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INSIDE

WORLD 9
PUTIN BOASTS OF GAINS IN UKRAINE AT ANNUAL NEWS CONFERENCE

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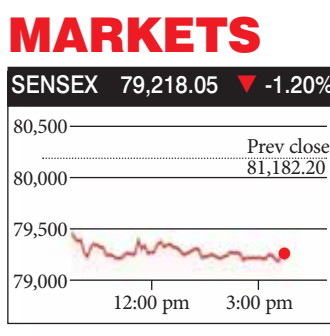
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Sensex sinks below 80k



PTI ■ MUMBAI
Equity benchmark Sensex on Thursday plunged about 965 points to crash below the 80,000 level due to heavy selling in global equities after the US Federal Reserve signalled fewer rate cuts next year. Besides, deep losses in consumer durables, banking and IT stocks amid foreign fund outflows added to the gloom, analysts said. Falling for the fourth day running, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 964.15 points or 1.20 per cent to settle at 79,218.05. During the day, the blue-chip index cracked 1,162.12 points or 1.44 per cent to 79,020.08. As many as 2,315 stocks declined while 1,680 advanced and 100 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty tumbled 247.15 points or 1.02 per cent to sink

below the 24,000 mark at 23,951.70. In the past four days, the BSE benchmark tanked 2,915.07 points or 3.54 per cent and the Nifty declined 816.6 points or 3.29 per cent. "The Indian market saw a widespread decline following a global sell-off driven by the US Fed's hawkish stance on interest rates. Sectors sensitive to interest rates, such as banking and real estate, significantly bore the brunt. "However, the BoJ's decision to keep its interest rate steady, which surprised economists, aided in reducing the selling pressure. Despite this, investor caution persisted amid ongoing FII selling, with a strategic shift towards defensive sectors like pharma as evidenced by their outperformance," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.



From the 30 blue-chip pack, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra were the biggest laggards. On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Power Grid and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers. Markets were plundered,

tracking negative global cues as benchmark indices slipped below their psychological levels on broad-based selling after the US Fed's hawkish stance raised concerns over further rate cuts next year. Rising US bond yields have pushed global currencies, including the rupee to new lows, while renewed foreign fund outflows from domestic equities could prompt investors to turn risk averse," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. The rupee dropped 14 paise and breached the crucial 85 level to close at an all-time low of 85.08 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday. The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.30 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.28 per cent. Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT tanked 1.20 per cent, consumer durables (1.15 per cent), IT (1.13 per cent), capital goods (1.07 per cent), teck (1.05 per cent) and financial services (1.05 per cent). BSE Healthcare emerged as the only gainer. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. Wall Street ended sharply lower on Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,316.81 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.08 per cent to USD 73.33 a barrel. The BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 502.25 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 80,182.20, taking its downtrend to the third day on Wednesday. The Nifty declined 137.15 points or 0.56 per cent to 24,198.85.



Uttar Pradesh, Haryana Govts must impose complete ban on firecrackers: SC

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Governments to impose a complete ban on firecrackers until further orders. The Delhi Government has also imposed a round-the-year ban on firecrackers in the National Capital. The SC has also ordered the states falling in the National Capital Region (NCR) to constitute teams of various officials to ensure strict compliance with the anti-pollution measures under Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). During the hearing, Senior advocate Shadaan Farasat, appearing for the Government, conveyed this to a Bench of Justices AS Oka and AG Masih hearing the question of air pollution in the National Capital. He emphasised that for this measure to be effective, neighbouring NCR states must adopt similar bans, as firecrackers could still be brought into Delhi from those states. "We are of the view that this ban will be effective only when other states forming part of the NCR region impose similar measures. Even the state of Rajasthan has

WEATHER

AQI	451
MAX	23°C (+1)
MIN	5°C (-3)

year-round ban on firecrackers, including their manufacture, storage, sale, distribution, and use. "We direct NCR states to constitute the teams of members of police, revenue officials to monitor the implementation of GRAP IV measures. We say this that the members so created in this team will work as officers of this court. They will regularly submit reports of compliance and breaches to CAQM [Commission for Air Quality Management] so that immediate action be taken by all concerned," it directed. The Bench was hearing the case concerning the Delhi air pollution crisis. The Court has been monitoring action taken by authorities in the adjoining States to curb stubble-burning incidents, among other things. Meanwhile, in a notification issued by the Delhi government's environment department on Thursday, "There shall be a complete ban on manufacturing, storage, selling (including delivery through online marketing platforms) and bursting of all kinds of fire crackers in NCT of Delhi throughout the year with immediate effect."

"Will run a nationwide movement on Ambedkar issue"



Congress on Thursday accused the BJP of diverting attention from the issue of Home Minister Amit Shah's "insult" to BR Ambedkar and said Shah must resign and apologise for his remarks. Addressing a joint Press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi condemned Shah's remarks on Ambedkar and said they would continue to protest across the country.

"The BJP wants to divert attention from Shah's remarks on Ambedkar and that is why they are raising other issues," Kharge stated. He said they (Congress leaders) were only demanding the resignation of Home Minister Shah and were protesting "in support of our demands, but the BJP MPs blocked us from entering Parliament." "They pushed me, I lost my balance and sat down," the Congress chief said, adding that he condemns Shah's remarks

on Ambedkar. Kharge said they will run a nationwide movement on Ambedkar issue. Rahul said the Bharatiya Janata Party-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh thinking is "anti-Constitution" and "anti-Ambedkar". "The BJP is indulging in distraction. We want the apology and resignation of home minister over his remarks on Ambedkar," Gandhi said, adding that they would continue to raise their demand and the Adani issue.

"Will physical strength be used in Parliament?"



Accusing Rahul Gandhi of "pushing and shoving" its Members of Parliament at the Parliament premises, Bharatiya Janata Party said he does not deserve to be the Leader of Opposition after an "indecent and shameful" conduct. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters hours after fracas unfolded during protests by the ruling, and Opposition parties, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan put the blame on

Rahul for bedlam which left two MPs injured. "Rahul Gandhi does not deserve to hold the post of the Leader of Opposition," he said. Chouhan said that the party was also painted at the treatment meted out to its tribal MP from Nagaland, S Phangnon Konyak, who alleged in the Rajya Sabha that Rahul shouted at her after coming in "close proximity" that made her feel uncomfortable during a demonstration outside the Parliament's Makar Dwar.

"Will physical strength be used in Parliament? Will musclemen and goondas come to Parliament? In which direction is the Congress taking the country's democracy?" said the BJP leader, who was flanked by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and party MPs Anurag Thakur and Anil Baluni. The Agriculture Minister said people elect their leaders to Parliament hoping they will put forth issues "with facts and logic. But the Congress is changing it."

Traffic alert: Avoid Kalindi Kunj, congestion due to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway construction

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
Commuters have been creeling under massive disruptions at the busy Kalindi Kunj junction, due to the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. The Delhi Police, in an advisory on Thursday, urged the commuters to avoid the area due to the ongoing construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, including that of a bridge at Agra Canal Road, which is expected to continue for the next couple of months. "The ongoing construction of the delhi-mumbai expressway, including the construction of a bridge at agra canal road, is expected to continue for the next couple of months. Due to

this, significant traffic congestion has been observed at Kalindi Kunj junction, especially as commuters from adjoining states pass through the area," it said. The police instructed the commuters that in light of the ongoing construction and resulting traffic disruptions, the general public is advised to plan their journeys in advance and seek alternate routes to avoid delays. They asked people travelling to avoid the area around Kalindi Kunj junction during peak hours to prevent inconvenience. Commuters travelling from Faridabad to Noida are advised to take Mathura Road and Road number-13 to bypass the congested area. Those

travelling from Noida to Delhi have been advised to use the DND flyover. Public transport is highly recommended to reduce congestion on the roads and avoid roadside parking to ensure smooth traffic flow, the advisory added. A commuter took to X to express his frustration over the persistent jams in the area, stating that while the Kalindi Kunj stretch is hardly 2 km long and should not take more than five minutes to cross the bridge with moderate traffic, it takes 30 to 40 minutes to cross this tiny stretch. Another one asked others to avoid Kalindi Kunj from Noida to Delhi at all cost. Sharing the ordeal he faced to cross the stretch, he said, "It took me an hour just to cover a distance of



just 250 meters recently. They keep constructing new things to cut short duration from one place to another, however they completely forget that in that process we, the ordinary commuters, have to suffer on a daily basis," he said, adding that authorities should first plan the whole thing in a way that it doesn't hamper the day to day lives of the people. Constructed with a budget of Rs 5,500 crore, the expressway offers a new route for travel to Faridabad, Palwal, and Sohna. It is India's longest expressway project, connecting Delhi and Mumbai. The project aims to directly link the national capital Delhi with Mumbai, linking multiple economic centres across five states: Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. The eight-lane greenfield expressway spans a total length of 1,386 km, designed to reduce travel time between Delhi and Mumbai by 50 per cent, aiming for a travel duration of just 12 hours. Beyond connecting the two major cities, it is intended to improve accessibility to economic hubs such as Jaipur, Kishangarh, Ajmer, Kota, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and Surat. The project commenced operations with the inauguration of its first segment between Sohna (Haryana) and Dausa (Rajasthan) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 February 2023.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Lalit S/o Sh. Tale Ram R/o Village Aterna, Teh. Rai, Sonipat has break all my relations with my wife Madhu as she is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with her, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Kamlesh Rani W/O Krishan Lal R/O Near Kali Mata Mandir, Peermachalla, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, Declare that my Son Jitander Chandra is out of my control. I Disown my Son From my All Movable and immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with him will do at his own risk and cost. I will have nothing to do with it.

I, Kamlesh Rani W/O Krishan Lal R/O Near Kali Mata Mandir, Peermachalla, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, Declare that my Son Neeraj Chandra is out of my control. I Disown my Son From my All Movable and immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with him will do at his own risk and cost. I will have nothing to do with it.

I, Satyawan S/o Mangat Ram and My wife Babita Rani R/o # 508A, Sector 46A, Chandigarh Declare that our Son Nikhil Tushawar and his wife Shabnam are out of our control. We disowned them from our all moveable/ immovable properties. Anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Rashmi D/o Shri Desh Raj, Wife of Shri Rahul Gaba resident of House No. 542/4, Geeta Colony, Taraori Tehsil Niokeheri District Karnal. I declare that my brother Ramesh Kumar alias Rishabh is beyond my reach. Therefore I am breaking all relations with him. In future I will have no relation with him.

I, Nareesh S/o Sh. Banarsi R/o house no.39, Rajiv colony sector 17 Panchkula Haryana, Declare that my son Naveen and his wife Savita are out of my control. So, I disown them from my all Moveable / Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing with them at their own Risk.

I, Parmjit Singh S/o Sh.Narata Singh R/o house no.305,Village & P.O Saketri Panchkula Haryana, Declare that my son Hardeep and his wife Manju Rani are out of my control. So, I disown them from my all Moveable / Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing with them at their own Risk.

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Raj Kumar R/O Village Rani Majra Tehsil Derabassi Distt SAS nagar Mohali Punjab, I have disowned my son Bikram Singh from my moveable immovable properties due to out of my control, anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Raj Kumar R/O Village Rani Majra Tehsil Derabassi Distt SAS nagar Mohali Punjab, I have disowned my son Bikram Singh from my moveable immovable properties due to out of my control, anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Lakhmire Singh S/O Ujagar Singh R/O Village Kami Khurd Sub Tehsil Ghanaur Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That My Son Sukpreet Singh And His Wife Narinder Kaur And My Son Kamalpreet Singh And His Wife Maninder Kaur All Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown All Of Them From All My Movable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With All On Their Own Risk.

We, Rajinder Prasad Gupta, S/o Late Shri Chatter Jain and Mrs. Kusum Gupta, W/o Shri Rajinder Prasad Gupta, R/o H.No. 1048, Sector-10, Panchkula Haryana, declare that our son Rajat Gupta and his wife Rajni Bansal is not in our Control. We disown our Son and his wife from our Movable and immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with them will be solely responsible for his legal and illegal Activities. We and any of our family member have nothing to do with him.

I, Hari Lal S/O late.sh.paltu Ram R/o house no 255 phase 2, Bapudham colony sector 26 Chandigarh declare that my son Namdip declare that my son Namdip Rahul and his wife Nandini both are out of my control so that I disown both of them from my all movable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with their own risk.

I, Nirmala W/o Hari Lal late.sh.paltu Ram R/o house no 255 phase 2, Bapudham colony sector 26 Chandigarh declare that my son Namdip declare that my son Namdip Rahul and his wife Nandini both are out of my control so that I disown both of them from my all movable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with their own risk.

We Abhishek Roy S/o Ajay Roy and Chetna Srivastava W/O Abhishek Roy R/o Flat no 803 Block H1, Maya Garden city, SAS Nagar, Punjab, declare that we have already snapped ties with Prerna Srivastava and her husband Prithvi Roy. Neither we have any financial dealing nor any relation as we are not in talking terms with them as we live separately from them & never interfered in their daily affairs & have nothing to do with their personal or family life. This declaration is being made by Abhishek Roy & Chetna Srivastava out of free will and it is for all the purpose or intent of declaring broken ties with Prerna Srivastava & her husband Prithvi Roy.

I, Hareet Kaur Bajwa D/o Hargobind Singh R/o Greater Kailash, Batala declare that I am known by both names Hareet Kaur and Hareet Kaur Bajwa. Both names pertain to one and the same person.

I, Gurmial Kaur W/o GS 178675F Carpenter Jaswinder Singh presently serving in 1512 REMPL care 116 RCC (GREF) Pin-930116 R/o Vpo. Harsi Pind Teh-Tanda Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, declare that erroneously I have changed my name from Gurmial Kaur to Gurmial Singh. My correct date of birth is 24 April 1975.

I, Butta Singh S/O Diwan Singh R/O VPO Safdarpur Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that in my Passport No M8970538 My Name Written Boota Singh. Actually My Correct Name is Spelling is Butta Singh as per my Aadhar card record.

I, Karnajal Kaur Wd of No. 44477193 Late Sep. Iqbal Singh Vpo. Panwan Teh-Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Pb, declare that in my husband's Army Record my name written Naranjani Kaur wrongly. Actually my name is Karnajal Kaur as per my Aadhar Card, Birth certificate record.

I, V Ravi Is Legally Father Of No. 16116028f, Hav, Deepan, R. Unit Of 5 Engr Regt, C/O 56 APO, Residing At 112/9, Ellai Street, Melagudalur, Uthamapalayam, Gudalur, Theni, (Tamil Nadu) Pin-625518, Have Changed My Name From V Ravi To Ravi V & Date Of Birth From 01/07/1963 To 06/03/1964.

I, Harjeet Kaur Wife Of Army No 1492512n Ex Lance Naik Hardeep Singh S/O Gurmial Singh Resident Of Vpo Phero Ke Tehsil Zira Distt Ferozepur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Harjeet Kaur To Harjit Kaur And Also Change My Date Of Birth From 16 Oct 1985 To 01 Jan 1985 In My Husband Army Service Records As Per Affidavit Dated 19 Dec 2024.

I, No. JC- 501156M Ex Sub Gurninder Singh S/O Jarnail Singh R/O VPO Nabipur Tehsil & Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib (Pb.) declare That I have served with Sikh Regt for the period from 21 Dec 1994 to 31 Dec 2022. That Jasbir Kaur is my real mother. As per Army Records the name and date of birth of my said mother has been written as Jasvir Kaur and date of birth 27 Nov 1954. Whereas as per Aadhar Card and PAN Card her correct name is Jasvir Kaur and correct date of birth is 01 Jan 1956. Hence name & DOB of my mother be change.

I Sudha Mattpati Is Legally Mother Of No. 16123486a, Spr, Santhosha Parayya Mathapathi Of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Residing At Ward No.16, Hyagade Plot, Tq Mudhol Vtc Mahalingapur, P.O. Mahalingapur, District Bagalkot State Karnataka Pin-587312 Declare That My Name Sudha And Date Of Birth 05.02.1966 Wrongly Written In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is Sudha Mattpati And Correct Date Of Birth 01.01.1966

I, R Rajathi Is Legally Mother Of No. 16116028f Hav, Deepan R Unit Of 5 Engr. Regt, C/O 56 APO, Residing At D 131b, Ellai Street, Melagudalur, Uthamapalayam, Gudalur, Theni, (Tamil Nadu) Pin-625518 Have Changed My Name From R Rajathi To Rajathi & Date Of Birth From 01/07/1972 To 25/03/1969.

CHANGE OF NAME

It Is For General Information That I, Ravina D/O Inder Singh Residing At Adiyana (48), Panipat, Haryana-132113 Declare That The Name Of My Father Has Been Wrongly Written As Inder In My Board Of School Education Haryana Class 10th & 12th Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of My Father Is Inder Singh Respectively Which May Be Amended Accordingly. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

I, Sakshi D/o Surender Singh Chandna R/o 19B, Inderpuri, Old D.C Road, Sonipat 131001 have changed my name to Sakshi Chandna for all future purposes.

I, Sukhpal Sarang Alias Bunti S/O. Avinash Singh R/O. #2185/C, Sector 63, Chandigarh. I Have Changed My Name From Sukhpal Sarang Alias Bunti To Sukhpal Sarang.

I, Sachin Kapoor S/O Gajinder Kapoor R/O 1349, Ward no. 20, Vishnu Nagar, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Sachin Kumar to Sachin Kapoor.

I, Sanjay S/o Hari Ram R/o 314, City Centre Road, Ram Kunj, Bihar Mandir, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Sanjay to Sanjay Kumar.

I, Satya w/o Late Mamraj R/O # 189, Alahar Yamuna Nagar Haryana do hereby by declare that I have Changed my Name from Satya to Satya Rani. Please note.

I, Savita Sood w/o Sh. Krishan Singh R/o H.No. 2123, Ambedkar colony, Dhanas, Chandigarh declare that I have changed my name from Savita Sood to Savita.

I, Dilbag Singh S/O Gurdial Singh Chauhan R/O 76, Sewa Nagar, Ram Tirath Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Dilbag Singh to Dilbag Singh Chauhan. Concerned please note.

I Savitri Devi w/o Kamal Dev R/o village Nalwa Po and Tehsil Kasauli District Solan HP have changed my name from Sumitra Devi Katoch to Savitri Devi . And my correct date of birth is 20-06-1961, All Concerns please note.

I hitherto known as Amarjit Singh Jaggi S/o Gurbachan Singh, R/O C/4-2489, Bye pass Bilsapur Road, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, 135001 (Haryana), India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amarjit Singh.

I, Vinod Saini S/O Yodh Singh R/O Dida Sainiya Tehsil And Distt. Gurdaspur (Punjab), Inform That I Have Changed My Name From Vinod Saini To Vinod Kumar. My Date Of Birth Wrongly Written 28-08-1994 In My 10th Certificate. My Correct Date Of Birth Is 6-11-1993. Concerned Be Noted.

I, Sarita Kumari W/o Sh. Arvind Chauhan R/O Vill. Baikatpur, Biman, Shekhpura, Bihar. Present R/O Kishanpura, Distt. Panipat, declare that my son written the name of Abhishek Kumar in Adhar card which is incorrect. But my son real name is Satyam Kumar for all purposes.

I, Kewal krishan S/o Sh. Bachittar Singh R/O V.P.O Katara Sub Tehsil Nagrota Surian Tehsil Jawali Distt Kangra H.P declare that my daughter name is wrongly mentioned as Labli Devi instead of her actual name Lovely Devi in all my records.

I, Gaurav Sharma S/o Sh. Sarwan Kumar Sharma R/O B-4/289, Near Railway Station, Green Avenue Colony, Sujapur, Tehsil & Distt. Pathankot declare and confirm that I have changed my name from Sharma Gaurav Shrawan to Gaurav Sharma which is as per my Adhar Card and Pan Card. Both the names pertain to one and the same person.

I, Rajesh Madhok R/o 2085, Sector 17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor daughter's name from Meghvi to Meghvi Madhok.

Raghuvir Sirkeck (New Name) S/O Sh. Paras Ram Sirkeck R/O Sirkeck Clinic House No 42 Broom Road Rampur Po RampurTehsil Rampur Bsr Distt Shimla HP 172001 declare that I have changed my name Raghuvir Singh (Old Name) to Raghuvir Sirkeck (Changed Name). All Concern Please note.

I Sunita Gulati w/o inder Mohan Gulati r/o h.no.253 virat nagar model town panipat declare change my name From Sunita Kumari Gulati to Sunita Gulati and in future my name is Sunita Gulati.

I, Ankita D/o Uday Singh r/o Village Padhana, Distt Karnal have changed my name from Ankita to Ankita Rana.

I, Kamajit Kaur W/o Karanjit Singh R/O VPO Jhita Kalan, Amritsar, Punjab-143413 have changed my name from Kamajit Kaur to Kamajit Kaur.

I, Amardeep son of sh. Vishwanath Tiwari resident of H. No. 3427, Mauli complex, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh, 160102, have changed my name from Amardeep to Amardeep Tiwari.

I, Gulzar Ali S/o Mehboob Ali SCF-21, Sector 10, Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor son from Mohmmad Farhan to Mohd Farhan.

I, Amar Deep Singh S/O Sh. Santokh Singh, R/O H.No 175/3 W.N.O. 23, Circular Road, Rohtak-124001 Haryana declare I have changed my name from Amar Deep Singh to Amardeep Singh Kapoor. In future I will be called as Amardeep Singh Kapoor for all purposes.

I, Guneet Singh S/O Sh. Santokh Singh, R/O 175-c/2 W.N.O. 23 DLF Colony Rohtak-124001 Haryana declare I have changed my name from Guneet Singh to Guneet Singh Kapoor. In future I will be called as Guneet Singh Kapoor for all purposes.

I, Ashok Kumar S/O Sh. Dharam Singh R/O H. No. 416, VPO Dabra, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Ashok to Ashok Kumar for all future purpose.

I, Sunita Devi W/o Pardeep Kumar R/O H. No. 199, 4th Floor, Govind Place Road, Sector 15-A, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Sunita Devi to Sunita Singh for all future purpose.

I, Shitala Devi W/o Sh. Dharambir Singh R/O H. No. 252, VPO Chirod (Chiraud), Tehsil & Distt. Hisar, Haryana (India) declare that I have changed my name from Sheetal to Shitala Devi for all future purpose.

I, Karanvir S/O Sudesh Kumar R/O Village Kort Patial Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Karanvir to Karan Vir. Concerned note.

I, Satish Kumar S/o Sh Kala R/o #629-A, Guru Nanak Colony, Sector 65-A, Jagatpur, Mohali declare that in my Daughter Saloni School record DOB is wrongly mentioned as 06-08-2008. My Daughter's correct DOB is 06-03-2008 for all purposes in future.

I, Satish Kumar S/o Sh Kala R/o # 629-A, Guru Nanak Colony, Sector 65-A, Jagatpur, Mohali declare that in my Daughter, Prachi School record DOB is wrongly mentioned as 22-08-2007. My Daughter's correct DOB is 22-10-2006. For all purposes in future.

I, Shakuntla W/o No. 279778-S Late Sgt Jai Ram Saini (Retd.) R/o Village Kheri Markanda, Saraswati Nagar, P.O. Sirsila, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra declare that in my husband's service record my name is wrongly written as Shakuntala Devi instead of Shakuntla Devi & D.O.B. Not recorded instead of 01.01.1952.

I, Rekha Rani, W/o Narender Kumar, R/O Village Bhagal, Tehsil Guhla, District Kaithal, declare that I have changed my name from Rekha to Rekha Rani and in future I will be known as Rekha Rani.

I, Jatinder Kumar S/O Krishan Lal R/O 1350 Jagta Colony Barara Distt Ambala, Haryana Have Changed My Minor Child's Name From Mishika To Mishika Rani

I, Kanwaljeet Kaur w/o Labh Singh R/O Village Karasat Tehsil Naraingarh Distt Ambala have changed my name from Kanwaljeet Kaur to Kamaljeet Kaur.

I, Sarika W/o Ravinder Kumar R/O H.No- 844, Naraingarh Road, Asa Singh Garden, Baldev Nagar Ambala City have changed my name from Sarika to Sarika Rani.

I, Rahul S/o Chaman Lal R/O Village Shajzadpur Distt Ambala have changed my name from Rahul to Rahul Goyal.

I, Luxmi Rani D/O Harbans Singh R/O Vill. Birdhana (139), Fatehabad Haryana- 125050 have changed my name to Ashmeet Kaur.

I, Boota S/O Pal Ram R/O Vill. Bahua, Po Mehli, SBS Nagar, Punjab-144501 have changed my name to Boota Bains.

I, Sanchit allang s/o Sh. Anil kumar r/o 773 Sector-12 huda Panipat Declare that my father name in my passport No.M6735465 Anil kumar to Anil Allang plz correct.

I, Surbhi Singla, daughter of Ramesh Kumar Singla, resident of Bhagat Singh Road, Ramnagar Colony, Hansi Tehsil, Hansi District, Hisar, state that my Aadhar number is 222925210480, in which my name is registered as Surbhi Singla, daughter of Ramesh Kumar Singla. I am changing my name from Surbhi to Surbhi Singla.

I, Jignesh Mahesh Makavana s/o Mahesh Nanji Makavana r/o near Bhatwadi, macchhi Market, room no.20, chawl no.11 Ganeshwadi R.B kadam Marg, Ghatkopar, West Mumbai Maharashtra 40084 have changed my name to Jignesh Mahesh Makwana for all future purposes.

I, Jyoti Kishor Parmar D/o Kishor Purushottam Parmar R/o near Bhatwadi, macchhi Market, room no.20, chawl no.11 Ganeshwadi R.B kadam Marg, Ghatkopar, West Mumbai Maharashtra 40084 have changed my name to Jyoti Jignesh Makwana for all future purposes.

I Radika Devi d/o Akash Kumar R/o House No. 1257/18, Sadhu Mandi, Thanesar. Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana have changed her name from Radika Devi to Radhika Devi.

I, Indu Sharma w/o Late Sh. Dayanand Sharma, R/O House no. 428, Sector-20 Panchkula Haryana, have changed my minor daughter name from Gauri to Gauri Sharma

I Rajnish Kumar Dhandra S/o Late Shishu Pal R/O Flat No 305, GH-83, Sector-20, Panchkula,Haryana, I have changed my name from Rajnish Kumar Dhandra to Rajnish Kumar.

I, Sonia Anand, Sonia Bhatnagar W/o Sushil Kumar R/O H.no. 2161, Sector 19-C, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Sonia Anand, Sonia Bhatnagar to Sonia.

I Karan S/O Yash Pal Sharma R/O H.no C-54, GHS-80, 4th floor, Sector 20 Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name and my father's name from Karan to Karan Sharma. S/o Yash Paul Sharma

I Chandrika Prasad Singh Allas Chandirika Singh S/O Sh. Narayan Singh R/o 29, Tajpur, Chaura, Gopalpur, Distt. Patna have changed my name from Chandirika Singh to Chandrika Prasad Singh

I, Inderpreet Kaur D/o Sarbjit Singh R/O Village Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, I have changed my name to Inderpreet as given name and Kaur as surname.

I Manpreet Kaur Dhaliwal d/o Charanjit Singh r/o vill. Mann Singh Wala, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Have Changed my Name to Manpreet Kaur All concern note it

I, Manju Rani W/o Bhupan Chand, R/O House No. 2193/14B, Pipli wala town, Manimajra Chandigarh, changed my name from Manju Rani to Manju Ramola

I Sarla Chauhan W/O Romi Chauhan R/O House No. 412, First Floor Dashmesh Enclave, Zirakpur SAS Nagar Punjab have changed my name from Sarla Chauhan to Sarla

I, Davender Singh S/O Sh. Om Parkash R/o # 1949 Sector-15, Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my minor son name from George to Harssh.

I Rita Manan W/O Ramesh Kumar R/O Dogar Basti St.No.12 H.No.75 Faridkot Have Changed My Name And Shell Here After Rita Mannan

I No 2999815K, HAV, Vinod Kumar (Retd) resident of VPO-Munak, Tehsil- Ballah & Distt Karnal (Haryana)- 132040 have changed name of my son from Krishna to Krishna Chitra vide Affidavit dated 25 Nov 24 sworn in before Notary, Karnal.

Salma wife of Ashok Kumar Valmiki resident of Raipur Rani (Panchkula) that I am changing my name from Salma to Salma Kumari.

I, Parveen Kumar S/O Mani Ram R/O 98/76, Khazanchian Bazar, Hisar, Haryana 125001 declare that I have changed my name from Parveen Kumar to Parveen Kumar Soni for all future purpose.

I, hitherto known as Rajni Bala Wife of Paramjit Singh residing at H.No.D/2118, Mohalla Gurmianar, Chota Hari Pura, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Harpreet Kaur

I, hitherto known as Gulshan Rai Bajaj Son of Jagan Nath residing at H.No.58-C Mata Kaulan Rang, Kashmir Avenue, Near Bhatia Nursing Home, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Gulshan Rai

I, hitherto Known as Harkawaldeep Singh Son of Lakhbir Singh residing at H.No.721, Diamond Avenue, Majitha Road, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Harkawaldeep Bal

I, Baljit Kaur W/o Baldev Singh R/O Wadala Johal, Amritsar have changed my name from Baljit Kaur to Baljeet Kaur

I, Sarwan Singh Son of Balwinder Singh R/O VPO Wadala Johal Distt. Amritsar Punjab, have declare that Singh is my Surname and Sarwan is my Given Name.

I, Onkar Singh S/o Harpal Singh R/O Village Harijan PO Majitha Tehsil Majitha District Amritsar have declare that Onkar is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

I, Raj Karan S/o Charanjit Singh R/O E8/302, Gail No.6, Opp Prabhakhar School, Chheharta, Amritsar have changed my name from Raj Karan to Raj Karan Singh

I, Samsher Singh Son of Nirmal Singh R/O VPO Kotla Gujran Distt. Amritsar Punjab, have declare that Singh is my Surname and Samsher is my Given name.

I, Navneet Kaur Dahani D/o Balwinder Singh R/O H.No.163, Link Road, Sahibzada Jujhar Singh Avenue Tabowali, Amritsar have changed my name from Navneet Kaur Dhani to Navneet is my Given name and Kaur is my Surname

I, Sukhdeep Singh Dhariwal S/O Tejwant Singh R/O 72, VPO Jethuwal, Amritsar have changed my name to Sukhdeep Singh

I, Jagdish Chand S/o Harbans Lal R/O H.No.3185, Tung Pai, Batala Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Jagdish Chand to Jagdish Chander

I, Thaan Singh Father of No.15518442W Swr Ranjeet Singh R/O Bhuchera Lalitpur, Bhuchera Uttar Pradesh-284126 have changed my name from Thaan Singh to Than Singh Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB90211136912013W Dt.19.12.2024 before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Chanda Devi mother of No.15518442W Swr Ranjeet Singh R/O Bhuchera Lalitpur, Bhuchera Uttar Pradesh-284126 have changed my name from Chanda Devi to Chanda Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB90210625387612W Dt.19.12.2024 before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Mangal mother of No.15581656F Hav Bhoerate Pravin Prakash R/O Shegaon Taluka Jath Sangli Maharashtra-416404 have changed my name from Mangal to Mangal Prakash Bhoite and Date of Birth from 11.10.1960 to 01.01.1967 Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB90213122052148W Dt.19.12.2024 before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Bhoerate Prakash Bhanudas Father of No.15581656F Hav Bhoerate Pravin Prakash R/O Shegaon Taluka Jath Sangli Maharashtra-416404 have changed my name from Bhoerate Prakash Bhanudas to Prakash Bhanudas Bhoite and Date of Birth from 11.10.1958 to 10.05.1958 Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB90213473918836W Dt.19.12.2024 before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Lovejit Kaur W/o Manjinder Singh R/O H.No.3029 Patti Mansoor Di, Sultanwind Pind, Amritsar have declare that Lovejit is my Given name and Kaur is my Surname

I, Rajan S/o Prem Kumar Mahajan S/O Prem Kumar Mahajan R/O H.No 949/1 Kucha Ranjodh Singh Katra Baghian Amritsar have changed my name from Rajan to Rajan Mahajan

I, Issac Masih S/O Iqbal Masih Vill Shahpur Karyal Tehsil Ajnala Distt Amritsar have changed my name Issac to Issac Masih.

I, Manpreet S/o Sher Singh R/O H.No. 173/1, Allied Chemical Colony, F.C.I. Godown, Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed minor son's name from Jihan to Jihan Saini.

I, Mukesh Kumar S/O Surinder Kumar R/O 487/13, Subhash Nagar, Shahabad, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Mukesh Kumar to Mukesh Kumar Arora.

I, Raj Kumar S/O Bhikha now R/O Village Ratgal, Near Saini Dharamshala, Thanesar, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Raj Kumar to Ramesh.

I Obulapuram Sravani wife of Army No. 15158191M Rank HAV Name Koneeti Rangaiah O, Resident of 2-89, Gontia Vair Veedhi, Bestavaripeta, Distt. Prakasam, State Andhra Pradesh 523334, India, have changed my name from Sravani to Obulapuram Sravani, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB90253719753004W, Dated 19-12- 2024. Distt. Court, Place - Amritsar.

I, Nishant S/o Ashok Aneja, Flat 19 GF, Aman Floor, New Mata Gujri Enclave, Kharar, Mohali, have changed name to Nishant Aneja.

I, Geeta Devi W/o Des Raj, St No 2 Block-D, Satjot Nagar, Ludhiana, have changed name to Geeta

I, Jasbir Singh Gill S/o Ram Phal R/O VPO Samain Tehsil Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Jasbir Singh.

I Vandna W/o Ashwani Kumar H.No. 68, Housing Board Colony, Cheeka Tehsil Guhla, Kaithal, have changed my name from Vandna to Vandna Rani

I, Anita W/o Rajesh Kumar R/O Samain Tehsil Tohana (Fatehabad), have changed my name to Anita Devi.

I, Surender Kaur W/o Bikramjeet Singh R/O V. Mandi Ladhuha, District Fazilka 152123 Pb, have changed my name from Surender Kaur Alias Jaspal Kaur to Surender Kaur, Concerned Note.

I, Simarjeet Kaur W/o Sh. Balwinderpal Singh R/O Village Lakhe Ke Uttar Tehsil Fazilka Distt Fazilka, have changed my name Parmajeet Kaur Urf Simarjeet Kaur to Simarjeet Kaur. Concerned Note.

I, Gurbaksh Lal Thakral S/O Paira Ram, R/o 1352/3, Hari Chand Makker Street,Gandhi Nagar, Fazilka 152123 Pb, have changed name from Gurbax Lal Thakral to Gurbaksh Lal Thakral

I, Jagdish Chandra Choudhary Is Father Of Service No 15797850K Rank Nk(Gnr) Name Rajesh Choudhary Of Unit 105 Ad Regt C/O 56 APO, R/O Vill + Po- Bhutiya Bujrug, Tehsil-Tonk Khurd, Distt- Dewas, State- M. P., Pin-455116 Have Changed My Name From Ragnji Devi To Ragnji Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 19-12-2024 Before Ambala Cantt

I, Krishana Bai Is Mother Of No 15797742a Rank L/Nk (Dmt) Name Sanjay Kumar Chandrawanshi Of Unit105 Ad Regt C/O 56 APO, R/O Vill-Tindoniya, Tehsil Narsinghgarh, Distt Rajgarh, State- M.P.Pin-465667 Have Changed My Name From Krishana Bai To Krasnaha Vide Affidavit Dated 19-12-2024 Ambala Cantt

I, Prem Narayan Chandrawanshi Father Of No 15797742a Rank L/Nk (Dmt) Name Sanjay Kumar Chandrawanshi Of Unit105 Ad Regt C/O 56 APO, R/O Vill-Tindoniya, Tehsil Narsinghgarh, Distt Rajgarh, State- M.P. Pin-465667 Have Changed My Name From Prem Narayan Chandrawanshi To Prem Narayan Vide Affidavit Dated 19-12-2024 Ambala Cantt

I, Mookaiah Father Of No 15734314m Rank L/Nk Name Subash M Of Unit 2 Csr

Farmer leader Dallewal critical as fast enters Day 24

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on fast-unto-death to press the Centre to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee of MSP on the crops, fainted on Thursday as his condition has now become critical.

Dallewal, whose fast-unto-death entered the 24th day, apparently fell down and fainted for some time. The doctors attending him at the Khanauri border have described the 70-year-old farmer leader's health condition as critical, adding, "His life is hanging by a thread. Dallewal is also at risk of cardiac arrest and multi-organ failure, the doctors added.

The 70-year-old farm protester, also a cancer patient, had been on fast-unto-death to press the Centre to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) on the crops. Doctors said Dallewal has not had anything for the last 24 days. "Because of that, he is critical and he is at the risk of cardiac arrest and multi-organ failure. We are monitoring him every day," said Dr. Abhiraj, who is a member of a team of doctors from 5 Rivers Heart Association, an NGO. "His blood pressure dropped today. We raised his legs and gave massage. But his situation is very sensitive. His life is hanging by a thread right now. Anything can happen at any time," the doctor added.

Meanwhile, the Khap Panchayats of Haryana extended their support to the farmers and decided to hold a mahapanchayat in Hisar on December 29 and added that the Maha Panchayat will decide

the next course of action.

Punjab CM Mann asks Centre to 'give up its stubbornness' and 'talk to the farmers'

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday urged the Centre to give up its "stubbornness" and engage in talks with the farmers who are protesting to press for their demands, including a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops.

Mann also said it is the Centre's duty to talk to the farmers, adding that any issue can only be resolved through dialogue. "It is the duty of the central government to talk to the farmers. Any issue can be resolved only through talks. The central government should give up its stubbornness," he posted on X.

Farmers, under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13, after their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces.

Earlier on Wednesday, Haryana Chief Minister and BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini said the AAP government in Punjab must engage with the farmers from the state and find solutions to their problems. Last week, Saini had stated that all crops of farmers in Haryana are being procured at MSP and urged the Punjab government to follow suit.

SAD's Bhunder appeals to save the life of Kisan leader Dallewal

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Working President Balwinder Singh Bhunder on Thursday appealed to all political parties as well as Kisan organizations to work jointly to save the life of veteran Kisan leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal.

Talking to Reporters after visiting the Kisan leader at Khanauri, Bhunder said "this is not the time to score brownie points by speaking in divergent voices. We should unite and appeal to the central government to accept the demands of Dallewal Sahab to pave the way for ending his fast unto death". He said it was unfortunate that the AAP government and its chief minister had not taken up the issue in all earnestness with the centre. "The chief minister should call on the Prime Minister and impress upon the latter to do justice with farmers since the Prime Minister had assured that all the demands of the farmers, including making MSP a legal guarantee, would be accepted".

Bhunder also appealed to the Kisan organizations to come on a common platform to devise a common strategy to take up the issues of the farming community so that they could be resolved. He also made a personal appeal to the veteran Kisan leader to end his fast saying Punjab needed him and his services and that he should not endanger his life in this manner.

Bharatiya Kisan Union to stage protests at district headquarters across Hry today

To express solidarity with the protesting farmers in Punjab over MSP demand, the Gurnam Singh Chaduni-led

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) will stage protests at district headquarters across Haryana on Friday to express solidarity with the protesting farmers in Punjab. Additionally, 11 farmers will observe a hunger strike at district headquarters from 10 am to 4 pm on the same day.

Talking to reporters, BKU Chaduni spokesperson Rakesh Bains said the draft agricultural marketing policy would be a key focus of Friday's protests. He remarked, "We strongly believe the National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing is an attempt to weaken government-run mandis by promoting private mandis. This policy resembles the contentious farm laws we opposed in 2020-21, which were later repealed".

Bains further warned: "Government mandis will not survive if private mandis are allowed. Initially, private players may offer better facilities to attract farmers, but this would ultimately dismantle public sector mandis, creating a monopoly in foodgrain procurement. Farmers would then be forced to sell their produce to a single corporate entity, resulting in losses for both the government and farmers".

Recently, Chaduni visited Dallewal, who has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border of Punjab and Haryana since November 26, demanding a legal guarantee for the minimum support price (MSP) of crops.

It should be mentioned here that on December 16, Haryana farmers staged tractor marches in Ambala, Kaithal, Hisar, Panipat, and other districts to push for the MSP demand.

Fake call centre busted in Gurugram, 18 held

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

The Cyber crime team of the Gurugram police busted an illegal call centre operating at Plot No 270 Udyog Vihar Phase-2 in Gurugram on Wednesday. The call centre mostly used to cheat US nationals on the pretext of technical support by creating a fake website of an accounting company, police said on Thursday.

According to the police, a team of the cyber crime police station led by ACP (cybercrime) Priyanshu Diwan raided the call centre following a tip-off. During the raid, the police arrested 18 people, including 8 women and the call centre operator, in connection with the matter and seized 17 CPUs along with other electronic gadgets.

The police team registered a case against the accused under relevant sections of BNS and IT Act in Police Station Cyber Crime South, Gurugram and arrested the accused as per the rules in the case.

During interrogation, it was found that the accused, Gaurav Bakshi, is the operator of this call centre, and he runs this call centre along with his companions at the behest of his other partner.

Bakshi used to get a salary of about Rs 1.5 lakh and his other employees used to get a salary of about Rs 30,000 per month.

"We received specific inputs that a fake call centre had cheated several US nationals on the pretext of technical support. The youths

were employed at the call centre, which was being operated without a license issued by the Department of Telecommunications (DOT)," said Priyanshu Diwan, ACP (Cyber Crime).

The accused was allegedly running this illegal call centre with his fellow accused since February 2024. The accused were cheating foreign nationals in the name of providing customer care service of Software Support/Accounting Support. The accused used to run ads on Google from the customer care helpline number of a famous company. When foreign nationals call on the toll-free number, the call comes to their call centre through VCL Dialer, 3CX Dialer.

"The accused introduced themselves as representatives of a famous company and got remote access to the computer system of foreign nationals by getting them to download screen-sharing applications in their system. In the name of solving their problem, they used to get 200-1000 dollars from them through a payment gateway. The accused used to commit the fraud by creating a phishing website of an accounting company named Quick Books," Diwan added.

"The matter is under investigation. How the accused was operating the fake call centre is part of an investigation. The involvement of other people cannot be ruled out. The culprits are on police remand for further questioning," the officer said.

BJP leader OP Dhankar's son Ashutosh assaulted in Panchkula road rage

PNS ■ PANCHKULA

Senior Haryana BJP leader and former BJP Chief OP Dhankar's son Ashutosh was assaulted by some people in Panchkula. Local Police said that preliminary investigations suggest it was a road rage matter," Ajay said.

Meanwhile, Haryana Minister Anil Vij visited the residence of O P Dhankar in Panchkula. Dhankar is BJP national Secretary and former Haryana BJP president. Vij inquired about Ashutosh's condition and wished him a speedy recovery.

Speaking to reporters in Panchkula, former Haryana Assembly Speaker, Gian Chand Gupta said that such an incident is unfortunate and raises concern too. About the suspects who attacked Ashutosh, Gupta said, "People of perverted mentality can do such thing. It was a road rage matter and the accused not only assaulted him but even attempted to take his life. Such incident raises concern".

A crowd gathered, prompting the attackers to flee the

CM Bhagwant Mann Conducts Roadshow in Ludhiana



PNS ■ LUDHIANA

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday said under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the municipal corporations, every penny will be spent for the betterment of the people. Mann held a roadshow here, rallying support for AAP candidates contesting the December 21 municipal corporation elections.

Addressing the gathering, CM Mann shared his deep connection with Ludhiana, as he reminisced about his early career, which began in the bustling markets of the industrial town. "This market is not new to me. I used to frequent these streets. 'Ludhiana has given me so much love and now it's my responsibility to give back to this city,'" said Mann.

AAP Punjab president Aman Arora and working president Amansher Singh Sherry Kalsi were among those who accompanied Mann during the roadshow. Elections to five municipal corporations -- Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala and Phagwara -- and 44 municipal councils and nagar panchayats in Punjab will be held on December 21.

Mann appealed to people to elect representatives who will

bring real development to Ludhiana, as he rallied support for the AAP candidates. "Earlier, municipal corporations never focused on development. The funds belonged to the people, yet they weren't utilised for public welfare. Under AAP, every penny will be spent for the betterment of the people," he said.

Hitting out at previous dispensations, Mann said, "They have betrayed the trust of the people for years. It's time to clean the system with the broom and give Ludhiana the governance it truly deserves." He urged voters to "reject" such parties and embrace the "honest, people-centric politics of the Aam Aadmi Party". "The people of Punjab have the power to decide the future and this time they will choose integrity over deceit," he added.

Mann assured the public that Ludhiana would see unparalleled growth under AAP's leadership. The chief minister reminded voters of AAP's achievements over the past nearly three years, including providing 50,000 government jobs, reducing electricity bills to zero for many households and implementing robust infrastructure projects. "We are here to serve, not to enrich ourselves. Our focus is on villages, cities and the welfare of all," he said.

DG-IPR holds review meeting with senior officials



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Director General of Information, Public Relations, Language and Culture Department, K.M. Pandurang on Thursday directed the officers to effectively communicate the development projects and public welfare schemes of the government to the general public, ensuring maximum publicity. He was chairing a review meeting with senior officials of the department here.

The Director General said that the Haryana government's goal is to make the state clean and beautiful. In this regard, he instructed all District Information and Public Relations Officers to take special care of cleanliness within their offices and to organize dedicated cleanliness campaigns.

Pandurang stated that under the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the Haryana Government is implementing various welfare policies for the benefit of the public. It is the department's responsibility to ensure that beneficiaries receive accurate information about government schemes. To achieve this, he urged officers to utilize publicity channels effectively, ensuring the widest possible reach of information about these schemes. Social media platforms should be maximally utilized for scheme promotion. In addition, the Director General highlighted the importance of proper distribution of departmental publicity material and instructed all district officials to monitor live programs carefully.

The DG said that develop-

mental activities in Haryana are benefiting even the most marginalized individuals in society. Along with the implementation of various schemes, the government is taking several meaningful initiatives, such as the Samadhan Shivirs. When the issues faced by people attending these shivirs are resolved, it should be highlighted as a success story. Furthermore, the public should be made aware of the government schemes dedicated to public service.

Present at the meeting were Additional Director (Administration) Varsha Khangwal, Joint Director Anchal Bhaskar, Additional Directors Vandana Sharma and Ranbir Singh Sangwan, Joint Director (Press), Sahib Ram Godara, and senior officials from the headquarters and districts.

Pundri to soon get sub-division status, says Hry CM



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said that the continuous efforts have been made to improve education, connectivity, health services, and more in the Pundri area during the last two terms of the BJP-led Government in the State. Several key developments, including the granting of block status to Dhandh, The Ambalacotputli Greenfield Corridor (NH 152-D) passing through the area was constructed at a cost of Rs 10,646 crore. In addition, a four-lane road from Kaithal to Karnal was built at a cost of Rs 175 crore. He also said that Rs 12.86 crore was spent on rainwater drainage and the laying of sewerage lines in Pundri. The Chief Minister said that over the

past 10 years, the government has ensured balanced development across every area in the state.

Addressing a Dhanyawad rally at Pundri Assembly Constituency, Saini made several significant announcements for the welfare of the local residents, including giving the status of a Sub-Division to Pundri. The state government has constituted a committee for reviewing proposals to declare new subdivisions or districts. A proposal for Pundri's subdivision status has been submitted to the committee, and once the report is received, the status will be granted, he said.

Saini further announced that old school buildings in Pundri constituency would be renovated and repaired and an amount of Rs 5 crore will be allocated for the same. He announced that the health centers will be constructed in Fatehpur and Badnara villages subject to land availability. Additionally, Rs. 5 crore was allocated for repairing Marketing Board roads and Rs. 10 crore for the strengthening and repair of Public Works Department roads, announced Saini.

Apart from these announcements, the Chief Minister announced to allocate an additional amount of Rs. 5 crore specifically for developmental works in Pundri.

Saini inaugurated and laid foundation stones for three projects worth Rs. 15 crore. These projects include the construction of a link road from Pundri to Segra, the strengthening of the Nilokheri Karsa Dhand Road, and six other road improvement projects.

He highlighted that each region and town in Haryana has its own distinct food culture, citing Pundri's famous Firni and Gohana's renowned Jalebi as examples of local pride. Taking a swipe at the opposition, he pointed out that some leaders are not even familiar with Haryana's culture. While opposition leaders had demanded an account of the BJP government's achievements, the people of Haryana had already delivered their verdict on Congress through the recent elections.

Saini stated that the people of Haryana have worked tirelessly for the state's development by delivering a historic third consecutive victory to the Bharatiya Janata Party, ensuring the formation of the government once again. He said that the double-engine government will undoubtedly fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047. He further assured that along with a developed India, Haryana too will achieve significant progress and development.

New NAAC reforms a road map for higher education excellence: Punjab Governor

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Raj Bhavan, Chandigarh, on Thursday hosted one day prestigious seminar on new NAAC reforms, to discuss strategies to motivate and engage a wide spectrum of educational institutions, including colleges that had never applied for NAAC accreditation, those that had discontinued the process over the last five years, and newly established universities preparing for their first cycle of NAAC accreditation. The event emphasized the importance of re-engaging these institutions to ensure comprehensive academic excellence across the state.



Governor of Punjab and Administrator UT Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, emphasized the need for equipping the youth with the quality education and modern skills as per the global needs. The Governor pointed out that the education system must evolve to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world, stating, "Education is not merely a pathway to employment but a transformative force that drives the progress of a

nation." In his speech, Kataria reflected on India's historical legacy of education, highlighting the global acclaim of ancient learning centers such as Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Takshashila. These institutions, renowned for their inclusivity and commitment to excellence, set benchmarks that continue to inspire modern education systems.

Tracing the evolution of India's educational policies, the Governor elaborated on the transformative impact of the 1968, 1986, and 2020 National Education Policies (NEP). He lauded NEP 2020 for its focus

on multidisciplinary education, curriculum flexibility, and integration of technology, noting its alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on quality education.

Kataria applauded Punjab's historical contributions, particularly its leadership during the Green Revolution, and expressed confidence in the state's potential to spearhead educational reforms to lead India in implementing NEP-2020.

Education Minister Punjab Harjot Bains, emphasized the transformative power of education and its critical role in

Punjab will not allow farmers' interests to be affected, says Agriculture Minister

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian on Thursday assured farmer leaders that the state government will not allow farmers' interests to be affected by the National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing.

"The state government is

concerned as this policy could have serious implications for the state and its farmers, so we want to analyse and consult on each and every aspect of the draft policy shared by the government of India," the Minister said, adding that agriculture experts and other stakeholders will also be consulted soon to analyse it thoroughly so that not a single point is left unconsidered.

Khudian, along with Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Anurag Verma, Punjab State Farmers' and Farm Workers' Commission

Chairman Sukhpal Singh, and Punjab Mandi Board Secretary Ramvir appealed to the farmers to send their suggestions and comments in this regard to the Agriculture Department.

Farmer Unions' leaders Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Rindu Singh Mansa, Satnam Singh Ajnala, and others expressed deep concerns over potential privatisation, monopolistic practices in the disguise of the policy. It could be an attempt to reintroduce the contentious provisions of the three farm laws, which were repealed by the

Union government following the farmers' protests, they added.

They also urged the state government for further examination before sending a response to the Centre so that Punjab and its farmers' interests could be fully secured.

The high-level meeting was also attended by Special Secretary, Agriculture, Harbir Singh, Director Agriculture Jaswant Singh, Director Research at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in Ludhiana Ajmer Singh Dhatt and senior officials of the Punjab Mandi Board and the Agriculture Department.

BRIEFS

COLD WAVE PERSISTS IN PUNJAB, HARYANA; FARIDKOT RECORDS 2 DEGREES C

Chandigarh: Biting cold conditions persisted in several areas of Punjab and Haryana on Thursday, with Faridkot recording a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius, the meteorological department said. Bathinda also remained under the grip of severe cold, recording a low of 3.6 degrees Celsius, while Pathankot and Gurdaspur registered minimum temperatures of 4.6 and 4.5 degrees Celsius, respectively. According to the data from the department, Amritsar logged a minimum temperature of 4.2 degrees, while Ludhiana registered a low of 5.6 degree Celsius and Patiala recorded a minimum of 6.5 degree Celsius. Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, registered a low of 7.4 degrees Celsius. In Haryana, Hisar logged a minimum of 2.8 degrees Celsius, while Sirsa and Karnal were also swept by severe cold, with both places recording respective lows of 3.2 and 5.3 degrees Celsius. Rohtak registered a low of 5.6 degrees and Ambala recorded a minimum of 8.1 degrees Celsius.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Clamour for caste census

While the exercise is fraught with challenges, its potential to uplift marginalised communities cannot be ignored

The demand for a caste census in India has been a recurring topic of debate, reflecting the country's complex socio-political fabric. While proponents emphasise its importance for targeted development and policy-making, critics raise concerns about its potential to exacerbate social divisions. The nuanced arguments surrounding this issue highlight both its necessity and its challenges. The caste census refers to the systematic collection of data on the caste composition of the population. India has not conducted such a comprehensive exercise since 1931, even though caste remains a significant determinant of socio-economic status in the country. Proponents of the caste census argue that it is essential for ensuring equitable development, especially for historically marginalised communities. As Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan points out, specific data on caste populations is critical for designing and allocating funds for community-based development schemes. Paswan's endorsement of the caste census is pragmatic. However, he also issues a cautionary note: while the government should collect such data, making it public might deepen societal divisions by reinforcing caste identities.

A caste census would provide granular data on the socio-economic conditions of various communities. This information is crucial for crafting effective affirmative action policies and welfare programmes. Historical injustices and systemic exclusion of certain communities require targeted interventions. A caste census would help identify the actual beneficiaries of reservation policies and assess whether they are achieving the intended outcomes. The Opposition, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, has emphasised that a caste census is a step toward realising the promise of social justice. By understanding the precise demographic composition, governments can ensure proportional representation and resource allocation. But having said that, making caste census data public could lead to heightened caste consciousness and further fragment society. India's socio-political landscape is already fraught with identity-based divisions, and the misuse of such data could deepen these fault lines. There is a legitimate fear that caste census findings might be weaponised for political gain. Instead of addressing inequities, the data could fuel caste-based mobilisations, electoral strategies and even conflicts. This aspect must be looked into and safeguarded before taking up this mammoth exercise. Besides, conducting a caste census is a massive logistical challenge. The accuracy of data collection and classification would be critical, as any errors could lead to disputes and undermine the credibility of the exercise. The caste census is essential and must be conducted, but it requires careful attention to ensure its accuracy and to address potential repercussions.

they are achieving the intended outcomes. The Opposition, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, has emphasised that a caste census is a step toward realising the promise of social justice. By understanding the precise demographic composition, governments can ensure proportional representation and resource allocation. But having said that, making caste census data public could lead to heightened caste consciousness and further fragment society. India's socio-political landscape is already fraught with identity-based divisions, and the misuse of such data could deepen these fault lines. There is a legitimate fear that caste census findings might be weaponised for political gain. Instead of addressing inequities, the data could fuel caste-based mobilisations, electoral strategies and even conflicts. This aspect must be looked into and safeguarded before taking up this mammoth exercise. Besides, conducting a caste census is a massive logistical challenge. The accuracy of data collection and classification would be critical, as any errors could lead to disputes and undermine the credibility of the exercise. The caste census is essential and must be conducted, but it requires careful attention to ensure its accuracy and to address potential repercussions.

PICTALK



A person dressed as Santa Claus rows a boat as seagulls fly past, near Causeway of Tapi River in Surat

Victory Day: Bangladesh's legacy of liberation



SANTHOSH MATHEW

Victory Day serves as both a celebration of freedom and a reminder of the challenges ahead in safeguarding its democratic and inclusive aspirations

Victory Day holds profound significance for Bangladesh, marking its liberation and the triumph over the Pakistan Armed Forces in the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. Celebrated annually on December 16, the day symbolises the birth of a sovereign state and the culmination of a long struggle for self-determination, where India played the pivotal role of midwife in the creation of the newest state in South Asia. The Bangladesh Liberation War was not merely a conflict confined to its borders but a defining moment in the geopolitics of the region. The roots of this war were entrenched in the systemic neglect and exploitation of East Pakistan by the ruling elite of West Pakistan.



Decades of economic disparity, cultural suppression, and political disenfranchisement laid the foundation for a movement demanding autonomy, which was catalyzed by the brutal military crackdown on March 25, 1971. Operation Searchlight unleashed a reign of terror that sought to silence the aspirations of millions but instead ignited a people's resistance. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the towering leader of the Awami League, became the symbol of this resistance. His leadership united the Bengali population, and his call for independence resonated with millions who yearned for freedom. As the conflict escalated, millions of refugees poured into India, creating a humanitarian crisis of unparalleled magnitude. India's intervention under the leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was both a strategic and moral decision. The Indian Armed Forces, working in coordination with the Mukti Bahini, mounted a joint operation that decisively defeated the Pakistani forces within a mere 13 days. The surrender of the Pakistani military on December 16, 1971, in Dhaka is one of the most iconic moments in modern history. The image of General AAK Niazi signing the Instrument of Surrender in the presence of Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora remains etched in the collective memory of both nations. This marked not

only the liberation of Bangladesh but also a significant blow to the two-nation theory that had led to the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947. The emergence of Bangladesh was hailed globally, but it also underscored the complexities of international politics. The then-US President Richard Nixon and his National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, who had been staunch supporters of Pakistan due to Cold War dynamics, were caught off guard. Nixon's infamous remark about South Asia becoming an "international basket case" was a harsh reflection of the scepticism with which the new nation was viewed. Yet, Bangladesh defied the odds and began its journey toward self-reliance and growth. Over the past five decades, Bangladesh has transformed remarkably, earning the moniker "the garment factory of the world." Despite initial challenges, including political instability, natural disasters, and infrastructural deficits, Bangladesh has managed to sustain an impressive growth trajectory. Today, Bangladesh stands as a significant player in South Asia, with a GDP growth rate that often outpaces its neighbours. The country's success in achieving many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in areas such as gender



BANGLADESH DEFIED THE ODDS AND BEGAN ITS JOURNEY TOWARD SELF-RELIANCE AND GROWTH. OVER THE PAST FIVE DECADES, BANGLADESH HAS TRANSFORMED REMARKABLY, EARNING THE MONIKER "THE GARMENT FACTORY OF THE WORLD"

equality, education and healthcare, is commendable. It has become a model for other developing nations, showcasing how strategic planning and a focus on human development can lead to sustained progress. Victory Day is not just a celebration of past triumphs but also a moment to reflect on the challenges and opportunities ahead. The geopolitical landscape of South Asia has evolved significantly since 1971. While the ties with India remain strong, underpinned by historical bonds and mutual interests, Bangladesh has also embraced China's Belt and Road Initiative, balancing its foreign policy to maximise economic benefits. Victory Day also underscores the importance of remembering the sacrifices that led to Bangladesh's independence. The war claimed the lives of countless freedom fighters and civilians, whose bravery and resilience paved the way for a new nation. The liberation struggle also left deep scars, including the atrocities committed by the Pakistani military, which continue to evoke strong emotions. Efforts to bring justice through war crimes tribunals and to preserve the memory of the Liberation War are vital in honouring this legacy. As Bangladesh celebrates another Victory Day, it does so as a nation that has defied expectations and charted its path to

progress. The dreams of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Mukti Bahini have been realised in many ways, with a vibrant democracy, a thriving economy, and a resilient population. However, recent political instability has cast a shadow over Bangladesh's progress. The fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, after years of dominance, has left a power vacuum, fueling uncertainty and unrest. Political polarisation has deepened, and concerns over democratic backsliding have surfaced. The status of minorities, particularly Hindus and indigenous groups, remains precarious, with reports of rising communal tensions and targeted violence. Ensuring minority rights and fostering inclusivity will be critical for Bangladesh to maintain its social fabric and democratic principles. The anniversary of Victory Day is a reminder of the enduring spirit of a people who fought for their right to self-determination and emerged victorious against overwhelming odds. It is a celebration of freedom, a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and a pledge to build a future worthy of their dreams. Bangladesh's story, from a war-torn newborn state to a thriving economy, stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration, not just for South Asia but for the world. (The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

G7 FACES CRISES

Madam — The 'Group of Seven' or G7 countries are considered to be the group of the richest countries in the world. But after the Covid pandemic, their economic condition also seems to be almost in shambles. Especially three of those countries can be named here, in which political turmoil has been seen within the last 10 days. Those countries are Germany, the biggest economic power in Europe, France, the third biggest economy there, and the North American country Canada. In France, four prime ministers have been sworn in within the last one year. Emmanuel Macron's government can fall at any time. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz had announced the dismissal of Finance Minister Christian Lindner, citing breach of trust and economic policy differences. Now he himself has lost the vote of confidence. Due to which elections will be held again there in the coming February. On the other hand, Canada's Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, has resigned from her post, citing disagreement with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. She has expressed disagreement on how to respond to the tariff threat of incoming President Donald Trump. Meaning, here too the main reason for instability is 'economic and financial' problems. France has been affected by Europe's energy crisis and high interest rates, which have weakened the country. In 2024, Europe's largest economy will be stuck in recession for the second consecutive year. More and more businesses are under pressure and are suffering from falling sales, high energy costs and taxes, and Germany's overly cumbersome bureaucracy. Starting from 2022, per capita production in Canada has declined in six of the last seven quarters. Unemployment has also increased by a full percentage point compared to last year. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

R Ashwin retires from international cricket



Ravichandran Ashwin, India's second-highest Test wicket-taker (only behind Anil Kumble's 619 wickets), announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 38. He expressed gratitude to his teammates and the BCCI, highlighting his fulfilling career. While he feels he still has more to offer, he'll focus on club-level cricket. Ashwin concluded his international career with 537 Test wickets, 156 ODI wickets and 72 T20I wickets. His crick-

et journey, from a fringe player in the 2011 World Cup to one of India's greatest match-winners, has been marked by trials, triumphs, and unwavering dedication. Despite overseas challenges and controversies, his innovative approach and analytical mind have solidified his place in cricketing history. The 38-year-old Ashwin, with 537 Test wickets and six centuries, will continue playing franchise cricket, notably for Chennai Super Kings in the next edition of the IPL in 2025. We should not forget that Ashwin is the man who played his cricket all through with cleverness and dignity and decided to retire cleverly and in a dignified manner too. We should not be ungrateful and miss recognising and saluting him for his immense contribution to Indian cricket after Anil Kumble hung up his boots. Love you, champion! Cricket lovers will miss you for sure! Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

has proposed a "Reciprocal Tariff" policy, signalling a new direction in global trade. Criticising the high tariff policies of countries, including India, he highlighted them as a source of inequity. Trump stated that if any country imposes tariffs on American products, the US will respond with equivalent tariffs. He specifically pointed to developing countries like India, which levy high tariffs to protect domestic industries. Using bicycles as an example, he alleged that India imposes over 100 per cent duty on American bicycles, while the US does not charge such high tariffs on Indian products. This policy, claimed to be based on reciprocity and fairness, is likely to promote protectionism, potentially destabilising the global trade system. It raises concerns about increasing trade tensions between India and the US. Higher product prices could add economic burdens on consumers and strain bilateral relations. For India, it is crucial to engage in dialogue with the US administration to maintain trade balance. This tariff

conflict will not be limited to economic impacts; it will also have far-reaching diplomatic and social consequences. R K Jain | Barwani

TABLA MAESTRO'S LEGACY

Madam — Zakir Hussain's music was intertwined with his all-encompassing love for everyone without an iota of bias or prejudice. In fact, it reminds one of a popular Kishore Kumar number, "Pyaar Baantne Chalo" (Keep spreading love), from the 1965 Hindi movie "Hum sab ustaad hain." Apart from his divine renditions on the tabla, what endeared him most to his audiences was the halo of love and humility that surrounded him. In an interview with the BBC, he once said that all his shows were sold out well in advance, not because of him, but because of the power and attraction of music. Avinash Godbole | Dewas

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Vipul Nautiyal: Chandan Mitra's calamity reporter



NEERAJ KUMAR

Whether it was crafting flawless editorial pages or recounting tales of his newsroom days, Vipul Nautiyal's legacy is one of dedication, warmth and passion for his craft

He flaunted the title "calamity reporter" with pride as he vividly narrated the story behind how Dr Chandan Mitra, editor-in-chief of The Pioneer, gave him the name. Known to friends as Nauty (that's how he spelled it) and to juniors as Vipul Sir, or Nauty Sir, I was introduced to him in August 2021, while writing a test for an editorial role at The Pioneer. I hadn't met him before, but had heard things about him — his co-workers respected him, but they feared him even more. It was my first stint in the media and I was nervous.



A few weeks of working with him I realised that he was extremely honest towards his job, so much so that he made me question myself. He would reach the office sharp at 2 pm, retouch his already super-organised desk and begin the thinking work — often with a glass in his hand. He was proud of the work he did, he knew he was good. He had an impeccable eye for detail — if it was Vipul Nautiyal's page then it had to be error-free, even if nobody was going to read it, even if he hadn't been paid in months. Headlines were paid even

more attention, they had to be perfectly symmetric — a habit that I picked involuntarily. This was the Vipul effect. He once recounted an incident from his days at The Times of India, when Dr Mitra had asked him to return to The Pioneer. Later, during the exit interview at TOI, when Mr Nautiyal was asked "TOI chhod kar Pioneer kaun jata hai?" (Who leaves TOI to join Pioneer) he replied with lit-up eyes: "Jisko Chandan Mitra bulata hai." He knew how to bring the team up to speed with some flair. A senior editor at TOI says, "Vipul Sir could beat you in a game of table tennis single-handedly, with his favourite drink in his other hand." Mr Nautiyal often mentioned that he received job offers from almost all leading media houses, except for The Indian Express, for which, he said, he waited for quite some time. In my five months of working with him, I never saw him snap at anybody — unless somebody caught him on the phone during work hours. He was known to be unpredictable at times. But he was there for his colleagues —

those who worked with him will agree. His way of getting his point across was his own. When I had to negotiate my salary while joining TOI — where he had referred me — he told me to ask for a massive raise, saying: "Purse bhaley hi HR ke paas hai, but tu journalist hai, boli tu lagayega" (Even though the purse is with HR, you are a journalist, so you will call the shots). He had more confidence in me than I had in myself. Those who teamed up with him absorbed a great deal of wisdom in all walks of life. That's how Vipul Nautiyal was. Besides being an exceptional storyteller, he had a song, a sher or an anecdote for almost every occasion. He was a fanboy when it came to Dev Anand. He often wrote an editorial piece on Dev Sahab's birth anniversary. He was proud of the fact that he had seen Guide several times. He would often play Mohammed Rafi songs or Mehdi Hassan ghazals, lower the volume, and write the edit columns. (The writer is a former staffer of The Pioneer; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

SRI LANKA-INDIA: ON THE SAME PAGE

Both nations reiterate commitment to defence collaboration and regional stability



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

India strengthened its ties with its closest maritime neighbor, Sri Lanka, this week, countering the growing influence of China in the island nation. Sri Lanka's President, H.E. Mr. Anura Kumara Disanayaka, made his first bilateral visit to New Delhi following the recent presidential and parliamentary elections. Earlier this year, President Disanayaka had also visited Delhi at a time when Sri Lanka's political future, including the timing of its elections, was still uncertain. The new President came to power riding on the left-leaning party, which is known to have harboured some Anti-Indian sentiments in the past. However, New Delhi chose to bet on the relatively young Marxist leader, hoping for a sense of prudence in future. Disanayaka in the past, has managed to maintain a fine balance in Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with India and China, not trying to get caught in any crossfire. Meanwhile, while India's military tensions with China have de-escalated in the recent past, it still chooses to be cautious. Special Representatives from India and China also met this week in Beijing, to discuss their mutual bilateral relations. It seems that with the Trump administration back in the Oval Office in January, China wants to de-escalate military tensions with countries it considers as rivals. China is aware that Trump is likely to impose tariffs on many of its exports to the US, and perhaps further tighten the transfer of high-end technology from America. It is acutely aware that, India would not join an economic dialogue unless the overarching military issues are sorted. It is against this background, that Sri Lankan President's visit to India assumes significance. It may be recalled that China had in the past, sent spy ships



(which it calls maritime research vehicles) to Sri Lankan waters, which have raised many red flags for the Indian security agencies. China also controls critical ports in Sri Lanka, which during any military conflict could be used for strategic purposes. Sri Lanka's President is aware of his country's dependence on China to keep its economy afloat, while, also not trying to disturb the deep bilateral partnership with India. It was heartening for policy watchers in India to note that the Sri Lankan President chose Delhi to be his port of call after getting elected and came out with some emphatic statements, regarding not allowing, their national territory to be used for any anti-India activities. The joint statement released after the President and Indian PM's meeting read "Recognising shared security interests of India and Sri Lanka, both leaders acknowledged the importance of regular dialogue based on mutual trust and transparency and giving primacy to each other's security concerns. India is Sri Lanka's closest maritime neighbour. President Disanayaka reiterated Sri Lanka's stated position of not permitting its territory to be used in any manner inimical to the security of India and towards regional stability." Taking cognisance of India's security concerns the two nations further reiterated to "Explore the possibility of concluding a framework Agreement on Defence Cooperation; Foster cooperation in hydrography; Provision of defence platforms and assets to augment Sri Lanka's defence capabilities; Intensify collaboration through joint exercises, maritime surveillance, and defence dialogue and exchanges; Extend assistance to strengthen capabilities of Sri Lanka on disaster mitigation, relief and rehabilitation, including through training, joint exercises and sharing of best practices; and Enhance capacity building and training for Sri Lankan defence forces and conduct tailor-made training programmes, wherever required." The bedrock of this relationship is India's generous economic support to Sri Lanka without putting it through non-transparent, self-serving infrastructure loans, which has led to the loss of strategic ports for the island nation.

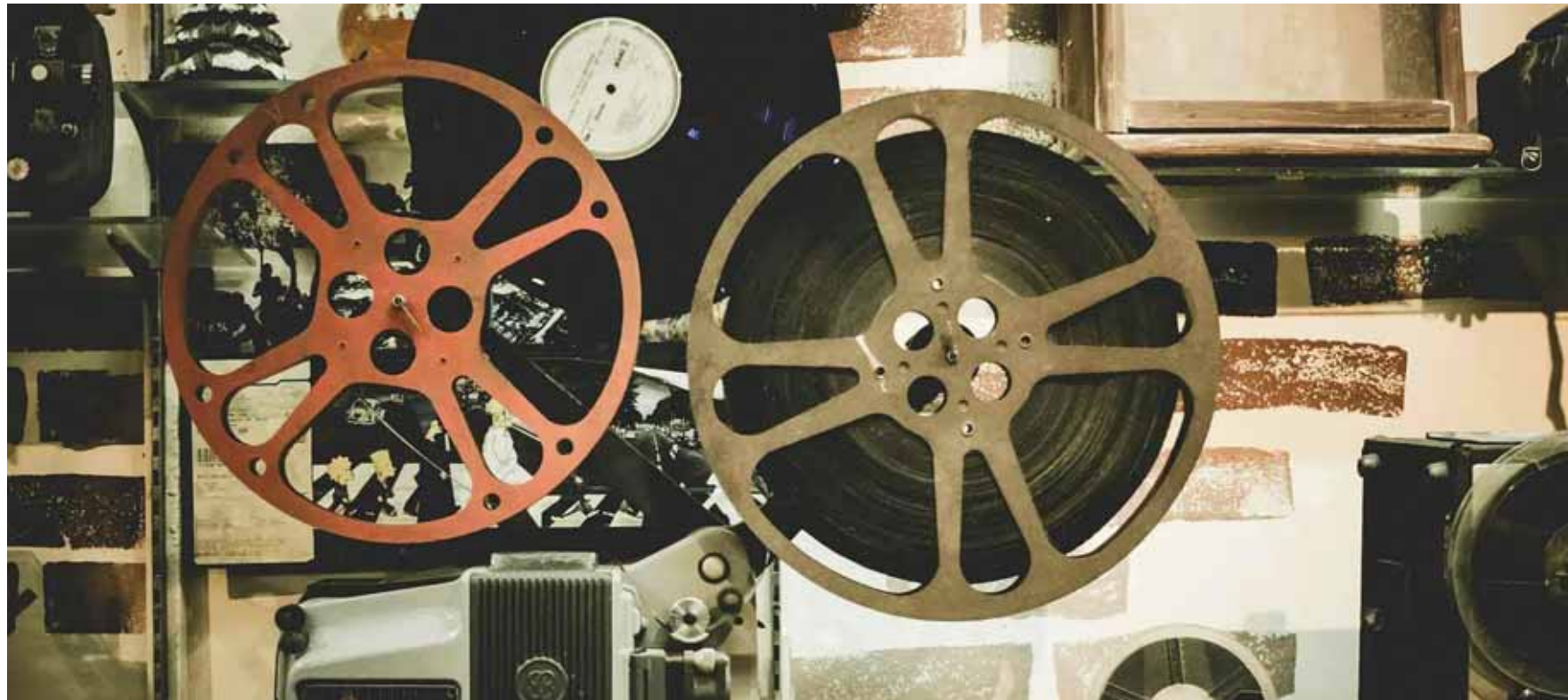
(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

The evolution of cinema through technology

Whether through sound, colour, digital effects, or immersive technology, filmmakers have always sought to expand the boundaries of what is possible



CHAITANYA K PRASAD



Beneath the flickering lights of an old projector, cinema was born—a dance of shadows and light, whispering stories into the dark. From silent dreams projected on silver screens to the roaring worlds of colour and sound, cinema has always been a magician, conjuring entire universes with the stroke of a reel. As technology sprinkled its magic dust over time, the cinematic world transformed, evolving from simple moving pictures into immersive journeys that now wrap us in their digital embrace, where imagination knows no bounds. In the late 19th century, cinema was a purely visual experience. Films like Raja Harishchandra (1913), India's first feature film, relied entirely on visuals, as sound was not yet a part of cinematic storytelling. Globally, the Lumière brothers' early works, such as L'Arrivée d'un train en gare de La Ciotat (1895), left audiences mesmerised. The technology was simple—manual cameras, mechanical projectors, and natural light. But this early era laid the foundation for the visual storytelling techniques that filmmakers would continue to refine for decades to come. The advent of sound in cinema was a game-changer. Alam Ara (1931) became India's first talkie, marking the beginning of an era where dialogue and music played a crucial role in storytelling. Globally, The Jazz Singer (1927) made similar waves, showcasing the transformative power of synchronized sound. Colour, too, began to seep into cinema's world. While Kisan Kanya (1937) was India's first colour film, it wasn't until Mughal-e-Azam (1960) and Hum Dono (1961) that colour became a truly artistic element, bringing emotional depth and grandeur to the screen. The partially coloured Mughal-e-Azam in particular stunned audiences, giving the larger-than-life historical drama a visual vibrancy that was previously unimaginable. Ramesh Sippy's Sholay (1975) was a groundbreaking film, being the first Indian movie shot on a 70mm screen. Indian theatres were not initially equipped to accommodate this scale, but the format gave Sholay's action sequences a larger-than-life feel, adding to its epic narrative. The film also introduced enhanced stereophonic sound, a novelty in Indian cinema.



THE TECHNOLOGY WAS SIMPLE—MANUAL CAMERAS, MECHANICAL PROJECTORS, AND NATURAL LIGHT. BUT THIS EARLY ERA LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL STORYTELLING TECHNIQUES THAT FILMMAKERS WOULD CONTINUE TO REFINE FOR DECADES TO COME

ema. Shan (1980) followed, introducing impressive special effects such as explosions, action choreography, and stunt sequences, drawing comparisons to Western films like James Bond, with a blend of spectacle and style that had rarely been seen in India. The onset of digital technology and CGI changed the landscape of Indian cinema in the 2000s. Films like Krishna (2006) and Ra. One (2011) ushered in a new era of superhero films and futuristic themes, using advanced CGI and motion capture. Robot (2010), featuring a humanoid robot protagonist, combined impressive VFX with engaging storytelling, marking a turning point in Indian cinema's relationship with technology. As CGI became increasingly prevalent, Hollywood and Indian cinema both embraced digital effects as a core component of storytelling. Hollywood's Jurassic Park (1993) and The Matrix (1999) showcased the immense potential of CGI. Indian films like Baahubali (2015-2017) set new standards with their breathtaking visual effects, making Indian cinema a global player in the visual effects arena. R (2022) followed suit, pushing the envelope with dynamic CGI-enhanced action scenes. Cinema is now becoming more immersive than ever. James Cameron's Avatar (2009) brought 3D to the forefront of mainstream cinema, while Indian cinema explored immersive experiences with films like Kaala (2018), which offered a 360-degree VR experience. Technologies like VR and AI are now beginning to merge with traditional filmmaking, pushing the boundaries of storytelling even further. Technological advancements have transformed both the creative and commercial aspects of cinema, allowing films to evolve into multifaceted brands. Innovations like high-definition cameras, VFX, and animation have significantly elevated

the quality of filmmaking, enabling large-scale productions such as RRR and Baahubali to create immersive experiences that attract global audiences. These technological tools have expanded the branding potential of films, positioning them as not just stories, but as global entertainment products. Furthermore, the media and entertainment sector's growth, particularly in India, reflects this shift, with theatrical revenues reaching an all-time high of INR 120 billion in 2023? The business model of cinema has expanded beyond traditional box-office revenue, thanks to digital platforms like OTT services, which offer new avenues for distribution and monetisation. These platforms provide filmmakers with the opportunity to market their films globally, turning local content into international brands. Films now capitalise on multiple revenue streams, including merchandising, digital rights, and exclusive streaming deals. Additionally, high-end multiplexes have begun focusing on premium cinematic experiences, creating "experience zones" that cater to affluent audiences and further enhance the brand identity of films? Cinema has also become a significant platform for advertising and brand collaborations. FMCG, e-commerce, and tech companies increasingly use films for product placements and promotions, contributing to the industry's revenue. Meanwhile, Indian films are reaching wider audiences across 160 countries, thanks to advancements in content production and global distribution. This expanded global reach is turning Indian cinema into a formidable international brand, with films frequently topping global streaming charts, further proving that technological advancements are integral to both the branding and business of cinema? Recently released films like

Kalki 2898 AD and Stree 2 have pushed the envelope for Indian cinema by leveraging advanced CGI and innovative storytelling techniques. Kalki 2898 AD embraced futuristic narratives, with its visually rich depiction of a dystopian future made possible through cutting-edge visual effects, similar to global sci-fi films. Stree 2 blended horror, comedy, and CGI to craft a unique, immersive experience, further proving that Indian filmmakers are increasingly adept at balancing narrative depth with technological prowess, placing them on the global stage. From the early days of silent films to today's CGI-driven spectacles, cinema has continuously evolved with technological advancements. Whether through sound, colour, digital effects, or immersive technology, filmmakers have always sought to expand the boundaries of what's possible. The future of cinema technology promises exciting advancements. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) are set to provide even more immersive storytelling experiences, allowing audiences to interact with cinematic worlds in unprecedented ways. Artificial intelligence (AI) is also emerging in post-production, helping streamline visual effects and editing processes. Additionally, innovations in 3D and holographic projections could redefine how we experience films in theatres and at home. Advances in sound technology, like spatial audio, will make the viewing experience more immersive, ensuring cinema continues to evolve. The cinematic journey, it seems, is far from over—technology is pushing the boundaries further, transforming both the art of storytelling and the audience. (The writer is a former additional DG, DFF and Festival Director, IFFI; views are personal. Inputs by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan)

Rajasthan's Golden Horizon: From cultural marvel to investment powerhouse

With the success of 'Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit 2024,' the state is poised for an economic transformation

Some ri dharti jathe-ar chandi ro aasman - translates to "Where the earth is made of gold and the sky is built with silver." This cherished folk song beautifully captures the essence of Rajasthan's Thar Desert. Today, these words remain as relevant as ever, reflecting the state's unique charm and its emergence as a hub of global investment opportunities. Rajasthan, India's largest state, is rich in minerals, endowed with vast solar and wind energy resources, and brimming with potential for investors worldwide. The Rajasthan Government has successfully hosted the 'Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit 2024' in Jaipur this week. Throughout the event,



MOHIT TANTIA

memorandums of understanding (MOUs) totalling over Rs 35 lakh crore were signed, highlighting the immense investment potential of the state. Actually, very few places can match Rajasthan's allure. It boasts nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites, iconic palaces and forts, 320 sunny days a year, powerful winds, and expansive land. Combined with excellent law

and order and robust rail connectivity, these factors place Rajasthan in a league of its own as a destination for investment. Currently, the state is undergoing an economic transformation. The government aims to propel Rajasthan's economy from \$180 billion to \$350 billion by enhancing the Ease of Doing Business and creating employment opportunities for the youth. Over the next five years, the administration seeks to generate one million jobs across private and public sectors, with a focus on attracting significant investments. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma envisions Rajasthan as a pivotal player in India's economic growth. His administration is fostering a

pro-business environment across industries, recognising that Rajasthan's development is integral to achieving the vision of a "Developed India" by 2047. Rajasthan's rich natural resources, skilled workforce, and outstanding connectivity make it a magnet for investments. Over 58 per cent of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and 39 per cent of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) pass through the state. This infrastructure connects Rajasthan to domestic and export markets, while its proximity to northern states and western ports ensures seamless trade access. With the third-largest national highway network and second-largest rail network in India, along with



nine inland container depots, seven airports, and an air cargo complex, Rajasthan is a logistical powerhouse. Rajasthan's investment prospects span diverse sectors: petroleum infrastructure, food processing, education, chemicals, electronic systems, automotive, electric vehicles, and renewable

energy. Traditional industries like tourism, and emerging fields like startups, also offer immense potential. For instance, in agriculture and agro-processing, Rajasthan is a top producer of mustard, millet, guar gum, fenugreek, Isabgol, and medicinal crops. The sector contributed 29 per cent to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2022-23. The state also ranks second in livestock population and is a leader in spices, organic farming, and coarse wool. With these advantages, the agriculture sector presents vast opportunities in agri-food parks, warehousing, and cold chain facilities. Rajasthan's journey from a

cultural and historical treasure to a thriving investment hub reflects its unparalleled potential and forward-looking vision. The state's abundant natural resources, excellent infrastructure, and strategic location make it an ideal destination for investors across various sectors, from renewable energy and agriculture to manufacturing and technology. With an ambitious economic transformation underway, Rajasthan's government is committed to creating a pro-business environment that will not only attract global investments but also create employment opportunities for its youth. As the state continues to capitalise on its diverse strengths, the "Rising

Rajasthan" initiative stands as a testament to its growing prominence on the global stage. The government's efforts, backed by strategic partnerships and forward-thinking policies, position Rajasthan as a key player in India's economic future, driving growth, prosperity, and development. The initiative seeks to bolster Rajasthan's industries, create jobs, and amplify its economic potential, ensuring the timeless folk song "Some ri dharti jathe-ar chandi ro aasman" resonates on a global stage. (The writer is Executive Member, National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities, Kolkata. Views expressed are personal)

Israeli airstrikes hit Yemen's capital and port city

AP ■ DUBAI

A series of intense Israeli airstrikes shook Yemen's rebel-held capital and a port city early Thursday and killed at least nine people, officials said, shortly after a Houthi missile targeted central Israel. Thursday's strikes risk further escalating conflict with the Iranian-backed Houthis, whose attacks on the Red Sea corridor have drastically impacted global shipping. The rebels have so far avoided the same level of intense military strikes that have targeted Palestinian militant group Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah, fellow members of Tehran's self-described "Axis of Resistance." Israel's military said that it conducted two waves of strikes in a pre-planned operation that began early Thursday and involved 14 fighter jets. The military said the first wave of strikes targeted Houthi infra-

structure at the ports of Hodeida, Salif and the Ras Isa oil terminal on the Red Sea. Then, in a second wave of strikes, the military said its fighter jets targeted Houthi energy infrastructure in Sanaa. The Houthi-controlled satellite channel al-Masirah said that some of the strikes targeted power stations in the capital, posting videos of flames engulfing one structure, as civil defense workers doused it in water, trying to extinguish the fire. The channel, citing its correspondent in the port city of Hodeida, said that at least seven people had been killed at Salif, while another two had been killed at the Ras Isa oil terminal. Others suffered wounds at the Hodeida port as well, it said. An Israeli military statement offered no damage assessment. Rear Adm Daniel Hagari, an Israeli military spokesman, said the strikes hit energy and port infrastructure, which he alleged

the rebels "have been using in ways that effectively contributed to their military action." "I suggest the leaders of the Houthis to see, to understand and remember: Whoever raises a hand against the state of Israel, his hand will be cut off, whoever harms us — will be harmed sevenfold," Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said. Rebel-held Hodeida, about 145 kilometres southwest of Sanaa, has been key for food shipments into Yemen as its decade-long war has gone on. There's also longstanding suspicion that weapons from Iran have been transferred through the port. The strikes happened just after Israel's military said that its air force intercepted a missile launched from Yemen before it entered the country's territory. The waves of strikes on Yemen early Thursday weren't a direct response to the missile hit, said a military official, but rather a preplanned response to

months of Houthi aggression. Israel's fighter jets were already in the air when the missile was launched. "Rocket and missile sirens were sounded following the possibility of falling debris from the interception," the Israeli military said. Sirens sounded near Tel Aviv and the surrounding areas, and a large explosion was heard overhead at the time. In Ramat Gan, a suburb of Tel Aviv, a large piece of shrapnel from the missile collapsed a school building there, without causing any injuries. The military official said that the Houthis have fired more than 200 missiles and UAVs, or unmanned aerial vehicles, at Israel since October 7, 2023. Brig Gen Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesman, claimed the attack hours later in a pre-recorded video statement, saying the rebels fired two of its "Palestine" ballistic missiles at Israel.

'Israel's restriction of water supply in Gaza amounts to acts of genocide'

AP ■ NEW YORK

Human Rights Watch on Thursday accused Israel of causing the deaths of thousands of Palestinians by systematically restricting and targeting Gaza's water supply in a campaign that amounted to "acts of genocide." The rights group was the latest among a growing number of critics to accuse Israel of genocidal acts in its war in Gaza. Israel vehemently denies the allegations, saying its war is directed at Hamas militants, not Gaza's civilians. In Thursday's report, HRW alleged that countless infants, children and adults have died from malnutrition, dehydration and illness as a result of actions by Israeli authorities over more than a year of war to deliberately cut the flow of water and electricity to Gaza, destroy infrastructure and prevent the distribution of critical supplies. "As a state policy, these acts constitute a widespread or sys-

tematic attack directed against a civilian population. Israeli officials are therefore committing the crime against humanity of extermination," the New York-based group said. The rights group said that the "pattern of conduct" outlined in its report and statements from Israeli officials "may indicate" genocidal intent, but it did not come down definitively on one side. Under international law, proving intent is key in concluding whether the crime of genocide has been committed. Israel, founded as a refuge for Jews in the wake of the Nazi Holocaust, strenuously denies such allegations. It says Hamas is responsible for the destruction in Gaza because the group hides and operates in schools, hospitals and residential areas. It says the October 2023 Hamas attack that triggered the war — the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust — amounts to genocide. "Human Rights Watch is once more spreading

its blood libels in order to promote its anti-Israel propaganda," Israel's Foreign Ministry said. It claimed Israel has worked to facilitate the flow of water and humanitarian aid into Gaza throughout the war. "Israel will continue to ensure humanitarian aid enters Gaza, in full compliance with international law," the statement said. The new report by Human Rights Watch outlined what the organisation described as an extended, methodical campaign by Israeli officials to deprive Palestinians in Gaza of water. That has drastically reduced the water supply in Gaza, from about 83 litres per person each day before the war began to between two and nine litres in the months since, the human rights group says. The World Health Organisation says people require 50 to 100 litres per day to meet basic needs and keep sickness in check. Human Rights Watch said Israeli forces deliberately razed

the solar panels that powered four of Gaza's six wastewater treatment plants and destroyed a key reservoir. The group alleged Israel also cut off electricity required to run desalination plants and other infrastructure and restricted fuel for backup generators. When the International Court of Justice issued orders in January that Israel provide Palestinians with basic services and assistance, officials ignored them, the group alleged. Human Rights Watch said its findings were based on interviews with more than 60 Palestinians, accounts from utility employees, doctors and other healthcare workers and aid workers, and analysis of satellite images, photos and video. "Doctors and nurses told Human Rights Watch that they had seen numerous infants, children, and adults die from a combination of malnutrition, dehydration, and disease," the group said.

Wisconsin school shooter had two guns, got texts from attack plot suspect

Madison (AP): The shooter who killed a student and teacher at a religious school in Wisconsin brought two guns to the school and was in contact with a man in California who authorities say was planning to attack a government building, according to authorities and court documents that became public Wednesday. Police were still investigating why the 15-year-old student at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison shot and killed a fellow student and teacher on Monday before shooting herself, Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes said. Two other students who were shot remained in critical condition on Wednesday. "We may never know what she was thinking that day, but we'll do our best to try to add or give as much information to our public as possible," Barnes said. A California judge, meanwhile, issued a restraining order Tuesday under California's gun red flag law against a 20-year-old Carlsbad man. The order requires the man to turn his guns and ammunition into police within 48 hours unless an officer asks for them sooner because he poses an immediate danger to himself and others.

Gisele Pelicot speaks after ex-husband found guilty of rapes, sentenced to 20 yrs in France

AP ■ AVIGNON

Gisele Pelicot said after 51 men were all found guilty Thursday in the drugging-and-rape trial that turned her into a feminist hero that the ordeal had been "very difficult" and expressed support for other victims of sexual violence. "We share the same fight," Gisele Pelicot, 72, said in her first words after the court in the southern French city of Avignon handed down prison sentences ranging from three to 20 years in the shocking case that stunned France and spurred a national reckoning about the blight of rape culture. Gisele Pelicot — whose courage and stoicism have turned her into an internationally recognised figure and an icon for many women — said she was thinking of her grandchildren after enduring more than three months of court hearings that dealt with the nearly decade of rapes and

other abuse inflicted on her by her now ex-husband and his accomplices. "It's also for them that I led this fight," she said of her grandchildren. The court sentenced her ex-husband, Dominique Pelicot, to 20 years in prison for drugging and raping her and allowing other men to rape her while she was unconscious. The sentence was the maximum possible under French law. He was declared guilty of all charges against him. At age 72, it could mean that he spends the rest of his life in prison. He won't be eligible to ask for early release until at least two-thirds of the sentence has been served. Roger Arata, the lead judge of the court in the southern French city Avignon, told Pelicot to stand for the sentencing. After it was delivered, he sat back down and cried. Arata read out verdicts one after the other against Pelicot

and the 50 other men tried in the case. "You are therefore declared guilty of aggravated rape on the person of Gisele Pelicot," the judge said as he worked his way through names on the long list of defendants. Gisele Pelicot was seated on one side of the courtroom, facing the defendants and sometimes nodding her head as verdicts were announced. Delivering the guilty verdicts and sentences took Arata just over an hour. Dominique Pelicot's lawyer, Beatrice Zavarro, said that she would weigh a possible appeal, but also expressed hope that Gisele Pelicot would find solace in the court's rulings. "I wanted Mrs Pelicot to be able to emerge from these hearings in peace, and I think that the verdicts will contribute to this relief for Mrs Pelicot," she said. Of the 50 accused of rape, just one was acquitted but was found guilty of aggravated sexual assault.

Another man was also found guilty on the sexual assault charge that he was tried for — meaning all 51 of the defendants were found guilty in one way or another. In a side room where defendants' family members watched the proceedings on television screens, some burst into tears and gasped as the sentences were revealed. Protesters gathered outside the courthouse followed the proceedings on their phones. Some read out the verdicts and applauded as they were announced inside. Some were carrying oranges as symbolic gifts for the defendants heading to prison. Prosecutors had asked that Dominique Pelicot get the maximum penalty of 20 years and for sentences of 10 to 18 years for the others tried for rape. But the court was more lenient than prosecutors had hoped, with many sentenced to less than a decade in prison.

Macron in Mayotte to survey Cyclone Chido damage

Mamoudzou (AP): France's President Emmanuel Macron arrived Thursday to the Indian Ocean archipelago of Mayotte to survey the devastation that Cyclone Chido wrought across the French territory as thousands of people tried cope without the bare essentials such as water or electricity. "Mayotte is demolished," an airport security agent told Macron as soon as he stepped of the plane. The security agent, Assane Halo, said small children are without water or electricity and have nowhere to go because "everything is demolished." "There's no roof, there's nothing. No water, no food, no electricity. We can't even shelter, we are all wet with our children covering ourselves with whatever we have so that we can sleep," she said, asking for emergency aid. Macron went on an helicopter for an aerial appraisal of the damage. He then headed to the hospital in Mamoudzou, Mayotte's



A boy stands amidst debris in the Kaweni slum on the outskirts of Mamoudzou in the French Indian Ocean island of Mayotte, Thursday, after Cyclone Chido. AP/PTI

capital, to meet with medical staff and patients. He will then visit a destroyed neighbourhood. French authorities said at least 31 people have died and more than 1,500 people were injured, more than 200 criti-

cally. But it's feared hundreds or even thousands of people have died after the strongest cyclone in nearly a century ripped through the French territory of Mayotte off the coast of Africa on Saturday.

Trump's demands derail govt funding plan ahead of shutdown

AP ■ WASHINGTON President-elect Donald Trump abruptly rejected a bipartisan plan on Wednesday to prevent a Christmastime government shutdown, instead telling House Speaker Mike Johnson and Republicans to essentially renegotiate — days before a deadline when federal funding runs out. Trump's sudden entrance into the debate and new demands sent Congress spiralling as lawmakers are trying to wrap up work and head home for the holidays. It leaves Johnson scrambling to engineer a new plan before Friday's deadline to keep government open. "Republicans must GET SMART and TOUGH," Trump and Vice President-elect JD Vance said in a statement. The president-elect made an almost unrealistic proposal that combined some continuation of government funds along with a much more controversial provision to raise

the nation's debt limit — something his own party routinely rejects. "Anything else is a betrayal of our country," they wrote. Democrats decried the GOP revolt over the stopgap measure, which would have also provided some USD 100.4 billion in disaster aid to states hammered by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and other natural disasters. "House Republicans have been ordered to shut down the government and hurt everyday Americans all across this country," said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries. Jeffries said "an agreement is an agreement," and by backing out of it, "the House Republicans "will now own any harm that is visited upon the American people". Already, the massive 1,500-page bill was on the verge of collapse, as hard right conservatives rejected the increased spending, egged on by Trump's billionaire ally Elon Musk who



rejected the plan almost as soon as it was released late on Tuesday night. Rank-and-file lawmakers complained about the extras, which included their first pay-raises in more than a decade — a shock after one of the most unproductive chaotic sessions in modern times. Even the addition of much-needed disaster aid, some USD

100.4 billion in the aftermath of hurricanes and other natural calamities that ravaged states this year, plus USD 10 billion in economic assistance for farmers failed to win over the budget-slashing GOP. A number of Republicans had been waiting for Trump to signal whether they should vote yes or no. "This should not pass," Musk posted on his social media site X in the wee hours of Wednesday. One lawmaker said office phone lines were flooded with calls from constituents. "My phone was ringing off the hook," said Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky. "The people who elected us are listening to Elon Musk." The outcome comes as no surprise for Johnson, who like other Republican House speakers before him, has been unable to convince his majority to go along with the routine needs of federal government operations, which they would prefer to slash.

It all shows just how hard it will be for Republicans next year, as they seize control of the House, Senate and White House, to unify and lead the nation. And it underscores how much Johnson and the GOP leaders must depend on Trump's blessing to see any legislative package over the finish line. Musk, who is heading Trump's new Department of Government Efficiency, warned that "Any member of the House or Senate who votes for this outrageous spending bill deserves to be voted out in 2 years!" It is not an idle threat coming from Musk, the world's richest man, who helped bankroll Trump's victory and can easily use his America PAC to make or break political careers. Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland said this is the problem with "an oligarchy, a handful of wealthy people run everything and everyone is supposed to live in fear of them".

Senators from both parties were watching from across the Capitol with dismay. "Is this going to be the norm? Is this going to be how we operate?" said Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., putting the blame on Johnson. Democrats, who negotiated the final product with Johnson and Senate GOP leadership, will be expected to provide enough support to help ensure passage, as is often the case on big, bipartisan bills. "Republicans need to stop playing politics," said White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre. However, Trump's new demands on the debt limit pose a daunting test for Johnson, who has worked hard to stay close to the president-elect — even texting with Musk and DOGE co-chair Vivek Ramaswamy — only to have him turn against his hard-fought plan. Trump posted later that he was insisting on the debt ceiling: "I

will fight till the end." The nation's debt limit expires in 2025 and Trump appears to want the issue off the table before he returns to the White House, a reasonable idea but one that typically is tough to negotiate. The last House speaker, Kevin McCarthy, worked for months with President Joe Biden to raise the debt limit. Even though they struck a bipartisan deal that cut spending in exchange for additional borrowing capacity, House Republicans said it did not go far enough, and it ended up costing McCarthy his job. Now, Trump is looking for Johnson to pass a debt ceiling extension some 48 hours before a partial government shutdown. Meanwhile, the bipartisan package that Trump rejected extended existing government programmes and services at their current operating levels for a few more months, through March 14, 2025.

Indian, US officials meet to chart next steps in space collaboration

PTI ■ WASHINGTON Officials from India and the United States have charted next steps in space collaboration, including human spaceflight, joint space exploration and a commitment to facilitating commercial partnerships between space companies to advance the shared interests in the growing space economy, the White House said on Wednesday. A meeting in this regard was held in Houston on December 17. The participants in the meeting were US Principal Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer, Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Indian Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra. "Following President (Joe)

Biden and Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi's June 2023 commitment to work together to 'reach new frontiers across all sectors of space cooperation' and India's signing of the Artemis Accords, our two nations reached an inflection point on collaboration across civil, security and commercial space sectors," the White House said in a fact-sheet. "This includes human spaceflight, joint space exploration and a commitment to facilitating commercial partnerships between US and Indian space companies to advance our shared interests in the growing space economy," it said. As part of their visit to Houston, Finer and Campbell met with representatives from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and space industry leaders to identify new opportunities to further strengthen the two countries' burgeoning space partnership. They also reflected on the accomplishments of the past few months and charted next steps to take the India-US partnership to the next level, including selecting two ISRO astronauts to train at the NASA's Johnson Space Centre for the first-ever joint effort between American and Indian astronauts at the International Space Station, with Axiom Space serving as the provider of the mission. The launch of the Axiom-4 mission as soon as spring 2025 will mark a significant milestone in the US-India space partnership and space exploration.

UK PM hosts Indian business chiefs to boost investments

PTI ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Keir Starmer hosted a delegation of 13 Indian companies at 10 Downing Street in London on what the British government described as a "curated visit" to enhance the bilateral partnership and boost investment flows. The visit on Wednesday follows Starmer's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit last month, when the leaders committed to take forward an "ambitious" UK-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with collaboration opportunities on economic growth, security and defence, technology, climate, health, and education. According to a readout from the British High Commission in New Delhi, the Indian investors and CEOs also met



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, left, shakes hands with the Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanali Bolkhiah ahead of a meeting at 10 Downing Street, London, Thursday. AP/PTI

senior Cabinet ministers to discuss job creation and growth opportunities under a proposed India-UK trade deal after Starmer had confirmed the launch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations early in the new year. "India is a vital partner for the UK and we have huge ambition to unlock more opportunities together, building on our already strong relationship," said Starmer, with reference to the business meeting. "I'm delighted to welcome some of India's most senior business leaders to Downing Street and to outline the UK's ambitious focus on economic growth and innovation," he said. The delegation, supported by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), discussed deepening ties with Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves and Foreign Secretary David Lammy. Meanwhile, Business

and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds and minister for trade policy Douglas Alexander discussed bilateral trade, worth GBP 42 billion a year and supporting over 600,000 jobs across both economies as per UK government statistics. "As one of the most globally connected economies in the G20, the UK provides unmatched opportunities for Indian businesses to thrive. India already accounts for the second highest number of FDI projects into the UK, and this government is committed to deepening our trade and investment links with India even further," said Reynolds. "Boosting investment is a mission at the heart of this government. It was great to hear firsthand from Indian business leaders on why so many of them have given us a vote of confidence and chosen to invest here," he said.

Putin boasts of gains in Ukraine at annual news conference

AP MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin boasted that his military operation in Ukraine has strengthened Russia and denied that the downfall of a key ally in Syria had dented Moscow's prestige...



Men hold a replica of the banner of the 155th Marine Brigade of the Pacific Fleet, participating in a special military operation in Ukraine during Russian President Vladimir Putin's annual news conference and call-in show at Gostinny Dvor in Moscow, Russia, Thursday.

He claimed that nearly three years of fighting in Ukraine has hardened the Russian economy and the country's military and hailed his troops' gains there.

time last month to strike Ukraine, Putin scoffed at claims by some Western experts that it could be intercepted by NATO's air defences. He mockingly challenged Ukraine's Western allies to a "high-tech duel"...

ernment subsidies. But the Russian leader is particularly watched for his answers on foreign affairs. In a flourish typical of the marathon news conferences, he asked people in the audience to unfurl a banner presented to him by marines fighting in Kursk as he answered questions about Ukraine.

Putin has previously demanded that Ukraine renounce its bid to join NATO and recognize Russia's gains. Ukraine and the West have rejected those demands.

Putin said, in response to a question from NBC's Keir Simmons, who cited a letter he said Tice's mother wrote to the Russian leader seeking assistance. Moscow has quickly sought to establish contacts with the rebels who ousted Assad to secure its diplomatic and military personnel in the country and try to extend the lease on its air and naval bases in the country. But it's unclear how much influence Russia will have in Syria going forward.

country's civil war. Still, Putin denied that the events had weakened Moscow, arguing that it has achieved the goal of destroying "terrorist" groups in the country set when it launched an air campaign in support of Assad in 2015. He claimed that rebel groups that were fighting against Assad have changed and the West is now ready to establish ties with them.

humanitarian aid deliveries. Putin began the session by saying that Russia's economy is on track to grow by nearly 4% this year. He acknowledged that consumer prices are high, with inflation at 9.3%, but insisted that the economic situation remains "stable".

EU leaders insist no decisions can be taken about Ukraine without Ukraine

Brussels (AP): European Union leaders insisted on Thursday that no decisions can be taken about the future of war-ravaged Ukraine without its consent or behind the backs of its partners in Europe...

important to "ensure long-term aid to Ukraine - it must be clear that we are prepared to enable support as long as it is needed". Air defence, artillery and ammunition are high on the list, he told reporters.

In a show of solidarity at a summit in Brussels with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, many EU leaders repeated a variation of what has become a common mantra - nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine, nothing about security in Europe without Europeans.

"We need to stand with Ukraine, and every step... needs to be taken with Ukraine and in the presence of the European Union. The future of Ukraine is decided in Europe and not elsewhere," he said.

Five Pakistanis killed, 35 missing in Greece boat sinking

Islamabad (PTI): Five Pakistani nationals have been killed and 35 others presumed dead after a boat carrying migrants sank off of Greece's Gavdos island over the weekend, according to a media report on Thursday.

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(3)

Government of Odisha, Directorate of Town Planning, Housing & Urban Development Department. Notice Inviting RFP

PUBLIC NOTICE Loss of Allotment Letter (original) issued by Unitech Ltd for Flat No.501 Block No. 44 Heritage City MG Road Gurgaon Haryana 122002 India.

PUBLIC NOTICE I, SUDESH KUMARI Wife of Shri RANBIR SINGH Resident of 18, Goodwill Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, North West Delhi-110085, hereby declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as Sudesh Kumari and Shri Ranbir Singh in driving licence.

PUBLIC NOTICE The Public at large is hereby notified that, I, Raj Kumar Gupta S/o Late Raghunandan Kumar Gupta is the owner of Property No.31-A, land measuring area 80 sq. yds.

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES Table with columns: Certificates No., Distinctive No., Folio No., No. of Shares

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all, AJIT KUMAR/S/O SH. RADHA RAMAN DINESH R/O MIG FLAT NO. 442, SECOND FLOOR, POCKET-C-6, SECTOR-8, ROHINI, DELHI, have applied for certified copies & free hold in DDA.

PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client SH. RAJ KUMAR owner of the FIRST FLOOR FLAT NO.104, PROPERTY BEARING NO. 136 AND 137, AREA 75 SQ. YDS., KHASRA NO. 816, VILLAGENAWA DA, OM VIHAR PHASE-1, UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI-110019 and SH. RAJ KUMAR purchase property from Smt. Sangita vide Notarized G.P.A.ATS and will date 11.08.2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE The general public is hereby informed and put to notice that the scheduled property is owned jointly by Kumud Vaid, Sunil Vaid, Neha Vaid and Samir Vaid, and they are the legal and absolute owner and in physical possession of the said property.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No. E-593357/5 The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, invites bids from registered appropriate class of contractor for 6 group of building works in different schools as per the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website https://www.assamtenders.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the public at large that my client CICI Bank is attaching a loan to Mrs. Iresha Laminates Private Ltd. for purchasing the Flat / Dwelling Unit bearing the address Third Floor with rights of Property No. G-19, (138/12 Sq. Yds.), D.E. Colony, Krishna Nagar, Village Ghochi, Ilaga Sharda, Delhi. (S/Subject Property) from Mr. Navneet Kumar Gupta and Mr. Vineet Kumar Gupta (collectively referred as "Sellers") has been represented by the Sellers that they acquired the right over the Subject Property vide Gift Deed dated 26.05.2017, executed by Mrs. Krishna Gupta, who inherited the Subject Property from Mrs. Ram Pyari Goe vide Will dated 30.10.2012.

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all, URMILA RANI W/O LATE SH. ASHOK KUMAR R/O LIG FLAT NO.22-B, FIRST FLOOR, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110027 purchase property from DDA LIG FLAT NO.22-B, FIRST FLOOR, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110027, have applied for certified copies & freehold in DDA.

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi TENDER NOTICE Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi TENDER NOTICE Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

PUBLIC NOTICE Public in General is hereby notified that my client Late Smt. Manju Aggarwal W/o Shri Mohan Lal Aggarwal R/o House No. 56 Akashneem Marg DLF Phase 2 Gurgaon, has agreed to purchase house no. 56 Akashneem Marg DLF Phase 2 Gurgaon.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Subhash Kashyap and Mr. Shubham Sharma, who are purchasing the Northern side entire Second floor without roof rights, part of Property No.A-20/1, situated at Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007 from Shri Akhlesh Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma and Mrs. Nutan Sharma W/o Shri Akhlesh Kumar Sharma, who are hereby declaring that the Original Sale Deed executed on 16.01.2019 by Smt. Sushma Jain in favour of Shri Padam Chand Jain, towards the said property, read as Registration No.853 in Book No. 10,8096 on page 60 to 67 dated 18.01.2019 with Sub Registrar VIA Model Town, has been misplaced. Loss of the property document has already been informed to the Delhi Police, which is registered as LR No.1884639/2019 dated 15.11.2019 P.S. Cirre Branch, Delhi. Shri Subhash Kashyap and Mr. Shubham Sharma intend to mortgage the said property against the financial assistance from IDBI Bank Ltd. To comply with the requirements of BANK/NFCC, all the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing sale deed dated 18.01.2019.

PUBLIC NOTICE I, GEORGE KUTTY S/O THOMAS R/O 60D, B-10A, UDAIGIRI-1, SECTOR-3/4 BOUDA DIST BUDDHA GAUTAM NAGAR U.P. 201301, which is the Power of attorney registered in my name from the above flat/house/M/s NAVNEET ENGINEERING (P) LTD Now I want to transfer this flat/house/Power of attorney/authority in the name of my wife Mrs. LEELAMMA GEORGE. No other legal criminal case of the above persons is pending in any state/state. Now I want to declare to the general public that any person who has any right, ownership or interest against the said property/shares or documents. So he can come to our Noida office with valid documentary evidence within 15th days and submit his claim. If anyone does not do so, then he will be considered non-owner and unrestricted. And it will be taken forward accordingly.

LADY TATA MEMORIAL TRUST Founded 1932 Bombay House, Homi Modi Street Mumbai 400 001. Applications are invited for the below Scientific Research Awards Junior Research Fellowship 2025-26

CHANGE OF NAME I, Priyanka, D/o- JC-734254W Sub Rati Bhan, R/o- Vill- Ratanapur, PO- Pali, Distt- Hardoi, U.P.- 241123, have changed my name from Priyanka to Priyanka Singh, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1109)C I, No.16017748A Hav Dharmender, R/o- Vill+Po- Sulkhia, Teh- Bawal, Dist- Rewari, Haryana- 123401, have changed my son's name from Punit Katariya to Punit Kataria, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1110)C I, Raj Pati Devi Mother of No.16020466M Hav Somvir Singh, R/o- VTC- Saharwa(3), Dist- Hisar, Haryana- 125001, have changed my name from Raj Pati Devi to Rajpati, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1111)C I, Khushbu Kumari W/o- JC- 733883F Sub Kunal Kumar, R/o- Usha Kunj, Ayodhya Nagar, Church Road, PO+PS- Barh, Dist- Patna, Bihar- 803213, have changed my name from Khushbu Kumari to Khushbu Singh, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1112)C I, DAKSH S/o PARDEEP R/o VPO ROHNA, Teh.Kharkhoda, district Sonipat (Haryana)- 131402, have changed my Name to DAKSH DAHIYA. PD(1114)C I, NATASHA D/o PARDEEP R/o VPO ROHNA, Teh.Kharkhoda, district Sonipat (Haryana)- 131402, have changed my Name to NATASHA DAHIYA. PD(1115)C

Public Notice of Bank of Baroda This is to inform the general public that Bank of Baroda, S.M.S, East Delhi Branch, Delhi, intends to accept the under mentioned property standing in the name of Smt. Anita Mittal W/O Sh. Neeraj Mittal (Present owner), and intending purchaser i.e., Sh. Puneet Kumar Arora S/O Sh. Suresh Chand Arora, as a security for a loan/credit facility requested by one of its customers. In case anyone has got any right/title/ interest/claims over the under mentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank/Advocate within Seven days along with necessary proof to substantiate their claim. If no response is received within Seven days, it is presumed that the property is free of any charge/claim/encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage. Details of Property: A Leasehold Residential Plot, bearing Plot No. 63, area measuring 1000 Sq. Meters, Pocket-E, Situated at Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Sector-20, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.). Sanjeev Gupta (Advocate) S.M.S East Delhi Office No.813, 8th Floor, The Nexra District Centre, Mayur Phone No. 990555836 Vihar Extn. Delhi-110091, Phone No.9811154597

Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com Letter No. : 3734(I)/Nivida-01/2024-25 Dated : 18/12/2024 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TENDERING (E-Tendering) E-TENDER NOTICE The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 21/12/2024 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

STORES E-PROCUREMENT Tender Notice No.: S/50/Sr.DMM/KIR/PUB/e-Tender/2024-25/06, Dtd: 16-12-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works. SI.No.:1: Tender No. : KT245605; Closing/Opening Date: 06-01-2025 (14:30 Hrs.); QTY: 58 Nos. Brief Description: Supply and Testing of VHF 25 Watt Radio with plain MIC Standard Accessories, Power Supply Unit Cum Battery Charger (13.5V/15A) 12V/100Ah VRLA Battery with I-Leader Connectors LMR 400 Co-axial Cable with end connectors (3-Meter) High Gain base antenna with Clamps 1.25 inch pipe pole mast with clamping and stay wire arrangements base station units as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/TC/107/2018 Rev. 2.1 or latest. Consignee: SSE/Tele/Kathar, NFR (Bihar). Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders. Divisional Materials Manager, Kathar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

LOST & FOUND I, Ankur Mahalwala S/o. late Shri Virendra Kumar have lost the original papers (Agreement to sell, GPA Etc.) of flat 200/7, Garhi East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065 while traveling for personal work. Anybody Finder please contact 9810110087. PD(1113)C

Table with columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, Cost of Tender Form, Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh), Validity of Tender, Time of Completion, Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering

UNITING ART AND PHILANTHROPY

COMING soon

KHUSHII NGO launched the Art Design Culture (ADC) Collective, a unique event combining Indian art and design with a mission to uplift communities in need. The evening also featured the launch of Rajan Kapoor's book *The Serengeti: Wild Wonders of Africa*, adding a thoughtful dimension to the celebration, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**



In a world where art and culture come together, it's refreshing to see an event that not only celebrates creativity but also serves a greater purpose. The unveiling of the Art Design Culture (ADC) Collective, hosted by KHUSHII NGO at Bikaner House, was a perfect example of such an initiative. This special event seamlessly combined India's rich artistic traditions with the mission of supporting underprivileged communities through KHUSHII's educational and community development programs. The evening began with a gathering of art lovers, patrons and philanthropists who were eager to engage in thoughtful discussions about the role of art in society. Among the highlights of the event were the insightful conversations with celebrated personalities such as *Shabana Azmi* and *Javed Akhtar*. Their reflections on their contributions to Indian art and culture provided valuable perspectives, sparking a meaningful dialogue about the future of Indian creativity. One of the key moments of the evening was the launch of *Rajan Kapoor's The Serengeti: Wild Wonders of Africa*, a



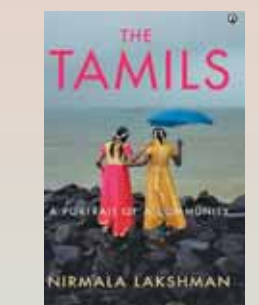
stunning visual exploration of Africa's natural beauty. The launch was accompanied by a discussion on wildlife conservation led by *Dr. Rajiv Bhartari*, which highlighted the importance of preserving nature and the role that art can play in raising awareness about such critical issues.

Design also took centre stage, with renowned designer *Sussanne Khan* sharing her journey in the world of design. Her inspiring words about perseverance, creativity, and pushing boundaries resonated with everyone present. The evening also featured a lively art dialogue moderated by *Rahul Kumar*, where Padma

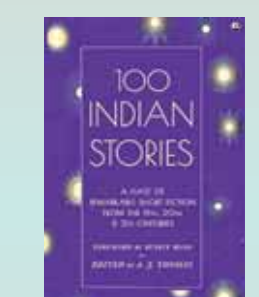
ABOUT THE BOOK
 Book: The Serengeti wild wonders of Africa by Rajan Kapoor
 Publisher: Niyogi Books
 Price: ₹4,500

Shri awardee *Paresh Maity* and textile revivalist *Karishma Swali* discussed the evolution of Indian art over the last decade. Their conversation underscored the importance of innovation and tradition in shaping the future of Indian art. The ADC Collective isn't just a celebration of creativity; it's an opportunity to connect with the vibrant world of Indian culture while supporting a meaningful cause. The event will give the public a chance to explore a stunning collection of artworks and interact with talented Indian artisans. All proceeds from the event will go directly towards supporting KHUSHII's philanthropic work, making it an impactful experience for both art enthusiasts and those eager to contribute to a greater cause. This initiative highlights how art can be a powerful tool for social change. By combining the beauty of Indian craftsmanship with the mission of uplifting communities, the ADC Collective offers a perfect example of how culture and philanthropy can work hand in hand to create positive change.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



Book: The Tamils
 A Portrait of a Community
 Author: Nirmala Lakshman
 Publisher: Aleph book Company



Book: 100 Indian Stories
 A Feast of Remarkable Short Fiction from the 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries
 Author: Edited by A. J. Thomas
 Foreword by Ruskin Bond
 Publisher: Aleph book Company



Book: The Comeback A Novel
 Author: Annie Zaidi
 Publisher: Aleph book Company

SHATTERED SYRIA: CHAOS AFTER ASSAD

By GYANESHWAR DAYAL

Our Regular columnist, *Nilantha Ilangamuwa's After Assad: Is Syria the New Libya in the Mediterranean?* is a compelling exploration of the geopolitical chaos unleashed by the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime. Independently published in 2024 and available on Amazon, the book offers a stark analysis of a nation fractured by war, foreign interference, and sectarian tensions, drawing thought-provoking parallels with Libya's disintegration post-Gaddafi. *Ilangamuwa* delves into the complex aftermath of *Assad's* collapse, illustrating how the removal of a dictator does not necessarily lead to stability or democracy. Instead, the power vacuum has given rise to militias, territorial struggles, and foreign interventions. The narrative paints a grim picture of a nation torn apart by competing agendas, with Turkey, Iran, Israel, Russia, and Western powers vying for influence, often at the expense of Syria's sovereignty and its people's welfare. This multi-layered analysis is not just a critique of these powers but a searing indictment of how global ambitions exploit fractured states. The book contextualises the Syrian conflict within a broader historical framework, tracing the roots of sectarian manipulation and authoritarian rule under the *Assad* dynasty. *Ilangamuwa* connects these factors to the current fragmentation, showing how decades of repression and inequality laid the groundwork for the present turmoil. His parallels with Libya highlight the recurring failures of external interventions, where short-term strategic goals leave behind a legacy of chaos and suffering. The human cost of this conflict is at the heart of *Ilangamuwa's* narrative. He vividly describes the destruction of key Syrian cities, the displacement of millions, and the rise of extremist factions like Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham. He challenges the ethical basis of foreign powers' involvement, arguing that their actions often prioritise geopolitical objectives over humanitarian considerations. The looting of Damascus following Assad's downfall is capturing the collapse of state authority and the pervasive violence engulfing the capital. The author's critique extends to the duplicity of international media and foreign policy actors. By juxtaposing Syria's fate with Western portrayals of regime change, *Ilangamuwa* exposes the contradictions and hypocrisies in global narratives about intervention and democracy. His insights into how powers such as the United States and Turkey manipulate proxy wars underscore the cynical exploitation of regional instability. This is not merely a political or historical study; it is also a distressing reflection on the enduring suffering of the Syrian people. *Ilangamuwa's* writing is enriched by his encounters with Syrian activists, journalists, and intellectuals, lending authenticity to his analysis. These voices, often overshadowed by dominant geopolitical discourses, remind readers of the resilience and hope that persist amidst devastation.

ABOUT THE BOOK
 Book: Ilangamuwa's After Assad: Is Syria the New Libya in the Mediterranean?
 by Nilantha Ilangamuwa

THE UNTOLD JOURNEY OF A CRICKET LEGEND

By KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The game of cricket remains a mystery to me even in the autumn of life. My first encounter with it occurred in the 1960s when I witnessed this strange game being played at a maidan in Fort Kochi, where our teachers had taken us for a day-long excursion. The picturesque maidan had two screens made of white cloth stretched across the ends, while 'gentlemen' in white trousers and shirts played the game with bats and a ball. Sreedharan Pillai, the teacher who accompanied us, told me that it was 'cricket', a game played by royalty. Months later, I came across this game again at my school in Perumbavoor, where the royalty had assembled to play cricket. They arrived in cars such as Herald, Fiat, Vanguards, Chevrolet, and the occasional Ambassadors. One of the spectators told me that the players were from Kannan Devan Tea Estates in Munnar and shipping agents based in Kochi. Since I couldn't grasp the nuances of the game, I asked my classmate Sundararajan, son of a senior manager at Travancore Rayons, who often spoke of Pataudi, Sarbadhikari, and others. "You will not understand this game because it's played by educated and wealthy people," Sundararajan told me. In every place, there are those who are considered masters of all topics. We had Gopalakrishnan, the local tailor, who was an encyclopedia of knowledge. There was nothing he didn't know. "Arrey, you will not understand it. It's a game played by officials like engineers, adhikaris, contractors, sarvadhikaris, and vakeels," Gopal Ji ticked me off. It was years later that I heard names like Farook Engineer, Nari Contractor, Hemu Adhikari, Berry Sarvadhikari, and the occasional Smiths and Tailors who toured India! Cricket got a major boost in 1983 when India won the World Cup in England under the captaincy of Kapil Dev, the Haryana Hurricane. Alongside him, another player emerged as the darling of the masses: the unassuming Mohinder

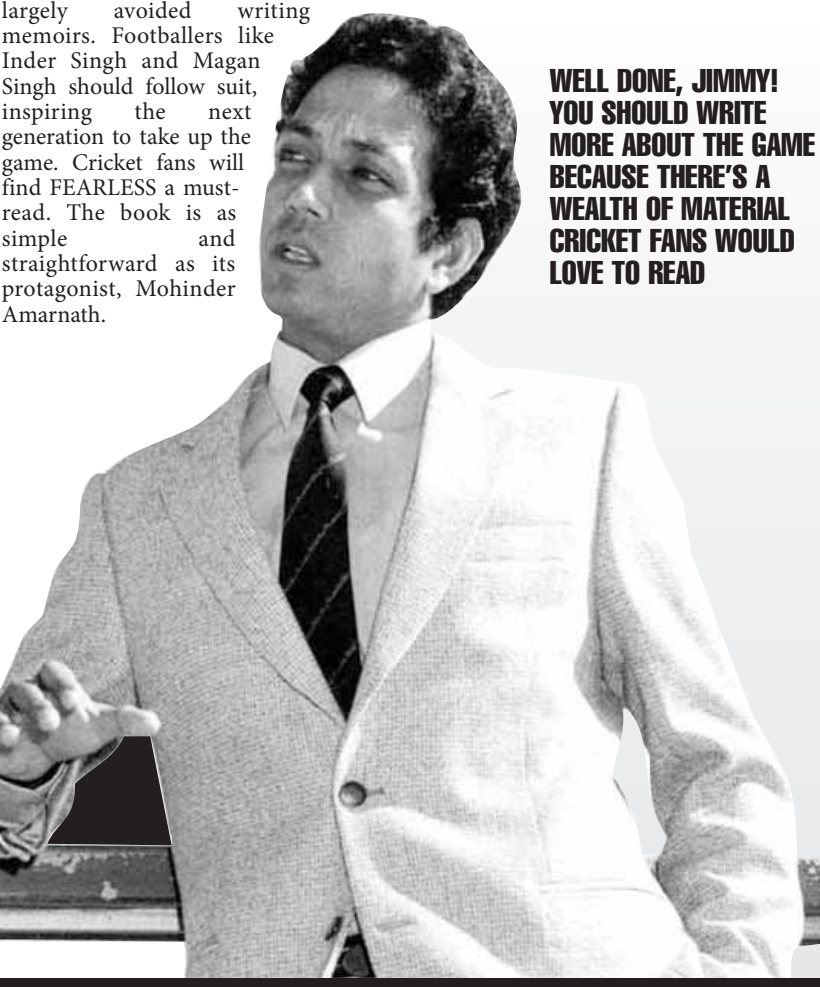
Amarnath, whose stellar performance with both bat and ball led India to triumph. Before the World Cup, Mohinder had already earned a reputation as a fantastic all-rounder, particularly in the 1977-1978 series in Australia, which is often remembered as the 'Mohinder Amarnath series.' It's shocking that such a brilliant cricketer had to spend many years in the wilderness due to the callous attitude of Indian selectors, who overlooked him despite his exceptional performances. Though he played against the touring Australian side in 1969, he was sidelined for years. The reason for this remains a mystery. After three decades of first-class cricket, Mohinder penned his memoirs, *FEARLESS*, with his younger sibling Rajinder. The three sons of legendary Lala Amarnath—Surinder, Mohinder, and Rajinder—had made their father proud with their performances, though Rajinder never made it to the national side. Despite being born to a legendary father, Mohinder had no godfathers in the game. His memoirs detail the trials he faced. He doesn't blame anyone in particular but does highlight how the Delhi District Cricket Association's actions kept him from the national team. Mohinder attributes this to the authorities' potential frustration with his outspoken father, Lala Amarnath, who didn't hesitate to speak his mind. *FEARLESS* is more than just a memoir; it offers valuable lessons for aspiring cricketers. Life wasn't easy for Mohinder, despite having a father who was a flamboyant cricketer. Critics consider Mohinder the best Indian batsman against fast bowling. Indian players, barring a few like Farook Engineer and Viswanath, often collapsed against pace bowlers. Had Mohinder been included in the team, the outcomes would likely have been different. An interesting anecdote from Mohinder's memoir involves the 1978 Pakistan tour. In the midst of a contentious series, Asif Iqbal, the Pakistani all-rounder,

approached the Indian team with an offer from Kerry Packer, the founder of World Series Cricket. Iqbal, eager to distract the Indians, sent a WSC representative with a lucrative offer, but despite Mohinder's signed contract, nothing came of it. Mohinder describes it as a strategic move to disrupt their focus before a crucial Test match. The chapter on the 1983 World Cup transports readers back in time, immersing them in the spirit of the game. There are many cricketer memoirs, but *FEARLESS* stands out as monumental. The book captures the sweat and blood of Mohinder and Surinder (who was also dropped despite impressive performances). The discrimination faced by northern players at the hands of the western zone selectors is another compelling aspect of *FEARLESS*. Indian sportsmen, unlike their cricketer counterparts, have largely avoided writing memoirs. Footballers like Inder Singh and Magan Singh should follow suit, inspiring the next generation to take up the game. Cricket fans will find *FEARLESS* a must-read. The book is as simple and straightforward as its protagonist, Mohinder Amarnath.

ABOUT THE BOOK
 Book: FEARLESS - A Memoir Mohinder Amarnath with Rajinder Amarnath
 Publisher: Harper Collins
 Price: ₹799

WELL DONE, JIMMY! YOU SHOULD WRITE MORE ABOUT THE GAME BECAUSE THERE'S A WEALTH OF MATERIAL CRICKET FANS WOULD LOVE TO READ

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India to play its Champions Trophy matches at neutral venue

PTI ■ DUBAI

The deadlock over the hosting of next year's Champions Trophy finally ended on Thursday when the ICC announced that India will play their matches of the 50-over event at a neutral venue instead of host country Pakistan, which will get a similar arrangement for tournaments to be held in India till 2027. The agreement will also extend to the 2028 women's T20 World Cup, which will be held in Pakistan. Although no formal announcement has been made, but India's Champions Trophy matches are likely to be held in the UAE. "The ICC Board has approved that all matches between India and Pakistan played at ICC Events during the current rights cycle from 2024 to 2027 (which are to be hosted in India or Pakistan)

will be played at a neutral venue proposed by the tournament host," said the ICC in a statement, confirming what PTI reported on December 5. The arrangement will also cover next year's women's World Cup in India and the T20 World Cup in 2026, to be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka. "India's Champions Trophy games will most likely be played in the UAE. As far as the Women's ODI World Cup in India is concerned, the India-Pakistan game could be held in Sri Lanka," said a source. India had refused to travel to Pakistan for the event scheduled in February-March due to security concerns. The Indians have not played in Pakistan since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks in which 150 people were killed. The two countries' last bilateral engagement was



back in 2012. Travelling to Pakistan also requires Indian government's clearance which has remained firm on the status quo. "The schedule for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is set to be confirmed soon," the ICC added. The decision, that came after a series of back-channel talks, was on expected lines after the sport's governing body maintained prolonged silence on the contentious matter during the previous set-up led by chairman Greg Barclay. His successor Jay Shah took charge on December 1 and all stakeholders, including the Pakistan Cricket Board, the BCCI and the broadcasters, were running out of time to organise the 50-over event that was last played in the UK in 2017. Thursday's announcement meant it was the first major decision taken in Shah's tenure. While BCCI's stance was always clear, the matter got stretched because of PCB's refusal to allow a "one-sided" arrangement of neutral venues. Led by Pakistan interior minister Mohsin Naqvi, the PCB was determined not to lose face in front of the local public. PCB, which had sent its team to India for the ODI World Cup last year, had categorically opposed the hybrid model but eventually agreed to it on reciprocal grounds. The PCB had earlier indicated that it wanted a greater share in the annual revenue cycle to accommodate the Indian demand for a hybrid model but there is no word yet on whether that has been discussed or accepted. The tournament will feature eight teams, divided into two groups. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals.



Ashwin deserved a fitting farewell: Kapil Dev

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Unable to comprehend R Ashwin's sudden decision to retire from international cricket, a shocked World Cup-winning skipper Kapil Dev says the premier off-spinner deserved a fitting farewell, ideally on home soil. Ashwin stunned one and all by calling it quits on Wednesday, right after the Brisbane Test against Australia ended in a draw. Kapil felt Ashwin seemed unhappy with something. "I was shocked by how one of India's greatest cricketers chose to leave the game. The disappointment among the fans was widespread, but I also saw a tinge of hurt on his face. He looked unhappy, and that was sad. He deserved much better, a fitting farewell," Kapil said in a statement to PTI. As has been his wont, Ashwin chose to walk his own way while retiring in the middle of an important series. Kapil said he would like to hear the Tamil Nadu man's side of story. "He could have waited and announced his retirement on Indian soil, but I don't know why Ashwin called it a day. I would want to hear his side of the story. Give him that respect. He has played 106 Tests for the country. I don't think anyone can match his

humongous contribution to Indian cricket." Kapil hoped that the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) would arrange a "grand farewell" to Ashwin. "I'm sure the parent body of cricket in India, BCCI, shall plan a grand farewell for this giant match-winner of Team India," he said. Kapil, 65, said Ashwin was a stalwart, a versatile and unorthodox bowler, who constantly hustled the batters with his change of pace and cleverly disguised line and length. "He was ready to experiment, and that is what set him apart. In a game where the batters get the most accolades, Ashwin stood out with his prowess. "Ashwin was brave. He could bowl at any stage of the contest. Do you find bowlers with such tremendous tactical sense who can adapt quickly? He was his captain's go-to man," he said. Praising both his cricketing brain and off-field character, Kapil said Ashwin was a match-winner with no parallel in modern cricket. "He has won India's highest number of Man of the Series awards. That is a tremendous compliment that puts his game and consistency in perspective. He was not a "yes" man and came across as a gritty fighter.

ISL: FC Goa aim to end Mohun Bagan's unbeaten streak

PTI ■ MARGAO

FC Goa will seek to snap a rampaging Mohun Bagan Super Giant's eight-match unbeaten streak in the Indian Super League (ISL) when the two sides square off in a 12th round match here on Friday. FC Goa, under India head coach Manolo Marquez, will also aim to improve their record against the Mariners, having lost five of their eight meetings in the ISL, including a narrow 0-1 defeat in their most recent fixture in February. Super Giant's unbeaten run has seen them win seven and draw one of their last eight ISL games, and that has put them on top of the league leaderboard with 26 points from 11 matches, winning eight, drawing twice and losing once. On the other hand, the Gaur



are placed fourth with 19 points from the same number of games. Both these teams have been in equally efficient form upfront, with the Kolkata-based side netting 22 times in the competition thus far, as compared to the 21 of the Goan club. However, the visitors have been comparatively better organised at the back, as they have conceded 10 goals as opposed to the 15 of FC Goa. Head-to-head, FC Goa have won twice, whereas Super Giant have emerged victorious five times in the eight times these two teams have faced each other in the ISL.

FC Goa head coach Marquez admitted that the Mariners have a nice mix of international and domestic stars that make them a strong opponent. "I feel that we are playing one of the strongest teams in the competition. Mohun Bagan have most of the top national team players, and they've spent a lot on getting good foreigners too," Marquez said. "We need to keep fighting to win" Super Giant head coach Jose Molina lauded his team for not giving up under any circumstance. "The mentality of Mohun Bagan Super Giant is to fight every game till the end. We have to attack and defend well, communicate properly, but most importantly we need to keep fighting to get the win," Molina said.

Hazlewood 'frustrated' at missing remainder of India series due to 'random' injury

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood is "frustrated" by the timing of his injury after he was ruled out of the remaining two Tests against India due to a right calf strain sustained during the drawn third match at the Gabba. Hazlewood, who had also missed the second Test (pink-ball) in Adelaide - which Australia won by 10 wickets - due to a side strain, described the latest injury as "random". "Just frustrating really. Ticked every box heading into the (third) Test, I could understand if it was my side again, but it was just a random calf strain," he told 7NEWS. "It's just the timing again, they are only little 2-3 week injuries, it's just the timing of

it and missing big games is the frustrating thing." The 33-year-old Hazlewood was sent for scans after just one over of bowling on the fourth day after hurting his right calf in the warm-up before play. The injury only turned out to be a strain, but it's expected to be serious enough to end his home Test summer early. "Obviously, do a deep dive into it and see what we can

come up with ... Feels pretty random," he said. "I've had a history of sides and calves, they're probably the two things that have kept me out for the majority over the last four years.

Australian top-three seriously out of form, should go back to basics: Ian Healy

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

A head of the crucial Boxing Day Test against India from December 26, legendary wicketkeeper Ian Healy has pointed out the serious lack of form of the top-three Australian batters and advised them to go to the basics and perform if they want to continue in the team. Australia made 445 in the first innings of the rain truncated third Test at Brisbane with Travis Head and Steve Smith smashing centuries but the home team did miserably in the second innings before declaring at 89 for 7. The match ended in a draw with the five-match Test series level at 1-1. "I don't see them (Australia) regressing going into Melbourne, but they are out of form, they're seriously out of form," Healy told SEN Radio. Opens Usman Khawaja, Nathan McSweeney and one-drop batter Marnus Labuschagne performed below expectations at the Gabba before Smith and Head halted the slide with centuries in the first innings. The second innings was even worse with the top three managing just 13 runs. "Questions have got to be asked of George Bailey: 'Can we get this form back? Are



you confident that form will reemerge in our top three?" "Otherwise changes have to be made, and what suggestions might you have for us, George? That type of thing." Healy opined that the Melbourne Test should be Khawaja, McSweeney and Labuschagne's best chance to redeem themselves and asked the trio to get back to the basics. "The Melbourne Test is probably the least volatile wicket they'll play on and that's their best chance. But form takes a little longer than a week to turn around, and it's just not coming for them. "They've got to get right back to basics and strip it right back. See the ball and hit it, don't care where your feet go. That's the first step, just get some clarity in your head," said Healy. Australia must avoid defeat in Melbourne to keep their hopes alive of taking back the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

IOC publishes manifestos of 7 candidates running to be president and lead Olympics

AP ■ GENEVA

The seven candidates running for International Olympic Committee president had their manifestos published on Thursday, and one is offering to take just half of the eight-year mandate on offer and stand again in 2029. Sebastian Coe, the World Athletics president who turned 68 this year, pledged to embed "transformative change over the next four years" then seek re-election ahead of schedule. Coe was among several candidates offering to give back to IOC members - who elect their president at a March 18-21 meeting near the site of Ancient Olympia in Greece - a decisive choice in picking future host cities. Under the hands-on presidency of Thomas Bach, who reaches his limit of 12 years in office next year,

members now simply rubber-stamp a single host candidate that has worked with the IOC administration. Two members of the Bach-chaired IOC executive board, Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr. and Prince Feisal al Hussein, joined Coe in promising to empower members to have a bigger role in the Olympic body. They also promise to raise the retirement age for members from 70 to 75 years. Members must be invited to join the exclusive IOC club and the current 111 include European and Middle East royalty, leaders of international sports bodies, former and current Olympic athletes, politicians, diplomats, industrialists and an Oscar-winning actress. Only IOC members can be presidential candidates and the other contenders are board member Kirsty Coventry and three more presidents of sports governing

bodies: Johan Eliasch from skiing, David Lappartint from cycling, and Morinari Watanabe from gymnastics. The manifesto releases are one of just two set-piece events in a mostly opaque campaign with strict rules to limit self-promotion and engagement with voters. Candidates will present themselves to voters, though not take questions, at a Jan. 30 meeting at IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. The IOC has had no female president and just nine men leading it in a 130-year history. Eight of those presidents were from Europe and one from the United States. Coventry, the 41-year-old sports minister of Zimbabwe, is just the second female candidate ever to run for the IOC leadership and is widely seen as Bach's preferred choice to continue his policies.

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED
(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

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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 as 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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SUMAN BALA, PRAVEEN KUMAR BHATT (A/C NO.) LGGN00622-230225553	11 OCT 24 Rs. 1231270/- 9 OCT 24	PLOT NO. 02, OUT OF KHASRA NO. KHATA NO 201, 217 NEW KH. NO. 230/246, KILL. NO. 60(1-0). NEAR BY HAILY MANDI FLYOVER-JATOLI, TESHIL-PATALDI, DIST-GURGAON HARYANA (INDIA). PIN-122504 / ADMEASURING 147 SQ. YARD	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 18 DEC 24

Place : Jaipur Date: 20-12-2024 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

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(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

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OMPARKASH OMPARKASH, VANDANA VANDANA (A/C NO.) LNBHT02919-200122579	7 OCT 24 Rs. 725501/- 4 OCT 24	MC UNIT NO. Y-2242/3 SHRIRAM GALL JITU WALA JOHAR BHIWANI HNO.15, WARD 25, BHIWANI H.O. BHIWANI HARYANA (INDIA) 127021 ADMEASURING 180. SQ. YARD	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 16 DEC 24
JOGENER KUMAR, MAMTA MAMTA (A/C NO.) LNBHT03522-230228611	7 OCT 24 Rs. 738767/- 4 OCT 24	LAL DORA AREA OF VILLAGE SALEMPURI, TESHIL TOHANA, DISTIC-FATEHABAD NEAR GURUDWARA SAHAB, HARYANA (INDIA). PIN-125106 ADMEASURING 357.429 SQ. MTR.	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 17 DEC 24
MAHENDAR MAHENDAR, SEEMA KUMARI (A/C NO.) LNBHT17423-240296369	7 OCT 24 Rs. 733710/- 4 OCT 24	KHEWAT NO.219, KHATONI NO. 252, BEARING KHASARA NO. 140(1/14-15) 1/2(2-3), 2(7-7), 3(12-19), 8(2(3-0), 9(8-0), 12(1 (4-18), 13(1(1-17), VILL- BADHRA, TESHIL-BADHRA, DISTIC-CHARKHI DADRI, HARYANA (INDIA). PIN-127308 ADMEASURING 95.5Q. YARD	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 16 DEC 24
ASHA RANI, RAMRATTAN (A/C NO.) LNKRR00621-220221887 & LNKRR09322-230269514	11 OCT 24 Rs. 726010/- & Rs. 413836/- 9 OCT 24	PLOT NO. 65 KHEWAT NO. 548/506, KHOTONI NO. 570, RECT NO. 93, KHASRA NO 25/2(0-19)RECT NO. 101, KHASRA NO. 1(8-0) RECT NO. 102, KH. NO. 5/2(4-16)KITTAS-3, (11/2 MARLA-5 SARSAI BEING 23/2421) SHARE OUT OF LAND MEASURING 13K-9M COMPRISED IN KHEWAT NO. 817/758, KHATONI NO. 857, RECT. NO. 94, KH. NO. 21/2(5-4), 22/2(6-9), RECT NO. 101, KH. NO. 2/3(1-16) KITTAS-3, SITUATED AT PATTI JHAMR, SHAHABAD, TEH-SHAHABAD, DIST- KURUKSHETRA, HARYANA (INDIA). PIN-136135 ADMEASURING 150 SQ. YARD	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 16 DEC 24
LATE MR. SATYA BIR NOW DECEASED THROUGH HIS LEGAL HEIRS PAVITRA DEVI, DHANRAJ PAVITRA, MAICHAND, DHANRAJ DHANRAJ (A/C NO.) LNRHW17723-240311459	7 OCT 24 Rs. 801036.4/- 4 OCT 24	KHEWAT NO. 89, KHATONI NO.95, RECTNO.15- DECEASED THROUGH HIS LEGAL HEIRS PAVITRA DEVI, DHANRAJ PAVITRA, MAICHAND, DHANRAJ DHANRAJ (INDIA). PIN-123401 / ADMEASURING 3 MARLA	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 16 DEC 24

Place : Jaipur Date: 20-12-2024 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

LADY TATA MEMORIAL TRUST
Founded 1932
Bombay House, Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001.

Applications are invited for the below Scientific Research Awards Junior Research Fellowship 2025-26 And LTMT Research Grant 2025-26 And Teacher's Training Program 2025-26 And Young Researcher Award - 2025

Young Researcher Award is instituted by the Lady Tata Memorial Trust (LTMT) to annually recognize and reward Young Indian scientists with outstanding track record in biological sciences and potential for high quality research with a deep commitment to find innovative solutions to major problems related to human diseases, blood disorder with special references to leukaemia and for scientific research towards alleviation of human suffering from disease. Applications are also invited for Junior Research Fellowship, LTMT Research Grant and Teacher's Training Program for the year 2025-2026. For Detailed information and online application process, please access our website www.ladytatatrust.tatatrusts.org

Program Officer

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)
Regd. Office - 19-A, Dhuleswar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, CIN L38911RJ996PLC011381

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(i) POSSESSION NOTICE]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited A Scheduled Commercial Bank under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 08/10/2024 vide Ref. No.: CB/SAR/13-2/BB/OCT-2024/01 Loan Account No. 2021121629083478 calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor (Mortgagors) M/S. SAHIL FERTILIZER THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR MR. SANDEEP KUMAR (Borrower), MR. SANDEEP KUMAR S/O RAJINDER NATH (Guarantor), MRS. VEENA RANI W/O MR. SANDEEP KUMAR (Guarantor), MR. SAHIL DANG S/O MR. SANDEEP KUMAR (Mortgagor /Guarantor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being for loan Account No. 2021121629083478 Rs. 1,03,77,437/- (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Seventy-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven Only) as on 07 OCT 2024 aggregating total due (which includes principal, interest, penalties and all other charges) with further interest and charges until payment in full within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 18th day of December of the year 2024.

"The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets"

The borrower/Guarantor/mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited for an amount of for loan Account No. 2021121629083478 Rs. 1,06,28,729/- (Rupees One Crore Six Lakh Twenty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Nine Only) as on 16 December 2024 and further interest & expenses thereon until full payment.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

All That Part and Parcel of Residential Property, Bearing Old House Tax Unit No. 18/432, New House Tax Unit No. B-18/550, measuring 156.44 Sq. Yards. Situated at Inder Puri Mohalla, Near Shiv Chowk, under MC Sirsa, Sirsa, Haryana. Owned by Mr. Sahil Dang. Boundaries:-
East- House of Subhash Chander West- House of Krishna Devi
North- House of Krishan Chand South- Street

Date : 18 December 2024
Place : Sirsa, Haryana
Authorized Officer
Au Small Finance Bank Limited