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INSIDE

MONEY 10
20 PER CENT CYBERCRIMES INVOLVE DARK WEB USAGE BY ATTACKERS SAYS REPORT



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BULLETS FIRED IN GOLDEN TEMPLE



Narain Singh Chaura nabbed after he opened fire at Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal while the latter was serving the punishment given by the Akal Takht at the Golden Temple, in Amritsar PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AMRITSAR/NEW DELHI

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former Punjab Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday escaped a brazen assassination attempt in Golden Temple when a former terrorist fired at him from a close range. However, the missed as a plainclothes policeman overpowered the assailant. He was identified as Narain Singh Chaura. Badal, a 'Z Plus' protectee, who was serving as a guard at the Temple entrance as part of a religious punishment, is safe. Videos showed the wheelchair-bound leader, in a blue 'sewadar' uniform and holding a spear in one hand and a small board hung around his neck, acknowledging his "misdeeds". The attack, which took place around

9:30 am, was captured on cameras of media persons who had gathered to cover the second day of Badal performing the duty of 'sewadar' outside the shrine as penance for "mistakes" committed by the SAD government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017. Television footage showed the shooter slowly walking towards Badal (62), who was sitting in a wheelchair due to a fractured leg, and pulling out a gun from his pocket. The weapon is reportedly a sophisticated 9mm pistol and sources said prima facie it appeared to be a lone wolf attack. A police official in plainclothes standing near Badal quickly grabbed the attacker's hands and pushed him away. In the melee, a bullet hit the shrine's entrance wall behind Badal, who escaped unhurt. Soon other security personnel and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak

Committee (SGPC) task force members also intervened. Badal continued his penance after the attack, with a security ring thrown around him. His wife and Bathinda Member of Parliament Harsimrat Kaur Badal also reached the Golden Temple to meet him. The shooter Narain Singh Chaura, is a resident of Dera Baba Nanak, and a former terrorist owing allegiance to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI). After the attack, he was taken away by security officials, and arrested. Amritsar Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said the attack on Badal was foiled because of the alertness of police. Police official Rashpal Singh noticed Chaura first, as he is a former terrorist and has a criminal history. When Chaura whipped out his weapon, Assistant Sub-Inspector Jasbir Singh and another police

official, Parminder Singh, held Chaura's hands and as a result, the bullet went upwards, said the commissioner. "Narain Singh Chaura has been arrested and an FIR has been registered against him. The weapon used in the attack has been recovered," Bhullar said, adding that the case will be investigated from all angles. The motive behind the attack will be ascertained after Chaura's questioning. He came alone to the Golden Temple, he said. Responding to a question, Bhullar said the security deployment at the shrine was sufficient. Police cannot carry out frisking because religious sentiments are involved, he said. Detailed security deployment had been made at the Golden Temple complex. Around 175 police personnel led by an assistant inspector general have been deployed

there, he said. ASI Jasbir Singh, whose brave act won him praise from all quarters, told reporters that he was only performing his duty. Additional Deputy Commissioner Harpal Singh said police were alert and had been keeping an eye on the accused. "We had covered Sukhbir ji," he said. Chaura was here on Tuesday as well, the officer said. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann directed police to thoroughly investigate the incident while opposition parties demanded his resignation over the "breakdown" of law and order in the state. Mann lauded police for their promptness in nabbing the attacker and termed it a "great success". He said "Punjab Police prevented a major incident today. It is the result of the promptness of Punjab Police that the conspiracy to defame Punjab and Punjabis has failed," he said. "I strongly condemn the attack on Sukhbir Badal ji. I have issued strict instructions to police to immediately investigate the incident and submit a report," he added. Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh said it was not an attack on Badal but on the 'sewadar' who was performing his duty outside the Golden Temple. SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhani said the "targeting" of Badal while performing religious service at the holy shrine was "extremely saddening" and "immoral". Senior SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema, who is also undergoing religious punishment, demanded Mann's resignation over the incident. "For Punjab, this is a big incident. Where are we taking the state? I want to ask the Punjab chief minister where Punjab is headed. It is a 100 per cent failure of law and order. The chief minister should resign," he told reporters. Cheema also demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident.

Delhi boxer kills his entire family to avenge 'insult'



Police personnel and others at a house at Neb Sarai area where a middle-aged couple and their daughter were found dead Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old state-level boxer killed his father, mother and elder sister on Wednesday morning in South Delhi's Neb Sarai, as he was "hurt" and felt "insulted" by them, as he suspected that they were going to name their daughter in their will. According to police, the accused Arjun Tanwar alias Bunty's father had recently scolded him in public, and this proved to be the last straw for him. Arjun decided to kill his parents on their 27th anniversary to gain sympathy, and avoid any suspicion, police said. The deceased have been identified as 51-year-old Rajesh Kumar Tanwar, his 46-year-old wife Komal and their 23-year-old daughter Kavita. According to police sources, Arjun, who has represented in the Delhi Olympics in boxing and earned a silver medal, executed the brutal

crime by first killing his sister. He slit her throat while she was sleeping on the ground floor. However, while he was attacking her, Kavita bit Arjun on the finger. He then went to the first floor and slit his father's throat after stabbing him on his head first. When his mother Komal tried to escape, he silenced her by cupping his hands on her mouth, and then slit her throat, the police said. According to preliminary investigation, the murders took place between 5 am and 7 am. According to neighbours, Rajesh was a retired army officer and Kavita had earned a black belt in Martial Arts. Arjun used his father's 'army' dagger to commit the crime. To avoid suspicion, he murdered his family members and then went for a jog to Sunder nag, instead of going to his gym session to establish an alibi.

Fadnavis wins Maha musical chairs



BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis with Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, NCP chief Ajit Pawar and BJP Central Observers Nirmala Sitharaman and Vijay Rupani meet Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan to stake claim to form the new Maharashtra Government PTI

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After 11 days of drama, suspense and speculation, Devendra Fadnavis was elected unanimously as the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party Legislature Party (BJPLP) leader here on Wednesday, thus paving way for him being sworn in as Maharashtra's next Chief Minister at a ceremony to be held on Thursday. Within hours after Fadnavis' election as the BJPLP leader, the ruling MahaYuti - comprising BJP, Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party

NCP (AP) met Governor CP Radhakrishnan at Raj Bhavan in south Mumbai and staked claim for forming a new Government in the State. The Governor invited them for the oath-taking ceremony scheduled for Thursday. With his election as the BJPLP leader, 54-year-old Fadnavis will be administered the oath of office and secrecy as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the third consecutive time, at a swearing-in ceremony to be held at the historic Azad Maidan in south Mumbai at 5.30 pm Thursday.

Fadnavis, who has once again staged a comeback as the chief minister of Maharashtra, was earlier the CM of the state for five years from October 2014 to October 2019 and for a brief 90 hours in November 2019. A six-time MLA, Fadnavis is close to the top brass of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He is the second Brahmin chief minister in Maharashtra politics after Manohar Joshi of the united Shiv Sena who held the top post between 1995 and 1999. In the run-up to the 2014 Maharashtra polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promoted Fadnavis as a chief ministerial candidate, by saying: "deshe me Devendra", while senior BJP leader Amit Shah had described him as "current and future" CM of Maharashtra. Not many in Maharashtra political circles can forget his much-discussed statement "Me Punha Yain, Me Punha Yain" (I will return, I will return) that he had made repeatedly in the run-up to the 2019 State Assembly polls to suggest that he would return as the chief minister of the state.

Commuters suffer, police, Cong lock horns at UP border

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who were heading towards violence-hit Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh, were stopped at the Ghazipur border between Delhi and Noida, causing a high-voltage drama, leading to massive traffic jams during the morning peak hours. The traffic congestion at Delhi-Meerut Expressway in Ghaziabad worsened as Congress workers gathered there ahead of Rahul and Priyanka's planned visit to Sambhal. The Congress workers defied barricading and also engaged in a scuffle with the commuters on the stretch, who faced a harrowing time reaching their destinations due to the traffic congestion. Long queues of vehicles could be seen at the border, leaving commuters frustrated. Many people got stuck in the jam at the Delhi-UP Ghazipur border, which led to their work being affected, and as a result, some lost their cool. Some couldn't reach their offices, while others missed their exams. The situation was



Police stop Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress supporters at the Ghazipur border while they were on the way to visit the violence-hit Sambhal district, in Ghaziabad PTI

so dire that the angry crowd clashed with Congress workers. Vehicles were seen clogging the roads for several kilometres. Several commuters shared their grievances with The Pioneer, and slammed the Congress leaders for blocking the traffic during the morning peak hours. "My daughter is having an examination in Meerut at 1 pm. I have been stuck in traffic for the past two hours. If politicians want to protest, they can sit on the side of the

road. Why should the public suffer?" said a commuter who was involved in the scuffle with Congress workers. Sambhal authorities had requested neighbouring districts to stop the Congress leaders before they enter the district. The District Magistrate has written to officers in Bulandshahr, Amroha, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Buddha Nagar, appealing to them to intercept the Rahul Gandhis at the border. He has also instructed

the officials to closely monitor Rahul Gandhi's activities on his way to Sambhal. As the Congress leaders stopped at the border, Rahul and other leaders stepped out of the vehicle and held discussions with senior police officers but were not permitted to proceed further. After hours of deadlock, Rahul and Priyanka were escorted to the Parliament in Delhi by the Uttar Pradesh Police in their vans. Rahul said that he was willing to travel to Sambhal alone with the police but was not allowed to proceed. "As the leader of the opposition, it is my constitutional right. I should have been allowed," he said. Priyanka who was accompanying him, added, "Rahul ji holds a constitutional post and has the constitutional right. He should be allowed to meet the victims' families." Curbs under Section 163 (power to issue an order in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which were set to expire on Sunday, have now been extended till December 31 in Sambhal.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

NCR breathes 'moderate' air after 50 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi breathed almost 'clean' air on Wednesday, after a gap of 50 days, as the Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded in the 'moderate' category. The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city was recorded at 178 at 4 pm, registering an improvement from 268 on Tuesday. Many people are hoping to get relaxation from the GRAP IV restrictions when the matter comes up for hearing in the Supreme Court on Thursday. Earlier, the AQI was recorded in the 'moderate' category with a reading of 198 on October 15. However, the AQI had deteriorated and shifted to the 'poor' category the following day, according to Central Pollution Control Board data. Najafgarh was the least air polluted area with an air quality index of 112 while Munda was the most polluted area with an AQI 286. Speaking about the improved air quality, an official of the India Meteorological Department said strong surface winds were forecast in the city on Wednesday. The winds will blow till December 7, when a new western disturbance is expected, which will lead to moderate fog starting December 8. Of the 38 air quality monitoring stations in the city, only Sri Aurobindo Marg reported air quality in the 'very poor' category on Wednesday, while eight others showed air quality in the 'poor' category. The remaining reported 'moderate' air quality, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Active terror module busted in Srinagar Central Jail

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) and State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police Wednesday busted an active terror module of proscribed terrorist organizations and recovered mobile phones/SIM cards and other incriminating documents during a surprise raid inside the Central Jail, Srinagar. More than 500 inmates are lodged inside one of the oldest Central Jails of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The investigating agencies are also looking into the aspect of a major security breach of Central Jail premises as to how these digital communication devices reached the jail premises. According to a statement issued by the Jammu and Kashmir police, the searches at Central Jail, Srinagar were conducted in pursuance to a search warrant issued by



Court of Special Judge, Designated under NIA Act, Srinagar in case FIR No. 06/2023 u/s 153-A, 505, 121 & 120-B IPC r/w 13 & 39 UA(P) Act. The police spokesman said the Facilitators/collaborators in this act will also become the subject of investigation. During the raid, searches were conducted in different blocks/barracks of Central Jail Srinagar wherein incriminating material in the form of SIM cards, Mobile

terrorist organisations and their handlers are continuously in the process of creating 'new terror modules' (gangs) wherein by misusing various social media applications, youths of Kashmir are lured by varied ways and means including radicalisation/instigation/provocation etc. to make the youths indulge in unlawful and terrorist activities and also to join terrorist ranks for furthering the activities of these terrorist organizations. During investigation of the instant case, it emerged that mobile phones/devices are being used in Central Jail, Srinagar premises by under trial terrorists/OGWs/supporters/sympathizers of various proscribed terrorist organizations for communicating with active terrorists and passing on directions so received from the handlers sitting across for furtherance of terrorist activities.

Tharoor's monkey baat...



Congress leader Shashi Tharoor reads a newspaper while a monkey sits on his lap PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Known for his extensive vocabulary, veteran politician Shashi Tharoor may have been at a loss of words for a few moments when he had a warm encounter of the wild kind at his residence on Wednesday. He soon shared the "extraordinary experience" he had at his home when a monkey ran towards him, hugged him and after being treated to a couple of bananas. The monkey felt so much at home that he rested on former Union Minister Tharoor's chest, while he continued reading newspapers in the garden. Tharoor shared a series of photos of this unusual encounter on X, and went on to narrate the incident that left many

users of the platform amused. "Had an extraordinary experience today. While I was sitting in the garden, reading my morning newspapers, a monkey wandered in, headed straight for me and parked himself on my lap. He hungrily ate a couple of bananas we offered him, hugged me and proceeded to rest his head on my chest and dozed off," the Congress leader said on X. "I gently began to get up, he leapt off and loped away," Tharoor added. He said reverence for wildlife is ingrained in him, and though he was a bit concerned about the risk of a monkey-bite which would have necessitated anti-rabies shots, he stayed calm and welcomed his presence as non-threatening. "I am gratified that my faith was borne out and our encounter was entirely peaceful and gentle," Tharoor said. Reacting to the post, one X user said, "Probably you got the blessings of Hanuman ji. I zoomed in on all the pictures to find out which newspaper the best Member of Parliament was reading." Another person wrote, "What a beautiful encounter with nature! Moments like these remind us of the deep, unspoken connection we share with other beings. That monkey's trust in you speaks volumes about your aura of kindness. Truly, experiences like these make us pause and appreciate the simplicity and warmth of life beyond words."

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

I, Jaspal Singh Saini S/o Harcharan Singh R/o Nabha Sahib, Tehsil Derabassi D, Dialpura (289) Dialpura, declare that my ID Card of ICICI Bank 2403697 has been lost at Mohali Dated 30.11.2024. DDR has been done PS Zirakpur Mohali. DDR no is 543484/2024. If Anybody found contact-9914320001.

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Amarjeet Kaur wife of Late Churni Lal R/O village and post office Mullana tehsil Barara district Ambala (Haryana). My son Pardeep Kaur is out of reach of me and my family. Now me and my family do not have any kind of relation with them and I and my family evict them from our movable and immovable property. In future, the person who has any type of transaction and dispute with them himself will be responsible.

I, Savita Saini w/o Arun Saini R/o H.no 247/17, Anand Nagar, Ward no.11, Sonipat declare that my son Mayank Saini is out of my control. So I disown him from my all movable/immovable property. Any body deals with him at own risk.

I, Vijay Bahadur S/o Shri Ram Sunder r/o H.No.34.A, Village Jujhar Nagar, Distt. Mohali declare that my son Kuldeep Kumar and his wife Soni Rani are out of my control I disown them from my movable/immovable properties. Anybody deal with him at his own risk.

We Suraj Prakash S/o Vasudev & Sudesh Rani W/o Suraj R/o 3445, Near Shermok Vidyalaya, Puchpa Vihar Colony, Barara, Ambala declare that our Son Raman kumar and his wife Punam Sharma are out of our Control. So we Disown them from our all Movable Immovable Properties.

We, Randhir, S/o Gianl Ram and Lakhi, wife of Randhir, R/o # 45 village Moginand, Sector-25, Panchkula Haryana, our daughter Shivani is out of our control. We disown her from our all movable/immovable Peropertes anybody dealing with her at his/ her own risk.

I, Bal Kishan S/o Hawa Singh R/o Ward 11, Nand Colony Tehsil Pehowa, Kurukshetra My Son Vijay Kumar is out of my control. I, disown them from all my moveable and immovable properties. If anybody deals with him at his own risk.

I, Dhanwanti W/o late Sh. Ram Prasad R/o H.N. 856, Gali No. 8, Brahmapur, Nalapar, Karnal, hereby state that I am happy with my son Naresh and his wife Paramejeth Kaur who are now serving me, therefore I now consider them equal partners in my movable and immovable property, therefore in future I have included them in my family.

I, Manpreet Kaur W/o Gaurav Bhatia R/ Flat No E-602 Impreal Heights Kharar Landran Road, Sector 115, Chappad Chidi Kalan, S.A.S. Nagar Mohali declared that I am not responsible for the activities conducted by my brother Harman Deep Singh. Any person who deals with him will do so at his/her own risk and responsibility.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bindu W/o Shashikant Verma R/o H.No. 247, New Shastri Nagar Lane No. 1 Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur 146001 Punjab declare that my minor son Naitik Verma date of birth certificate my name has been wrongly mentioned as Bindu but my all documents correct name is Brinda Varma. Concerned note.

I, Anandi Devi W/o Vikram Singh # 1797/1, Sector- 29B, Chandigarh is hereby declare that in my Pan Card No. ACVDP4734D my Husband's name entered instead of my father's name. My father name may be treated as Shyam Singh for Pan Card and my actual date of Birth is 12/12/1956 in my Service Record which may be corrected in Pan Card.

I, Premnarayan Jatav is legally father of Jagdish Jatav, R/o Gram Bhadkya Post Office Khuri, Tehsil Bagra, District Raigadh, State Madhya Pradesh Pin code 465674 have changed my name from Premnarayan Jatav to Premnarayan and have changed my DOB 01 January 1970 to 01 January 1975 vide affidavit No. IN-PB85608613320020W Dated 04 December 2024 Before District Court, Gurdaspur (Punjab)

I, Kanta Rani Widow of No. 13925581 Ex NK Late Sh. Hardwari Lal R/o 265, Gali No. 5, Shri Harkrishan Nagar, Kale Road, Chheharta, Amritsar, Punjab-143105 declare that in my husband's service record my name and date of birth was wrongly mentioned as Kanta Kumari instead of Kanta Rani and DOB 01-01-1947 and claim details my DOB mentioned as 14-02-1946 instead of 31-12-1945.

I, Ganga Chhetri W/o No. 5852817X, Rank HAV, Name Dinesh Kumar Presenty Unit 1/9 Gorkha Rifle C/o 56 APO, R/o Village Bazidpur, Postoffice Bir Mathana, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, declare that my name and Date of birth is wrongly mentioned as Ganga Chhetri and 02.05.1993 in my Husband Army record. While my actual name and Date of Birth is Ganga Devi and 11.05.1994. Concern please note.

I, No. 14602115A Ex L/NK Davinder Singh S/O Late Sh. Hans Raj R/O VPO : Rampur Bilon, Teh - Garhshankar, Distt - Hoshiarpur, Pb, has changed the name and DOB of my son from Abhishak Rana DOB 05.01.2002 to Abhishek Rana DOB 05.01.2001 vide Affidavit dt 27.11.2024 signed by Executive Magistrate.

I, No. 14602115A Ex L/NK Davinder Singh S/O Late Sh. Hans Raj R/O VPO : Rampur Bilon, Teh - Garhshankar, Distt - Hoshiarpur, Pb, has changed the name of my daughter from Shivali to Shivali Rana (DOB 10.06.1994) vide Affidavit dt 27.11.2024 signed by Executive Magistrate.

I, Manpreet Kaur Daughter of Army No. JC-511207H Rank Sub Name JUDGE Singh S/O Naranjan Singh presently residing at Village Majjupur Tehsil & District Tarn Taran (Punjab) India, that in my father's service record my date of birth was wrongly written as 07-10-2003. But my actual date of birth is 07-11-2003. Vide affidavit dated 03/12/2024, before attested by Executive Magistrate Chahbal (Tarn Taran) Punjab, (E-Stamp No. IN-PB85102580095045W)

I, Manpreet Kaur Daughter of Army No. JC-511207H Rank Sub Name Judge Singh S/O Naranjan Singh presently residing at Village Majjupur Tehsil & District Tarn Taran (Punjab) India, that in my father's service record my name was wrongly written as Ramanpreet Kaur, But my actual name is Manpreet Kaur. Vide affidavit dated 03/12/2024, before attested by Executive Magistrate Chahbal (Tarn Taran) Punjab, (E-Stamp No. IN-PB85103319414714W)

It is for the general information that I, Mehar Singh S/o Jati Ram R/O H. No. 1792, Old Bahadur Chand Colony, Hansi Road, Karnal, Haryana-132001 declare that in my Pension Payment Order No. 240199500738 (Army) Regimental Number 13863167A my name wrongly written as Mahar Singh. The actual name of mine is Mehar Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Tisha Sharma D/o Sudhir Sharma R/o Flat No. 402, GH 21, Sector 24 Panchkula have changed my name to Tisha Mawa.

I, Prateek Phaugat S/o Prem Singh R/o 2741, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana -131001 have changed my minor daughter's name from Sharanya to Sharanya Singh for all purposes.

I, Prateek S/o Prem Singh R/o 2741, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana -131001 have changed my name to Prateek Phaugat for all purposes.

I, Mona W/o Prateek Phaugat R/o 2741, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana 131001 have changed my name to Mona Singh for all purposes.

I, Akash S/o Mohinder Pal R/O H.No. 3530, Near Gateway College, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Akash Jangra for all future purposes.

I, Sanjay S/o Shiv Chran Sharma R/o 62/13, Sikka Colony, Delhi Road, Sonipat,131001, Haryana have changed my name to Sanjay Sharma for all purposes.

I, Anuja D/o Prithvi Singh R/o Dhangar, Tehsil & District Fatehabad declare that in my 10th HBSE Marksheet my aadhar number mentioned 958099693855 & my father name entered as Prithvi Singh, which are wrong. While my correct aadhar number 4666 2907 9671. My Father's correct name Prithvi Singh as per his all other documents. Now I want to make my correct Aadhar Number as 4666 2907 9671 & my father's correct name as Prithvi Singh in my 10th HBSE Marksheet.

I, Kaumudi Huria D/o Sandeep Huria R/o H. No. 745, Sector-13, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Kaumudi Huria to Kaumudi for future purpose.

I, Gaurav Mittal S/o Basheshar Nath R/O Village Mussenbill (H), Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor daughter's name from Keshvi to Keshvi Mittal.

I, Gaurav Mittal S/o Basheshar Nath R/O Village Mussenbill (H), Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar declare that my wife's name has changed from Ritu Mittal to Ritu Rani.

I, Parmanand S/o Sahab Singh, R/o 9F, New Police Line, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar, declare that Parmanand and Permanand both are my name, one and the same person.

I, Dipanshu S/o Bijender Singh R/o VPO Baliana, Distt Rohtak declare that I want to correct my father name from Bijander to Bijender Singh and correct mother name from Sarita to Sarita Devi in future for all purposes.

I, Himanshu S/O Sh. Mukesh Garg, R/O House No. 3009, Kacha Bazar, Ambala Cantt Have Changed My Name From Himanshu To Himanshu Garg.

I, Vina Sharma w/o Shri Topnath Sharma R/O # 1354, First Floor, Extension 3 Gillco Valley, Sector 127, Kharar, SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab have changed my name from Vina Sharma to Vina Gaire.

I, Topnath Sharma s/o Shri Durga Dutt Sharma R/O #1354, First Floor, Extension 3, Gillco Valley, Sector127, Kharar, SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab have changed my name from Topnath Sharma to Topnath Gaire.

I, Chandher Mohan S/o Sh. Amar Singh R/O Village Kamla Post office Kangta Failag, Tehsil Dadahua, District Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh have changed my minor son name from Bhupendra thakur to Bhavik Thakur.

I, Rajendra Singh Father of Aniruddh R/o #SNCO's Mess, 3 BRD Air Force Chandigarh, have changed my Son name from Aniruddh to Aniruddh Singh vide Affidavit No. - IN-CH53415432949682W Dated 30-11-2024 before Notary, Distt. Court at Chandigarh.

I, Abhinav son of Suresh C R/o #Chenghalil House, Kizhakkumpuram, Mannur, Palakkad, Kerala 678642 have changed my name from Abhinav to Abhinav C S vide Affidavit No - IN-CH53220207369110W Dated 30-11-2024 before Notary, Distt. Court at Chandigarh.

I, Neeraj Kumar Yadava S/o Sh. Chhahil Nath Yadav R/o #3351/A, Sector 31-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Neeraj Kumar Yadava to Neeraj Kumar Yadav vide Affidavit No. - IN-CH5364592445241W Dated 27-11-2024 before Notary, Distt. Court at Chandigarh.

I, Raj Kumar S/o Bishna Ram R/o # 1822, Sector-17 Huda Jagadhri, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my name from Raj Kumar Kesar S/o Bishna Ram Kesar to Raj Kumar S/o Bishna Ram.

I, Sneh W/o Sh. Narendar, R/o H.No.124, Village PalriKalan, Tehsil Rai, Distt. Sonipat, declare that Sneh and SnehLata both are my names. In future, I would like to be known as Sneh.

I, Sonia Devi W/o Sh. Dilawar, R/o Village Adiyana, Distt. Panipat, declare I have changed my name from Sonia to Sonia Devi for all future purpose.

I, Sangeeta Jaiswal W/o 15691537N HAV Beerandra Kumar Jaiswal R/o Village Kotdar, PO Koliuhdi, Distt Sidhi, MP declared that in my Husband's Army Documents my name has been erroneously written as Sangeeta whereas my correct name is Sangeeta Jaiswal. All concerned please note.

I, No 15434391H Hav Sandeep Kumar R/O Village Gumton P.O. Sikri, Tehsil Indri District Karnal, Haryana declare that in my service record my father's name is wrongly written as Ram Kumar instead of Ramkumar and D.O.B. 01.01.1957 instead of 15.04.1954.

I, No 15434391H Hav Sandeep Kumar R/O Village Gumton P.O. Sikri, Tehsil Indri District Karnal, Haryana declare that in my service record my mother's name is wrongly written as Kashmiri Devi instead of Kashmiri Devi and D.O.B. 01.01.1959 instead of 01.01.1960.

I, Akash deep Kaur W/o Sarabjit Singh R/O Village Chak Raju Singh, PO Sandhara, Teh and Distt Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Akash deep Kaur to Akashdeep Kaur. Concerned Note.

I, Smt. A R Gogana W/o No. 6815173 Ex Hav (Hony NB Sub) Prem Kumar Gogana R/o VPO Panwan Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from A R Gogana to Asha Rani and my date of birth from 17-02-1951 to 23-01-1950.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Ram Parshad r/o House no. 2329, Sector 5/2, Chandigarh have changed my Father's Name from Ram Parsad to Ram Parshad.

I, Ananya Singh D/o Surinder Pal Singh R/o H.No. 92P, part-1 Sec 11 HUDA Panipat have changed my name from Ananya to Noor Jaglan for all future purposes.

I, Jayanand S/o Mohan Lal # 62, Sector 27-A, Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor daughter from Kumari Deepika to Deepika.

I, Khushwinder Kaur W/o Jaswinder Singh Maan # 4094, Sector 56, Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor son from Tanishq Maan to Tejveer Singh Maan.

I, Shobha D/o Ram Yadav # 3576, Mauli Jagran Colony, Chandigarh have changed my name to Shreya Yadav.

I, Amandeep S/o Surat Singh Negi # 1015, Sector 36 C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Amandeep Singh Negi.

I, Surt Singh Negi S/O Thaper Singh # 1015 Sector 36 C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Surat Singh Negi.

I Ankur Malik S/o Anil Kumar alias Anil Verma R/O House No 122, Manauli House Ambala City inform that Ankur Malik & Ankur Verma both are one & the same person.

I Vikrant Kumar S/o Ram Sharan R/o H.No- 54 Sethi enclave Ambala City have changed my name from Vikrant Madan to Vikrant Kumar.

I, Anjana Davi W/o Sh.Sunil Kumar Singh, R/o H No. 85K Vill jansua, Jansui Ambala City, District Ambala, Haryana have changed my name from Anjana Davi to Anjana Devi in my husband service record.

I, Rachna W/o Ravinder Rawal R/o H.No.1657, near BDEO Office, Bapoli Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Rachna to Rachna Devi. In future I should be known as Rachna Devi.

I, Poonam W/o Rajesh R/o H.No.36/1, vard no.1, Gurunanak Pura, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Poonam to Poonam Rani. In future I should be known as Poonam Rani.

I, Gaurav Seth S/O Raman B Garg R/O #169, Sector 49-A, Chandigarh, Hereby Declares That Name Of My Mother Is Ritu Garg Not 'Ritu'. Name Of My Mother Is Also Incorporated In My Matriculation Certificate.

I, hitherto known as Palak D/O Rajesh Kumar residing at Flat No-2302, Gh-4a, Jal Vayu Vihar, Sector-20, Panchkula, Haryana-134116 have changed my name and I shall hereafter be known as Palak Singla. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Meetu Ahuja D/o Surinder Ahuja W/o Rameek Kapoor R/o H.No. 19, Friends Colony, Taylor Road, Opp. Gandhi Ground, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name after marriage from Meetu Ahuja to Meetu Kapoor.

I, Tarun Sharma S/o Sh. Gulshan Sharma R/o H.No.428, Virat Nagar, Model Town, Panipat, declare that my 10th, 12th class certificate my name is Tarun and DOB 18.07.1995 which is incorrect. But my real name is Tarun Sharma and DOB 18.07.1994.

I, Service No15790429M Rank RHM(TIR) Name Ashish Kumar Yaduwanshi Of Unit 105 Ad Regt C/O 56 APO, R/O S-6, Yojna Homes, Piyush Nagar, Vtc-Huzur, Po- Khajuri Kalan, Distt- Bhopal, State M.P. Pin-462022 Have Changed My Mother Name From Geeta Yaduwanshi To Geeta Yaduwanshi Vide Affidavit Dated 04-12-2024 Before Ambala Cantt

I, Kuldeep S/o Sh. Gyasa R/O Pabra, Tehsil Uklana, Distt. Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Kuldeep to Kuldeep for all future purpose.

I, Heena Rani W/o Deepanshu Kaushal R/O 190, PLA, Hisar declare that my son Jeevansh Kaushal born on 27.6.2021 in Aadhar Hospital, Hisar (Reg. No. B-2021:6-00264-000636 Dt. 6-7-2021), in which mother name is Heena Kaushal, which is wrong, my correct name is Heena Rani.

I, Monu S/o Amar Singh R/o ward no. 7, Near Old Tehsil Moonak, Tehsil Moonak, Distt. Sangrur have permanently changed my name from Monu to Monu Saini for all future purposes. All concerned please note.

I, hitherto known as Satya Sandhu Wife of Har Singh residing at H.No.254, Silver Estate, Majitha Verka By-Pass, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajmandeep Kaur Bamrah

I, Jasbir Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/o VPO Dhardeo, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab, have changed my name from Jasbir Singh to Jasbir is given name and Singh is surname. Concerned note please.

I, Jasbir Kaur W/o Jasbir Singh R/o VPO Dhardeo, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab, have changed my name from Jasbir Kaur to Jasbir is given name and Kaur is surname. Concerned note please.

I, Kulwant Kaur Kang W/o Gurinder Singh R/o H.No.102 Ajit Enclave Gumtala By Pass Ajnala Road Amritsar have changed my name from Kulwant Kaur Kang to Given name Kulwant Surname Kaur.

I, No.19005895Y Nk Resham Singh Unit 20 Sikh S/O Heera Singh R/O Village Kot Sivian PO Gidri Baghiari Tehsil and District Tarn Taran have changed my son's name from Gursahaj Singh to Gursehaj Singh

I, Baljit Kaur and Baljeet Kaur W/o Ravinder Singh R/o 117, New Model Town Chheharta, Amritsar have declare that above both name's are mine one and same person

I, Rajbir Singh S/o Shamsher Singh R/O Village Khurmania, Po. Distrillery Khasa, Amritsar have declare that Singh is my surname and Rajbir is my given name.

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Dhani Ram R/o 186-A, Gali No. 14, New Pawan Nagar, Batala Road, Amritsar declare that I Ashok Kumar and Ashok Kumar Sharma one and the same person. All concerned please note.

I, Khushi Verma W/o Udhay Luthra R/o H.No.26, Shri Gurb Gombd Singh Avenue, Chahbal Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Khushi Verma to Khushi Luthra

I, Mridula Malhotra alias Neeru Khanna W/o Ashwani Kumar R/O B-A, Beauty Avenue, Phase-1, Amritsar have changed my name to Mridula Malhotra. all concerned please note.

I, Prem Lata Alias Prem Dutt wife of Sunil Dutt residing at House No. 506-B, Prem Villa, Kiran Colony, Ajnala Road, Amritsar, Punjab, declared that I have changed my name from Prem Lata Alias Prem Dutt to Prem Lata

I, Gursahib Singh Chhina S/o Shivdev Singh R/o VPO Harse Chhina (Kukranwala), Ajnala, Amritsar have changed my name from Gursahib Singh Chhina to Gursahib Singh

I, Rambho Devi Mother of No.13764503Y Hav Sham Lal Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/O 56 APO that in my son's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Rambho Devi but my correct name is Soma Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB8554367724321W Dt.04.12.2024 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Patel Manjibhai is father of No. 14941166H NK Patel Suresh Manjibhai resident of 393, Kharsanvas, Vasna (Jagana), Kanodar, Banaskantha, Gujarat-385520 now in 15 Mech Inf C/O 56 APO, have changed my name from Patel Manjibhai to Manjibhai Kanjibhai Kharsan and date of birth 15 Apr 1949 to 04 Jun 1949 vide affidavit no. IN-PB85858370285280W dated 04-12-2024, before Notary Public, Amritsar.

I, Sashi Devi & Shari Devi W/o Balwan Singh R/o V.P.O. Palri Khurd, Rai, Sonipat declare that Sashi Devi & Shari Devi/Davi both names are mine.

I, Jaswinder Kaur W/O Sanjay Sohal R/O VPO. Tahl, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Jaswinder Kaur To Jaswinder Kaur Sohal After My Marriage.

I, Mukesh Devi W/o Sh. Suresh Kumar R/O H.No. 2747, Urban Estate, Jind- 126102, have changed my name from Mukesh Devi to Mukesh.

I, Noahnair S/O Rakesh Kumar R/O 78, Geeta Bhawan Road, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143521 have changed my name to Gourav Nair.

I, Beena Devi W/O Harbans Singh R/O VILL Nawa Shehar, Mehta (401), Geta, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh-176204 have changed my name to Binu.

I, Babli W/O Rajbir R/O Maroudi Jatan (103), Rohtak, Haryana-124001 have changed my name to Urmila.

I Gurbinder Singh S/O Bhoop Singh R/O Ward No. 8, Himat Nagar, Samrala, Ludhiana, Punjab-141114 have changed my name to Gurwinder Singh.

I, Rudhna D/O Shaitan Singh R/O Vill-Rattanthal, Ratan Thal(180), Rewari, Haryana-123301 have changed my name to Sapna Chauhan.

I, No.1581886Y Ex Hav Ajmer Singh S/O Shri Chandner R/O VPO Bhatol Jatan Teh. Hansi Distt. Hisar (Haryana) have changed the name of my son from Sumeet Singh to Sumit Kumar for all purpose in future.

I, Jatin S/o Raja Ram R/o Dhani Lakh Pul, Siswal, Adampur, District Hisar (Haryana) declare that in my 10th class certificate, my father's name is wrongly written as Rajaram whereas the correct name of my father is Raja Ram, hence now I am getting my father's name changed from Rajaram to Raja Ram in my 10th class certificate.

I, Vijendra Singh S/o Hoshiyar Singh R/o H. No. 67, Sector 15, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed the name of my minor son from Jatin to Aditya for future purpose.

I, Gajraj Singh S/o Ram Singh R/o H. No. 10-A/7, New Campus, CCS HAU Hisar Distt. Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Gajraj Singh to Gajraj Singh Dahiya for future purpose.

I, Robot Paul S/o Paul Raj R/o 65-B, Gali No.3, Rishi Vihar, Majitha Road, Amritsar I have declared Paul as my surname and Robot as my given name

I, Dharanvir Singh S/o Banarsi Dass R/O VPO Dinarpur Distt. Ambala State of Haryana (India) is known as Dharanvir Singh & Dharanvir S/o Banarsi Dass. The both name belongs to me same person. Concerned may Note.

I, Meenu W/o Devender Singh R/O H.No. 1089, Sector - 2, Rohtak- 124001 (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Meenu to Meenu Sigroha. Meenu and Meenu Sigroha both name are one and same person. Now in future I may be known as Meenu Sigroha.

I, Suraia Devi W/o Krishan Lal R/O H.no 86 Kamau colony choti Karoran, SAS nagar Mohali, Punjab, have changed my name from Suraia Devi to Sugiya Devi.

I, Rishpal Deswal S/o Late Sh. Lakhi Ram Deswal R/O House no. 498, Sector - 6, Rohtak, Haryana declare that in my Adhar Card, Pan Card and Banks documents my name mention as Rishpal Deswal and father name is Lakhi Ram Deswal But in other documents like DMCS, my name mentioned as Rishpal and father name Lakhi Ram. Rishpal Deswal S/o Lakhi Ram Deswal & Rishpal S/o Lakhi Ram both name are same & one person. In future I will be known as Rishpal Deswal S/o Lakhi Ram Deswal.

I, Rimpi Kaur W/O Kuldeep Singh R/O Ward no.2 Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kailthal Haryana have changed my name from Rimpi Devi to Rimpi Kaur

I, Manmohan Kumar S/o Sh.Dhanpat Rai R/o House No.614, Sector-11, Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name from Manmohan Kumar to Manmohan Arora

I, Santosh Arora W/o Sh. Manmohan Arora R/O House No.614, Sector-11, Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name from Santosh Arora to Santosh Kumari Arora .

I, Khushdeep Singh S/O Amrik Singh, resident of village Maan, Tehsil Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib, declare that my date of birth is printed as 01-01-2005 in my educational qualification certificate, which is wrong. But my correct date of birth is 31- 05- 2005.

I, Sandeep Wife of JC NYA-15705250K Rank NB SUB Name Rajiv Kumar R/O Vill. Puhania, PO Puhania, Teh. Buhana, Distt. Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan-333516 have changed my name in army record from Sandeep to Sandipa Bai vide affidavit dated 04-12-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Vijeta Wife of 14842355K Rank HAV/MT Name Daryia Singh Janawa R/o Vill. Neshalbari, PO Neshal Chhoti, Teh. Rajgarh, Distt. Churu, Rajasthan-331303 have changed my date of birth in army record from 01-04-1986 to 01-12-1986 vide affidavit dated 04-12-2024 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Narinder Kumar S/o Sh. Mohan Lal, village Nangal Jattan Post office Lasara, Distt Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar who lived in United Kingdom since one year, changed his name Narinder Singh.

I, Arvind S/o Sh. Dutt Sharma R/o House No. 1380, Saharanpur Road, Gulati Gali, Old Hamidia, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Arvind to Arvind Sharma.

I Deepinder Sharma W/o Raj Kumar R/o H.no 2184/3 Sector 45-C Chandigarh, have changed my name from Deepinder Sharma to Deepinder Kaur

I Vijay Rani W/o Pardeep Kumar S/o Balbir Singh resident of House No. 1392, Mohalla Choudhrian Wala, Dera Bassi, Tehsil Dera Bassi, Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali (Pb)-140507

Sukhbir Badal survives assassination attempt at Golden Temple

Blending in crowd, gunman was observing Sukhbir's movement since Tuesday

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

Punjab's former Deputy Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Sukhbir Singh Badal, who enjoys Z-plus security — the highest tier of protection after SPG cover — narrowly escaped an assassination attempt on Wednesday morning while serving as a 'sewadar' (volunteer) at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, as a part of his religious punishment (tankha).

The incident unfolded dramatically when Narain Singh Chaura, an alleged Khalistani militant, attempted to shoot Sukhbir at the shrine's entrance. Quick action by Sukhbir's security team and fellow volunteers averted a tragedy, as they disarmed the attacker and subdued him on the spot. Media personnel, covering the 'Day 2' of Sukhbir's punishment, captured the chilling moment when Chaura approached Sukhbir, pulled out a pistol, and aimed to fire.

In a shocking incident that disrupted the sanctity of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sukhbir was attacked when he was performing 'sewa' (voluntary service). Dressed in a blue 'sewadar' uniform and seated in a wheelchair due to a fractured leg, Sukhbir was holding a spear and standing guard at Guru Ram Das Dwar entrance. Chaura, disguised as a devotee, approached under the pretense of offering prayers. At close range, he suddenly pulled out a pistol from his jacket and fired at Sukhbir. A swift-thinking Punjab Police cop, dressed in kurta-pajama, pushed Chaura's hand upward, deflecting the bullet into the temple wall, sparing the intended target — Sukhbir Badal.

Chaura, a resident of Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur and a member of the pro-Khalistani

outfit Dal Khalsa, has a history of militancy and involvement in high-profile crimes. He was previously implicated in the 2004 Burali Jail break case, where he orchestrated the escape of Babbar Khalsa terrorists, including assassins of the former Chief Minister Beant Singh.

Eyewitnesses described the scene as chaotic and tense. The gunshot reverberated through the temple premises, causing panic among devotees. Chaura attempted to flee but was immediately apprehended by Sukhbir's security detail, assisted by on-duty police officers. He was disarmed and taken into custody. Investigators revealed that Chaura had been stalking Sukhbir's movements since the previous day, blending into the crowd in a white kurta-pajama. On the day of the attack, he positioned himself near Sukhbir's seat and waited for the right moment. However, the vigilance of Sukhbir's security team foiled his plan, averting a potentially catastrophic outcome.

Amritsar Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, who visited the scene, confirmed Chaura's arrest and the recovery of his weapon. Preliminary investigations suggested that the attack stemmed from Chaura's grievances over alleged sacrilege incidents and the controversial pardon granted to the Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh during the SAD-led Government's tenure. "An in-depth investigation is underway to uncover any potential conspiracies behind the attack... We are examining his links to extremist groups and his intentions. His longstanding involvement in militancy raises serious concerns," Bhullar said, adding that the security around the Golden Temple has since been heightened.

The assassination attempt has ignited a political firestorm, with SAD leaders questioning the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led Punjab Government's abil-

ity to maintain law and order. SAD spokesperson Daljit Singh Cheema expressed gratitude for the swift actions of security personnel but criticized the state government for the deteriorating security situation in the state. "This is a grave incident. I urge Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to ensure Punjab does not regress into an era of unrest. We demand a high-level judicial inquiry into this matter," Cheema stated.

Sukhbir, shaken but unharmed, vowed to continue his 'sewa' undeterred. "I thank Guru Nanak for saving me and also the courage of those who intervened. No act of violence will deter us from fulfilling our religious duties," he said.

The incident has sent shockwaves across the state and reignited conversations about the lingering shadows of militancy in Punjab. Following the incident, security at the Golden Temple has been heightened. Armed personnel have been deployed, and additional surveillance measures have been implemented to prevent similar incidents.

Public reactions have been a mix of shock and concern. Many devotees at the Golden Temple expressed relief over Sukhbir's escape but questioned the lax security measures that allowed such an incident to occur. Others highlighted the gravity of the attack, warning against the resurgence of militancy in Punjab. As the investigation deepens, the incident serves as a grim reminder of Punjab's tumultuous history and the ongoing challenges to its peace and stability.

Hours later, Sukhbir Resumed 'Seva'

In a remarkable display of resilience and devotion, Sukhbir Badal was seen washing utensils at the Golden Temple just hours after narrowly escaping an assassination attempt. A video clip, going viral, captured the former Deputy Chief Minister, dressed in a blue sewadar uniform and seated in a wheelchair, performing 'sewa' as part of a religious punish-

Punjab Police ASI's Swift Action Foils Murderous Attack on Sukhbir

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

In a high-stakes moment of courage and quick thinking, Punjab Police cop Jasbir Singh, an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI), thwarted a murderous bid on SAD leader Sukhbir Singh Badal outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday morning. The dramatic incident unfolded as Sukhbir, serving his religious punishment (tankha) as a volunteer at the temple entrance, narrowly escaped an attack orchestrated by a former militant Narain Singh Chaura.

The Golden Temple, bustling with devotees under the morning sun, became the site of a chilling encounter at 9:30 am. Dressed in plain clothes, ASI Jasbir Singh was stationed nearby when his sharp instincts sensed trouble. Posing as a devotee, Chaura — a 68-year-old with a history of militancy, slowly approached Sukhbir, seated in a wheelchair due to a fractured leg. Chaura's hand reached into his pocket, pulling out a pistol.

Reacting in a flash, ASI Jasbir lunged forward just as Chaura raised the weapon. Grabbing the assailant's arm, ASI Jasbir pushed it upward, causing the bullet to harmlessly strike the shrine's stone wall behind Sukhbir. The sound of the gunshot pierced the air, sending shockwaves through the crowd. ASI Jasbir swiftly overpowered Chaura and wrested the weapon from him, preventing further chaos.

"A split second was all I had," ASI Jasbir recounted later, his voice steady with resolve. "I noticed his movements and knew something was wrong. Our officers had briefed us to remain vigilant, and that awareness made all the difference," he said.

Soon, members of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) task force and other security personnel quickly joined ASI Jasbir to subdue Chaura, ensuring the safety of Sukhbir and the surrounding devotees.

Amritsar Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar praised ASI Jasbir's extraordinary presence of mind. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also commended the police for their swift action, emphasizing the importance of protecting places of worship from such heinous acts.

Special Director General of Police, Arpit Shukla, confirmed that a robust security detail, including 175 officers, had been deployed to ensure safety around the temple.

The audacious attack came just as the media gathered to cover Day 2 of Sukhbir's penance, a religious obligation for mistakes made during the SAD's time in power from 2007 to 2017. The incident, captured by media cameras, highlighted the Punjab Police's unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of its citizens and leaders. ASI Jasbir Singh's quick thinking not only prevented a tragedy but also underscored the importance of vigilance and courage in the face of danger.

Singh Bhunder lauded Sukhbir's determination to continue the spiritual practice even under life-threatening circumstances. Over the past two days, Sukhbir has been dutifully fulfilling tasks such as washing utensils and cleaning shoes as part of his punishment.

Despite the harrowing attack, which was thwarted by quick-thinking security personnel, Sukhbir resumed his service, reaffirming his commitment to the directive. SAD's working president Balwinder

Narain Singh Chaura: The Vengeful Force Behind Sukhbir's Shooting Attempt

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Narain Singh Chaura, the man now infamous for his audacious attempt on former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal, is far more than a name on a police roster. He is a figure shrouded in controversy, deeply entrenched in the violent legacy of Punjab's militancy era. From his connections to Khalistani groups to his role in daring Burali jailbreaks and arms smuggling, Chaura's life is a saga of defiance, secrecy, and shadowy networks.

Chaura's attempt to shoot Sukhbir on Wednesday appeared to stem from a deep-seated animosity that has been brewing for years. Known for his fiery rhetoric against the Badals, Chaura has always viewed them as key figures responsible for the perceived betrayal of the Sikh community. His animosity traced back to the actions of Sukhbir's father, Parkash Singh Badal, during his tenure as Punjab's Chief Minister, when Chaura and his supporters believed that the Badals were complicit in atrocities against the Sikhs. The desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib and the killing of Sikh youth were just some of the wounds Chaura has held onto over the years.

His deep dissatisfaction with the Badals only intensified after Sukhbir recently admitted to his party's mistakes during their time in power, from 2007 to 2017, making the former militant see this as a betrayal of the very cause they once claimed to defend. Today's attack was more than just a personal act of violence — it appeared to be the culmination of years of anger and frustration boiling over.

For Chaura, the Badals represent everything he believed has gone wrong with the Sikh leadership, and this move appeared to be his attempt at retribution.

He is also known for his active involvement in championing the causes of farmers and labourers. Over the years, he has emerged as a vocal leader advocating for the rights and welfare of the marginalized sections of society. His journey from grassroots activism to a position of significant influence reflected his dedication and resilience in addressing pressing social and economic issues.

The Roots of a Militant Journey

Born on April 4, 1956, in the village of Chaura in Punjab's Dera Baba Nanak region, Narain Singh Chaura grew up during a turbulent period in Indian history. The socio-political turmoil of the 1980s, marked by insurgency and calls for Khalistan, shaped his ideology and thrust him into militancy. Hailing from

a modest background in Punjab, he reportedly fled to Pakistan in 1984, where he immersed himself in guerrilla warfare tactics and became a conduit for anti-India narratives. During his time in Pakistan, Chaura is said to have authored controversial literature, including a book titled 'Khalistan Viruddh Saazish', aimed at galvanizing support for Khalistani ideology. His connections to banned outfits like Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), Khalistan Liberation Force, and the Akal Federation made him a pivotal figure in the insurgency.

Criminal Record Steeped in Militancy

Chaura's criminal dossier is extensive and grim. He has been implicated in nearly a dozen cases, including smuggling arms and explosives into Punjab. The districts of Amritsar, Tarn Taran, and Ropar witnessed his involvement in multiple cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). In 2013, he was arrested in Tarn Taran, leading to the discovery of a weapons cache in Mohali. His activities during this period were emblematic of Punjab's struggle against insurgency. One of Chaura's most infamous acts was his alleged mastermind role in the 2004 Burali Jailbreak. The jailbreak saw high-profile militants, including Jagtar Singh Hawara and Paramjit Singh Bhaura, escape through a tunnel they dug while incarcerated for the assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh. Chaura reportedly aided them by smuggling essential supplies and even cutting off the jail's electricity to facilitate their escape. This brazen act underscored his audacity and organizational capabilities.

The Anti-Badal Crusader

Chaura's animosity toward the Badal family, especially Sukhbir and his father is longstanding. Labeling them as "traitors to the Sikh Panth", Chaura accused them of orchestrating sacrileges and political betrayals. His grievances against the family became public in a local interview where he vowed to expose their alleged misdeeds. In 2013, intelligence agencies flagged Chaura as a potential threat to the Badals, prompting heightened security for the political family.

A Double Life

While his militant activities paint a picture of a hardened insurgent, Chaura maintained an alternate persona as a religious preacher. Under the pseudonym Ranbir Singh, he presented himself as a devout Sikh and Panthic leader, gaining followers and operating clandestinely. His

NARAIN SINGH CHAURA

- Active during Punjab militancy phase in the 1980s
- In 1984, he traveled to Pakistan and met with militant groups
- In 2004, he played a key role in breaking out of the Burali Jail
- In 2005, after being caught with fellow convicts, he participated in further militant activities
- In 2010, a case was filed against him under the UAPA
- In 2013, he was arrested again, and weapons, including RDX and firearms, were found in his possession
- Released from prison on bail in 2013 after a court ruling
- Continued connections with Khalistani elements; Admitted in an interview that he had the Badal family on his hitlist
- On December 4, 2024, attempted to target former Deputy CM Sukhbir Badal, Arrested

base in Dera Baba Nanak served as a hub for his activities, from distributing propaganda to recruiting sympathizers. Chaura's dual life extended to his personal sphere as well. His wife, Jasminder Kaur, claimed ignorance of his actions, stating that he left home on the pretense of attending religious gatherings. Their two sons, both lawyers, distanced themselves from his activities.

In Chaura's native village, residents remain tight-lipped about his activities. Fear of reprisal and the shadow of his militant past discourage open dialogue. His notoriety extended beyond Punjab, with his name linked to insurgents and networks in Pakistan, further amplifying his infamy.

From a small village in Punjab to the corridors of militant operations in Pakistan, Chaura's life is a microcosm of Punjab's insurgency struggles. His journey reflected the turbulent history of a region grappling with its identity and sovereignty. While his recent attempt on Sukhbir thrust him back into the spotlight, it also reignited discussions about the deep scars of militancy that continue to linger in Punjab.

Punjab CM clears ex-gratia worth Rs 21.50 crore for 86 armed forces personnel

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

As a mark of respect towards the valiant soldiers serving the Armed forces in state, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday cleared ex-gratia worth Rs 21.50 crore (Rs 25 lakh each) for 86 Armed forces personnel who have suffered physical casualties while serving the country.

Chairing a meeting, Mann asked the officers to immediately release this ex-gratia amount started by his government for the first time in recognition of the enormous contribution of these brave hearts. He said that earlier, there was no such provision but his government has taken this

initiative as these brave warriors suffer casualties during call of duty. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Punjab is the only state in the country to give Rs 25 lakh as ex-gratia to families of such soldiers adding that this was even much more than what 70% of the other states were giving to the families of soldiers in case of their death. The Chief Minister said that after assuming the charge of office his government has decided to give Rs 1 crore to the distressed families as a mark of respect for the supreme sacrifice made by these heroes for the country. He said that this humble initiative of the state government is in recognition of the immense contribution of these

sons of soil towards preserving the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that financial assistance to these families of martyrs is in consonance with the commitment of the state government to ensure the well being of the soldiers and their families.

Dwelling on another issue, Mann reiterated the firm commitment of the state government to rejuvenate and ensure proper upkeep of the Sainik School Kapurthala. He said that spread over 190 acres of land this school is built in an aesthetically designed heritage building and the state government is committed to its proper maintenance and upkeep.

CM Saini approves 4-laning of Hodal-Nuh-Pataudi-Patauda Road at Rs 616 crore

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday approved the construction for 4-laning of Hodal-Nuh-Pataudi-Patauda road from Hodal-Nuh-Tauru-Bilaspur road in Palwal, Nuh and Gurugram districts with an estimated amount of Rs. 616.01 crore. Saini, who also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister was presiding over a meeting of Standing Finance Committee "C" held here in Chandigarh.

A spokesperson said the project is part of the Chief Minister's announcement aimed at enhancing the efficiency of both freight and passenger movement along the Hodal-Nuh-Pataudi-Patauda road. This development will significantly improve connectivity across four major National Highways: Delhi-Mathura-Agra (NH-19), Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (NE-4), Gurugram-Nuh-Rajasthan (NH-248A), and Delhi-Jaipur (NH-48). The proposed upgrade will also benefit numerous villages located along this route, including Bilaspur, Pathreri, Adbar, Bawla, Bhajlaka, Biwan, Chharora, Fatehpur, Gowarka, Gudhi, Hussainpur, Jaisinghpur, Jhamuwas, Kalinjar, Noorpur, Palla, Raipuri, Satputiaka, Silkho, Sonkh, Tejpur, Ujina, Bahin, Bhimsika, Kot, Malai, Nangaljat, Soundhad, Uttwar, Town- Nuh, Hodal, Tauru of District Nuh and Palwal.

In the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the Public Works Department (B&R) officers to incorporate a change in the tender allotment process aimed at eliminating unnecessary delays in development projects caused by contractors abandoning or being disqualified after getting tenders through the online bidding process. He suggested that under the new system, if the L-1 (lowest bidder) abandons the project midway due to any rea-

son, the contract will automatically be passed on to the L-2 bidder, who completes the work at the prescribed rates. This will ensure that no project is left incomplete due to contractor issues, saving valuable time and enhancing the overall efficiency of development initiatives. This will bring a significant improvement in the pace of work, ensuring that all projects are completed without unnecessary delays, he added.

To provide relief to domestic consumers, the CM also approved Rs 274 Crore for waiving the Monthly Minimum Charges for households with a sanctioned load of up to 2KW and a monthly consumption of less than 100 units. This decision will benefit approximately 9.5 lakh households across the state.

It may be recalled that the Chief Minister in his Budget Speech for FY 2024-25 has announced a waiver of Monthly Minimum Charges, aims to ease the financial burden on low-consuming domestic consumers, ensuring that they are not charged for minimum monthly consumption. In a step towards fulfilling his promise, Saini has directed the Housing For All Department to provide 100 square yard plots to all eligible families under the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Yojna. It was informed that over 5 lakh individuals have applied for plots under this scheme, and all eligible beneficiaries will receive plots in different phases soon.

To ensure no eligible family is left out, he instructed the department to look for innovative solutions. In cases where suitable land is unavailable in individual panchayats, a cluster of 4-5 villages will be formed, and proper allotment of plots will be ensured for all eligible beneficiaries. The ambitious scheme is expected to incur an expenditure of approximately Rs 2950 crore, aimed at providing housing solutions to rural families across the state.

Punjab politicians unite in condemnation of attack, Demand accountability

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Political leaders across party lines have strongly condemned the attack on former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal, calling it a grave security lapse and a dangerous attempt to destabilize peace in the state. While hailing the swift action of the Punjab Police in averting the tragedy, leaders have demanded immediate accountability, with calls for resignations, judicial inquiries, and stringent punishment for those responsible. They emphasized the need to address the growing concerns over law and order and safeguard the state's peace and harmony.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal condemned the attack, claiming a conspiracy to defame Punjab and suggested that "powerful forces" were behind the incident. He praised the Punjab Police for averting a tragedy. "The Punjab Police has set an example for the world on how to maintain law and order," Kejriwal said, emphasizing the need to investigate the forces responsible for the attack.

SAD leader and former Minister Daljit Singh Cheema demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, holding the State Government responsible for a failure in law and order. "This is a 100 percent failure of law and order. The Chief Minister should resign," he said, while also calling for a judicial inquiry into the incident. He further questioned the delay in the police's actions, pointing out that the attacker had been seen roaming the area the day before.

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, condemning the attack as unfortunate, lauded the Punjab Police for their swift action in preventing it. "The Punjab Police deserves accolades for its vigilant

action at the most sacred place," he said, highlighting the importance of safety in the Guru Ghar. Punjab Congress president and Ludhiana MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring criticized the Punjab Government for its negligence, describing the incident as "absolutely unacceptable". He demanded, "Whoever fired the bullets must face the harshest punishment". At the same time, he urged immediate suspension of the ACP responsible and emphasized the need for accountability.

BJP leader and former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh expressed relief that Sukhbir Badal was unharmed, thanking the individual who intervened and deflected the bullet. He warned against forces trying to sabotage peace in Punjab, saying, "Punjab cannot afford another dark era of terror." AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, condemning the attack, said: "Violence and such attacks have no place in a civil society." He praised the Punjab Police for their prompt action and assured that the investigation would be thorough.

Former Minister and senior BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia highlighted the security lapse, questioning why a notorious terrorist like Narain Singh Chaura was able to get so close to Sukhbir Badal despite extensive security. "This is a massive failure of security," he said, stressing the need to hold those responsible accountable. Punjab BJP vice president Fatehjung Singh Bajwa criticized the release of Chaura, calling him a "dreaded terrorist". He questioned the government's handling of such individuals belong behind bars. "If the police knew he was roaming the area, how could they leave Sukhbir Singh Badal exposed?" he asked.

Misl Satluj president Ajaypal Singh Brar, also condemning

the attack, emphasized that it was wrong to target him while he was fulfilling a penance ordered by the Akal Takht. "Personal differences may exist, but attacking someone while they are serving penance is highly inappropriate," he said, calling the act a violation of Sikh principles. The incident continues to stir strong political reactions, with leaders across parties demanding accountability and expressing concerns about the deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab.

Punjab CM Hails Police for Foiling "deep-rooted conspiracy", Orders thorough probe

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday commended the state police for preventing a "deep-rooted conspiracy" to defame Punjab by foiling an assassination attempt on former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal in Amritsar.

Mann, speaking to the media during the dedication of the 'Nishan-e-Inquilaab' plaza, condemned the attack in the strongest terms, emphasizing that such acts had no place at the sacred Sri Harmandir Sahib. He highlighted that over 175 police personnel, including senior officers, had been deployed to prevent any untoward incident, and their vigilance had ensured the attack was thwarted.

Assuring the public that the Punjab Government is closely monitoring the investigation, he said that he has already directed the Director General of Police to conduct a thorough probe. He also emphasized that maintaining peace and communal harmony in the state remains the government's top priority. "Punjab has always been a land of saints, martyrs, and values of brotherhood," he said, adding that no one would be allowed to disturb its hard-earned peace.

Schemes launched by Central Govt significantly benefited farmers: Hry CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that the Centre Government has taken several significant steps in the interest of farmers. Various schemes introduced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi have significantly benefited farmers. Saini made these remarks while interacting with the media persons at the railway station in New Delhi. Saini had travelled to Delhi from Chandigarh in Shatabdi train on Tuesday night.

The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Modi has not only implemented numerous schemes for the welfare of farmers, but also has worked to strengthen their economic condition. Under the Kisan Samman Nidhi, farmers are provided with an annual assistance of Rs 6,000, which helps them purchase seeds and fertilizers.

Saini said that Congress had previously spread propaganda claiming that MSP on crops would be stopped, but nothing of the sort happened. In fact, Prime Minister Modi has worked to increase the MSP of crops. The MSP that was being provided to farmers during Congress rule has been increased by 1.5 times under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Additionally, the state government is not only providing MSP



prices to farmers but is also purchasing every grain of their crops.

He said that during Congress rule, there was no consideration if a farmer's crop was damaged, and farmers received only 5 to 10 rupees as compensation. However, under our government, farmers are now provided full compensation in the event of crop damage. Saini said that under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, one-and-a-half times more land is being irrigated compared to the area under cultivation before 2014. The BJP government has enhanced agricultural productivity by providing irrigation facilities to a larger area. The area under paddy, wheat, and other crops has increased in the state since 2014. Along with this, both crop yields and farmers' incomes have also risen, he added.

CM to inaugurate Int'l Gita Mahotsav today

Chief Minister Saini will

inaugurate the International Gita Mahotsav-2024 on December 5. Along with this, Governor of Kerala Arif Mohammad Khan and Cultural Ministers of Zanzibar and Odisha will inaugurate the Haryana Pavilion, State-Level Exhibition of Information, Public Relations, Language and Culture Department at the Brahma Sarovar Purushottampura Bagh and will participate in Maha Puja and Maha Aarti. A spokesperson said the Governor of Kerala, Governor of Haryana, Gita Manishi Swami Kumar of Swadeshi Jagran Manch will reach the auditorium hall venue of Kurukshetra University at 11 am on December 5 and will inaugurate the international seminar.

He said the main programmes of this mahotsav will start on December 5. In this festival, evening cultural programmes will be organized daily at Purushottampura Bagh from December 5 to 11. During this, Gita Yagya will be organized in Purushottampura Bagh on December 5, International Gita Seminar from December 5 to December 7, and cultural programmes in the morning and evening by the Department of Art and Culture, NZCC Patiala and KDB from December 5 to December 11, the spokesperson added.

Peace in border areas pre-requisite for developing ties with China: EAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said in the Rajya Sabha peace and tranquility in border areas is a pre-requisite for the development of bilateral ties with China and the two sides will be discussing de-escalation and effective management of activities in these areas in the coming days. He made these assertions while making a statement on India-China relations. A brief uproar was also witnessed following the statement and Opposition MPs walked out of the House after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, disallowed them from seeking some clarifications. Jaishankar, while making a statement on "Recent Developments in India's Relations with China", also

said disengagement has now been achieved in full in eastern Ladakh through a step-by-step process, culminating in Depsang and Demchok. He had earlier made an identical statement in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Jaishankar, in his statement, said India was and remains very clear that the three key principles must be observed in all circumstances, he said explaining: "one: both sides should strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control (LAC), two: neither side should attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo, and three: agreements and understandings reached in the past must be fully abided by in their entirety". "Our relationship has progressed in many domains, but was obviously negatively affected by recent events. We are clear that the maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas is a pre-requisite for the development of our ties. In the coming days, we will be discussing both de-escalation as well as effective management of our activities in the border areas," he said.



He said with the task of disengagement completed, it is now our expectation that discussions would commence in regard to the remaining issues that we had placed on the agenda.

Soon after the Minister completed his statement, Opposition leaders wanted to seek some clarifications. It was, however, disallowed by the Chair, leading to a brief ruckus in the House. "Time and again, I have invited your attention, indulgence, that we are being watched by the entire nation and our demeanour is causing a serious dilution of the institution, an institution meant for debate is not having it, therefore getting into irrelevance," Dhankhar said as Opposition members demanded that the minister answer their questions. "The rule on a statement is explicit. The Minister... Has taken the House in confidence. He could be as exhaustive as possible," he said. Chairman said the House rule on statements is explicit wherein no questions are

asked at the time of the making of a statement. "Even on such an issue, the kind of indecorous behaviour I saw, the kind of body language reflected, when I say it every time, it does not earn me any accolades," Dhankhar said. "I want you to kindly contribute and believe in some kind of rules. I have no doubt the statement of the honourable minister must have been seen by the entire country. They must be taking note of how comprehensively he has expressed his point of view." "Evolve some kind of consensus. There are issues of security and national importance where we need to display exemplary conduct," Dhankhar added. As the Chair did not allow questions, opposition MPs staged a walkout.

Over one lakh positions vacant in CAPFs, AR: Government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Over one lakh positions are vacant in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Assam Rifles (AR), Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday. The total posted strength of CAPF and AR was 9,48,204 as on September 30, according to the Union Home Ministry data. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the government is taking steps to fill the vacancies expeditiously. It has created 71,231 new posts in the CAPFs and AR in the last five years, according to the data provided by Rai in a written response to a question. The minister said vacancies in CAPFs and AR arise on account of retirements, resignations, promotions, deaths, the raising of a new battalion, the creation of new posts, etc, and filling them up is a continuous process. The data showed that 1,00,204 posts are vacant in CAPFs



and AR with 33,730 vacancies in CRPF; 31,782 in CISF; 12,808 in BSF; 9,861 in ITBP; 8,646 in SSB and 3,377 in AR as on October 30. "The Ministry has been taking and will continue to take earnest steps to fill up the vacancies expeditiously through UPSC, SSC and the forces concerned," the minister said. He said the government has taken several steps to increase intake like a reduction in the time taken for medical examination to expedite the recruitment, lowering the cut-off marks for short-listing candidates for Constable-GD to get sufficient candidates (especially in categories where shortfalls have been observed). In response to a separate question, the minister said the government has given due importance to the overall well-being of personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces. "To this end, the Ministry has made constant efforts so that CAPF personnel spend 100 days in a year with the family in order that their life balance is enhanced," he said.

The data cited by the minister shows that 42,797 CAPF and AR personnel have availed 100 days' leave in a year between 2020 and October 2024. To a question on financial assistance provided to martyred CAPF and AR personnel through the Bharat Ke Veer portal, the minister said financial assistance of Rs 25 lakh in addition to other financial entitlements is being provided to next of kin (NoKs) of martyrs through the portal. "The Bharat Ke Veer Trust ensures that NoK of martyrs get a minimum of Rs one crore from all entitlements. Parents of married martyrs are also provided financial assistance of Rs. 10 Lakh from 'Bharat Ke Veer Trust'," he said. The minister said the Bharat Ke Veer portal was launched in 2017 while the Bharat Ke Veer Trust was established in 2018 and 501 dependents of martyrs have been provided financial assistance from it so far.

Were OCCRP's Adani reports funded by US agencies?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), which published articles on the Adani Group last year, is now under the scanner over its funding from the US government agencies. French newspaper 'Mediapart' in an investigative piece published on Monday has revealed about its ties with the US government and certain vested stakeholders. "While the OCCRP does indicate on its website that it receives funding from the US Department of State, and notably from the US Agency for International Development, USAID, it conceals the extent of the funding and the strings attached to it from its media partners, journalists and the wider public. The US government financing is never mentioned in OCCRP-produced articles," the French newspaper mentioned.

It mentioned OCCRP receives a huge share of funding from certain stakeholders from United States including US Agency for International Development (USAID). "The OCCRP has omitted from its official history the role played by the US government in its creation, only mentioning the funding by the UN. Sullivan responds to that by underlining that the UN Democracy Fund payment was indeed the first that the NGO received," Mediapart stated. Since its inception, OCCRP has received at least \$47 million from the US government, \$14 million from European countries (Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Slovakia and France) and 1.1 million from the European Union. "The OCCRP appears uncomfortable about the scale of US funding, as the amounts are not published on the NGO's website," Mediapart noted further. According to Mediapart,

OCCRP has funded a programme which uses investigations by OCCRP to prompt sanction procedures and judicial probes. "The Department of State also gave 173,324 dollars to the OCCRP for a mission of "uncovering and combatting Venezuelan corruption" - Venezuela's autocratic president Nicolás Maduro is a high-profile enemy of the US," the French newspaper revealed. In the same article Mediapart stated for a journalistic organisation to lead such activities upon the initiative and with the funding of the US, even for a just cause, raises important ethical questions. The revelations made by Mediapart come at a time when industrialist Gautam Adani is in the thick of storm over dubious allegations of bribery in US which has rocked the Parliament since day one of ensuing Winter Session.

Stalled MGNREGS funds: Centre not discriminating against Bengal, says Chouhan



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

With funds under the flagship MGNREGS stalled for West Bengal for more than two years now, Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said the Centre is not discriminating against the state, which he blamed for not complying with the Union government's directives. His comments comes a day after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the central government clashed in Parliament over the disbursement of funds under the MNREGA to the State, after TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee claimed in the Lok Sabha that the West Bengal government is yet to receive funds under the central scheme for the fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The funds for West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have been stopped since March 2022 due to non-compliance of directives of the Central government, according to the Ministry of Rural Development. Asked what is the way forward, Chouhan told reporters at a press conference here, "We are concerned about the poor people in West Bengal as well. We have asked for certain compliances, and if the state fulfils them, we will consider it". Chouhan also said the state has been provided funds under other schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). "West Bengal has received funds under PM Sadak Yojana

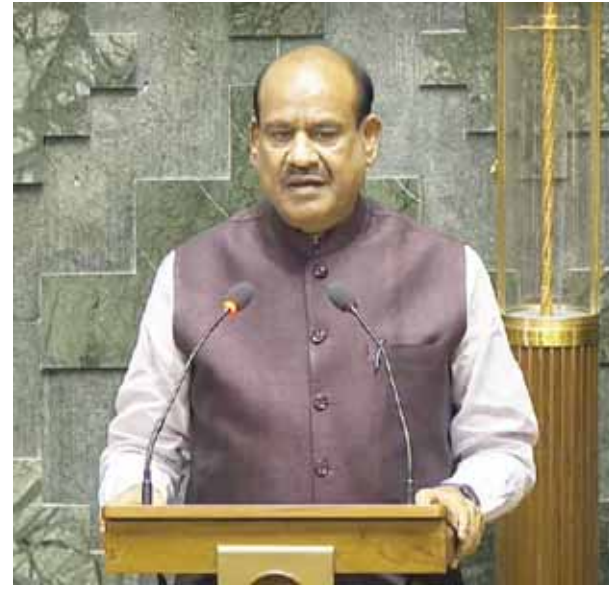
because there were no discrepancies in that. We give funds for a purpose. If that purpose is not met, if names of schemes are changed, non-eligible people are made beneficiaries, standards are not followed, should we not ask for answers? Should we keep giving money," Chouhan asked. "The Centre has the right to conduct a probe. It was done, irregularities were found, so we had to take action," he said. The minister added that action will be taken if similar irregularities are found in other states. While replying during the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Chouhan strongly refuted Trinamool Congress member Kalyan Banerjee's allegation that Central funds under various welfare schemes were not released to West Bengal. Chouhan also accused the West Bengal government of diverting Central funds and making "undeserving" people beneficiaries of welfare schemes. "It has been demonstrated that non-beneficiaries have been registered as beneficiaries, and vice versa, under this scheme. The names of village development schemes were changed, which is not permissible. For instance, they committed an offence by renaming the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as their own. Furthermore, benefits intended for beneficiaries have been given to non-beneficiaries," Chouhan had said in Parliament on Tuesday. Trinamool Congress has been repeatedly accusing the Union government of depriving the state of Central funds.

LS Speaker urges MPs not to create hindrances

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of Opposition MPs holding protests at the entry gate of Parliament House, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday urged MPs not to create hindrances as it obstructs those entering the building, especially women members. His appeal came a day after the Lok Sabha secretariat urged MPs not to hold protests in front of the gates of Parliament House, contending that such obstruction of movement could affect their safety and security. "I request all political parties not to obstruct the entry gate when others are entering the

building to attend proceedings. Women MPs have personally flagged their difficulty. I have already given directions and I request once again that if there is an issue, meet me but there should be no obstruction at the entry gate," Birla said ahead of Zero Hour. The secretariat's advisory on Tuesday came on a day parliamentarians held protests on the steps of Makar Dwar of Parliament, a gate reserved exclusively for their use and that of the officials. "Members are requested not to hold protests or demonstrations in front of gates of Parliament House as such actions cause serious hindrance to the movement of members to the Parliament Chambers



during sittings of the Houses," the advisory said. Earlier, the Speaker said Ministers should give up the habit of responding to members during the Question Hour till permitted by the Chair. This came after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav made a comment while Union Minister Pralhad Joshi was replying to a question on solar energy and Union Minister Piyush Goyal responded to the Kannauj MP. Goyal earlier served as Power Minister. Joshi, who holds the New and Renewable Energy portfolio, was responding to supplementaries related to Pradhan Mantri-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGBMY). Birla said Ministers should

not reply to members till they are allowed by the Chair. Later, the Speaker also asked members to keep their questions and answers short. He made the comments when Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia was responding to questions about BSNL. Scindia was also asked to keep his reply short. Members and Ministers should keep their questions and answers crisp and to the point so that more members can get the opportunity to ask questions during the Question Hour, Birla said. He was of the view that all 20 questions selected for oral reply through a lottery system should be taken up during the Question Hour.

UP Gangster Act appears to be draconian, observes SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act appeared to be "draconian". The observation by a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan came while it was hearing a plea filed by a man who has challenged a May 2023 Allahabad High Court order dismissing his application seeking to set aside proceedings against him pending before a District Court in Kasganj in a case registered under the Act. "This Act appears to be draconian," the apex court observed. "We will consider it," the bench said while admitting the appeal. While hearing the matter in November last year, the SC had sought responses from the Uttar Pradesh Government and others on the plea and said, "By way of ad-interim order, no coercive steps be taken against the petitioner qua Gangster Act." On Wednesday the petitioner's counsel said he has been



booked in the case under the provisions of the 1986 Act on allegations of illegal mining in the Ganga river. The counsel argued that earlier, another FIR related to alleged illegal mining was registered. "They have booked me twice for the same allegation," the lawyer argued. The counsel appearing for the State referred to the provisions of the 1986 Act. "It requires consideration," the bench said, adding that a separate plea challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Act was also pending adjudication before it. Before the High

Court, the counsel appearing for the petitioner argued that he was falsely implicated in the case lodged under the Gangsters Act. His counsel had claimed before the high court that the case has been lodged under the Gangsters Act only on the basis of another case in which the petitioner has not been named. On November 29, the top court agreed to hear a separate plea challenging the validity of certain provisions of the Act and issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government seeking its response on the petition.

970 persons rehabilitated under SMILE sub-scheme: RS told

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A total of 970 persons have been rehabilitated under the SMILE sub-scheme, which focuses on the comprehensive rehabilitation of individuals, including children, engaged in begging, the Rajya Sabha was told on Wednesday. The scheme is being implemented across 81 cities and towns in 26 States and UTs, particularly those of religious, historical, and tourist importance, where the issue of begging is more prominent. The goal is not only to rehabilitate these individuals but also to provide them with long-term opportunities for reintegration into society, said Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar, in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha. This rehabilitation includes a diverse range of interventions to address their immediate and long-term needs, said the Minister adding that among the 352 children rehabilitated, 169 children were reunited with their parents while 79 children were sent to Anganwadis (early childhood care and education



centers). In reply to a written question, he further said that 33 children were handed over to Child Welfare Committees for further support and care. 71 children were enrolled in schools, ensuring access to education. In Andhra Pradesh (Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Vijayawada), Assam (Hojai/Doboka, Golaghat, Guwahati and Tezpur), Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar, Namsai), Bihar (Bodh Gaya, Dharbanga, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Patna and Purnia), Chandigarh (Chandigarh), Delhi NCT (New Delhi), Haryana (Sonapat, Panchkula), Himachal Pradesh

(Dharamshala, Shimla), Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu, Srinagar), Jharkhand (Deoghar, Ranchi, Giridih, Jamshedpur), Kerala (Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode), Karnataka (Dharwad/Hubbli, Vijayapura, Mysuru), Gujarat (Vadodara, Pavagarh Mahakali, Somanath, Kevadia), Manipur (Bishnupur), Maharashtra (Trimbakeshwar, Shirdi, Naggur, Pune (PMPRI NCR), Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Jalgaon). The other States are Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

No love lost

The relations between India and Bangladesh are on the ebb and if steps are not taken now, could deteriorate further

The relations between India and Bangladesh, long characterised by cultural ties and strategic cooperation, have soured in recent months. Protests, diplomatic outrage and heightened security concerns are the latest manifestations of the growing rift between the two neighbours. The arrest of a Hindu monk in Bangladesh has sparked unrest, further straining ties that have been under pressure since the ousting of former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024. The minority has historically faced discrimination and sporadic violence, often exacerbated by political upheavals. Sheikh Hasina's government, in power until her abrupt ousting in August, was seen as somewhat supportive of minorities, though her critics argue this support was inconsistent. Hasina's exit, triggered by mass protests against alleged corruption and authoritarianism, plunged Bangladesh into political instability. The arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in Bangladesh has reignited long-standing grievances about the treatment of minorities in the country. Das was detained on charges of sedition and inciting unrest during an October protest advocating minority rights in Chittagong. His denied bail and the subsequent delay of his hearing until January 2025 have escalated tensions.



This has led to protests in India, headed by Hindu organisations and supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). These protests culminated in an attack on the Bangladeshi consulate in Agartala, causing significant diplomatic fallout. The vandalism at the consulate prompted sharp criticism from Dhaka,

which labeled the incident 'heinous' and demanded stringent action from India. Bangladesh also summoned Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka to show its displeasure over the incident. Meanwhile, Indian authorities, while condemning the attack and increasing security for Bangladeshi diplomatic missions, have struggled to contain public sentiment. In Dhaka, the storming of the consulate sparked counter-protests, with students and activists condemning the incident and demanding accountability from India. The situation has become a flashpoint for nationalist and religious tensions on both sides. The strained relations carry significant risks. For India, Bangladesh is a vital partner in maintaining border security and managing regional stability. The two countries share deep economic ties and cultural connections, making any prolonged estrangement costly. However, mutual trust has eroded. While Indian side urge Bangladesh to address violence against minorities, Bangladeshi officials accuse Indian media of propagating disinformation. Both nations have had good relations and they must urgently de-escalate tensions. Resolving the immediate crisis surrounding the monk's arrest, addressing minority rights concerns in Bangladesh, and curbing inflammatory rhetoric in India are critical steps.

PICTALK



Artists perform during a show of Rambo Circus, in Mumbai

Election results challenge the Opposition unity

The electoral setbacks have exposed fractures within the INDIA alliance while the BJP has emerged stronger after the recently held state elections



KALYANI SHANKAR

The aftermath of the recent election results in Maharashtra and Jharkhand has led to cracks within the Opposition coalition known as the INDIA alliance. Following these disappointing results, some partners in the INDIA bloc, such as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Trinamool Congress, are focusing on their agendas and show little interest in collaborating for the current winter session of Parliament. AAP chief Kejriwal has announced that his party will go solo in Delhi Assembly polls, ruling out tie-up with Congress. The INDIA bloc hoped to consolidate anti-BJP votes in the capital.

Still, Kejriwal's announcement signals a potential fracture in unity. Additionally, it seems unlikely that the Uddhav Thackeray coalition will work together in the upcoming civic election. Consequently, the immediate concern for these partners is to unite and collaborate effectively. However, achieving this is proving to be quite challenging. Every political party makes mistakes, but the successful ones learn and improve. The INDIA bloc aimed to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, ultimately allowing the BJP to form a government with support from the JD(U) and the Telugu Desam Party. The Assembly polls lacked a joint strategy. Two key points stand out in the recent elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. First is the significant victory of the BJP-led NDA in Maharashtra.

Second is the ease with which Hemant Soren retained his position in Jharkhand despite being jailed on allegations of corruption. Another important question is whether the Congress, NCP and the Uddhav faction of the Shiv Sena misinterpreted the signals on the ground. Did the BJP make errors in Jharkhand? The recent results reveal missed growth opportunities. It could have performed better if Congress had learned from past experiences and made necessary adjustments. Unlike the Pachmarhi or Shimla conclaves,



there has been a lack of post-election analysis. The Grand Old Party is entirely under the control of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, and his chosen associates. Rahul worked hard and campaigned, but the party could not deliver. The results suggest they have yet to learn from the recent Haryana Assembly elections, such as relying heavily on one leader, ignoring the others, and the wrong distribution of tickets despite being in a winning position.

The most crucial aspect of the Congress Party, NCP and the Uddhav faction of Shiv Sena must address is the narrative. For the Congress, the focus on caste issues, defending the Constitution, and making personal attacks on the Prime Minister has not resonated with the voters. This disconnect is a clear sign that the party needs to reevaluate its strategy and focus on issues that truly matter to the electorate, such as the bread and butter issues.

It is a pressing concern that needs alignment. Even earlier, Rahul Gandhi's Gandhi's attack on Savarkar did not garner any support for Congress; instead, it created friction between the Shiv Sena, which idolised Savarkar and Congress. These parties also did not realise the political impact of the BJP's par-



FOR THE CONGRESS, THE FOCUS ON CASTE ISSUES, DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION, AND MAKING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT RESONATED WITH THE VOTERS

ent organisation, RSS, which worked for the party's success. Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar must feel disheartened after losing his party and the election to his nephew, Ajit Pawar, whom he groomed. The warning signs became clear when Ajit joined the BJP, betraying his uncle to help form the government. The situation worsened when the Election Commission recognised Ajit's faction as the real Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), despite Sharad Pawar having founded and led it to power multiple times.

This decision severely undermined Pawar, so must Uddhav Thackeray, son of Shivsena founder Bal Thackeray, who succeeded his father, lost the party and elections to his rebel Eknath Shinde, who helped BJP form the government in Maharashtra in a coalition. Both must introspect about what led to their loss of popularity.

On the other hand, JMM, a partner in the INDIA bloc, has demonstrated how to win despite numerous challenges. JMM Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife, Kalpana, faced several hardships, including a jail sentence for Soren. The results of the bye-elections after the Assembly polls show that the BJP is not invincible.

Elections in India happen almost continuously in various states, which means the election season never truly ends. The next significant event will be the Rajya Sabha elections for six seats on December 20. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is expected to win five of these six seats. At the same time, the Trinamool Congress is likely to secure one. If this prediction holds, the NDA will gain a majority in the Upper House, which could weaken the Congress Party's position in Parliament. There are currently eight vacancies: four in the nomination category and four in Jammu and Kashmir. Elections around the world highlight both victories and defeats. Each election offers valuable lessons regarding the successes and mistakes of the candidates and parties involved. These outcomes are not exclusively driven by generational change, as change is a constant process. Future generations must strive to advance their party. Ultimately, the true winner is the one who learns from their mistakes swiftly. Winners should avoid becoming complacent, while those who lose must stay motivated.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DELHI NEEDS TO BE DECONGESTED

Madam — Delhi's role as India's political capital and administrative nerve centre has created a lopsided dependence on a single city, which is becoming increasingly untenable for several reasons. Delhi is overcrowded and heavily polluted, with air quality regularly breaching hazardous levels. This is posing several health risks to its residents, particularly children and the elderly, leading to long-term implications for public health. Basic amenities like water and electricity are stretched thin. Traffic congestion and overburdened public transportation systems result in wasted time and reduced productivity. Concentrating the country's entire administrative apparatus in one city makes it vulnerable to dangers of terrorism, natural disasters and other calamities. The concentration of central government offices in Delhi, apart from inflating property prices, skews economic activity and perpetuates regional inequality.

The idea is not to displace Delhi as the national capital entirely but only to distribute its administrative load. The top-level officials of all the ministries and departments may be retained in Delhi for administrative convenience. Ministries and departments within ministries could be relocated to different cities/towns best suited for their focus areas, avoiding already congested metros like Bengaluru and ensuring balanced regional development. The government may start with a pilot involving one or two ministries, followed by an evaluation of costs, benefits, and scalability. Advances in IT and communication enable virtual conferences and seamless coordination, making physical proximity less critical. The conduct of G-20 meetings last year successfully should give the government confidence to take off in this direction. Decentralising national capital is not merely an administrative adjustment; it is also a transformative step toward equitable development and stronger governance.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

Uncertainty in Maharashtra



It is disgusting that after such a huge mandate, the Mahayuti cannot form the new government, though the results were declared on November 23. They are insulting the mandate. By rights, the chief ministerial post belongs to the leader of the party that has more MLAs than the combined total of the other two constituents. With Ajit Pawar publicly endorsing Fadnavis for chief ministership, Shinde should gracefully bow

to the inevitable and propose the BJP leader's name for heading the new government. He betrays the trust the Maharashtra voter has reposed in the Mahayuti by throwing a sulking fit and vanishing to his village, while the more urgent task of government formation awaits him in Mumbai. Such childish behaviour is unbecoming of a senior politician like him.

Decency requires that the leaders of the Mahayuti work together in the same cooperative and concerted manner with which they had worked to win the large popular mandate. Now with Fadnavis as chief minister and Shinde and Ajit Pawar as Dy CMs, they should show the same zeal and energy to resolve the myriad socio-economic problems facing the people of Maharashtra. Excessive ambition, especially unsupported by numbers in the Assembly, can be counterproductive.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

INVESTORS LOSE WEALTH

Madam— Since October, the ongoing decline in the stock market has resulted in investors losing ₹47 lakh crore in wealth. On September 27, the total market capitalisation of companies in the market was ₹477.90 lakh crore, which has now reduced to ₹430.60 lakh crore. Increasing uncertainty and apprehension in the market have driven investors back to banks. According to data released by the RBI, deposits in banks surged to ₹2.35 lakh crore in the second fortnight of October. Before the Sensex hit a record high, total bank deposits in the second fortnight of August were around ₹215.50 lakh crore. In the first fortnight of September, there was a decline of ₹45,000 crore in total bank deposits. By the end of September, a phase of market decline began, during which bank deposits started to rise. In October, total deposits in banks reached ₹219 lakh crore. Thus, in the face of uncertain market risks, Indian banks are perceived as a safe haven by investors. For investors affected by market risks, bank

deposits are proving to be a reliable support.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

MRP REGULATION NEEDED

Madam — Manipulating the MRP (Maximum Retail Price) of medicines is a significant issue in India. Pharmaceutical companies often set MRPs much higher than the production cost, burdening patients financially. Retailers further exploit this by charging inflated prices. While the government's Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) regulates essential medicines, many drugs remain outside its scope, allowing companies to set arbitrary prices. Initiatives like Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which provide affordable generic medicines, are commendable but need wider promotion. Transparency, awareness, and the promotion of generics are key to ensuring affordable healthcare for all.

R K Jain | Barwani

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The role of teachers in building positive learning spaces

A successful classroom isn't just about books and resources; it's about creating an environment where students feel valued, heard and empowered to succeed



ALKA KAPUR

A thriving learning classroom is grounded in the way the students perceive their classroom. It's not just about utilising the appropriate resources but establishing a space where students feel recognised, heard and valued. Teachers are the key catalysts in making this possible by nurturing a balanced, cohesive and well-organised environment that allows students to reach their potential. By implementing strategies to cater to individual requirements, connect thoughtfully, and commemorate milestones, educators can establish an educational atmosphere that supports progress, self-esteem, and teamwork.

Teachers can build a positive and inspiring learning space. **Develop a sense of anticipation:** Teachers should give explicit instructions and procedures to their students so that they feel comfortable. When students know what comes next, their interaction with the lesson increases and their belief in their learning abilities is enhanced, leading to a serene and concentrated mood. Address students' needs. No student is entirely



similar to another in the classroom. Instructors should appreciate academic and emotional needs and take a personalised approach to materials, attention, and motivation.

Welcome learners into the classroom First impression means a lot. A simple smiling morning wish makes students receive and look forward to the day. A welcoming environment causes active involvement and participation in the class's activities.

Interact with students Ideally, this should help prepare a powerful fondness between teachers and students. Teachers must take an active role in students' lives; they should ask questions and pay attention to the answers. This builds trust, develops reading skills, and makes students want to speak

more. **Team-building activities** Team-building activities help in practising directives and showing appreciation to others.

Be experiential Sometimes, the mistakes, failings and losses of the teachers make the learning environment comfortable and emotionally intelligent. This ensures that students are encouraged to connect and share, indicating that learning is collective and not individual.

Celebrate success and appreciate students: Recognising and celebrating students' achievements enhances their self-confidence and encourages them to try again. Teachers must reward such behaviour with verbal appreciation, prizes, or other forms of reward in the classroom. **Avoid judgement:** Acceptance and open-mindedness are evident in a conducive learning environment. Judgement should not be attached to the students so that the students can feel free to explore and even commit mistakes without being laughed at.

Suppress anger and act strategically: Emotional regulation is expected from the

teachers. Keeping cool during conflicts or problems serves as a good decorum for the students' emotions and problem-solving skills, this practice leads to a learning environment that is calm and goal-oriented.

Listen to their thoughts Allowing students to express their opinions also encourages them to take responsibility for their learning. Studies suggest that teachers should nurture students to enable them to speak their minds.

Acknowledge feedback: The teachers should encourage and respond to any feedback from their students. If the students are appreciated for their response, then the atmosphere becomes interactive. Simple activities such as organising the room, attending to students, or recognising achievement encourage teachers to design a safe, friendly, and welcoming space for students. A welcoming and nurturing classroom facilitates academic achievement among learners and emotional and social development.

(The writer is principal of Modern School; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

SVABHAVNA: A PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

Our innate nature is both, a defining force in our lives and a formidable adversary



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We are born with it. Nature ('svabhava') is what we have done in earlier lives and our deep desires, which are still unfulfilled. It is part of our fate and big events, both good and bad ('parabha'). Svabhava defines us. Character, personality, behaviour, moods, attitude, opinions, faith, preferences, how we decide, how we interact and what we care about, all have links with our natures. Spiritually speaking, three modes ('gunas') constitute this. They are present in every person in different percentages.

For example, a good man will have more of the goodness mode; not a good man will have more of the mode of darkness and the rest will fall in between. However, these modes always compete for supremacy. "Goodness become predominant by overpowering passion and darkness; darkness becomes predominant by overpowering even goodness and passion; and passion becomes predominant by overpowering goodness and darkness." (The Bhagavad-Geeta 14.10) This is what happens with good people.

Temporarily, their thinking and actions come under darkness, and they behave lustily, angrily, etc. Compare this with what happens with bad people, who naturally behave badly. Only when the mode of goodness gains ascendancy they behave better. Unfortunately, a common man falls in between, and he has many faults in his svabhava. What does he normally do? He wishes to enjoy his senses as much as possible; likes to avoid duties; tries to act smart, even resorts to cheating; feels superior; laughs at others; and hates suffering, whenever



it comes, blames others for it. This is not so bad as to come under negative emotions like lust, anger, greed, hate, etc. Driven by them, one acts badly and becomes deserving of punishment. For example, when lust overpowers, one crosses limits ('maryada') and does what will taint for life. A greedy person thinks nothing beyond gaining more and wastes precious human life. Anger raises its ugly head when lust is denied. (18.66) And hate, when it is uncontrolled, dooms a person. (16.19) Therefore, one has to be very careful at all times. Svabhava, which controls our thinking and surely our actions can be our worst enemy. What can be done to safeguard ourselves?

The very first thing is to introspect at all times. Are my deep desires faulty? Am I crossing social norms? Am I violating dharma? Am I avoiding duties? We will find that we are. Then, what is to be done? Can I control myself? Maybe, a little, but not fully. Am I stuck? Yes and no. Yes, because drastic change in nature is not possible, as svabhava is part of our destiny, just like big occurrences such as losing one's job will come and we cannot stop them from coming. No, as God is very merciful, He has left an opening in both cases. If one takes shelter from God sincerely, God helps one to come out of all one's troubles (18.58) As far as nature goes, God can help change it for the better if one is determined. This is tough and a slow process, but doable. What is the conclusion? We have a problem with our natures. Whether it is lust or anger or greed or hate or overinflated ego, we are well and truly stuck. Therefore, rush to God's shelter, i.e. get started to please Him now. Let God be convinced that you are determined; He will surely help. And when we do that, those around us will also begin to have some inspiration from us, rather than trying to correct one another, which is an impossibility.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

COP29: A disappointing climate finance deal



B K SINGH

COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, left developing nations frustrated over unmet climate finance commitment making chances of climate reversal bleak



UNFCCC's COP29 concluded in Baku, Azerbaijan on November 24, leaving the vulnerable countries disappointed in the deal made in climate finance. The deal was announced by the Presidency to mobilise \$300 million annually by 2035 as against the \$ 1.3 trillion target put forth by developing nations, which was also supported by India. Developed countries have abandoned the global south, and have to muster their resources for mitigation and adaptation towards the challenges of the climatic crisis.

It is more than three decades that Scientists have been constantly reminding us of the transition of our energy dependency from coal, oil and gas to solar, wind and other renewables. Burning of fossil fuels ever since industrialisation began in 2019 has caused the cumulative emission of 2400 gigabits (Gt) of CO2 equivalent greenhouse gases (CO2, methane, oxides of nitrogen and fluorocarbons - measured as CO2 equivalent). It was also added that an additional 500 Gt would warm the planet by 1.50 C above the preindustrial level leading to frequent and destructive climate events like cyclones, cloudbursts, forest fires, floods, droughts and heat waves disrupting our lives and livelihoods.

Despite such a warning, global annual emission is nearly 40 Gt of CO2 equivalent. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has found 2023 as the warmest year in recorded history and evident from the data till September 2024 is set to register a new temperature record.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has brought all 200 countries together to review actions on their pledges in the annual conference of parties (COP). At COP29 held in Paris in 2015, countries made certain pledges to be fulfilled by 2030 about cutting dependency on fossil fuels, transitioning towards renewables and providing finance to vulnerable countries for adaptation and mitigation etc. G20 countries which contribute 80 per cent of the global emissions and also hold 85 per cent of global GDP have become rich at the cost of global warming. Except for India, none of the G20 countries is on course to fulfil NDC pledges by 2030. South Asian, African and island countries have been the most vulnerable and greatest suf-



EXCEPT FOR INDIA, NONE OF THE G20 COUNTRIES IS ON COURSE TO FULFIL NDC PLEDGES BY 2030. SOUTH ASIAN, AFRICAN AND ISLAND COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN THE MOST VULNERABLE AND GREATEST SUFFERERS OF EXTREME CLIMATE EVENTS AND HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

ferers of extreme climate events and have been deprived of adequate funds for adaptation and mitigation. It was resolved at the COP held in 2009 in Copenhagen that developed nations would provide climate finance of \$100 billion to vulnerable countries annually with effect from 2020, but only \$400 million was provided till 2022. The annual \$100 billion fund committed by developed nations is set to continue till 2035 and only after that, it would be \$300 billion. Though the Paris climate deal set in 2015 called for an upward revision of the annual fund of \$100 billion in 2025, the Baku conference did not respect it and revised it only with effect from 2035.

A new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance was mandated to be set by COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, to support vulnerable and developing countries. In 2025 it was to replace the \$100 billion annual set in 2009. UN evaluation estimated \$500 billion annually, while some other projections suggested that \$1.3 trillion is needed annually. Developing countries that are at the receiving end estimate an annual requirement of \$5 trillion for the purpose. Trump is not likely to contribute, COP29 in the first week of deliberations, failed to get any solid commitment from other developed nations to contribute towards it. Big emitters like the US and China were not even represented by heads of state at Baku.

As COP29 could not take a call on NCQG in the first week, UN climate chief Simon Stiell urged world leaders assembled at Rio de Janeiro for the G20 meeting, to send a strong signal that climate action is the core business for the world's biggest economies and step up climate finance globally but they too did not make any firm commitment and failed to break the deadlock. The cumulative emission of the US since industrialization began has been 537 Gt CO2 equivalent, China 324 Gt, EU 305 Gt, Russia 184,

Brazil 122, Indonesia 101 and India 89. The cumulative figure of China has recently gone passed the EU. At present annual emissions of China have been 14 Gt, the US 8 Gt, the EU 6 Gt and India under 3 Gt. China's cumulative emission is 213 Gt behind the US and as it closes the gap by 6 Gt every year, it would take 36 years at this rate to surpass the US's cumulative emission. Developed countries that contributed to 2400 Gt cumulative emission have announced measures and pledged to cut emissions, but their action is not visible on the ground and the emissions are rising every year. Also, there has been an expansion of oil and gas production in the EU, US, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia etc. and many fold expansion of coal in China. Developed countries that want bigger economies like China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia should also contribute to climate finance towards NCQG. China's scuttling this move is unjustified.

At present China is contributing to warming the planet in a big way. Why should it not pay? Scott Bessent who has been picked as Treasury Secretary for Trump 2.0, has announced a "3-3-3" plan that includes 3 per cent annual growth in GDP, bringing down the budget deficit to 3 per cent of GDP and additionally producing 3 million barrels of oil and gas daily. This is bound to spike the GHG emissions globally and further the increase in temperature. The vulnerable nations at the end of COP29 argued for raising at least \$1.3 trillion towards NCQG, but amidst a hard fight, protests by a group of 77 and walk out by island nations, the developed nations agreed to provide \$300 billion annually that too by 2035 and continue with the existing \$100 billion till then. India also supported the demand of the developing nations and said that without adequate support in terms of finance, technology and capacity building the fight against climate change

would be severely impacted. The delegates from developing nations voiced anger and lambasted wealthy nations for not doing enough. The rich countries responsible for warming the planet are now leaving vulnerable countries in the lurch to face the consequences. Starting from 2005, Carbon trading has been increasing exponentially, but a lot of fraudulent accounting and greenwashing have undermined its credibility.

Rule 6 dealing with the carbon market needed some resolution and the same was pending for the last few COPs, although the funds are quite useful for climate mitigation works. COP29 cleared this long pending agreement allowing countries to trade carbon credits - certified reductions of carbon emissions at prices determined as a consequence of emission caps imposed by the countries. It has also been agreed that the operations of the carbon market would be supervised by the UN body.

Strict UN control is needed, as a project proponent in the developed nation can pay for an afforestation project to absorb 1000 tons of CO2 in a developing nation where trees fail to put in desired growth and are unable to sequester the entire quantity of carbon credited. Further, whether the countries claim credit generated across borders and also whether it can be counted in their NDC? Last year at Dubai COP 28 it was agreed to transition away from fossil fuel consumption, but none of the developed nations have demonstrated to cut the emissions. It is distressing that COP29 did not take up a review. The leading economies are consuming fossil fuels increasingly, without bothering about disastrous consequences. I recommend countries to slow down GDP growth, till renewable energy is fully developed.

(The writer is principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka; views are personal)

Maharashtra villages embrace green energy, move towards zero waste, zero bills

The State is setting a benchmark for climate resilience by integrating water security with renewable energy

In a significant push towards climate resilience and sustainable development, Maharashtra is pioneering innovative solutions that combine water security with renewable energy. The state's groundbreaking initiatives are transforming rural communities while addressing the dual challenges of water scarcity and energy transition.



SANJAY SINGH

The Water Supply and Sanitation Department, along with the Ground Water Surveys and Development Agency (GSDA), has initiated a revolutionary automated solar-hybrid water pumping system across 69 communities. This innovative approach, supported by UNICEF Mumbai, represents a major leap in rural

enabled infrastructure. Digital flow meters and sensors installed at storage tanks allow Gram Panchayats to monitor and control water distribution remotely, preventing over-extraction and waste. The technology includes an automatic solar panel cleaning mechanism, making it highly sustainable and low-maintenance. In Nagpur, the innovative "Green Project" demonstrates how integrated approaches can yield multiple environmental benefits. The project combines solar systems, rooftop rain-water harvesting, ground-water recharge and innovative cooling solutions. Early results are promising: a typical 250-square-meter rooftop can harvest approx-

imately 200,000 litres of water while reducing electricity consumption by 50 per cent. Perhaps the most inspiring success story comes from Manyachiwadi village in Satara district, which has become Maharashtra's first fully solar-powered village. Through the installation of over 100 rooftop solar panels, the village has achieved energy independence, eliminating electricity bills for its residents. The project, funded through the Majhi Vasundhara Campaign state award money and community contributions, serves as a model for rural energy transition. Similarly, Tikekarwadi village has earned recognition under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj

projects is particularly noteworthy. The Green Project, with an investment of approximately INR 420,000, achieves break-even within 3-4 years while providing lasting environmental benefits. The solar-hybrid water pumping systems have a payback period of 5-6 years, generating significant long-term savings for rural communities. These innovations represent a significant shift in rural development strategy, demonstrating that environmental sustainability and economic viability can go hand in hand. The success of these projects has caught the attention of other states, with many looking to replicate Maharashtra's model.



Abhiyan (RGSA) for its comprehensive approach to sustainability. The village has successfully integrated solar and wind energy, biogas plants, and reverse osmosis water treatment systems, setting new standards for rural development. These initiatives are particularly significant given Maharashtra's

vulnerability to climate change. The state faces recurring droughts, intense heat waves, and water scarcity issues. The year 2020, tied with 2016, was recorded as the hottest year, highlighting the urgent need for cooling solutions in rural areas where air conditioning is often unaffordable.

The state's approach aligns with multiple national programs, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Catch the Rain Campaign, and the Majhi Vasundhara Campaign. This convergence of schemes has enabled comprehensive solutions that address both immediate needs and long-term sustainability goals. The economic viability of these

These initiatives are in a way unlocking significant productivity gains and strengthening the development outcomes by accessing clean and green energy for water, health, etc. As climate change continues to pose increasing challenges, Maharashtra's integrated approach to water security and energy transition offers valuable lessons for sustainable development. These initiatives not only address immediate environmental concerns but also build long-term resilience in rural communities, proving that local solutions can have a global impact in the fight against climate change.

(The writer is chief, UNICEF Maharashtra Office; views are personal)

Oppn parties in S Korea move to impeach President

Activists file impeachment complaint against Duterte

AP ■ SEOUL



A National Assembly staff sprays fire extinguishers to block soldiers entering the main hall of the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday. AP/PTI

South Korea's opposition parties Wednesday submitted a motion to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over the shocking and short-lived martial law that drew heavily armed troops to encircle parliament before lawmakers climbed walls to reenter the building and unanimously voted to lift his order. Impeaching Yoon would require the support of two-thirds of parliament, and at least six justices of the nine-member Constitutional Court would have to endorse it to remove him from office.

The motion, submitted jointly by the main liberal opposition Democratic Party and five smaller opposition parties, could be put to a vote as early as Friday.

Yoon's senior policy advisers and Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun offered to resign as the nation struggles to make sense of what appeared to be a poorly-thought-out stunt. The Democratic Party on Wednesday submitted a separate motion to impeach Kim, who it alleged recommended the martial law declaration to Yoon.

In his speech announcing the abrupt order Tuesday night, Yoon vowed to eliminate "anti-state" forces and continued to criticise the Democratic Party's attempts to impeach key government officials and senior prosecutors. But martial law lasted only about six hours, as the National Assembly voted to overrule Yoon before his Cabinet formally lifted it around 4:30 a.m. The Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the 300-seat parliament, said Wednesday that its lawmakers decided to call on Yoon to quit immediately or they would take steps to

impeach him. "President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration was a clear violation of the constitution. It didn't abide by any requirements to declare it," a party statement said. "His martial law declaration was originally invalid and a grave violation of the constitution. It was a grave act of rebellion and provides perfect grounds for his impeachment."

Impeaching him would require support from 200 of the National Assembly's 300 members. The Democratic Party and other small opposition parties together have 192 seats. But the rejection of Yoon's martial law declaration in a 190-0 vote included the votes of 18 lawmakers from Yoon's ruling People Power Party, according

to National Assembly officials. PPP leader Han Dong-hun and Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, also a member, criticised Yoon's martial law declaration.

Cho Jinman, a professor at Seoul's Duksung Women's University, said it's highly likely that lawmakers will back Yoon's impeachment motion given that some from the ruling party already voted down his edict. If Yoon is impeached, he'll be stripped of his constitutional powers until the Constitutional Court rules. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, the No. 2 position in the South Korean government, would take over his presidential responsibilities.

Han issued a public message pleading for patience and calling for Cabinet members to

"fulfill your duties even after this moment."

The Constitutional Court has only six incumbent justices following three retirements. That means all six must approve Yoon's possible impeachment motion for it to succeed. They include those appointed after Yoon took office, so the Democratic Party is expected to speed up the process of exercising its rights to recommend two of the three new justices.

Yoon's martial law declaration, the first of its kind in more than 40 years, harkened to South Korea's past military-backed governments when authorities occasionally proclaimed martial law and other decrees that allowed them to station combat soldiers, tanks and armoured vehicles on streets or at public

places like schools to prevent anti-government demonstrations.

Such scenes of military intervention had not been seen since South Korea achieved a democracy in the late 1980s until Tuesday night.

After Yoon's declaration, troops carrying full battle gear, including assault rifles, tried to keep protesters away from the National Assembly as military helicopters flew overhead and landed nearby. One soldier pointed his assault rifle at a woman who was among protesters outside the building demanding that the martial law be lifted.

It wasn't clear how the 190 lawmakers were able to enter a parliamentary hall to vote down Yoon's martial law decree.

Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung and National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik were seen climbing over walls. As troops and police officers blocked some from entering, they didn't aggressively restrain or use force against others. No major violence has been reported. The troops and police personnel were later seen leaving the grounds of the National Assembly after the parliamentary vote to lift the martial law. Woo said: "Even with our unfortunate memories of military coups, our citizens have surely observed the events of today and saw the maturity of our military."

Under South Korea's constitution, the president can declare martial law during "wartime, war-like situations or other comparable national emergency states" that require the use of military force to restrict the freedom of press, assembly and other rights to maintain order. Many observers question whether South Korea is currently in such a state. The constitution also states that the president must oblige when the National Assembly demands the lifting of martial law with a majority vote.

A presidential official said that Yoon decided to impose martial law as a way to resolve a political deadlock and did it in the middle of night to minimise its negative impacts on the economy. The official requested anonymity to discuss sensitive nature of the issue. Some experts say Yoon clearly violated the constitution in how he imposed martial law. While martial law allows "special measures" to restrict individual freedoms and the authority of agencies and courts, the constitution does not permit the functions of parliament to be restricted.

But in following Yoon's declaration on Tuesday, South Korea's military proclaimed parliamentary activities were suspended and deployed troops to try to block lawmakers from entering the National Assembly. Park Chan-dae, the Democratic Party's floor leader, called for Yoon to be immediately investigated on charges of rebellion over the way he deployed troops to the parliament. While the president mostly enjoys immunity from prosecution while in office, the protection does not extend to alleged rebellion or treason.

In Washington, the White House said the US was "seriously concerned" by the events in Seoul. A spokesperson for the National Security Council said President Joe Biden's administration was not notified in advance of the martial law announcement and was in contact with the South Korean government.

In Seoul, the streets seemed busy like a normal day Wednesday. Tourist Stephen Rowan, from Brisbane, Australia, who was touring Gyeongbokgung Palace, said he was not concerned at all.

"But then again, I don't understand too much about the political status in Korea," he said. "But I hear they are now calling for the current president's resignation, so ... apparently there's going to be a lot of demonstrations. ... I would have been concerned if martial law had stayed enforced."

Natalia Slavnev, research analyst at the Stimson Centre's 38 North website that focuses on Korean affairs, said Yoon's imposition of martial law was "a serious backslide of democracy" that followed a "worrying trend of abuse" since he took office in 2022.

Manila (AP): A group led by left-wing activists filed a second impeachment complaint against the Philippine vice president on Wednesday over her alleged misuse of government funds and demanded that she be permanently barred from holding public office.

The impeachment complaint filed by at least 74 activists, including human rights, labour and student leaders, before the House of Representatives reflects the extent of the political hostilities faced by Vice President Sara Duterte. She did not immediately comment on the new impeachment complaint or an earlier one filed Monday.

Duterte, a 46-year-old lawyer, is the daughter of also-controversial former President Rodrigo Duterte, who oversaw a bloody anti-drug crackdown while in office. The killing of thousands of suspects during the crackdown is being investigated by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity.

Her No. 1 political adversary has been President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., whom she publicly threatened with death in a November 23 online news conference.

Government investigators have launched a criminal investigation into her threat against the president, his wife and the speaker of the House of Representatives, a cousin and ally of Marcos. Duterte has tried to walk back her comments by saying they were not a direct death threat but rather an expression of concern for her own safety.

Jewish settlers attack Palestinian towns, clash with Israeli troops

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Jewish settlers mounted a string of attacks on Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank overnight, burning homes and clashing with Israeli troops.

There were no immediate reports of any Palestinian casualties. The Israeli military said Jewish settlers attacked the village of Beit Furik after troops arrived in the area to dismantle an unauthorised farming outpost they had built nearby. It said the settlers hurled stones, wounding two members of the paramilitary Border Police, and one group entered the village and burned property. The West Bank has seen a surge in settler violence since the start of the war.

In Lebanon, a tenuous ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah has held despite Israeli forces carrying out several new drone and artillery strikes on Tuesday, killing a shepherd in the country's south. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed keep striking "with an iron fist" against perceived Hezbollah violations of the ceasefire.

Hezbollah began launching rockets, drones and missiles into Israel last year in solidarity with Hamas militants who are fighting in the Gaza Strip. The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage.

Israel's blistering retaliatory offensive has killed at least 44,500 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants,



Palestinians check the rubble of a destroyed building following an overnight Israeli strike in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, Wednesday. AP/PTI

without providing evidence. The war in Gaza has destroyed vast areas of the coastal enclave and displaced 90 per cent of the population of 2.3 million, often multiple times.

Jewish settlers mounted a string of attacks on Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank overnight, burning homes and clashing with Israeli troops. There were no immediate reports of any Palestinian casualties.

The Israeli military said one group entered the village, where they threw stones and burned property. An Associated Press reporter saw a blackened home and a destroyed car on Wednesday morning.

The military said Jewish settlers attacked the village of Beit Furik after troops arrived in the area to dismantle an unauthorised farming outpost they had built nearby on land privately

owned by Palestinians. It said the settlers hurled stones, wounding two members of the paramilitary Border Police. Settlers also attacked the village of Huwara, which has been the target of several previous attacks — even before the outbreak of the war in Gaza — and clashed with troops near Rujib, another Palestinian village. Israeli police and the Shin Bet security agency said in a statement that they were investigating the settler attacks.

They said they arrested eight Israelis for suspected property damage and assaulting security forces. The West Bank has seen a surge in settler violence since the start of the war, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel. Settlers have also raced to establish new farming outposts that rights groups say are among the biggest drivers of the violence.

The UN's humanitarian office said settler attacks on Palestinian farmers during the recent olive harvest season "at least tripled" in 2024 compared to the last three years. Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for an independent state.

4 CHILDREN KILLED IN GAZA STRIKE

Palestinian medics said an Israeli airstrike on the Gaza Strip killed at least five people, including four children, on Wednesday. The Awda Hospital, which received the bodies, said the five were gathered outside of shelters in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, which dates back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

Relatives hunt for missing after Guinea stadium crush

Conakry (AP): A distraught Kambaly Kouroumah is searching for his teenage brother, Adama, at a local morgue in southern Guinea's Nzerekore city, where dozens of people died at a crowded stadium after chaos erupted during a soccer game.

Kouroumah is one of many bereaved people searching hospitals and mortuaries for missing relatives following Sunday's tragic events during the final of a national tournament honouring military leader Mamadi Doumbouya. Official estimates say 56 people died in the crush, but the unofficial death toll is at least 135, according to the Collective of Human Rights Organisations of the Nzerekore region. More than 50 people remain missing, including Adama, 15, who was "every-

thing" to his devastated brother.

"I want to see him now, dead or alive," a heartbroken Kouroumah said.

The world's latest sports crowd disaster happened during the final of the tournament at the Third of April stadium in honour of Doumbouya, who overran the country's elected president three years ago and added it to the list of several West African countries hit by military coups in recent years. But for a football-loving nation hungry for its first World Cup qualification and an Africa Cup of Nations triumph, the two-week tournament in Nzerekore, almost 1,000 kilometres from the capital of Conakry, had attracted not just adults and youths, but also children.

Chaos had erupted at the crowded and open stadium after fans protested a referee's penalty call and were throwing stones towards the field, according to witnesses and local media. Security forces reacted to the disturbance with tear gas as fans poured onto the pitch, survivors said. While some fans managed to jump over the high fence to escape, videos from the scene showed many struggling to squeeze themselves through the main stadium entrance, ending up being crushed by the crowd. Desperate fans were seen shouting and crying for help, many of them being trampled as they struggled to avoid the crush. Among the dead was Jaquerine Keba Koéovogui, 15, whose father said she rarely visited the stadium and, although she loved soccer, would always

prefer to watch it on television. "My daughter was with other members of the family, mostly boys who were able to jump over the stadium walls while she tried to get out through the entrance," said Jules Koevogui, 42. Mamadou Sanoh's painful search for his 10-year-old son ended with heartbreak. "I went to the morgue and saw his body," said Sanoh. "I cannot tell you the shock I am feeling." The National Alliance for Alternation and Democracy opposition coalition said the tournament was organized to drum up support for the "illegal and inappropriate" political ambitions of the junta leader. While videos showed the stadium was filled at full capacity, Cissé Lancine, a local sports journalist, estimated there were between 20,000 and 30,000 spectators.

UK issues terror threat warning in travel advisory

'Trump was joking when he said Canada could become 51st state'

Toronto (AP): President-elect Donald Trump was joking when he suggested Canada become the 51st US state during a dinner with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, a Canadian minister who attended their recent dinner said Tuesday.

Fox News reported that Trump made the comment in response to Trudeau raising concerns that Trump's threatened tariffs on Canada would damage Canada's economy. Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc, who attended the Friday dinner at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club, said Trump's comments were in jest. "The president was teasing us. It was, of course, on that issue, in no way a serious comment," LeBlanc told reporters in Ottawa. LeBlanc described it as a three-hour social evening at the president's residence in Florida on a long weekend of American Thanksgiving. "The conversation was going to be light-hearted," he said. He called the relations warm and cordial and said the fact that "the president is able to joke like that for us" indicates good relations. On Tuesday, Trump appeared to continue with the joke, posting on his Truth Social platform an AI-generated image of himself standing on a mountain with a Canadian flag next to him with the caption "Oh Canada!"

Canada!"

"If I were President Trump, I'd think twice before invading Canada. The last time the US tried something like that — back in the War of 1812 — it didn't exactly end well. Canada even burned down the White House," former Quebec Premier Jean Charest joked on X. Earlier last week, the Republican president-elect threatened to impose a 25% tax on all products entering the US from Canada and Mexico unless they stem the flow of migrants and drugs. Trudeau requested the meeting in a bid to avoid the tariffs by convincing Trump that the northern border is nothing like the US southern border with Mexico.

London (PTI): The UK government has updated its travel advisory for Bangladesh to caution against travel to the country where "terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks".

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) reviewed the "Safety and Security" section of its advisory for Bangladesh on Tuesday evening. The update adds to its overall standing advice against "all but essential travel" to the South Asian nation. "Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Bangladesh," reads the updated FCDO travel advisory. "Terrorist attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreign nationals, such as crowded areas, religious buildings, (and) political rallies.

Washington (PTI): The transition team of President-elect Donald Trump has reached an agreement with the Department of Justice, paving the way for the department to conduct background checks and start the security clearance process for Trump administration nominees and appointees.

The Memorandum Of Understanding was signed on Tuesday and comes amid controversy over some of Trump's picks for top positions in the government. This is the next step in the ongoing preparation of senior administration officials for the purpose of serving in President Trump's administration, a press release said on Tuesday. "This agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) will ensure President Trump and his team are ready on Day 1 to begin enacting the

Rishi Sunak, Akshata Murty plan new UK office

London (PTI): Former British prime minister Rishi Sunak and his wife, Akshata Murty, are believed to be in talks to set up a new private office in the new year to make a positive contribution to Britain, according to a UK media report on Wednesday. The Times newspaper reports that Sunak and Murty, both 44 and with a combined estimated fortune of around GBP 500 million, are to fund the so-called "Office of Akshata Murty and Rishi Sunak" themselves. While the couple are still deciding on the focus of the new initiative, both are said to be passionate about education and likely to incorporate that among its goals. "Rishi Sunak and his wife, Akshata Murty, are in talks about setting up an office next year to pursue initiatives that they believe will make a positive contribution to Britain," claims the newspaper report. "The former prime minister has elected not to take the GBP 1.15,000 a year allowance to which he is entitled after leaving No. 10 [Downing Street]. They are being supported by Coulson Partners, a PR firm set up by Andy Coulson, a former No. 10 adviser and newspaper editor," it adds. Sunak, who stepped down as Conservative Party leader in the wake of a bruising electoral defeat in July, is now a backbench member of Parliament for Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire. Back in October, he addressed his final Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) as Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons to make way for his successor — Kemi Badenoch. Alluding to some media specu-

lation around his family's relocation plans to California, Sunak had stated that he will be spending more time in his constituency while continuing to raise issues of concern from the backbenches. "I am happy to confirm reports that I will now be spending more time in the greatest place on earth, where the scenery is indeed worthy of a movie set and everybody is a character — that's right, if anyone needs me, I will be in Yorkshire," he said, amid laughter from his parliamentary colleagues. Last month, Britain's first prime minister of

Indian heritage received a rockstar welcome at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's annual Diwali gala in London — where he joined Akshata and her mother Sudha Murty as the guest of honour. During her time at 10 Downing Street, Akshata Murty — daughter of Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy — held a regular "Lessons at 10" programme to provide children from across the UK an opportunity to see behind the scenes of the famous black door — the office and residence of the British PM in London.

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Trump team signs agreement with Justice Department for background checks

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USP
Institute of Fashion and Communication Technology- IFCT- Hosts Campus Influencers Meet
Mohali: The Media Studies department of Institute of Fashion and Communication Technology (IFCT), hosted its first-ever Campus Influencers Meet in Mohali, bringing together young creative minds and influencers from various fields. The event aimed at encouraging talent, promoting creativity, and fostering a culture of collaboration on campus. Dr. Neha Miglani, Director of IFCT, highlighted the significance of such events. "At IFCT, we believe in promoting the boundless creativity of our students and young influencers. This event is a testament to our commitment to nurturing and encouraging the next generation of talent, who can bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the world of fashion, media, and communication."



Bihar Foundation Leaders Meet Punjab Governor to Discuss Bihari Diaspora Issues in the Region
Chandigarh: Dr. Rupesh Kumar Singh, President of the Punjab and Chandigarh Chapter of the Bihar Foundation, along with fellow office bearers Niraj Kumar Singh and Pallav Kumar, held a meeting on Wednesday with Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh Gulab Chand Kataria and discussed initiatives of the Bihar Foundation, focusing on strengthening the ties between Bihar's diaspora and the state's development efforts. Singh provided an overview of the Foundation's initiatives, including events like the Bihar Foundation Day and Bihari Pravasi Samman, which celebrate Bihar's culture, promote tourism, and attract investment to enhance the state's international reputation.



Advocate N.K.Verma, Convener BJP Legal Cell along with advocates of Nayagaon met with Sh. Lal Chand Katarachak, Minister Forest & Wildlife, Dr. Ravjot Singh, Minister Local Body & S. Hardeep Singh Mundian, Minister House & Urban Development, Punjab at Punjab Bhawan, Sector 3, Chandigarh on the Eco Sensitive Zone issue.

Rana Gurjeet Singh raises concern over tardy paddy procurement during kharif harvest
Kapurthala: MLA Rana Gurjeet Singh has asked for resolving all issues that caused troubles for farmers in getting their paddy produce procured in the kharif harvest season that has just ended. Raising concerns over the matter, the Kapurthala legislator said that farmers work hard and toil to grow the crop and it is distressing for him when problems arise at the time of selling the crop. "The farmers have a very short window between paddy harvest and wheat cultivation so his kharif produce be procured immediately on reaching the mandis", he suggested.

FirstSteps School's Middle & Senior School Students stage play 'My Fair Lady'
Chandigarh: Students of the Middle and Senior Wings at FirstSteps IB World School, Sector 26, showcased their theatrical prowess by presenting My Fair Lady, a timeless classic based on George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion. Over 1.5 months of dedicated preparation culminated in a 1 hour and 40 minutes play that was showcased under the direction of Neha Bakshi Kaushal from The Idea Box. The production involved 63 talented students from grades 6 to 10. According to Japji Cheema, Chairperson, FirstSteps IB World School, "The play was chosen to immerse students in classic theatre, enhancing their understanding of larger-than-life characters, theatrical effects, and storytelling techniques."

Canara Bank to organized MSME CLUSTER CAMP
Canara Bank's MSME CLUSTER CAMP will be organized on 06th December in Panipat. On this occasion, Senior Executives of the Canara Bank Circle Office Kamal & Regional Office Panipat will be present at venues. Businessmen, Industrialist, Exporter of the city will also be present on this occasion. In this, general public will be informed about the various MSME Scheme for industrialist, Exporter, Textile industry, Contractor, Small business & Government sponsored Scheme.

20 per cent cybercrimes involve dark web usage by attackers says report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

At least 20 per cent of cybercrimes in India involve attackers using dark web, according to a report by cyber security firm Lisianthus. The dark web is a platform on the internet that can be accessed using special tools. It is usually very difficult to trace the identity and location of a dark web user. "At least 20 per cent of cybercrimes in India involve the usage of the dark web by online attackers," the study conducted by Lisianthus Tech said. The attackers used the dark web for cybercrimes like data breaches, hacking, phishing, ransomware, identity theft, sale and



purchase of banned products like narcotics and weapons. The study is based on a detailed analysis of several cases of cybercrime reported across the country, said

Khushhal Kaushik, founder and CEO of Lisianthus Tech. The study was conducted on a sampling basis over a period of two months which concluded last week, he said.

"Study was completed using several samples of crime data taken from state police, National Crime Records Bureau and other relevant portals reporting cyber crime

and analyzing these in detail with industry experts, cyber security consultants and law enforcement representatives," Kaushik said. Recently a man was arrested for cultivating cannabis in his rented flat and selling it off through the dark web. Attackers had also used the dark web for ransomware attacks on AIIMS in Delhi last year, he said. Gurugram-based Lisianthus Tech is into cyber-security audits and conducting security assessments. As per the report, the usage of dark web has grown two-fold in the past decade and to avoid being a victim of this, users must not give permission to any online notification seeking access to their phone book and other applications.

Reliance Power shares jump five per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Reliance Power jumped 5 per cent on Wednesday after Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) said it has withdrawn the debarment notice issued to the company enabling the Anil Ambani-led firm to participate in future tenders of the public sector entity. The stock climbed 4.98 per cent to Rs 41.07 - its upper circuit limit - on the BSE. At the NSE, it surged 4.98 per cent to hit the highest trading permissible limit for the day. SECI, which serves as the implementing agency for renewable energy projects, had on November 6 debarred Reliance Power Ltd and Reliance NU BESS Ltd from participating in any of its tenders for three years for allegedly submitting "fake documents". On November 13, SECI had also slapped a show cause notice on Anil Ambani-run Reliance Power, asking why criminal proceedings should not be initiated after a fake bank guarantee was submitted by its unit. In the latest statement on Tuesday, SECI said the withdrawal of its debarment notice is without prejudice to its right to take all actions in accordance with the law. Following the legal proceedings related to this matter, the debarment notice issued to Reliance Power Ltd has been withdrawn with immediate effect, SECI said. Meanwhile, Reliance Power in a stock exchange filing said with the withdrawal of SECI's debarment notice, "the company and its subsidiaries, except Reliance NU BESS Ltd (formerly known as Maharashtra Energy Generation Limited), are eligible to participate in all tenders issued by SECI".

Adani Defence delivers second Drishti-10 drone to Navy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Defence and Aerospace has delivered a second Drishti-10 Starliner surveillance drone to the Indian Navy, boosting India's maritime forces' capabilities to monitor shipping lines and mitigate piracy risks. Following the handover of the first Drishti-10 to the Indian Navy earlier this year, the induction of the second unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), a version of the Israel's Hermes 900 medium-altitude long-endurance UAV, into naval maritime operations was initiated at Porbandar in Gujarat, sources aware of the matter said. Drishti 10 Starliner drone, manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace, a part of the conglomerate helmed by billionaire Gautam Adani, at its Hyderabad facility, is an advanced intelligence,

surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours endurance and 450 kg payload capacity. The only all-weather military platform, with NATO's STANAG 4671 (standardized agreement 4671) certification for the UAV system's airworthiness, is cleared to fly in both segregated and unsegregated airspace. Sources said the platform provides over the horizon, persistent multi payload, fully autonomous capabilities and Satcom-based operations. The Drishti 10 is a force multiplier providing the Indian Navy with the ability to monitor vast maritime territories and unparalleled situational awareness. This marks the first-ever integration of such an advanced payload suites onto a MALE platform, enabling the Indian Navy with differentiated capabilities to

dominate maritime surveillance, they said. MALE stands for Medium Altitude Long Endurance, and is a type of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that can fly at altitudes of 10,000 to 30,000 feet. MALE UAVs are typically used for surveillance and reconnaissance, and can have a flight endurance of 24 to 48 hours. Adani Defence had previously delivered the Drishti-10 Starliner to the Indian Army as well. The first Drishti-10 Starliner was delivered to the Indian Navy in January this year and the second to Army in June. The Indian Army, which has ordered two such drones, will deploy the first at its Bhatinda base in Punjab from where it can keep an eye on the entire western border with Pakistan. Drishti 10 has reached significant milestones through its flight operations in

Porbandar and Bhatinda by the Indian Navy and the Indian Army, exemplifying a new era for India's indigenous defence capabilities. Drishti 10, India's only indigenous UAV operating reliably above 32,000+ feet with large payload carrying capacity and distinctively long endurance, is not only endured in harsh conditions but excelled, proving its resilience over the challenging terrains and climates of the Himalayas, sources said, adding this performance reinforces India's capacity for innovation and strength under pressure, serving as a testament to our country's unwavering resolve to protect and advance our strategic interests. Moreover, the Drishti 10 Starliner embodies more than a single achievement -- it reflects a larger vision for

India's defence future. In less than three years, Adani Defence has achieved what traditionally takes five to six years in the industry, delivering MALE UAV capabilities to both the Indian Army and Navy. During a recent visit to the Porbandar base, Rear Admiral Janak Bevl, VSM, Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Air), reviewed the ongoing operations and engaged with the Adani Defence team, led by AVM KVR Raju, VM (Retd.), Technical Head, UAVs & Missiles. The induction, sources said, marks a defining moment in India's journey toward self-reliance in defence technology, a testament to the seamless collaboration between Adani Defence and the Indian Navy, driven by a shared commitment to safeguarding maritime interests.

DRI officers seize 8,224 kilogram contraband and 1,319 kilogram gold in FY24
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

DRI officers have seized about 8,224 kg of contraband in the 2023-24 fiscal worth Rs 2,242 crore, with the seizure of cocaine seeing an increase over the past five years. During the 2023-24 financial year, I has seized 1,319 kg of gold and smuggling through India's porous eastern borders, particularly with Bangladesh and Myanmar, has also emerged as a major concern for law enforcement agencies. The Smuggling in India Report released by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on its 67th foundation day said in recent years, law enforcement agencies have observed a "troubling increase" in the circulation of 'Yaba', a potent drug tablet that combines methamphetamine and caffeine, mostly produced in Myanmar. Yaba, meaning crazy medicine, has evolved into a recreational drug infamous for its severe addiction potential and devastating health effects, leading to significant seizures across the region.

Antler India plans to invest ₹211 Crore in 50 start-ups in 2025: Company
PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Venture Capital firm Antler India is planning to invest USD 25 million, or about Rs 211 crore, in 50 startups in 2025, the company said on Wednesday. The venture capital firm has invested in 30 startups in 2024 through its maiden USD 75 million fund. "Antler plans to ramp up investments further in the next year and make 50 investments in 2025. We plan to invest USD 25 million in the 50 companies," Antler India Partner Rajiv Srivatsa told PTI. The company's 2024 investments include a wholesale marketplace for fashion retail Bizup, aluminium-air fuel cell technology company Meine Electric, open mobility

platform Namma Yatri, personal loan facilitator firm Keeper, which uses paid leaves as digital assets for salaried employees, AI-powered dashcam provider Cautio, etc. "Our investment pace reflects both the quality of the founders we're meeting and our conviction that the next wave of global technology companies will emerge from India. We have invested in 30 companies this year, many of which were born in our Residency program, where founders had the opportunity to validate their ideas, build strong teams, and get early customer traction before raising their first check," Srivatsa said. Antler's next Residency cohort in India is scheduled to commence in February 2025.

Rubrik unveils Annapurna: Single API service for building generative AI applications
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rubrik, Inc. (NYSE: RBRK) Wednesday announced Rubrik Annapurna, a single API service for customers building generative AI (Gen AI) applications, which will integrate with Amazon Bedrock. Rubrik Annapurna is designed to enable fast access to secure data embeddings from Rubrik Security Cloud, which spans enterprise-wide data and metadata across on-premises, cloud, and SaaS. Rubrik Annapurna's powerful and secure data retrieval capabilities will work with Amazon Bedrock, enabling customers to access a broad selection of high-performing foundation models (FMs) to build enterprise-grade generative AI applications. Creating generative AI applications customized to an organization's proprietary knowledge is a priority for the C-suite. However, AI development teams not using the cloud must first locate and extract enterprise data from dozens of applications, filter on permissions and sensitivity, embed this data into vector



databases for retrieval, and then build data pipelines to their large language models (LLMs). "Organizations are faced with significant complexity when developing AI applications due to challenges around data access and sensitive data permissions. This could lead to applications that lack relevant knowledge or don't adhere to access controls," said Bipul Sinha, CEO, Chairman, and Co-founder of Rubrik. Annapurna's integration with Amazon Bedrock aims to advance organizations' AI innovation with fast API-first secure data access. Out-of-the-box, application aware embedding engine, seamless mobilization of data and

avoid shadow datastores and more intelligent customer support expert for every representative. "Rubrik is simplifying complex data environments while prioritizing security and compliance continues to give us confidence as we explore new opportunities to innovate and scale with AI. Today's announcement of Rubrik Annapurna and the integration with Amazon Bedrock is a true testament to Rubrik's focus and vision to help customers securely connect enterprise data and metadata to build compelling and AI applications," said Ted Balagtas, SVP, Chief Information Officer at Bankwell Financial Group.

₹15 Lakh Crore required for adding power generation capacity in 2022-27

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

About Rs 15 lakh crore fund is required to add electricity generation capacity during 2022-27, which includes expenditure for projects to be commissioned in 2027-32, a power ministry statement said. The projected electrical energy requirement and peak electricity demand on all-India basis is estimated as 1908 BU (billion units) and 277 GW, respectively for 2026-27. The projections were made during a Meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament for Ministry of

Power here last evening. Union Power Minister Manohar Lal chaired the meeting. As per 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) report published by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the peak demand and energy requirement is pegged at around 366 GW and 2474 BU by 2031-32, it stated. Energy Storage capacity is an important aspect in achieving the targets of NEP. Energy storage capacity of 16.13 GW/82.37 GWh with PSP(pumped storage) based storage of 7.45 GW capacity and 47.65 GWh storage and BESS based storage of 8.68 GW/34.72 GWh is required

by 2026-27. The projections of total capacity addition are in line with the target of the country to achieve a non-fossil based installed capacity of 500 GW by 2029-30, it stated. The ministry said that the total fund requirement for the period 2022-2027 is estimated to be Rs 14,54,188 crore, which also includes the likely expenditure during 2022-27 for advance action for the projects expected to get commissioned during 2027-32, it stated. The average emission factor is expected to reduce to 0.548 kg CO2/kWh in the year 2026-27 and to 0.430 kg CO2/kWh by the end of 2031-32, it stated.

The share of non-fossil-based capacity is likely to increase to 57.4 per cent by the end of 2026-27 and may further increase to 68.4 per cent by the end of 2031-32 from around 46.5 per cent as on October 2024, it stated. Members of Parliament provided several suggestions concerning various initiatives and schemes. They commended the plan for its ambitious green energy goals and achievements in electricity generation capacity. The meeting also included discussions on issues related to storage, renewable energy generation, and compensation for farmers. He further directed officials to

take appropriate actions to incorporate the suggestions made by Members of Parliament and prioritize the welfare of the people. Emphasizing India's commitment to achieving carbon net-zero, he stated that the focus would remain on non-fossil-based energy sources. The Union Minister also stressed the importance of enhancing storage capacity to ensure affordable and reliable power for everyone. He also emphasised that state and central governments need to work in coordination to achieve the targets. Minister of State for Power Shripad Yesso Naik said that India is energy transition as

per the NDCs and is on path of achieving SDGs. He said that the National Electricity Plan (NEP) is a short-term framework of five years while giving a 15-year perspective. The fourth NEP prepared by Central Electricity Authority includes a review of the period 2017 -22, detailed capacity addition requirement during the years 2022-27 and Perspective Plan projections for the years 2027 -32. Installed generation capacity as on October 31, 2024 was 454.5 GW comprising of 243.1 GW thermal, 8.2 GW Nuclear, 203.2GW Renewables including large hydro of 46.97 GW.

Big test for India's batters against Australia in three-match series

PTI ■ BRISBANE
India will aim to address their batting inconsistency and finalise their combination ahead of the Women's World Cup next year when they take on the mighty Australia in the three-match ODI series, starting here Thursday.
The Indian team has landed Down Under after securing a 2-1 home ODI series win over New Zealand.
However, it was fairly evident that India's batting was not in top shape. As a result, they have dropped out-of-form opener Shafali Verma from the squad in an attempt to try a different combination.
The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side would know that it has a huge task cut out against Australia who have historically dominated them in 50-over cricket.
Their record Down Under is dismal, with just four wins out of sixteen WODIs. In the last series in 2021, Australia

defeated India 2-1.
The series will give skipper Kaur and coach Amol Majumdar a perfect opportunity to bolster their preparations for the ODI World Cup at home next year. Australia will be without regular skipper Alyssa Healy, who is nursing a knee injury. Additionally, the hosts have not played in this format since March and will be aiming to shake off the rust.
“(India) have got superstars ... Always hard-fought and crucial key moments in every game, and while we're at home we're expecting a lot of India support,” Australia captain Tahlia McGrath said.
For India, Smriti Mandhana will bear the responsibility of providing a solid start with the bat. Besides two single digit scores, the flamboyant opener has been in fine form this year, scoring 448 runs at an impressive average of around 75 in her last six ODIs.
Kaur's form will be a significant concern for India,

as she has struggled with consistency this year. With much at stake, her captaincy and batting have come under scrutiny following India's early exit from the T20 World Cup. Additionally, she will face increased pressure after failing to score in double figures in the last ODI series against Australia.
The likes of Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma will also be keen to get big scores.
The Indian team will miss wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia, who suffered a wrist injury during the Women's Big Bash League. Young Uma Chetry, who has been included in the team in her place, will want to make an impression in her debut ODI series.
Big-hitting wicketkeeper-batters Richa Ghosh has returned to the team as have Harleen Deol, Titas Sadhu and Minnu Mani.
Deepti bowled at an economy rate of 3.6 against New



Zealand and she would like to continue this performance. Radha Yadav too had a good series against the Kiwis and would want to continue in the same vein.
Aggressive fast bowler Saima Thakor, who made her debut against New Zealand, will also be desperate to leave a mark with her performance.
McGrath will be captaining the national side for the first time in a full series.
“This is the first time I've had a full series as captain - previously I've stepped into

the role at the end of a series or a tournament. I like to put my own spin on it,” McGrath said.
Batter Georgia Voll has been given her debut in place of Healy, while veteran Elise Perry will be eyeing the 4,000-run milestone in ODIs, as she is just 42 runs away.
The weather is expected to be hot and humid and there is also a possibility of light rain.

Punia, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Uma Chetry, Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Radha Yadav, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Saima Thakor
Australia: Tahlia McGrath (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Darcie Brown, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Moloney, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.



Bangladesh beats West Indies by 101 runs in Jamaica

AP ■ KINGSTON
Bangladesh won a test in the Caribbean for the first time in 15 years by beating the West Indies by 101 runs inside four days at Sabina Park.
Bangladesh set West Indies 287 to win in five and a bit sessions and the West Indies managed to bat less than two sessions, all out for 185.
The Bangladeshis had lost their last seven tests in the Caribbean, including the first one of this series in Antigua last week. They have tied the short series. “This was enjoyable,” Bangladesh stand-in captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz said. “We were not thinking negatively. The boys bowled especially well. Nahid (Rana) in the first innings, Taskin (Ahmed) and Hasan Mahmud. Second-innings specialist Taijul (Islam) got five wickets. He was excellent. He has been very good for the last 10 years, more than 200 wickets for us.”

On a pitch offering some grip and the odd low bounce, spin came into play and left-armers Taijul took advantage with 5-50, his best overseas figures in 2 1/2 years and his best figures in the West Indies since his test debut on the same ground in 2014. As West Indies wickets began to tumble — the last six for 42 runs — Jaker Ali's innings for Bangladesh grew in importance. Jaker made a career-best 91 and was last man out in the visitors' second innings just before lunch.
That gave West Indies a target of 287, which was gettable, but on a ground where the highest successful run chase was 212. That record remains.
“The batting group needs consistency,” West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite said. “Consistency in hard work as well. I believe we have the talent.”
Hodge offers hope Brathwaite led a positive start to the chase but couldn't sustain a partnership.
Mikyle Louis fell to Taijul on the stroke of lunch, and Keacy Carty nicked Taskin behind. Brathwaite, with just one half-century in 18 months, reached 43 off 63 balls when he was out defending against Taijul. The ball grazed his glove and Mahmudul Hasan Joy made a diving close-in catch.
Taijul then bowled Alick Athanaze through the gate and West Indies hopes were resting on Kaveem Hodge.
Hodge reached tea on 49 and West Indies was still in the chase at 133-4, needing 154 more.
Hodge, who debuted in January, achieved the West Indies' first half-century of the test, 50 off 64 balls, but just when the chase was half done he was out.

Public Notice
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mentioned respect of Vehicles. VEHICLES FOR SALE
1) LCV1225623 (OCEAN LOGISTICS AND PACKERS) TATA MOTORS LPT 1109CH REG.NO.HR61D2715 YOM-2019 RESERVE PRICE - 539956/-
UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH MIS KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON OR BEFORE 19.12.2024 (PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY OFF / HOLIDAY).
BRANCH ADDRESS: FIRST FLOOR, PLOT NO 406 TO 408 / 28, ROOPALAY COMPLEX D PARK, MODEL TOWN, ROHTAK 124001 OR CONTACT MR. PRADEEP MALIK KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. +91-9896009696 EMAIL - pradeep.malik@kotak.com

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PLANNING BOARD
(A Statutory Body under Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India) 1st Floor, Core-4B, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for Preparation of Functional Plans
National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), New Delhi invites sealed bids from National and International Consulting Entities / Organizations/ Joint Ventures/Consortiums etc. for undertaking works relating to preparation of Functional Plan on 'Water Management and Waste Management' as per Regional Plan 2041 proposals for National Capital Region Area.
The RFQ-cum-RFP document containing the Terms of Reference (ToR), Details of Qualification and Evaluation Criteria etc. can be downloaded along with the draft Contract Agreement from the website of NCRPB i.e. <http://ncrpb.nic.in/tenders>.
Hardcopy of the RFQ-cum-RFP document may also be obtained from the office of NCRPB, Core 4-B, First Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003. Last date of submission of completed bid is **16.01.2025**.
Sd/-
Member Secretary
CBC 44103/12/0004/2425

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Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for Preparation of Functional Plans
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NOMINATED AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF COAL, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
120, F-Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001. 011-23384106

"Invitation of Bids for Auction of Coal Mines / Blocks for Sale of Coal"
In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4 (1) and 4 (2) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Section 11A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Rules made thereunder, the Government of India has directed the Nominated Authority to undertake the auction of 20 Coal mines / blocks under 21st Tranche of Auction under CM (SP) Act, 2015 and 11th Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957 and 7 coal mines / blocks under Second Attempt of 20% Tranche of Auction under CM(SP) Act, 2015 and Second Attempt of 10th Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957. The Tender process has been launched on Thursday, the 5th December, 2024. Tender Document and other details can be accessed on <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/coalblock/index.jsp>
CBC 04107/11/0003/2425

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME
I Padma is legally Mother of No. 16124745K, NK, Purusoth P of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO residing at No. 231, Annanagar, Maligaipattu, Maligaipattu, Tiruvannamalai State Tamil Nadu Pin-604409 Declare That my Name Bathma P Wrongly written in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Padma.
I, Army No. 15331068N Rank NK Name Vijaya Kumar M of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my mother name from Thamarakshy to Thamarakshi K & Date of birth 01.07.1943 to 01.01.1944.
I, Army No. 7781408K Rank HAV (Chef) Name Ramashish Chauhan of Unit 17 Corps Provost Unit c/o 99 APO, PIN-908517 have changed my mother name from Kuwari Devi to Fool Kumari & Date of birth 01.07.1962 to 01.01.1949.
I, Army No. 16116210F, NK, Eswaran M of Unit 18 Engineer Regt c/o 56 APO, resident of 424/4, Puthukalingam, Palti, Kattu Patti Post, Siluvathur via, Kambiliampatti, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, 624306 have changed my name from M Jayamani to Jayamani Mohandass- due to erroneous mistake in my son's service record. My true and correct date of birth is 01.07.1968 as per my Aadhaar Card & Pan card, but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned is 01.07.1970, which is wrong.
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International GITA Mahotsav

28 November - 15 December
Kurukshetra, Haryana

सर्वधर्मान्परित्यज्य मामेकं शरणं व्रज ।
अहं त्वा सर्वपापेभ्यो मोक्षयिष्यामि मा शुचः ॥
भगवद्गीता 18-66

सम्पूर्ण कर्तव्य कर्मों का आश्रय छोड़कर तू केवल मेरी शरण में आ जा ।
मैं तुझे सभी पापों से मुक्त कर दूंगा, शोक मत कर ।

Abandoning all duties, come to Me alone for shelter.
Be not grieved, for I shall release you from all evils.

International Gita Mahotsav

Inauguration

December 5, 2024

By

Sh. Bandaru Dattatraya

Governor, Haryana

Lt.Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.)

Governor, Uttarakhand

Sh. Arif Mohammed Khan

Governor, Kerala

Ms. Tabia

Minister for Information, Youth & Culture,
Zanzibar

and

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

Main Programmes

- 09:00 am Gita Yajna and Gita Pujan
(Brahma Sarovar, Kurukshetra)
- 11:15 am Inauguration of the Pavilions of
Haryana, Partner State Odisha and
Partner Country Tanzania
- 12:30 pm Inauguration of International Gita
Seminar
- 05:00 pm Bhajan Sandhya and Maha Aarti
- 06:00 pm The Cultural Evening



“सभी देशवासियों को गीता जयंती की अनंत शुभकामनाएं।
श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता सदियों से मानवता का मार्गदर्शन करती आई है।
अध्यात्म और जीवन-दर्शन से जुड़ा यह महान ग्रंथ हर युग
में पथ प्रदर्शक बना रहेगा।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



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