

INSIDE

WORLD 8

AMERICANS REALISING TRUMP'S TARIFFS ON CANADA MAKE LIFE EXPENSIVE: TRUDEAU

NO CONFIDENCE IN V-P DHANKAR: OPPOSITION



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a first, Congress-led INDIA Bloc of Opposition parties on Tuesday submitted a notice to bring a motion in Rajya Sabha for the removal of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, accusing him of "partisan" conduct as the chairman of the Upper House. Dhankar is Chairman of the Upper House.

If the motion is moved, these parties need a simple majority to get it passed, but they do not have the requisite numbers in the 243-member House. Opposition members, however, insisted that it was a "strong message to fight for parliamentary democracy".

Affairs minister Kiren Rijiju dubbed the move as "extremely regrettable" and said the government is very proud of Dhankar.

On behalf of the Opposition, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Naseer Hussain submitted the notice signed by 60 Opposition Members of Parliament, including from the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Trinamool Congress (TMC), Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India (Marxist) CPI-M, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Samajwadi Party (SP), to Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody.

The present move, spearheaded by the Congress, comes in the wake of verbal clashes between Opposition parties and the Rajya Sabha chairman. The Opposition has been upset with Dhankhar over multiple issues. The latest trigger was allowing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members to raise the allegations of links

Identify illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, orders LG

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor's secretary has written to the Chief Secretary and Police Commissioner asking for initiating "strict action" against illegal Bangladeshi immigrants residing in the National Capital. According to Raj Niwas officials, the LG Secretariat has asked the Chief Secretary and the Police Commissioner to launch a special drive spanning over two months to identify illegal Bangladesh immigrants in Delhi and take strict action as per the extant rules in a time-bound manner.

The move comes in wake of the representation made by the delegation of Ulemas and Muslim leaders from Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin and Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday. They had expressed deep concern about the attacks being undertaken on the Hindu and other minority communities in Bangladesh and accordingly, demanded stringent action against Bangladeshi infiltrators residing in the National Capital.

"Prominent Ulemas and Muslim residents have requested that Illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators should neither be given houses on rent nor should they be given employment by any establishment. Further, they have requested that their children should not be given admission in any government or private school. The Muslim leaders have also demanded removal of illegal



Social Organisations of Delhi organised a protest march on Bangladesh Embassy against the attacks on Hindus and human rights violations in Bangladesh at Teen Murti Chowk, in New Delhi on Tuesday

infiltrators from roads, footpaths, parks and other government lands, over which they have forcefully encroached and any documents like Aadhar Card, Voter ID, or any other government document acquired illegally by Bangladeshi infiltrators be cancelled immediately. They have also demanded that a special drive, like in the past, should be launched to identify the illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Delhi and they should be sent back immediately," the letter from the LG Secretariat read.

Meanwhile, Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) chairman Brijesh Goyal has

urged business communities to reduce their business activities with Bangladesh. The CTI has warned that if the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh do not stop, then all the traders of Delhi and the country will end all trade with Bangladesh. "There is also resentment among the businessmen of Delhi against the Mohammad Yunus government of Bangladesh," he said.

Security was stepped up outside the Bangladesh High Commission here on Tuesday, as hundreds of people from various organisations, including the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), held a protest

march at Chanakyapuri against alleged atrocities and human rights violations against Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh. Police had put barricades on the Teen Murti Marg on both the carriageway outside the Chanakyapuri police station where hundreds of people from various organisations gathered. Traffic was regulated in the area with vehicles redirected to alternative routes.

There have been allegations of over 200 attacks on Hindus in various districts of Bangladesh since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5.



People gather near the wreckage after a BEST undertaking's bus rammed into pedestrians as well as vehicles on a road at Kurla, in Mumbai

Seven dead in Mumbai bus accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday appointed Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Malhotra, a 1990 Batch Rajasthan Cadre IAS Officer, will replace Shaktikanta Das, whose tenure ends on Tuesday.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet cleared Malhotra's name, who has been appointed as the RBI Governor for three years, starting Wednesday. Malhotra is an engineering graduate in computer science from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and has a Master's in Public Policy from Princeton University, US. In his career of over 33 years, he has worked in multifarious sectors, including power, finance and taxation, information technology, and mines, among others. Before becoming Revenue Secretary, Malhotra held the post of Secretary in the Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance.



NIA arrests main accused in Laos human trafficking, cyber slavery case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday made a major breakthrough in the Laos human trafficking and cyber slavery case with the arrest of an absconding accused, who was nabbed with support of the Delhi Police's Special Cell. Kamran Haider's arrest marked a significant step towards dismantling the international human trafficking syndicate, the NIA said in a statement.

Along with his co-accused, Haider was allegedly directly involved in arranging flight tickets and documents for the victims and facilitating their "illegal border crossings" with the help of contacts in the Golden Triangle region. The Golden Triangle refers to a large, mountainous region comprising parts of Myanmar, Thailand and Laos.

SC seeks details from Allahabad HC on Justice Shekhar Kumar's speech

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking cognisance of news reports, the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday called for details from the Allahabad High Court on the controversial speech of Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, delivered at a Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) Legal Cell function at Prayagraj. "The Supreme Court has taken note of the newspaper reports of a speech given by Mr Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, a sitting judge of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. The details and particulars have been called from the High Court and the matter is under consideration (sic)," the SC statement read.

Sitting judge Justice Yadav made the controversial remarks on December 8 while addressing a convention of the legal cell of the Vishva Hindu Parishad in Allahabad. A day later, videos of the judge speaking on provocative issues, including the law working according to the majority, were circulated widely, triggering strong reactions from various opposition parties which questioned his reported statements and labelled it as hate speech. He urged for Uniform Civil Code, blaming practices such as Triple Talq,



Nikah Halala in the Muslim community. "I have no hesitation in stating that this is Hindustan, and this country will function according to the wishes of the majority living here. This is the law. It is not about speaking as a High Court Judge; rather, the law operates in accordance with the bahusankyak (majority). Consider this in the context of a family or society - only what ensures the welfare and happiness of the majority will be accepted," Justice Yadav said.

The judge also used the term "kathmullah", a slur against Muslims. Referring to extremists as "kathmullah", he said that the country should be circumspect about them. "But these kathmullah... this

may not be the right word... but I won't hesitate to say it because they are harmful to the country...they are detrimental, against the nation, and people who incite the public. They are the kind of people who do not want the country to progress, and we need to be cautious of them," said Justice Yadav at VHP's legal cell function.

Kapil Sibal, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association called for the impeachment of Justice Yadav. He also urged the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Members of Parliament from the ruling party to extend support for impeaching Justice Yadav. Meanwhile, Lok Sabha MPs Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Asaduddin Owaisi initiated MPs' signatures in Parliament, seeking impeachment against Justice Yadav.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat, has written to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, demanding action against the Judge. Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms (CJAR) headed by Prashant Bhushal also urged the CJI to initiate action seeking In house Inquiry and suspension of the Judge for violating the code of conduct for Judges.

No mismatch in Maharashtra votes polled and VVPAT tally: ECI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday said no mismatch was found between the votes polled and corresponding tally of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips in random counting in the last month's Maharashtra Assembly elections. The mandatory counting of VVPAT slips from five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency was completed successfully, the ECI said in a statement.

Opposition parties in the state had questioned the integrity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti coalition won a landslide victory in the November 20 elections. The counting of VVPAT slips aims to verify the tally of votes recorded EVMs against the corresponding VVPAT slips, the ECI said, adding that representatives of candidates were present throughout the process.

SC upholds enhanced compensation for KMP expressway landowners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld an order which enhanced the compensation payable to some owners whose land in Haryana was acquired for Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway. A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan set aside a November 2021 verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court quashing an order of the district revenue officer-cum-land acquisition collector (LAC), Jhajjar enhancing the compensation. The LAC, in an order passed on September 15, 2020, enhanced the compensation to Rs 19,91,300 per acre along with statutory benefits as awarded earlier by the High Court to similarly-placed land owners. The Court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by some land owners challenging the high court's November 2021 verdict.

The Bench noted by a November 2004 notification under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, the land of the appellants in Jhajjar district was acquired for the expressway and by an award in March, 2006, a compensation of Rs 12.50 lakh per acre was determined. It



noted that aggrieved by the award, some similarly-placed land owners preferred a reference for enhancement of compensation before the additional district judge, Jhajjar but the same was dismissed. The Bench further noted such land owners approached the high court, which in May, 2016, enhanced the compensation to Rs 19,91,300 per acre along with statutory benefits. The Bench said on June 30, 2016, the appellants filed an application under Section 28-A of the Act before the LAC, Jhajjar, which held that appellants were entitled to benefit of the high court's May, 2016 verdict and enhanced the compensation. Section 28-A of the Act pertains to re-determination of amount of compensation on the basis of award of the court.

The matter again came up before the high court which set aside the LAC's order. Referring to a previous verdict delivered by the court, the Bench noted it was held that statement of objects and reasons of Section 28-A would reveal that the object underlying the enactment of the provision was to remove inequality in payment of compensation for same or similar quality of land. The Court said it was not in dispute that the first appeal, which was allowed by the high court in May, 2016, was with respect to the land covered by the same notification under which the appellants' land was also covered. "We are, therefore, inclined to allow the appeal. The impugned judgment and order of the high court dated November 25, 2021 is quashed and set aside and the order of the LAC dated September 15, 2020 is upheld," the Bench said.

Patiala House Court summons actor Dharmendra

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Patiala House Court has summoned former Member of Parliament (MP) and veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra, and two others in a cheating case related to the Garam Dharam Dhaba franchise. The summons were issued based on a complaint filed by Delhi businessman Sushil Kumar, who alleged that he was lured into investing in the franchise. The other two accused have also been summoned for the offence of criminal intimidation under section 506 of IPC.

Judicial magistrate Yashdeep Chahal passed the order against the 89-year-old actor on a complaint filed by Delhi

businessman, Sushil Kumar, who alleged that he was lured into investing in the franchise, lawyer DD Pandey said. The judge said there was a prima facie case of cheating and criminal conspiracy against the actor and the co-accused persons, Deepak Bhardwaj and Umang Tiwari, and directed them to appear before the court on February 20, 2025.

The judge noted in an order passed on December 5 that the documents on record prima facie pertained to "Garam Dharam Dhaba" and the letter of intent also bore the logo of the restaurant. "It is fairly apparent that the transaction between the parties pertain to Garam Dharam Dhaba and was being



pursued by accused number 2 (Bhardwaj) and 3 (Tiwari), on behalf of accused number 1 (Dharam Singh Deol). The evidence on record prima facie indicates that the accused persons induced the complainant in furtherance of their common intent and the ingredients of the offence of cheating are duly disclosed," the judge said.

The court summoned Bhardwaj and Tiwari for allegedly criminally intimidating the complainant when he enquired about the project after the payment. It is fairly apparent that the transaction between the

parties pertains to Garam Dharam Dhaba and was being pursued by the co-accused on behalf of the actor, the court noted.

According to the complaint, in April 2018, the co-accused approached him on behalf of Dharam Singh Deol (Dharmendra) with an offer to open a franchise of Garam Dharam Dhaba on NH-24/NH-9 in Uttar Pradesh. He claimed that he handed over a cheque for an amount of Rs 17.70 lakh in September, 2018. However, the accused stopped responding to him thereafter, the complainant alleged.

A series of meetings and email exchanges reportedly followed, culminating in the execution of a letter of intent

on September 22, 2018. As part of this agreement, Kumar and his business associates were to invest Rs 63 lakh and provide suitable land for the franchise. Subsequently, Kumar alleged that he issued a cheque for Rs 17.70 lakh, which was encashed by the respondents. He also purchased land near Gajraula, District Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, on November 2, 2018, for the franchise. However, despite repeated requests for work to begin, the respondents neither inspected the site nor responded to Kumar's communications. Allegedly, they also threatened him with dire consequences if he attempted to contact them again.

What's in a name? Communal harmony

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ JAUNPUR

In a rare socio-cultural shift, several Muslim families in Dehari village of Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur district have started using Hindu surnames like Dubey and Tiwari, claiming Hindu ancestry. They have also embraced practices such as cow service, and traditional Hindu rituals to honor their lineage.

Located about 45 km from Jaunpur's district headquarters, Dehari village has a predominantly Muslim population. The trend reportedly began two years ago when some villagers

traced their ancestry, sparking widespread curiosity and debate. After that around 30 to 35 Muslim families in the village have adopted surnames such as Dubey, Tiwari, Thakur, and Kayastha, claiming historical ties to these castes.

The issue came into the limelight when Naushad Ahmed from Dehari printed his wedding invitation card with the name "Naushad Ahmed Dubey." When asked about the reason, Naushad explained, "Our ancestors were Hindus. I am reclaiming my ancestral gotra (clan) name."

Group of 101 farmers will resume Delhi march on Dec 14

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab farmers, steadfast in their pursuit of justice, have resolved to rekindle their march to Delhi on December 14, sending a group of 101 farmers, named as "Marjeevda Jatha" (meaning martyrs' brigade). The decision was taken on Tuesday during a meeting of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) at the Shambhu border, after receiving "no message" from the Central Government for holding talks.

The efforts, to breathe new life into the farmers' protests against unaddressed grievances, comes against a backdrop of escalating tensions and solidarity actions. December 11 has been declared as 'Ardas Divas', with prayers to be held at religious sites across Punjab for the well-being of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been observing fast since November 26; and the success of the movement.

At the same time, the farmers have urged Punjabi singers, religious preachers, and community leaders to amplify the cause during public gatherings and programs.

Dallewal's health has become a pressing concern as his hunger strike enters its 15th day. Dallewal, who has been fasting at the Khanauri border, is now experiencing critical health complications, including an 11 kg weight loss and strain on his liver and kidneys. His fluctuating blood sugar levels and declining stamina have prompted doctors to warn of an impending medical emergency. Despite this, Dallewal remains resolute, terming the protest an "all-or-nothing" battle for farmers' rights.

In solidarity with Dallewal, no meals were cooked at the Khanauri border on Tuesday. Farmers joined him in observing a hunger strike, reinforcing their collective resolve.

The December 14 march follows two thwarted attempts to reach Delhi earlier this month. On December 6 and 8, the farmers faced strong resistance from Haryana security forces, who deployed tear gas, water cannons, and barricades. Farmers sustained injuries, leaving half a dozen seriously injured, yet their determination remains unshaken.

KMM's head Sarwan Singh Pandher, a key leader of the ongoing movement, criticized

the Central Government for its lack of engagement, calling it "confused" in its approach. Pandher lamented the absence of meaningful dialogue, despite the farmers demonstrating their willingness to negotiate.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not speak a word during his visit to Haryana," said Pandher, while seeking all out support from all quarters for Kisan Andolan 2.0.

"We did not want farmers to be blamed for not wanting to hold talks to find a way out. We gave time...but there has been no message from the government side for talks...Now, the decision taken by both the forums is that our next jatha of 101 farmers will leave on December 14 for Delhi," he said.

Farmers have appealed to the public to join the struggle by participating in events on December 13, marking 10 months of protests at the Shambhu and Khanauri borders. In a symbolic gesture, farmers undertook a cleanup drive at the Shambhu border, clearing debris from the clashes, including remnants of tear gas shells. Pandher highlighted the lingering effects of the tear gas used by security forces.

Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan has also voiced support, urging the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to open channels for dialogue and address the farmers' demands, including legal guarantees for Minimum Support Prices (MSP), debt waivers, and justice for victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence. "The government should engage in talks with farmers immediately, considering the deteriorating condition of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal," he said, in Patiala.

Farmers have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 after their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces. Besides a legal guarantee to MSP for crops, the farmers are demanding a debt waiver, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases, and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence. Reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and compensation to the families of farmers who died during the previous agitation in 2020-21 are also part of their demands.

Punjab CM Launches Drive to Fill 1,754 Backlog Posts for PwDs

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Reaffirming his government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday announced an exclusive recruitment drive to address the backlog of 1,754 direct recruitment posts across various state departments. The initiative aimed at empowering PwDs by creating equitable opportunities in public service.

Mann, presiding over a review meeting of the Social Justice and Child Welfare Department at his official residence in Chandigarh, emphasized the urgent need to expedite the recruitment process. He revealed that an additional 556 promotional posts for PwDs had also been identified, urging officers to fill these vacancies swiftly.

In a significant move, the Chief Minister approved amendments to the rules under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Mann highlighted that this reform would further safeguard the rights of PwDs and facilitate their integration into mainstream society. "Persons with Disabilities are the true heroes of society, excelling in life despite numerous challenges. It is our duty to ensure they live with dignity and pride," he asserted.

Mann outlined several landmark initiatives taken by the state for the holistic development of PwDs. Notably, the Government recently sanctioned free bus travel for dependents of visually impaired individuals, with a notification expected soon.



Additionally, a 50 percent fare concession in Punjab Roadways and PRTC buses has benefited over 7.5 lakh commuters in the past year, with Rs 2.19 crore allocated for this purpose.

The Chief Minister also detailed the financial support extended to PwDs under various schemes. Over Rs 278.17 crore has been disbursed to 2.65 lakh beneficiaries under the State Pension Scheme, and Rs 3.37 crore in scholarships has reached 12,607 disabled students to promote education. Furthermore, Rs 23.16 crore has been released under the SIPDA scheme to enhance accessibility in 144 government buildings.

Mann lauded the state's efforts to enable economic independence among PwDs, including facilitating loans worth Rs 1.31 crore at concessional rates for 105 individuals over the past two years. Additionally, 21 PwDs were allotted booths by organizations like Milkfed and Markfed to support self-employment.

"The welfare of PwDs is not just a policy but a priority for this government. We will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that this vital section of society is empowered and uplifted," Mann affirmed.

Government has fulfilled five guarantees in 15 months: Himachal CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday said that to mark the completion of two years of the Congress government a state-level function would be held at Luhnu Ground of district Bilaspur and congratulated and extended his best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion.

While highlighting the government's achievements, the Chief Minister said that the two-year regime of the present state government has been a period of progress and fulfilment of promises. He said that our government has successfully implemented five guarantees within just 15 months and the remaining commitments were being fulfilled in a phased manner.

Sukhu said that several ambitious schemes and programmes have been initiated for the welfare and development of the people during these two years, adding that the government remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguard the interests of the people and ensure their upliftment and would continue to work with the same dedication and vision.

He said that the event would be organized under the theme 'Atmanirbhar Himachal



through Vyavastha Parivartan" and expressed his gratitude to the people for supporting the cause of Vyavastha Parivartan.

"The government remains committed to furthering the development of the state through innovative initiatives and ensuring inclusive growth of all sectors," he said in a statement and called upon the people of the state to participate enthusiastically in the celebrations and continue to support the government in coming years.

The chief minister said that the state government would launch six new schemes aimed at transforming the lives of the people and developing the state making it a self-reliant and most prosperous state of the country. He said that these schemes would reflect our dedication to addressing the needs of the citizens and building a prosperous future for Himachal Pradesh.

BJP candidate Rekha Sharma files nomination, set to get elected unopposed to RS

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Former National Commission for Women chief and BJP candidate Rekha Sharma on Tuesday

filed her nomination for the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana here at the Haryana Assembly secretariat in Chandigarh. She submitted her nomination papers to the Returning Officer Ashok Kumar Meena in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, BJP State President Mohan Lal Badoli and others.

Sharma is set to get elected unopposed as she is the lone candidate in the fray. In the 90-member Haryana Assembly, the BJP enjoys a majority having 48 members, the Congress has 37 seats, the INLD two while three are Independents. The Independents also support the Nayab Singh Saini government.

Talking to reporters after filing her nomination, Sharma said, "I want to thank Senior BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, party national president JP Nadda, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and CM Saini for giving me an opportunity once again to serve the nation."

Speaking to media persons after the nomination process, Chief Minister Saini said the Rajya Sabha seat became vacant after Krishan Lal Panwar was elected as MLA and now Rekha Sharma filed her nomination for this Rajya Sabha seat.

While congratulating Rekha Sharma, Saini said, she is a senior party leader who has been working at the grassroots level to strengthen the party for a long time and has also served as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women in the past.

The BJP had on Monday announced Sharma's name for the December 20 Rajya Sabha bypolls. The opposition has decided not to field a candidate. The Rajya Sabha seat in Haryana fell vacant when Krishan Lal Panwar of the BJP had quit his seat following his election as an MLA in the state assembly polls held in October. Panwar is now a Development and Panchayat Minister in the BJP government in Haryana.

Of the five RS seats in Haryana, Subhash Barala, Ram Chander Jangra and Kiran Choudhry are BJP members while Rekha Sharma is also set to be elected unopposed. Kartikeya Sharma is an Independent member.

Punjab Governor Leads Anti-Drug March

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria on Tuesday took a resolute step in the fight against drug addiction by leading a two-day anti-drug march under the 'Nasha Mukta-Rangla Punjab' campaign. The march commenced from the historic village of Beas in Jalandhar on Tuesday, aiming to rally citizens against the scourge of drugs.

Governor Kataria, who personally walked the eight-kilometer stretch from the residence of legendary runner Fauja Singh, emphasized the indispensable role of women in combating this societal menace. Addressing a gathering, he underlined that women, as the backbone of families and communities, can play a transformative role by educating and protecting their children from falling into the trap of substance abuse.

MoU with US Trade & Development Agency will create new employment opportunities in State: Hry CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday said that the State Government is taking meaningful steps towards managing financial arrangements for technical assistance with the aim of completing the development projects of Integrated Aviation Hub at Maharaja Agrasen Airport, Hisar. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and Haryana Airport Development Corporation (HADCo) at Haryana Bhawan in New Delhi.

The MoU was signed by US Ambassador Eric Garcetti on behalf of the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and Narhari Singh Bangar, Advisor, Department of Civil Aviation on behalf of Haryana Airport Development Corporation. This agreement has been made for technical assistance for the preparation and implementation of development projects like operations at Hisar airport, integrated manufacturing cluster and world port cargo logistics hub, overhauling (MRO) facility among others. Saini further



said that with progressive vision and continuous efforts, the State is playing an active role in promoting global cooperation. As a result of providing better infrastructure for global investors, Haryana is the first choice for foreign investors today.

Saini said that this MoU will help in taking the aviation sector of Haryana state to new heights. The proposed roadmap from this agreement will not only lead to technical progress in the aviation sector but will also lead to long-term economic development. This partnership with the US will set an example in innovation and cooperation and its benefits

will be important in developing Maharaja Agrasen Airport, Hisar. This agreement also includes creating different projects for the development and operation of the airport and attracting investors under public private partnership.

The Chief Minister said that this partnership will help in achieving India's strategic objectives in infrastructure, adding that this MoU in the aviation sector will create new employment opportunities in the state of Haryana. He assured that the Haryana Government will discharge its responsibility under this MoU with full seriousness. He said that the aim of the government

is to make the state a preferred place in the manufacturing and logistics sector.

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said that through this MoU, a new chapter is being added between Haryana and America in civil aviation, which will prove to be an important link in global development. He said that he has been an Ambassador in India for the last two years and Indian culture has won his heart. He said India is a growing economy and it is now achieving new dimensions in infrastructure. In future, friendly relations between India and America will become stronger.

Himachal Govt. signs MoU to boost Green Energy and E-Vehicle infrastructure in state: CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh government on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu with two companies to enhance facilities across five selected green corridors in the state.

"The initiative marks a significant step towards achieving the state government's vision of a sustainable green future," Sukhu said, pointing out that as per the tender agreement JIOBP would develop the Mandi-Jogindernagar-Pathankot and Kiratpur-Manali-Kelang corridors, while EVI Technology would complete the work of Parwanoo-Una-Sansarpur Terrace-Nurpur and Parwanoo-Shimla-Recongepo-Losar corridors within one year. Apart from this Electroweb Company would work on developing the Shimla-Hamirpur-Chamba Green Corridors. As part of the project, the companies would establish EV charging stations, way-side amenities and supermarkets at 41 strategic locations along these corridors within a year.

Sukhu said that for e-buses, e-trucks and other electric vehicles the charging facility would be made available in these 41 locations. Apart from this public amenities such as toilets and restaurants would also be established in these places and



the companies would pay Rs.75 lakh annually as lease money to the state government. He said that the state government has decided to make Himachal a Green Energy State by 2026 for which the government was developing the state as the model state for e-Vehicles.

"This initiative would play a vital role in reducing carbon emissions and promoting a sustainable environment for future generations," Sukhu said, adding that the state government would transit the fleet of Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) to electric buses in a phased manner.

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that the state government was steadfast in its commitment to environmental preservation and working with utmost dedication and was also planning to procure 350 e-buses to achieve its goal. He said that due to the efforts of the state government, the State Transport Department

became the first department in the country to operate an entirely electric vehicle fleet. He said that the establishment of these green corridors would also encourage private vehicle owners to switch to electric vehicles.

Google to collaborate with Himachal govt to develop people empowerment platform: CM

To leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and modern technology for public benefit, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday asked tech giant Google to consider investing in the state.

He said that the state government plans to develop a "People Empowerment Platform" in collaboration with Google through the Labour and Employment Department. "This platform would connect citizens with skilled service providers such as plumbers,

electricians and carpenters that would ensure convenience while generating employment opportunities for the youth of the state in the unorganised sector," he added. Google India Head Ashish Wittal called on the chief minister to explore collaborations on AI-driven initiatives aimed at transforming public services in Himachal Pradesh.

During the meeting, they discussed integration of advanced technology into agriculture, health, education and public grievance redressal to ensure prompt service delivery and improve lives of people. The chief minister said that to enhance grievance redressal, the government intends to upgrade the Mukhyamantri Seva Sankalp Helpline-1100 with generative AI. He said the aim of this initiative was to provide faster and more effective solutions while ensuring consumer satisfaction.

In the education sector, AI-based teaching modules would be piloted in two government senior secondary schools in the state to improve learning outcomes and modernise teaching methods, he added. The chief minister said that advanced technology has the potential to revolutionise agriculture and disaster preparedness. The accurate weather forecasting could minimize loss of life and property by enabling better planning and response from local administrations.

AAP gears up with transparent candidate selection, high-profile inductions for MC Polls

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/ JALANDHAR

With the urban local body elections in Punjab just around the corner, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is leaving no stone unturned to solidify its position. At a high-level preparatory meeting, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP Punjab president Aman Arora outlined the party's roadmap for the elections scheduled for December 21.

Arora, addressing senior leaders, MLAs, Ministers, and district office-bearers, emphasized AAP's groundbreaking approach to candidate selection, describing it as a hallmark of transparency. "For the first time, candidates are being selected through dedicated screening committees, with nearly 350 office-bearers actively participating in the process," he said.

The party has divided Punjab into 10 zones, each managed by nine-member committees, ensuring thor-

ough scrutiny and merit-based selections for all 977 wards.

Highlighting public enthusiasm, Arora revealed that AAP had received an unprecedented number of applications, averaging 12-15 per ward. "This overwhelming response reflects the public's trust in AAP's governance model and vision," he stated, expressing confidence in the party's ability to achieve a historic victory. He attributed the optimism to the transformative initiatives of the Bhagwant Mann-led Government, which has brought about significant developmental changes in Punjab over the past two and a half years.

Meanwhile, AAP's growing influence in Jalandhar has dealt a blow to its rivals. Former Jalandhar Mayor Jagdish Raja, along with Ward 65 councillor Anita Raja, joined AAP in a move that shook the Congress party. Raja, a veteran in local governance since 1991, and Anita Raja, a former Senior Deputy Mayor, bring extensive experience to AAP.

FIR filed against Sikh Preacher Dhadrianwale in 2012 Rape and Murder Case

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Twelve years after the mysterious death of a 22-year-old woman from Karnal, the Punjab Police has filed an FIR against prominent Sikh preacher Ranjit Singh Dhadrianwale on the charges of rape and murder. The case, registered at Passiana police station in Patiala on December 7, came following the directives from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which criticized the police for their initial inaction and failure to investigate the allegations promptly.

The FIR invoked Sections 302 (murder), 376 (rape), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The development came after a scathing rebuke from the High Court, which called the police's previous handling of the case "illegal and unconstitutional" for prioritizing a preliminary inquiry over the registration of an official case based on the complaint filed in 2012.

With the FIR now registered, the Patiala police have recorded statements from the victim's brother and are expected to take action against the police officials who failed to act in 2012.

The case dates back to April 22, 2012, when the 22-year-old woman, who had visited the Gurdwara Parmeshwar Dwar in Patiala with her family, was found dead under suspicious

circumstances. A postmortem revealed that her death was caused by poisoning. However, the victim's family alleged that she was raped and then murdered by administering poison.

While authorities at Parmeshwar Dwar claimed that the woman died outside the premises and that Ranjit Singh Dhadrianwale was abroad at the time, the victim's brother filed a petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking a probe into the case by either the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by a senior IPS officer.

Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court played a pivotal role in ensuring that justice was pursued. During hearings, the Court expressed dismay over the police's handling of the case, stating that the delay in filing an FIR highlighted a "sorry state of affairs". It criticized the police for embarking on a preliminary inquiry instead of immediately registering a case based on the victim's family's complaint in May 2012.

The Court directed Punjab's Director General of Police (DGP) to file an affidavit explaining the reasons for the initial inaction and to outline measures to prevent such lapses in the future. It also sought details of actions taken against the then Station House Officer (SHO) and

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), who allegedly failed to perform their duties.

Dhadrianwale Denies Allegations

Ranjit Singh Dhadrianwale, a prominent Sikh preacher and head of the Parmeshwar Dwar Gurdwara, has strongly denied the allegations, calling them "baseless and fabricated". Dhadrianwale, speaking to the media, expressed confidence in his innocence, saying, "All accusations against me are unfounded. The truth will prevail, and justice will be served." Dhadrianwale is well-known across Punjab and internationally for his spiritual discourses and kirtans. His name first gained widespread recognition during protests against sacrilege incidents in Punjab.

Punjab Governor Leads Anti-Drug March

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria on Tuesday took a resolute step in the fight against drug addiction by leading a two-day anti-drug march under the 'Nasha Mukta-Rangla Punjab' campaign. The march commenced from the historic village of Beas in Jalandhar on Tuesday, aiming to rally citizens against the scourge of drugs.

Governor Kataria, who personally walked the eight-kilometer stretch from the residence of legendary runner Fauja Singh, emphasized the indispensable role of women in combating this societal menace. Addressing a gathering, he underlined that women, as the backbone of families and communities, can play a transformative role by educating and protecting their children from falling into the trap of substance abuse.

व्यवस्था परिवर्तन से आत्मनिर्भर बनता हिमाचल

2

साल बेमिसाल



संवेदनशील हिमाचल सरकार

- विधवा, बेसहारा, तलाकशुदा महिलाओं और दिव्यांग माता-पिता को बच्चों की शिक्षा और पालन-पोषण के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के उद्देश्य से इंदिरा गाँधी सुख शिक्षा योजना शुरू
- 18 वर्ष की आयु से कम आयु के बच्चों के शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य व पोषण संबंधी खर्च के लिए 1,000 रुपये प्रति माह दिए जा रहे हैं।
- IIT, IIM, Ph D पाठ्यक्रमों और मेडिकल कालेजों में 27 वर्ष आयु तक पढ़ाई का खर्च सरकार वहन करेगी।
- भवन एवं अन्य निर्माण कामगार कल्याण बोर्ड में पंजीकृत पात्र विधवाओं, एकल, निराश्रित और दिव्यांग महिला श्रमिकों को गृह निर्माण के लिए 3 लाख रुपये की सहायता।
- मुख्यमंत्री कन्यादान योजना के तहत 400 बेटियों को 24.20 करोड़ रुपये की वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान।
- विधवा पुनर्विवाह योजना के अंतर्गत सहायता राशि 65 हजार रुपये से बढ़ाकर 2 लाख रुपये की।
- बाल देखभाल संस्थानों में बच्चों को आवास, शिक्षा, चिकित्सा और परामर्श सेवाएं देने के लिए 59.73 करोड़ रुपये जारी।
- मुख्यमंत्री सुख-आश्रय योजना के अंतर्गत निराश्रित बच्चों के माता एवं पिता का कर्तव्य निभाते हुए 4000 बच्चों को 'चिल्ड्रन ऑफ द स्टेट' के रूप में अपनाकर उनकी शिक्षा, जेब खर्च के साथ-साथ स्टार्ट-अप शुरू करने और घर बनाने के लिए मदद की जा रही है।
- अनाथ बच्चों और बेसहारा वर्गों के लिए कानून बनाने वाला हिमाचल प्रदेश देश का पहला राज्य बना।
- इंदिरा गांधी बालिका सुरक्षा योजना के तहत एक बेटी के बाद परिवार नियोजन अपनाने पर प्रोत्साहन राशि 35,000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 2,00,000 रुपये तथा दो बेटियों के बाद 25,000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 1,00,000 रुपये की।
- जनसमस्याओं के समाधान के लिए हिमाचल प्रदेश भू-राजस्व अधिनियम में संशोधन कर तकसीम और दुरुस्ती के मामलों का निपटारा 9 महीनों, निशानदेही मामलों का 3 महीने और इंतकाल मामलों का 1 महीने में निपटारा किया जा रहा है।
- आपदा प्रभावितों के लिए नियमों में बदलाव कर राहत राशि में 25 गुना तक वृद्धि कर घर बनाने के लिए मुआवजा राशि 1.30 लाख से 7 लाख रुपए की।

सरकार गाँव के द्वार

“प्रदेश के दूर-दराज़ इलाकों के लोगों को अपने काम करवाने के लिए ज़िला मुख्यालय या राज्य सचिवालय के चक्कर न काटने पड़े और उनके धन व समय की बचत हो, इस सोच के साथ 'सरकार गाँव के द्वार' कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की गई है। मैं खुद दुर्गम क्षेत्रों के गांवों में रात्रि विश्राम कर स्थानीय लोगों की समस्याओं को करीब से जानने व उनका समाधान करने के प्रयास कर रहा हूँ। मैंने मंत्रिमंडल के अपने सभी सहयोगियों से भी कहा है कि जन समस्याओं का तेजी से समाधान करें ताकि दुर्गम क्षेत्रों के विकास को नया आयाम दिया जा सके।”

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PAPER WITH PASSION

It is getting hot!

Global warming is becoming reality as 2024 set to be the hottest year on record

As global temperatures soar to unprecedented levels, 2024 is shaping up to be the hottest year on record, a grim milestone that underscores the accelerating crisis of climate change. European Union scientists have confirmed that the first eleven months of 2024 have set a new high, making this year the warmest since records began. This will be the first year where the global average temperature surpasses 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, a threshold that world leaders have long warned could trigger catastrophic climate impacts. With this alarming reality, the world faces a rapidly intensifying climate emergency, one that requires immediate and drastic action. The impacts of global warming are already being felt around the world. In 2024, extreme weather events have ravaged communities, causing widespread devastation. Severe droughts have gripped Italy and South America, while fatal floods in Nepal, Sudan and Europe have displaced thousands. Heatwaves in regions like

Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Mali have killed thousands of people, while cyclones have torn through the United States and the Philippines. These events are not just random occurrences; scientific studies confirm that they bear the unmistakable fingerprint of human-caused climate change.

The overwhelming cause of global warming is carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. These emissions trap heat in the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise at an alarming rate. The most effective way to curb this warming is by reducing emissions to net-zero levels, a goal that many nations have pledged to achieve in the coming decades. However, despite these green pledges, global CO2 emissions are on track to hit record highs this year. This contradictory trend highlights the gap between political promises and the real, tangible actions needed to mitigate climate change.

This year's UN climate talks produced a \$300-billion deal aimed at addressing the global climate crisis. However, poorer countries have criticised this deal, arguing that it is insufficient to cover the soaring costs of climate-related disasters. While this deal may have made some progress, it is clear that the global response is not yet enough to prevent further warming. The rise of climate change deniers, particularly within the political sphere, has made it even harder to combat this crisis. US President-elect Donald Trump, in particular, has consistently downplayed the severity of global warming and rolled back numerous environmental regulations during his previous term. Under Trump's leadership, the US withdrew from the Paris Agreement, a global pact aimed at reducing emissions and limiting global temperature rise. Such actions would undoubtedly exacerbate the climate crisis, making it even harder to reduce emissions and avoid the most catastrophic effects of global warming. The time to act is now, and the window for meaningful change is rapidly closing.



PICTALK



Badrinath Dham receives the first snowfall of the season, in Chamoli

Philippines confronts Chinese assertiveness



ASHOK K MEHTA

The South China Sea remains a flashpoint of escalating tensions as China intensifies its aggressive maritime activities, targeting nations like the Philippines

NS Admiral Dinesh Tripathi during his customary briefing of media before Navy Day last week expressed concern about Chinese maritime activities in the South China Sea, all of which China claims. Two countries it especially targets in SCS are Taiwan and the Philippines in whose waters it has indulged in offensive naval actions. It signed a defence agreement with the US in 1951; last month it signed an intelligence and technology agreement facilitating satellite intelligence and access to high-grade US weaponry following President Marcos promulgating Maritime Zone Act and Archipelago Sea Lanes Act that China denounced and summoned its envoy. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told his counterpart Gilberto Teodoro: We are more than allies; we're family.

The week-long ASEAN summit in Vientiane, Laos from 6 to 12 October witnessed stern exchanges between China, the US and the Philippines especially over the South China Sea at a time when the West is seized with Ukraine and West Asia crises, even as President-elect Trump is issuing multiple threats. While Chinese Premier Li Qiang blamed 'external forces' for interfering in regional affairs, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is concerned about increasingly dangerous and unlawful activities of China in disputed SCS. Marcos complained to ASEAN leaders that his country continues to be subjected to Chinese bullying and intimidation.

Earlier that week PM Narendra Modi attended the 19th India-ASEAN meeting and made a powerful presentation of Delhi's Act East policy and criticised China for its expansionist policy in SCS. The Chinese have been testing the waters in the Philippines EEZ in SCS Filipinos call the West Philippines Sea with several forays against Filipino boats to check how far the US will go in its support. Filipino vessels in their EEZ have faced intimidation and bullying by Chinese coast guard ships over the dispute Thomas Shoal 2



where Sierra Madera a Philippine vessel has been grounded since 1999 to assert its sovereignty.

The Chinese are equally active and defiant against Japan in the East China Sea and recently crossed the First Island chain for the first time with an aircraft carrier and two warships.

Taiwan continues to face periodic challenges as China relentlessly violates the 2016 UNCLOS ruling that the Philippines secured over China's illegal claim to the South China Sea under its 9-dash line. During my interaction with Philippines security experts in Manila in June, clashes over the resupply of a marooned vessel in Thomas Shoal 2 had reached the climax; and some suggested it could be a feint for Taiwan. The incident had ruffled feathers in Manila with calls for invoking the US Mutual Defence Agreement which gets triggered only during armed external attack.

Clashes have occurred between the two sides and despite talks and a hotline, no compromise was reached. On September 28 Chinese Navy missile boat fired laser beams at a Philippines Cessna Patrol aircraft while Filipino coast guard vessels continued to be chased. Chinese insisted resupply of the marooned ship would happen under their supervision and in a mid-August clash, several Chinese



EARLIER THAT WEEK PM MODI ATTENDED THE 19TH INDIA-ASEAN MEETING AND MADE A POWERFUL PRESENTATION OF DELHI'S ACT EAST POLICY AND CRITICISED CHINA FOR ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICY IN SCS

ships blocked passage of Filipino supplies for the stranded ship.

The Chinese have said that the Philippines ship is illegally stranded/marooned at the disputed Thomas Shoal atoll which it owns as part of its claim to SCS. China calls it Xianbin Reef which is 150 km west of the Philippines island of Palawan. As before, it had repeatedly said it would promulgate its maritime laws including the use of firearms and arrest offenders in defence of its sovereignty and national interest. Teodoro said at the end of August that Thomas Shoal is a sovereignty issue of the Philippines.

According to South China Morning Post (September 16), Admiral Samuel Paparo, US Indo-Pacific Command accompanied by Gen Romero Brawner, Chief of Philippines armed forces, said there is a range of options as countermeasures for the Chinese grey zone tactics adding the US is ready to escort Philippines ships in SCS in event of a spike in hostilities. Brawner said they would seek help if the Chinese blocked food supplies and soldiers were dying of hunger. In Manila, I was asked whether re-supply by other means like helicopters was feasible and had suggested discussing it with their US allies. Meanwhile, Paparo took a video call with Gen Wu Yanan, PLA Southern Theatre Commander responsible for

SCS and Taiwan.

Wu attended an International conference at the Indo-Pacific command in Hawaii in September even as Teodoro took the contingency of escalation to the next level, of the Chinese towing away the grounded Sierra Madera which would constitute an act of war; invoking a defence pact with the US. A code of conduct for ASEAN in SCS has been in the works for two decades but is far from fruition.

It is akin to India's LAC/border with China that Beijing has refused to resolve as it would put a stop to grey zone tactics and salami slicing. India has voiced clear support for the Philippines during the June 17 clash with the Chinese coast guard and Foreign Minister Jaishankar has been on a goodwill visit. Delhi has sold Brahmos anti-ship missiles to Manila, the first country to buy them. Former Defence Secretary, Giridhar Aramane was in Manila recently for the fifth Joint defence cooperation dialogue. While Taiwan may not be on the cards, Thomas Shoal 2 could end up in Chinese possession as Mischief Reef 24 km north of it did in 2012.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTROVERSY AT IIT KHARAGPUR

Madam —I have never heard of any controversy in the teaching campus of IIT Kharagpur. But now it is happening. For the last six months, open differences have started coming to the fore between the director and the teaching staff. The Indian Institute of Technology has issued show-cause notices to 90 faculty members in response to allegations against its director V K Tiwari of bias, "retaliation in faculty selection," and failure to set up the promised hospital on campus. In addition, three department heads have also been replaced. The controversy began in September when the IIT Teachers' Association wrote a letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan accusing Tiwari of arbitrary recruitment processes and other irregularities. About 100 faculty members have protested by wearing black bands and participating in silent marches on campus. The faculty is reportedly now considering legal action. On December 2, the administration replaced the heads of the departments of mathematics, artificial intelligence, and biosciences and biotechnology. I want to say that when the education minister was informed about the arbitrary behaviour of director VK Tiwari five months ago, why did he not take any action?

Why was the director not removed from his post with immediate effect? This means that the environment of this great educational institution is being deliberately spoiled so that this institution can be defamed. IIT Kharagpur is the first IIT to be established by the Government of India. The institute was formally inaugurated on 18 August 1951 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. IIT was established to provide trained technical personnel for India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took the initiative to establish IIT, he believed that science and technology are important for the modernisation of India.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Sanjay Malhotra as new RBI Governor



The union governments have appointed Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, before the six-year term completion of Shaktikanta Das at the post of Governor of RBI. Throughout his career spanning more than 33 years, Sanjay Malhotra has served across

diverse sectors, including power, finance, taxation, information technology, and mines. Currently he has been serving as secretary (revenue) in the ministry of finance, he previously held the position of secretary in the department of financial services under the ministry of finance, Government of India.

The governor heads the RBI and plays a central role in formulating, implementing and monitoring the monetary policy and banking regulations of India. Every note ever printed carries the signature of the RBI governor. The RBI Governor also monitors and facilitates the flow of credit to rural, agricultural and various MSME sectors. As the newly appointed governor holds good ties with the finance minister, he probably works in the betterment of the country's economy, inflation rate, CRR, SLR, GDP, etc.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur Nagar

END OF ASSAD RULE

Madam—The turn of political events in Syria raises fears of a new wave of regional instability, following the ouster of Bashar al-Assad by the militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), ending his family's despotic rule for over 13 years. It marks a turning point for Syria, shattered by years of civil war that has turned cities into rubble, killed hundreds of thousands of people, and forced millions to go abroad as refugees.

Western governments, which have shunned the Assad-led state for years, must decide how to deal with a new administration in Syria in which HTS looks set to have greater influence. HTS, which spearheaded the rebel advances across western Syria, was formerly an al-Qaeda affiliate. The Syrians, therefore, will obviously remain fearful as this militant group will impose draconian Islamist rule or instigate reprisals. As Syria will go to polls, it would require a smooth transition in a country with complex competing interests.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

TIKTOK'S NEGATIVE EFFECTS

Madam — Tensions have been escalating in the US over the impact of TikTok. The US Court of Appeals has also cited a notice to China-based ByteDance to sell the social media app by January 19 or face an effective ban in the US. Banning TikTok is not the ultimate solution, as it will hit hard many businessmen for whom TikTok is a source of income generation. They use social media for promotion of their products or of their business, but we cannot forget its negative impact on the minds of children. There is a need to adopt such a solution that will be beneficial for both businessmen and society. Businessmen should create accounts in the name of their business, and e-verification of those accounts should also be done to maintain their originality, and accounts registered under the age of 16 should be banned so the app will be less harmful.

Shreyanshi Jain | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Childhood Wounds: The hidden force behind life's struggles

Whether it's self-doubt at work or struggles in relationships, the roots often trace back to unresolved childhood wounds

Have you ever wondered why life keeps pulling you back, no matter how hard you try to move forward? Maybe you find yourself repeating the same mistakes in relationships, doubting your abilities at work, or battling the constant ache of "not being enough."

It's easy to blame bad luck or personal failure. But often, these struggles run deeper—in unresolved childhood wounds. Childhood is when we learn how to love, trust and value ourselves. But not all childhoods are built on safety and support. Even seemingly small moments can leave deep scars.

A parent saying, "Stop crying, you're embarrassing me," or a teacher comparing you to someone else may seem insignificant at the time but can shape how we see ourselves for years to come. Take Radhika, for example. At 35, she thrived in her career but couldn't maintain a relationship. Every time someone got close, she would pull away, convinced they would leave her eventually. Therapy



revealed that her fear of abandonment stemmed from her father leaving when she was six. Her emotional walls weren't about keeping others out; they were about protecting herself from feeling that pain again. Then there's Arjun, 28, who struggled to hold a job. His pattern was predictable: procrastinate, miss deadlines and eventually lose the role. He believed he lacked discipline, but therapy uncovered a deeper truth. He had grown up under relentless criticism—nothing he did was ever good enough. That

internalised voice followed him into adulthood, leading him to self-sabotage before anyone else could judge him. These aren't isolated stories. Many of us carry invisible wounds from our childhood.

A parent's absence, constant comparisons, or even a single harsh word can create emotional patterns—fear of intimacy, perfectionism, or shrinking ourselves to avoid rejection. Over time, these patterns create setbacks that seem external but are deeply internal. Therapy is where this cycle ends. It's not about

blaming our parents or reliving the past. It's about understanding why we feel stuck and learning how to let go of the pain. Imagine carrying a heavy bag for years, thinking it's just part of life—then discovering you can put it down. That's what healing feels like.

One client described the process beautifully: "For the first time, I understand myself. I'm not broken. I've just been carrying pain I didn't know was there." Your setbacks aren't failures; they're signals that something inside you needs attention. Healing childhood wounds allows you to stop reacting from a place of fear and start living from a place of freedom. It's not an easy journey, but it's one worth taking. The truth is, you deserved love and safety as a child, and you still do now.

Healing isn't about erasing the past—it's about reclaiming your future. If this resonates, consider giving yourself the gift of therapy. You're not broken—you're healing.

(The writer is a Life Coach; views are personal)



KAVITA KABIRA



FIRST COLUMN TRANSFORMING ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOR

As technology reshapes the world at breakneck speed, organisations must evolve to stay relevant



RAVI VALLURI

It would be worthwhile to examine how organisations are structured and articulated. In the long haul organisations blessed with individuals willing to experiment, innovate and embrace technology will be the ones that survive. At the pace that technology with its variants is fashioning itself, numerous applications are unravelling virtually by the minute, and the level of obsolescence and attrition of equipment is becoming extraordinarily high. In such a scenario, humans and organisations will be subsumed by various products and their variants. The human mind can no longer remain in the typewriter mode. The garden of Organisational Theory and Behaviour is dotted with eminent scholars. Three pioneers, Adam Smith, Charles Babbage and Robert Owen provided the ballast and the basic groundwork. Adam Smith advanced the argument that countries and organisations would profit by adopting the tenets of division of labour, what is now termed as specialisation. Charles Babbage in his seminal work postulated: Through the division of labour, the time required for learning a job or skill gets drastically reduced. Right at the stage of infancy wastage of material gets minimised and diminishes. The mind is propelled to take up serious tasks upon attaining superior skills. Way back in 1789, Robert Owen at 18 went on to acquire a factory. He was a utopian, way ahead of his times. In 1825, he promulgated regulated working



hours, child labour laws, public education and business involvement in various community projects – a precursor to CSR. In today's wired world, individuals work from their dwellings. Places with the latest technology and gizmos at their disposal. Over the last decade, the entire paradigm of organisational behaviour has metamorphosed. Technology stares at organisations with peering eyes, the complexity and dynamics of structures having undergone a complete metamorphosis. Let us look at the Indian Railways. There was a time when the operating and manufacturing departments held sway in the decision-making process. Today, it is the technical departments that are the game changers. The concept of fixed work hours is history. The workforce must be alert 24x7. Thus, employees need to brush up on their skill sets to brace for the challenges of the virtual world. Let us examine the model of direct teaching through online classes – one-on-one, between the teacher and the tutee. The very paradigm may affect teaching techniques in schools and universities. Similarly, qualified doctors instruct their colleagues through Skype or other means during complex surgeries. Be it surgical strikes or wars, instructions are being disseminated to the foot soldiers through the latest technology, like the usage of GPS coordinates and Real-Time Imagery. In such a scenario, scores of organisational structures, government or those in the private sector must adapt radically in order to survive. The workforce must continuously upgrade their skill set or face extinction. Perhaps emotions of warmth may be lost in the maze of technological evolution. The philosophy of an organisation, its goals and objectives and the behavioural pattern between the structure and the workforce have been stranded in a traffic jam of the kind one encounters in major cities of India like Gurugram. Stephen Hawking has in a rather depressing prognosis, predicted that life would be extinct on this planet on four grounds – nukes, global warming, man-made viruses or robots. Thus, the human mind should reinvent itself and current organisational behaviour and theories or prepare a blueprint to discover a sister planet to inhabit. Aristotle wrote, "We are what we repeatedly do." This paradigm will have to change for organisations to survive.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

SANTHOSH MATHEW

Modi's approach combines diplomacy with firm resolve to safeguard India's sovereignty, particularly against those attempting to influence domestic politics. The BJP asserts that international network works target India for challenging the dominance of Western-centric ideologies

A roadmap for modernising India's security framework



SUDHIR HINDWAN

A comprehensive approach to urban mobility, affordability and infrastructure is the need of the hour to reclaim Delhi's air and ensure a healthier, sustainable future



The recent 2 days 59th All India Conference of Director Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar augurs very well for drawing a future roadmap of policing in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a SMART way of policing has once again brought forward the need for modernisation of Indian Police and Security Agencies which can help India move on the path of high-powered police technology with the most efficient and latest technologies. Recent challenges to the security of India bring to light an important fact that India needs to diversify its strategies to counter the challenges it faces lately from digital frauds, artificial Intelligence misuse and cyber crimes. Prime Minister emphasised the need to come together and closely cooperate in fighting the latest threats by developing strategies for the establishment of an extremely capable intelligence system to ensure such threats can be encountered at early stages. SMART POLICING appears to be the only solution for protection against the multiple threats from diverse and very intense new waves of terror, cyber criminals, drug traffickers, economic offenders, smugglers, criminals, naxals, arms dealers and insurgents. It would provide a platform for multi-layered security cooperation that would deal with various issues related to terrorism – right from the funding of terrorist activities, policing cooperation, dealing with cyber threats, secrecy through enhancing technological innovations and tightening the border to maritime security information-gathering exercise. Cooperation and coordination in communication capabilities and management of security arrangements to deal with any kind of threat are the main objectives of his call. Besides, a modernisation of the Police is also imperative given the possible threats from religiously motivated bands of distraught minds. The Prime Minister has called for a smart way of policing and usage of interoperable and transferable technologies such as drones that would open a new gateway to meet complex security chal-



THE POLICE NEED TO DIVERSIFY ITS ACTIVITIES BY BRINGING TOGETHER TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE BASED ON MANY DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN MAINTAINING INTERNAL SECURITY. IT IS HIGH TIME WE REALISED THAT POLICE ALONE CANNOT STOP THE CRIME, THE ENTIRE SOCIETY SHOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS

enges. Over the years a great deal of literature has appeared on India's police and the need for reforms. Policies are being made to enable the force to adapt to the challenging environment and efficiently implement recommendations suggested by the panels on reforms. As the threats today are more severe and enemies more organised than ever before, new concepts of safety and security need to be followed. Whereas globalisation has provided a concept of a global village deeply interwoven in a comprehensive view of society, market, freedom, choice, empowerment, peace, opportunities, linkages and politics, its impact has created a socio-political quagmire, particularly in developing societies. In this context, there is a growing global consensus on addressing critical issues in policing by focusing on the following key areas:
Bridging Theory and Practice: Linking traditional policing theories to the evolving challenges faced by law enforcement today.
Analyzing Pressures: Developing fresh insights into the various areas of concern and the mounting pressures on police forces.
Role of Police in Market Dynamics: Defining the role of police in navigating market forces while maintaining impartiality and fairness.
Implementing Reforms: Demonstrating how the reform models proposed by various commissions can be effectively applied in real-world scenarios, in alignment with democratic principles, environmental considerations, globalization, and governance.
Driving Change: Exploring innovative policing methods to foster change and build public trust and confidence.
Global Knowledge Integration: Leveraging the latest global research and advancements in the field of policing to modernise and upgrade

law enforcement practices. Police being a State subject under Article 246, at times the force becomes a matter of battle of wits. Apart from undertaking counter-terrorist operations, police also have to play a crucial role as protector of the day-to-day law and order. This has increased pressure on them to get quick results. Besides, the prevailing level of dissatisfaction among the subordinate level, police officers have adversely affected the attitude of police towards problems. Police are often asked to fight a low-cost war where the enemy is their countrymen. Calling the police to put down civil disturbances is a tedious job. Many scientific methods and modern changes have been introduced in policing in India ever since the police commission report was drafted many years ago. Police are an extremely vital source of security for the community. But this alone will not benefit unless people are sensitised about the achievements of positive policing. Some experts on policing are of the view that the values, attitudes, methods, aspirations commitment, etc, of these services need overhauling. Some are of the view that the quality and efficiency of the security forces largely depend on their service conditions, cooperation, training, practice, level of interaction with the general masses and strict methods of appointment. It is, therefore, in the interest of the Government to recruit and attract personnel of high integrity and great calibre. For successful training of personnel of paramilitary and police forces, certain parameters of pre-recruitment education, experience, proportion of insiders and outsiders, methods of recruitment, postings, and length of service must be reviewed. There is also a need for more productive relation-

ships among paramilitary forces, Intelligence agencies, local police, the Army, and the local population. The Government has made all efforts towards sensitisation of police by inculcating a humane approach in policing and introducing the study of human rights legislation in training. Certain suggestions can go a long way in driving better results for policing: (a) There should be initiative in implementing development plans in consultation with experts from various other branches; (b) Development of capability to anticipate foreboding and security needs; (c) This is possible by conducting specialised courses for monitoring security situations. Globalisation and its negative implications are putting forward a challenging environment for policing. Therefore, the police need to diversify its activities by bringing together technical and professional expertise based on many decades of experience in maintaining internal security. It is high time we realised that police alone cannot stop the crime, the entire society should make substantial efforts towards ensuring the safety and security of fellow citizens. The police also need to play an important role as crime preventers and in this regard, developing qualities such as a high level of diligence, intelligence, dedication, determination and the ability to grasp complex situations is a must. It is high time we realised that the police alone cannot stop crime; the entire society should make substantial efforts towards it. The SMART Police and modernised ways of policing hold the key to the future of the security and safety of every individual.
(The writer is recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award, Professor, Head of Department and Expert on Strategic Affairs; views are personal)

India's sovereignty in the crosshairs: Navigating global challenges

Modi's administration combines diplomacy with strength to safeguard national independence and challenge Western-centric ideologies

As India rises as a global power, it faces a barrage of challenges and accusations of foreign interference, echoing the complexities of a world where sovereignty is contested. The ruling BJP has identified actors like the "American deep state," billionaire George Soros, and organisations such as the Rockefeller Foundation as orchestrators of campaigns aimed at destabilising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. These claims highlight a critical tension between India's assertion of its independence and the entrenched interests of global powers accustomed to shaping narratives. Prime Minister Modi's administration epitomises Teddy Roosevelt's principle: "Speak softly and carry a big stick."



SANTHOSH MATHEW

through policies like Atmanirbhar Bharat and calls for a multipolar world. The "American deep state," a nexus of the Pentagon, CIA, and corporate elites, according to the BJP, exemplifies hidden forces working to maintain global hegemony. Allegations against prominent business figures and reports from groups like the OCCRP are seen as attempts to tarnish Modi's image and weaken the BJP's leadership. Critics of these claims argue that they serve as distractions from domestic challenges, but the BJP cites historical precedents of covert interventions by such networks to justify its position. George Soros, often labelled a "dangerous" figure by Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, symbolises an ide-



The return of Donald Trump to the US presidency adds another layer to India's geopolitical calculations. While Trump's "America First" policies and transactional diplomacy brought moments like "Howdy Modi" and "Namaste Trump," his administration's alignment with corporate

interests and erratic decision-making created tensions. Described by Noam Chomsky as "the most dangerous man in the world," Yet, his strategic deals, such as his outreach to India, underscored his unconventional but calculated foreign policy. Trump's presidency also invoked the Bush Doctrine's rhetoric of "You are either with us or against us," highlighting the stark divisions in global alliances. While Modi's government has maintained a deft balance, the BJP sees this dichotomy as emblematic of the pressures India faces from global powers demanding allegiance to specific blocs. India's geopolitical strategy involves rejecting the narrative of dependency that organisations like the Rockefeller

Foundation propagate. Blood may be thicker than water, but India's external relationships prioritise sovereignty over sentimentality. The BJP's framing of its sovereignty struggle as a broader battle for multipolarity reflects a vision of India not just as a rising power but as a protector of global balance. While domestic critics downplay the likelihood of coordinated foreign efforts against India, the BJP argues that history tells a different story. Examples abound of covert interventions justified under the banner of democracy or human rights. Modi's government, embodies the Rooseveltian ethos of combining tact with strength, ensuring that India's voice remains firm in the shifting

balance of global power. The allegations against figures like Soros, the American deep state, and philanthropic organisations symbolise the challenges India faces as it redefines its place on the world stage. Whether these claims represent genuine threats or political posturing, they underscore the complexities of a world where the boundaries of influence, power, and sovereignty remain contested. India's ascent highlights a fundamental truth: the struggle for sovereignty in a globalised world demands not only resilience but also an unwavering belief in one's capacity to walk softly while wielding the proverbial big stick.
(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Naresh S/o Dharamvir Singh R/o Village Shamlo Kalan Distt. Jind Have Changed My Name From Naresh To Naresh Malik.

I, Gurwinder Singh S/o Mohan Singh R/o Gajju Gazi, Distt. Gurdaspur declare that Gurwinder is my given name and Singh is my Surname. Concerned note.

I, Nirmaljeet Kaur W/o late. Harpreet Singh R/O, W.No.7, Guru Har Rai Nagar, D.A.V.College Road, Dasuya of Hsp. District have changed my name to Nirmaljeet (as given name) Kaur (as surname)

I, Savitree Devi is legally wife of Army No. 15223761N, HAV (DMT), Ganesh Choudhary, Unit of 310 FD Regt C/O 56 APO, Residing at Villo. Ladana Khurd, Po. Toomli Ka Bas, Teh. Chaksu, Distt. Jaipur, (R.) 303901 have changed my Name in all documents From Savitree Devi to Savitree Choudhary

I Nirmal Singh Warring S/O Harbans Singh R/O Kothe Warring Faridkot Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Nirmal Singh.

I, Jagveer S/o Salamuddin R/o H.No. 535, Ward No. 26, Rohtak Road, Durga Colony, Jind Teh. and Distt. Jind -126102 (Haryana) have changed my name from Jagveer to Jagbir. In future I will known as Jagbir.

I, Kamal Kumar S/O Lachhman Dass R/O 437, Gali No.2, Prempara, Phagwara Kapurthala Have Changed My Name Kamal As Given Name & Kumar As Surname.

I, Kalwinder Singh S/o Satpal Singh R/o Vill: Shehbazpura (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Kalwinder Singh Uppal.

I, Parmilla wife of (Late) Ramesh Kumar and daughter of Army No 1172213 Ex NK (Late) Jagdish Lal S/O Bahadur Resident of H No 298 Lal Kurti Bazar, Ferozepur Cantt Tehsil and Distt Ferozepur, Punjab have changed my name from Parmilla to Promila and shall hereafter be known as my New Name Promila as per affidavit dated 05 Dec 2024.

I Manjit Kaur D/o Harbhajan Singh and W/o Ajmer Singh R/o VPO-Muthada Kalan, Phillaur, Jalandhar, Punjab - 144409, have changed my name to Davinder Kaur.

I, Suman W/o Naresh Malik R/O Village Shamlo Kalan Distt. Jind Have Changed My Name From Suman To Suman Devi.

I Suman W/O Rakesh Kumar R/O Karimpur Chahwala, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar Have Changed My Name From Suman To Suman Devi.

I, Raminder Kaur Mallhi W/o Harmanpreet Singh R/o Vpo. Sarawan Bodla Teh-Malout Distt. Muktsar have changed my name to Raminder Kaur.

I, hitherto known as Rangeela D/o Fuleswar Mistari R/o H. No. 590, Ward No-21, Tejli Road, Garhi Munday, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana- 135003 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rashmi.

I, hitherto known as Surmukh Singh Cheppa S/o Birwa Ram Resident of Village Nagla Khalsa (344) District Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-133103 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Surmukh Singh.

I, Naresh Malik S/o Dharamvir Singh R/O Village Shamlo Kalan Distt. Jind Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Gaurav To Gaurav Malik.

I, Jaswinder Singh Gill S/O Malkheet Singh R/O Vpo. Maheshari Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Jaswinder Singh.

I, Parmjeet Kaur W/o Jasbeer Singh R/o Vpo. Kattianwali Teh-Malout Distt. Muktsar have changed my name to Paramjeet Kaur.

I, Harman Sonya W/o Amandeep Singh R/o H.no-1, Ward No-2, Model Town, Samrala Road, Khanna (Ludhiana) changed my name to Harman Sonia.

I, hitherto known as Roshni, Mother of Army No.3201568X, Rank Hav, Satish Kumar, VPO Rohat, Tehsil and District Sonapat, Haryana, Pin Code 131403 Have changed my name from Roshni Devi to Roshni, vide Affidavit no.IN-PB87517072375656W, Dated 10 December 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Jit Singh Banwait S/o Shri Sadhu singh resident of # 626 Zail singh Nagar, Rupnagar Tehsil and District Rupnagar have changed my name to Jit Singh.

I Jeet Kaur W/O Subeg Singh R/O Vpo. Aminwala Tehsil Dharamkot Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Amarjit Kaur.

I, Swarn Singh Kalsi S/O Pritam Singh R/O #250/1C, Block-D, Model Town Ext. Ludhiana, Distt. Ludhiana declare that I have changed my name from Swarn Singh Kalsi (Old Name) to Swarn Singh (New Name).

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Girdhari Lal R/O H.No.142, Dalima Vihar, Ward No.6, Rajpura, Patiala, Punjab - 140401 have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Chaudhary.

I, hitherto known as Deepika W/o Sunil Kumar R/o House No.7 Professor Colony Ferozepur City Pin 152002 Have Changed My Name From Deepika Arora To Deepika.

I, Smt Hardeep Kaur Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of No.1477306m Ex Nk Devender Singh R/O Village-Purian Khurd, Po-Jaito Sarja, Tehsil- Batala, Distt-Gurdaspur, State- Punjab. Have Changed My Name From Hardeep Kaur To Hardeep Kaur.

I Charangi Lal S/O Nasib Chand R/O Ravi Das Nagar Moga Have Changed My Name To Charangi Lal.

I, Satinder Kaur Kalsi W/O Swarn Singh R/O House No: 250/1C, Block-D, Model Town Ext., Ludhiana, Distt. Ludhiana declare that I have changed my name from Satinder Kaur Kalsi (Old Name) to Satinder Kaur (New Name).

I, Deepika W/o Sunil Kumar R/o House No.7 Professor Colony Ferozepur City Pin 152002 Have Changed My Name From Deepika Arora To Deepika.

I, hitherto known as Monika Kawatra w/o Arun Kumar Arora R/O # 17 -A, Hira Nagar Patiala have changed my name to Monika Arora.

I, Service No: Jc-351325P Ex-Sub - Jaspal Singh Resident Of Vpo-Sekhwan Tehsil- And Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, That I Declare Change My Daughter Name From Paravinder Kaur To Parminder Kaur In Army Record.

I Manohar Singh S/O Pyara Singh R/O Vill, Chodial, P.O. Lachowal, District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Manohar Lal.

I, known as Gurdev Singh and Gurdev Singh Khosa son of Gurjit Singh resident of Village Kot Karor Khurd, Tehsil and District Ferozepur.

I, hitherto known as Deepika W/o Sunil Kumar R/o House No.7 Professor Colony Ferozepur City Pin 152002 Have Changed My Name From Deepika Arora To Deepika.

I, hitherto known as Monika Kawatra w/o Arun Kumar Arora R/O # 17 -A, Hira Nagar Patiala have changed my name to Monika Arora.

I, Service No: 1086427F Ex-Ld - Chaman Lal S/O Desraj Saini Resident Of Vpo-Marara Tehsil- And Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, That I Declare Change My Two Daughter Name From Janbi Saini To Janvi Saini And Nirjala Saini To Nirjala Saini In Army Record.

I Vikash Kumar S/O Surinder Kumar R/O Vpo. Bhargala Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur Punjab, Declare That My Given Name As Vikash And My Surname As Kumar.

I, known as Gurdev Singh and Gurdev Singh Khosa son of Gurjit Singh resident of Village Kot Karor Khurd, Tehsil and District Ferozepur.

I, hitherto known as Deepika W/o Sunil Kumar R/o House No.7 Professor Colony Ferozepur City Pin 152002 Have Changed My Name From Deepika Arora To Deepika.

I, hitherto known as Monika Kawatra w/o Arun Kumar Arora R/O # 17 -A, Hira Nagar Patiala have changed my name to Monika Arora.

I, Service No: 1086427F Ex-Ld - Chaman Lal S/O Desraj Saini Resident Of Vpo-Marara Tehsil- And Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, That I Declare Change My Two Daughter Name From Janbi Saini To Janvi Saini And Nirjala Saini To Nirjala Saini In Army Record.

I Jaskaran Singh S/O Shiv Dial Singh R/O Vpo. Paddi Sura Singh, Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Declare That My Given Name As Jaskaran And Singh As Surname.

I, known as Gurdev Singh and Gurdev Singh Khosa son of Gurjit Singh resident of Village Kot Karor Khurd, Tehsil and District Ferozepur.

I, hitherto known as Deepika W/o Sunil Kumar R/o House No.7 Professor Colony Ferozepur City Pin 152002 Have Changed My Name From Deepika Arora To Deepika.

I, hitherto known as Monika Kawatra w/o Arun Kumar Arora R/O # 17 -A, Hira Nagar Patiala have changed my name to Monika Arora.

I, Service No: 1086427F Ex-Ld - Chaman Lal S/O Desraj Saini Resident Of Vpo-Marara Tehsil- And Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, That I Declare Change My Two Daughter Name From Janbi Saini To Janvi Saini And Nirjala Saini To Nirjala Saini In Army Record.

I Simranjeet Kaur Reehal W/O Kuljeet Singh Rajbans R/O Lane 1, Green Avenue Preet Nagar Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Simranjeet Kaur Rajbans.

I, known as Gurdev Singh and Gurdev Singh Khosa son of Gurjit Singh resident of Village Kot Karor Khurd, Tehsil and District Ferozepur.

I, hitherto known as Deepika W/o Sunil Kumar R/o House No.7 Professor Colony Ferozepur City Pin 152002 Have Changed My Name From Deepika Arora To Deepika.

I, hitherto known as Monika Kawatra w/o Arun Kumar Arora R/O # 17 -A, Hira Nagar Patiala have changed my name to Monika Arora.

I, Service No: 1086427F Ex-Ld - Chaman Lal S/O Desraj Saini Resident Of Vpo-Marara Tehsil- And Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, That I Declare Change My Two Daughter Name From Janbi Saini To Janvi Saini And Nirjala Saini To Nirjala Saini In Army Record.

I Simranjeet Kaur Reehal W/O Kuljeet Singh Rajbans R/O Lane 1, Green Avenue Preet Nagar Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Simranjeet Kaur Rajbans.

I, known as Gurdev Singh and Gurdev Singh Khosa son of Gurjit Singh resident of Village Kot Karor Khurd, Tehsil and District Ferozepur.

I, hitherto known as Deepika W/o Sunil Kumar R/o House No.7 Professor Colony Ferozepur City Pin 152002 Have Changed My Name From Deepika Arora To Deepika.

I, hitherto known as Monika Kawatra w/o Arun Kumar Arora R/O # 17 -A, Hira Nagar Patiala have changed my name to Monika Arora.

I, Service No: 1086427F Ex-Ld - Chaman Lal S/O Desraj Saini Resident Of Vpo-Marara Tehsil- And Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, That I Declare Change My Two Daughter Name From Janbi Saini To Janvi Saini And Nirjala Saini To Nirjala Saini In Army Record.

I Simranjeet Kaur Reehal W/O Kuljeet Singh Rajbans R/O Lane 1, Green Avenue Preet Nagar Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Simranjeet Kaur Rajbans.

I, known as Gurdev Singh and Gurdev Singh Khosa son of Gurjit Singh resident of Village Kot Karor Khurd, Tehsil and District Ferozepur.

I, hitherto known as Deepika W/o Sunil Kumar R/o House No.7 Professor Colony Ferozepur City Pin 152002 Have Changed My Name From Deepika Arora To Deepika.

I, hitherto known as Monika Kawatra w/o Arun Kumar Arora R/O # 17 -A, Hira Nagar Patiala have changed my name to Monika Arora.

ICICI Bank PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET. Notice for sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The Pioneer Classified Advertisement. COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE ADS CONTACT: 9417419351

ICICI Bank SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

COURT NOTICE. (U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) IN THE COURT OF Ms. Aarti Sharma Civil Judge (Junior Division), Mukerian. Public Notice. The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Public Notice. I am informed to General public that Sh.Sandeep Singh Randhir Singh R/o Mokhra Kheri, Rohtak-124022 has lost his Previous Original Sale deed no. 2177 dated 10-11-2019 measuring 3.25 marla registered at Sub-Registrar, Kalanaur (Rohtak) which is owned and possessed by me and I am availing loan from India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd. If anyone has objection, then he/she may notify with proof to the given contact to Bank's Advocate, within 7 days from the date of publication. After the stipulated period no claim will be entertained regarding the same.

ICICI Home Finance Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kuria Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India. Notice for sale of immovable assets. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

UCO BANK PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BREAK OPEN OF OVERDUE LOCKERS. Following Persons have hired Lockers from various branches of UCO Bank as mentioned below. The rent for the lockers has not been paid by the locker hire and there are arrears of rent due against the lockers hired by them.

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002). Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

ICICI Bank SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

ICICI Bank SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Equity MFs inflow drops 14% in Nov; SIP figure remains flat at Rs 25,320-cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Equity mutual funds witnessed an inflow of Rs 35,943 crore in November, marking a drop of 14 per cent on a month-on-month basis, amid heightened volatility in stock markets driven by various macroeconomic factors, geopolitical events and US election results.

Despite this, it marked the 45th consecutive month of net inflows into equity-oriented funds, reflecting the growing popularity of mutual funds among investors, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) released on Tuesday.

Moreover, monthly contributions from the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) remained flat at Rs 25,320 crore last month against Rs 25,323 crore in October.

"There was heightened volatility due to various macroeconomic factors, geopolitical events and the US election results. This resulted in investors opting for a wait & watch approach while allo-

ating larger amounts and thus decline in lumpsum flows including flattish SIP numbers for November 2024," Akhil Chaturvedi, CBO, Motilal Oswal AMC, said.

Overall, the mutual fund industry experienced an inflow of Rs 60,295 crore in the month under review, which was way lower than Rs 2.4 lakh crore in October. This could be due to a huge decline in inflows in debt funds to Rs 12,915 crore in November from Rs 1.57 lakh crore in the preceding month.

Despite the decline, the industry's net assets under management rose to Rs 68.08 lakh crore last month from Rs 67.25 lakh crore in October.

"Defying a tumultuous month in the equity market, the mutual fund industry's assets reached a new pinnacle of Rs 68.08 lakh crore, driven primarily by robust inflows into growth-/equity-oriented schemes. The unwavering monthly SIP inflows remained above Rs 25,000 crore in November, showcasing the investors' long-term vision and commitment to



their financial goals, despite the short-term market fluctuations," Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, AMFI, said. As per the data, equity-oriented schemes witnessed an inflow of Rs 35,943 crore in November as compared to record inflow of Rs 41,887 crore in October.

"Weak global cues, China's recent economic stimulus, and escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia impacted Indian equity markets in November 2024, which witnessed relentless selling by foreign portfolio investors. The impact of this was seen on the Indian mutual fund

industry as well, which witnessed 14.19 per cent drop in equity inflows in November on a month-on-month basis," Ashwini Kumar, Senior Vice President and Head Market Data, ICRA Analytics, said. Within the equity schemes, sectoral or thematic category attracted investors with the

highest net inflow of Rs 7,658 crore during the month under review. However, flow in the segment was less compared to Rs 12,279 crore in October and Rs 13,255 crore in September. This was followed by flexi cap funds which saw inflow of Rs 5,084 crore last month.

Inflows into large-cap funds declined 26 per cent to Rs 2,548 crore in November from Rs 3,452 crore in the preceding month, while mid and small cap funds registered month-on-month growth of 4.3 per cent to Rs 4,883 crore and 9 per cent to Rs 4,112 crore, respectively.

The month saw 18 new fund offerings (NFOs) collecting Rs 4,052 crore while October saw 29 NFOs garnering Rs 6,078 crore. Of this, new index funds launched in November were 10 as compared to 17 launched in October, Mayukh Datta, Chief Business Officer, ITI Mutual Fund, said.

There has been a shift from low-risk categories like large-cap and hybrid funds to higher-risk options like small-cap

funds, while NFO activity slowed down last month.

With regards to debt-oriented funds, Deepak Ramaraju, Senior Fund Manager, Shriram AMC, said that the category saw a 92 per cent month-on-month plunge in inflow to Rs 12,916 crore in November on the back of withdrawal from liquid funds due to tighter liquidity conditions and possible tax payments.

Overall, 9 out of 16 debt mutual fund categories recorded net inflows in November. Liquid funds experienced the highest outflows, amounting to Rs 1,779 crore.

"Meanwhile, investors showed a strong preference for categories like low-duration funds, ultra-short-duration funds, money market funds, corporate bond funds, and overnight funds. Together, these categories accounted for about 85 per cent of the inflows across nine categories that recorded positive figures, highlighting a strong preference for low-risk, highly liquid investment options," Nehal Meshram,

Senior Analyst - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Further, investor interest in active duration strategies, such as Gilt Funds, led to inflow of Rs 1,803 crore. This can be attributed to rising expectations of interest rate cuts in the near future, she added.

Gold continues to glitter with investors showing their affinity towards yellow metal in November as well. Gold ETF category witnessed a net inflow of Rs 1,257 crore in November, which was lower than Rs 1,961 crore seen in the preceding month. "While the fund mobilized was less compared to October, the redemption number was higher. This signifies that investors would have chosen to book profits with gold trading at elevated levels and impending marriage season, where the demand for physical gold is high," Himanshu Srivastava - Associate Director- Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Sensex, Nifty end on flat note amid volatile trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed on a flat note on Tuesday amid a lacklustre trade, as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines in the absence of any fresh trigger.

Besides, a weak trend in European markets also impacted investors' sentiment, according to traders. The 30-share BSE Sensex rises 1.59 points to close flat at 81,510.05. During the day, it climbed 217.88 points or 0.27 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,726.34.

The NSE Nifty fell 8.95 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 24,510.05. In the intraday trade, it slipped 108.35 points or 0.44 per cent to hit a low of 24,510.05. "The domestic market concluded on a flat note, a rebound from the lows suggests buy-on-dip strategy... The broader market outperformed, maintaining its positive trend led by mid & small-caps. The IT index reached new highs in anticipation of improvement in US IT spending.

"Upcoming inflation data from the US and India are critical for insights into potential future rate cuts.



India's CPI will serve as a key indicator of underlying earnings growth, which has been downgraded in H1FY25," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. From the 30-share pack, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Infosys, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Titan were among the gainers. Bharti Airtel, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Larsen & Toubro were the laggards. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai, and Seoul settled higher, while Hong Kong

ended in negative territory. European markets were trading lower. The US markets closed in the red in overnight deals on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude fell 0.17 per cent to USD 72.02 a barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 724.27 crore on Monday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 1,648.07 crore, according to exchange data. On Monday, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 200.66 points to settle at 81,508.46, while NSE Nifty dropped 58.80 points to close at 24,619.

Bihar Ambassadors' meet strengthens global investment ties

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the second edition of the Bihar Business Connect 2024 summit, the Department of Industries of the Bihar government showcased the state's strategic initiatives, reforms and investment opportunities to select diplomats.

The Bihar Business Connect 2024 - Ambassadors' Meet presented the policies and initiatives of the state government to the global audience as a precursor to the Summit scheduled for December 19-20, 2024, in Patna, according to an official statement.

The event had Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Samrat Chaudhary, Industry and Tourism Minister Nitish Mishra, State Chief Secretary Amrit Lal Meena, and Bandana Preyashi, Secretary of the Industries Department.

The roadshow saw diplomats from around 30 foreign missions in India as also international trade associations and trade promotion bodies participate.

Foreign guests present at the event included Nguyen Thanh Hai, Ambassador, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Mariano Agustin Caucino, Ambassador, Embassy of the Argentine Republic; and Josel Francisco Ignacio, Ambassador, Embassy



of the Philippines. David Pasquini, Commercial Officer of the US Embassy, alongside prominent trade bodies such as the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, TPCL, FIEO, AEPC, US-India Business Council, and UK-India Business Council.

Speaking at the event, Chaudhary highlighted Bihar's rapid strides in industrial development and sustainability and said, "Policy, population, and water make Bihar special. Here we are working on policies which are sector-specific like leather, IT, start-up, etc. Our demographic dividend is our strength. This not only makes Bihar a big market but also an epicentre for human resources.

"Abundance of water makes the land of Bihar superior in terms of production. In the coming

days, more positive changes will be seen in Bihar, which will definitely make the state more favourable for investment."

Industry and Tourism Minister Nitish Mishra emphasised the state's untapped potential, saying, "All the facilities required for investment anywhere are present on a large scale in Bihar. Here land, infrastructure, connectivity, electricity, water, human resources and market are all available, which makes Bihar investment-friendly. Today, as we are working to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat in 2047, it becomes necessary that we take advantage of the immense opportunities available in Bihar."

Meena emphasised the statistics that define Bihar as the hub of investors and said, "Bihar is a complete turnaround story. The ease of doing business is

the focal point of Bihar. There is massive focus on agriculture where production has gone up exponentially.

"Our CAGR of per capita power consumption is 16 per cent, which is the highest in the country, and now there's complete focus on renewable energy. Data consumption has gone up by 2000 per cent, which talks about the growing economy. With aspiring youth, Bihar is clearly the future."

Reaffirming Bihar as a premier global investment destination, Preyashi said, "Bihar is fast emerging as an industrial land, where both small and big investors are investing. Almost 100 per cent electricity, huge market, abundant water, friendly policies and better infrastructure are some of the aspects that make Bihar investment-friendly and attract investors.

"We are continuously working to improvise and bring sector-specific policies. We are also making the path easier for investors by providing various types of incentives, such as capital investment subsidy, export subsidy, and interest subvention."

Highlighting the strategic investment opportunities in Bihar in his opening remarks, Jaideep Ahuja, Chairman, CII Delhi Chapter, stated, "We stand on the threshold of tremendous opportunity, a

vision to foster partnerships and open new doors for investments in the vibrant dynamic state of Bihar. Bihar growth story is one of resilience, transformation and promise. The state has established itself as a promising hub for investments and industries, and I am delighted to witness the momentum that is building in the collaborative spirit that defines today's economic environment."

Rajneet Kohli, CEO, Britannia Industries, which has two manufacturing plants in Bihar, said, "Bihar, with its growing population of 140 million, offers a captive market for our products. The state's robust GDP growth, the second-highest in the nation, further fuels our expansion. We've created over 3,000 jobs and reached 7,500 villages, establishing 1,000+ rural outlets and 55,000+ urban outlets."

Kamal Oswal, Managing Director, Nahar Group, mentioned while addressing the other dignitaries, "We're starting our new Logistics Park in Bihar, a massive 1 million square foot facility. This USD 15 million investment will generate 4,000 jobs, making it one of India's largest logistics hubs. Our experience in Bihar has been exceptional, with all approvals processed swiftly and efficiently, unlike any other state we've invested in."

Rupee settles on a flat note near all-time low at 84.85 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee settled for the day on a flat note higher by just 1 paisa at 84.85 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, a tad above its all-time low level, as change of guard at the Reserve Bank of India raised expectations of a shift in the central bank's monetary policy.

The government on Monday appointed Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

Forex traders said markets now expect a rate cut in the

upcoming monetary policy in February. While a weak tone in the domestic markets and a surge in the US dollar index further pressurised the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.80 and touched the lowest level of 84.86 against the greenback during intra-day trade. The unit ended the session at 84.85 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by just 1 paisa from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee saw its steepest fall in over a month and plunged 20 paise to settle at lowest-ever level of



84.86 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on strength in the US dollar and overnight gains in crude oil prices. However, recent FII inflows may support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

Choudhary further said that any intervention by the RBI may also support the rupee.

"Investors may remain cautious ahead of US inflation data on Wednesday. Inflation is expected to be higher than the previous month. USD-

INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 84.65 to 85.10," he said.

Shaktikanta Das, who will demit office as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday, was the key man behind the planning and execution of the demonetisation drive and roll-out of the landmark goods and services tax (GST). At the RBI, he steered India's monetary policy response during the challenging period of the pandemic.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six

currencies, was trading higher by 0.13 per cent at 106.28.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.36 per cent to USD 71.88 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share benchmark index Sensex closed on a flat note at 81,510.05, higher by just 1.59 points. The Nifty fell 8.95 points, or 0.04 per cent, to 24,610.05 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 724.27 crore, according to exchange data.

IGL announces 1:1 bonus share issue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indraprastha Gas Ltd on Tuesday announced a 1:1 bonus share - one free share for every share held by shareholders as India's biggest city gas retailer looks to increase retail investor participation and reward shareholders.

This is IGL's maiden bonus issue.

The Board of Directors of IGL in a meeting on Tuesday approved "issuance of bonus shares to the shareholders of the company in the ratio of 1:1, i.e. 1 (one) bonus equity Shares of face value of Rs 2 each fully paid up for every 1 (one) existing equity shares of face value of Rs 2 each fully paid up, to the eligible shareholders of the company as on the record date," the firm said in a stock exchange filing.

The share capital of the company will increase from Rs 140 crore to Rs 280 crore post-bonus issue. Rs 140 crore



would be capitalized from free reserves to implement the bonus issue.

"The company has a total balance of Rs 8,411.74 crore as free reserves for capitalization," IGL said.

The bonus share is likely to be credited within two months. IGL retailers CNG to automobiles and pipes natural gas to household kitchens and industries Delhi and its adjoining cities of Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram. It also retails in few

other cities in Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It meets fuel requirements of over 1.7 million vehicles running on CNG through a network of 882 CNG stations. IGL has connected over two and a half million households in these cities with PNG.

"This strategic decision further underscores the company's unwavering commitment to enhancing shareholder value while reinforcing investor confidence in IGL's robust financial performance and future

growth trajectory," IGL later said in a statement.

The record date for determining eligible shareholders will be decided later.

"This announcement aligns with IGL's enduring philosophy of rewarding its shareholders, underpinned by strong financial fundamentals and consistent growth," the firm said.

The bonus issuance not only reflects the company's healthy reserves but also its optimism in sustaining its leadership position in India's clean energy ecosystem, IGL said.

Commenting on the issue, Kamal Kishore Chatiwal, Managing Director, IGL, said, "The bonus share issue is a testament to our continued focus on creating long-term shareholder value. I reinforce our confidence in the company's potential to scale new heights while rewarding our investors for their unwavering trust and support."

IoT, AI, and Blockchain to Transform Indian Farming

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 2nd edition of the Agriculture and Rural Communication Summit 2024, held at Pride Plaza Hotel, New Delhi, spotlighted transformative strategies for advancing Indian agriculture. Organized by Snail Integral Pvt. Ltd, the summit unveiled key insights into technology-driven solutions that promise to boost crop yields by up to 20% while empowering farmers.

During the event, a knowledge paper titled "Rural Communication and Agriculture in India: Pathways to a Viksit Bharat 2047" was released by Synergy Technofin and SnailIntegral. The report emphasized the role of cutting-edge technologies like IoT, AI, and Blockchain in revolutionizing agriculture. These tools are set to provide precise insights into crop health, optimize irrigation, and enable



data-driven farming, stated Sunil Sihag, MD, Synergy Technofin. Dr. P.K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, highlighted the government's focus on sustainability through Integrated Pest Management and innovative seed varieties. Panel discussions explored themes such as sustainability, communication strategies, and technology adoption. The summit underscored the critical need for digital literacy, strategic partnerships, and inclusive communication to transform rural India and achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

ALUCAST® 2024 Attracts 8,000 Visitors, 200 Exhibitors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 10th edition of ALUCAST® EXPO, India's premier biennial international conference and exhibition on die casting technology, commenced on December 5, 2024, at Yashobhooni, India International Convention & Expo Center, Dwarka, Delhi. Spanning three days, the event hosted over 200 exhibitors and 300+ brands from nations such as Germany, the USA, Japan, and Spain, drawing more than 8,000 visitors from 20+ countries.

Organized by the Aluminium Casters' Association (ALUCAST®) and NürnbergMesse India, the event highlighted India's emerging leadership in aluminum die casting. Keynote speeches by industry leaders, including Mr. Prasan Firodia, President of



ALUCAST, showcased India's advanced manufacturing capabilities, such as its 4,400-ton aluminum die-casting machine. Ms. Sonia Prashar, Managing Director of NürnbergMesse India, emphasized the sector's growth beyond automotive applications to include aerospace, consumer electronics, and electrical equipment. The conference featured over 2.5 days of technical sessions on innovations like semi-solid casting, AI integration, and workforce reskilling.

World Chess Championship: Nerves to play crucial role as Gukesh, Liren head for close finish

PTI ■ SINGAPORE
A handy lead has slipped through his grip but Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh will rely on his steely resolve to bounce back when he takes on enigmatic defending champion Ding Liren in the 13th game of the World Chess Championship that has been quite a roller-coaster ride for the players. The 18-year-old Gukesh, who is the youngest challenger to the title, and the 32-year-old defending champion from China have been locked in an intriguing battle in which both have held leads for not too long. They will resume on Wednesday after a day of rest. The scores are currently tied at 6-6 with the first to reach 7.5 assured of the coveted crown. After squandering away a full point lead with just three games to go, the 12th round loss was heart-breaking for the young Indian and many experts believe that he will go for an aggressive approach in his last game with white pieces under Classical time control. It won't be off the mark to say that nerves are likely to play a crucial role in the final stretch. The scores were tied 5-5 after game



10 but the last two decisive games thereafter have breathed new life into an otherwise well-contested match in which both players have had their chances. After what he described as a see-saw victory in the 11th game, Gukesh was simply not himself in the 12th game and his idea to play a new position for the first time backfired spectacularly. If the scores are still tied in the USD 2.5 million championship, tie-break games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner. Generally a smooth operator, Liren looked a pale shadow of himself after the 11th game and the case was no different for Gukesh when he was completely outplayed for the first time here on Monday. To regain composure is the name of the game here and Gukesh has shown resolve in the past. Liren, on the other hand, was in a similar situation in the last world championships match against Ian Nepomniachtchi that he won,

rallying as many as three times before eventually clinching the tiebreaker. Liren's precision was simply immaculate in the 12th game. Gukesh did not look the same player and the Chinese took advantage of the situation right from the word go to earn high praise from many in the elite chess circles. Five-time world champion across formats, Viswanathan Anand, called it a "very impressive game" while Liren himself said, "it was the best game that I have played in recent times." While the mind games will go on in the last two games and a potential tiebreaker, American Hikaru Nakamura and world number one Magnus Carlsen feel that the balance had tilted slightly in Liren's favour. "Ding did not have to calculate a single line in this whole game, he is being able to play the game based on positional understanding where he is very good," said Carlsen on his new youtube channel. It might be a tightrope walk for Gukesh but the young Indian is likely to go out there and give his best in the penultimate game. In case of another draw, there is a decent chance that the chess buffs will get to see the tie-break games.



Chennaiyin, Hyderabad desperate for a win revive campaign

PTI ■ CHENNAI
Struggling at the bottom-half of the table both Chennaiyin FC and Hyderabad FC will look to revive their campaign when they clash in the Indian Super League here on Wednesday. The two teams are in an urgent need for a shift in momentum, with two-time former champions Chennaiyin FC dropping to ninth in the standings following one draw and three defeats on the trot. A win can take them to the seventh spot. Hyderabad FC have also suffered three losses in a row to be one place ahead of the laggards Mohammedan Sporting with seven points from 10 games. The Owen Coyle-coached Marina Machans have endured a challenging run, going three games without a goal, a streak they'll aim to break in front of their home crowd. Despite scoring 16 goals in 11 matches this season, Chennaiyin's attack has faltered recently, and they have failed to score in their last two meetings with Hyderabad. Head coach Owen Coyle, on the verge of completing 50 ISL matches in charge, will be eager to mark the milestone with a victory. Connor Shields will have to play a key role in the midfield as his delivery from the flanks will be crucial in supplying chances to forwards like Daniel Chima Chukwu, who has a strong record against Hyderabad, including five goals in previous encounters. Hyderabad FC has also struggled for consistency, conceding 11 first-half goals this season -- more than any other team. Their defensive frailty often force them into catch-up mode, disrupting their rhythm. On the attacking front, Hyderabad have failed to score in four of their last six games. Their only wins in this stretch came when they found the net, underscoring the importance of converting chances. Their English-born Japanese midfielder Cy Goddard has been the bright spot, contributing a goal and an assist this season while creating 15 goal-scoring opportunities. Hyderabad will count on his ability to unlock Chennaiyin's defense and deliver in the final third. "Hyderabad FC have some very good players and some talented Indian players. A lot of them have done well. We are very respectful of the game tomorrow night. We will be very positive and try to win the game from the very first minute," Coyle said. Hyderabad FC assistant coach Shameel Chembakath hoped that his team will be stinging back into form, mentioning that they are working well on the areas that need improvement. "When the results are disappointing, we are fully aware of the areas we need to improve upon. Football is a game of ups and downs. Training is going well. We are taking this challenge positively and we will be bouncing back," Chembakath said.

Afghanistan extend Trott's contract by one year ahead of Champions Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Jonathan Trott will continue as Afghanistan's head coach for another year after the country's cricket board extended his contract through 2025. The announcement comes a few months ahead of next year's Champions Trophy, where Afghanistan will make their maiden appearance. The 43-year-old former England batter has been Afghanistan's head coach since July 2022, and under his guidance, the team has made impressive strides in international cricket. "The Afghanistan Cricket Board wishes Trott the best of luck for his next year's stint with Afghan Atalan as he strives to elevate Afghanistan cricket further on the global stage," the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) said in a statement. Under Trott, the team has achieved significant milestones, including reaching their first-ever T20 World Cup semi-final this year with stunning victories over Australia and New Zealand. Afghanistan also enjoyed a memorable ODI World Cup last year in India, where they stunned England, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, finishing among the top eight teams to secure their maiden appearance in the Champions Trophy. Additionally, Afghanistan recently triumphed in bilateral ODI series against South Africa and Bangladesh in Sharjah, winning both by 2-1 margins.

West Ham show support for injured teammate Antonio

AP ■ LONDON
West Ham players showed their support for seriously injured teammate Michail Antonio before and during their Premier League home win against Wolverhampton, two days after his car crash. The players warmed up in "Antonio 9" jerseys and walked on to the field in tops adorned with his name. The club will put the walk-out tops up for auction along with every match jersey worn against Wolves, with the proceeds going to medical charities and matched by the club's board. West Ham fans stood in London Stadium and applauded for Antonio in the ninth, and when captain Jarrod Bowen scored the 2-1 winner in the second half, he



approached supporters behind the goal carrying an Antonio jersey. "To share that moment, he's not here with us but I'm sure (Antonio) was watching and the fans, you heard them," Bowen told broadcaster Sky Sports. "An emotional couple of days." Before the game, Bowen said, "Everyone loves Mic, he is a big character. He is not just a teammate, he is a friend and has been for many years. A dad as well to beautiful children. It is one of those things where life is bigger than football. The main thing is Mic is safe and well and here to tell the story. Saturday was a really difficult time. He is a warrior and a fighter, he always has been, and I know he will be back stronger for this." Antonio, a 34-year-old Jamaica international, was recovering in hospital after undergoing surgery on what West Ham described as a "lower limb fracture." He was involved in a one-car accident outside London on Saturday, after which he was hospitalized and kept under close supervision. He wished the team well by video before the match. Antonio has made more than 300 appearances for West Ham since joining the club from Nottingham Forest in 2015, and played in all 14 games this season before the incident.

Record number of participants to turn up for National Shooting Championship Competition

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
A record 13,522 shooters are set to participate in the 67th National Shooting Championship Competition (NSSC), starting here on Thursday with the shotgun events. While the shotgun (December 11, 2024-January 19, 2025) and pistol (December 13, 2024-January 5, 2025) competitions will be held at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range here, Bhopal's MP State Shooting Academy ranges will hold the rifle nationals from December 15 to 31. The official pre-event training for skeet shooters belonging to Group 2 and Group 3 will be held on Wednesday, with the



qualification rounds beginning on Thursday. Group 1 shooters take to the ranges from December 21. Both defending champions Anant Jeet Singh Naruka, in men's skeet, and Ganemat Sekhon, in the women's skeet, will compete. A total of 837 shotgun shooters across skeet, trap and double trap events will be competing in five classifications which include master, senior master and super master, besides the senior and junior. Rifle competition has seen the maximum entries with 7013 participants across classifications while the pistol nationals will have 5672 competitors vying for the honours. A total of 40 teams will be represented at the nationals. These include almost all states and union territories as well as those representing the armed forces of the country and public institutions like the ONGC and the Railways. "All top shooters of the country will be participating in the nationals, whose scores will be counted when the Indian team for the 2025 international season is declared," the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) said in a release.

It is important sports be part of education as it teaches value of losing: Andre Agassi

PTI ■ BENGALURU
Tennis legend Andre Agassi on Tuesday emphasised the importance of keeping sports as a part of education, stating that sports teach children the value of losing. Agassi was discussing the future of sports and education as a foundation for excellence at the TiE Global Summit 2024 in Bengaluru. "Even when you have a failure, you have to get up and play again the next day. So, what sports is teaching you is that focusing on winning and losing is really a distraction from what we need to be thinking about. We need to be thinking about how to get better," he said. Agassi, who has been investing in education for the "disadvantaged" since 2001,

shared that he has helped build 130 schools for about 80,000 kids in the United States, a feat he attributes to pushing himself to stay ahead of challenges. He credited his ability to stay on course—and course-correct when needed—to his gruelling tennis career. "Sports is all about problem-solving. Tennis taught me how to navigate a very intense environment and maintain my objectivity and problem-solving abilities. It forces me to be present, but also to understand the context of what I'm doing," Agassi said. Speaking about his rebellious phase, Agassi said it was something he had to go through to reach where he is today. "Vulnerability is essential for growth, and I think vulnerability eventually

leads to humility," he added. The session, called Marathon Mindset, also featured Aakash Chaudhry, Co-Founder and Chief Mentor of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), who discussed the future of EdTech in India.

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Economic Affairs
(Financial Markets Division)
F. No. 4/1/2020-RE-RE

Filling up the post of Whole-time member in International Financial Services Centres Authority

The Government of India invites applications from the eligible candidates for filling up one post of Whole-Time member in International Financial Services Centres Authority, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The whole-time Member shall have an option to receive pay as admissible to an Additional Secretary to the Government of India or a consolidated salary of Rs. 4,00,000/- per month.

The particulars of the post and eligibility conditions may be seen on the Ministry's website at <https://www.dea.gov.in/vacancy-deputation-department-economic-affairs> under Department of Economic Affairs.

Applications of eligible candidates in the prescribed proforma along with certified copies of required documents may be forwarded, through proper channel (wherever applicable) so as to reach to the undersigned in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Room No. 71B, North Block, New Delhi-110001 on or before 13th January, 2025.

Incomplete applications and applications received after the last date shall not be considered.

Sd/-
(Shekhar Chaudhary)
Director (RE)
Tel: 2309 5009
CBC 15201/11/0001/2425

World Cup hosting decisions set to kick off a decade of scrutiny on Saudi Arabia and FIFA

AP ■ GENEVA
The inevitable result has been clear since last year: Saudi Arabia will be confirmed by FIFA as the 2034 World Cup host on Wednesday. The 2030 World Cup also will be awarded to a six-nation, three-continent project led by co-hosts Spain, Portugal and Morocco. It gives a single game each at South American neighbors Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, the first host in 1930. Two men's World Cups, one candidate for each, both a shoo-in to win. The outcome will be as FIFA and its president Gianni Infantino intended in October last year. Then, on the same day, the 2030 race was effectively decided and the 2034 one surprisingly opened. FIFA is sending one of the biggest prizes in world sports toward the state modernizing project of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. A decade of global scrutiny will follow. WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON WEDNESDAY? FIFA hosts a special congress in Zurich from 3 p.m. Local time (1300 GMT) and its 211 member federations will attend remotely online. The closed-doors meeting at FIFA headquarters should be streamed live on its website. The 37-member FIFA council, including Saudi federation president Yasser al Midehal, meets on Tuesday and should advise to approve both bids. Confirming the 2030 and 2034 hosts should be done in a combined decision by acclamation rather than a registered vote. FIFA published each member's choice in June 2018 in



Moscow when the United States, Canada and Mexico won the 2026 World Cup hosting vote 134-65 against Morocco. The Saudi bid team said in a statement "as a nation that loves football it is expected that fans across the entire kingdom will naturally take to the streets and celebrate this historic moment if their country is confirmed as hosts." WHAT WAS THE FIFA PROCESS TO BID AND WIN? These World Cup hosting contests happened gradually and then suddenly. In June 2018, days after losing to the financially strong North American bid, Morocco King Mohammed

VI announced his nation would seek the 2030 World Cup. Most expected it would be Europe's turn. Soon, Spain's government invited Morocco — separated by about 14 kilometers (10 miles) of sea — into its expected bid with Portugal. The project has survived a brief flirtation in 2022 with war-torn Ukraine. Saudi Arabia worked in 2022, with what seemed to be Infantino's diplomatic help, on an unlikely 2030 co-hosting bid with Egypt and Greece or Italy that was unacceptable to European soccer body UEFA. When FIFA's council eventually met to discuss World Cup bidding, the Spain-led bid now had South American partners. The bigger picture deal was letting Infantino open a 2034 contest only Asia and Oceania members could enter within

four weeks. The Asian soccer body quickly backed Saudi Arabia, and Australia's interest was soon quashed.

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED
(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur, 302020

Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002

As the Loan Account Became NPA therefore The Authorised Officer (AO) Under section 13 (2) of Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 had issued 60 day demand notice to the borrower as given in the table. According to the Notice if the Borrower does not deposit the Amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from Auction of the security as given below. As the demand Notice sent to the borrower/guarantor has not been served, copy of demand notice has also been affixed on the secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrower is informed to deposit the loan amount along with future interest and recovery expenses within 60 days, otherwise under the provisions of section 13 (4) and 14 of the said Act, the AO is free to take possession of the Security as given below.

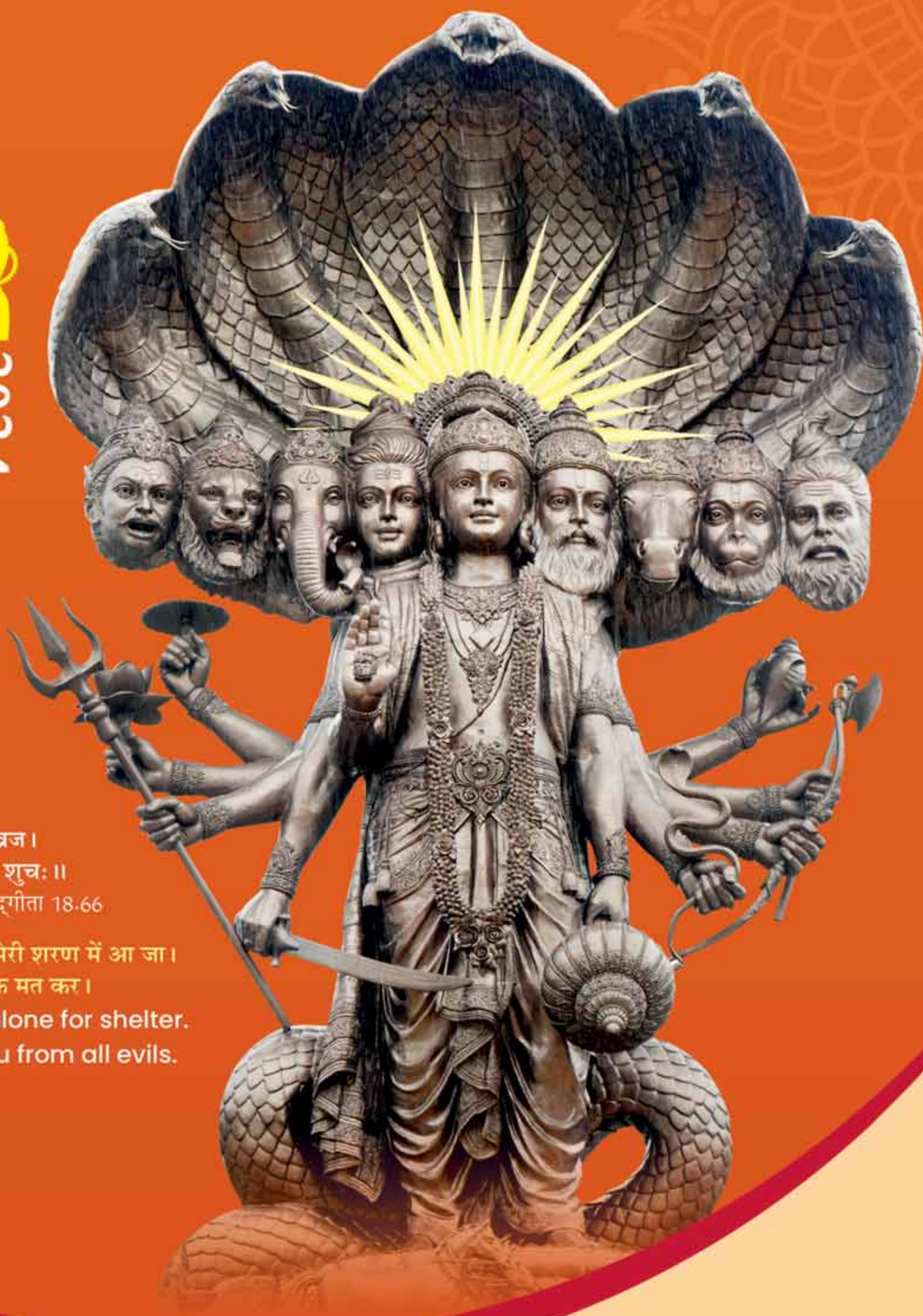
Name of the Borrower	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of Mortgaged property
RAHUL KUMAR, BEENA DEVI, ROHTASH GUARANTOR : JILE SINGH (A/C NO.) LBNH04319-200113425 & LNBH02917-180068824	8 DEC 24 Rs. 179827/- & Rs. 566593/- 5 DEC 24	PROPERTY SITUATED AT MUSTIL NO. 33, KILA NO. 22/4 (5-13), 22/2(10-8), 22/3(10-6), 19/7(13-13) VILL. MAHESHWARI, TEHSIL- DIHARUEDA, DIST-REWARI, HARYANA PIN-123106 ADMEASURING 75 SQ.YD.
PAWAN KUMAR, RENU BALA, RAJAT KUMAR (A/C NO.) LNYMN0821-220186365	8 DEC 24 Rs. 409819/- 5 DEC 24	PPID NO 275C227U116, REG. SALE DEED NO. 3561 DATED 14-08-2001, SITUATED AT MOUJA SASOLI AMAR PURI (C/O LOWNY TH- JAGADHRI, DIST-YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA ADMEASURING 95 SQ YARDS
ANITA RANI, VISHAL KUMAR, RAJAT RAJAT, VIKRANT KUMAR (A/C NO.) LNYMN00622-230255021	8 DEC 24 Rs. 612531/- 5 DEC 24	PLOTS/HOUSE, BEARING U.I.D. NO. 58170 NB1S1000 ROI12A, SITUATED AT ABADI DEH OF VILLAGE HAREWA, TEHSIL CHHACHHRAULI, DISTRICT YAMUNA NAGAR HARYANA ADMEASURING 215.255 SQ. MTRS

Place : Jaipur Date : 11.12.2024
Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited



International GITA Mahotsav

28 November - 15 December
Kurukshetra, Haryana



सर्वधर्मान्परित्यज्य मामेकं शरणं ब्रज ।
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.

Margsheersh Shukla Mokshada Ekadashi - Gita Jayanti Samaroh

11 December, 2024 | Venue : Kurukshetra

●● Chief Guests ●●

Sh. Manohar Lal

Union Minister, Housing &
Urban Affairs and Power

Sh. Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Union Minister, Agriculture &
Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development

Sh. Suryabanshi Suraj

Minister of Odia Language, Literature & Culture

Ms. Pindi Hazara Channa

Minister, Tanzania

●● Presided over by ●●

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

Main Programmes

9:00 am	Jyotisar-The Birthplace of Gita and Sannihit Sarovar	Complete recitation of Srimad Bhagavadgita and Gita Yajna
10:00 am	Theme Park, Kurukshetra	Global Gita Chanting by 18000 students
11:00 am	Purushottampura Baag, Kurukshetra	Cultural Programmes in Odisha Pavilion
02:00 pm	Srimad Bhagavadgita Sadan, Kurukshetra University	48 Kos Tirtha Sammelan
03:00 pm	In front of the Kurukshetra Development Board Office	Departure of Gita Shobha Yatra
03:00 pm to 04:30 pm	Senate Hall, Kurukshetra	The Resonance of Dialogue: Panchjanya 'Haryana's Transformation'
05:30 pm	Brahma Sarovar, Sannihit Sarovar & Jyotisar	Deepotsav
05:30 pm	48 Kos Kurukshetra region	Deepotsav at Tirthas
06:00 pm	Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar	Gita Maha Aarti and Deep Daan



“ 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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Sammelan

