarh were forced to take out a candle march to protest against the registry ban at Sector 17 Plaza on Saturday evening at 6 pm.

In Chandigarh, continuous protests have been going on since the issue of the SOP of the share registry ban, but the Chandigarh administration is not paing

any heed, that is why on Saturday evening, thousands of city residents were protesting by taking out a candle march in Sector 17 Plaza. Giving information, Harpal Singh President Chandigarh Property ShareHolder Association said that the residents of the city are not going to sit silent until our rights are returned to us, our protest will continue to take a more formidable form. Significantly, families including women were involved in today's demonstration.

Men planning to cross border for weapons training held near Red Fort in Delhi

NEW DELHI, FEB 25

Two men allegedly planning to go to Pakistan for weapons training were arrested near Red Fort here, police said on Saturday.

The accused, identified as 21-year-old Khalid Mubarak Khan, a resident of Maharashtra, and 26-year-old Abdullah alias Abdur Rehman, a resident of Tamil Nadu, were radicalised over the social media by a Pak-based handler, they said.

The two men were getting directions from their handler on ways to illegally cross the border. Two pistols with 10 live cartridges, a knife, and a wire cutter were recovered from their possession, a senior police officer said.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police made the arrests responding to an input that some people were being radicalised by Pak-based handlers over social media and were given directions to receive weapons training in Pakistan before executing terror attacks in India, the officer said.

On February 14, information was received that some radicalised persons



will come to Delhi via Mumbai to carry out some illegal activity and will further go to Pakistan for terrorist training with the help of their Pakistan-based handler, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Rajiv Ranjan Singh said.

According to the information, the men carried sophisticated arms and were to arrive near Ring Road on the back side of Red Fort.

The two were booked under Arms Act on February 15 after their arrest, police said.

Further investigation is in progress to ascertain the involvement of the accused in planning any terror attack, they added.

India's Covid lockdown effective, vax drive saved 34L lives: Report



NEW DELHI, FEB 25

A Stanford University Working Paper released on Friday has termed India's 2020 lockdown an effective strategy to save lives and balance the economy, noting that the lockdown delayed India's first peak by 175 days from the initial 100 cases at a time when Canada, Italy, Germany and France hit their first peak in less than 50 days. The paper also says Covid vaccination saved 34 lakh lives in India and prevented the loss of USD 18.3 billion to the Indian economy. A net benefit of USD 15.42 billion occurred for the nation after taking into consideration the cost of the vaccination campaign, the report said. "India's lockdown was a plausible and effective strategy for containing the spread of the pernicious virus. The government took the firm stand of a lockdown with the vision that a short-term restriction would be

more prudent as against a permanent damage in terms of loss of lives," says the paper, noting that in the absence of the lockdown, cases could have reached two lakh by April 11, 2020, but they actually reached 7,500.

One lakh lives were saved between March and April 2020 due to the lockdown and two million deaths averted, the paper "Healing the economy: Estimating economic impact of vaccination and related measures" notes. The paper was released today by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. Spending estimate of USD 280 billion (as per IMF) — India's Covid fiscal package, which was 10 per cent of its GDP — had a positive impact on the country's economy and with schemes to support the MSME sector, 10.28 million MSMEs were provided assistance, resulting in an economic impact of US\$ 100.26 billion.

Respond to HC judges' plea on GPF, Centre told



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice to the Centre to respond on a petition filed by seven judges of the Patna High Court complaining that their General Provident Fund (GPF) accounts were closed.

A Bench asked the Centre to respond to the plea and asked Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj to apprise it of the status on the next hearing. The judges who moved the top court were Justices Shailendra Singh, Arun Kumar Jha, Jitendra Kumar, Alok Kumar, Sunil Dutta Mishra, Chandra Prakash Singh and Chandra Shekhar Jha.

They had on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against the closure of their GPF accounts. The matter was mentioned by advocate Prem Prakash before a Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud.

Encourage young entrepreneurs, a program "from craftsman to businessman" organized



AVTAR SINGH BHANWARA
CHANDIGARH, FEB 25

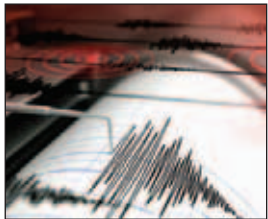
A one day Self Help Group Festival "Karigiri se Karobari" was organised by Social Entrepreneurship Swachhta and Rural Engagement cell of Post Government College Sector-46, Chandigarh in collaboration with Mahatma

Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The objective of the fest was to encourage young entrepreneurs to showcase their skills. Principal, Dr. Abha Sudarshan said that such ventures promote opportunities for self-employment by in-

stilling value of team work and innovation in the youth. Dr. Baljit Singh, Nodal Officer of the festival said that special attractions of the day were Musical Band, Food Stalls, Exhibition cum Sale of handicrafts, bakery items, pottery, organic products, paintings etc. set up by 16 Self Help Groups of students.

Earthquake in India's Himalayas to be felt in Sri Lanka



COLOMBO, FEB 25

Sri Lanka's capital Colombo and the northern capital of Jaffna are likely to feel the effect of any powerful earthquake happening in the Himalayan range as predicted by Indian geologists, a geologist said here on Saturday.

If India experiences a quake of magnitude 8, it would be felt in Colombo and Jaffna, Athula Senaratne, a local university professor, told reporters.

Two years ago a quake that happened in the Himalayan range of magnitude 5 was severely felt in Colombo, people even came out of buildings,

Senaratne said. He said the area concerned was where the Eurasian and the Indo-Australian plates could come into conflict.

Senaratne was referring

to a warning issued by the Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Institute of the potential high-magnitude earthquake in India's Uttarakhand region.

	Axis Bank Limited, SBB Loan Center, SCO 221, Sector 12, Paramjeet Tower, Kamal 132001. Registered Office: "Trishul"-3rd Floor Opp. Samartheswar Temple, Near Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad - 380006
POSSESSION NOTICE	
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized officer of Axis Bank Limited under the Securitization Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued a demand notice dated 21-NOV-2022 calling upon the borrower, Co Borrower/Mortgagor 1. Mr. Vishal Singh S/o Sh. Nareesh Singh, Village Baddi All Patti, Batta, Tehsil Kalayat, District Kailthal Haryana 136117 INDIA(2) Mrs. Sanjogita W/o Mr. Nareesh Kumar, Village Baddi All Patti, atta, Tehsil Kalayat, District Kailthal, Haryana 136117 INDIA to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.21,64,026/- (Rs. Twenty One Lakh Sixty Four Thousand and Twenty Six Only) as outstanding on 21-NOV-2022, plus Interest, incidental Expenses and cost till actual payment within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 17-02-2023. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AXIS Bank Limited for an amount being Rs.21,64,026/- (Rs. Twenty One Lakh Sixty Four Thousand and Twenty Six Only) as outstanding on 21-NOV-2022 plus Interest, incidental Expenses and cost thereon till actual payment.	
Description of the immovable property All Piece & Parcels of Residential House admeasuring 10 Marla i.e. 300 Sq. Yards comprised in, Khewat No 361, Khatoni No 477, Kharsa No 131/2, 10/329 Share out of Total Land 16 Kanal 09 Marla land i.e. 10 Marla i.e. 300 Sq., situated at Village Batta Tehsil Kalayat, District Kailthal, owned by Mrs. Sanjogita W/o Mr. Vishal Singh vide Transfer Deed bearing Registration No.1990 Dated 25-Jan-2017. Boundaries: East: House of Charan Singh, West: Street, North: House of Nareesh, South: Road	
Date: 25-02-2023 Place: KALAYAT	Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

Actors’ favourite words in their mother tongue

CHANDIGARH : On International Mother Language Day, &TV artists share their favourite words in their mother tongue that they enjoy using in everyday conversation and share how others react to them. These include Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak



(Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Saanand Verma (Anokhe Lal Saxena, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Neha Joshi essaying Yashoda in &TV’s Doosri Maa, says, “I am a proud Marathi Mulgi and love expressing my feelings in my mother tongue. Right from childhood, anytime I got hurt or was caught in a situation, my first reaction would be ‘Aai Ga!’ Asking ‘Kasa Kay’ to check on someone holds a unique closeness value. The beauty of saying these words is their tone; the same flavour does not come with any other language. Something I love about Marathi is that whenever you go out, you never say ‘jaate me’ or ‘I am going out’; instead, you say ‘yete me’, meaning ‘I will come back’. It is a lovely way of reassuring that even though I am going out now, I will be back soon.” Kamna Pathak, essaying Rajesh in &TV’s Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, “There are too many things I love about Indore, including food and fashion, of course, the people. But one thing I love the most is my mother language. ‘O Bhaiyo’ (Arey Bhai) is a word I often use with my friends whenever they prank or tease me. Besides Indore’s language, the Bhopali language influences me, and I love using it daily. Also, on the sets of Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, most of them have often found me using these words like ‘Kya Bapar rahe ho?’ (Kya vapar rahe ho?) and it is very funny when people get confused about my Indori dialect. Some Indori words like Chaka-Chak (Cool), Dijain (Making a fool of someone), and Ni Yaar (Oh Really?) I use it so much that everyone on the set has also started using it. I take immense pride in my language, and so should you! Wish you all a happy International Mother Language Day.” Saanand Verma, essaying Anokhe Lal Saxena in &TV’s Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, says, “No matter how far away I am from Bihār, there is something about my mother tongue that never loses its appeal. It is common for people to find me using words like ‘Baklol’, which means stupid in English. I used to hear my father and his friends use this word when I did something stupid or did not study. Nevertheless, I adapted this funny word to many of my films and made my co-stars use it. I remember any time I say ‘Bhag Baklol’ when I am angry, everyone around me bursts into laughter, making me laugh too! I believe everyone finds it comfortable to express all their emotions in their mother tongue, and that’s why it’s important to celebrate International Mother Language Day.” Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

HARYANA

YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Farmers should take maximum benefits of water conservation schemes: Manohar Lal

Chief Minister interacts with beneficiaries during virtual Samvad programme

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, FEB 25

Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal said that financial assistance of Rs. 179.39 crore have been provided to 19,517 beneficiaries of 58,000 acres of land for drip, mini-sprinkler and portable-sprinkler micro-irrigation systems. Thus, the farmers should take maximum benefits of water conservation schemes, said the Chief Minister while interacting with the beneficiaries of Micro Irrigation and Command Area Development Authority (MICADA) during a virtual Samvad programme here today.

The Chief Minister not only interacted with the beneficiaries but also took feedback on the schemes. Many beneficiaries praised the schemes of the government as well as the efforts being made for water conservation.

Micro irrigation system invaluable for farming

The Chief Minister said that various



schemes are being run through MICADA for water conservation along with ratio-

nal and economical use of available water. He said that the Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi has started the scheme of ‘Prati Boond-Adhik Fasal’. “The focus is on increasing water use efficiency at the farm level through micro-irrigation i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Micro irrigation systems are invaluable for farming. With this, there is a considerable increase in the area irrigated from the same source of water,” he asserted.

The Chief Minister said that the government is providing assistance at the rate of 70 percent to individual applicants and 85 percent to members of farmer groups on construction of reservoirs in the farm itself. “Drip, mini-sprinkler and portable sprinkler micro-irrigation systems are being promoted in the state. MICADA has been given the task of increasing micro-irrigation and making ponds and paving canals for rainwater harvesting in the fields,” he added.

Rs 19 crore to 11,284 beneficiaries of Atal Bhujal

Jojana
The Chief Minister said that under the Atal Bhujal Yojana, farmers in 1,656 villages of the state are being sent 15 percent reimbursement amount of their share directly to their accounts through DBT. “So far, Rs 19 crore has been transferred to the accounts of 11,284 beneficiaries. Up to 95 percent more area is irrigated with the same amount of water through micro-irrigation systems and along with this, up to 48 percent water is saved,” he added. He said that the farmers who have adopted micro-irrigation in the state have increased the yield of fruits and vegetables by 52 percent. Along with this, Rs 54.90 crore has been released to 2,185 beneficiaries and Rs 64 crore has been released to 2,584 other beneficiaries for making reservoirs in the farm itself. The Chief Minister said that more water is consumed in the sugarcane crop and now the farmers are gradually adopting micro irrigation. “This will help in saving water as well as good yield,” he said; asking the beneficiaries to take benefits of these schemes related to water conservation and make other farmers aware about it.

TV Actors’ favourite fairy tales!

CHANDIGARH : National Tell a Fairy Tale Day is celebrated on February 26th, and &TV artists Priety Sahay (Kamini, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) talk about their favourite fairy tales. Priety Sahay essaying Kamini in &TV’s Doosri Maa, shares, “The story of Alice in Wonderland has always been my favourite. I would love to read and listen to it again and again. I would never get bored with it. It was fascinating to see what Alice encountered after falling down the rabbit hole. The best part of Alice’s story was her tea party with the Mad Hatter and all her friends. In excitement, I asked my father to buy me a tea set. I used to stage the mad tea party from Alice in Wonderland with my friends at home. They used to love my tea parties. Even now, whenever I host a party at home, I imagine myself as Alice in Wonderland (laughs).”

Kamna Pathak, essaying Rajesh in &TV’s Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, says, “Rapunzel was my all-time favourite fairy tale. Her long and strong hair captivated me so much that I refused to let anyone cut my hair for a long time. I would ask my grandmother for champi to help my hair grow faster. After



washing my hair, I would spend hours in front of the mirror measuring and gazing through the long strands of my hair, imagining myself as Rapunzel. I was inspired not only by her long hair but also by her bravery and strength.” Vidisha Srivastava, essaying Anita Bhabhi in &TV’s Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, says, “My mother used to read fairy tales to my sister and me before putting us to bed. My favourite fairy tale is the story of the White and Seven Dwarfs. I was astounded by Berry, her small rabbit pet and companion who never left her side despite the circumstances. I insisted my mother get me a pet like Berry. Initially,



she refused but eventually agreed to let me have a small dog instead of a small rabbit-like Snow White. I was overjoyed to have Romeo with me all the time, just as Berry was with Snow White. I feel our innocence towards fairy tales lives with us throughout our lives. I am happy a day like ‘Tell a fairy tale day’ exists that reminds us to relive some of the happiest moments of our lives.”

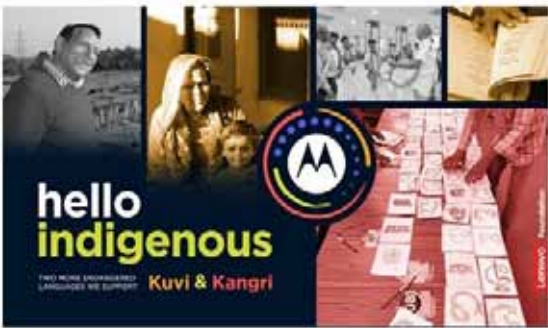
Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Two of India’s endangered languages- Kuvi and Kangri- get a lease of revival as Motorola and Lenovo Foundation bring alive their indigenous languages digital inclusion initiative

CHANDIGARH : Motorola, in partnership with the Lenovo Foundation, announces the next phase of indigenous language’s digital inclusion project with the addition of two new endangered languages - Kuvi and Kangri - spoken in regions of India. This initiative makes Motorola the first OEM to support the preservation of indigenous endangered languages from regions in India. This initiative is a step towards Motorola’s commitment to embracing inclusivity and delivering smarter technology for all, by delivering the first-ever Kuvi language writing system and keyboard, and a fully localized Kangri smartphone User Interface to the devices.*

India tops UNESCO Atlas of World’s Languages in Danger list with 197 endangered languages, out of 2,464 endangered languages around the world, followed by the U.S. (191) and Brazil (190). When selecting the languages for this most recent phase of the project, Motorola analyzed many factors including the percentage of speakers in the communities to indicate loss of language, community access to technologies, engagement with the broader community, and availability of linguistics resources. This led the teams to find out that while the Kuvi language community accounts for about 155,000 people, primarily living in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, India, only about 9% of the people in the region still speak the language. Similarly, it was discovered that while Kangri is spoken by around 1.7 million peo-

ple in India, only a very small fraction are fluent speakers. Prashanth Mani, Executive Director, Motorola Mobility Asia Pacific, added, “We at Motorola are extremely proud to demonstrate the power of a mobile phone in contributing to something significant as saving a language.



As the first OEM to fully support the effort to protect endangered languages, Motorola India is excited to have brought the next phase of our indigenous languages’ digital inclusion initiative to fruition with the addition of two new languages - Kuvi and Kangri - spoken in regions of India. With massive penetration of smartphone users in India, this integration of native languages in written form will make these languages seen, spoken, and heard. By preserving these languages, we are contributing to preserving a wealth of culture and legacy, so unique and important to the diversity of our nation.”

Paristithi se behaal

CHANDIGARH :In &TV’s Doosri Maa, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, the characters will be in helpless situations. About &TV’s Doosri Maa track, Yashoda shares, “Yashoda (Neha Joshi) lights diyas to ensure Ashok (Mohit Dagga) is safe. Meanwhile, the Inspector informs everyone that they have found Ashok’s belongings in a bus which met with an accident and no one has survived. Suresh (Sunil Dutt) is devastated by his son’s death and blames Yashoda and Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali). Yashoda refuses to believe the news and tries to convince everyone that he is alive. However, Kamini (Priety Sahay) suggests Suresh (Dadaji) to arrange for Ashok’s Shaanti Path and forces Yashoda to perform Ashok’s funeral.”



About &TV’s Happu Ki Ultan Paltan track, Rajesh shares, “Rajesh (Kamna Pathak) requests Happu (Yogesh Tripathi) to go for a vacation in Nainital, but he refuses. In a fit of rage, Hrithik (Aryan

Prajapati) throws a cake in school, and the cake lands on the master’s face. While Happu explains to Hritik not to get angry, Rajesh devises a plan to extort money from Happu for the trip, stating that whoever gets angry must deposit rupees one thousand in a piggy bank. To save himself from the situation, Happu decides to see a doctor to control his anger.” About &TV’s Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, Anita Bhabhi shares, “Tiwari (Rohitashv Gour) and Anita (Vidisha Srivastava) are in a romantic mood but their respective partners, Angoori (Shubhangi Atre) and Vibhuti (Asif Sheikh) fall asleep due to exhaustion. Anita and Tiwari plan to do something special for their partners. While Tiwari decorates Angoori’s room, Anita plans a candlelight dinner, but the plans fail when Angoori falls asleep again due to her back pain, and Anita gets irritated with Vibhuti because of his boring conversations.”

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

BMW Motorrad GS Experience 2023 thrills adventure seekers in Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH : BMW Motorrad commences its most awaited training program - GS Experience 2023 in Chandigarh. GS Experience will offer riders a unique opportunity to experience the exceptional capabilities of BMW Motorrad’s class-leading legendary GS range in its natural habitat. The GS Experience is a two-day curated training session designed exclusively for BMW adventure motorcyclists. BMW Motorrad will host this two-day immersive brand experience for GS enthusiasts across 11 cities - Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Bengaluru and Lucknow. Designed exclusively for BMW GS owners the two-day level 1 program will help riders to master basics of off-road riding. The day 1 training program is for BMW GS owners of 650 cc and above GS bikes. While the day 2 is for BMW 310 GS riders. The training includes basic familiarity of the motorcycle, understanding of correct rider position, enduro steering and other exercises such as gravel riding, emergency stops on slope, emergency braking and riding on inclines. Riders automatically qualify for level 2 training upon successful completion of level 1. The GS Experience training also preambles the nationwide search for ‘Team India’, a trio of GS riders forming a team to contest the coveted International GS Trophy. BMW Motorrad recently announced the next destination for the International GS Trophy 2024 as Namibia. BMW Motorrad India will hold the GS Trophy qualifiers later this year.

Amazon celebrates fifth anniversary of Alexa in India Introduces a new male voice option for Alexa’s responses

CHANDIGARH : As Amazon’s Alexa completes five years in India, Amazon announced that millions of customers across India have purchased Echo devices. Customers make requests in English, Hindi and Hinglish - for music, stories, jokes, news, information, recipes, alarms, reminders, smart home control, bill payments and more. In 2022, requests to Alexa on Echo Smart speakers, Amazon Shopping App, Fire TV and many Alexa-enabled devices by other brands increased by 37% vs 2021 - making it a household name across the country. Maximum new customers started their Alexa journey on the Amazon Shopping App (Android only) - leading to over 55% increase in monthly active users YoY.

To celebrate fifth anniversary of Alexa, Amazon will be announcing offers on best-selling Alexa devices that include Echo smart speakers and Fire TV devices from 2nd - 4th March 2023. Stay tuned for more information about the deals on https://amazon.in/alexadetails as they go live at 12:00 AM on 2nd March 2023 and discover exciting things to try and get more out of your Alexa-enabled device. Customers can also shop from a curation of smart home gadgets and Alexa built-in devices from brands such as boAt, Noise, Philips, Syska and more.

“It is humbling to see many Indian users enjoy interacting with Alexa as part of their daily routine. Over the past five years, our aim has been to build Alexa from India and for India, and I truly believe that our journey is synonymous to the evolution of ambient computing in



the country. As we look ahead, our focus remains on bringing to life newer voice, touch, motion and vision-enabled experiences for consuming entertainment, completing tasks, and accessing information”, said Dilip R.S., Country Manager for Alexa, Amazon India.

From Jan-Dec 2022, requests to Alexa for music increased by almost 53%, with customers streaming songs through providers such as Amazon Prime Music, Spotify, JioSaavn and Apple Music. Customers placed 600% more requests on Alexa-enabled Fire TV devices searching and controlling play back of their favourite content. They enjoyed making hands-free bill payments with Alexa on Echo devices, transactions increased by 102%. Requests to Alexa for controlling smart home appliances increased by 515%. Customers’ love for

interacting with Alexa is reflected in the questions such as “Alexa, how are you” (31,680-times per day), and “Alexa, I love you” (21,600-times per day), an increase of 214% and 275% respectively.

For the first-time, Indian users will be able to switch between Alexa’s original voice and a new masculine sounding voice. The new voice can respond in both English and Hindi languages. Users can change Alexa’s voice by saying “Alexa, change your voice” on the Echo device or from the Alexa app by going to individual device setting and selecting Alexa’s voice. Customers can use any of the wake words including Alexa, Echo, Computer and Amazon to ask questions in English, Hindi and Hinglish. To hear samples of the new voice option, click here.