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Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.19 Issue 211  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

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IT'S AMAZING LEADERSHIP FROM BIG HEARTED SURYAKUMAR: WASHINGTON SUNDAR  
12 SPORTS

## CM refutes Shah's alert claim on Wayanad tragedy



Rescue operation underway following landslides triggered by heavy rain in the hilly areas of Wayanad district, on Wednesday PTI

**KUMAR CHELLAPAN ■**  
NEW DELHI/KOCHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday asserted that advance warnings on heavy rainfall in Kerala were issued to the State Government at least a week ahead of the deadly landslides in Wayanad that have left a trail of death and destruction. Meanwhile, the Kerala Government alleged the Central Government agencies like Meteorological Department, Geological Survey of India failed miserably in issuing early warnings about the rainfall and landslides that struck the Wayanad district. "On July 18, it was forecast that Kerala's western coast



would experience above-normal rainfall. On July 25, it was forecast that there would be heavy rain. On July 23 itself, eight teams of the NDRF were sent to the region," Shah said. He informed Parliament that the Centre had sent eight teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on July 23 to assist the Kerala

Government in the eventuality of any disaster. "When the landslides struck Wayanad, the NDRF teams got the green signal from the Collector and relief operations were launched immediately," the Home Minister said. Shah said about six years ago, experts from IIT-Delhi had suggested relocating people from the landslide-affected areas, but their advice was not heeded to. Even as the death toll in Tuesday's massive landslides crossed the 200 mark by Wednesday evening, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, reacted to Shah's statement. "This is not the time for blame game. There are 91 people undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the

district while 240 persons are missing. My Government has put 8,107 people in 82 relief camps in the district. The Meteorological Department had not issued any red alert about the rainfall or landslides. The red alert was issued by the GSI at 6 am on Tuesday hours after the landslide at Mundakkai. The landslides occurred at 2 am and 4.30 am on Tuesday. The Central Water Commission, which is the agency responsible for issuing flood warning, did not issue any such warning," alleged Vijayan. He said though the Central agencies had forecast 404 mm rainfall for a period of 48 hours, the region recorded 572 mm rainfall during the period.

## Crackdown on coaching centres mooted in Delhi

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**

After the tragic death of three IAS aspirants by drowning in the basement of Rau's IAS study centre in Old Rajinder Nagar area, the Delhi Government is planning to relocate coaching centres in Narela and Rohini and develop it as an education hub. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has formed a high-level committee headed by Chief Secretary to address issues related to the regulation of coaching centres. The committee will prepare an action plan for shifting coaching institutes from various places to well-planned areas. Amid the IAS aspirants' protest for fourth day in a row against civic authorities and 'coaching mafia' near the Rau's coaching centre, braving scorching heat with their Mains exams less than one and a half months away, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Additional Commissioner Tariq Thomas on Wednesday admitted the civic body's responsibility in the death of three students, stating that there are serious structural issues, which need to be addressed. Interacting with the protesting students at UPSC coaching hub in old Rajinder Nagar, the senior civic body



A police personnel interacts with students during a protest over the deaths of three civil services aspirants due to drowning at a coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar area, in New Delhi, on Wednesday Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

official said there can be no excuses for the incident and the agency should have done its duty better. Students who started their indefinite hunger strike on Tuesday ended it on Wednesday morning after their meeting with Thomas. Saxena has directed the Delhi Police Commissioner for cracking down on coaching institutes which take exorbitant rentals in cash transactions to evade tax. Besides, the Lieutenant Governor has directed that a portal be established, with Aadhar based log-in credentials of all coaching institutes in the city and the enrolled students. This would help create a transparent database which would help the Government in shaping the policy framework from time to time.

## Students' safety guidelines issued

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Government on Wednesday issued guidelines for safety and security of school students in the aftermath of the Rajinder Nagar coaching centre flooding incident, which claimed the lives of three UPSC aspirants. According to the guidelines issued by the Directorate of Education (DoE), the schools — both private and government run — have to follow the provisions of Master Plan for Delhi, 2021 regarding use of basement in public buildings.



## Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh killed in Iran

**AP ■ BEIRUT**

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed by a pre-dawn airstrike in the Iranian capital on Wednesday, Iran and the militant group said, blaming Israel for a shock assassination that risks escalating the conflict even as the US and other nations were scrambling to prevent an all-out regional war. Iran's supreme leader vowed revenge against Israel. There was no immediate comment from Israel, which has pledged to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the group's October 7 attack on southern Israel. The strike came just after Haniyeh had attended the inauguration of Iran's new president in Tehran — and only hours after Israel targeted a top commander in Iran's ally Hezbollah in the Lebanese capital Beirut. The assassination of Hamas' top political leader was potentially explosive amid the region's volatile, intertwined conflicts — because of its target, its timing and the decision to carry it out in Tehran.

## Khedkar's IAS career over

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Wednesday cancelled a trainee Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar's candidature in the 2022 Civil Services Examination (CSE) and barred her from appearing for any future examinations of the commission, after finding she had violated rules by appearing for the exam more times than what was allowed. It said her provisional candidature for the CSE-2022 (Civil Services Examination-2022) has been "cancelled" and she has also been "debarred permanently" from all future UPSC examinations or selections. The UPSC had issued Khedkar a show-cause notice on July 18 for "fraudulently availing attempts beyond the permissible limit provided for in the Examination Rules by faking her identity". She was asked to submit her response to the notice by July 25, but she asked for further time till August 4. The UPSC allowed her till



## UPSC gets new chief

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre on Wednesday appointed former Health Secretary Preeti Sudan chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission after Manoj Soni resigned from the UPSC's top post early this month, according to an official order. Sudan, currently a member of the UPSC, will take charge on Thursday. A 1983-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, Sudan has served in various capacities.

3.30 pm on July 30 to make her submissions. According to a statement, the UPSC said it has examined the available records carefully and found her guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the CSE-2022 Rules. It said the 34-year-old was told to submit her response to the notice by July 25, but she requested for time till August 4. The UPSC granted her time till July 30 and made it clear that it was the "final opportunity" and "no further extension in time" would be allowed. She was also told that if no response is received by the deadline, UPSC would take action. "Despite extension in time allowed to her, she failed to submit her explanation within the prescribed time," the panel has said in the statement. "The UPSC has examined the available records carefully and found her guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the CSE-2022 Rules. Her provisional candidature for the CSE-2022 has been cancelled and she has also been debarred permanently from all the future Examinations/Selections of the UPSC," it said.



## Remove 18% GST on life, medical insurance: Gadkari to FM

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has requested Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw the 18 per cent goods and services tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums. In his letter to the Finance Minister, Gadkari raised concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which had submitted to him a memorandum regarding the issues of the insurance industry. Referring to the memo, the Minister said, "Levying GST on life insurance premiums amounts to levying tax on the

uncertainties of life. The Union feels that the person who covers the risk of life's uncertainties to give protection to the family should not be levied tax on the premium to purchase cover against this risk." Further, he said the main issue raised by the Union is related to the withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premiums. Both life insurance and medical insurance premiums are subject to an 18 per cent GST. "In view of the above, you are requested to consider the suggestion of withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premium on priority as it becomes cumbersome for senior citizens as per rules with due verification," he said.

## Rain brings Delhi, NCR to a halt

**SAUMYA SHUKLA ■**  
NEW DELHI

Sudden rain brought the National Capital and adjoining regions, including Noida and Ghaziabad, to a standstill on Wednesday evening with water woes, traffic congestion and major power cuts albeit there was respite for the residents who had been reeling for days from the muggy and sweltering weather due to high humid levels in the city. While several areas suffered power cuts, loadshedding, at least 10 flights were diverted from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport between 7.30 pm and 8pm. The city has been put on a red alert and the National Flash Flood Guidance Bulletin has included Delhi in its list of 'areas of concern'.



A woman being assisted by a police official while wading through a waterlogged road during rain near Pusa Road area, in New Delhi, on Wednesday PTI

Due to the moderate to heavy rain lashing whole of Delhi and its adjoining areas of Noida, Gurugram and Ghaziabad, commuters witnessed traffic snarls on large stretches of road while

going back to their homes from work due to waterlogging in several places including Chirag Delhi, Saket, Sainik Farms, Qutub Minar metro station, Chatta Rail Chowk, Minto

Bridge, ITO, Janpath, Karol Bagh, Gaffar Market, Nauroji Nagar, Pant Marg, Nigam Bodh Ghat, Connaught Place and Mayur Vihar. Rain on Saturday evening led to flooding in the basement of the Rau's coaching centre which claimed the life of three IAS aspirants, rain on Wednesday caused waterlogging yet again outside the institute. Local MLA Durgesh Pathak reached the site to make sure that the water is pumped out of the low-lying area. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena also took to social media and said, "Have cautioned all officers to remain alert in light of the ongoing heavy downpour in Delhi. Apart from ensuring minimum inconvenience to people,

they are advised to specifically address issues at sites prone to waterlogging, including coaching centres. The Delhi Traffic Police issued an advisory to the commuters in a series of social media post, "Traffic is affected in the carriageway from Moolchand towards Chirag Delhi due to water logging at Chirag Delhi. Kindly plan your journey accordingly," it said. It also advised to plan one's journey keeping in mind the waterlogging at places, including Railway Under Bridge, Ram Bagh Road, Azad Market, and Anuvrat Marg. Residents in several parts of the city also witnessed power cuts including Sainik Farms, Patel Chowk, Kalkaji and Laxmi Nagar among others.

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# Governor Kataria vows to serve Punjab with dedication and integrity

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

BJP veteran Gulab Chand Kataria took oath as the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh on Wednesday, declaring that these roles go beyond ceremonial duties and are meant for public service. "The President has given me the responsibility of Punjab. I will make every effort to carry it out like a good public servant. These posts are not decorations...they require serving the people," asserted Kataria.



With these resolute words, Kataria set the tone for his tenure, emphasizing his commitment to public service and his readiness to address the issues of the common people. Kataria, a veteran BJP leader with over four decades of public service, highlighted his dedication to the welfare of the people. "In 40-45 years of public service, I have considered serving the people my 'dharma'. Here too, I will make an effort to see how useful I can be in resolving the issues of the common people. Anyone can come to me and speak," he said.

ister twice, are expected to be significant assets in his new role.

The ceremony at Punjab Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh was a momentous occasion, reflecting the importance of Kataria's new responsibilities. The Punjab and Haryana High Court's Chief Justice Sheel Nagu administered the oath of office, witnessed by prominent figures such as Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, besides the Cabinet Minister and top officers from the two states.

Kataria's swearing-in marks the beginning of a new chapter in Punjab's governance, with the seasoned leader poised to bring his wealth of knowledge and dedication to the fore.

His predecessor, Banwarilal Purohit, resigned after nearly three years in office, with his tenure marked by occasional friction with the State Government, especially the Chief Minister Mann. The transition to Kataria is seen as an opportunity for renewed

cooperation and progress.

Chief Minister Mann expressed optimism about working together with Kataria, acknowledging his vast experience and leadership qualities. "He is an eight-time MLA and one-time MP. He had been a Minister in the Rajasthan Government. He was also the Governor of Assam before this. So, we will utilize him, and together we will work for the welfare of the people of Punjab," Mann said, after the swearing-in ceremony.

Kataria, 79, reiterated his focus on serving the public, stating, "I habitually work in tandem with everyone. I think we contested elections from different political parties, but the goal is to serve the people well."

At the same time, he maintained that just like his predecessor, he will also be visiting border areas, all districts, and reviewing the state government's work and initiatives.

The oath ceremony saw the attendance of several VIPs and dignitaries, with tight security and traffic advisories in place

to ensure a smooth event. Approximately 200 guests from Rajasthan attended, highlighting Kataria's deep-rooted connections and support. Punjab's former Governor VP Singh Badnore, Kataria's close friend, was also present.

## A Veteran Politician's Journey

Born on October 13, 1944, in Delwara of Rajsamand in Rajasthan, Kataria has a distinguished political career. He holds an MA, BE, and LLB, and before entering politics, he taught at a private school in Udaipur. His political journey began with the RSS during his college years, working closely with Jan Sangh stalwarts Sundar Singh Bhandari and Bhanu Kumar Shastri.

Kataria has been a constant presence in Rajasthan's political landscape since 1993, winning multiple elections from Udaipur and other constituencies. His political roles include serving as Rajasthan's Home Minister twice and Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly.

# Akali patron Dhindsa revokes expulsion of 8 'rebels', Declares decision unconstitutional

SAD in Crisis  
MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In a bold and decisive move, former Member of Parliament and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patron Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on Wednesday announced the revocation of the expulsion of eight 'rebel' leaders from the party. Asserting his authority as the party's patron, Dhindsa declared the expulsions "unconstitutional", challenging the party's decisions and calling for a significant overhaul in its leadership.

"The decision to expel these leaders was against the party's constitution. As the party's patron, I revoke the expulsion of these eight leaders," Dhindsa stated during a meeting held in Chandigarh. He emphasized the necessity of adhering to constitutional principles and announced his intention to write to SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, demanding explanations and a resolution to this internal crisis.

The expelled leaders, who include prominent figures such as Prem Singh Chandumajra, Bibi Jagir Kaur, Gurpratap Singh Wadala, Dhindsa's son Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Sikander Singh Maluka, Surjit Singh Rakhra, Surinder Singh Thekedar, and Charanjit Singh Brar, were accused of indulging in anti-party activities. However, Dhindsa and his supporters argued that these expulsions were a result of internal disagreements and were not justified.

Dhindsa announced plans to convene a general assembly to elect a new party president,

emphasizing the need for leadership change. "The recommendations of the Jhunda Committee, which suggested a change in leadership, must be implemented. Sukhbir Badal should step down as the party president," he asserted, referring to the committee's findings during the 2022 elections, which indicated a demand for new leadership within the party.

At the meeting, Wadala and Chandumajra reiterated the Jhunda committee's recommendations, stressing the need for internal reforms. "We are working in accordance with the committee's suggestions. Sukhbir Badal's leadership has been questioned, and it's time for a change," they stated.

They pointed that the Jhunda Committee was established after SAD's repeated election defeats in 2022, under senior party leader and former MLA Iqbal Singh Jhunda. The committee gathered feedback from across Punjab, and the consensus was clear — there was a strong recommendation for a change in the party's leadership. The committee advised that Sukhbir Badal should step down from his position.

"We are merely echoing the committee's recommendations and advocating for the necessary changes as outlined," they stated, emphasizing their commitment to following the committee's guidance for the party's renewal.

The expulsions, initially carried out by the SAD's disciplinary committee, led by former MP Balwinder Singh Bhundur, were described as a necessary action against anti-party activities. Senior SAD

leader Bhundur criticized Dhindsa's move, stating, "Dhindsa does not have the authority to override decisions taken by the party's disciplinary committee. His actions are not in line with the party's constitution."

Accusing Dhindsa of acting like a "self-styled dictator" by attempting to invalidate decisions made through proper channels, Bhundur said: "It is unfortunate that instead of advising the party rank and file not to indulge in anti-party activities, Dhindsa had chosen to led the team of expelled leaders."

Bhundur elaborated that the disciplinary action was taken after the expelled leaders ignored a resolution passed by the party's working committee on June 26, appealing to everyone to discuss their misgivings in the party forum. "The expelled leaders had made their intention to work against the party further clear by forming a parallel organization without the approval of the party president and with the sole aim of misleading the

party cadre," he added. Dhindsa's stance, however, is gaining traction among many party members who feel marginalized under the current leadership. The leaders also emphasized their deep sacrifices for the Akali Dal, highlighting their enduring commitment through imprisonment and personal hardship.

In stark contrast, they argued, "Sukhbir Badal has not shared in such sacrifices. The party now stands divided into two distinct factions — one comprising those who have endured imprisonment for the party's cause, and another of those who arrived in luxury cars, detached from the struggles faced by the former".

The controversy underscored a growing rift within the country's oldest political party — Shiromani Akali Dal, a party historically known for its disciplined structure. The dispute over leadership and the direction of the party highlighted deeper issues and called for a resolution that aligns with the party's core values.

## Himachal govt secures final FCA clearance for Shongtong hydro electric project: CM Sukhu

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday said that the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted clearance under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) stage-II to the Shongtong hydro electric project in Himachal's Kinnaur district.

The FCA clearance had been pending with the Union Ministry for a long time, but the state government diligently worked to secure the necessary approval from the Centre, Sukhu said in a statement. The clearance, pending since 2018, was essential for the construction of the project as this land was needed for the construction of the barrage. The FCA clearance is for the use of 85 bighas of land for the 450 MW Shontong Karchham Hydro Electric Project.

Sukhu said that the Stage-I clearance was initially granted by the Union Ministry on March 19, 2024. Following this, the state government submitted a compliance report addressing the conditions stipulated for the in-principle approval and subsequently requested the Centre for the final approval. He said that the construction work of 450 MW Shontong Karchham Hydro Electric Project, awarded in 2012, is expected to be completed by November 2026.

The Shontong Karchham Hydro Electric project would significantly boost the state's power generation capacity and contribute to its economic growth. The Chief Minister said that apart from this, the state government has also laid special focus on promoting green industry in Himachal Pradesh by initiating various initiatives, enabling it to contribute to the state's economy.

## Punjab CM lays foundation stone of C-PYTE Centre

PNS ■ KHERI (SUNAM)

To open new vistas of employment for the youth in the Armed forces, Police and Para Military Forces, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday laid the foundation Stone of Centre for Training and Employment of Punjab Youth (C-PYTE) to come up at a cost of around Rs.29 crore.

He said that C-PYTE centre will come over 10 acres of land and will help in inculcating self discipline, spirit of national integration, secularism and work culture besides imparting skills for making youth employable in various fields. He said that it is the only institution of its type in the country which imparts training to youth for joining the Armed forces, CAPF and police along with free Boarding and Lodging. Mann said that 14 C-PYTE Camps have been established in different districts of Punjab from where so far 2.52 lakh 656 youth have got training and 1,14,670 youth have successfully got jobs.



The Chief Minister said that to further strengthen the organization this new camp will come up at Kheri with modern and state of art facilities, dormitories, classrooms, dining facilities, modern sports field and many other facilities. He said that in addition to this the state government has decided to upgrade and modernize with addition of classrooms and other facilities at all the 14 C-PYTE camps. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that for this purpose, a total Budget of Rs. 78.50 Crore has been allocated adding that never before in the 34 years history of C-PYTE, have such efforts been made by

## Met issues alert for heavy to very heavy rain in Himachal on August 1

SHIMLA: The regional Met office has issued an 'orange' alert for heavy to very heavy rain, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, in isolated places of all Himachal Pradesh districts, barring Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti, for Thursday.

A 'yellow' alert was also issued on Wednesday for heavy rain at isolated places from Friday. The wet spell in the state is predicted to last till August 6. The weather office also warned of the possibility of landslides and flash floods in vulnerable areas of Kullu, Solan, Sirmour, Shimla and Kinnaur districts and damage to plantations and standing crops, vulnerable structures and kutcha houses due to strong winds and waterlogging in low-lying areas. Meanwhile, intermittent rain continued in parts of Himachal Pradesh during the day.

## HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH TO INAUGURATE 24X7 WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN CHANDIGARH ON AUG 4

Chandigarh: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the 24x7 water supply project on August 4 at Shivalik Garden, Manimajra, Chandigarh Municipal Corporation said in a statement on Wednesday.

HRY MINISTER INSPECTS UNDER-CONSTRUCTION SITE OF AMBALA CIVIL ENCLAVE; SAYS FLIGHTS TO START IN AUGUST  
Chandigarh: Haryana Civil Aviation Minister Kamal Gupta on Wednesday inspected the under-construction site of the Ambala Civil Enclave and said that the construction of the Ambala Civil Enclave (domestic airport) is progressing rapidly and the first flight to Ayodhya will commence in August. During the visit, Gupta inspected the construction site and reviewed the progress of the work with PWD officers and related agencies and directed them to expedite the work to complete the Civil Enclave (domestic airport) project with better coordination.

## CM SAINI MEETS FAMILY MEMBERS OF MARTYR NAIK GURPREET SINGH; ASSURES THEM ALL SUPPORTS



Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday visited the residence of the martyr Naik Gurpreet Singh in Sherpur village, Ambala district, to extend his condolences and offer support to the bereaved family. Naik Gurpreet Singh, a valiant soldier of the 04 Ladakh Scout Unit, tragically lost his life during a patrol in Leh-Ladakh due to an accidental fall into icy waters. Minister of State for Transport Aseem Goel Naneola, Minister of State for Urban Local Bodies, Subhash Sudha, Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta also accompanied the Chief Minister. Expressing condolences with the family members, Saini assured unwavering support to them and said that the state government stands firmly with the family during this difficult time and will extend all possible assistance to them.

HRY CHIEF MINISTER TO ATTEND TEEJ FESTIVAL IN JIND  
Chandigarh: Haryana Government will celebrate Teej Festival at the state-level to be organised on August 7 in Jind. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will be the chief guest of the programme. To ensure the successful organization of the state-level Teej Festival program, Chief Executive Officer, Haryana State Rural Livelihoods Mission Amarinder Kaur held a meeting with district officers on Wednesday and reviewed the preparations being made by the district administration. Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Imran Raza was also present on this occasion. After the meeting, Kaur visited the event site located at the Anaj Mandi and directed the officers concerned to ensure facilities such as electricity, clean drinking water, toilets, cleanliness, bus parking arrangements, and barricading at the venue in time. She said around 25,000 women from all over the state have been invited to this Teej festival.

CHANDIGARH MC ORGANISES 'CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING WORKSHOP'  
Chandigarh: To enhance Chandigarh's cleanliness and promote a healthier community, the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh on Tuesday conducted a Capacity-Building and Training Workshop for Sanitary Inspectors and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This initiative, part of the 'Swachhata Ki Mohar' program, aligns with the 'Safai Apnao Bimaraari Bhagao' campaign. The workshop aimed to refresh the training of Sanitary Inspectors and SHGs, focusing on the importance of waste segregation, home composting, and eco-friendly practices to promote a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) lifestyle. MC Commissioner Anindita Mitra highlighted that this initiative seeks to build on the progress made in waste segregation and management. The goal is to raise awareness and encourage effective waste segregation and the adoption of eco-friendly options in daily life.

HRY GOVT APPROVES PROJECTS AROUND RS 70 CRORES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THANESAR CITY  
Chandigarh: Haryana Minister of State for Urban Local Bodies Subhash Sudha on Wednesday said that the state government has approved an amount of approximately Rs 70 crore for carrying out the development works in Thanesar city, including the installation of paver blocks in streets and roads, and water supply and other developmental works. The Minister directed the officers of the Municipal Council to commence the necessary actions for these plans soon. Sudha was addressing people's grievances during the Janta Darbar held at sector 7 Kurukshetra.

# Hry CM pays tribute to Shaheed Udham Singh at 84th Shaheedi Mahasammelan in Sirsa

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday visited the 84th Shaheedi Mahasammelan of Shaheed Udham Singh at Dera Baba Bhuman Shah, Sangar Sarista in Sirsa and paid tribute to the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice of their lives for the country.



Speaking on this occasion, he said that the central and state governments are following the path shown by the martyrs to realise their dreams. There have been fundamental changes in development works across the country and the state. The double engine government has taken up the task of fulfilling the dreams of the martyrs by launching new schemes, he said.

Saini said that the state government has included the biography of Shaheed Udham Singh Ji in the history textbook for the 9th grade under the Haryana School Education Board. This inclusion is a true tribute to him, he said. The Chief Minister said

that Shaheed Udham Singh was a great revolutionary who vowed in his youth to avenge the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by General Dyer. He said that after 21 years of intense dedication, Shaheed Udham Singh avenged the massacre by shooting General Dyer at a

public meeting. He also announced Rs 51 lakh for the construction of Kamboj Dharamshalas at various locations, including Sirsa, Karnal, Radaur, Bhuna, Kurukshetra, Ratia, and Jagadhri. He also announced setting up of a library in honour of Shaheed

Udham Singh near his statue on the grounds of the old Government College in Hisar.

## Offers prayers at Gurudwara Sri Chilla Sahib

Saini, while addressing the request from the management committee members to expand the Rangoi drain, which passes through the Ghaggar River near village Musahib Wala, said that the feasibility of this project would be examined, and if all criteria are met, the government would approve it. He further said that if land is available, the government would consider making the road from NH-9 to Dera Baba Bhuman Shah a four-lane road. Besides this, he announced the construction of a bus queue shelter on the main road.

He urged everyone to pledge to plant a sapling on the birth anniversaries of martyrs, on their Shaheedi diwas, on the birthdays of parents, and on other special occasions under the 'Ek Ped Maa ke naam' campaign. He recalled Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi's call to plant a sapling under 'Ek Ped Maa ke naam' on World Environment Day on June 5, a goal the state government is advancing with the aim of planting 1.5 crore saplings this year.

the aim of planting 1.5 crore saplings this year.

## Offers prayers at Gurudwara Sri Chilla Sahib

In another event, Saini paid obeisance at Gurudwara Sri Chilla Sahib in Sirsa. During this, he handed over the registry document of 77 Kanal 7 Marla land to the members of the Gurudwara Sri Chilla Sahib Management Committee. The members of the management committee honoured the Chief Minister with a memento and a 'Saropa'. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that Gurudwara Sri Chilla Sahib holds significant historical importance as Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji visited this place and from this holy land, saints have guided the world through their teachings. The Chief Minister said that during the 550th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had announced the allocation of this land to Sri Gurudwara Chilla Sahib. Following this announcement, the state cabinet passed a proposal transferring the owner-

ship of this sacred land to Sri Gurudwara Chilla Sahib. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made numerous announcements for the Sikh religion over the past decade, including waiving GST on langar items and observing December 26 as 'Veer Bal Diwas', to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh - Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji. Saini said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji performed penance on this land and guided people. Through his sacred teachings and words, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji showed the entire world the path of righteousness. We should follow the path he showed in our lives, he said.

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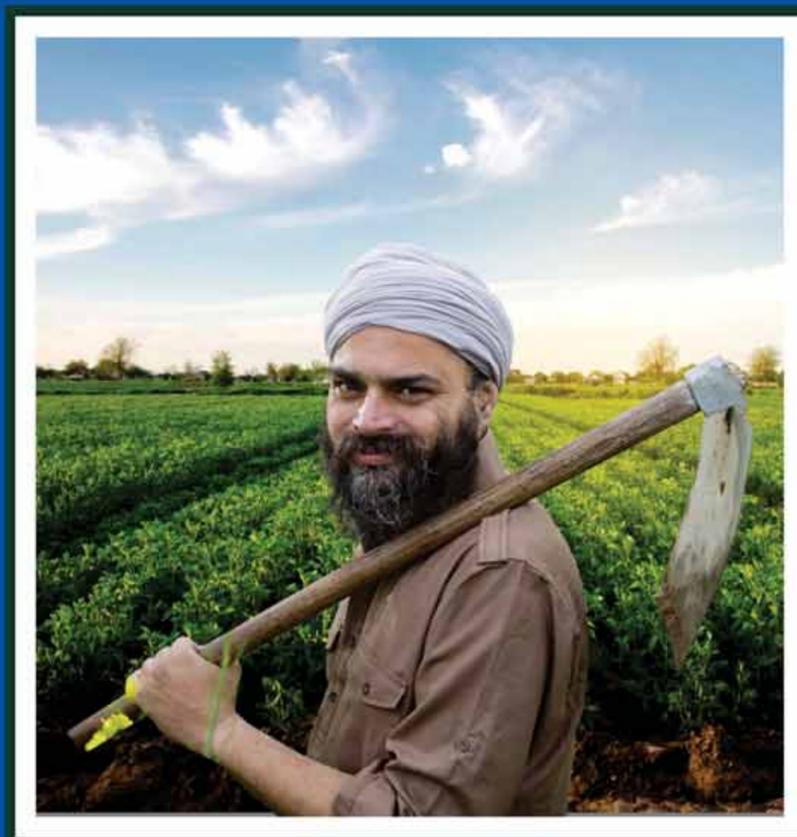






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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Halwa politics

Rahul Gandhi raises the issue of the caste census in Parliament using halwa as a metaphor

It all began when Leader of the Opposition of Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi used the traditional 'halwa' preparation ceremony following the budget presentation to question the involvement of marginalised community members in the budget process. He extended the metaphor by noting that only high caste people are involved in making the halwa who distribute it to the elite sections of population. It did not go down well with the treasury benches and the pandemonium followed. Parliament has been engulfed in chaos over the contentious issue of a caste census for long. This debate not only stirred up intense discussions but also led to a significant clash between Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and former Union Minister Anurag Thakur. Prime Minister Modi backed Thakur. He took to Twitter saying, "this speech by my young and energetic colleague Shri Anurag Thakur is a must-hear. A perfect mix of facts and humour, exposing the dirty politics of the INDI Alliance." Thakur had hit back at Gandhi over



his speech in the Lok Sabha saying people who do not know their caste are asking for caste census. The demand for a caste census has been a long-standing issue taken up by the INDIA bloc. Proponents argue that it is crucial for understanding the socio-economic conditions of various castes and for formulating targeted welfare policies. India has a complex caste system that significantly impacts social and economic dynamics. A caste census would help identify disparities and enable the Government to address them more effectively. Indeed, a comprehensive caste census would provide detailed data on the socio-economic status of different castes.

which is vital for creating effective policies and programs aimed at uplifting marginalised communities. Many marginalised communities continue to face discrimination and lack of opportunities. A caste census could highlight these issues and pave the way for targeted interventions to promote social justice. The Opposition, particularly the Congress party, has been vocal in advocating for it. Rahul Gandhi has emerged as a leading voice, arguing that a caste census is necessary for ensuring social justice and equitable development. He contends that without accurate data, the government cannot effectively address the needs of marginalised communities. On the other hand, Anurag Thakur has taken a firm stance against the opposition's demand. Thakur argues that the government is already implementing numerous schemes aimed at social upliftment and that a caste census may lead to further division within society. Thakur accused the opposition of playing divisive politics and undermining the Government's efforts to promote inclusive development. As the pandemonium in Parliament continues, the issue of caste census remains unresolved. The caste census can be a turning point in deciding Government's approach to welfare. The issue should not die in the din of Parliament.

## PICTALK



Children play at fountains near Lal Chowk on a rainy day in Srinagar

## Delhi sinks in cesspool of Government apathy



SIDHARTH MISHRA

Recent tragedies, such as the flooding of a coaching institute basement that claimed three young lives, highlight Delhi's mismanagement



Historical writings many times create a perspective of adulation for some of the most undeserving characters. Take the instance of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last of the Mughal dynasty, whose rule started in Shahjahanabad and ended at Palam. He was extended by the British for his connivance with the rebellious soldiers and died in Myanmar. His 'tragedy' is best known by the lines which he penned himself before he died. He wrote, 'kitna hai badnasib zafar dafn ke lie do gaz zamin bhi na mili ku-e-yar m?' (How unfortunate is Zafar! For his burial; Not even two yards of land were to be had, in the land of his beloved.). In the popular culture, it's seldom recalled that he was a worthless leader, incapable of administering, always cribbing and too preoccupied with palace conspiracies. Nearly 150 years later, we in Delhi have a government which is as Zafaresque in its bearing as the Mughal rule in 1857. The day leaders from INDIA block converged in the national Capital in the support of incarcerated chief minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal, the same evening his party ruled Delhi government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)

presided over a catastrophe in the flooded basement of a coaching institute in the heart of the national Capital. Nobody among those supposed to be in charge of the city administration seems to be mourning the loss of three young lives. They in typical Zafaresque style are busy blaming one and all possible. Kejriwal's regents in the Delhi government have done their bit. Minister Atishi Marlena has said that she has ordered a magisterial enquiry, which you can bet would have no clear finding to present. Her colleague Saurabh Bhardwaj has claimed that though he holds meetings with the officials nobody listens to him. Not to leave behind, city's Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena too has joined the charade blaming the city government and the MCD for not taking the necessary initiative to prevent such a tragedy. In the midst of all this, our modern-day Zafar aka Arvind Kejriwal would be busy penning another sob story in his prison cell about his persecution and alleged continuous loss of weight. How do you expect the MCD to be functional when you have a Mayor



KEJRIWAL'S REGENTS IN THE DELHI GOVERNMENT HAVE DONE THEIR BIT. MINISTER ATISHI MARLENA HAS SAID THAT SHE HAS ORDERED A MAGISTERIAL ENQUIRY, WHICH YOU CAN BET WOULD HAVE NO CLEAR FINDING TO PRESENT

who is unauthorisedly occupying the chair much beyond her term expired? Shelly Oberoi is a beneficiary of the political crisis engulfing Delhi. The Lieutenant Governor scuttled the election of the new Mayor because the file did not have a note by the Chief Minister, who could not put his pen on the file as he was in jail. That was the technical reason but the political reason was that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not want to have an embarrassment ahead of the Lok Sabha elections losing the Mayoral polls. Now that the polls are over and the BJP has won all the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national Capital, the Lieutenant Governor could have gathered sufficient wisdom to allow an election and have somebody head the municipal body who was authorised to do so. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi works through various committees, including the one responsible for keeping the drains in the city clean. Ever since the AAP came to power in MCD in 2022 with a thin majority, the slugfest between AAP and BJP has ensured that most of these powerful committees have remained non-functional.

When such a stalemate has swamped the Civic Centre, the headquarters of the MCD, how does one expect the city to have civic governance? During the last Lok Sabha polls earlier this year, the campaign in the city was cantankerous focusing mostly on mudslinging. It was a campaign where the issues about Delhi were all lost in the bitter cacophony. No wonder even after the polls issues of Delhi remain unaddressed. There is no indication that it will be addressed anytime soon. While Kejriwal continues to play a Zafar albeit his rule does not extend beyond his cell in Tihar Jail, the Centre through its representative is in the role of Nero, the Roman emperor who once famously said, "I have only to appear and sing to have peace once more in Gaul." Delhi has been sans governance for several years and will take several years to bring it back on the rails. The Centre should realise that it cannot continue to play Nero but intervene and save it from the kind of destruction that Rome faced. (The writer is an author and president, the Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## NEED FOR RAILWAY SAFETY AUTHORITY

Madam — There is an urgent need to establish a railway safety authority as a statutory body with powers to frame safety standards, conduct audits, enforce accountability, and investigate accidents. Improved communication and coordination among railway boards, zonal railways, divisions, and production units are essential. Increased funding for track renewal, bridge repair, signaling upgrades, and coach refurbishment is crucial. Advanced safety systems like Anti-Collision Devices (ACDs), Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), and Automatic Train Control (ATC) should be installed to ensure passenger safety and reduce accidents. The recent derailment of the Howrah-CSMT Express, resulting in two deaths and 20 injuries, underscores the need for these measures. Learning from Japan's Shinkansen, which has maintained a perfect safety record with advanced systems, could be highly beneficial. Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

## TRAGIC LOSS OF LIVES OF IAS ASPIRANT

Madam — The tragic loss of three civil services aspirants who drowned in a rain-flooded basement of a coaching centre in Delhi is heart-wrenching. This incident highlights the apathy and connivance of officials who turned a blind eye to urban planning violations. The coaching centre flouted all safety norms, using its basement as a library despite regulations. The city's drainage system, clogged due to rampant illegal constructions, exacerbated the situation. A thorough investigation is necessary to fix responsibility. Both state and central governments must learn from this tragedy, review the status of urban bodies, and strictly enforce norms to prevent such violations. It is deplorable that the negligence of authorities and the greed of the coaching centre led to such a loss.

## Manu Bhaker's historic Olympic win



Kudos to India's shooting ace Manu Bhaker for making history by becoming the first Indian post-independence to win two medals in a single Olympics. Bhaker and her partner Sarabjot Singh secured bronze in the 10M Air Pistol Mixed Team event, defeating the Koreans 16-10. This added to Bhaker's earlier bronze in the Women's Individual 10M Air Pistol event, making her the first Indian since Norman Pritchard

in 1900 to achieve such a feat. Congratulations to the Indian shooting pair for winning the country's second bronze medal at the Olympics. Bhaker's composure amidst the hype is commendable, and she stands as an inspiration for every Indian youth with her dedication and love for the sport. In closing, Manu Bhaker's remarkable achievements at the Olympics have etched her name in history and brought immense pride to India. Her success, alongside Sarabjot Singh, in securing bronze medals in both individual and mixed team events showcases their exceptional talent and teamwork. Bhaker's unwavering dedication and resilience serve as an inspiration to young athletes across the nation. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to both Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh for their outstanding performances and wish them continued success in their future endeavors. Bidyut Kumar | Faridabad

Worse still is the blame game between Delhi's state and central governments, which overshadows the tragedy. DVG Sankara Rao | Vizianagaram

## CRICKET HAS CHANGED

Madam — Apropos the article, "The evolution of cricket and umpiring", published on July 22, 2024, this is my response. Cricket has undergone metamorphosis of change and it has become more and more a technology-driven sport like most of the modern day sports. The advent of ODIs and followed by T20Is, including of course the IPL, have all attracted millions of fans across the globe and have taken the game to its highest pedestal. English counties propelled the sport in the late 19th century, and it was around this time cricket went international, with the US and Canada playing each other first, followed by Australia's tour of England, which led to the creation of The Ashes. Perhaps, this period formed the basis of the worldwide status cricket now has. Throughout the 20th and

21st century, cricket retained its core rules, but later became a much more skill-based sport. On top of this, the technological advancements made across the sporting world meant that cricket was changing for players, officials and as well the spectators. 'Ball tracking' is one of the key technological innovations in the game, which not only meant better analysis of a bowler's technique, but also the ability to better read LBWs by tracking the ball's path trajectory. Living at a time where T20 internationals have become the most popular of all the three formats, cricket has seen a big surge in viewership. No wonder, being the game's super power, India's recent T20 world cup win at Barbados will only take the game to its extraordinary heights like never before. It is one sport that is liked by every Indian and binds India like no other sport. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Budget prioritises applied research but neglects basic science

Promoting applied research at the cost of fundamental sciences, like physics and ecology, could jeopardise scientific progress and innovation

The recent budget emphasises operationalising the Anusandhan National Research Fund (ANRF) for research and prototype development and increasing private participation in generating funds for research. Though these are commendable, the government should consider a few academic and research community apprehensions. One main concern is the declining trend among researchers and policymakers towards supporting basic science research. Basic science, sometimes called fundamental or pure science, is driven by curiosity and the quest for understanding the underlying principles governing the natural world without immediate concern for practical applications. Discoveries made through basic research often lay the groundwork for subsequent advancements. For instance, a theoretical endeavour to understand atomic and subatomic particles and quantum mechanics initially led to the development of tech-



nologies such as semiconductors and MRI machines. This expansion of knowledge is not merely an academic exercise; it creates a foundation upon which applied sciences can build. We need good physics, chemistry, mathematics, and biology researchers to do this. Unfortunately, our teachers fail to convey the application of basic research to the student community. Natural calamities are recurring in every part of our country. Still, we haven't deliberated with our researchers working in the field of ecology, climate studies or the environment. Biodiversity and the environment are the lifelines of our planet, and we need good researchers to study them in the future. Unfortunately, research in

systematics, ecology, etc., hardly gets the attention of our policymakers. We hardly have a national institution whose mandate is systematics or ecology, though these are part of many institutions as a division. Researching with sophisticated instruments in the lab is comparatively easier than researchers in the field. Why should a researcher spend years in a forest studying wildlife? They are real scientists who are providing yeoman service to the nation. Unfortunately, they are not getting enough recognition or acceptance from our policymakers or society. Because of this, many good researchers passionate about fundamental science research are moving towards more lucrative areas. This will create a cavity in our future scientific knowledge base. Policymakers should understand that the success we have received in space research or health care in recent times is because of the strength of the fundamental science we have built over the peri-

od. We need to create an environment where basic science education and research are promoted. For this, the government should allot part of the budget for ANRF exclusively for basic science research. The huge financial investment required for basic science and the uncertainty of results may deter private entities from funding such endeavours. But if we neglect basic science in the long run, our science will suffer badly. The stagnation of basic science can lead to a lack of new theories and principles, which hinders the development of innovative technologies and solutions. The government should prioritise basic science research in policy documents and provide necessary support to researchers working in the field. We can address emerging challenges only if we have a robust basic science workforce. (The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN



## FIRST COLUMN FROM HURT TO HEALING

By understanding our desires and analysing our actions, we can find ways to heal ourselves



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Nobody can hurt me without my permission, said Mahatma Gandhi, however, the truth is that most of us hurt each other in our relationships and we do it because we just want to do it. There is no larger reason for it, but it's something that just happens. According to psychologists, most people hurt someone because they want something they think they can't have, or have something they don't want. If we closely observe ourselves, then we would find that most of us are in one of the above two conditions, and we don't know what to do about it, hence we think that the only method of getting what we want is to hurt someone. So, is this the only way out? Is it the right method to follow? We all know it's wrong because it creates a lot of pain on both sides, so why do we do it?

Simply because we don't understand how to have that thing that we badly want or get rid of that thing that we do not need without hurting. There may be numerous reasons for us to hurt people, however the most common of them is 'unfulfilled expectations' which we all experience in our various relationships. Take for example, we just met someone and have fallen in love with him/her. Now before there is any kind of exchange of feelings, we just start dreaming about things that are totally out of context.

After a lot of pursuing, chasing and pushing, when we finally fail to get the desired reply from the other end, we start feeling miserable and then start blaming the person by saying things like 'You



hurt me', 'You broke my heart' etc. We should sit aside in a quiet corner and ask ourselves whether our expectations right from the beginning were realistic. Did the opposite person give us any inclination to believe so that he/she also feels the same as we are feeling? Were feelings of love mutual on both sides? When it was time to understand what he/she was saying, we were building love castles in the air, when it was time to give some space to the opposite person, we were suffocating the person with our forced love & affection. Is this the right kind of behaviour?

Remember! Any kind of one-sided relationship is extremely painful and maleficent because it makes you feel like a spare part in someone else's life as if you aren't as important to them as they are to you. Hence to prevent oneself from such pain and agony, it is best to have clear communication with the person whom you have feelings for. It doesn't matter what kind of a relationship you are in, but you have got to communicate your feelings because when we open the door of a dialogue, we open our hearts.

So always express yourself because carrying the burden of unspoken words can take a toll on you. It's 100 times better to say what you genuinely feel rather than repeating 'I love you' 100 times. However, it's so unfortunate that most of us prefer to bleed from within and stick to our 'no expressing' stubbornness. A wise person would thus always think about these reasons when being hurt rather than wasting time on 'Why me?'

So c'mon don't give up so easily because life is too short for such mundane things, just forget what hurt you but never forget what it taught you. Learn your lessons and move on.

*(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)*

# Reforming the personal income tax regime



UTTAM GUPTA

In the Budget for 2024-25, Finance Minister has made the 'new regime' of personal income tax more appealing, while continuing to rationalise the capital gains tax structure



In the Union Budget for 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has endeavoured to make the 'new regime' of personal income tax (PIT) a bit more attractive besides continuing the process of 'rationalising' and 'simplifying' the structure of capital gains tax (CGT) that was started in her budget for FY 2023-24. Sitharaman had introduced the new PIT regime in the Budget for 2020-21. Even while retaining a 5 per cent tax for annual income in the Rs 250,001-Rs 500,000 range (as under the old regime before 2020-21), on income higher than Rs 500,000, the government levied: 10 per cent on Rs 500,001-Rs 750,000; 15 per cent on Rs 750,001-Rs 1,000,000; 20 per cent on Rs 1,000,001-Rs 1,250,000; 25 per cent on Rs 1,250,001-Rs 1,500,000. For income above Rs 1,500,000, the 30 per cent tax continued. Unlike the old regime where persons could claim annual exemptions and deductions on long-term investments up to a maximum of Rs 375,000, none was allowed under the new regime.

However, individuals were given the choice to go either for the new regime or continue with the old regime. In the Budget for 2023-24, she altered the tax new structure to provide for nil tax on income up to Rs 300,000; 5 per cent tax on income in the Rs 300,001-Rs 600,000 bracket; 10 per cent in the Rs 600,001-Rs 900,000 bracket; 15 per cent in Rs 900,001-Rs 1,200,000; 20 per cent in Rs 1,200,001-1,500,000; and 30 per cent on above Rs 1,500,000. Besides, salaried persons and pensioners can also claim a standard deduction of Rs 50,000. This was much better than the 2020-21 package. Under it, a person with an annual income of say Rs 1,500,000 needs to pay Rs 140,000 as tax when compared to Rs 150,000 payable under the old regime albeit with tax breaks. Besides, the former left the person with cash-in-hand of Rs 1,360,000 against only Rs 975,000 under the old regime (after paying tax Rs 150,000 and investment Rs 375,000). Furthermore, under the new (modified) regime a salaried person won't have to pay any tax on annual income up to Rs 750,000. In the Budget for 2024-25, the FM has further tweaked the slabs to provide



IN CASES WHERE THE STRATEGIC SALE IS MOOTED, THE GOVT FACES A BIGGER CHALLENGE AS APART FROM A FAVOURABLE MARKET, IT NEEDS BIDDERS WITH DEEP POCKETS

for nil tax on income up to Rs 300,000; 5 per cent tax on income in the Rs 300,001- Rs 700,000 bracket; 10 per cent in the Rs 700,001-Rs 1000,000 brackets; 15 per cent in Rs 1000,001- Rs 1,200,000; 20 per cent in Rs 1,200,001-1,500,000; and 30 per cent on above Rs 1,500,000. Besides, salaried persons and pensioners can now claim a standard deduction of Rs 75,000. For a person with an annual income of Rs 1,500,000, these changes will yield an incremental savings of Rs 15,000 over the tax payable as per the 2023-24 budget. She will need to pay only Rs 125,000 as tax. Moreover, a salaried person won't have to pay any tax on annual income up to Rs 825,000 up from Rs 750,000 earlier. Already, nearly two-thirds of those filing IT returns have shifted to the new tax regime.

The additional sweetener from the 2024-25 budget will incentivize more persons to shift. Coming to CGT, the subsisting tax rates varied widely depending on the asset such as equity shares, bonds, physical assets, listed or unlisted, holding period, etc. This was prone to arbitrage/misuse, evasion and protracted litigation. Last year, the government began the process of reforming it. In the Finance Bill, 2023 passed by the Lok Sabha on March 24, 2023, it amended to change the tax treatment of capital gains from non-equity or debt mutual funds (DMF). DMF is a scheme that invests in fixed-income instruments, such as corporate and government bonds, corporate debt securities, money market instruments etc. that offer capital appreciation.

Earlier, any capital gain on redemption of units in a debt fund held for three years or longer was treated as long-term capital gain (LTCG) and taxed at a flat 20 per cent with the

benefit of indexation (it adjusts the cost of a person's investment to account for inflation, effectively reducing her capital gains and in turn, her tax liability). Any capital gain on redemption of units before three years was treated as short-term capital gain (STCG) and taxed at an individual's income tax (albeit personal) slab rate.

The amendment dispensed with this distinction in the case of 'Specified mutual funds' (SMFs) which essentially refer to mutual funds where not more than 35 per cent of their total proceeds are invested in equity shares of domestic companies. As a result, gains arising from SMFs irrespective of the period for which the units are held by investors are deemed STCGs and hence, liable to tax at the rate applicable to the slab in which their total income falls.

The new tax treatment effective from April 1, 2023, also applied to exchange-traded funds (ETFs), gold funds, outbound mutual funds equity funds etc. In the budget for 2024-25, the FM has gone for a major overhaul of the CGT regime. For all categories of assets - financial or physical, listed or unlisted - except debt and non-equity MFs and unlisted bonds, long-term capital gains (LTCG) will attract tax at a uniform rate of 12.5 per cent. The holding period for deciding long-term is 24 months except in the case of stocks, equity mutual funds and REITs/InvITs where the threshold is 12 months. In the case of debt and non-equity MFs and unlisted bonds, the gains will be taxed at the applicable slab rate.

For assets held for less than 24 months, short-term capital gains (STCG) will be taxed at the applicable slab rate. However, in the case of stocks, equity mutual funds, listed bonds and REITs/InvITs, the STCG will be taxed at 20 per cent. This is up from

15 per cent levied earlier. Pertinently, for these instruments, even the LTCG tax of 12.5 per cent is higher than the 10 per cent levied earlier. Three broad messages emanate from these changes.

First, these reward long-term investors who will now pay LTCG of 12.5 per cent down from 20 per cent or the applicable slab rate (generally 39 per cent) earlier depending on the asset class. A higher annual exemption limit of Rs 125,000 (up from the existing Rs 100,000) from LTCG from stocks and equity MFs is an added sweetener. Second, while reducing the LTCG tax rate, FM has taken away the benefit of indexation.

This way she has plugged a major source of revenue loss in the real estate sector whereby developers could drastically reduce the tax outgo by taking advantage of indexation. However, owners of old houses acquired before 2001 (ancestral property) have been spared as they will continue to get indexation benefits. Third, investors looking for short-term gains pay more as the STCG tax rate on stocks and equity mutual funds now is 20 per cent up from 15 per cent earlier.

These persons being mostly rich persons/high net-worth individuals with surplus funds, Sitharaman's endeavour to collect more tax from them is fully justified. The new CGT regime is undoubtedly a big improvement. However, the government should aim at a structure where irrespective of the asset class, listed or unlisted and the holding period, the capital gains arising therefrom are an addition to her income in the relevant year. Therefore, tax should be levied at the rate applicable to the slab his total income falls in (all sources put together).

*(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)*

# The OTT platforms are redefining star power and entertainment

These platforms not only showcase diverse stories and talents but also help actors reach a global audience and achieve instant stardom

In today's rapidly changing entertainment landscape, Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms have emerged as a powerful force in redefining how we consume content and perceive celebrity status. These platforms have not only revolutionized the way stories are told but also introduced a new breed of superstars, offering actors opportunities to gain recognition and connect with audiences on a global scale that rivals traditional commercial movie stardom.

The accessibility of content through platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+ has disrupted the established order in both Hollywood and Bollywood. Unlike conventional cinema, where fame often dictated success, OTT platforms prioritize diverse



CHAITANYA KUMAR PRASAD

storytelling and talent. This shift has empowered actors who were previously relegated to supporting roles or lesser-known projects to take center stage and achieve instant fame. For instance, actors like Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Pankaj Tripathi, Vijay Varma, and Jaideep Ahlawat in India, along with Phoebe Waller-Bridge in the West, have risen to stardom through standout performances on OTT platforms.

These digital stages provide a unique opportunity for actors to connect with audiences worldwide, transcending borders and cultural boundaries. OTT platforms have also given rise to a new form of celebrity influence, one that values performance, quality, and character relatability over traditional box office metrics. The popularity of these stars is rooted in their ability to connect with audiences through captivating stories and authentic performances.

This evolution has opened doors for exploring a wide range of genres and unconventional characters, allowing actors to showcase their versatility and depth. By stepping beyond the typical main character archetypes, actors now have the opportunity to por-

tray complex roles that not only highlight their talent but also solidify their star status and diversify their portfolios. What sets OTT stars apart is their relatability and authenticity, which enhances their appeal. Unlike traditional movie icons who are often seen as larger-than-life figures, OTT stars are perceived as more down-to-earth and relatable. This relatability translates into strong brand value, as audiences feel a deeper connection to these actors and their on-screen personas. OTT platforms also serve as a hub for brand collaborations, where actors endorse products that align with their on-screen personas. This integration of content and commerce has opened up new avenues for revenue generation for actors,



while also boosting their brand image. Additionally, OTT platforms have the distinct advantage of reaching a larger and more diverse audience, further enhancing their appeal. The influence of OTT platforms is also evident in how they have breathed new life into theatrical releases. There is now a "reverse osmosis"

effect where movies that may have had limited box office runs or regional appeal find broader audiences and renewed popularity when released on streaming services. Moreover, the allure of OTT platforms has attracted big stars and celebrated directors to create original content specifically for streaming audiences. Renowned filmmakers and top-tier actors, who traditionally dominated the theatrical space, are now embracing the creative freedom and diverse storytelling opportunities offered by OTT platforms. High-profile projects like Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman" on Netflix and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Heeramandi" are prime examples of this shift. During the COVID-19 pandemic,

when theaters were shut down, OTT platforms not only sustained the entertainment industry but also thrived as the sole infotainment channel for audiences.

The era of DVD rentals and brick-and-mortar video stores has given way to the convenience of streaming services, which offer a vast library of movies and TV shows at the click of a button. Streaming platforms have emerged as launchpads for movies and series that gain immense popularity, often surpassing traditional cinema. Shows like "Stranger Things," "Money Heist," and "Sacred Games" have garnered cult followings, turning their actors into global sensations. The viral nature of streaming content, combined with its global accessibil-

ity, can catapult relatively unknown actors and smaller productions into the limelight, achieving a level of fame that rivals big-budget blockbusters. OTT platforms also cater to niche audiences by offering content that may not have widespread commercial appeal but resonates deeply with specific viewer groups. This has allowed for a variety of stories and genres to thrive, from indie films to experimental series. By tapping into these niche markets, OTT platforms have redefined the concept of a "hit," allowing for diverse forms of success that go beyond traditional box office.

*(The writer is former Addl. DG DFF & Festival Director IFFI, Views are personal. Inputs: Zoya Ahmad, Vaishnavie Srinivasan)*

## State top performer in SDG India Index 2023-24

Driven by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state of Uttarakhand, led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has demonstrated tremendous achievement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as depicted in the **SDG India Index 2023-24**

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT



CM Pushkar Singh Dhami gifting 'Grain of Uttarakhand' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Uttarakhand has set a standard by leading in essential domains including healthcare, clean energy, reduction in poverty, urban sustainability, and environmental protection**

benefits to remote places, and improving the quality of care. Ingenious health agendas and expanded investment in public health have additionally strengthened the ranking of Uttarakhand, positioning it among the highest achievers in this crucial domain.

### PROVIDING AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

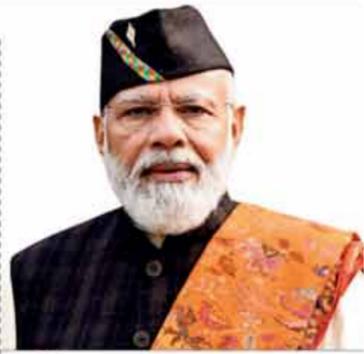
The accomplishments of Uttarakhand in the SDG India Index emphasise its adherence to assuring access to affordable, trustworthy, sustainable, and contemporary energy for everybody. The state has taken noteworthy steps in boosting renewable energy capability, especially in harnessing its hydroelectric potential. Further, Uttarakhand has concentrated on enhancing energy efficiency and extending the electricity grid to rural and isolated regions, assuring overall access to clean energy. These measures have improved energy security as well as contributed to environmental sustainability, making the state achieve a leading position in this classification.

### CREATING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN COMMUNITIES

The state has undertaken several metropolitan expansion to enhance infrastructure and improve various public services. Introduction of smart cities concept, affordable accommodation schemes, and integration of disaster threat reduction efforts into urban planning have greatly enhanced the quality of life for urban citizens.

### CONSERVING TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

The commitment of Uttarakhand towards



I congratulate the Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand's commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state's dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

maintaining the ecosystem and biodiversity is illustrated in its high ranking in the SDG India Index. The state has launched strong efforts to save and revive forests, conserve wilderness, and fight land degradation.

The rich biodiversity and vast forest cover of Uttarakhand are important assets that the state preserves via different environmental approaches and community-based conservation agendas. Measures to foster sustainable farming and forestry techniques have additionally bolstered the ecological harmony of the state, assuring the long-term health of its natural resources.

The holistic strategy of Uttarakhand for growth, incorporating financial development with social inclusion and environmental administration, illustrates the regulations of the Sustainable Development Goals.

important landmarks in lessening poverty levels, assuring financial security for its citizens, and implementing comprehensive social security programmes. The exhaustive strategy of the state contains targeted initiatives for the marginalised, livelihood generation agendas, and improving access to fundamental needs such as housing, education, and healthcare. These endeavours have collectively contributed to the top-tier ranking of the state in eliminating poverty.

### PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL

The state of Uttarakhand has exhibited remarkable advancement in boosting health and well-being. The healthcare system of the state has demonstrated outstanding progress in different health indicators, including mother and child health, immunisation coverage, and the management of infectious and

non-communicable diseases. The focus of the government has been on bolstering healthcare infrastructure, extending the coverage of health

### SDG INDIA INDEX 23-24

PERFORMANCE OF STATES AND UTs ON SDGs (INDIA-71)



Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to the holistic development of our state, leveraging its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Through sustainable policies and strategic initiatives, we aim to foster economic growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. Our goal is to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where tradition meets innovation, and every individual can thrive in a conducive environment for prosperity and well-being.

**Pushkar Singh Dhami**  
Chief Minister

Uttarakhand has emerged as a top performer in the recently released SDG India Index 2023-24, ranking alongside Kerala with an impressive score of 79. Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the state has worked on comprehensive development, promoting renewable energy, augmenting healthcare infrastructure, evolving urban surroundings, and preserving biodiversity, underlining its dedication to sustainable evolution and effective policy execution, thus attaining a spot among the top five states in several SDG goals.

### ALLEVIATING POVERTY AND SAFEGUARDING FINANCIAL SECURITY

The performance of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand in alleviating poverty is admirable, illustrating the state's victorious measures in its mitigation. The SDG India Index underscores that Uttarakhand has attained

Uttarakhand has undertaken a historic step to introduce the Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index, becoming the first Indian state to introduce such a pioneering endeavour that connects ecology with the economy

## U'khand aces in the introduction of gross environmental product index

The Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index, was recently launched by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and it evaluates the environmental health of the state based on the quality of four essential elements, viz. air, water, forest, and soil. The GEP shows

relative data from 2020 to 2022, indicating a 0.9% growth, signalling favourable environmental trends amid expansion.

CM Dhami highlighted the importance of this endeavour in facilitating a balance between financial growth and ecological

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT



Uttarakhand strives to lead by example with the introduction of the GEP Index, in balancing growth with environmental sustainability

conservation. The GEP Index will act as a vital instrument in forming prospective environmental conservation objectives and raising public understanding about the significance of protecting natural resources. The Chief Minister, while emphasising the rich natural legacy of Uttarakhand, highlighted the necessity for effective utilisation

of forest wealth and the revitalisation of water sources via comprehensive plantation of trees and water conservation measures.

The concept of GEP was envisioned by environmentalist Dr Anil Prakash Joshi. It allocates an economic worth to environmental services, providing a tangible standard of ecological influence. Uttarakhand strives to lead by example with the introduction of the GEP Index in balancing growth with environmental sustainability. This assures a brighter tomorrow for its residents and establishing a standard for other states to pursue.



Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the 'One District Two Products' scheme launched by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami aims to promote local products and create self-employment opportunities across all 13 districts of the state

## ODTP Scheme: A step towards local economic empowerment

Uttarakhand's 'One District Two Products' (ODTP) Scheme is an innovative initiative launched by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in October 2021. The scheme aims to promote local products and create self-employment opportunities across all 13 districts of the state.

### EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

One of the key aspects of the ODTP scheme is its potential to generate employment opportunities at the local level. By developing products based on market demand and utilising modern technology, the scheme creates jobs in various sectors, including packaging, testing, and logistics. The increase in business and export opportunities is expected to further bolster employment, benefiting local farmers, artisans, and craftsmen.

Notable products from various regions include Almora's tweed and Bal Mithai, Bageshwar's copper craft and Manduwa biscuits, Champawat's iron crafts and handwoven products, Chamoli's



CM Pushkar Singh Dhami inquiring about the products made by local artisans

handlooms, handicrafts, and aromatic herbals, Dehradun's bakery and mushroom products, Haridwar's jaggery and honey, Nainital's Aipan art and candle craft, Pauri's herbal products and wooden furniture, Pithoragarh's woolen carpet and Munsiyari rajma, Rudrapur's handicrafts and temple shapes and prasads products, Tehri's natural fiber and Tehri Nath, Udham Singh Nagar's mentha oil and Moonj grass products, and Uttarkashi's woolen handicrafts and apple-based products.

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Skill development and design enhancement are also crucial components of the implementation strategy. By equipping local artisans and craftsmen with modern skills and design techniques, the scheme ensures that the products meet contemporary market demands.

### MARKET & EXPORT POTENTIAL

The ODTP scheme aims to position Uttarakhand's local products in both domestic and international markets.

By promoting these products on a larger scale, the scheme seeks to enhance their visibility and demand. The government's efforts to improve packaging, branding, and marketing are expected to play a significant role in this endeavour. Tourism also plays a crucial role in the ODTP scheme's market strategy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has encouraged tourists to spend at least 5% of their total expenditure on local products. This initiative not only boosts the local economy, but also promotes state's cultural heritage.

### FUTURE PROSPECTS

The ODTP scheme is a promising step towards the sustainable economic development of Uttarakhand. By focusing on local products and creating self-employment opportunities, the scheme aims to foster economic resilience in the state's rural areas. The successful implementation of this scheme could serve as a model for other states to follow, highlighting the potential of local industries to drive economic growth.

## District-wide crafts get recognition

Local products find national & global platforms



PM Narendra Modi interacting with women entrepreneurs (SHG) during Uttarakhand Investor Summit 2023

The 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme is an endeavour under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, striving to boost regional products and promote financial evolution in districts across India. By recognising and sustaining outstanding products from each district, the scheme seeks to facilitate manufacturing, help regional craftspeople, and furnish a forum for these products in nationwide and global markets. Recently, Uttarakhand and its border district, Uttarkashi, obtained nationwide acclaim under this scheme, marking a notable accomplishment for the state.

The state's commendation came during the Atmanirbhar Bharat Utsav 2024 awards, where Uttarkashi district

Rank	State (Category B)	Award
1.	J&K	Gold
2.	Uttarakhand	Silver
3.	Meghalaya	Bronze
4.	Sikkim	Bronze

won the second award for its production of Red Rice in the agriculture category.

Different districts in Uttarakhand have been recognised with special products under the ODOP scheme, including Almora's apricot-based products, Bageshwar's kiwi-based products, Chamoli's fish-based products, Champawat's *tejpatia* and spices, Dehradun's bakery products, Haridwar's mushrooms, Nainital's fruit juice and squash (peach, etc), Pauri's citrus-based products (Malta), Pithoragarh's turmeric-based products, Rudrapur's *amaranthas*-based products, Tehri's ginger-based products, Udham Singh Nagar's mango-based products, and Uttarkashi's apple-based products.

This is supported by the Common Facility Centre (CFC) Scheme, which furnishes up to 90 percent of the project expenditure in economic aid. This allows local producers to improve their production establishments and enhance their product quality. The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme presents economic support to participants of nationwide and multinational exhibits and fairs, letting them demonstrate and market their ODOP-selected products. Further, the Finance Assistance Scheme (Margin Money Scheme) offers assistance to set up projects, assuring that financial limitations do not restrict the development of local enterprises.

## AYUSH POLICY: TOWARDS WELLNESS



CM's visit to Adi Kailash further promoted the area as a notable pilgrimage destination

The AYUSH Policy of Uttarakhand summarises enterprising strategies to accredit all specified government AYUSH healthcare centers under the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) within five years.

The policy strives to capitalise on this legacy by enabling the cultivation of over 1,000 rare medicinal plants native to the area. Endeavours such as the Chief Minister Medicinal Plant Development Programme are set to involve 50,000 farmers in growing these plants, promoting sustainable farming approaches, and augmenting regional revenues. In the domain of AYUSH production, Uttarakhand already has a strong drive, backed by ample raw materials and promising business necessities. The state hosts multiple GMP-certified manufacturing departments making a vast array of AYUSH medicines and consumer items. Under the new policy, more incentives and assistance will be

PM Narendra Modi's fondness for yoga and meditation has immensely increased the popularity of these age-old practices, especially in Uttarakhand

offered to enable more units to attain WHO GMP certification and adhere to global quality norms. This action is anticipated to greatly improve the sector's contribution to the state's GDP, presently evaluated at Rs 4,000-5,000 crore.

The policy encapsulates strategies to accredit all specified government AYUSH healthcare centers under the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) within five years.

#ExploreUttarakhand



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# Hasina seeks cooperation from UN, to conduct probe into violence

**PTI ■ DHAKA**  
Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday sought cooperation from the United Nations and other international organisations to conduct a proper investigation into the recent nationwide violence during the anti-quota agitation to punish the real culprits involved in the attacks. Bangladesh witnessed violent clashes between the police and mostly student protesters demanding an end to a controversial quota system that reserved 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971. "We're seeking UN and other international organisations' cooperation for a fair and proper investigation into the matter," Hasina said, adding that the people involved in the violence must be brought to justice. "Because I know I have no negligence to this end," she was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune newspaper. Speaking at an event, she came down heavily on those who were involved in damaging public properties alongside killing many people and thus



tarnishing the country's image. "My question is who has gained what (through the mayhem)? Why was there bloodshed?" she asked. The prime minister said they have already formed a one-member judicial probe commission with an apex court justice before raising any such demand to investigate the matter. "We have formed the commission with a judge (of the High Court). I have given the order to include two more as man-

power and enhance the periphery of the investigation," she said. "You (countrymen) have to find out the people involved in the conspiracy to push the country backwards through fishing in troubled water by launching such an incident," she said. The conspiracies being hatched by the collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces pushed Bangladesh back time and again, she added. "These are the most painful

and regrettable things," she said with an emotional voice. The prime minister said her government had earlier issued a notification cancelling the quota system. The Bangladesh government for the first time on Monday officially acknowledged that 150 people were killed across the country during the students' unrest over the quota system. The government called in the army to quell protests, which started in universities and colleges earlier this month, quickly turning into a more widespread agitation against Hasina and her government, regarding job quotas. The unrest has left several thousand people, including policemen, wounded and major government installations damaged. The protests subsided last week after the apex Appellate Division of unitary Bangladesh's Supreme Court on July 21 ordered a massive quota reform, keeping only seven per cent of reserve posts instead of the existing 56 per cent. The government subsequently issued a Gazette notification in line with the order saying 93 per cent of jobs would be open to candidates on merit.

# Myanmar's military regime extends state of emergency by 6 months

**AP ■ BANGKOK**

The military regime that seized power in Myanmar 3 1/2 years ago on Wednesday extended the state of emergency in the civil war-ravaged country for another six months, saying it needs time to prepare for long-promised elections. The state of emergency was initially declared when troops ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, 2021, arresting her and members of her National League for Democracy party. The emergency decree empowers the military to assume all government functions, giving the head of the ruling military council, Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing, legislative, judicial and executive powers. At the moment, military regime is facing its greatest challenge since taking power, as powerful ethnic minority militias and people's defense forces that support Myanmar's main opposition have taken wide swaths of territory in fierce fighting in recent months. The military is now estimated to control less than half the country, but is holding on tenaciously to much of central Myanmar, including the capital, Naypyidaw, which



was recently targeted by small rocket attacks and two bombings. The extension of the state of emergency was granted by the National Defense and Security Council, after Ming Aung Hlaing argued more time is needed to restore stability to the country and carry out a census in preparations for national elections, state-run MRTV reported. The plan for a general election is widely seen as an attempt to normalize the military's seizure of power through the ballot box and to deliver a result that ensures the generals retain control. Critics have already said the military-planned elections will be neither free nor fair because there is no free media and most of the leaders of Suu Kyi's National League for

Democracy party have been arrested. Under the country's 2008 constitution, drafted by the army, the military can rule the country under a state of emergency for one year, followed by two possible six-month extensions before holding elections. Wednesday's extension, however, was the regime's sixth, and was again rubber-stamped by the NDSC, which is nominally a constitutional administrative government body, but in practice is controlled by the military. It did not announce the details behind its decision. Additionally, such extensions are supposed to be endorsed by the country's president, but current acting president Myint Swe last week authorized Min Aung Hlaing to carry out his duties with the NDSC while he is on medical leave. The military originally announced elections would be held in August, 2023, but has regularly pushed the date back and has recently said they would take place sometime in 2025. Under the country's constitution, for an election to be held the military has to transfer government functions to the president at least six months before the polls. The 2021 military takeover was met with widespread non-violent protests. But after

peaceful demonstrations were put down with lethal force, many opponents of military rule took up arms, and large parts of the country are now embroiled in conflict. The fiercest fighting in recent weeks has been in the north-east, where the ethnic militias from an alliance group claimed last week to have seized Lashio, which houses the northern regional military headquarters, and Mogoke, the center of the country's lucrative gem-mining industry. Reports suggest that regime troops continue to hold the regional headquarters but could be forced from Lashio soon. In Lashio, the main prison gate was reportedly opened over the weekend and more than 200 political prisoners, including Tun Tun Hein, a former deputy speaker of the lower house of Myanmar's parliament and senior member of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, were released. Maung Maung Swe, a member of Myanmar's main opposition group, the National Unity Government — whose leadership operates largely from outside the country — told The Associated Press that its forces in Myanmar were providing care for more than 200 of released political prisoners.

# China sanctions US lawmaker for 'interference' in its domestic affairs

**Bangkok (AP):** China sanctioned a United States lawmaker on Wednesday for "frequently interfering" in China's domestic affairs. The sanctions against Rep. Jim McGovern include freezing his assets and properties in China, prohibiting any organization or individual in China from conducting transactions or working with him, and denying him and his family a visa to enter the country, according to a statement from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It's one of several rounds of sanctions against US lawmakers and companies that China has announced as relations have soured between Beijing and Washington. China previously sanctioned US representative Michael McCaul and ex-representative Michael Gallagher over their support for Taiwan, a self-governed democracy that China claims as its own. McGovern and McCaul introduced a bill calling for stronger US support for Tibet, a region in China where human rights groups have criticized authorities for the treatment of ethnic Tibetans. Relations between the US and China have sunk, starting with a trade war in 2018 and then the COVID-19 pandemic. The US has been increasingly critical of China's human rights record, its handling of the pandemic and its actions towards Taiwan.

# China accuses Japan of 'smear attacks' in recent talks with US, India, Aus

**Beijing (AP):** China has expressed strong dissatisfaction to Japan about what it called "smear attacks" against China at recent high-level meetings with the United States, India and Australia, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. A ministry statement said that Liu Jinsong, the director general of the Asian affairs department, conveyed solemn representations and serious concern at a meeting the previous day with Akira Yokochi, the deputy chief of mission at the Japanese Embassy. "Liu pointed out that Japan's smear attacks on China are self-contradictory to its statement of promoting the strategic and reciprocal relationship between the two countries," the statement said. Meeting in Tokyo on Sunday, Japan's foreign and defense ministers agreed to bolster military cooperation with the US at what are known as "2+2" talks with their American counterparts. A joint statement said China's foreign policy "seeks to reshape the international order for its own benefit at the expense of others" and that such behavior represents "the greatest strategic challenge" in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. The US-Japan talks were followed by a meeting on Monday of the foreign ministers from the Quad countries — the US, Japan, India and Australia. The joint statement did not mention China by name but expressed



opposition to "the militarization of disputed features and coercive and intimidating maneuvers in the South China Sea." The Chinese government has complained repeatedly about the US deepening ties with other countries in the face of China's rise, which President Joe Biden has made a priority during his four years in office. The Foreign Ministry statement said China urges Japan to stop making irresponsible remarks on China's internal affairs — a likely reference to Taiwan — and called on Japan to stop colluding with "certain countries" to form small circles that lead to confrontation. A Japanese Embassy statement said that Yokochi had expounded Japan's positions at the meeting and made representations on various China-related topics, but it did not provide any details.

# Russian military begins 3rd round of drills to train troops

**AP ■ MOSCOW**

The Russian military on Wednesday began a third round of drills with tactical nuclear weapons, part of the Kremlin's messaging intended to force the West to limit its support for Ukraine. The Russian Defence Ministry said the drills will feature units of the central and southern military districts armed with Iskander short-range missiles. They will practice receiving nuclear weapons from storage and deploying them to designated

launch areas. The maneuvers will also include air force units that will arm their warplanes with nuclear weapons and perform patrol flights. The ministry said the drills are intended to maintain troops' readiness for combat missions. Tactical nuclear weapons include bombs, warheads for short-range missiles and artillery munitions and are meant for use on a battlefield. They are typically far less powerful than strategic weapons — massive warheads that arm intercontinental ballistic missiles and are intended to obliterate entire cities. The previous two rounds of the maneuvers were held in May and June. The drills in June were conducted jointly with the armed forces of Russia's ally Belarus. Last year, Russia moved some of its tactical nuclear weapons into neighboring Belarus, which also borders Ukraine and NATO members Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has relied on close ties with Russia and provided

his country as a staging ground for sending troops to Ukraine in February 2022. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his officials have repeatedly reminded the West about the country's nuclear might in a bid to discourage NATO allies from ramping up their support for Kyiv. The Kremlin has described the drills with tactical nuclear weapons as part of Moscow's response to statements by NATO allies encouraging strikes on Russian territory with Western weapons and the possible deployment of Western

troops to Ukraine. Amid recent battlefield gains in Ukraine, Putin has emphasized that Russia doesn't need nuclear weapons to achieve his goals. But he also reaffirmed that they can be used in the case of a threat to Russia's territorial integrity in line with the country's nuclear doctrine. Russian hawks have urged the Kremlin to change the doctrine to lower the threshold for using nuclear weapons, and Putin said the document could be modified to take into account the evolving global situation.

CEO of its most important supplier, Spirit AeroSystems, and another longtime Boeing executive, Stephanie Pope, who recently took over the commercial airplanes division. Like Calhoun, who took over as CEO in the wake of the two Max crashes, Ortberg will be inheriting the leadership of a company facing ongoing crises and criticism from both outside and internally. It is pushing back against whistleblower allegations of manufacturing shortcuts that crimp on

# Boeing names new chief executive officer

**Chicago (AP):** Boeing named a longtime aerospace industry veteran on Wednesday as its next chief executive, who will take over a company that has been rocked by legal, regulatory and production problems. Robert "Kelly" Ortberg, a former CEO at aerospace supplier Rockwell Collins, will succeed David Calhoun, 67, as CEO and president effective August 8, the company said. Calhoun announced in March that he would retire at the end of the year. Boeing named its new CEO as it reported a loss of more than USD 1.4 billion on falling revenue during the second quarter. The loss was wider and revenue lower than Wall

Street expected, as both Boeing's commercial-airplanes business and defence unit lost money. The disappointing results come at a tumultuous time for Boeing. The company agreed to plead guilty this month to a federal fraud charge in connection with its 737 Max jetliner and two crashes that killed 346 people. The Federal Aviation Administration increased its oversight of the company after the blowout of a panel on an Alaska Airlines jet raised manufacturing quality concerns. Boeing Chairman Steven Mollenkopf said Ortberg was chosen after a "thorough and extensive search process" and "has the right skills and experience to lead Boeing in its

next chapter". Ortberg has earned a reputation for running complex engineering and manufacturing companies, Mollenkopf said. The company waived the mandatory retirement age of 65 for Ortberg, a spokesperson said. Boeing did the same for Calhoun days after he turned 64 in 2021. Ortberg emerged as a leading candidate only recently. Others who were reportedly considered for the job included Patrick Shanahan, a former Boeing executive and now

CEO of its most important supplier, Spirit AeroSystems, and another longtime Boeing executive, Stephanie Pope, who recently took over the commercial airplanes division. Like Calhoun, who took over as CEO in the wake of the two Max crashes, Ortberg will be inheriting the leadership of a company facing ongoing crises and criticism from both outside and internally. It is pushing back against whistleblower allegations of manufacturing shortcuts that crimp on

safety. The company, based in Arlington, Virginia, also is dealing with supply-chain problems that are hindering production, which it hopes to fix in part by re-acquiring Spirit AeroSystems, a key contractor. It is still trying to persuade regulators to approve two new models of the Max and a bigger version of its two-aisle 777 jetliner. And it faces a multi-billion-dollar decision on when to design a new single-aisle plane to replace the Max.

**Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar**  
Tender Notice Reference No. GNDU/Gen/55/2024  
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Supply/ Printing of 40 Pages OMR Answer Books	16 Lac
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Closing date & time: 21-08-2024 at 5:00 p.m.  
For details log onto: [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in)  
Note: Any corrigendum (s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.  
NA/12/24480/2023/36216 Dated CHD :- 7/31/2024

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Note: The candidates who have already applied for PH.D Entrance Test (PHDET) Session 2022-23 need not apply again.  
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Tender Enquiry No.320/DIT-1083 dated 30-07-2024  
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Invites e-tender for Provisioning of MPLS connectivity in 47 towns of PSPCL and PSPCL DC/ DRC. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 30-07-2024, 5:00 PM onwards.  
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
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2.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Hiring of vehicles:- a) Swift Desire/ Venue/ Breeze or Equivalent. b) Mahindra Pick-up (Capacity 02 Ton) c) Mahindra Camper	25 No's 02 No's 01 No.
3.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy Hiring of:- a) Insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk product in Bathinda Milkshed Area. b) Diesel Cars (Swift Dzire or Equivalent) at Milk Union Bathinda for Procurement, Marketing and Depot, Verka Bathinda Dairy	01 year with extension upto one year / 01 vehicle for 03 MT & 01 vehicle for 2.2 MT 03 No's
4.	For Verka Patiala Dairy a) Fire Wood b) Hiring of Passenger Car (Bolero/ Swift/ Dzire/ Toyota/ Etios or equivalent) for marketing activities. c) Hiring of:- i. Vehicle for Veterinary Route & Extension work. ii. Insulated S.S Road Milk Tankers for Milk lifting from BMC's /MCC's & sister Dairies Cap. 9000 - 11000 ltrs. iii. Vehicle Tata 207, Mahindra Maxi truck etc. for transportation of Milk from Societies/ Farms at MCC Samana (Route No. 14, 15 & 28).	Half yearly/ 1500 MT Annual 01 No. Single Chamber-14 No's Double Chamber-01 No. 03 No's
5.	For Verka Sangrur Dairy a) Hiring of Mahindra Maxi Truck Pickup, Bolero Pickup or equivalent for transportation of:- i. Milk through cans from various Societies/ Dairy Farms to MCC/BMC/ Dairy Dock. ii. Cattle feed and allied products from Verka Sangrur Dairy/ Stores to various Societies/ Dairy Farms/ Macc/ BMCs. b) Hiring of SS Road Milk Tankers cap.15,18,20,23,25,30 KL for transportation of milk from Verka sangrur Dairy to other Plants of Punjab and outside Punjab. c) For Design, Supply, Erection, Installation and testing of the PCC and APFC Panels. d) Allotment of Verka Milk booths at different location in distt. sangrur/ Barnala/ Malerkotla on rent basis. i. Civil Hospital Tapa ii. Civil Hospital Bhadour iii. Civil Hospital Ahemadgarh iv. Govt. Sen. Sec. School Sandhu Patti Barnala v. Market Committee Khanouri vi. Govt. Sen. Sec. School Moonak	02 Years/12 No's 02 Years/01 No. 03 No. 01 No. 03 Year on rent / 06 No's

NOTE:  
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop) & e Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).  
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.  
NA/12/24483/2023/36219  
Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

**verka**  
THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66  
Notice Inviting Tender [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop)  
e tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy Design, Supply, Installation, testing & Commissioning of 1010 KVA DG set with electrical and civil work.	One job
2.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy a) For backlit glow sign board, double sided glow sign board, non lit flex board, flex change, flex banner, wall painting/ shop painting, vehicle painting, umbrella, A-type standing flex board and vinyl stickers. b) Allotment of civil Hospital Batala Milk Bar on rent. c) Hiring of:- i. Car (Swift Dzire or its equivalent) ii. Diesel Car (05 Seater Bolero camper or its equivalent)	01 year 02 year 01 year 01 year
3.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) Purchase of polypropylene bottles cap. 180ml with caps. b) Hiring of Vehicles (3.0 MT, 6.0 MT, 9.0 MT and 15.0 MT) for supplying of Milk Products in the Punjab and other states. c) Hiring of vehicle for supply of fresh Milk and Milk Products at Local Army 02/ Tray capacity 250) and Beas route (Tray Capacity 200)	Annual 01 No. 02 No's
4.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy a) Sale of the unserviceable material on Annual Rate Contract basis. b) Supply of:- i. Veterinary medicines. ii. Single Phase Dairy Barn Ventilation fan with motors. c) Hiring of:- i. Insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk products in Ludhiana city and adjoining towns. ii. Passenger vehicles Innova crystal for Verka Ludhiana Dairy without driver for minimum running of 2000 kms per month on lump sum basis. d) Outsourcing of milk Booth/ Milk Bar at:- i. Park back side Main Shopping Centre Sector 32 A Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana. ii. Machhewara. iii. Kamalpur	Annual One time purchase 200 No's 01 year with extension upto one year 01 No. 03 years
5.	For Verka Faridkot Dairy Hiring of:- a) Insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from MCC's to various Milk Plants in Punjab etc. on rate contract. b) Pick up or its equivalent vehicle for lifting the milk from MPCs/DF to MCC at Route 5,25,27,62 & 18. c) Insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from BMC's to various milk chilling Centres/ Milk plants in Punjab etc. on rate contract. d) Diesel Cars for procurement, Marketing & AI Activities in the field. i. Bolero Jeep ii. Swift Dzire or its equivalent	Cap.10000 Kg-06 No's Cap.15000 Kg-02 No's Cap.20000 Kg-02 No's Cap.10000 Kg-02 No's 01 No. 02 No's
6.	For Verka CFP, Bhattian (Khanna) Labour Job contract for different activities related with Production, store & Mktg. sections.	Annual
7.	For Verka CFP, Ghania Ke Banger Transportation of Verka Cattle Feed and mineral feed supplement to various stations in the state of Punjab.	Annual

NOTE:  
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop) & e Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).  
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.  
NA/12/24488/2023/36228  
Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gurpreet Singh resident of Village-Badenpur, Post-Kalewal, Tehsil-Kharar, District-Mohali, State-Punjab, Pin-140103, have changed my Mother name from Parmjeet Kaur to paramjit Kaur Vide affidavit No.IN-PB00448433551244W dated 27 March 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sesidevi K am Mother of Army No:16117084M Rank: NK Name-Reddiprasad Kalahasthi Presently Posted At Unit: 161 Br Coy,16 Engr Br Regt (PMS)Chandimandir Cant Panchukla Haryana Permanent Address: 00,Vill/Post-Appinapalli, Teh-Peddapanjani, Distt-Chittoor, State-Andhra Pradesh-517432 Declare that I have changed my Name from Sesidevi K to K Shasidevi and also change my Date of Birth from 01/07/1959 to 01/01/1957.Vide Affidavit No; 54AA 510605, Dated- 31/07/24

I, Jasvandi Samadhan Pawar is legally Wedded Spouse of No JC 334183M Rank: Sub Name-Pawar Samadhan Shivaji Presently Posted At Unit: GE Project Airforce, Ambala, Haryana Declare that I have changed My Date of Birth from 27/07/1986 to 21/07/1986. Vide Affidavit No-54AA 510604, Dated: 31/07/24

I, Guruswamy Reddy K am Father of Army No:16117084M Rank: NK Name-Reddiprasad Kalahasthi Presently Posted At Unit: 161 Br Coy,16 Engr Br Regt (PMS)Chandimandir Cant Panchukla Haryana Permanent Address: 00,Vill/Post-Appinapalli, Teh-Peddapanjani, Distt-Chittoor, State-Andhra Pradesh-517432 Declare that I have changed my Name from Guruswamy Reddy K to K Guruswamy Reddy and Also changed my date of birth from 01/07/1954 to 01/01/1952.Vide Affidavit No:54AA 510606, Dated: 31/07/24

I, No JC 343700A Rank-SUB Name: Kulbeer Singh Bhandari Presently Posted at Unit-57 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO K-Area, Zirakpur, Permanent Address: Sunarkot, Jajal, Tehri Garhwal, Ultrakhand-249175 Declare that I have changed my Son Name from Ritesh to Ritesh Bhandari. Vide Affidavit No-54AA 510603, Dated: 31/07/24

I, A Lingasveli S/ Wife Of Army No-6495270w Rank-L/NK K Mayakrishnan, Presently Posted At-Unit-603 Asc Bn Am HQ N-Area, Chandigarh Permanent Address-Vill- Mochikulam Post-Kurayur, Teh- Thirumangalam, Distt-Madurai, State-Tamil Nadu-625701 Have changed My Name From A Lingasveli To M Lingasveli. Vide Affidavit No-RD 0021296209, Dated- 17-02-24

I, M Lingasveli S/ Legally Wedded Spouse Of Army No-6495270w Rank-L/NK K Mayakrishnan, Presently Posted At-Unit-603 Asc Bn Am HQ N-Area, Chandigarh Permanent Address- Vill-Mochikulam Post-Kurayur, Teh-Thirumangalam, Distt-Madurai, State-Tamil Nadu-625701 Have changed My Date of Birth from 10/10/1988 to 11/10/1989. Vide Affidavit No-RD 0021296210, Dated-17-02-24

I, Shaik Allabakshi am father of No 15327641F Rank HAV Name Baji Shaik present residing at 162 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS), Chandimandir Cantt, Panchukla, Haryana Declare that I have changed my name Alla Bakshu to Shaik Allabakshi and also change my date of birth 01 Jul 1964 to 01 Jan 1956

I, Shaik Meerabee am mother of No 15327641F Rank HAV Name Baji Shaik Present residing at 162 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS), Chandimandir Cantt, Panchukla, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Shaik Meerabai to Shaik Meerabee and Also change my Date of birth from 01 Jul 1964 to 01 Jan 1971

I, Ompati Devi (existing name) W/O No. JC803859L. Ex NB SUD Jaidev Singh resident of VPO Garhi Balab, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my name in my husband's Army records from Ompati Devi (existing name) to Ompati (Proposed new name) my correct/actual DOB is 06.04.1964 instead of 11.07.1966 as per my Aadhaar /PAN Card. In future I shall as be known/written and called as Ompati (DOB 06.04.1964) for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 19 July 2024 before Ist Class Magistrate (Kalanaur) Rohtak

I, Kirandeep Kaur Manku D/o Satnam Singh R/o Mohalla Gogoani Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Kirandeep Kaur.

I, Amandeep Kaur W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o H.No.111, W.No.12, Green Enclave, Near Friends Colony, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Amandeep Kaur Kalsi.

I, Manjit Singh S/o Gurcharan Singh R/o Village Daudpur (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Manjeet Singh.

I, Manpreet Kaur W/o Rupinder Singh R/o #188, R-7, GTB Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my minor son's name from Ritik Chopra to Rehmatjot Singh.

I, Manpreet Kaur W/o Rupinder Singh R/o #188, R-7, GTB Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my minor son's name from Ekam Chopra to Shabadjot Singh.

I, Rajvir Singh Father of Sandeep Singh (UID-7957725-ICSE) S/O Sukhdev Singh, Adhar No-556770478065, R/o Chak Gijewala Distt-Sri Muktsar sahib have changed the spelling of my name from Rajveer Singh to Rajvir Singh.

I, Gurpinder Singh Maan S/o Kulwant Singh R/o Vill: Ghagga Teh-Gidderbaha (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name from Gurpinder Singh Maan to Gurpinder Singh.

I, Jaswinder Kaur W/O Beant Singh R/O Vill. Dhab Guru Ki, Kotkapura-151204, (Faridkot) Punjab Have Changed My Name To Surinderpal Kaur.

I Sukhdev Singh Takhi S/O Karam Singh Residing At Vpo. Malke-142049, Distt. Moga, Punjab, Have Changed My Name To Sukhdev Singh.

I Dharminder Kumar S/O Hari Chand R/O Hamampura Mohalla, Kotkapura-151204, (Faridkot) Punjab Have Changed My Name To Vicky Arora.

I Mandar Singh S/O Bhagwan Singh R/O Village Bargari District Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Mander Singh.

I Kamaldeep Akur W/O Vishavjit Sharma R/O Village Bargari District Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Kamaldeep Akur.

I, Vishakha Taneja W/o Yugal Sharan Gureja, R/ H.No. 247, Sector 15A, Hisar, Haryana, I want correct my name in my Son's Birth certificate from Visakha Gureja URJ Visakha Taneja to Vishakha Taneja for all future purposes.

I, Prakash Shamgounda Budruk, father of Army no. 14853118A, rank Hav/MT, Budruk Pawan Prakash, my name is wrongly mention in my son's army service record as Budruk Prakash Shamgond but my correct name is Prakash Shamgounda Budruk.

I, Sushila Prakash Budruk, mother of Army no. 14853118A, rank Hav/MT, Budruk Pawan Prakash, My name is wrongly mention in my son's army service record as Budruk Sushila Prakash, but my correct name is Sushila Prakash Budruk.

I, Shashi Prabha Sharma Wife of Narinder Chand Verma Resident of S-10/626, Dhangu Road, Behind Venice Hotel, Professor Colony, Pathankot, Declare Change in My Name From Shashi Prabha Sharma To Shashi Prabha.

I, Sunita Khanna W/o Parmjeet Singh Pabby R/o Old Post Office Wali Gali W.No. 1 Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Sunita Rani.

I Roban Singh Gill S/O Ratan Singh R/O Vpo: Santu Wala, Tehsil Zira District: Ferozepur, I Changed My Name Roban Singh Gill To Roban Singh.

I Ratan Singh S/O Mehta Singh R/O Vpo: Santu Wala, Tehsil zira District: Ferozepur, I changed my name Ratan Singh to Rattan Singh.

I, Kishor Chand S/o Mukand Lal R/o Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my name to Kishore Chand.

I, Amrit Pal S/o Ved Parkash R/o Jaitu (Faridkot) have changed my name to Amrit Pal Arora.

I, Harwinder Kaur W/o Bhagwan Singh R/o Fatehgarh (Faridkot) have changed my name to Amarjeet Kaur after marriage.

I, Army No. JC-772136A Rank Sub name Yogindra Kumar R/o Vill: Kheri Po. Nusurakha Distt. Bulandshahar (Uttar Pradesh) have changed my daughter name from Tanu to Tanu Kumari.

I, Army No. JC-772136A Rank Sub name Yogindra Kumar R/o Vill: Kheri Po. Nusurakha Distt. Bulandshahar (Uttar Pradesh) have changed my daughter name from Manu to Manu Kumari.

I Savita W/o Rajesh Kumar R/o Thakur Mohalla, Ward No. 15, Giddarbaha Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib-152101 have changed My Name From Savita to Savita Rani.

I, Geeta Rani W/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o Vill: Nathawal (Ludhiana) have changed my minor daughter name from Simran to Simran Kaur.

I Harroop Singh S/O Harpal Singh R/O VPO Shahbazpur Tehsil & District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Given Name To Harroop And Surname To Singh.

I, Kirandeep Kaur Manku D/o Satnam Singh R/o Mohalla Gogoani Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Kirandeep Kaur.

I, Amandeep Kaur W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o H.No.111, W.No.12, Green Enclave, Near Friends Colony, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Amandeep Kaur Kalsi.

I, Manjit Singh S/o Gurcharan Singh R/o Village Daudpur (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Manjeet Singh.

I, Manpreet Kaur W/o Rupinder Singh R/o #188, R-7, GTB Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my minor son's name from Ritik Chopra to Rehmatjot Singh.

I, Manpreet Kaur W/o Rupinder Singh R/o #188, R-7, GTB Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my minor son's name from Ekam Chopra to Shabadjot Singh.

I, Rajvir Singh Father of Sandeep Singh (UID-7957725-ICSE) S/O Sukhdev Singh, Adhar No-556770478065, R/o Chak Gijewala Distt-Sri Muktsar sahib have changed the spelling of my name from Rajveer Singh to Rajvir Singh.

I, Gurpinder Singh Maan S/o Kulwant Singh R/o Vill: Ghagga Teh-Gidderbaha (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have changed my name from Gurpinder Singh Maan to Gurpinder Singh.

I, Jaswinder Kaur W/O Beant Singh R/O Vill. Dhab Guru Ki, Kotkapura-151204, (Faridkot) Punjab Have Changed My Name To Surinderpal Kaur.

I Satpal Singh S/O Surinder Singh R/O Sher Khanwala Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Satpal Singh Josan.

I Manjeet Kaur W/O Satpal Singh Josan R/O Sher Khanwala Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Manjeet Kaur Josan.

I Satpal Singh Josan S/O Surinder Singh R/O Sher Khanwala, Ferozepur, I Have Changed My Son's Name From Gurseerat Singh To Gurseerat Singh Josan.

LOST & FOUND I, Akashdeep Godara S/o Ved Parkash Godara R/o Shiv Vilia, Jhajjar, Surkpur 124103 have lost my Property Documents , Original Payments Receipt, Agreement Letter, Booking Letter in Village Surkpur on 19/06/2024. Please find details of ALL Original Receipts: 1.1717809 Rs 300,000/- 2.1722211 Rs 590,000/- 3.1731319 Rs 855,000/- 4.1731321 Rs 855,000/- 5.1742500 Rs 250,000/- 6.1742725 Rs 592,000/- 7.1751819 Rs 865,000/- 8.1753010 Rs 25950/- (CREDIT NOTE) 9.1770088 Rs 1200,000/- 10.1795099 Rs 800,000/- 11. 1798906 Rs 550,000/- 12. 1798907 Rs 250,000/- 13. 1798908 Rs 250,000/- 14. 1876988 Rs 500,000/- 15. 1876989 Rs 300,300/- Total Amount Including (GST/GST) -> Rs. 81,83,250/- Founder Request To Call 7001092819

I, Jarnail Singh S/o Sarup Singh R/o Vill: Jakkawal Po. Khun Khun Kalan Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) my given name is Jarnail and my surname is Singh.

I Kapil S/o Ram Avadh Yadav R/o 1125/24, Ram Nagar, Rohtak, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, have changed my name to Kapil Yadav.

PUBLIC NOTICE ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor (Loan Account Number) & Address, Description of Secured Asset to be enforced, Date of Notice sent/Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date. Contains 34 entries of defaulted borrowers.

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower(s) and/or guarantor(s) (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Rishika Green Global LLP Office at 109-110, MG Mall, Sector 14, Sonipat-131001 is in the process undertaking of a residential Colony under policy of Deen Dayal Janawas Yojna (Rishika Sidhartha Hansraj County), in village sunari kalan, sector-22B, rohtak on this additional area of 5.45 acres is being added in License no. 216 of 2023 dt. 23-10-2023 Measuring 9.75625 acres in revenue estate of village sunari kalan, sector-22B,rohtak. In accordance with the provisions of Granted by Director General Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh And Whereas, Several individual have made bookings/entered into purchase/plot Buyer's agreement for allotment of plot in the said Colony (hereinafter referred as allottees). And whereas, the layout plan can approved at the time of grant of license for the said colony is proposed to be revised. And whereas, the office Director General, town and Country Planning Haryana, Chandigarh has required, Seeking against the revision of layout plan as a pre-condition for allowing such revision. In the revision of layout plan. Accordingly, vide this Public Notice objection are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said Colony on the proposed revisions of layout plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved layout plan & revised layout plan now proposed to be revised vide letter bearing Memo no LC-5097-B/UE (RK)/2024/23793 Dated: 29/07/2024 (Drawing No DTCP-9737 dated 25.10.2023) available at site office as well as in the office of District Town Planner, HUDA Complex Sector-1, Rohtak Haryana and at website topharyana.gov.in. Any allottee hearing any objection on received layout plan, may file to objection into office of District Town Planner, HUDA Rohtak Haryana within in 30 days of publication of the notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objection to the proposed revision in the layout plan.

Place :- Dated :- Rishika Green Global LLP



HP University, Gyan Path, Summerhill, Shimla-5

Shubham Sharma has bagged the first position in M.Tech with 85.21% marks from Himachal Pradesh University. He received a memento and certificate from the Dean of Studies of the University in the Annual Prize Distribution Function held here yesterday. He is BCA from UCBS, MCA from Department of Computer Science, PGDITM from SCDL, Symbiosis Pune and Diploma in Data Science holder with distinction. During his summer vacation he also completed different courses from NIELIT in PHP, ASP.NET, Web Designing, Android Development, Advance Java with distinction. His inspiration is his Grandfather Pt. Som Dutt Sharma, Retired Controller Printing and Stationary Department, Himachal Pradesh and his Father Mr. Rakesh Sharma who is a businessman and journalist.

Baroda Financial Results

Bank's Net Profit registers a YoY growth of 9.5% reaching a level of INR 4,458 crore, driven by lower credit cost. Return on Assets (ROA) remains consistently above 1% for 8 quarters and stands at 1.13% for Q1FY25. BOB has witnessed an improvement in its Asset quality with reduction in GNPA by 63 bps YoY to 2.88% from 3.51% in Q1FY24. Bank's NNPA reduced by 9 bps YoY to 0.69% in Q1FY25 as against 0.78% in Q1FY24. Strong capital position with CRAR at 16.82% for Q1FY25 Net Interest Income (NII) grew by 5.5% YoY to INR 11,600 crore in Q1FY25 Global Net Interest Margin (NIM) stands at 3.18% in Q1FY25. Operating Profit stands at INR 7,161 crore in Q1FY25. Credit cost remains below 1% at 0.47% for the quarter. BOB's balance sheet remains robust with healthy Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of 93.32% with TWO & at 76.58% without TWO. Healthy Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of approx. 138% as on 30th June 2024. BOB's Global Advances registered a growth of 8.1% YoY in Q1FY25 led by robust retail loan book growth. Bank's organic Retail Advances grew by 20.9%, driven by strong growth across segments such as Auto Loan (25.1%), Home Loan (14.7%), Personal Loan (39.2%), Mortgage Loan (11%), Education Loan (18.8%). Global Deposits grew by 8.9% YoY to INR 13,06,994 crore in Q1FY25. Global Business grew by 8.6% YoY and stands at INR 23,78,675 crore as of 30th June 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Through this information, every common and special person is informed that in this office Sh. Suresh Kumar Verma R/o H.No. 425, Ward-13, Jundia Gate, Karnal have filed property tax ID No. 202C9U9 located at H.No. 425, Ward-13, Jundia Gate, Karnal has applied for registering the name in nearby Jundia Gate, Karnal. As per property tax records, the above property is registered with tax ID No. 202C9U9 without name, and Sh. Sini Chand died on 28.03.2024. The applicant has submitted a document/Will No. 28/3 dated 06.04.2021 and a copy of the affidavit for change of name in this office. Therefore, if any common man or special person gets the property as per the said will Sh. Suresh Kumar Verma R/o H.No. 425, Ward-13, Jundia Gate, Karnal, ID 202C9U9, If you have any objection for changing the name of H.No. 425, Ward-13, Jundia Gate, Karnal, you can register your objection/objections in this office within 30 days from the date of publication of the notice. Otherwise, after a period of time, it will be considered that no one has any objection regarding the above transfer. As a result, the name of the applicant will be registered/changed in the relevant unique property tax ID No. 202C9U9 in the property tax of this office. No claim will be accepted after the time period. Zonal Taxation Officer, Municipal Corporation, Karnal.

ਦਵਤਰ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ। ਚੋਣ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਦੀ ਗੱਠਵਾਲੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਲਿਮ. ਗੱਠਵਾਲੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਦੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਲਿਸਟਾਂ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਚੋਣ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਨਜ਼ੂਰੀ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਹਨ। ਨਵੀਆਂ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਗਾਈਡਲਾਈਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਜੋਨ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੂਚੀਆਂ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਚੋਣ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਹਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਲਿਸਟਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਤੀ 28.08.2024 ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝ ਦਵਤਰੀ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੱਕ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਆ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਣੇ ਚਾਹੀਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਲਿਸਟਾਂ ਨੂੰ 11.00 ਵਜੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਵਤਰ ਦੇ ਕਲਾਕ ਨੰਬਰ 411, ਬੀ-ਬਲਾਕ, ਤੀਜੀ ਮੰਜਿਲ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕੀ ਕਾਲੋਨੀ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਕੋਈ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਇਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਂਦੀ। ਇਹ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਅੱਜ ਮਿਤੀ 29.07.2024 ਨੂੰ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਚੋਣ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਆ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਚਾਰਿਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਂਦਾ। ਇਹ ਜੋਨ ਸੂਚੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਇਸ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਆ ਕੇ ਵੇਖੀਆਂ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ਕਰਤਾ ਖੁਦ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ ਸਮੇਂ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਨਾ ਆਇਆ ਤਾਂ ਉਸੇ ਦਿਨ ਹੀ ਜੋਨ ਲਿਸਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨੀ ਦੇ ਦਿਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ। ਇਹ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਅੱਜ ਮਿਤੀ 29.07.2024 ਨੂੰ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਚੋਣ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਆ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਚਾਰਿਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਂਦਾ।

ਸਹੀ - (ਰੋਹਿਤ ਗਿੱਲ), ਪੀ.ਜੀ.ਐੱਸ. 2, ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ।

PUBLIC NOTICE

Through this information, every common and special person is informed that in this office Sh. Davinder Kumar, Kusam Lata, Manji, Bala & Neeru Bala R/o H.No. F242, Part-1, Jattan Mohalla, Subhshah Gate, Karnal, have filed property tax ID No. 1E2P0J7 located at H.No. F242, Part-1, Jattan Mohalla, Subhshah Gate, Karnal has applied for registering the name in nearby Subhshah Gate, Karnal. As per property tax records, the above property is registered with tax ID No. 1E2P0J7 without name, and Sh. Sadhu Ram S/o Sh. Chhabil Das died on 04.09.2017. The applicant has submitted a document/Will No./Inheritance No. 4955/3 dated 31.08.2016 and a copy of the affidavit for change of name in this office. Therefore, if any common man or special person gets the property as per the said will Sh. Davinder Kumar, Kusam Lata, Manji Bala and Neeru Bala R/o H.No. F242, Part-1, Jattan Mohalla, Subhshah Gate, Karnal, ID 1E2P0J7, If you have any objection for changing the name of part-1, Jattan Mohalla, Subhshah Gate, Karnal, you can register your objection/objections in this office within 30 days from the date of publication of the notice. Otherwise, after a period of time, it will be considered that no one has any objection regarding the above transfer. As a result, the name of the applicant will be registered/changed in the relevant unique property tax ID No. 1E2P0J7 in the property tax of this office. No claim will be accepted after the time period. Zonal Taxation Officer, Municipal Corporation, Karnal.

ਦਵਤਰ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ। ਚੋਣ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਦੀ ਗੱਠਵਾਲੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਲਿਮ. ਗੱਠਵਾਲੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਦੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਲਿਸਟਾਂ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਚੋਣ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਨਜ਼ੂਰੀ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਹਨ। ਨਵੀਆਂ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਗਾਈਡਲਾਈਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਜੋਨ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੂਚੀਆਂ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਚੋਣ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਹਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਲਿਸਟਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਤੀ 28.08.2024 ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝ ਦਵਤਰੀ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੱਕ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ, ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਆ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਣੇ ਚਾਹੀਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਲਿਸਟਾਂ ਨੂੰ 11.00 ਵਜੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਵਤਰ ਦੇ ਕਲਾਕ ਨੰਬਰ 411, ਬੀ-ਬਲਾਕ, ਤੀਜੀ ਮੰਜਿਲ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕੀ ਕਾਲੋਨੀ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਕੋਈ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਇਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਂਦੀ। ਇਹ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਅੱਜ ਮਿਤੀ 29.07.2024 ਨੂੰ ਨਿਮਨ ਲਿਖਤ ਚੋਣ ਦੇ ਦਵਤਰ ਆ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਚਾਰਿਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਂਦਾ।

ਸਹੀ - (ਰੋਹਿਤ ਗਿੱਲ), ਪੀ.ਜੀ.ਐੱਸ. 2, ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ।

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# Gambhir praises India's tenacity but calls for further improvement on turning pitches

**PTI ■ PALLEKELE**  
Head coach Gautam Gambhir praised India for pulling off a tenacious Super Over win in the low-scoring third T20I against Sri Lanka for a series whitewash, but called for consistent improvement on pitches assisting sharp turn. In a contest delayed by an hour due to rain here on Tuesday, India struggled against both spin and pace on a fresh pitch to make a mere 137/9. But the Suryakumar Yadav-led side showed doggedness in the second half despite Sri Lanka's domination to force the contest into a Super Over, restricting the hosts to 137/8 from 129/4 after 18 overs, and eventually winning the match to seal a 3-0 win. "Guys, congratulations on a great series win. Congratulations to Surya as well, outstanding captaincy and with the bat as well. I asked for something before the start of the game and you absolutely delivered it. "This is what happens when you keep fighting, (and when) you don't give up," Gambhir told the team in a dressing room chat shared by



BCCI on 'X'. "These kind of games happen and the only way these key games can happen (in favour) is when we keep fighting on every delivery and for every run and this was the example." Gambhir, however, urged the team to keep working on improving collectively on turning tracks which posed a

different challenge to the batting group in particular. "We keep getting better, we keep improving our skills as well because we still need to get better on playing on wickets like these, because we might end up getting these kind of wickets (in future). "So we should first assess the situation and conditions

really quickly and what is the par score as well," he said. Gambhir urged players, who are not a part of the three-match ODI series starting on Friday, to enjoy their break but at the same time, keep working on their fitness. "Some of the guys will not be a part of the 50-overs format will have a longer break, so

make sure when you come back for the Bangladesh series...You can take a break. You absolutely deserve it, but more importantly, keep your skills and especially the fitness levels high." "You don't want to come for that series thinking that 'okay, I can just turn up, probably deliver for the team'. So make sure that from the fitness point of view, the fitness levels are right up there," he said. Hardik Pandya praised Shubman Gill and Riyan Parag for their gritty 54-run stand which pulled India out of trouble. "In batting first, we were challenged, the conditions were difficult, but after losing those early wickets, Shubman and Riyan, the way they batter and created the partnership was brilliant," he said. "When you speak about situational awareness, at that point of time what both of you did was very, very important. That gives us a platform to at least reach to a decent total (to which) our bowlers can make sure and bowl at the right areas," he said. Pandya praised Washington

Sundar (25 off 18 balls) and Ravi Bishnoi (8) for their respective contributions highlighting the importance of runs from lower order batters. "I always emphasise on the fact that the lower order has to come and chip in, and Washy and those eight runs by Bishi (Ravi Bishnoi) was very important," he said. Pandya also praised Suryakumar for his inspired bowling changes, with the India skipper bringing on Rinku Singh (1-0-3-2) for the penultimate over and himself for the last over (1-0-5-2) which turned the game on its head. "As Gauti bhai mentioned, Surya, well done in making sure that the way you rotate the bowlers, showing faith in the bowlers which you gave (the ball to) in the last couple of overs that was brilliant and as a bowling group, obviously, it was fantastic," he said. "When you win games like this, eventually it kind of takes us forward. We are taking it step-by-step, but this was definitely a right step going forward for the future and well done to all the guys who are playing ODIs, kill it, continue," Pandya added.

# Italy wins gold in women's team epee fencing to disappoint passionate French crowd again

**AP ■ PARIS**  
The fans at encing are among the loudest and most passionate at the Paris Olympics, especially when France is challenging for a gold medal. They usually leave disappointed. Italy overcame a passionate "Marseillaise"-singing crowd at the Grand Palais to hand France its fourth fencing silver medal of the Games in the women's team epee Tuesday. Alberta Santuccio got the winning touch for Italy in overtime against France's Auriane Mallo-Breton to complete a hard-fought 30-29 win for gold. It was the second time that Mallo-Breton lost a Paris Olympic final by a single point after a 13-12 loss to Hong Kong's Vivian Kong Man Wai in the individual epee Saturday. French fencers are 0-3 in finals against non-French opponents at the 2024 Olympics, with those losses coming in epee events. The host nation's only gold came when Manon Apithy-Brunet beat her teammate Sara Balzer in the women's saber final on Monday. "If you look at the (epee) finals, of course we seem to be losing, but we're in the finals

all the same," Mallo-Breton said Tuesday through an interpreter. "I think that in the teams, there are possibilities to go and get some wonderful medals, and we hope that the other (French) teams will be able to go and do that, so we're going to be supporting them." Team fencing involves squad members fencing one-on-one in a rotating sequence that means everyone gets to face each opponent once. Despite the overtime loss, Mallo-Breton was still France's standout in the final with a combined record of 14-10 against all opponents. Italy has one gold, one silver and one bronze medal so far in fencing. Five more team events remain. Polish fencer Aleksandra Jarecka was shaking on the floor with emotion after winning her team bronze. Jarecka tied the score with less than three seconds to go and then won the tiebreaker point for a 32-31 overtime win against China. Just before that was an unexpected twist when an apparent glitch with the scoring system seemed to give Poland an extra point in the last minute, only to take it away.

# Swiatek remains on course for another title

**AP ■ PARIS**  
For almost five full games at the Paris Olympics, No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek's high-bouncing topspin shots were being sent back over the net by No. 52 Wang Xiyu of China with crushing baseline groundstrokes of her own. Wang even held a break point that would have given her a 3-2 lead in the opening set. Then Swiatek restored the expected order on Court Philippe Chatrier - the site of her four French Open titles - and won four straight games to close out the first set along the way to advancing to the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-4 victory amid stifling conditions on Tuesday. "It's never about only one player," Swiatek said. "I was aware that she can play great tennis. And I accepted that some points she can really take advantage. But I wanted to really be intense and push in the right moments. Also be patient and not slow down. So I think my intensity worked and in important moments I was the one that was more solid." In part because of Swiatek's dominance on the red clay at Roland Garros, where the Olympic tennis tournament is being held, the 23-year-old from Poland is favored to add a gold medal to her growing collection of big titles.



Swiatek's quarterfinal opponent will be eighth-seeded American Danielle Collins, who eliminated Camila Osorio of Colombia 6-0, 4-6, 6-3. Second-ranked Coco Gauff was left fuming over a perceived missed officiating decision in a 7-6 (7), 6-2 loss to Donna Vekic of Croatia. Angelique Kerber, the 36-year-old German who has won three Grand Slam titles and used to be ranked No. 1, beat 2021 U.S. Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez of Canada 6-4, 6-3 to become the oldest women's quarterfinalist since tennis returned to the Olympics in 1988. Kerber has said the Paris Games will be the final tournament of her career. Karolina Schmiedlova of Slovakia eliminated Jasmine Paolini - the Italian who was the runner-up at the French Open and Wimbledon this year - 7-5, 3-6, 7-5. Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine rallied past seventh-seeded Maria Sakkari of Greece 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

# It's amazing leadership from big hearted Suryakumar: Washington Sundar

**PTI ■ PALLEKELE**  
Suryakumar Yadav's ability to take risks at crucial junctures of the game like using Rinku Singh in the penultimate over and himself in the final one won India the third and final T20I against Sri Lanka, said all-rounder Washington Sundar. In a low scoring match on Tuesday, India pulled off a stunning win with Suryakumar making some interesting bowling changes

towards the end of Sri Lankan innings. Chasing 138, Sri Lanka were cruising towards a comfortable win when they needed 12 runs from the last two overs with six wickets in hand, but Suryakumar introduced Rinku Singh in the penultimate over who returned 1-0-3-2, and brought himself on in the final over to take a couple of more wickets and stun Sri Lanka. In the Super Over, Sri Lanka lost two wickets in just four balls as India knocked off the



target of three runs on the first ball itself with Suryakumar hitting a four to seal a series clean sweep. "Honestly, it's amazing of him, amazing of his leadership skills to be honest because (with) 12

balls (left and) 12 (runs) to win and for him to bring Rinku (on), especially when Kushal Perera is batting, and Rinku got him out and Surya (then) himself came in the last over and won the game for us," Sundar told the media after the match. "We all know he has a big heart when he goes out there to bat but also he has a big heart in terms of leadership as well. All the credits to him and (it was) amazing of him." Sundar said it was Suryakumar

who kept on insisting that India must take wickets in the middle overs to maintain pressure on Sri Lanka, even though the hosts remained in command during the run chase. "Surya kept telling us that one or two wickets in between game would definitely change and obviously in these kind of games, low scoring games, even run-a-ball would put a lot of pressure on the batsmen because they need to get the job done especially when the

wicket had something for the bowler," he said. "He kept saying that (with) one or two wickets in the middle, especially in the middle overs between 11 to 15, (we) will definitely be in the game and exactly that's what happened.

# Daniel of Ireland wins Olympic gold and also hopes to pick up some new YouTube followers

**AP ■ NANTERRE, FRANCE**  
Daniel Wiffen won Ireland's first Olympic gold medal in the pool in 28 years. That was thrilling enough as he wiped away tears standing on the podium, the Irish flag draped over his shoulders. Perhaps just as importantly, the 23-year-old Irishman is sure to pick up some new followers on his YouTube channel - a pitch he made when asked how people can learn more about a swimmer who is largely unknown outside his country. "People should watch," Wiffen said after winning the 800-meter freestyle on Tuesday night. "I blog every week - show you exactly what an Olympic champion does day-in, day-out in the pool." Get ready for a flood of fans, Daniel. Wearing round glasses and looking studious, Wiffen cried as the Irish anthem played in La Defense Arena. He may not



look the part of an Olympic champion, but his performance in the pool says otherwise. Wiffen will be back later in the Paris Games, hoping to win another gold on Sunday in the 1,500 meters - the final day of competition in the pool. "I don't normally cry, so I really hope nobody is going to see that," Wiffen said. "But it did come out of me, and it's obviously just a special moment. I've never heard that national anthem from an Olympics before." Wiffen surged past Italy's Gregorio Paltrinieri on the

final lap, looking as fresh as he did at the beginning of the grueling race. He won in 7 minutes, 38.19 seconds, overpowering defending Olympic champion Bobby Finke (7:38.75) of the United States and Paltrinieri (7:39.38). Mona McSharry won bronze for Ireland's first medal of these Games on the previous night in the 100 breaststroke. "I was dying the last 20 meters," Wiffen said. "I'm not sure if you saw that, because my arms are in absolutely so much pain. But I knew that the crowd is gonna carry me in, and that's exactly what happened. Then I saw the red light on the block, and that was it." Until these Olympics, Ireland's swimming history was essentially confined to Michelle Smith de Bruin, who surprisingly claimed three golds and a bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics amid suspicions she was doping.

# Kaylee still rules Olympic backstroke

**AP ■ NANTERRE, FRANCE**  
When it's time to race, Kaylee McKeown is sure hard to beat. American Regan Smith came into the women's 100-meter backstroke at the Paris Olympics with the world record and no shortage of confidence. At the turn Tuesday night, it was Smith in the lead with McKeown right on her heels. By the time they reached the other end of the pool, it was the Aussie lunging there first. McKeown still rules the backstroke. "She is an absolutely incredible racer and she knows what to do when it matters," Smith said. Smith, who broke McKeown's world mark with a time of 57.13 seconds at the U.S. Trials last month, led at the turn but couldn't hold off the hard-charging Aussie, who defended the title she won in Tokyo three years ago. McKeown surged to the front about halfway through the return lap and reached for the wall in 57.33, winning by a



relatively comfortable margin over Smith's finish of 57.66. "The nerves were definitely there but I just reminded myself it's a pool in a different venue, and I train every single day of my life," McKeown said. The U.S. Also grabbed the bronze as Katharine Berkoff touched third in 57.98, capturing her first Olympic medal and following in the footsteps of her father, David Berkoff, who won four medals - two of them gold - in Seoul and Barcelona. Smith reached over the lane rope to congratulate

McKeown, but this one had to sting. The 22-year-old Minnesota native appeared to be in top form and primed to win her first gold medal. Instead, it was McKeown capturing her fourth gold overall. She swept the backstroke events in Tokyo and also claimed a relay gold. "It's one race at a time," McKeown said. "I've checked off three boxes so far and there's a few more to go."

runner-up spots in all three of the finals. Bobby Finke came up short in defense of his Olympic title in the men's 800 freestyle, relegated to silver by Ireland's Daniel Wiffen. The Americans also finished second in the men's 4x200 freestyle behind Britain, which captured its second straight gold in that event. Through four days at La Defense Arena, the U.S. Has a bunch of medals - 15 in all - but only two of them are gold. Seven silvers and six bronzes round out the tally. **Irish win first swimming gold since 1996** Wiffen won Ireland's first gold medal in swimming since scandal-plagued Michelle Smith finished first in three events at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Wiffen surged past Italy's Gregorio Paltrinieri on the final lap, looking as fresh as he did at the beginning of the grueling race. Actually, he was in excruciating pain. "I was dying the last 20 meters," Wiffen said. "I'm not sure if

you saw that, because my arms are in absolutely so much pain. But I knew that the crowd is gonna carry me in, and that's exactly what happened. Then I saw the red light on the block, and that was it." Wiffen won in 7 minutes, 38.19 seconds, climbing on the lane ropes to hold one finger skyward. Finke also came on strong late in what was essentially a three-man race, also passing Paltrinieri to take the silver in 7:38.75. The bronze went to the Italian, who posted a time of 7:39.38. It was another dazzling performance by an Irish swimmer, on the heels of Mona McSharry grabbing a bronze in the 100 breaststroke the previous night. Until these Olympics, the country's swimming history was essentially confined to Smith, who surprisingly claimed three golds and a bronze in 1996 amid suspicions she was doping. She later received a doping ban that essentially ended her career, but she kept her medals.

**ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION**  
(A Statutory Body of Government of India)  
(Ministry of Education)

Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070  
Website: www.aicte-india.org Ph. No.011-25511000

**ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ON DEPUTATION BASIS IN THE AICTE**

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Pay Scale & Grade pay as per 6th CPC	Pay Matrix & Level as per 7th CPC	No. of Posts*
1	Advisor-I (Group-A)	PB-4, Rs.37400-67000 G.P. Rs. 10000	Rs.144200-218200 Level-14	01
2	Advisor-II (Group-A)	PB-4, Rs.37400-67000 G.P. Rs. 8900	Rs.131100-216600 Level-13A	02
3	Director (Group-A)	PB-4, Rs.37400-67000 G.P. Rs. 8700	Rs.123100-215900 Level-13	02
4	Assistant Director (Group-A)	PB-3, Rs.15600-39100 G.P. Rs. 6600	Rs.67700-208700 Level-11	03

\*No. of post may increase or decrease as per the requirement of the Council.

All other details such as eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, procedure for online submission and general terms and conditions of appointment will be available at AICTE's website (<https://www.aicte-india.org/bulletins/advertisements>) from 01.08.2024. Interested candidate may apply online for the above post on or before 30.08.2024 by uploading the requisite supporting document. The Council reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of vacancies or to cancel the advertisement without assigning any reason thereto.

Adv. No. Admin (Estt./AICTE/07/01)2024  
CBC213001/2/0006/2425

Prof. RAJIVE KUMAR  
Member Secretary, AICTE

REOI No: N-I 1018/05/2023-RL-Proc (386466)

**Ministry of Rural Development  
Rural Livelihoods Division  
Government of India**

**Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)**

The Ministry of Rural Development, Rural Livelihoods Division, invites Expression of Interest, engaging a Technical Support Agency for the Operations and Management of the SARAS Gallery and eSARAS, eCommerce portal under DAY NRLM on 'Revenue Sharing Basis'.

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in hard copy in packed envelope to the Ministry by or before the deadline i.e. 21 August 2024 up to 2:00 P.M. EOI should be dropped in the tender box at reception at Ground Floor, NDCC II Building, Jai Singh Marg, New Delhi 110001. The details REOI along with Terms of Reference (TOR) may be downloaded from

<https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/> Sd/-  
<https://rural.nic.in/endouncements/advertisement-tenders> Joint Secretary (RL)  
<https://nrlm.gov.in> Ministry of Rural Development  
<https://aajeevika.gov.in> Rural Livelihood Division  
CBC 351011/1/0002/2425 Government of India

**JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited**  
Corporate Identify Number: U67190MH2007PLC74287  
Registered Office: 7th Floor, Chery, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025  
Contact Person: 1.Ashish Handa - 8800122572 2.Vishal Ketele - 9584966653 3. Jyoti Sawant - 022 - 6224 1676

**E-Auction Sale Notice - Fresh Sale**

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE ON SYMBOLIC POSSESSION, E-AUCTION DATE: 12.09.2024, 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM

Loan Code / Branch / Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address_final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (24-07-2024)
Loan Code No. 13500009848, Chandigarh Metro (Branch), Satish Sharma (Borrower), Jyoti Wo Satish Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	Dr: 28-03-2017, Rs. 1992778/-, (Rs. Nineteen lakh Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight Only)	All the piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent - Flat No. 2089 Second Floor Acme Floor Tdi City 2 Sec 110-111 Mohali chandigarh Chandigarh - 160055	Rs. 2927000/- (Rs. Twenty Nine lakh Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Only)	Rs. 292700/- (Rs. Two lakh Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Only)	Rs. 4916126/- (Rs. Forty Nine lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six Only)

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 12-09-2024, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M. (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 11-09-2024, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.jmfinancialarc.com/Home/Assetsforsale> OR <https://www.bankauctions.in>.

**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR**  
The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.

Sd/-  
(Authorised Officer) (Aranya - Trust)

**ELECTRICAL WORK IN KATHIHAR DIVISION**

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: EL\_GEN\_11\_24-25; Dated: 29-07-2024.**  
E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No: EL\_GEN\_11\_24-25; Name of work: "Maida Town-Proposal for Advance Inspection - Tender Phase-2 for maintenance of Electric Locomotives at Diesel Loco Shed Maida Town N.F. Railway" (Electrical General)** Tender Value: ₹87,37,633.86; Earnest Money: ₹1,74,800.00. **E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 21-08-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 21-08-2024.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 21-08-2024 in website [www.iरेps.gov.in](http://www.iरेps.gov.in)

Sr. DEE/TRD, OP & GS/Kathihar  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
"Serving Customers with a smile"

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**CONVERSION OF GALGALIA STATION**

**E-Tender Notice No. RT\_EL\_GS\_08\_24-25 Dated: 29-07-2024.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. RT\_EL\_GS\_08\_24-25. Name of work: Conversion of Galgalia station from D-class to B-class station. (Electrical General)** Tender Value: ₹64,14,067/-; Earnest Money: ₹1,28,300/-; Date & Time of closing of tender: 15:00 hrs of 20-08-2024 & opening at 15:30 hrs. of 20-08-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website [www.iरेps.gov.in](http://www.iरेps.gov.in)

Sr. DEE/TRD/Kathihar  
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