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**MONEY 10**  
ORGANISATIONS MUST ADDRESS EMPLOYEES' MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES SAYS FORMER IT OFFICIAL

CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

## SPARRING STALLS SANSAD AGAIN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament continued to be a battle-field virtually for the political parties on eleventh consecutive day on Wednesday as both ruling and Opposition benches trade charges against each other flagging neither of them are allowing smooth functioning of the Winter Session. With a brief functioning of the Lok Sabha which passed a bill to amend Railway Laws, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties of the Treasury bench were at par with the Congress led Opposition INDIA Bloc in sloganeering in and out of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha causing disruptions in both the Houses which ultimately led to adjournment of the day. Congress-led INDIA Bloc and BJP soon after the adjournments held Presser to flag concerns over non functioning of the Winter Session. Parliament proceedings were washed out in the first week of the winter session starting November 25 due to protests by Opposition members demanding discussion on issues like the indictment of industrialist Gautam Adani in a United States court and Sambhal violence and since last week, the ruling BJP MPs have been raising the issue of alleged nexus between Soros and the Congress posing a threat to national security. While several Opposition members alleged Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's "partisan" conduct which prompted them to move a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others in the Lok Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament, in New Delhi

notice for his removal as vice president and accused him of being the "biggest disrupter" whose conduct in the House has harmed the country's dignity, BJP alleged Congress was attempting to "defame" Dhankhar and "insulting" the Jat community. Alleging that politics has taken precedence over rules in the Upper House of Parliament, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the chairman's conduct has been contrary to the dignity of the high post he holds. Several Opposition MPs greeted their BJP counterparts in Parliament premises with the tricolour in one hand and a red rose in the other, as they urged the ruling party to ensure that the House functions and all issues, including the Adani matter, are discussed. This is the latest in a series of unusual daily

## Lok Sabha passes Bill to amend Railway Laws

Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a Bill to amend Railway laws with the Government insisting that it will not lead to the national carrier's privatisation. Responding to a debate on the Railway Amendment bill, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in the Lower House that a fake narrative was set afloat that the amendment would privatise railways. "Their (Opposition) fake narrative on the Constitution has failed... Now this will also fall flat," he asserted. The Bill was passed by a voice vote after debate which could not be held earlier due to frequent disruptions of House proceedings during the last week. "A few members have said the Bill will lead to privatisation of railways, an attempt has been made to set a fake narrative. I want to appeal to them with all sincerity not to do this, their one fake narrative about the Constitution has already failed," Vaishnaw said. The Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 which seeks to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the previous Parliament session.

demonstrations led by the Congress over the Adani issue. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also offered the tricolour in the form of a card to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh when the latter was entering the main Parliament building. Rahul also met Speaker Om Birla and urged him to expunge remarks made by BJP MPs against him, and ensure the House functions smoothly. Addressing a joint Press conference by the INDIA Bloc leaders at the Constitution Club, Kharge alleged that Dhankhar is working as a government spokesperson and acting like a school headmaster, often sermonising experienced Opposition leaders and preventing them from speaking in the House. "The Rajya Sabha chairman's conduct has been contrary to the dignity of the post he holds. He targets Opposition leaders and often praises the government," Kharge said. "The Rajya Sabha chairman's conduct in the House has harmed the country's dignity. We have no hesitation in saying that the biggest disrupter in the Rajya Sabha is the chairman himself," Kharge said. The Congress chief said since 1952, no resolution has been brought against the vice president under Article 67 of the Constitution as those who held the post previously never indulged in politics and remained unbiased. He said the Opposition parties have nothing against Dhankhar, "but he left us with no option but to go ahead with the notice for his removal".

## Ensure manual sewer cleaning completely eradicated, says SC



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Observing that much needed to be done, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to file an action taken report on the compliance of its direction for ensuring manual sewer cleaning was completely eradicated in a phased manner. A Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar asked additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to call a meeting of the Central Monitoring Committee with all the stakeholders within two weeks. The Committee reviews the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013). "The order passed by the court (in 2023) said that considering the development of technology, it was entirely possible to eradicate manual scavenging and employment of labour for sewer cleaning. This has not been done. From the report, it appears that much needs to be done," the Bench said. Senior advocate K Parameshwar, who is assisting the SC as Amicus Curiae, submitted that 40 deaths occurred due to sewer

cleaning and cleaning septic tanks in 2024 but no FIR was filed. He flagged most of the committees as mandated under the Act were not in place, and pointed out noncompliance of the laws. The matter would come up in January, 2025. Observing a large segment of India's population, involved in manual scavenging, had remained unheard and muted, in bondage and systematically trapped in inhumane conditions, the top court in 2023 directed the Centre and states to take appropriate measures, to ensure that manual sewer cleaning was completely eradicated in a phased manner. The SC had asked the Centre to issue guidelines and directions that any sewer-cleaning work outsourced or required to be done by, or through contractors or agencies, did not require individuals to enter sewers. The SC directed that Governments pay Rs 30 lakh compensation to the next of kin of those who died while cleaning sewers. It directed all States and Union Territories to make sure all departments, agencies and corporations ensured the guidelines framed by the Centre were incorporated in their guidelines. The SC had directed in the case of sewer victims suffering from disability, the minimum compensation won't be less than Rs 10 lakh. If the disability rendered the victim economically helpless, the compensation should not be less than Rs 20 lakh, it said.



## Yellow alert, cold wave conditions in Delhi: IMD

RAJESH KUMAR N NEW DELHI

For the first time after the shift in the season, Delhiites experienced winter chill as the minimum temperature dipped to the season's lowest on Wednesday at 4.9 degree celsius in Safdarjung station, dropping five degrees below normal this winter. There has been a three-degree celsius fall in the minimum temperature over Delhi-NCR during the past 24 hours. The Maximum and Minimum temperatures over Delhi are in the range of 20 to 23 degrees celsius and four to eight degrees Celsius respectively. According to data, the lowest minimum temperature during this period was recorded on December 6, 1987, at 4.1 degrees celsius. The IMD has issued a yellow alert, warning of similar cold wave conditions for the next two days. According to the data, in December 2023 and 2022, there were no cold wave days. However, November 2020 saw cold wave conditions with the minimum temperature plunging to 7.5 degrees Celsius.



Protests continued for the second day over alleged vandalising of a replica of the Indian Constitution, in Parbhani, Maharashtra

## Protests turn violent in Parbhani city

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A replica of the Indian Constitution was vandalised by some miscreants near Dr. BR Ambedkar's statue located outside the local railway station, Parbhani city in Marathwada erupted once again on Wednesday, as protesters resorted to large-scale violence, arson and stone-pelting, amid a bandh called by the Ambedkarite activists. The protests turned violent as an angry mob broke into the District Collector's office and went on a rampage, damaging furniture and window panes, while some protesters indulged in acts of arson and stone-pelting in the neighbourhood. Agitated mobs also hurled stones near the district collector's office, while they set ablaze some vehicles, burnt tyres and garbage on the roads. Some of the violent protesters were seen moving around the place wielding sticks, rods and stones. The police burst tear-gas shells near the district collector's office to quell the irate protesters. The protesters set on fire a huge pile of PVC pipes kept in front of a shop. "The police fired tear-gas shells and dispersed the rioting mobs," Acting Superintendent of Police Yeshwant Kale said. Deputy Inspector General of Police Shahji Umap, who heads the Nanded Range, rushed to Parbhani to review and control the situation in Parbhani city.

## Want a drink in Delhi? Sarkari ID proof nikalo!

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government's excise department has directed hotels, clubs and restaurants serving liquor to verify the age of their clients through hard copies of government-issued identity proofs after violations of the legal drinking age norm were detected. In Delhi, liquor is served only to persons aged 25 years and above. Delhi is now the only metropolitan city with a high drinking age, even in Mumbai, only hard liquor is barred for those under 25, while wine and beer is allowed at 21. In major global cities such as New York and London, the drinking age is 21 and 18 respectively. Interestingly, the voting age is 18, while the minimum age of marriage for women is 18 and for men it is 21 in India. The excise department of the Delhi government, during routine inspections by its teams in recent days, found customers younger than 25 years having alcohol at bars, clubs and restaurants. The inspections also revealed that some customers were consuming liquor pretending to have completed 25 years. Complaints were also received by the department that some excise licensees were serving liquor to underage persons, according to a circular issued by the excise department. As per the data of the excise department, there are around 1,100 HCR (hotel, club, restaurant) category premises in the city including nearly 700 restobars. The hotels and clubs with excise licence number around 165 and 50. Strangely most HCR violates the drinking age norms while serving liquor. Under the Delhi Excise Act, 2009, no person or



licensed vendor or his employee or agent will sell or deliver liquor to any person apparently under the age of 25 years for personal or others' consumption. The violations of the age restriction norms were reviewed by the department. "All the licence holders of hotels, clubs, restaurants (HCR) are hereby directed to be more careful and to not serve liquor to any person under the age of 25 years without verifying the age through government-issued IDs," stated a circular issued by the department. "In this regard, attention is invited to section 23 of The Delhi Excise Act, 2009 which reads as, "Prohibition of sale to certain persons, - No person or licensed vendor or his employee or agent shall sell or deliver any liquor to any person apparently under the age of Twenty Five years, whether for consumption by self or others," Deputy Commissioner (Excise) Tanvir Ahmed said in a circular issued to hotels, clubs and restaurants. "All the license holders are advised to verify customers' age only with the

physical ID instead of virtual IDs shown on the mobile phones (except govt. portals for eg. Digilocker) to minimize the chances of verification of age through fake/edited digital IDs," read the circular. The legal drinking age was a lingering issue in Delhi as it was lower in the NCR cities of Nodia, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad. Under the excise policy 2021-22, now scrapped, there was a plan to lower the legal drinking age to 21 years but it failed to materialise as the policy itself came under attack over allegations of corruption and violations of rules. Further, in pursuance of a campaign launched recently by Delhi to make the city drug-free in the next three years, the excise department has directed the licensees to take e-pledge on its official website and conspicuously display the certificate at the hotels, clubs and restaurants. The department has advised the licensees to create awareness among their staff and customers to cooperate in stopping drug abuse and stay away from its use to have a healthy life. "To curb the menace of drugs, it is decided to start a drive wherein all the existing licensees are requested to take e-pledge on the website www.pledge.mygov.in/fightagainstdruga/ and generate the certificate and to display the same certificate in the restaurant at conspicuous place to be viewed easily by the public/customers visiting the Hotels/Clubs/Restaurant. Further, it is also advised to all the licensees to make aware all their staff and customers to consciously cooperate in stopping drug abuse and stay away from drugs to live a healthy life," a notification said.

## When criminals forget to wear a mask...

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Using the advanced Facial Recognition System (FRS), the Delhi Police has arrested three people who secured a loan of Rs 75 lakh by mortgaging a property and preparing forged documents. The police arrested Pankaj Sachdeva alias Roshan Manchanda (61), who had fabricated his property documents and identification credentials to secure the loan. The arrest also exposed the involvement of two accomplices, Suhail Chauhan and Nitin Verma, who worked as freelance loan agents. According to the police, the case was registered in 2019 on the complaint of Harminder Kaur Anand, a Bengaluru-based resident, who alleged that the property she purchased in 2011 at Rana Pratap Bagh in Northwest Delhi had been fraudulently mortgaged to a private bank for a loan of Rs 75 lakh. "The woman was shocked to learn about the fraud during a visit to the property in 2018 when neighbours reported suspicious activities and her son-in-law discovered a loan notice pasted on the property," Deputy



Commissioner of Police (northwest) Abhishek Dhania said. The officer further said that the fraudsters had prepared forged documents to mortgage the property and availed the loan subsequently diverting the funds to multiple accounts under fake identities. The gang specifically targeted long-vacant properties, creating a chain of fake documents to establish ownership. They then used these forged papers to secure loans from financial institutions. The funds were swiftly transferred to various accounts to avoid detection, making it difficult to trace the money trail, he said.

## Desi 'Jugaad' and more make it to a new dictionary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the country's youth march ahead in the fast changing digital era, 47 words like 'Blue carbon', 'Culturonomics', 'Digital nomad', '15-minute city' and 'Flox' have made it to a new dictionary acknowledging India's prowess. The dictionary is titled "India in Future Tense: 47 Words for 2047". Other words like 'Jugaad' and 'Gamification', part of emerging lingo or language in a country, have gained international recognition of sorts. This phenomenon came about following bright Indian young men and women studying and or working in elite institutions and industry in Europe and United States over the last few



years. Interaction with peers from those countries has obviously led to these words slipping into daily usage while communicating and finding wide acceptance. The dictionary, which identifies the key trends that will be dominant when India turns 100 in 2047, aims to reflect values that will define the nation's journey: "inclusivity, sustainability, and technological advancement". It is brought out by the United Nations Foundation and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). "It is designed to empower young minds with the knowledge and language needed to shape a sustainable and prosperous India by 2047. As we move forward, new nouns, verbs and phrases will be essential to describe our

living environment and evolving word," reads the description of the dictionary, which is a part of the initiative by the 'Next Generation India Fellows'. While 'Blue Carbon' is the carbon that is absorbed from the atmosphere and stored in the ocean, 'Culturonomics' is a portmanteau of culture and economics, which describes the global transmission of culture through varied entertainments such as entertainment, food, sports and more. Similarly, a 'Digital Nomad' is someone who uses digital technologies to work remotely while embracing a nomadic lifestyle, a '15-minute city' places all essential services within a 15-

## PHIR BHI RAHENGI NISHANIYA...



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the members of Raj Kapoor's family, in New Delhi. The entire Kapoor family, including Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Neetu Singh, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Saif Ali Khan, Karisma Kapoor and others met Prime Minister Modi and invited him to the Raj Kapoor Film Festival to be organised to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary actor-filmmaker



# AAP announces 784 candidates for MC Polls; Last day for nominations today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With Thursday being the last date for filing nominations for the urban local bodies elections, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday announced its first list of 784 candidates. These polls, scheduled for December 21, will cover 87 municipal corporations and committees, alongside 49 by-elections to fill vacant seats, involving a total of 977 wards.

Making the announcement, Punjab AAP president Aman Arora, accompanied by working president Amansher Singh Sherry Kalsi and other senior leaders, emphasized the party's robust and transparent candidate selection process. Arora revealed that AAP had received an overwhelming response, with over 5,000 applications for 977 wards. "This reflects the immense public trust in our governance and policies. In many wards, we received 15-20 applications per seat, showcasing the enthusiasm among people to align with AAP's mission of development-oriented governance," he said.

Arora detailed the party's grassroots approach to selecting candidates, explaining that screening committees at the zonal and district levels meticulously reviewed applications to ensure fairness and inclusivity. Consultations with district and Lok Sabha in-charges further reinforced the transparency of the process.

The first list includes candidates for key cities such as Ludhiana (94 wards), Patiala (56 wards), and Amritsar (74 wards). The remaining candidates will be announced later in the evening after further deliberations.

AAP expressed confidence in its electoral prospects, citing its consistent performance in recent panchayat and by-elections, where it achieved an 80-85 percent success rate. Arora attributed this success to the party's focus on urban and rural development under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's leadership. "Our track record

of delivering results has earned us widespread trust. These elections will give us another opportunity to strengthen governance at the grassroots level," he remarked.

The party also celebrated high-profile defections from rival camps, highlighting the growing support for its agenda. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) suffered a setback in Handiaya, Barnala, after its two-time councillor and former district president Gurmeet Singh joined AAP along with other leaders, including BJP state executive member Harinder Singh Sidhu, Charanpreet Singh, and Buta Singh.

**BJP Accuses AAP of Misusing Punjab Police in Local Body Elections, Writes to EC and DGP**

The BJP on Wednesday leveled serious allegations against the ruling AAP, accusing it of misusing Punjab Police to influence the upcoming Urban Local Bodies elections. The BJP has submitted letters to the Punjab State Election Commission and the state Director General of Police (DGP), seeking immediate intervention to ensure fair and transparent elections.

The controversy erupted after BJP candidate Gautam Sood, contesting from Ward 2 of Ghanaur Nagar Panchayat, was allegedly detained by police early on December 11. According to BJP Punjab general secretary Anil Sarin, the arrest occurred shortly after Sood's candidature was announced. Sarin revealed that Ghanaur Station House Officer (SHO) failed to provide any credible complaint or details about the complainant, raising questions about the legality of the action.

In another incident, BJP candidate Vipin Pabby from Ward 8 in Dharamkot was reportedly obstructed from filing his nomination. Sarin claimed that an individual snatched away his nomination file and authority letters for other BJP candidates in the presence of Punjab Police officers. Despite bringing these

undemocratic methods," matters to the notice of concerned officials, the BJP alleged no action was taken, further fueling accusations of partisan behaviour by the Punjab Police under the influence of the AAP-led State Government.

Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu also lashed out at the AAP Government, urging the government officers to avoid partisanship. Bittu, addressing a press conference in Patiala along with former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Preet Kaur, Bittu warned that strict action would be taken against any officer found indulging in unlawful activities. "Your cadre is with the Central Government, not with Bhagwant Mann or Arvind Kejriwal. If evidence of misconduct surfaces, FIRs will be lodged through the Election Commission," Bittu cautioned.

Responding to the allegations, BJP state media head Vineet Joshi remarked, "The way AAP is misusing Punjab Police clearly indicates their admission of defeat. They know they cannot win on merit, so they are resorting to

undemocratic methods."

## 22 IAS Deputed as Election Observers in Different Districts

To ensure that necessary arrangements for the conduct of free, fair, and peaceful elections have been made as per provisions of law and to oversee the electoral process with strict vigilance, Punjab's State Election Commission on Wednesday deputed 22 IAS officers as Election Observers in different districts of the State. Out of these, five officers will oversee elections in five Municipal Corporations — with one officer in each urban body.

Commission's official spokesperson said that remaining observers will supervise Municipal Council or Nagar Panchayat elections in different districts of the State. These Observers have been directed to reach their allotted districts latest by 11 am on December 12, 2024, that is the last day of nominations, to review all arrangements and necessary activities pertaining to the elections.

# Bypass to be constructed to decongest traffic in Kurukshetra, says CM Saini

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday said that the Central Government has granted in-principle approval for the construction of the Kurukshetra bypass, which will soon begin. The construction of this bypass will not only benefit the residents of Kurukshetra but also people from neighboring regions, ensuring better connectivity and improved infrastructure in this sacred land.

Addressing the heads of pilgrimage sites at the 48-Kos Teerth Sammelan during the ongoing International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra, Saini urged them to come forward and help make Kurukshetra the cleanest place in the country. "If we work together, this religious region spanning 48 Kos can undoubtedly become a leader in cleanliness across the nation," he added.

Saini said, "Our aim is to launch a pilgrimage route for the 48 Kos Kurukshetra land, similar to the 84 Kos Yatra of Brij. In addition, a train service will be introduced to connect Kurukshetra with Lord



Krishna's city of Mathura and the holy city of Haridwar. Under the Krishna Circuit Scheme, 134 sites related to the Mahabharata war will be developed as tourist destinations with an estimated investment of approximately Rs 175 crore. A Mahabharata-themed Jyotisar Anubhav Kendra is also being constructed at Geeta Sthal, Jyotisar, with an investment of Rs 205 crore."

The Chief Minister also shared that there are 367 pilgrimage sites in the 48 Kos land of Kurukshetra, some of which have been lost over time. Recently, 18 new pilgrimages have been added to the list of 164 pilgrimages of 48 Kos Kurukshetra land after survey and documentation. This work is still going on and there is every possibility of adding more pilgrimages to this list in

the near future. In the last 5 years, Rs 76 crore has been sanctioned to Kurukshetra Development Board for 93 development works, out of which Rs 57 crore has been released. Many works have been completed and work on the remaining is going on at a fast pace.

He mentioned that several centers of faith are being established in Kurukshetra. Temples from remote areas of the country can now be found in Kurukshetra. The Sri Tirupati Balaji Temple in North India has been built here. In addition, the Jio Geeta Sansthan, Akshardham Temple, ISKCON Temple, and Gyan Mandir are also under construction.

**Announces renaming of Kurukshetra's Theme Park to Keshav Park**

After participating in the Global Gita Paath - Ashtadashi Shloka programme, which saw the participation of 18,000 children during the International Gita Mahotsav, Saini announced that the "Theme park" located on the sacred land of Dharmakshetra-Kurukshetra will now be

known as 'Keshav Park'. This initiative is aimed to further preserve and promote the cultural and spiritual heritage of Kurukshetra, a place of immense religious and historical significance in India, he added.

On this occasion, Pindi Chana, the Tourism Minister of Tanzania, a partner country of the International Gita Mahotsav, said that Kurukshetra is a sacred place where the Vedas and Puranas were composed. In mythology, it is considered one of the most revered pilgrimage sites. According to the Mahabharata, Kurukshetra is regarded as the most significant pilgrimage in the three lokas. This is the very land where, thousands of years ago, Lord Krishna imparted the divine knowledge of the Gita to Arjun. International Gita Mahotsav is not merely a religious event, but a celebration of culture, heritage, and the fundamental principles of life. The teachings of the Gita, she said, convey that the highest purpose of human life lies in truth, and that the Gita serves as a guiding light in every aspect of life, in the service of both religion and humanity.

# CM Sukhu launches six new schemes to mark two years of state government



PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday launched six new schemes and distributed financial assistance to beneficiaries during an event at Luhnu Ground, Bilaspur, marking the completion of two years of the present state government's tenure.

Aiming to promote natural farming, Sukhu introduced "Him Bhog Atta," prepared from maize grown using natural farming practices. The government procured 398 metric tonnes of maize from 1,506 farmers of ten districts of the State and transferred Rs. 1.20 crore directly to their bank accounts. With Himachal Pradesh offering the highest support price in the country for wheat (Rs. 40 per kg) and maize (Rs. 30 per kg), over 1.98 lakh farmers across 35,000 hectares were engaged in natural farming. To further encourage this Rajiv Gandhi Natural Farming Start-up Scheme under Rs. 680 crore Rajiv Gandhi Start-up Scheme was integrating 36,000 new farmers this year.

To benefit small farmers and livestock owners and fulfil the Guarantee enshrined in Congress Pratigya Patra, Sukhu launched a scheme to purchase organic compost and vermin-compost at Rs. 300 per quintal. Payments of Rs. 1 lakh were distributed to 100 farmers via direct benefit transfer (DBT). This initiative aims to boost farmer's incomes thereby strengthening the rural economy.

He also handed over keys to 16 electric taxi owners under the Rajiv Gandhi Self-Employment Start-up Scheme 2023. Beneficiaries received a 50 percent subsidy for purchasing the e-taxis with the

vehicles leased to government offices for five years. This arrangement guarantees a stable monthly income for taxi owners. The state government aims to provide around 150 permits to e-taxi owners in the first phase.

Sukhu also rolled down Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojana by disbursing Rs. 1.38 crore to the eligible 5145 beneficiaries of the State and also provided them eligibility certificates. The scheme aims to cover 23 thousand children's education and well-being of the widows, destitute women, divorced women and disabled parents, offering them financial assistance for their higher education and well-being.

He also launched Rs.1292 crore Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition Project (HP Shiva) to expand horticulture development across seven districts. The initiative would cover 6,000 hectares, promoting the cultivation of fruits like oranges, guavas, litchi and plums, benefiting over 15,000 farming families directly. It was expected to produce 1.3 lakh metric tonnes of fruit annually by 2032 with a market value of Rs. 400 crore.

Sukhu flagged off five mobile Ayush healthcare units to serve remote tribal regions, including Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, Chamba and Shillai block of Sirmaur district. Each unit would have an experienced medical team offering Ayurveda, Unani, or Homeopathy treatments based on local needs. This initiative aims to improve healthcare access in underserved areas.

The Chief Minister also extended financial aid amounting to Rs. 1.90 crore under the Mukhyamantri Sukh-Ashray Yojana (MMSAY) to 197 beneficiaries in Bilaspur district.

**“आज देश में स्पोर्ट्स से जुड़े इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर का विस्तार किया जा रहा है। देश खुले मन से अपने हर एक खिलाड़ी की पूरी मदद कर रहा है।”**  
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

# Haryana Kushti Dangal

## International Gita Mahotsav

**December 12, 2024 | Time - 1 PM**

**Kurukshetra University Stadium, Kurukshetra, Haryana**

Chief Guest  
**Sh. Nayab Singh Saini**  
Chief Minister, Haryana

Guest of Honour  
**Sh. Gaurav Gautam**  
Minister of State for Sports (I.C.), Haryana

★ **1st Prize**

**₹ 2 Lakh**

★ **2nd Prize**

**₹ 1 Lakh**

★ **3rd Prize**

**₹ 50,000**

You all are Cordially Invited

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# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Jaspreet Kaur** W/o Jaswinder Singh Cheema R/o Village Sambhi District Karnal, have changed my name from Jaspreet Kaur to Jaspreet Kaur Cheema.

**I, Monika Devi** W/o Sanjeev Kumar R/o Village Dharmgarh, Postoffice Malikpur, District Kurukshetra, have changed my minor daughter's name from Veera to Veera Saini.

**I, Monika Devi** W/o Sanjeev Kumar R/o Village Dharmgarh, Postoffice Malikpur, District Kurukshetra, have changed my minor daughter's name from Neha to Neha Saini.

I, hitherto known as Baskar Devi W/O Sudhir Kumar R/o H.No. 585, Bhanpura, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab - 140603, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Baskara Devi.

**I, Saroj Devi** W/o Randhir Singh R/O H.No. 316, Sector 5, Urban Estate, Thanesar, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Saroj Devi to Saroj.

**I, Dina Nath** Sharma S/o Fakir Chand Sharma r/o H.No. 436, Sector 2, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, declare that my father's name is wrongly written as Faquir Chand in my passport no. M8908561. While his correct name is Fakir Chand Sharma.

**I, Dab Raj** S/O Mohan Lal R/O Ward No 1, Pachahli, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh-175126 have changed my name to Rahul Thakur.

**I, Sonam Salvia** Khosla W/O Ajay Kumar Gill R/O H.NO. 316, Ward No 6, Shehzada Nangal, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143521 have changed my name to Sonam Silvia Khosla.

**I, Bevi** W/o Jamal Masih R/o Ward No.2, Model Town, Dhariwal Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Bevi to Baby. Concerned note.

**I, Baby** D/o Baldev Singh W/o Sukhpreet Singh VPO Dostpur Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name to Baby to Baldwiner Kaur.

**I, Sana Peter** D/o Rohit Peter R/o Macrobret Hospital Dhariwal Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab)-143519 have changed my name from Sana Peter to Sana . Concerned note.

**I, Smt. Rajvinder Kaur** W/o No.2486341M EX HAV. Joginder Singh R/o Village Nabipur, PO-Gurdaspur, Tehsil and District Gurdaspur (Pb)-143521 have changed my name from Rajvinder kaur to Rajvinder kaur and date of birth from 26/03/1979 to 22/03/1974 E-stamp No ( Affidavit No) IN-PB87250556573153W date 10/12/2024 produced before Executive Magistrate Gurdaspur. Please Note all concerned.

**I, Jitender Kumar** So Sh. Muni Lal R/o Village Bilaspur, Tehsil Bilaspur, Dsitt. Yamuna Nagar, I have change my name from Jitender Bansal to Jitender Kumar All concerned note.

**I, Sumit Kumar** S/o Sh. Jitender Kumar R/o Village Bilaspur, Tehsil Bilaspur, Dsitt. Yamuna Nagar, I have change my name from Sumit Bansal to Sumit Kumar All concerned note.

**I, Puneet** S/O Ajay Pal R/O Vpo Shamgarh Distt Karnal Haryana I Have Changed My Name From Puneet To Puneet Surname Tandon.

**I, Sushma** W/O Ajay Pal R/O Vpo Shamgarh Distt Karnal Haryana I Have Changed My Name From Sushma To Sushma Devi.

**I, Arun Gupta** S/O Shyam Lal R/O H No 42c Sector 9 Distt Ambala Haryana I Have Changed My Name From Arun Gupta To Arun Kumar.

**I, Suresh Kumar** Manocha S/O Harichand Manocha R/O H No 480 Sector 11 Distt Panipat Haryana I Have Changed My Name From Suresh Kumar Manocha To Suresh Manocha.

**I, Gurkirpal singh** S/O S.Gurwinder Singh R/O #36,Green Avenue, Ward 10, kharar, SAS Nagar,(Mohali),PB-140301 Declare that I have changed my name Gurkirpal Singh to Gurkirpal Singh Concerned Note.

I, hitherto known as Satnam Singh S/O Jagraj Singh R/o Kotra Korianwala Distt Bathinda State Punjab-151103 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satpal Singh

**I, Surinder Kaur** Sandhu W/O Prabh Singh Sandhu, Resident of House No.104, Sector 70, SAS Nagar,(Mohali) Punjab, have changed my name from Surinder Kaur Sandhu to Surinder Sandhu.

**I, Kirtsimran Nagpal** D/o Jaspreet Singh Nagpal R/O 20-C, Rani Ka Bagh District Amritsar have changed my name from Kirtsimran Nagpal to Kirtsimran Kaur Nagpal.

I, hitherto Known as Ranjeet Singh Son of Gurmej Singh residing at Village Kathiala, PO Talwandi Rama, District Gurdaspur-143604 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Ranjit Singh

I, hitherto Known as Angad Singh Son of Amarjeet Singh residing at H.No.11, Near Atam Park, Atam Nagar, Model Town, District Ludhiana-141002 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Gurvir Singh

**I, Mahesh Arora** Son of Tirath Ram Arora residing at H.No.3, Ranjit Enclave, Loharka Road, Backside Gurmtala Colony, Amritsar-143008 Punjab have changed the name of my minor Son Keshav Arora Aged 14 Years and he Shall hereafter be known as Kanishk Aroraa

**I, Gurjinder Singh** Sethi, son of S. Joginder Singh Sethi, resident of 902-A, Sector 3, HIG Flats, Housing Board Colony, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar have changed my name from Gurjinder Singh Sethi to Gurjinder Singh.

**I, Parmjit Kaur** W/o Manjinder Singh Resident at Vpo Sahi Ki Teh Tarn Taran Distt Tarn Taran have changed my name from Parmjit Kaur to Paramjit Kaur

**I, Swinder Singh** S/o Santokh Singh R/o H.No.59, Village Kotla Saidan PO Kathunangal, Tehsil and District Amritsar have declare that Swinder is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

**I, Sarbjeet Kaur** W/o ShiveDev Singh R/O Post office Harse Chhina Tehsil Ajnala Harse Chhina Kukranwala District Amritsar have changed my name from Sarbjeet Kaur to Sarbjit Kaur

**I, Rassel Singh** S/o Joginder Singh R/o VPO Sehnsra Distt Amritsar have changed my name from Rassel Singh to Rasal Singh

**I, Jaswinder Singh** Mand S/o Gurcharan Singh R/O Vill Talwara PO Sri Hargobindpur Teh Batala Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Jaswinder Singh Mand to Jaswinder Singh

**I, Sunil Kumar** S/o Krishan Dev Sharma R/o H.No.184 Sector 6 Panchkula Haryana have changed my name from Sunil Kumar to Sunil Kumar Sharma

**I, Vinay S/o** Sunil Kumar R/o 13, Guru Nanak Pura, Amritsar, Punjab that I have changed my name from Vinay to Vinay Kumar

**I, Naresh Kumar** Chawla S/O Inder Mohan Chawla R/o 22 Tara Enclave Circular Road, Basant Avenue, Amritsar have changed my name from Naresh Kumar Chawla To Naresh Chawla. All Please Note.

**I, Gurinder Pal** Singh and Gurinder Singh S/o Balkar Singh R/O 352, Patti Valmiki Ji, Ward No.20, Vallah Amritsar have declare that above both name's are mine one and same person.

**I, Vinod Kumar** S/o Amar Singh R/o Village Singhra Sub Tehsil Nissing District Karnal (Haryana) have changed my son name from Lokesh to Lokesh Paul. In future it should be known as Lokesh Paul.

**I, Meenu** W/o Mahinder Pal R/O House no. 142, Krishna Nagar, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Meenu to Meenu Kumari. In future I should be known as Meenu Kumari.

**I, Dolly Goyal** W/o Akash Goyal R/o SCF 99 Rajguru Market Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Meenu to Dolly Goyal for all future purpose.

**I, Sarjeet Kumar** S/o Dalip Singh R/o Vill. Rawat Khera PO Talwandi Rukka, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed the name of my minor son from Chirag to Chirag Bishnoi for future purpose.

**I, Subhash** S/o Kanwar Singh R/o Village Bhojraj, Dahima, Hisar declare that I have changed the name of my minor daughter from Tanavi to Tanvi for future purpose.

**I, Satya Bala** W/o Late Sh. Kanshi Ram R/o VPO Arya Nagar, Tehsil and Distt. Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Satya Bala to Raj Bala for future purpose.

**I, Babu Singh** S/o Resham Singh Sodhi, R/o H.No. 377, Kajheri, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Babu Singh to Babu Singh Sodhi.

**I, Ajay Kumar** S/o Surjeet Singh R/o H NO 480-J Ward No 34 Janta Colony, Rohtak - 124001 (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Ajay Kumar Girwan to Ajay Kumar for all future purposes.

**I, Rajpal** S/o Maam Chand R/o Ajrana Kalan, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt Kurukshetra have changed my name from Raj Paul to Rajpal.

**I, Krishana Devi** W/o Atal Kumar R/O 2753/20, Gurdev Nagar, Near Krishana Bajaj Agency, Thanesar, District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Krishana Devi to Krishna.

**I, Renu** W/o Pawan Kumar R/O Pillukhera Teh. Safidon Distt. Jind I have declared that my name changed from Renu To Renu Bala. In future all purposes.

**I, Kamlesh Kumar** Parshad S/O Phuleswar Prasad R/o 2191 Vikas Nagar Mauli Jagran Chandigarh, have changed my name from Kamlesh Kumar Parshad to Kamlesh Prasad.

**I, Baljit Kaur** Sidhu W/o Avtar Singh R/O H. No. 37, Street No. 3, Bhadson Road, Amar Bagh, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Baljit Kaur to Baljit Kaur Sidhu.

**I, Mandeep Kaur** Warn d/o Jodh Singh Warn R/o Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Bathinda have changed my name to Mandeep Kaur

I hitherto known as Bikramjeet Singh son of Pushpinder Singh Resident of 576, Street No 4, Kolkapura Road, Model Town, Sri Muktsar Sahib Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib -152026, Punjab INDIA have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bikramjeet Singh Virk.

**I, Enthraganthi** Mother of D Senthil, residing at Village Kollangarai PO Nadur Tehsil & District Thanjavur State Tamilnadu Pin 614904, have changed my name from Enthraganthi to D Indiragandhi Vide Affidavit Dated 11 December 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Hari Singh,** Father of No. 17003555L, NK, Prahlad Singh Baijya Resident at Village Tapipailya, Dani Kayathawali Vaya Reengus District Sikar State Rajasthan Pin 332404 have changed my name from Hari Singh Baijya to Hari Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 11 December 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Hari Singh,** Father of No. 17003555L, NK, Prahlad Singh Baijya Resident at Village Tapipailya, Dani Kayathawali Vaya Reengus District Sikar State Rajasthan Pin 332404 have changed my name from Hari Singh Baijya to Hari Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 11 December 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Rajbir Singh** S/o Sh. Sukhram R/o Akbarpur Barota, Sonipat have changed my name from Rajbir to Rajbir Singh for all purposes in future.

**I, Vikas Kumar** S/o Sh. Harbhajan Lal R/o H.No. 20, Village Nezadela Khurd, Tehsil & Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Vikas Kumar to Kumar Vikas, in future my name is to be called as Kumar Vikas.

**I, Ashish Goel** S/o Jai Parkash Goel R/o 189/5, Urban Estate, Karnal, I have changed my minor son name from Krishana Goel to all purposes.

I Hitherto Known As Surjeet Singh Saini Son Of Khushi Ram Resident Of Street No. 8, Gulabgarh Road, Preet Nagar, Ward No. 1, Post Office Dera Bassi District Sas Nagar Mohali, Punjab Pin Code 140507, India Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Surjit Singh.

I, hitherto known as Jatinder Singh S/O Kulwant Singh, Residing at H.no 2595, Mohalla Ravidass Pura, Nakodar, Jalandhar Punjab 144040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chander Kanta.

**I, Anush S/o** Devi Ram R/O Village Deon, P.O. Saproon, Tehsil & Distt. Solan (HP) have changed my minor son's name from Ayan to Suryansh.

**I, Hari Kumari** Thapa W/O Prem Khatri R/O Jauna Ji Road, Solan (HP) have changed my minor son's name from Sangarsh Khatri to Safal K.C.

**I, Mohd. Sabbir** Khan alias Barkha Ram S/O Sadhu Ram # 2275-D, Sector 63, Chandigarh have changed my name to Barkha Ram.

**I, Sumit Yadav** S/o Hawa Singh Yadav, R/O 1347, Sector 47-B, Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor daughter from Shreya Yadav to Srahvyva Yadav.

I hitherto known as Khalim S/o Roshan, R/O Village Buddi, Safilpur (46), Tehsil Bilaspur, District Yamuna Nagar - 133204, Haryana, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Salam Deen.

**I, Labh Singh** S/o Rattan Singh R/O Vill. Bhatauli, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana declares that I have changed my name from Labh Singh to Lalit Kumar.

**I, Rishi Gupta** Son of Hans Raj Gupta Resident of House no. 1908/1, Dharampura Colony, Near Indra Market, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar -135001 (Haryana) India declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Hansraj and Kavita respectively in my 10th class educational Certificates. The actual name of my Father and my mother are Hans Raj Gupta and Kavita Gupta.

**I, Pardeep kaur** D/O Gurbaj Singh R/O Vill Kiethana Road Rajound, Tehsil Rajound Distt Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Pardeep Kaur To Baljinder Kaur.

**I, Permar** Hetalben Hemantkumar Is Wife Of Parmar Hemantkumar Ranchhodhbhai Resident Of D-104, Axar Paradise, Behind Narayan Wadi, Atladra (Atladora), Vadodra, Gujrat, Pin-390012. Have Changed My Name From Permar Hetalben Hemantkumar To Parmar Hetalben Hemantkumar Respectively Vide Affidavit No In-Pb8795115472918w Dated 11-12-2024 Before District Court Gurdaspur Punjab.

**I, No.3400096k** Ex Hav Macp Nb Sub Sukhwinder Singh S/O Sh Harbhajan Singh R/O Village Bhamboi Po- Dhadiala, Tehsil- Batala, Distt- Gurdaspur, State- Punjab. Have Changed My Father Name From Harbhajan Singh To Bhajan Singh.

**I, Seethagari** Malleswari spouse of No. 15806321F Rank Sep (Gunner) Name Seethagari Sivamaruthi presently residing at Qtr No - 80/5, Madhopur Cantt, Madhopur, Pathankot (Punjab) have changed my name from Seethagari Malleswari to Sunkari Malleswari vide Affidavit No. IN-PB87607608416083W Dated 11-12-2024 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, No. 2459554W** Ex Nk Som Nath resident of Village - Fatehpur, PO - Narot Jaimal Singh Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab) have changed name of my wife from Biro Rani to Veero Rani vide Affidavit No. IN-PB87826386846123W Dated 11 Dec 2024 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Bhaulal** Nanhuji Rahangdale, Resident Of #217, Hmt Colony, Pinjore, Kalka, Panchkula, Haryana Declare That I Have Change My Son Name From Tanmay Rahangdale (Old Name) To Tanmay Bhaulal Rahangdale (New Name).

**I, Radhika** S/o Bakhshi Ram R/O Balbro Nagar, Basti Danishmandan Jalandhar-144002, Punjab have changed my name from Radhika to Radhika Kaur.

I, hitherto known as Satish S/o Ram Chand R/O VPO. Beas Pind, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab-144302 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satish Madhar.

I, hitherto known as Vijay Kumari W/o Gagandeep Singh R/o Dera Dhupsari, Lukhi (414), PO. Lukhi, Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana-136119 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Harnoor Kaur.

I, hitherto known as Sudehs Kumari D/o Kundan Lal W/o Naresh Kumar R/O H.No. 9/10, Gali No. 5, Shiva Ji Nagar, Basti Danishmandan, Jalandhar, Punjab 144002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chander Kanta.

**I, Rekha Arora** W/o Vishnu Chawla R/O H.No. 30, Block-D, Punjabi Bagh, Mansoorwal Dona, Kapurthala have changed my name from Rekha Arora to Rekha Chawla.

**I, Anu Mittal** W/o Sanjay Mittal R/O H.No. 3/5, Patel Road, Mohalla No. 1, Jalandhar Cantt., Punjab have changed my name from Anu Gupta to Mittal Anu.

**I, Sanjay Mittal** S/o Madan Lal Mittal R/O H.No. 3/5, Patel Road, Mohalla No. 1, Jalandhar Cantt., Punjab have changed my name from Sanjay Mittal to Mittal Sanjay.

**I, Kavita** W/O Yogesh Kapoor R/O House No.6 Gali No.1 New Patel Nagar, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name As Kavita Kapoor.

**I, Jasvir Singh** S/O Paramjit Singh R/O H.No.1750, St.No.22-A, Janta Nagar Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Jاسبir Singh.

**I, Gagandeep Singh** Kalsi S/O Babu Singh R/O Talwandi Bhai (Ferozepur) Have Changed My Name To Gagandeep Singh.

**I, Kulwinder Kaur** W/O Nachhattar Singh Toora R/O Vpo. Narur Tehsil Phagwara District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Kulwinder Kaur To Kulwinder Kaur Toora.

**I Damani Kumari** D/O Kulwinder Singh R/O Vpo. Bajwara Kalan Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Damani To Damani Kumari.

**I Dharam Pal** S/O Atma Ram R/O Vpo. Kapur Pind District Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Dharam Pal To Dharam Paul.

**I Meenu Sharma** W/O Ravi Jot R/O Vill Kalina, P.O. Bhilowal, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Meenu To Meenu Sharma.

**I Gurpreet Singh** S/O Avtar Singh R/O Village & Post Office Bulhowal Tehsil And District Hoshiarpur Punjab, Gurpreet Singh And Gurprit Singh One And The Same Person.

**I Parmod Kumar** S/O Sarwan Kumar R/O H.No.636, St.No.15, Mohalla Tibba Sahib, Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Parmod Kumar Rai.

**I Rajinder Bala** W/O Parmod Kumar R/O H.No.636, St.No.15, Mohalla Tibba Sahib, Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Rajinder Bala Rai.

**I Parmjit Singh** S/O Harbans Lal R/O Vpo. Bham Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur Punjab, Declare That My Given Name As Singh.

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

**I Anjana Kundra** W/O Sandeep Kundra R/O Gurdit Nagar, Bajwara Road, Opp. New Court Complex, Hoshiarpur, Have Changed My Name From Anjana Kundra To Anjana Kundra.

**I, Amarjeet Singh** S/o Kaur Singh R/o Vpo. Bhaini Baringan Teh-Raikot (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Amarjit Singh.

**I, Anand Singh** Rawat S/o Chinta Singh R/O #24 Shiv Puri Colony W.No. 02 Dera Bassi Teh-Dera Bassi (SAS Nagar, Mohali) have changed my name to Anand Singh.

**I Muskan** D/o Jasvir Singh Vpo Bhadaur Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala have changed my name Muskan Sahota.

**I Jaswinder Kaur** W/o Jagseer Singh Vpo Shaina Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala have changed my name Sukhwinder Kaur.

**I, Jagsoor Singh** S/o Darshan Singh R/o Gogoani (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Jagsir Singh.

**I, Hussan Preet** W/o Daler Singh R/O Vill: Dhanouri Po. Karhali Teh-Samana (Patiala) Pb, have changed my name to Hussan Preet Kaur.

**I, Mehenga Singh** S/o Surjit Singh R/O Vill: Dhanouri Po. Karhali Teh-Samana (Patiala) Pb, have changed my name to Mehnga Singh.

**I, Rajni Singla** W/O Rajesh Kumar Bansal, R/O Sai Nagar, Gidderbaha, Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib, Have Changed My Name From Rajni Singla To Rajni Bansal.

**I, Arshdeep Singh** S/O Mandeep Singh R/O Village Damheri (Fatehgarh Sahib) declare that my name be read as given name Arshdeep and surname Singh.

**I, Dharminder Kumar** S/o Ram Lubhaya R/O St.No.R-8, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Lalheri Road, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Varinder Kumar.

**I, Sarbjeet Singh** S/o Netar Singh R/O Village Alaur, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) also known as Sarbjit Singh, these both names are mine, one & the same person.

I Hitherto Known As Harshdeep Singh S/O Ranjit Singh Residing At Village Sadarpur Po Baja Chak Tehil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Singh Harshdeep.

**I, Vishavjeet Kaur** Nee Veerpal Kaur W/O Gurcharan Singh R/O W.No. 11 Brar Street Near Banwari Shop Malout (Muktsar) have changed my name to Vishavjeet Kaur.

**I, Gurdev Singh** S/o Swaran Singh R/O V.P.O Bhihkhawal Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my minor Daughter name from Priya Jal to Priyanjal.

**I, Tej Veer Singh,** S/O Avtar Singh, R/o House No. 34, Ward No. 7, VPO Bodal, Tehsil Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab, have changed my name from Tej Veer Singh to Tej Beer Singh Sadher.

**I Tara Singh** S/O Inder Singh R/O Vill Baj Singh Wala Tali Saidda Suhu Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Tara Singh Virk.

**I Arshdeep Kaur** W/O Balwinder Singh Sidhu R/O Vill Kamale Wala Dulchi Ke Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Arshdeep Kaur Sidhu.

**I, Khushi** D/o Ajay Kumar Yadav R/o H.No. 12, Raja Garden Extn., Bast Bawa Khel, Jalandhar-144021, Punjab, India, have changed my Name from Khushi to Khushi Yadav. Please Note.

I, Hitherto Known As Gagandeep Goyal S/O Om Parkash Goel, R/O B-2/314, Padianh Street, Dhuri Gate, Sangrur, Punjab-148001, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gagandeep Goel.

I, Hitherto Known As Jyoti Sood D/O Anoop Sood And W/O Hardeep Singh, R/O H.No. 844, Baba Gajja Jain Colony, Moti Nagar, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab-141010 Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Khushdeep Kaur.

**I Arvinder Jeet Kaur** Jaggi W/O Gurpreet Singh, D/O Bhupinder Singh Jaggi R/O 2779, Prem Singh Colony Rajpura Distt. Patiala Have Changed My Name To Arvinder Jeet Kaur.

**I Rajbala** D/O Ranjeet And W/O Rajbir R/O Khatkar (135), Jind, Haryana - 126115, Have Changed My Name To Rajbala Devi.

**I Tej Singh** S/O Mahender Singh R/O Village Rattantahal, Raian Thal(180), Rewari, Haryana-123301, Have Changed My Name To Tejas Singh.

**I Mohini Singh** D/O Anil Kumar Singh And W/O Pritpal Singh Walia R/O H-No-3-A, Nakodar Road Wadala Chowk, Silver Heights Apartments, Jalandhar-1, Jalandhar City, Jalandhar, Punjab - 144001, Have Changed My Name To Mohini Walia.

**I Harmeet Kaur** Malhi W/O Late Naranjan Singh Malhi R/O #9 Mansaieya Colony Patiala Have Changed My Name To Harmeet Kaur.

**I, Chaudhary Hemlata** Ben spouse of No.15793254A L/Hav Gujor Pravin Kumar Dhanrajpai resident of Village- Vasan, Post- Vasan, Tehsil-palanpur, District-Banaskantha, State- Gujarat, Pin-385001, have changed my name from Chaudhary Hemlataben Vide affidavit No.IN-PB87080515979038W dated 10 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Khamkar Akshay** Ashru resident of Village-Nagewadi, Post-leet, Tehsil-Bhoom, District-Osmanabad, State- Maharashtra, Pin-413534, have changed my Father name from Khamkar Ashru to Ashru Devu Khamkar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB87082853344381W dated 09 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No. 2802217W** CHM Surve Sandip Dasharath resident of Village- Madilage (BK), Post- Madilage (BK), Tehsil- Bhudragad, District-Kolhapur, State-Maharashtra, Pin-416219, have changed my Mother name from Savitri to Savitri Dasharath Surve Vide affidavit No.IN-PB87867162655508W dated 11 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.15626346L** NK Magendiran R. resident of Village- Mothakkal, Post-Mothakkal, Tehsil- Vellore, District- Vellore, State- Tamil Nadu, Pin-632319, have changed my mother name from R Mageswari to R Mageshwari Vide affidavit No.IN-PB83133771600248W dated 27 Nov 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Chhaya Devi** is legally Wedded Spouse of Army No- 15348813Y Rank-Hav Name-Khansare Hiralal Presently Posted At: Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (Erstwhile HQ SASE) Research & Development Centre, Manali, PIN 934990 C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Ruikhed, Mayamba, Ruikhed, Bhadgaon, Buldhana, Maharashtra-443106 I have changed my Name from Chhaya Devi to Chhayadevi Hiralal Khansare. Vide Affidavit No-48AA 901150, Dated: 11/12/24

**I, Deepika** spouse of No.JC-461714X Sub Gavade Dipak Balu resident of Village- Nagave, Post-Nagave, Tehsil- Chandgad, District- Kolhapur, State- Maharashtra, Pin-416509, have changed my name from Deepika to Deepika Dipak Gavade Vide affidavit No.IN-PB87870788640159W dated 11 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.17014810M** NK Bisan Rajendra Kailasrao resident of Village- Ramtek, Post- Ramtek, Tehsil- Ramtek, District- Nagpur, State- Maharashtra, Pin-441106, have changed my Son name from Kalash to Kalash Rajendra Bisan Vide affidavit No.IN-PB86635534544342W dated 07 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.JC-461714X** Sub Gavade Dipak Balu resident of Village- Nagave, Post-Nagave, Tehsil- Chandgad, District- Kolhapur, State- Maharashtra, Pin-416509, have changed my Mother name from Padamavati to Padamavati Balu Gavade Vide affidavit No.IN-PB8787005959377W dated 11 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Rebarani Sahana** Mother of No.15621731L Hav Radha Shyam Sahana resident of Village- Moloypur, Post- Moloypur, Police Station, Arambagh, District-Hooghly, State- West Bengal, Pin-712420, have changed my name from Reba Sahana to Rebarani Sahana Vide affidavit No.IN- JK29264286100794W dated 02 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.15791338P** Hav Mahesh Kumar Saini resident of Village- Udaipurwati, Post-Udaipurwati, Tehsil-Udaipurwati, District-Jhunjhunu, State-Rajasthan, Pin-333307, have changed my Father name from Girdhari Lal to Girdhari Lal Saini Vide affidavit No.IN-PB85908980222124W dated 05 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Ramseena**





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Race for Delhi

With the Delhi Assembly elections on the horizon, the political temperature in the capital is rising

As the Delhi Assembly Elections 2025 draw closer, the political landscape of the national capital is abuzz with activity. Major players—the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Congress—are gearing up for what promises to be a fiercely contested battle. With 70 seats at stake, every party is refining its strategies to sway the electorate in its favour. The Aam Aadmi Party, led by Arvind Kejriwal, remains a dominant force in Delhi politics. In the 2020 elections, AAP swept the polls, securing 62 out of 70 seats, while the BJP managed only 8, and Congress failed to open its account. However, the 2025 elections present new challenges for the party, including anti-incumbency sentiments and a more aggressive opposition. One of the most intriguing aspects of AAP's strategy is the decision to field senior leader Manish Sisodia from the Jangpura constituency. Political analysts suggest this move reflects a calculated attempt by AAP to strengthen its presence in



South Delhi, which has traditionally been a mixed battleground. Sisodia's administrative acumen and popularity could be pivotal in securing a win in this crucial region.

Yet another aspect is Kejriwal's decision to go solo. Despite initial speculations about a possible alliance between AAP and Congress, Arvind Kejriwal has now said that AAP would have no electoral alliance with Congress. The strained relationship between the two parties, fueled by ideological differences and a history of rivalry, seems to have outweighed any potential advantages of a partnership. Additionally, AAP's leadership might perceive a tie-up with Congress as

a liability, given the latter's diminished presence in Delhi politics. But it also diminishes its own chances as vote split in this scenario is imminent. Congress has dedicated vote bank in Delhi and that could hurt AAP. On the other side, the BJP, aiming to reclaim its footing in Delhi, is expected to focus on its core voter base and polarising issues to galvanise support. The party has intensified its outreach efforts and is likely to emphasise nationalistic themes and the central government's achievements under Prime Minister Modi. However, its challenge remains breaking through AAP's stronghold on key urban constituencies. Congress faces an uphill battle as it tries to regain relevance in Delhi's political scene. The party's lack of significant organisational groundwork and leadership issues have kept it on the sidelines in recent years. However, Congress might attempt to consolidate minority vote and traditional voters to make a dent in the electoral outcome. The decision to avoid an alliance with Congress underscores AAP's confidence but also raises questions about its ability to counter a potentially consolidated opposition. As candidates hit the campaign trail, the capital is set to witness a clash of ideologies, promises and personalities. For now, all eyes are on the unfolding strategies as Delhi gears up for another defining electoral battle.

### PICTALK



Monkeys huddle together on a chilly day, in New Delhi

# For Joe Biden it is family first

Biden's decision to pardon his son is rooted in political and emotional complexities, with far-reaching implications for presidential clemency



KALYANI SHANKAR

Last week, Americans and people worldwide were stunned by the news that President Joe Biden pardoned his son, Hunter Biden. This clemency controversy was significant because Hunter Biden, a family member, contributed to the debate surrounding the pardon. The pardon ensures that Hunter will not be sentenced for his alleged crimes and will not go to prison.

The judges handling his cases will likely cancel the sentencing hearings scheduled for December 12 for the gun case and December 16 for the tax case. Also, the President is no longer running for office. He made his no-pardon pledge before dropping out of the June presidential race. Presidential pardons in the United States have often sparked controversy; however, some decisions—such as President Biden pardoning his son—have led to more criticism than others. Constitutionally, the President can grant pardons, a power previous presidents have used. Traditionally, US presidents dole out pardons as they leave office.

However, Joe Biden's 'complete and unconditional' pardon of his son adds a layer of complexity and public scrutiny to the issue, a historical context that is important for the public to understand. It is important to understand why Joe Biden acted as he did. Joe Biden has faced many difficulties in his life. He has faced significant personal challenges. He was caught between saving his son and the public criticism. Everyone knows that he is loyal to his family. His baby daughter and first wife died in a car accident, which also injured his sons, Beau and Hunter. Biden wanted Beau to become President, but Beau sadly died from brain cancer in 2015. This focus on the Biden family's struggles aims to create empathy from the public. According to the American media, Biden's second wife persuaded Joe to make a final decision. The public reaction to the Presidential pardon is both crit-



ical and supportive. While some think it is fair, others consider it not justified. This mixed reaction from the public, as well as from Biden's party colleagues, adds a layer of complexity to the issue. Presidents from both parties have used their pardon power, which has raised eyebrows.

George Washington used the power to pardon some people. Presidents often use their pardon powers for friends and allies. A controversial case was former President Richard Nixon, who Gerald Ford pardoned on September 8, 1974. Nixon faced possible prosecution for the Watergate scandal. In late 1992, President George H W Bush pardoned six men implicated in the Iran-contra affair, including former Defense Secretary Weinberger. Bill Clinton, who, despite stating he would not, pardoned his half-brother Roger for past cocaine charges. Similarly, Donald Trump pardoned his son-in-law Jared Kushner's father for tax evasion and for retaliating against a cooperating witness.

Both had already served their prison sentences. During the latter part of his first term, Trump issued pardons to various individuals who had engaged in wrongdoing. A relieved Hunter



THE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PARDON IS BOTH CRITICAL AND SUPPORTIVE. WHILE SOME THINK IT IS FAIR, OTHERS CONSIDER IT NOT JUSTIFIED. THIS MIXED REACTION FROM THE PUBLIC, AS WELL AS FROM BIDEN'S PARTY COLLEAGUES, ADDS A LAYER OF COMPLEXITY TO THE ISSUE

said in a statement, "I have admitted and taken responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction — mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport."

The case against Hunter Biden has spanned several years, involving allegations of tax crimes and gun fences. He was convicted in June and pleaded guilty to tax evasion in September. Biden said Hunter was 'selectively and unfairly prosecuted' and pointed out that the charges were politically motivated. The immediate impact of the pardon is that it makes it harder for Democrats to criticise Trump. Also, it has given Trump a chance to pardon people charged with the January 6 events. Biden's change of heart after initially declaring he would not pardon Hunter had his reasons. One of them was his wife, who persuaded Biden to do so.

He stated Hunter was singled out only because Hunter was his son. President Biden has pardoned 25 individuals, none directly connected to him. Typically, presidents approve several clemency requests toward the end of the term. Still, the pardon "damages the public's trust in the presidency. President Bill

Clinton signed 140 pardons on January 20, 2001—his final day in office. Many lawmakers are worried about the potential bad precedent for the future.

One way of solving the problem could be to amend the Constitution. Still, it is a lengthy process, and neither party has the number to carry it through in Congress. The critics argue it could set a dangerous precedent and erode public trust in the justice system. Recent Supreme Court rulings have made it more difficult to charge a president for actions taken while in office.

They limit the avenues for holding a president accountable for any potential misuse of the pardon power. After Hunter's clemency, President Biden is considering granting broad pardons to protect his aides and officials. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre stated that before leaving the White House, Biden plans to issue additional Pdonns.

However, in his second term, Trump declared he would pardon the 2021 clash in Congress while Biden took the oath. Trump must be careful before doling out Presidential pardons if they respect public opinion.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SYRIAN REBELS CONQUER DAMASCUS

Madam —The manner in which Islamic rebels conquered Syria's capital Damascus and forced President Bashar al-Assad to flee the country is not only surprising, but it may also mark the start of a new era of uncertainty for West Asia as a whole. The excitement with which Syrians welcomed the opposition soldiers demonstrates that Bashar al-Assad has become even more unpopular. His disfavour stemmed from his brutal governance over Syria. Syria has been dealing with insecurity and upheaval for nearly 13 years. Iran has suffered a significant setback with the seizure of Syria by rebel forces. It is dubious that Iran will sit in peace after the demise of the administration it sponsored in Syria. Even if the rebels win Syria without massive violence, the chances of durable peace are slim because Turkey wants to administer the country its way. Although India's economic ties with Syria have not grown significantly, both countries have joined forces in the battle against terror. Not only that, but Bashar al-Assad has always supported India about Kashmir. Syria has even stated that the elimination of Article 370 in Kashmir is a domestic matter for India and that any country has the right to take the necessary steps to safeguard its residents on its territory. It remains to be seen what kind and how much Syria's posture will alter considering the new circumstances. Indian-Turkish relations have recently improved. While its attitude on Kashmir has softened, India has not attempted to block Turkey's membership in BRICS.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

### LEGACY OF SHAKTIKANTA DAS

Madam—The outgoing pro-reformist RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das leaves a legacy of stability and consistency in monetary policy in the most difficult and challenging times of COVID and geopolitical turbulence consequent upon the trade and tariff war of the US and China while the country is poised to be the third largest economy. The persuasive approach and preemptive policy decision-making with

## Congress faces challenges



The knives are out in Opposition to INDIA block, especially after the drubbing suffered by the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi at the hands of the BJP-helmed Mahayuti in Maharashtra. The grand old party's poor show has dented its predominant position in India, prompting West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to throw her hat into the ring. Dissatisfied with the bloc's functioning, Mamata has signalled her

intention to take charge of the alliance if given the opportunity. She has found support from NCP stalwart Sharad Pawar, who has called her a "prominent leader" of the nation.

It's apparent that Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, is losing ground as the face of INDIA. There are three Gandhis in Parliament now—with Priyanka being the latest entrant—but this dynastic milestone has not enthused the voters or Congress' allies. Though party president Mallikarjun Kharge is also the chairperson of the bloc, it is no secret that the Gandhi family is calling the shots. But this arrangement is strengthening neither the Congress nor INDIA. The Congress has no option but to pay heed to its partners. In case of no course correction, the alliance might implode sooner or later, leaving the field open for the BJP and PM Modi.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

immediate action marked the success story of the outgoing RBI Governor. Issuing perfunctory warnings and advisories was not his work culture.

The economic impact of demonetisation on trade and business was smoothly handled in his tenure. In such a vast country facing multiple challenges, the new RBI Governor faces the toughest test of the sustaining economy and people expect a daring chief banker who sails against the winds. The new incumbent Revenue Secretary, Sanjay Malhotra, as RBI Governor, knows his job well, as he is already at the helm of economic affairs and is fully conversant about how the economic policies of the government and RBI move and work at ground level. The new RBI Governor faces the trilemma of growth, inflation, and stabilisation of rupees while keeping banks' NPAs low, controlling the mis-selling of health and life insurance policies, maintaining FDI and FPI inflows, and managing the impacts of US-China confrontations. The new US President, Donald Trump, may also throw significant challenges on RBI's monetary policy and val-

uation of the rupee. Cryptocurrency is also one of the major concerns for RBI.

Vinod Johri | Jalandhar

### RBI MOOTS FOR BETTER WAGES

Madam —The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the Government of India has emphasised the need for better employee compensation growth, especially when India Inc is experiencing record profit growth. With the rising prices of education fees, medical fees, vegetables, grocery items, and daily necessities, there is a strong need to raise the compensation growth of employees, as their salary/wages are their primary source of living. This downfall in compensation growth is also affecting GDP growth, as employees are controlling their expenditures for survival. Government agencies need to address this issue by implementing policies that promote fair compensation practices for the overall well-being of India.

Shreyanshi Jain | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Bridging the educational divide through computer-based testing

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

In populous and diverse countries like India, the educational landscape often mirrors the stark contrasts between urban and rural regions. Urban areas benefit from advanced infrastructure and access to extensive educational opportunities, while rural regions often struggle with limited resources and opportunities. This disparity significantly affects students in rural communities, restricting their career prospects and perpetuating cycles of poverty. However, innovative solutions like computer-based testing (CBT) hold the potential to bridge this divide, fostering enhanced employability and socioeconomic progress.

**Empowering Through Certification:** Educational centres play a pivotal role in fostering socioeconomic growth by equipping individuals with skills that lead to employment and entrepreneurship. Online learning initiatives and CBT offer equitable access to quality education, providing rural learners with opportunities comparable to their urban counterparts. CBT enhances these



initiatives by enabling a broader range of courses and certifications, including technical skills like coding and data analysis and soft skills such as communication and leadership. Certifications that are nationally or globally recognised add value to individuals' skillsets, making them more competitive in the job market. As more people upskill and secure employment, communities experience economic upliftment. Educated individuals often share knowledge within their communities, creating a ripple effect that promotes continuous learning and development.

**Addressing Skills Gaps:** The demand for tech skills is on the rise globally. The World

Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2023 highlights that technology and IT roles constitute 16 of the top 100 rising jobs, reflecting the growing importance of tech-related expertise. Conversely, the Global Talent Shortage report by Manpower Group reveals a significant skills gap, with 77 per cent of employers struggling to find qualified talent. Bridging this gap is critical to meeting current and future market demands, particularly through IT and tech-focused courses.

According to Pearson VUE's 2023 Value of IT Certification Candidate Report, professionals who earned IT certifications gained confidence in their abilities, with 81 per cent feeling empowered to explore new job opportunities. Educational centres with CBT capabilities enable individuals in rural areas to acquire certifications that align with market needs, thereby promoting quality education and employability across the nation.

**The Broad Reach of Computer-Based Testing:** The flexible nature of CBT offers unique advantages over traditional testing methods.

Candidates can choose convenient testing locations and time slots, reducing stress and improving performance. This approach proved invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing individuals to take exams remotely. The 2023 Value of IT Certification Report underscores the tangible benefits of certifications: 35 per cent of Indian candidates experienced job promotions, while 37 per cent secured new opportunities within their industry, and 20 per cent transitioned to different fields. **Bridging Urban-Rural Disparities:** The increasing availability of CBT centres in remote areas is a step toward addressing regional disparities in education and employment. These centres provide a pathway for individuals to upskill, earn recognised certifications, and improve their career prospects. As India continues to expand its CBT infrastructure, the nation moves closer to realising equitable educational opportunities and fostering inclusive socioeconomic growth.

(The writer is Vice President EMEA and Asia, Pearson VUE; views are personal)



MATHEW POYIADGI



## FIRST COLUMN

### PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT LIFE

Our journey through birth and death is inevitable, we must therefore detach ourselves



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We should do it because evidence is overwhelming that we are eternal souls. We are in a birth and death cycle getting different bodies life after life. What will you say about Shanti Devi's rebirth? She was born in Delhi but recalled details of her past life in Mathura. Her recollections were so compelling that Mahatma Gandhi got interested. He appointed a committee of 15 prominent persons to study the case. They took Shanti Devi to Mathura and she was able to recollect all the relevant details even though she had never been to Mathura in her present life. Dr Ian Stevenson, a leading authority on reincarnation, came to India to interview her. He wrote that at least 24 statements of her memories matched verifiable facts.

These days TV channels have become interested in the rebirth phenomenon. They are producing evidence from all over the world to confirm the same. Then, the Bhagavad-Geeta – the book of eternal wisdom is full of detailed information about us being souls. I will cite just one verse. "Just as childhood, youth and old age are changes in the body of this soul, getting another body is a similar change. (2.93) And the ultimate confirmation is God saying it. Isn't He omniscient, who knows past, present and future also? Having convinced ourselves of this reality, let us see how we can prepare for a transfer or relocation from our present life. There are two main parts. The first one is getting mentally ready. Personally speaking, when the time came for me to go to the USA for higher



studies, I visualised how my life would change for the better in the coming years. I also realised that there will inevitably be many challenges in the new country. The second was to take with me whatever I could to make my life there as comfortable as possible. I took the necessary clothes and a little money, which was allowed at that time. But mainly it was my certificates and what I had learnt by that time. Similar preparations are required for the bodily change, though they are quite different in detail. The first one has to be the mental preparation for such a change. We should accept the fact that such a change is inevitable. And it can be a lot better than our present. Lord Krishna has assured, "Those who have begun their spiritual journey take birth in a family of pure and prosperous." (6.41) Therefore, it is essential that we do so too before our time comes to leave the present body. We must be in the shelter of God at that time by doing spiritual activities. Surely, we must be following dharma in our activities as far as possible. We should be mainly in the mode of goodness, which is illuminating and free from diseases on account of purity. (14.6) We should be in control of bad emotions like lust, greed, anger, hate, etc. We should have accumulated a lot of good 'karmas' (acts) because this is all we are allowed to take with us. But we shouldn't put too much pressure on ourselves because we can make improvements gradually only. Whatever, we are presently doing, we should do it better. As the present determines the future, the present has to be safeguarded fully. Are we inclined to make the necessary preparations? We should get started right away at least mentally. It will be such a shame not to do so when we have time to do so. Those wanting to do so are encouraged by God; one will succeed.

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

# Rebel forces oust Assad as Damascus falls

## The fall of Assad's regime signals a new chapter in Syria's tumultuous history, raising critical questions about the country's path to stability



B K SINGH



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government has been fighting rebel groups with the support of Russia, Iran, Lebanese and Hezbollah right from 2011. Within ten days of rebels getting control over northwestern city of Aleppo and further capturing Hama and Homs, the capital Damascus also fell under their control on December 8. President Assad along with his wife and three children fled the country before rebel forces could reach him. He has been granted asylum in Moscow. His younger brother was tipped to succeed his father as President, died in a road accident.

He was called back from London, where he was practising ophthalmologist, to succeed his father as President of Syria. In the initial months after taking over the Presidency in the year 2000 he was seen as a reformist and pro-people in sharp contrast to his father Hafez al-Assad's three-decade rule with iron hands. Once pro-democracy protests erupted in 2011, he followed the brutal tactics of his father to crush dissent. The conflict escalated into civil war and he was seen unleashing his military to blast opposition-held territories. All supporters of the Assad regime have considerably weakened their backing on account of the ongoing war they are engaged in. Russian forces have a challenging battle in Ukraine. Owing to the high level of casualties of soldiers in the battle, Russia has withdrawn its forces from Syria partially and is even further recruiting foreign nationals in the force to keep the war going, which has already been continuing for a quarter to three years. Hamas's terror attack on Israel on October 7, 2023 and Israel's response to Gaza opened several dimensions of the West Asia conflict.

Iran's supported terror groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Houthis in Yemen have denounced Palestinians suffering in Gaza on account of Israeli bombardment and it opened additional fronts for Israel in the conflict. This has also weakened Iran and Hezbollah to provide adequate support to Assad's regime. In addition, 13 years of Syrian civil war has exhausted the Syrian Army. Owing to the corruption in the bureaucratic and political circle of the Syrian government, and the series of Western sanctions, the economy



THE CONFLICT ESCALATED INTO CIVIL WAR AND HE WAS SEEN UNLEASHING HIS MILITARY TO BLAST OPPOSITION-HELD TERRITORIES. ALL SUPPORTERS OF THE ASSAD REGIME HAVE CONSIDERABLY WEAKENED THEIR BACKING ON ACCOUNT OF THE ONGOING WAR THEY ARE ENGAGED IN

has been hardly afloat. Further President Erdogan in Ankara, is facing the heat on account of three million Syrian migrants living in Turkey and more so because Syria dismisses his proposal for deportation of migrants alleging that his country has illegally occupied Syrian areas along the border.

There was an option for Assad to join the Arab League last year, but he did not accept making Arab nations also opposed to him. Earlier with the help of Iran and Russia, he had survived the Arab Spring Rebellion against him, which originated in Tunisia in 2011. The next question is about the future of Syria. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is a Sunni Islamist militant group, that played an important role in the Syrian civil war. It is this group that has led other rebel groups to occupy Damascus.

The US, UK and UN have designated it as a terrorist organisation. A bounty of \$10 million was on its chief Abu Mohammad al-Golani's head. UK has indicated lifting the ban on HTS if it delivers on promises like protecting minorities and people's rights. Turkey has backed some other rebel groups in the Syrian civil war, which do not have good ties with HTS. US-backed Kurdish YPG militia has established control in Syria's northeast, also known as the Kurdish democratic union party (PYD) does not enjoy good and workable relations with HTS. There are separate rebels in Syria's southwest.

It is quite difficult for all the groups to come together and be partners in Syria's new regime. 900 strong military men are maintained by the US in northeastern Syria. The US has maintained this presence in the name of countering ISIS, but its actual goal was the regime change in Syria. The US has now emerged clear winner. As rebels have asserted control over Syria and its capital Damascus, uncertainties remain about the future of the country.

The first day was marked by arsenals, looting of shops and banks, and emptying prisons followed by a night curfew, but the second day saw normalcy slowly returning to the capital and other cities. The main rebel commander al-Golani met Assad's PM Mohammad Jalali and Vice President Faisal Mekdad to install a transitional government in Syria. Further, Golani has announced publicly that they would bring out a list of government officials responsible for torturing the citizens.

In the meantime, there have been air strikes in Syria by Israeli, US and Turkey forces to protect each of their interests. Iran and Russia have suffered major setbacks with the fall of Assad's government. Both countries have lost their key allies. As Sunni Islamic groups are going to be in control of Syria, Iran a predominantly Shia population is more vulnerable to Israeli attacks. When rebel forces took control of Aleppo about a week earlier, both Iran and Russia could not extend adequate defence leading to the fall of even Damascus. Iran was exposed in recent Israeli direct attacks, and Hezbollah was also decimated, no significant support came from Assad. In recent months, Assad's Syria and Iran could not support each other when exigencies arose. Syria is the only state that had joined Iran's 'Axis of resistance' against the US and Israel.

The axis has become weak; even Hezbollah's downfall could not be prevented. Hezbollah has signed a ceasefire deal with Israel ahead of any Gaza deal. The action of the state of Iran and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) to defend Assad did not go well with the people of Iran. It had political and economic costs. The fall of Assad sends a disturbing signal to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei, who now understands that the axis of resis-

tance can no longer protect the allies. Assad's fall has also emboldened opposition groups in Iran. Besides these, women are protesting for their rights.

All these may lead to regime change in Iran too. If the Supreme Leader realigns himself with the US by reviving/softening its stand on the 2015 nuclear deal, then regime change in Iran can be avoided. The last two weeks of violence that culminated in Assad's fleeing Syria, also saw the Shia population enthusiastically taking measures to secure the tomb of Sayyeda Zainab, the daughter of Hazrat Ali and Fatima and granddaughter of Prophet Muhammad. This holy site signifies great importance for Shia Muslims worldwide. To guarantee the security of this precious shrine, Shias from Iran, Iraq and Pakistan are also moving to Syria. The shrine is located in al-Sitt, south Damascus.

Since 1979 Iranian government has provided financial support for the management of the shrine. Several Shia scholars and celebrities are buried in the shrine and surrounding cemeteries. Since 2012 the town has been under attack from armed militants in neighboring Sunni towns. Many Shia families were driven out of their homes in southern Damascus.

Rockets landing on random places was quite common. Sunni Muslims comprise 74 per cent of Syria's population, whereas Shias are only 3 per cent. Shias hold quite a strong sentiment for the shrine; the issue can be a potential flash point between the two sects and would also determine the rivalry between rebel groups.

Will Syria's transition to democracy be smooth? It is possible only when different rebel groups learn to share power.

(The writer is Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-Head of Forest Force- Karnataka; views expressed are personal)

# Empowering India's solar revolution: Navigating challenges and embracing opportunities

## As energy demands are set to double by 2030, addressing these gaps is essential to transforming India's solar aspirations into reality

India has been declared as the third-largest energy-consuming country, thanks to the rising income and improving standards of living. In response to the escalating energy demand, India has set ambitious targets for solar energy capacity, aiming to reach 280 GW by 2030 (the highest among all renewable sources). And owing to the rise in awareness surrounding solar energy solutions, the country has achieved 70.10 GW of solar energy capacity by June 2023, which is 70.1 per cent of the target of 100 GW set in the year preceding. The rising awareness of solar solutions among consumers, particularly rooftop solar solutions, is a notable trend in the solar energy market. This trend has been driven by



PREETI BAJAJ

various factors, including technological advancements, innovation, digital revolution to unlock more of the sun's potential and support from the Central Government. Community leaders, particularly in rural and non-metro areas, have also emerged as crucial drivers in promoting the adoption of solar energy solutions. However, despite this awareness, a significant gap exists between the aware-

ness of the advantages of solar energy and its widespread adoption. The adoption rate remains relatively low. Reportedly, the country fell short of its renewable energy target for 2022 by 32 per cent, with an installed capacity of 119 GW compared to the target of 175 GW. Financial and cost considerations, geographical limitations, and perception issues further cause a challenge to solar energy adoption in India. To understand the potential consumers, Luminous initiated a large, nationwide survey to delve further into the perceptions, awareness, adoption, and challenges concerning solar energy among respondents in India. The initial analysis of the survey data suggests that while

people are increasingly aware of alternatives to traditional energy sources, a majority of consumers in India face three primary challenges in their adoption: Accessibility, Skill shortage, and Perceived cost implication, as discovered in the 'Solar Spectrum of New India' research. For instance, over two-quarters of the respondents (54 per cent) in the 'Solar Spectrum of New India' research rate their knowledge about solar energy solutions as high, however, nearly a quarter of the respondents (24 per cent) say solar energy solutions are inaccessible to them. In fact, according to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), 59 per cent of respondents do not possess



even a basic understanding of solar energy. Therefore, while awareness is spreading, concerns linger about the accessibility of solar infrastructure. Another challenge that came to the fore, is the shortage of specialised skills in the solar energy sector. The boost in the solar energy sector is facing a shortage of trained personnel for the effective implementation and maintenance of solar infra-

structure. According to the COO of the Skill Council of Green Jobs, there will be a requirement of 30,000 skill-certified human resources in the manufacturing segment by the end of FY 2024, and only 10,000 skill-certified jobs will be added by the end of this financial year. As per the 'Solar Spectrum of New India' survey data also, despite the acknowledgement of skill requirements, nearly half of the respondents (45 per cent) believe that skilled labour for implementing solar energy solutions is unavailable in their area, suggesting a mismatch between demand and supply of qualified personnel. While the government has introduced various policies and incentives to promote solar adoption- including

financial incentives, tax advantages, subsidies for solar power generation, net-metering regulations, basic customs duty, Production Linked Incentive (PLI), and the Aatmanirbhar campaign, perceived costs remain a significant deterrent for many individuals. Thus, the Solar Spectrum of New India presents both challenges and opportunities on the path towards a sustainable energy future. By addressing issues of accessibility, skill shortages, and perceived costs, stakeholders can work together to accelerate solar adoption trends and pave the way for a brighter, cleaner future for India. It's also imperative because the demand for reliable power in urban and rural areas will double by 2030. This surge in

demand will be powered by increased industrial, economic, and domestic consumption activities throughout the country. Moreover, according to the National Electricity Plan, the projected all-India peak electricity demand and electrical energy requirement is 277.2 GW and 1,907.8 BUs for the year 2026-27 and 366.4 GW and 2,473.8 BUs for 2031-32, respectively. However, the absence of power line infrastructure and distribution utilities' lag in supplying power around the clock indicates the need for significant changes in existing energy infrastructure and the availability of alternate sources. (The writer is MD & CEO of Luminous Power Technologies; views expressed are personal)

# Ex-defense chief in South Korea tried to kill himself after being arrested over martial law

AP ■ SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)

South Korea's previous defence minister was stopped from attempting suicide while in detention over last week's martial law declaration, officials said Wednesday, as President Yoon Suk Yeol's office resisted a police attempt to search the compound. The main liberal opposition Democratic Party plans to introduce a new motion to impeach Yoon for his December 3 declaration that imposed martial law in South Korea for the first time in more than four decades. Its first impeachment attempt failed after Yoon last Saturday gained after ruling party lawmakers boycotted the vote. The party said it plans to submit the new motion on Thursday to set up a vote on Saturday. Yoon's ill-conceived power grab has paralysed South Korean politics, frozen its foreign policy and rattled financial markets. On Wednesday, rival

North Korea's state media for the first time reported about the turmoil across the border, but the country hasn't showed any suspicious activities. Shin Yong Hae, commissioner general of the Korea Correctional Service, told lawmakers that former Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun tried to kill himself the previous night at a detention centre in Seoul. He said correctional officers stopped him and that he was in stable condition. Kim was arrested early Wednesday after a Seoul court approved a warrant for him on allegations of playing a key role in a rebellion and committing abuse of power. Kim became the first person formally arrested over the martial law decree. Kim, one of Yoon's close associates, has been accused of recommending martial law to Yoon and sending troops to the National Assembly to block lawmakers from voting on it. Enough lawmakers eventually managed to enter a parliament chamber and they unanimously

rejected Yoon's decree, forcing the Cabinet to lift it before daybreak on December 4. Kim said in a statement on Tuesday that he "deeply apologises for causing significant anxiety" to the public. He said all responsibility for the martial law imposition rests with him and pleaded for leniency for soldiers deployed to enforce it. Prosecutors have up to 20 days to determine whether to indict Kim. **Yoon's office hampers search of presidential compound:** Later Wednesday, police detained National Police Agency Commissioner General Cho Ji Ho and Kim Bong-sik, head of Seoul's metropolitan police. They were accused of deploying police forces to parliament to block lawmakers from voting. The main focus of investigators is finding whether Yoon, Kim and others involved in imposing martial law committed rebellion. A conviction on the charge of rebellion carries a

maximum death sentence. South Korean police said they sent officers to search Yoon's office on Wednesday to look for any evidence related to the martial law introduction. But investigators failed to enter the office as of Wednesday evening, about six hours after their arrival, senior police officer Lee Ho-young said in parliament. Some observers earlier said that the presidential security service won't likely permit searches of Yoon's office, citing a law that prohibits searches of sites with state secrets without approval from those in charge of those areas. Yoon on Saturday apologised over the martial law decree, saying that he won't avoid legal or political responsibility for it. He said he would leave it to his party to chart a course through the country's political turmoil, "including matters related to my term in office." The leader of Yoon's ruling party later vowed to arrange the president's stable exit from

office, saying the party will coordinate with Cabinet members over state affairs and that Yoon will be sidelined from duties. The comments were criticised as unrealistic and unconstitutional, but caused widespread questions about who is in charge of South Korea and its military at a time of heightened tensions with North Korea. The Justice Ministry on Tuesday banned Yoon from leaving the country as he faces investigations. Vice Defense Minister Kim Seon Ho reiterated Wednesday that Yoon remains in charge of the military. But Yoon hasn't been involved in any major official activities since lifting martial law, except for accepting resignation offers by officials involved in the martial law case and appointing the head for the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. **A view from North Korea:** A Wednesday article from the North's state news agency reported about the South

Korean political chaos and protests triggered by Yoon's martial law decree. The report mostly attempted to explain the South Korean events, though it called Yoon "a traitor" and his military "gangsters." Many experts say North Korea is sensitive to the domestic spread of news on major anti-government protests in foreign countries, because its own people have no official access to international news and could be affected by such events. The US State Department said Monday that the US-South Korean alliance remains "iron-clad" and that Washington is committed to the peace and security of the Korean Peninsula. In his martial law announcement, the conservative Yoon stressed a need to rebuild the country by eliminating "shameless North Korea followers and anti-state forces," a reference to his liberal rivals who control parliament. Since taking office in 2022, Yoon has had near-constant friction with the

Democratic Party, which introduced motions to impeach some of his top officials and launched a political offensive over scandals involving Yoon and his wife. Opposition parties and many experts say the martial law decree was unconstitutional. They say a president is by law allowed to declare martial law only during wartime or similar emergency situations, but South Korea wasn't in such a predicament. They argue that deploying troops to seal the National Assembly to suspend its political activities amounted to rebellion because the constitution doesn't allow a president to use the military to suspend parliament in any situation. If Yoon is impeached, his presidential powers would be suspended until the Constitutional Court decides whether to restore his powers or remove him from office. If he is dismissed from office, a new presidential election would be required.

# Iran blames US, Israel for fall of Assad govt

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says the recent events in Syria, including the fall of its government, were part of a joint plan by the United States and Israel. "There should be no doubt that what has happened in Syria is the result of a joint American and Zionist plan," Khamenei said in a speech in Tehran on Wednesday that was broadcast on state TV. "We have evidence, and this evidence leaves no room for doubt." The Supreme leader added: "A neighbouring state of Syria has played a clear role in this matter, and it continues to do so. Everyone can see this." Khamenei also rejected speculation by analysts who have said that Iran will be weakened by the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad's government. "Those ignorant analysts are unaware of the meaning of resistance. They think that if resistance weakens, Islamic Iran will also weaken. But I say, with the help and power of God — by the will of Almighty Allah — Iran is powerful and it will become even more powerful," he said.

# Taliban refugee minister killed in Afghan blast

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

A suicide bombing in the Afghan capital on Wednesday killed the Taliban refugee minister and two others, Interior Ministry officials said. The explosion struck inside the ministry, killing Khalil Haqqani, the refugee minister, officials said. The officials provided no further details. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media. Haqqani was the most high-profile casualty of a bombing in Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power three years ago. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. Khalil Haqqani is the uncle of Sirajuddin Haqqani, the acting interior minister who leads a powerful network within the Taliban. The Islamic State group's affiliate, a major rival of the ruling Taliban, has carried out previous attacks across Afghanistan. In early September, a suicide bomber in the southwestern Qala Bakhtiar neighbourhood in Kabul killed at least six people and wounding 13 others. IS had claimed responsibility for the attack.

# Israeli strikes on Gaza kill at least 29

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip killed at least 29 people overnight and into Wednesday, including one that hit a home where displaced people were sheltering in the isolated north, killing 19, according to Palestinian medical officials. The Israel-Hamas war has raged on with no end in sight, even after Israel reached a ceasefire with Lebanon's Hezbollah and attention shifted to the overthrow of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Both the outgoing and incoming US administrations have said they hope to end the war before the inauguration but months of ceasefire talks have repeatedly stalled. The strike that killed 19 occurred in the northern town of Beit Lahiya near the border with Israel, according to the nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital, which received the bodies. Hospital records show that a family of eight was among those killed, including four children, their parents and two grandparents. The hospital said another strike near its entrance on Wednesday killed a woman and her two children. Another strike in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed at least seven people, according to the Awda Hospital. The dead included two children, their parents and three relatives, it said. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The military says it tries to avoid harming civilians and accuses militants of hiding among them, putting their lives in danger. Militants in central Gaza meanwhile fired four projectiles into Israel on Wednesday, two of which were intercepted, the

military said. The other two fell in open areas, and there were no reports of casualties. The military ordered the evacuation of a five-block area of the built-up Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, saying the rockets had been fired from there. The orders indicated that Israel would soon carry out strikes in the area. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people, including children and older adults. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 44,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to local health officials. They say women and children make up more than half the dead but do not distinguish between fighters and civilians in their count. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence. Thousands more Palestinians have gone missing during the war, some after encounters with Israeli troops. Israel has been waging a renewed offensive against Hamas in Gaza's isolated and heavily destroyed north since early October. Troops have surrounded Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and the urban Jabaliya refugee camp, allowing in almost no humanitarian aid and ordering tens of thousands to flee to nearby Gaza City. Israeli officials have said the three communities are mostly deserted, but the United Nations humanitarian office said Tuesday that it believes around 65,000 to 75,000 people are still there, with little access to food, water, electricity or health care. Experts have

warned that the north may be experiencing famine. Sigrid Kaag, the senior UN humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza, told reporters at the UN on Tuesday that civilians trying to survive all across Gaza face an "utterly devastating situation." She pointed to the breakdown in law and order and looting that has left the UN and many aid organisations unable to deliver food and other humanitarian essentials to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in need. Kaag said she and other UN officials keep repeatedly asking Israel for access for convoys to northern Gaza and elsewhere, to allow in commercial goods, to reopen the Rafah crossing from Egypt in the south, and to approve dual-use items. The Israeli military says it allows in enough humanitarian aid and blames UN agencies for not distributing it, saying large amounts of aid have accumulated just inside Gaza's borders. UN officials say Israeli restrictions, the breakdown of law and order and ongoing fighting make it difficult to access the aid and distribute it, and have repeatedly called for a ceasefire. The United States, Egypt and Qatar have been mediating talks between Israel and Hamas for nearly a year, and diplomats say those efforts have recently gained momentum. But Hamas has said it will not release the remaining hostages without an end to the war and a full withdrawal of Israeli troops. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to continue the war until Hamas is destroyed and all the hostages are returned and has said Israel will maintain a lasting military presence in some areas.



Suheil Harawi, centre, who spent 32 years in prison in Syria and returned to Lebanon after the government of Bashar Assad was toppled kisses his grandchildren at his home in Chekka, Lebanon. AP/PTI

# Global chemical arms monitoring watchdog convenes meeting to discuss Syria situation

AP ■ THE HAQUE

The global chemical weapons watchdog will hold an emergency meeting on Thursday to discuss the situation in Syria over concerns about the country's stockpile of toxic chemicals. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons told Syria on Monday it is under obligations to comply with rules to safeguard and destroy dangerous substances, such as chlorine gas, after rebels entered the capital Damascus at the weekend and overthrew the regime of President Bashar Assad. The meeting was called by the organisations executive council to

discuss the current situation in Syria as well as the status of ongoing investigations in the country. Members of the ousted Syrian government plan to gradually transfer power to a new transitional cabinet headed by Mohammed al-Bashir, who reportedly headed the rebel alliance's "salvation government" in its southwest Syrian stronghold. Outgoing officials met for the first time Tuesday with al-Bashir, who told reporters that the transitional period would last until the beginning of March. Assad's regime denied using chemical weapons, but the OPCW has found evidence indicating their repeated use by Syria

in the country's grinding civil war. Earlier this year, it found the Islamic State group had used mustard gas against the town of Marea in 2015. The US has said it will recognise and support a new Syrian government that renounces terrorism, destroys chemical weapons stocks and protects the rights of minorities and women. "When it comes to this question of inspections and verifications, it is the responsibility of that organisation to conduct verification efforts under its mandate, not any of the member states or the United States or other states. That, the OPCW will do," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters in

Washington on Tuesday. Israel said it has carried out more than 350 strikes in Syria over the last 48 hours, hitting "most of the strategic weapons stockpiles" in the country to stop them from falling into the hands of extremists. The Israeli military acknowledged pushing into a buffer zone inside Syria but it remained unclear if Israeli soldiers had gone beyond that area, which was established more than 50 years ago. Israel denied that it was advancing on the Syrian capital of Damascus. The Kremlin said Sunday that Russia had granted political asylum to Assad, a decision made by President Vladimir Putin.

# Aid to N Gaza blocked for last 2 months: UN

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Humanitarian aid to North Gaza, where Israel launched a ground offensive on October 6, has largely been blocked for the past 66 days, the United Nations has said. That has left between 65,000 and 75,000 Palestinians without access to food, water, electricity or health care, according to the world body. In the north, Israel has continued its siege on Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya with Palestinians living there largely denied aid, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, known as OCHA, said on Tuesday. Recently, it said, about 5,500 people were forcibly displaced from three schools in Beit Lahiya to Gaza City. Adding to the food crisis, only four UN-supported bakeries are currently operating throughout the Gaza Strip, all of them in Gaza City, OCHA said. Sigrid Kaag, the senior UN humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza, told reporters after briefing the UN Security Council behind closed doors Tuesday afternoon that civilians trying to survive in Gaza face an "utterly devastating situation"

# TikTok challenges Canadian government order to dissolve business in country

AP ■ OTTAWA

TikTok has challenged a Canadian government order to shut down the Chinese video-sharing app's business operations in the country that was imposed over national security concerns. The company said Tuesday that it filed an application for a judicial review with the Federal Court in Vancouver on December 5, which seeks to set aside the order for TikTok to wind-up and cease its business in Canada. The Canadian federal government last month announced it was ordering the dissolution of TikTok Technology Canada Inc. after a national security review of its Chinese parent company ByteDance Ltd. The government is not blocking access to the TikTok app, which will continue to be available to Canadians. TikTok said it has 14 million users in Canada, which is about a third of the population. It has offices in Toronto and Vancouver. The wildly popular platform is owned by ByteDance, a Chinese company that moved its headquarters to Singapore in

**The Canadian federal government last month announced it was ordering the dissolution of TikTok Technology Canada Inc. after a national security review of its Chinese parent company ByteDance Ltd.** 2020, but is under increasing pressure in the West. It's facing a possible ban in the US and intensifying scrutiny in Europe over issues including election influence campaigns allegedly coordinated by Moscow. TikTok argues in its court application, which was posted online, that Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne's decision was "unreasonable" and "driven by improper purposes." It says the order is "grossly disproportionate" and "the national security review was "procedurally unfair." The review was carried out through the Investment Canada Act, which allows the

government to investigate foreign investment with potential to harm national security. Champagne said in a statement at the time that the government was taking action to address "specific national security risks," but did not elaborate. His office said in response to the filing that the government's decision was informed by a "thorough national security review and advice from Canada's security and intelligence community." TikTok said Champagne "failed to engage with TikTok Canada on the purported substance of the concerns" that led to the order. It argues the government ordered "measures that bear no rational connection to the national security risks it identifies" and that the reasons for the order "are unintelligible, fail to reveal a rational chain of analysis and are rife with logical fallacies." The platform says there were "less onerous" options than shutting down its Canadian business, which it said would eliminate hundreds of jobs, threaten business contracts and "cause the destruction of significant economic opportunities."

# Trump mocks Justin Trudeau

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump took a jab at Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the social media platform Truth Social, describing him as the "Governor of Canada." Trudeau flew to Mar-a-Lago last week for a dinner with Trump to discuss the President-elect's warning to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Canada if its government failed to stop the flow of illegal immigrants and illicit drugs from the country into the United States. In a post on Truth Social mocking the Canadian prime minister, Trump said, "It was a pleasure to have dinner the other night with Governor Justin Trudeau of the Great State of Canada." During the dinner, when Trudeau said that such a tariff would destroy the Canadian economy, the President-elect reportedly told him to make Canada the 51st state of the United States. Trump repeated this in an interview with NBC News over the weekend and again in the post on Tuesday. "I look forward to seeing the Governor again soon so that we may continue our in depth talks on Tariffs and Trade, the results of which will be truly spectacular for all! DJT," Trump said in his post.

# 22 held, 150 booked for propagating against Pak Army on social media

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistani authorities have booked 150 suspects and arrested 22 of them, mostly belonging to Imran Khan's party, for allegedly propagating against the army on social media on the killings of the party workers in Islamabad on November 26, an official said on Wednesday. According to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), at least 12 party workers were killed and hundreds wounded when law enforcers opened fire on the protesters in Islamabad on November 26. It also claims that around 105 party workers have been missing since then. Following the incident, Khan's supporters started blaming the Pakistan Army for opening fire on the peaceful protesters. The Shehbaz Sharif-led government denied that the law enforcers opened fire on the protesters and pledged to take strict action against those propagating on social media. The government formed a special task force headed by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) chief to NAB such elements.

**Amnesty had sought a transparent investigation of the state's "deadly crackdown" to disperse PTI supporters from Islamabad's D-Chowk where they had gathered for the release of their leader Imran Khan.** "Subsequently, the FIA cyber-crime wing booked some 150 suspects and arrested 22 social media activists across the country," an FIA officer said. He said that the FIA made 117 raids, mostly in Punjab, to arrest the suspects involved in the propaganda against the state institutions. The suspects (social media activists) have been booked under different sections of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA). Earlier, Amnesty International had demanded a transparent investigation of the state's "deadly crackdown" to dis-

perse PTI supporters from Islamabad's D-Chowk where they had gathered for the release of their incarcerated leader and former prime minister. More than 10,000 protesters surged into Islamabad on Nov 26, defying a ban on public gatherings and a lockdown to skirmish with 20,000 security forces enlisted to turn them back. As Khan supporters inched towards the heavily barricaded D-Chowk, the police and security forces used intense teargas shelling to disperse the protesters. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had said the law enforcers had "bravely repulsed the protesters" without using firearms. Khan's party harshly criticised the interior minister for his statements and blamed him for the alleged violence against its supporters, claiming multiple deaths. Condemning the violence, Amnesty demanded a "prompt, thorough, impartial, effective and transparent investigation" into the deaths and injuries of protesters as well as the unlawful use of force, including lethal and less-lethal weapons, by security personnel.

Man accused of killing UnitedHealthcare's CEO shouts on way to courthouse, fights extradition

AP ■ ALTOONA (US) "In suit to the intelligence of the American people" while deputies pushed him inside a courthouse. A law enforcement bulletin obtained by The Associated Press said that at the time of his arrest, Mangione was carrying a handwritten document expressing anger with what he called "parasitic" health insurance companies and a disdain for corporate greed and power. He wrote that the US has the most expensive health care system in the world and that profits of major corporations continue to rise while "our life expectancy" does not, according to the bulletin. Mangione remained jailed in Pennsylvania, where he was initially charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm, forgery and providing false identification to police. Manhattan prosecutors were beginning to take steps to bring Mangione to New York, but at a brief hearing Tuesday, defence lawyer Thomas Dickey said his client will not waive extradition and instead wants a hearing on the issue. Mangione was denied bail after prosecutors said he was too dangerous to be released. He mostly stared straight ahead at the hearing, occasionally looking at papers, rocking in his chair or looking back at the gallery. "You can't rush to judgment in this case or any case," Dickey said afterward. "He's presumed innocent. Let's not forget that." Mangione was arrested in Altoona, Pennsylvania, about 230 miles (about 370 kilometers) west of New York City, after a McDonald's customer recognised him and notified an employee, authorities said. New York police officials have said Mangione was carrying a gun like the one used to kill Thompson and the same fake ID the suspected shooter had used to check into a New York hostel, along with a passport and other fraudulent IDs. A law enforcement official who wasn't authorised to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity said a three-page, handwritten document found with Mangione included a line in which he claimed to have acted alone.

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B'desh court rejects plea to advance hearing of Hindu monk's bail plea

PTI ■ DHAKA A Bangladesh court Wednesday rejected a plea to advance the hearing of arrested Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das' bail petition in a sedition case, ruling that it would be heard as previously fixed on January 2. Court officials said Chattogram Metropolitan Session Judge Saiful Islam rejected the plea as the lawyer who filed the petition seeking the advanced hearing did not have the power of attorney from the monk. "Advocate Rabindra Ghose sought the advanced hearing when another lawyer informed the judge that he (Ghose) did not have any power of attorney to represent the monk. The judge then rejected the plea," a court

official said. In his plea, Ghose said Das was arrested in a "false and fabricated case" while he had been suffering from diabetes, asthma and other issues. The lawyer, however, admitted that he did not go to the prison to obtain a signed power of attorney from Das. "I will visit Chinmoy in the prison now and obtain the Vakalatnama (power of attorney)," he said. The hearing was due to be held on December 3 when the court deferred the date to January 2, 2025, on a prosecution side suggestion as no lawyer appeared on his behalf. An associate of Das in his Sammilita Sanatan Jagaran Jote, Sawtantra Gauranga Das earlier said no lawyer stood for the

monk, fearing threats and pressure from a "politically motivated lawyers' group". Das, a former ISKCON leader, was arrested at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on November 25. The next day, a court in Chattogram sent him to jail, rejecting his bail petition as he was accused of a sedition charge for allegedly disrespecting the country's flag.

PUBLIC NOTICE I, Anil Kumar, Advocate, on behalf of Mr. Parulendra Singh and Mrs. Anura Verma, states that they have lost the Original Sale deed dated 23.08.2013 executed by M/s Pt Developers (P) Ltd., in favour of Smt. Kamla Banerjee, towards the Ground Floor of the Residential Property bearing No. H-1478, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing sale deed document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned on the below mentioned mobile number and email.

PUBLIC NOTICE Information is given to general public at large that Peppu Ram Sharma S/o Ram Swaroop who is aware purchasing the House No. 2951-A/16/G/F, having area measuring 14.89 Sq. Mts. Situated in Mughal Sector-55, Housing Board Colony, Faridabad, Tehsil Bahadurgarh, Distt. Faridabad from Sunita Ram Chandra who was the owner of said property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 25.08.2014 (Doc. No. 5511) executed by Babita S/o Mahesh through GFA Smt. Gupta S/o Shivam Ltd. Intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited. Original GPA executed by Gupta S/o Shivam Ltd Gupta in favour of Babita S/o Mahesh and Original Possession Certificate issued by Housing Board Haryana in favour of Babita S/o Mahesh of said property are not available with Seller i.e. Sunita Ram W/o Ram Chandra. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address.

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that My Clients Mr. Vinod Kumar Sarda S/o Late Sh. Kishan Lal and Mamta Sarda W/o Vinod Kumar Sarda R/o N-96, C-6, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have severed connections and relations with their daughter namely Shweta, W/o Sh. Shubham and also their daughter namely Shweta, W/o Sh. Shubham from all their movable and immovable properties due to her ill conduct, bad behavior and habits with my clients. She is out of control of my clients and is always misbehaving with them. My clients are not responsible for any acts, dealings, deeds and things done by or above named person since today and if any person is doing any act dealing, deeds, things with her, they are on his/her own responsibility. They shall not incur any right, title in the movable and/or immovable properties of my clients in any manner. Vikas Kumar (Advocate), Ch. No. 717, Rohini Court, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE APAR INDUSTRIES LTD. Reg. Office: 301, Panorama Complex, R.C. Dutt Road, Vadodra GJ- 390007. NOTICE is hereby given that the certificate for the undermentioned securities of the Company has/have been lost/misplaced and the holder of the said securities / applicant has/have applied to the Company to issue a duplicate certificate. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 15 days from this date, else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate without further intimation. Name of Holder:- Sharvan Kumar Wadhwa No. of securities : 160 Kind of Securities : Equity Shares Face Value :- RS 10/- Certificate No. Distinctive number 140198 :- 1977083 To 1977182 140199 :- 1977183 To 1977202 161320 :- 24308357 To 24308396 Date :- 10/12/2024 Place :- New Delhi Sharvan Kumar Wadhwa [Name of holder]

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform to all concern that Mr. Mahipal Singh Negi S/o Late Shri Shri Singh Negi R/o Flat# 670, 1st Fl, Sec-37, Arun Vihar, Noida (U.P), who is the original allottee of Flat#670, 1st Fl, Sec-37, Arun Vihar Noida (U.P), had sold the said property on General power of attorney basis to the following person(s). GPA was executed on in favour of Mrs. Gangotri Devi Negi W/o Shri M.S. Negi R/o Flat#2601, Block-F-9, Overseas Apart Sec-50, Noida (U.P) which is registered at Sub Registrar Noida Dated 16.04.1998. So it is informed to all concern that the said property is going to be transferred in favour of Mr. Shyam Sundar Panday S/o Shri B.D. Panday R/o 48, 3rd Fl, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony Kalkaji, South Delhi-110025. If any one has/have any objection her/ she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Mrs. Gangotri Devi Negi (9810817816)

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the public that my client, Mr. Simar Mann Singh Chawala R/O-9, Street No-21, A-2 Block, Sant Nagar West, Burari, Delhi has officially severed all relations with his father Mr. Terajeth Singh Chawla due to his manipulative conduct, which has been exposed. Mr. Simar Mann Singh Chawala has chosen to completely disassociate himself from Mr. Terajeth Singh Chawla and his actions. Consequently, Mr. Simar Mann Singh Chawala voluntarily relinquishes his all legal rights, claims in Mr. Terajeth Singh Chawla's property.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the public that my client, Mr. Harshit Deveshwar intends to transfer the ownership of aforementioned Property by way of Sale Deed to Mr. Satyam Jha. Subsequently, Mr. Satyam Jha is in the process of mortgaging the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 15-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 15-days period by contacting Law Services: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Landline(s) : +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE E-Tender Notice No. N-2024-K-26 Dated: 09-12-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Safety enhancement by repairing and augmentation of Automatic Fire alarm system in Kathihar Division. Tender Value: ₹1,04,44,095.95/- Earnest Money: ₹2,02,200/- Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15:00 hrs. of 31-12-2024 & will be opened at 15:30 hrs. of 31-12-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 31-12-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE Balance work of Improvement to road and CD works under PMGSY-III, Package No. OR-28-307/Batch-13, (Goudapali to Saplot to Bhagipali via Halidibahal, Kunkhahi, Pathamunda, Mudenpahal, Sardhabhal, Saplot) for the year 2024-25 in the district of Sambalpur. As mentioned in Annexure 1. 01 No. of Package. Approx. Rs.110.16 Lakhs (Information in DTCN will be Final) Rs.10,000/- (Non-Refundable) per set of packages. Only through online in website. www.pmgstenders.gov.in

Table with 7 columns: Procurement Officer, Identification No., Bid, Availability of Tender on-line for bidding, Last date for seeking clarification, Last date and time of submission of bids, Date & Time of opening of tender. Includes details for Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.

\*Special conditions 1-EPP registration is mandatory before draw of agreement-2- Rate quoted by the contractor shall be excluding GST. 3-Bid submission fee and original affidavits should be submitted at the O/o Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur. 4-O/o Executive Engineer/Superintending Engineer of Concern Rural Works Division. \*Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.pmgstenders.gov.in \*Subsequent modification/corrigendum/Addendum if required shall be approved in the website only. Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur

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PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform the public at large that Mrs. Vimlesh had acquired House area measuring 100 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 18/10, situated in the area of Village Jharoda Mazra, Burari Delhi abadi known as Gali No. 83, B-Block, Shiv Kunj, Sant Nagar, Burari Delhi vide Regd. Gift Deed dated 19.11.2024 executed by Mr. Vijay Pal Singh and Now Mrs. Vimlesh is the undisputed owner of the said property.

PUBLIC NOTICE The Public at large is hereby notified on behalf of my clients Mr. Naresh Shokeen S/o Late Sri Nihal Singh and Mrs. Shashi Shokeen W/o Sh. Naresh Shokeen, both R/O H.No. A-1/15/6, Upper Ground Floor and 1st Floor, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063, that my clients do hereby desist and disinherit their son Mr. Nikhil Shokeen S/o Mr. Naresh Shokeen and Daughter in Law Ms. Monika W/o Mr. Nikhil Shokeen, due to their misconduct, ill treatment, mental and physical torture, abuse, manhandling etc. they are, presently staying in above noted my clients house. The torture and abuse which my clients have suffered at the hands of the son Mr. Nikhil Shokeen S/o Mr. Naresh Shokeen and Daughter in Law Ms. Monika W/o Mr. Nikhil Shokeen has become unbearable and intolerable now. My clients have executed a deed of disowning which bear their signatures and further declares that above mentioned Mr. Nikhil Shokeen and Ms. Monika shall not inherit any of the properties of my clients nor be entitled to any share in the movable/immovable properties or any other assets of my clients and shall further not be entitled to the probate of any will of my clients. Now my clients would have no concern with their son Mr. Nikhil Shokeen and Daughter in Law Ms. Monika. Any person dealing or transacting with aforesaid Son and Daughter in Law in any respect or on behalf of my clients shall be doing at their/ his or her own risks. General public please take a note of it. Sd/- Kuldeep Singh (Advocate) Kiteotia.singh@gmail.com Mob. 8384807282

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PUBLIC NOTICE This is to certify that the purchaser has intended to purchase the Basement, Ground and First Floor of Property bearing House No. 16 National Park, Lajpat Nagar-IV from Mrs Anjali Sethi wife of Late Shri Indrajit Sethi. It is notified that if any person/ Bank/ Financial Institution or any Entity having/claiming any rights, title, interests, lien, charge or claim of any nature whatsoever by way of or on the basis of any agreement, prior sale, loan, mortgage, security, equitable mortgage, surety, dispute, litigation, injunction, inheritance, succession, attachment or claim of any nature in the same or has any sort of dispute/litigation and/or otherwise any objection for its sale, he/she/they should contact and/or notify the same with valid Documentary Proof/ evidence) to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the aforesaid/mentioned property is free from all sorts of encumbrances and the above named entity is vested with clear and marketable title/ interest and may proceed further to complete the transaction of sale of the said property. Jajieet Singh Oberoi (Advocate) Office: C-53/54, Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar-I New Delhi-110024, +91-9811767770

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# Organisations must address employees' mental health issues says former IT official

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Organisations need to prioritise addressing employees' mental health issues, as only happy employees can perform their jobs with dedication, leading to exceptional results, said R Chandrasekaran, former Executive Vice Chairman of Cognizant.

"Many tools and platforms are available to identify mental health issues. Organisations that address these challenges will benefit both individuals and the companies themselves," Chandrasekaran said while speaking at an event.

Delivering the address at the launch of Ewolv, a platform supporting the holistic well-being of working women



across various life stages, he highlighted the importance of mental health. "Many organisations focus on technical, managerial, and

cross-functional skills, but they often miss the critical aspect of mental health, which forms the foundation for success," he stated.

The Ewolv platform, with its tailored solutions, aims to help organisations create inclusive environments where women can thrive both personally and professionally.

Referring to reports of students allegedly committing suicide due to peer pressure, Chandrasekaran also the former Chairman of information technology industry body NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) pointed out that stress begins at a young age and persists in professional life.

"All of us are familiar and have been part of various organisations and we all know what level of stress one endures as they build their career.

So, the most important thing we need to address is the stress aspect, mental health aspect," he said.

He also emphasised that companies should assess employees' mental health alongside their professional skills. "Tools are available to identify individual strengths and weaknesses. Recognising and resolving stress-related issues early benefits everyone involved," he remarked.

"Happier employees are key to a company's success, and organisations need to realise this. Employees who work with heart deliver outstanding results," he added.

The event also featured the presentation of the Ewolv Awards 2024 to successful women from various sectors.

# Centre further tightens wheat stock limit for wholesalers, retailers and processors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday further tightened wheat stock holding norms for wholesalers, small and big chain retailers, and processors to curb hoarding and check price rise.

"As part of continuous efforts to moderate prices of wheat, the central government has decided to revise the wheat stock limit applicable until 31st March 2025," the food ministry said in a statement.

According to the revised norms, wholesalers are now allowed to maintain wheat stock up to 1,000 tonne instead of 2,000 tonne, retailer can hold 5 tonne for each outlet instead of 10 tonne, while big chain retailer can hold 5 tonne for each outlet instead of 10 tonne earlier.

Processors will be allowed to maintain 50 per cent instead of



60 per cent of their monthly installed capacity multiplied by the remaining months till April 2025.

The stock limits on wheat were first imposed on June 24 and later revised to tighten the norms on September 9 in order to manage the overall food security and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.

The ministry said all wheat stocking entities are required to register on the wheat stock limit portal

(<https://evegoils.Nic.In/wsp/lo gin>) and update the stock position every Friday.

If the stocks held by entities are higher than the prescribed limit, they should bring the quantity to the prescribed stock limits within 15 days of the issue of the notification. Any entity which is found to have not registered on the portal or violates the stock limits will be subject to suitable punitive action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

# Coca-Cola sells 40% stake in bottling arm HCCBL to Jubilant Bhartia Group



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global beverages major Coca-Cola has sold 40 per cent stake in its India bottling business Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd (HCCBL) to Jubilant Bhartia Group.

Though the company has not disclosed the amount of the deal, some media reports have pegged it at around Rs 10,000 crore.

"The Coca-Cola Company today announced that it has reached an agreement with Jubilant Bhartia Group, a multi-billion conglomerate with global presence in diverse sectors, to acquire 40 per cent stake in Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Pvt Ltd, the parent company of the largest Coca-Cola bottler in India, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd," a joint statement said.

These changes and investment represent a significant milestone for Coca-Cola as the company continues to pursue its purpose to refresh the world and make a difference,

the statement said.

Commenting on the development, Coca-Cola India President Sanket Ray said: "We welcome Jubilant Bhartia Group to the Coca-Cola System in India. With its diverse experience in various sectors, Jubilant brings decades of rich experience that will help accelerate the Coca-Cola system, enabling us to win in the market and provide greater value to local communities and consumers."

India is the fifth largest market of Coca-Cola globally. The Atlanta-headquartered firm is divesting bottling operations globally as part of its asset-light strategy.

"This strategic investment represents an important milestone in our journey. Jubilant Bhartia Group's expertise, complements our strengths, ensuring that we continue delivering exceptional value to our stakeholders while driving innovation and sustainable progress," Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages CEO Juan Pablo Rodriguez said.

# India's EVs, ancillary industries may see ₹3.4 Lakh Crore investment by 2030: Colliers India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic and foreign firms have announced a whopping Rs 3.4 lakh crore investment in India's electrical vehicles (EVs) and ancillary industries over the next six years, Colliers India on Wednesday said while expressing concern over "tardy progress" towards achieving the goal of 30 per cent electric mobility by 2030.

Real estate consultant Colliers India on Wednesday released a report "EVs in India: Renewed Vigour in Electric Mobility", highlighting that an overall EV penetration rate in India stood at 8 per cent. It estimated sales of around 2 million (20 lakh) EVs in 2024. "Although the pace of EV adoption in the country has been commendable, it has not been as brisk as anticipated," the consultant pointed out.

The report mentioned that individual companies across the EV landscape have announced plans to invest USD 40 billion (Rs 3,40,000 crore) in a phased manner till 2030. Out of this, USD 27 billion is planned for lithium-ion battery manufacturing and USD 9 billion for OE (Original Equipment) and EV manufacturing. When asked about the investments made in India's EVs and ancillary industries so far, the consultant said the data was unavailable. "The deployment of planned investments over the next 5-6 years can open up multiple real estate opportunities, especially in the industrial &



warehousing sector. Investments can potentially accelerate land acquisition and expedite setting up of EV and OE manufacturing units including lithium-ion batteries," the report said.

Colliers India noted that India has set an ambitious target to achieve 30 per cent electric mobility with 80 million EVs on roads by 2030. "However, despite steady growth in sales volumes and focused government efforts, the progress has been tepid till now," it said.

A current penetration rate of 8 per cent and total EV stock of just over 5 million, necessitates an exponential growth in EV adoption across categories over the next few years, the consultant said.

Interestingly, the report mentioned that EV adoption has been the highest in 3-wheelers (predominantly e-rickshaws used for last-mile public commute), where operational expense reduction offsets higher one-time expenses upon purchase of EV variants.

To expedite EV adoption in personal vehicles including 2 and 4-wheelers, further

impetus on domestic manufacturing should help in eliminating fixed costs of EV purchase, the report suggested.

"Given the tardy progress and estimated 2 million annual EV sales in 2024, it is unlikely that we can witness an overall 6x growth in average annual sales from 2025-2030," Colliers said.

However, focused demand and supply side measures can result in slightly delayed and eventual completion of set targets, it hoped.

Apart from subsidies, tax incentives and domestic manufacturing impetus, the consultant said that quantum improvement in charging infrastructure can potentially drive EV sales across vehicle categories and expedite partial accomplishment of 2030 targets.

Moreover, a multifold increase in EV sale volumes can be fast-tracked by the narrowing of the price differential between EV and Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) variants (currently 20-50 per cent across 2,3 & 4-wheelers and heavy vehicles), the report said.

# ADB lowers India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for FY25

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday lowered India's economic growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for the current financial year from its earlier estimate of 7 per cent due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand.

The multilateral development bank has also lowered India's growth forecast for 2025-26 financial year.

Changes in US trade, fiscal, and immigration policies could dent growth and add to inflation in developing Asia and the Pacific, according to the latest edition of Asian Development Outlook (ADO).

The report also said Asia and the Pacific's economies are projected to grow 4.9 per cent in 2024, slightly below ADB's September forecast of 5 per cent.

"India's outlook is adjusted downward from 7 per cent to 6.5 per cent for this year, and from 7.2 per cent to 7 per cent next year, due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand," ADB said.

Last week, the Reserve Bank also significantly lowered the growth projection for current fiscal year to 6.6 per cent from 7.2 per cent earlier and hiked the inflation forecast to 4.8 per cent in view of slowdown in economic activity as well as stubborn food prices.

India's GDP growth fell to a 7-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in July-September period of

current financial year 2024-25 as against RBI's own projection of 7 per cent.

India's growth will remain robust, with the economy supported by higher agriculture output resulting from the summer (or kharif) crop season (which will also put downward pressure on food prices); continued resilience of the services sector; and lower-than-expected Brent crude prices in 2024 and 2025, ADB added.

It further said strong forward-looking and labour market indicators, such as PMI for industry and services, urban labour force participation and Reserve Bank of India's industrial outlook, suggest that economic momentum will recover in the coming quarters. The report further said Southeast Asia's growth outlook has been raised to 4.7 per cent this year from a previous forecast of 4.5 per cent, driven by stronger manufacturing exports and public capital spending.

The forecast for next year is unchanged at 4.7 per cent. The Manila-headquartered bank has kept the growth forecast for China unchanged at 4.8 per cent this year and 4.5 per cent next year.

According to the report, Asia and the Pacific's economic growth will remain steady this year and next, but expected US policy changes under the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump are likely to affect the region's long-term outlook.

# Reliance NU Suntech wins India's largest 930 MW solar project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance NU Suntech, an arm of Reliance Power, has won country's single largest 930 MW solar project with 1,860 MW battery energy storage system from SECI.

The subsidiary has secured the solar with storage project in an e-reverse auction held by SECI on Monday, parent Reliance Power said in a statement. "Reliance NU Suntech has won 930 MW solar energy contract from SECI. This is the single largest project of solar and battery storage system in India," the company said.

As per the terms of the tender, Reliance NU Suntech will also have to install a minimum storage capacity of 465 MW/1,860 MWh charged by solar power.

An energy storage system of 465 MW/1,860 MWh means 465 MW of battery energy can provide power backup for four hours, giving a total output of 1,860 MW.

Reliance NU Suntech has won the project at a tariff of Rs 3.53/kWh.

The Letter of Award (LoA) is awaited from SECI. Reliance NU Suntech will develop the project on a build-own-operate basis and connect it to the interstate transmission system (ISTS) in compliance with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) regulations for interconnection with the ISTS.

SECI's Tranche XVII auction was for a total capacity of 2,000 MW of ISTS connected solar power projects with 1,000 MW/4,000 MWh energy storage systems. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is one of the nodal agencies to implement RE projects in India.

# Sanjay Malhotra takes charge as RBI's 26th Governor

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday took charge as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Malhotra, a career bureaucrat, arrived at the central bank's headquarter this morning, where he was welcomed by senior RBI staffers.

The central bank confirmed Malhotra's appointment through a post on the microblogging site "X" and also shared a few pictures.

Malhotra, who recently served as the Revenue Secretary, signed the documents to take the charge of the important institution that performs a variety of roles. Deputy Governors Swaminathan J, M Rajeshwar Rao, and T Rabi Sankar were present when he assumed charge. Malhotra, an IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre comes at the helm of RBI at a very critical juncture, where growth and inflation balance has "unsettled" as per his predecessor Shaktikanta Das. GDP Growth declined to a seven-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in the September quarter while the October headline inflation was above the 6 per cent mark set for the central bank by the government. Analysts are expecting the RBI to cut interest rates at the forthcoming policy review in February, and are of the opinion that Malhotra's appointment "cements" the possibility.

# SEBI to launch survey on risk awareness, increasing retail participation in capital marketing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Market regulator SEBI will conduct a pan India survey on how to bring more people into the capital market, create risk awareness and bridge the gaps in the ecosystem, a Sebi official said on Wednesday.

Sebi whole time member Ananth Narayan G said that volatility in the Indian markets is low and USD 14 billion FPI outflow in



October-November was matched by an equivalent

amount of inflow by the domestic investors, like

mutual funds. He, however, cautioned that there is no room for complacency.

"While we celebrate the growth of domestic investors, it does not mean we do not need foreign investments. We need foreign investment. We have to ensure that we remain an attractive destination to draw in investment across the globe so that we can fund future growth,"

Narayan said at the CII Global Economic Policy Forum 2024.

He also said that this inflow from retail and fresh investors should not be taken for granted.

"We have to nurture the golden goose. We are worried about young people, many of them have not seen investment cycle or capital market downside (investing in market), Narayan said while

wondering that if there is adequate risk awareness. The regulator, he said, is working with AMFI, exchanges and clearing corporations to increase investor awareness.

Narayan also said that Sebi will be launching a pan-India survey on how to bring more people into the capital market ecosystem. How to make them risk aware. And also, the gaps in the system and how to bridge the gap.

# Maruti Suzuki eyes 8,000 overall service touchpoints by 2030-31



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday said it plans to increase its overall service network to 8,000 touchpoints by 2030-31, with an aim to reach closer to its customers. The company, which on Wednesday opened the 500th service touchpoint for its premium retail outlet NEXA, currently has 5,240 touchpoints across NEXA as well as ARENA - the mass market retail chain.

"Our aim is to consistently deliver convenience and superior car ownership experience to our customers. One way is by reaching closer to our customers so that they

have assurance of finding a Maruti Suzuki service touchpoint nearby," Maruti Suzuki India MD & CEO, Hisashi Takeuchi said in a statement.

He further said, "Going forward as we plan to substantially increase our annual production and sales, we will simultaneously strengthen our service network. Our plan is to expand our service network, including ARENA and NEXA service touchpoints, from about 5,240 to 8,000 by FY 2030-31." Maruti Suzuki opened its first NEXA service workshop in July 2024. Since then it has steadily expanded the touchpoints and added 90 such NEXA service touchpoints in 2023-24 alone, the highest in a year. So far this fiscal, the company has already added 78 new NEXA service touchpoints. The 500th NEXA service touchpoint milestone was reached in a span of 7 years and 5 months.

# Need to blend commercial considerations with economic priorities, strategic needs: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday stressed that India Inc's commercial considerations should blend with the economy, nation's priorities and strategic needs. Asking the industry to "realign and reset" itself based on the lessons learnt in the last decade, Sitharaman said the supply chains should be widespread lest geopolitical risks disrupt it. "Economic and commercial considerations today will have to blend (with) supply chains and its priorities with politics and strategic needs," Sitharaman said at the CII Global Economic Policy Forum 2024 here.

Outlining the priorities of the economy for the next decade, Sitharaman said the industry should work with small and medium enterprises to explore how they can support large units, while equally contributing to

job creation. "When we talk about restoring supply chains to frictionless supply chains, let's not forget it's not just economics, it's more than that... We have to build in our own decision making not just in economic sense but also in a political and strategic sense. "Supply chains will have to be restored but you would have to reset it, realign it, you will have to make sure that it is spread so much that it is not geopolitical or strategic risks will threaten our wellbeing," Sitharaman said.

Learning from the last decade are that the country will have to now realign, and industry will have to realign itself not just on economic principles. Sitharaman said the attempt of both industry and governments everywhere should be to restore global calm and normalcy. There can nowhere be enough justifiable reason for skirmishes or war, she said.

"The global priority for this decade should be to restore normalcy. They are the main cause for disruptions in supply chain, inflation and other global challenges," the Minister said.

Stating that the benefits of economic success will be spread properly only through technology, India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) and technology stack for agriculture have been democratised access. "Farmers are now able to access the global markets due to the advantage of technology. I'm sure that 'Agri Stack' will be the next big thing you will hear coming out of India," she added. "The world is facing challenges which are reflected in the economy," the Minister said. Industry will have to look at ways to adapt with newer challenges, she said, adding scale cannot be the only criteria.

# INBRIEF

## VIT-AP UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES GRAND 86TH BIRTHDAY OF CHANCELLOR DR.G. VISWANATHAN

AMARAVATI: On the occasion of the 86th birthday of VIT Founder and Chancellor, Dr. G. Viswanathan, VIT-AP University organized a blood donation camp in collaboration with Government General Hospital (GGH) Guntur.



## INSA HOLDS ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING AT SRMIST



KATTANKULATHUR: The 90 th Annual General Meeting of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) witnessed the participation of top Scientists from India and a few experts from industries.

## PROF. KARAMJEET SINGH JOINED AS NEW VICE CHANCELLOR OF GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY

AMRITSAR: Guru Nanak Dev University marked a significant milestone today as Prof. Karamjeet Singh, an eminent academician and founder Vice Chancellor of Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala formally assumed the position of Vice Chancellor.



# FIFA prepares to give host of 2034 World Cup to Saudi Arabia

**AP ■ ZURICH**  
Saudi Arabia will be confirmed by FIFA as host of the men's soccer 2034 World Cup on Wednesday, giving the oil-rich kingdom its biggest prize yet for massive spending on global sports driven by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The decision completes a mostly opaque 15-month bid process which FIFA president Gianni Infantino helped steer toward Saudi Arabia without a rival candidate, without taking questions, and which human rights groups warn will put the lives of migrant workers at risk. FIFA and Saudi officials say hosting the 2034 tournament can accelerate change, including more freedoms and rights for women. A fast-track path to victory was cleared last year by FIFA accepting a three-continent hosting plan for the 2030 World Cup led by Spain, Portugal and Morocco. That bid also will win Wednesday in a combined approval for the 2030 and 2034

tournament hosts by applause from more than 200 FIFA member federations in an online meeting hosted from Zurich by Infantino. It will kick off a decade of scrutiny on Saudi labor laws and treatment of workers mostly from South Asia needed to help build and upgrade 15 stadiums, plus hotels and transport networks ahead of the 104-game tournament. One of the stadiums is planned to be 350 meters (yards) above the ground in Neom — a futuristic city that does not yet exist — and another named for the crown prince is designed to be atop a 200-meter cliff near Riyadh. During the bid campaign, FIFA has accepted limited scrutiny of Saudi Arabia's human rights record that was widely criticized this year at the United Nations. Saudi and international rights groups and activists warned FIFA it has not learned the lessons of Qatar's much-criticized preparations to host the 2022 World Cup.



The kingdom plans to spend tens of billion of dollars on projects related to the World Cup as part of the crown prince's sweeping Vision 2030 project that aims to modernize Saudi society and economy. At its core is spending on sports by the \$900 billion sovereign wealth operation, the Public Investment Fund, which he oversees. Critics have called it "sportswashing" of the kingdom's

reputation. The prince, known as MBS, has built close working ties to Infantino since 2017 — aligning with the organizer of sport's most-watched event rather than directly confronting the established system as it did with the disruptive LIV Golf project. The result for Saudi Arabia and FIFA has been smooth progress toward the win Wednesday with limited pushback from soccer officials, though some from women international players. The steady flow of Saudi cash into international soccer is set to increase. FIFA created a new and higher World Cup sponsor category for state oil firm Aramco, and Saudi funding is set to underwrite the 2025 Club World Cup in the United States that is a pet project for Infantino. North American soccer body CONCACAF signed a multi-year deal with PIF, Saudi stadiums host Super Cup games for Italy and Spain, and nearly 50 FIFA member federations have signed working agreements with Saudi counterparts. Lavish spending by PIF-owned Saudi clubs in the past two years buying and paying players — including Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, Karim Benzema and Sadio Mané — put hundreds of millions of dollars into European soccer. That influence could be key in talks to agree which months to play the 2034 World Cup. The November-December slot taken by Qatar in 2022 to avoid extreme midsummer heat is complicated in 2034 by the holy month of Ramadan through mid-December and Riyadh hosting the multi-sport Asian Games. Still, January 2034 could be an option — and likely better for European clubs and leagues — after the International Olympic Committee said it saw few issues in clashing with the Salt Lake Winter Games opening Feb. 10, 2034. The IOC also has a major commercial deal with Saudi Arabia, to host the new Esports Olympics.



## Vandana Katariya hopes Women's HIL will boost confidence, talent flow

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**  
Star Indian forward Vandana Katariya believes the inaugural Women's Hockey India League will strengthen the talent flow to the national team, besides offering the players a never-before opportunity to "mingle with international players." Returning after a seven-year hiatus, the league, to be held from December 28 to February 5, will feature a women's competition for the first time. "As everyone can see in the previous editions, the men's team got a chance to mingle with international players, raise their confidence levels and it has helped the team immensely and they are getting medals on a consistent basis now," Vandana said in an HIL release. "I expect the same effect when the Women's HIL begins with four teams this year. This will be a good opportunity for players who could not make the cut for the National Camp to showcase their potential and grow under different coaches. "It will also help strengthen the conveyor belt of talent coming into the Indian women's hockey team." A veteran of 317 matches with 158 goals, the 32-year-old will lead the forward line of Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers in the inaugural edition. "When the HIL was running

for the men, I used to watch those matches and dream that I would one day play in a league like this. I cannot believe it is a reality now and we are just over a month away from starting the league," said Vandana, who was bought by the Bengal franchise for Rs 10.5 lakh at the HIL auction. "The women's team is looking at it as an opportunity to showcase potential. Playing with the best players in the world will undoubtedly improve our performance and confidence," she added. In addition to Vandana, Bengal Tigers have a strong Indian core comprising Udita, Lalremsiami, Beauty Dungdung, Mahima Choudhary and Sushila Chanu. Vandana will also share the dressing room with Olympic bronze medallist Fiona Crackles and Grace Stewart, a three-time Olympian from Australia. They also have a few young Indian prospects on the team like Jyothi Edula, Mumuni Das and Lalrinpuui. "The Women's HIL is a chance for me to show my capabilities so that I can maintain my place in the Indian Team but as a forward, I will concentrate equally on building good chemistry with all the players in the team. "The League is also bound to take a few players out of their shells and make them more comfortable," she added.

## Malaysian doubles coach Tan Kim Her returns for second stint

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Malaysian doubles specialist Tan Kim Her has been roped in by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for a four-year term till the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. "I am very happy to be back in India and get a chance to work with Satwik-Chirag and also the young and talented group of doubles players who have the potential to follow on the path of Satwik-Chirag," Tan said in a release. "I am looking forward to creating a bigger group of doubles combinations who can win tournaments at the world stage." Tan, who arrived in Hyderabad on Sunday, was India's doubles coach from 2015 to 2019 and was



instrumental in bringing Satwik and Chirag together before the 2016 Olympics. He will take over the reins from Denmark's Mathias Boe, who guided Satwik and Chirag to many highs, including attaining the world number 1 status, winning an Asian Games gold, and securing a World Championships bronze. However, the pair faced heartbreaks in two Olympics — Tokyo and Paris. In his second stint, Tan, who had taken up an offer from Japan's badminton association in 2019, will "focus on developing strong doubles partnerships and bench strength ahead of the 2026 Asian Games and 2028 Los Angeles Olympics." "We had been looking for quality foreign coaches who could work with our current top players and also guide our

next-generation players as we prepare for the 2028 Olympics," said BAI Secretary General Sanjay Mishra. "Finding the right coach took time, but we were determined to bring in those who can continue the development of our badminton stars and also work with a bigger group of players and help build a strong pipeline of talent for the future," he said. News of Tan's return has been doing the rounds since last month, but BAI had termed it "premature," saying nothing was concrete and the Malaysian was yet to accept the contract. In 2022, Tan was tipped to take over as doubles coach, but it didn't materialise. After returning to action following their heartbreaking quarter-final loss at the Paris Olympics, Satwik and Chirag had recorded a semifinal finish at the China Masters last month.



## 2027 Women's World Cup dates announced

**AP ■ ZURICH**  
The 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil will be played from June 24 to July 25. FIFA, soccer's international governing body, announced the dates Tuesday. Thirty-two teams will participate in the Women's World Cup, which is being played in South America for the first time. Brazil has one of CONMEBOL's three spots as host. UEFA has the largest number of slots with 11, followed by AFC with six, CAF and CONCACAF with four apiece and OFC with one. The other spots will be determined via playoff. Spain is the defending champion, having won the 2023 Women's World Cup jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand. FIFA is expected to announce the Brazilian host cities and stadiums for the tournament next year. Twelve bids were submitted, including many of the stadiums that hosted games for the men's World Cup in 2014.

## Shaurya Yadav stuns racing world

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
A 13-year-old Shaurya Yadav from Sarfabad village in Noida has attracted nationwide attention with his outstanding performance in the Red Rabbit Racers Championship held at Pink Falcon, Jaipur, Rajasthan. The Pink Falcon Red Rabbit Racers Championship saw participation from 40 competitors, most of whom were over 20 years old. Shaurya was the youngest driver in this competition, but his talent and courage placed him at the forefront. The championship was held in four rounds—Qualifying, Heat, Semifinals, and Finals. In the semifinals, Shaurya secured first place with the best lap time of 23.8 seconds, surpassing everyone. His remarkable performance in the finals astonished everyone. Although he couldn't claim the title, reaching the finals and competing among champions at such a young age is nothing short of a victory. Shaurya's achievement has not



only made him proud but also given his family and Sarfabad village a reason to celebrate. His performance serves as an inspiration for young athletes, demonstrating that hard work and confidence can overcome even the greatest challenges. Shaurya Yadav's achievement has become a source of inspiration for the youth of Sarfabad village. Shaurya's family has a historic and prestigious background. His great-grandfather was a freedom fighter who contributed to the country's independence. His grandfather, the late Shyam Singh Yadav, was a prominent

figure of his time and served as a village head and district council member, dedicated to public service. Shaurya's mother, Varsha Yadav, is currently the District Panchayat President from Badaun, known for her leadership and service. His father, Jitendra Yadav, is a former MLC and a senior BJP leader who has played a significant role in politics. With this glorious family legacy, Shaurya Yadav stepped into the world of sports and, through his hard work and determination, brought recognition not only to his family but also to his entire village. Shaurya Yadav has proven with his hard work and dedication that age is just a number. While Sarfabad was earlier famous for wrestling, Shaurya has now brought recognition to the village in the field of racing. Shaurya's success has taken him to new heights. In the coming times, he will showcase his talent on national and international platforms, making India proud.

## Liverpool still perfect in Champions League with 1-0 win over Girona

**AP ■ GIRONA**  
Mohamed Salah scored a second-half penalty to maintain Liverpool's perfect Champions League record in a 1-0 win over Girona. A sixth straight win kept the Merseyside club at the top of the revamped 36-team league stage — five points clear of second place Inter Milan. Girona was 30th with just one win from six games. Salah struck from the spot in the 63rd minute in Spain. It was his 16th goal of the season in 22 appearances overall. Dinamo Zagreb drew 0-0 with Celtic and both teams remain in the playoff positions. Liverpool's outstanding start to the campaign goes on top of Arne Slot's team also on top of the Premier League. Former Manchester United midfielder Donny van de Beek handed Salah the



chance to fire the visitors ahead with a clumsy tackle from behind on Luis Diaz in the box. Salah stepped up to convert the penalty and Girona goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga went the wrong way. Liverpool's two remaining games are against Lille at home and PSV Eindhoven away in January. U.S. International Christian Pulisic is the only player to have scored against Liverpool in this season's Champions League in a 3-1 loss for Milan in September. Six-time European Cup winner Liverpool is looking like the team to beat in the Champions League this season after big wins against holder Real Madrid and German champion Bayer Leverkusen last month.

## Not taking a break after Olympics left me emotionally drained: Tanisha Crasto

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Tanisha Crasto described her turbulent Olympic debut in Paris as a period of heartbreak, admitting she made the "mistake" of not taking a break afterward, but said reuniting with Ashwini Ponnappa with a renewed approach led to their triumph at the Guwahati Masters. Tanisha and her seasoned partner Ashwini, who endured three lopsided losses on the trot to make a stage exit in Paris, bounced back to put up a dominant performance and defend their Guwahati Masters Super 100 title on Sunday. "It's been a tough transition after the Olympics for everyone, including me and Didi (Ashwini). I made the

mistake of not taking a break, and it left me emotionally drained. But Didi took a huge break, and when we reunited, we focused on enjoying the game," the 21-year-old told PTI Videos. "We decided not to think about results, just to go out there and enjoy ourselves. And when we did that, the results followed." The Paris Olympics was a challenging chapter for Tanisha and all other Indian shuttlers as India returned without a medal for the first time in 12 years. "It hurts because you're there, representing your country, and when things don't go your way, it's tough to process... I didn't take a break after the Olympics, thinking it would help me snap out of it. But as a person, I was a

mess, dealing with insane emotions", she said. For her 35-year-old partner Ashwini, the Olympics marked an emotional turning point as well, as she announced that the 2024 Olympics was her last ever. "We cried together during an interview, and even the interviewer was moved to tears," Tanisha recalled. "It was a mix of emotions, but it strengthened our bond", she added. Tanisha also had a runners-up finish along side her mixed doubles partner Dhruv Kapila going down to Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampra in a tough three-game battle at the Syed Modi International Super 300 event in Lucknow earlier this month. "We had a very tough draw



since the first match. For Dhruv (Kapila), who was recovering from an ankle tear, to pull through until the finals and defeat good pairs is something I'm really proud of." "They (Dechapol and Supissara) really caught us off guard in the final two games. And they really changed the whole game. "And Dechapol being a very, very experienced player, he's won a number of titles. I think he really managed the pressure of the game. And he really controlled the game very well in the second and third. "Could we have won? Yes, 100 per cent. Did we do enough in the second and third games? No. But I'm proud of how we played overall, especially considering Dhruv's injury," she said. As 2024 wraps up, Tanisha is already setting her sights on the challenges of 2025. "Our first big goal is the Malaysia Super 1000, and we're going all in... Ashwini and I are likely to be seeded, so it's an important start to the year." The youngster shared her dream of doing well at the marquee events like the All England Championships, World Championships, and the 2026 Asian Games. "I think every tournament is something that we really wish to do something great... We're really eyeing out for the All England, the World Championships, and also the Asian Games in 2026. So these are the bigger goals as of now," she signed off.

# India loses to Australia, suffer 0-3 whitewash

**PTI ■ PERTH**  
Opener Smriti Mandhana's elegant century went in vain as India lost to Australia by 83 runs in the third Women's ODI to suffer a 0-3 series whitewash here on Wednesday.  
Opting to field after winning the toss, India had Australia on the ropes at 78 for four before middle-order batter Annabel Sutherland's scintillating 95-ball 110, and brisk half centuries from Ashleigh Gardner (50) and skipper Tahlia McGrath (56 not out), lifted the hosts to a competitive 298 for six in the allotted 50 overs at WACA.  
In reply, India were bowled out for 215 in 45.1 overs.  
In pursuit of a stiff target of 299, the stylish Mandhana anchored the innings beautifully during her 105 off 109 balls and as long as the southpaw was at the crease, the visitors were in with a chance.  
However, her dismissal at a crucial juncture put paid to India's hopes of earning a consolation win.  
The problem with the Indian innings was that the senior batter lacked support from the others after Alana King ended a 118-run partnership between Mandhana and Harleen Deol (39 off 64 balls) by dismissing the latter.  
During her stay in the middle, Mandhana found the fence 14 times



and cleared it once, leading the team's recovery after the swashbuckling Richa Ghosh's (2) early departure.  
Spin bowling all-rounder Gardner completed a fine match by taking five wickets for 30 runs after her contribution with the willow.  
Besides Ghosh, captain Harmanpreet Kaur (12 off 22 balls) and Jemimah Rodrigues (16 off 11 balls) failed with the bat, and it did not help India's cause.  
Senior all-rounder Deepti Sharma too flopped, getting out for a duck. Earlier, Australia survived a stellar spell from India pacer Arundhati Reddy to post a challenging total in the final match of what has been a one-side series dominated

powerplay with Phoebe Litchfield (25 off 33) and Georgia Voll (26 off 30) going strong.  
However, Reddy, playing only her fifth ODI, changed the course of the game in one over by removing the openers in a space of four balls.  
Unlike Renuka Thakur and Saima Thakor, Reddy got the ball to swing back from a fuller length which led to the fall of last match's centurion Voll, who saw her stumps disturbed.  
Left-handed Litchfield was caught behind chasing an away swinger and all the momentum gained by Australia was suddenly lost.  
Next to depart was star all-rounder Elyse Perry who had no answer to a beauty from Reddy that held its line to hit the top of off-stump.  
When Beth Mooney departed, Australia were reduced to 78 for four from 58 for no loss.  
Sutherland and Gardner then showed the enviable depth of the Australian batting by sharing a 96-run stand for the fifth wicket.  
Sutherland was the aggressor in the partnership and especially pounded the spinners, smashing two fours and a six off Deepti in the 40th over.  
India's catching left a lot to be desired as they grassed three tough chances.  
McGrath joined Sutherland in the 35th over and the duo pushed the score towards 300.



## Entire Australian top-order is under pressure: Warner

**PTI ■ BRISBANE**  
It's not just Usman Khawaja but the entire Australian top-order that is feeling the 'pressure' despite the series-levelling win in Adelaide, reckons former opener David Warner.  
While the under-fire Marnus Labuschagne found form with a resolute fifty, batting mainstay Steve Smith and rookie opener Nathan McSweeney continue to search for runs in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy.  
"I think the pressure is on all the top order, not just 'Uzzie', the former Australian left-hander was quoted saying by Fox Cricket.  
Travis Head smashed a memorable hundred at home as Australia bounce back to level the five match series after a crushing loss in Perth.  
"Travis came out and counter-punched and scored a brilliant hundred, and we know he's capable of doing it. But it's everyone else around supporting that," said Warner.  
"It's not just one player in particular, it's the top six scoring bulk runs and making sure you're giving rest to the fast bowlers. It was a fast-paced Test in the first game, but this last one was Mitchell Starc at his best as usual with the pink ball.  
"Come Brisbane, we need to see some big runs from the top order," he said about the third Test beginning here on Saturday.  
McSweeney had a forgettable debut in Perth being trapped LBW by Jasprit Bumrah in both his innings for 10 and 0, while



## Gabba pitch to have traditional pace and bounce, says curator

**PTI ■ BRISBANE**  
The pitch for the third Test between India and Australia at the Gabba is expected to have traditional pace and bounce considering the game is scheduled in the early part of the summer and not post Christmas.  
India's famous win at the Gabba on their previous tour came when the game was scheduled in the second half of the series. A Rishabh Pant special ensured India a back-to-back series win Down Under with Australia left licking their wounds. It was the hosts' first loss at the venue since 1988.  
Since then Australia have lost to the West Indies at the 'fortress' and no wonder the players prefer to play at the Gabba at the start of the summer and not at end of it.  
"Different times of year definitely makes it different, it can be a slightly different pitch," Gabba curator David Sandurski was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au ahead of the third Test beginning Saturday.  
"Pitches later in the season might have a bit more wear and tear while ones early in

## West Indies win ODI series against Bangladesh

**AP ■ BASSETERRE**  
The West Indies won a one-day international series against Bangladesh for the first time in 10 years.  
The West Indies shot out Bangladesh for 227 in 46 overs and strolled to 230-3 in 37 overs on Tuesday.  
The host won the series with a game to spare.  
"It's great to see the bowlers bounce back the way they did," captain Shai Hope said. "Gotta tick boxes and keep improving. We were clinical. We've been struggling to win series at home (so) hope to finish 3-0 now."  
On the same pitch where the West Indies won by five wickets on Sunday, the par score was 300. But fast bowler Jayden Seales undercut Bangladesh with three wickets in the first powerplay. Seales returned to bag Mahmudullah for 62 in the 45th over and



finish with a match-deciding 4-22 in nine overs.  
The chase was almost a formality. Brandon King and Evin Lewis opened with a 109-run partnership in 21 overs. King led with 82 and Lewis and Keacy Carty were out just short of half-centuries.  
Bangladesh was 115-7 in the 26th over when Tanzim Hasan Sakib joined Mahmudullah and they rescued the innings.  
While they were batting with increasing ambition, Bangladesh could dream of 270-280.  
Mahmudullah reached a fifty off 84 balls, and Tanzim was closing on his when he was out caught and bowled by off-spinner Roston Chase.  
Tanzim had 45 off 62 and the partnership reached 92 runs

from 106 balls.  
Mahmudullah was out in the next over for 62 off 92.  
In the chase, Lewis was slower to get in a groove than King and was dropped on 28.  
King and Lewis were both hit on the body in the 40s while attempting pulls at Nahid Rana.  
King's eighth boundary brought up his fifty off 52 balls but Lewis was out for 49, to a tame caught and bowled by Rishad Hossain.  
King's best shot was a six when he came down the track at Tanzim and sent the ball back over the medium-pace's head and rebounding off the roof.  
He was eventually yorkered by Rana, out for 82 off 76 balls, including eight boundaries and three sixes.  
He'd combined for 66 in eight overs with Carty, who would fall for 45 off 47 with victory just 31 more runs away.

# Alcaraz has best of Nadal, Djokovic, Federer, but he can't do what they did: Agassi

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**  
Legendary Andre Agassi said Carlos Alcaraz combines the best qualities of Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal but cautioned the tennis world against expecting the Spaniard to repeat the incredible feats of the 'Fab Three'.  
Federer, Nadal and Djokovic have a combined tally of 66 Grand Slams and Alcaraz, 21, has so far bagged four majors.  
"I'm not a genius and I don't have a crystal ball. What I can tell you is Alcaraz defends like Novak, has power and spin like Nadal and has hands and finesse like Federer," said Agassi during a talk session during the Marathon Mindset at the TiE Global Summit.  
Agassi, himself an eight-time Slam champion, then outlined the reason to not place a massive load of expectations on Alcaraz.  
"Just because he has the best of all



those three doesn't mean he can do what they did because there's so many other parts to the game, which mean decision-making, injuries, you know, luck," he said.  
At 37, Djokovic too is closer to his retirement and Agassi said the Serbian will now find it even tougher to remain competitive in the absence of the retired Nadal and Federer.  
"He's already done so much, so long, and it's hard to imagine longer. I think he'll run out of the energy for it more than the capability of it, I would imagine.

"It cannot be easy, especially when the people you came to the dance with have left." The American explained his thoughts further.  
"When Pete (Sampras) retired, it was a blow to me. It set me back a little bit. It made me have to rediscover my inspirations on some level.  
"And he's (Djokovic) lost the guys that he's made history with. So, it's probably emotionally going to get tougher and tougher quickly, but I would never bet against him. Bet against him at your own peril," said Agassi.  
To prolong his career, Djokovic has hired former British player Andy Murray as his coach, and Agassi remained curious about the future of their alliance.  
"They've been fierce rivals on court, and now Murray will be coaching Djokovic. Well, in any coaching student relationship, you need trust. Trust can take time.

"I think there's an asset to their history as competitors, but any success of a relationship is based on (9:07) complete buy-in."  
Agassi backs American players The 54-year-old from Las Vegas said the new generation of American players have the ability to bring the country back to the top layers of the tennis world, like it was in the 80s and 90s.  
"I was the first one to turn pro. I made (Michael) Chang, Pete, (Jim) Courier believe they could do it. And then Chang was the first one to win (Grand Slam), Pete believed that he could win, and made Courier believe that he could win, and then Courier said, well, I can not only win, I can be number one in the world.  
"And I was saying, wait a second, what the hell about me? So we all helped each other in a lot of ways, and I think these Americans now are starting to prove to the other Americans that not only they can do it," he detailed.

## Brook displaces Root at top of Test batter rankings

**PTI ■ DUBAI**  
Charismatic England batter Joe Root's reign at the top of the ICC Test batting rankings ended on Wednesday with compatriot Harry Brook taking the No.1 spot, while India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and spinner Ravindra Jadeja held on to their top positions in the bowlers' and all-rounders' charts respectively in the longest format.  
Brook, 25, overtook Root following his eighth Test century against New Zealand in Wellington last week, with the right-handed player now enjoying a slender one-point advantage over his more experienced teammate at the top of the latest ICC rankings.  
Brook has a total of 898



rating points, one more than Root, and joins Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar with the equal 34th highest rating of all time for Test batters.  
Root had held on to the top spot since July this year when he displaced former New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson from the No.1 position.  
Brook scored 123 and 55 in England's massive 323-run victory over New Zealand,

while Root had innings of 3 and 106 in the same Test.  
"If you asked me, Brook is by far and away the best player in the world at the minute," Root said following England's victory in Wellington.  
"He has such an all-round game, he can absorb pressure, he can apply it, he can whack you over your head for six, he can scoop you over his head for six, he can smack spin, he can bowl to."  
Bumrah maintained his No.1 position at the top of the Test bowlers' rankings with 890 rating points. The Indian has some tough competition from South Africa quick Kagiso Rabada (856) and Australian pace bowler Josh Hazlewood (851).

**AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED**  
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Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned below. The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.

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KRISHNA BAI, PARAMJEET KAUR, SHARWAN KUMAR (A/C NO.) LNTNH03622-230281837	13-MAY-24 Rs. 2402326/- 7-MAY-24	PROPERTY NO.01-KHEWAT NO 840, KHASRA NO 272/6(17-0) SITUATED AT RATIA WITHIN MC AREA RAMNAGAR COLONY TEHSIL RATIA DISTRICT FATEHABAD, & PROPERTY NO.02-KHEWAT NO.939, KHTONI NO. 1184, KHASRA NO. 276/6(17-0) SITUATED AT TEHSIL RATIA DISTRICT FATEHABAD, HARYANA ADMESURING PROPERTY NO.01- 5 MARLA & PROPERTY NO.02- 121 SQ. YARDS.	PHYSICAL POSSESSION TAKEN ON 6-DEC-24

Place : Jaipur Date: 12-12-2024 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

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**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL AVIATION UNIVERSITY**  
नागर विमान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के तहत एक केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय  
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क्रमांक/S.N.	पद का नाम /Name of the post(s)	पदों की संख्या/No. of Posts	वेतनमान/ Pay Level
1	प्रोफेसर (विमानन विज्ञान पाठ्यक्रम) – 2 पद /Professor (Aviation Science Courses) – 2 posts		
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Last date for submission of online application 31 January 2025  
CBC-03110/12/0017/2425 कृत्स्नसचिव/ Registrar