

Centre scraps no-detention policy for primary class V, VIII



Photo: PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major change in the primary education system, the Centre on Monday directed for ending the "no-detention policy" for fifth and

eighth class, which means that students in these classes who fail their annual exams shall not be promoted to higher grade and hence will need to repeat the same class. Failed students will have a chance to retake the test

within two months, but if they fail again, they will not be promoted. The school will not expel a student until the 8th grade. Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar said that the Central Government has taken this

decision intending to improve the learning outcome among children. "The Union Education Ministry has taken a big decision and abolished the 'No Detention Policy'. Students who fail the annual examination in classes 5 and 8 will be failed," Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, told The Pioneer. However, the Government has clarified that no child shall be expelled from any school till the completion of elementary education. According to a gazette notification, after the conduct of regular examination, if a child fails to fulfil the promotion criteria, as notified from time to time, he shall be given additional instruction and opportunity for re-examination within a period of two months from the date of declaration of results.

Delhi Govt teachers to learn how to handle bomb threats

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

In a way replicating the training reportedly given to school teachers in United States of America (USA) on 'how to shoot a gun, and handle a weapon' due to the rampant problem of gun shooting in schools, the Delhi Police joined hands with the Delhi Education Department, for training teachers and school staff of all government and private schools on how to handle bomb threats even as the fear of such threats through emails continue to loom among the school



authorities in the National Capital since May. This comes as an extension of the Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's 'Samvaad' program where in a meeting with teachers, they raised the issue of Drug Abuse, Cyber Hygiene and recent Bomb threat emails. Multiple schools in Delhi have received hoax bomb threats in the last 10 days. The threats disrupted classes and triggered multi-agency search operations.

Bangladesh wants Hasina back, sends note verbale to India

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government said on Monday that it has sent a diplomatic note to India to send back deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to Dhaka. Hasina, 77, has been living in exile in India since August 5 when she fled the country amid the student-led protests that toppled her 16-year regime. Bangladesh-based International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former Cabinet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide".

"We have sent a note verbale to the Indian government saying that Bangladesh wants her back here for the judicial process," Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain told reporters at his office. Earlier in the morning, Home Advisor Jahangir Alam said his office has sent a letter to the foreign ministry to facilitate the ousted premier's extradition from India.

"We have sent a letter to the foreign ministry regarding her extradition. The process is currently underway," he told reporters in response to a query.

Alam said an extradition treaty between Dhaka and New Delhi already exists and Hasina could be brought back to Bangladesh under it. Last month, in an address to the nation on the completion of 100 days of the interim government, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus said it will seek the extradition of Hasina. "We must ensure justice in every killing... We will also ask India to send back fallen autocrat Sheikh Hasina," he said.

Yunus, who assumed office on August 8, claimed that about 1,500 people, including



students and workers, were killed while 19,931 others were wounded during the protest against the Hasina government. In October, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul had reportedly said that Bangladesh would strongly protest if India tried to refuse Hasina's extradition by citing any provision in the treaty. In an interview with PTI in Dhaka in September, Yunus had said that Hasina making political remarks from India is an "unfriendly gesture", asserting that she must remain silent to prevent discomfort to both countries until Dhaka requests her extradition. "If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh (government) wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet," he said. In recent weeks, Hasina has accused the Yunus-led interim government of perpetrating "genocide" and failing to protect minorities, especially Hindus, since her ouster.



ONOE JPC to meet on Jan 8

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the 39-member parliamentary panel on the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative is scheduled for January 8, marking the start of discussions on a major electoral reform proposed by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government. According to parliamentary sources, the Joint Committee on Bills for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, chaired by BJP MP PP Chaudhary, will likely have an introductory session where officials will brief the panel on two key Bills aimed at implementing the BJP's long-standing election reform agenda.

Three Khalistani terrorists killed in Pilibhit encounter

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ PILIBHIT

In a major anti-terror operation, three militants belonging to the Khalistani Commando Force were gunned down in a joint operation by Punjab and Uttar Pradesh police in Pilibhit's Purnapur area early Monday morning. The encounter left two policemen injured, while the police recovered a significant cache of weapons, including two AK-47 rifles and two Glock pistols, from the spot.

The operation was carried out around 5 am near the Hardoi Branch Canal after Punjab police traced the location of the wanted militants to Pilibhit. The three militants, all hailing from Punjab's Gurdaspur district, were accused of orchestrating a grenade attack on a police outpost in Gurdaspur on December 19. According to officials, the militants were traveling on a motorcycle when they were intercepted by the joint police team. Upon being surrounded, the trio opened fire indiscriminately using their automatic weapons. In the ensuing exchange of gunfire, all three were neutralized. Two policemen sustained injuries during the operation.

The sounds of gunfire in the early hours sent shockwaves through nearby villages, with residents initially unsure of the nature of the operation. Bullet marks on police vehicles and the seizure of a motorcycle used by the militants indicated the intensity of the encounter.



This combo image shows arms and other items recovered at the site of an encounter of three terror suspects, allegedly involved in the grenade attack in Gurdaspur, by a joint team of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab police, in Pilibhit PTI

Terror suspect planned escape to Pak via B'desh

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The arrested member of the 'Tehreek-e-Mujahideen' terror outfit from Kashmir was planning to use the river route to travel to Bangladesh and eventually escape to Pakistan, a senior officer of the West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) said on Monday. Bengal STF officials also believe that the arrested person, identified as Javed Munshi, has close ties with the Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group. Investigators are working to decode the notes seized from his possession to uncover more details about his plans, the officer added.

Munshi was arrested by a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police and West Bengal Police STF from near Canning in South 24 Parganas district on Sunday. The 'Tehreek-e-Mujahideen' group is controlled from Pakistan and has connections with other terror outfits in the valley, as well as in Pakistan and Bangladesh, the officer added.

The 58-year-old man was considering multiple routes to reach Bangladesh, including traveling by road from Canning to Dhamakhali, and then using river routes through the Sunderbans.

Gig workers need targeted regulatory framework: NHRC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the rapidly expanding gig economy of India, gig workers often endure grueling shifts that can exceed 10 hours a day, while contending with low, unpredictable incomes and the pressure of meeting unrealistic performance targets. However, things might change for the better for this workforce, which is estimated to be 65 lakh strong.

At a recent session held by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), stakeholders from the sector recommended a slew of measures including the need for targeted regulatory frameworks, setting up rest points, and the creation of grievance redressal mechanisms, particularly for women workers.

These recommendations which come amidst Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announcement in October to put in place a framework for social security of gig workers, including health insurance and pension were presented as part of the



meet addressing the challenges faced by gig workers.

The issue holds importance given that India's top think tank panel Niti Aayog has estimated 65 lakh gig and platform workers in the country, but the number is likely to be over two crore as the segment is growing rapidly. Gig workers, also known as independent contractors, are individuals who undertake temporary or short-term work assignments, primarily within the service sector. They operate independently and are not regarded as employees of the organizations. Hence, they do

not typically have access to common employee benefits that full-time staff members receive.

However, irregular incomes, unexpected expenses, and limited access to credit have often left them at the receiving end. Taking serious note of their precarious condition, NHRC's acting chairperson, Vijaya Bharathi Sayani said that there is a "need for targeted efforts" through regulatory frameworks to address gig worker's challenges, including long working hours, financial strain, and physical exhaustion.

No face cover allowed for women lawyers: J and K HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh recently observed that the rules dealing with the dress code for women advocates prescribed by the Bar Council of India (BCI) do not say that women lawyers can appear before courts with a face covering. The Court made the observation after a lady lawyer appeared with a face cover and turned down the Court's request to remove the cover.

This led the Court to seek a report from the Registrar General on whether the relevant rules allow lady advocates to appear with their face covered.

Shyam Benegal, pioneer of parallel cinema in India, passes away at 90

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Veteran filmmaker, Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke award winner Shyam Benegal, a pioneer of parallel cinema in India has died aged 90, after suffering from a chronic kidney disease. He will be remembered for his films like 'Ankur', 'Nishant', 'Zubeidaa', 'Manthan', 'Mandi' and 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose'.

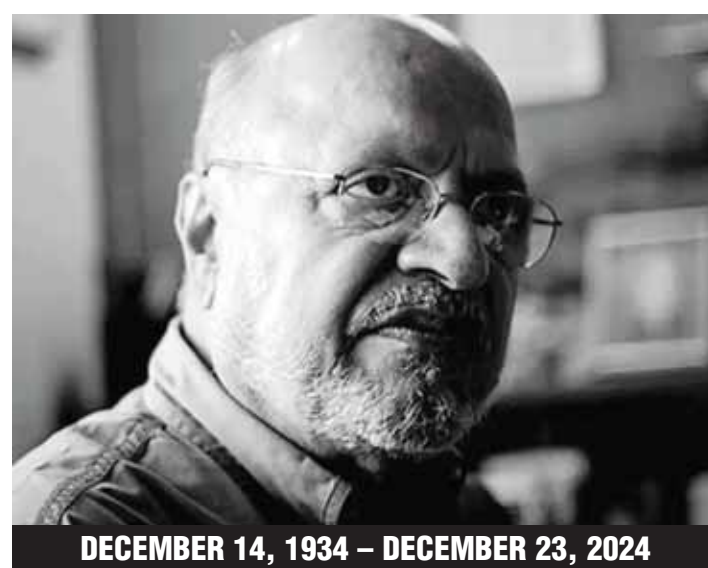
Shyam Babu, as he was affectionately known in the film circles, breathed his last at the Wockhardt Hospital in Mumbai, just nine days after he celebrated his 90th birthday with his family and friends.

The legendary filmmaker is survived by his 85-year-old wife Nira Benegal, who has been into diverse fields of activities including films, literature, music architecture and design, and daughter Pia Benegal. Shyam Benegal, who made

significant contributions to India Cinema, introduced parallel cinema in the seventies. Rated at one stage next only to the all-time great Satyajit Ray as a filmmaker who made meaningful films, he made films like 'Ankur' (1973), 'Nishant' (1975), 'Manthan' (1976), 'Bhumika' (1977), 'Mammo' (1994), 'Sardari Begum' (1996), and 'Zubeidaa' (2001). He also made a children's film 'Charandas Chor' (Charandas the Thief) in 1975.

Born on December 14 1934 in a Konkani-speaking Chitrapur Saraswat Brahmin family in Hyderabad, Shyam made his first film at 12 years of age, using a camera given to him by his photographer father Sridhar B. Benegal.

He went on to earn a Master's degree in Economics from Osmania University, Hyderabad, where he also founded the Hyderabad Film Society. Having begun his career as a



DECEMBER 14, 1934 – DECEMBER 23, 2024

copywriter with Mumbai-based advertising agency, Lintas Advertising, where he steadily rose to become the creative head.

Meanwhile, Benegal made his first documentary in Gujarati, 'Gher Betha Ganga' (Ganges at the Doorstep) in 1962.

He also taught at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) between 1966 and 1973, and was the chairman of the FTII for two terms between 1980-83 and 1989-92. He began his career as a filmmaker by making documentaries. One of his early documentaries, 'A Child of the Streets' (1967), garnered him wide acclaim, and he went on to make over 70 documentaries. A versatile filmmaker, Shyam Benegal had made as many as 20 feature films during his illustrious career.

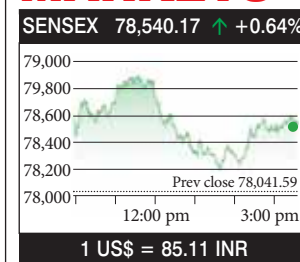
Known for spotting talent, Shyam Benegal introduced actors - many of whom from FTII and National School of Drama (NSD) - introduced actors like Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, Anant Nag, Smita Patil, Shabana Azmi, Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Amrish Puri.

Benegal was honoured by the Government of India with the Padma Shri in 1976 and the

Padma Bhushan in 1991. He has received several accolades, including eighteen National Film Awards, a Filmfare Award and a Nandi Award. In 2005, he was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in the field of cinema. Apart from making films for the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), he also served as the Director of the NFDC from 1980 to 1986.

With the financial support of actor Shashi Kapoor, Shyam Benegal made commercial films like Junoon (1978) and Kalyug (1981). Benegal wrote the scripts and screenplays for his films, and authored three books based on his own films: 'The Churning with Vijay Tendulkar' (1984), based on 'Manthan'; 'Satyajit Ray' (1988), based on his biographical film, 'Satyajit Ray'; and 'The Marketplace' (1989), which was based on 'Mandi'.

MARKETS



WEATHER



No lapse, says CISF on MPs scuffle



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Monday said there was "no lapse" on its part when asked about the scuffle that took place among MPs in Parliament complex during the recently concluded Winter Session and added it will choose to "keep quiet" when allegations are levelled by lawmakers. The CISF is tasked to guard the Parliament House Complex.

"There was no lapse (on part of the force)...By lapse if you mean some weapons were allowed inside, then I can tell you that no weapon was allowed..." CISF Deputy Inspector General (operations) Shrikant Kishore said at a Press conference.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Members of Parliament Prapad Chandra Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput had got injured during scuffle between the Opposition and ruling BJP MPs on the premises of Parliament who were discharged from the RML Hospital on Monday.

Kishore said the force will choose to "keep quiet when the honourable members (MPs) make allegations." The officer was asked about the counter-allegations made by the parliamentarians on who pushed whom.

He added the CISF was not conducting any inquiry into the incident that took place at the 'Makar Dwar' of the Parliament House Complex on December 19. Delhi Police had filed an FIR against Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi following BJP's complaint against him. Asked about complaints against the force since it took charge of Parliament security in June this year, the officer said the MPs, employees working in the complex and visitors are "very satisfied and happy" with their work. Kishore said the security department of Parliament will be competent to answer questions related to security, including recovery of cash from a seat in the House during the last session.

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original Matriculation Certificate of year 2020-21 and Roll No. 1213080/028 and 12th Certificate of Year 2022-23 Roll No. 2238078/023 (Passed from Cedar Spring High School) issued by I.C.S.E Board has been actually lost Name of the candidate Dhruv Goyal S/o Rajan Goyal R/o H.No.252, Street No.10, New Max City, Sahibzada Juhar Singh Avenue, Near Gumbasta, District Amritsar. Mobile No.911578-2009

BEDKHALI NOTICE

We Satvir Singh Panghal S/o Ram Chander and Yashoda W/o Satvir Singh Panghal R/o Plot No 222, Sector - 28, Panchkula Haryana our son Paramveer Singh Panghaal is out of our control. We disown him from our all moveable/ Immoveable Properties. Anybody dealing with him at his/ her own Risk.

Rajkumar S/o Sh. Ramdya R/o Vill. Faridpur, Tehsil Gharaunda, Distt. Karnal, declare that my son Sagar are out of my control. I evict all of them from my moveable and immovable property. Anyone who deals with them in future will be responsible for it.

Rajkumar Kumar S/o Sh. Nar Singh R/o Dalbir Nagar, Kutani Road, Panipat, declares that my son Harsh is out of my control and he fights with us. So I disown him from my moveable/ immovable properties. If anybody deals with him shall do at their own risk in future.

Mansa Ram S/o Hari Chand R/o Sthaneshwar Mahadev Mandir Tehsil Thanesar Distt. Kurukshetra My son Ram Naresh and my wife Bimla are out of my reach, therefore I break the relationship with my wife and disinherit my son from my moveable and immovable property. In future, for any transactions or good or bad deeds done by them. He himself will be responsible.

Goni Mollick W/o Sh.Younus Mollick R/o H.No.1782, DMC, Sec-38 west Chandigarh declare that my son Maruf Mollick and his wife Smt. Sahanj Khatun both are out of my control. I disown my son Maruf Mollick and his wife Smt. Sahanj Khatun from my moveable and immovable properties. If anybody deals with them will do so at their own risk.

सुभाष चन्द्र पुत्र स्व. गुरुचिंता मूल डल निवासी मकान नं. 1545, वाई नं. 3, पूजा मोहल्ला, रोहतक अपने हल्क से ब्यान करता हूँ कि मेरा छोटा पुत्र सुदीप डल मेरे कहने सुनने से बाहर है। इसलिए मैं उसे अपनी चल-अचल संपत्ति से बेखुल करता हूँ। भविष्य में उसके द्वारा किए गए अंश बुरे कार्यों व लेन देन व किसी प्रकार के कानूनी व गैर कानूनी कार्य के लिए देव स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा। मेरी व मेरे परिवार की कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

PUBLIC NOTICE

Kabal Singh Service No. 15347575L s/o Kulwant Singh Village Bishankot District Gurdaspur. That date of Birth of my Wife on her Adhaar Card, Matriculation Certificate, Pan Card Mentioned 04/03/1986 which is correct. But in my Army Record date of birth of my wife mentioned 03/05/1986 which is wrong.

Sandeep S/O Suraj Bhan R/o VPO Pai, Near old bus stand Pai, Tehsil Pundri Distt Kaithal (Haryana) -136043 have changed my mother's name from Sunita Devi to Sunita due to wrong name record in my Army Service record vide affidavit NO. IN-PB91212724744529W Notary Public Gurdaspur (Pb) dated 23.12.24.

Simranpreet Kaur W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o VPO Bianpur, Tehsil & Distt. Gurdaspur (Punjab) declare that my given name is Simranpreet and surname is Kaur.

Pooja legally spouse of No. JC-736550A Rank Nb/Sub Name Sandeep Kumar Unit 668 Army Avn C/O 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Bhagesri (152), Distt. Bhiwani, State Haryana-127307 declare that I have changed my DOB from 23.10.1987 to 12.04.1987 vide affidavit dated 23.12.2024

Prito M/o No.3997498L Nk Naresh Kumar (Retd.) R/o Village Thathi, Post Office Jhabkara, Tehsil - Dinanagar Distt Gurdaspur, State Punjab declare that in the army service record of my son my name Prito Devi and DOB 01 Apr 1947 is recorded, which is incorrect but my correct and exact name is Prito and DOB is 01 Jan 1936 vide affidavit no IN-PB88809381183361W dated 16/12/2024 before Executive Magistrate Dorangla.

Varsha Sharma D/O Harish Datt, resident of Village Shashal, PO Deothi, Tehsil and District Solan (H.P.)-173211, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my correct name is Varsha Sharma, but in the Army Service Record of my father Shri Harish Datt, my name is wrongly recorded as Barsha Sharma. That I want to get my name corrected as Varsha Sharma in the Army Service Record of my father.

Des Raj Nigah S/o Jeet Ram R/o Vill. Kutbewal,P.O. Goraya,Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab (India) Presently Living at 38 Littledale Street Kempston Bedford MK42 8PH UK have changed my name from Des Raj to Des Raj Nigah Subject to the approval of Indian High Commission at UK

No 4492930L Rank L/Nk Sukhjit Singh S/O Lakhwinder Singh VPO Ghogra Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that in my Army's record My Mother's Name Written is Jasvir Kaur. Actually her name Spelling is Jasbir Kaur as per her Aadhar card record.

Inderdeep Singh alias Inderdeep Singh Gandhyok R/O H.No. 2738 Sector-66 (SAS Nagar, Mohali) declare that in my daughter Hameez Kaur Passport No. R7918090 my name wrongly entered Inderdeep Singh Gandhyok. But my correct name is Inderdeep Singh. So amended my name from Inderdeep Singh Gandhyok to Inderdeep Singh in my daughter Passport.

Inderdeep Singh alias Inderdeep Singh Gandhyok R/O H.No. 2738 Sector-66 (SAS Nagar, Mohali) declare that in my daughter Tavleen Kaur Passport No. R7908923 my name wrongly entered Inderdeep Singh Gandhyok. But my correct name is Inderdeep Singh. So amended my name from Inderdeep Singh Gandhyok to Inderdeep Singh in my daughter Passport.

C Anburaj Is Legally Father No. 16115034H Hav, Naresh M A Of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO Ferozpur Residing At 5/22, Melmankuppam, Village, Melmail, Post, Katpadi, Vellore State Tamil Nadu Pin-632203 Declare That My Name Anburaj And Date Of Birth 01.07.1963 Wrongly Mentioned In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is C Anburaj And Correct Date Of Birth 04.12.1964.

A Anubandari W/o Rajesh Baweja R/O #221, Sector-1, Part-1, Hudda, Tehsil-Shahabad, Distt.Kurukshetra have changed my name from Anu Bhandari to Anu.

Avtar Singh Dhillon S/O Bakhtawar Singh R/O VPO Jagdev Kalan, Tehsil Ajnala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab-143101 have changed my name from Avtar Singh Dhillon to Avtar Singh.

Anmol S/o Sh. Ram Avtar R/O H.No. 706, New Housing Board Colony, Jind, Haryana, India, have changed my name from Anmol to Anmol Garg.

Monika Garg W/o Yogesh Gupta R/O H.No. 1237 Urban Estate Sector 7 Thanesar District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Monika Garg to Monika Gupta.

Reva Rani w/o Kallu Singh R/o 96/2, Gopinpur Double story 4, Modinagar, Ghaziabad U.P 201204 declare that my name is wrongly written as Rekha in my Adhar no 819322552883. That My actual name is Reva Rani.

Komal Saini, wife of Shri Ishwar Singh, resident of ward no. 6, street no. 16, house No. 856, 12 quarter, Hisar. I declare in my oath that in my 10th class Certificate my name is Santosh D/o Manoharal whereas in my other documents my name is Komal Saini. I voluntarily want to change my name in my 10th class certificate as Komal Saini D/o Manohar Lal, which should be done.

Palwinder Kaur Sahota W/o Narinder Singh R/o Village Phambra PO Bhunga Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Palwinder Kaur. Concerned Note.

Parveen Kumari W/o Rampal R/O Village Dehriwal PO Bassi Jalal, Tanda Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Parveen Kumari to Kumari Parveen. Kumari as my surname. Concerned Note.

No. 4001941Y Ex MACP Hav Raj Kumar S/O Shri Buta Ram R/O VPO Hariana Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the date of birth of my father Buta Ram from 11-03-1955 to 04-10-1951.

3992869Y Ex Nk (MACP Hav) Ravinder Singh S/O Hans Raj R/O VPO Maili Tehsil Garshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the date of birth from of my mother Gita Devi from 07-05-1954 to 01-01-1951.

Reena Rani W/o Pardeep Kumar R/O Village Anjan wala (Jatt pura), Tehsil Bilaspur, Malakpur Bangar (268), Malikpur Bangar, Distt. Yamuna Nagar -135102 (Haryana), India declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Reena in my minor Daughter Nishtha, aged 17 years, in her 10th Class educational Certificate. The actual name of mine is Reena Rani.

Army no. 3009939N Hav Satish Kumar S/o Jaspal R/O Village Rattewali (222), Panchkula, Haryana presently posted at RRC Fatehgarh, Farrukhabad (U.P.) declare that in my Army record my wife Neelam Date of birth recorded as 03.05.1991, which is wrong. My wife's correct Date of Birth is 15.10.1992. Affidavit dated 04.12.2024 before Executive Magistrate, Panchkula.

Sonia W/o Mohit Bahri R/o 72 Green park, Jagadhari, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Sonia Bahri to Sonia.

Ganga, son of Sombir, resident of House No. 4192, Maloya, Chandigarh, hereby inform that in my son's birth certificate, my name is recorded as Sanjay alias Ganga, and my wife's name is Kamna. Now, my name is Ganga, and my wife's name is Kamna Kumari. For all future purposes, my son's name has been changed from Nitin to Lovely.

hitherto known as Anirudh Son of Rakesh Dogra Resident of House No. 370, New Mata Gujari Enclave , Kharar, Post office Kharar, District SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab Pin Code 140301 India have Changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anirudh Dogra.

Tamanna Chawla w/o Sh. Nikhil Chawla R/O House No. 301, First Floor, Wind Cross, Zirakpur Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali declare that I have changed my name from Tamanna Chawla to Tamanna Anand.

Rajesh Singla S/O Roop Kumar Singla R/O 1127, First Floor Sector -18C Chandigarh Will Now Be Known As Rajesh Kumar Singla.

Anu Bhandari W/o Rajesh Baweja R/O #221, Sector-1, Part-1, Hudda, Tehsil-Shahabad, Distt.Kurukshetra have changed my name from Anu Bhandari to Anu.

Avtar Singh Dhillon S/O Bakhtawar Singh R/O VPO Jagdev Kalan, Tehsil Ajnala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab-143101 have changed my name from Avtar Singh Dhillon to Avtar Singh.

Anmol S/o Sh. Ram Avtar R/O H.No. 706, New Housing Board Colony, Jind, Haryana, India, have changed my name from Anmol to Anmol Garg.

Monika Garg W/o Yogesh Gupta R/O H.No. 1237 Urban Estate Sector 7 Thanesar District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Monika Garg to Monika Gupta.

Reva Rani w/o Kallu Singh R/o 96/2, Gopinpur Double story 4, Modinagar, Ghaziabad U.P 201204 declare that my name is wrongly written as Rekha in my Adhar no 819322552883. That My actual name is Reva Rani.

Komal Saini, wife of Shri Ishwar Singh, resident of ward no. 6, street no. 16, house No. 856, 12 quarter, Hisar. I declare in my 10th class Certificate my name is Santosh D/o Manoharal whereas in my other documents my name is Komal Saini. I voluntarily want to change my name in my 10th class certificate as Komal Saini D/o Manohar Lal, which should be done.

Palwinder Kaur Sahota W/o Narinder Singh R/o Village Phambra PO Bhunga Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Palwinder Kaur. Concerned Note.

Parveen Kumari W/o Rampal R/O Village Dehriwal PO Bassi Jalal, Tanda Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Parveen Kumari to Kumari Parveen. Kumari as my surname. Concerned Note.

No. 4001941Y Ex MACP Hav Raj Kumar S/O Shri Buta Ram R/O VPO Hariana Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the date of birth of my father Buta Ram from 11-03-1955 to 04-10-1951.

Aarti Swapnil Wasankar is legally wedded wife of Wasankar Swapnil Balasaheb Resident of At-Tembha Post-Pusada, Tehsil-Amravati District-Amravati State-Maharashtra Pincode-444801 have changed my name from Aarti to Aarti Swapnil Wasankar due to wrong name recorded in my husband's army service record vide affidavit no IN-PB91427967644881W before Notary Public Gurdaspur dated 23/12/2024

Wasankar Swapnil Balasaheb Resident of At-Tembha Post-Pusada, Tehsil-Amravati District-Amravati State-Maharashtra Pincode-444801 have changed my name from Mandabai to Manda Balu Wasankar and have changed my DOB 12 May 1965 to 01 January 1964 due to wrong name recorded in my son's army service record vide affidavit no IN-PB91426372063690W before Notary Public Gurdaspur dated 23/12/2024

Manda Balu Wasankar is legally mother of Wasankar Swapnil Balasaheb Resident of At-Tembha Post-Pusada, Tehsil-Amravati District-Amravati State-Maharashtra Pincode-444801 have changed my name from Mandabai to Manda Balu Wasankar and have changed my DOB 12 May 1965 to 01 January 1964 due to wrong name recorded in my son's army service record vide affidavit no IN-PB91426372063690W before Notary Public Gurdaspur dated 23/12/2024

Balu Laxmanrao Wasankar is legally father of Wasankar Swapnil Balasaheb Resident of At-Tembha Post-Pusada, Tehsil-Amravati District-Amravati State-Maharashtra Pincode-444801 have changed my name from Balasaheb to Balu Laxmanrao Wasankar due to wrong name recorded in my son's army service record vide affidavit no IN-PB9142424097135084W before Notary Public Gurdaspur dated 23/12/2024

hitherto known as Anil Kumar Son of Satpal Gupta residing at H.No.74, Basant Avenue, Opp Hall Mark, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

Anuradha Seth W/o Rakesh Seth R/O 11-A, White Enclave, Majitha Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Anuradha Seth to Anuradha

Hardip Singh S/o Manjit Singh R/O H.No.1591, Gali No.8 Sharif Pura District Amritsar have changed my name from Hardip Singh to Hardeep Singh

Dilbag Singh S/o Kulwant Singh R/O VPO Wadala Johal Tehsil & District Amritsar have declare that Dilbag is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

Ranjit Singh S/o Kewal Singh R/O Vill Malakpur PO Nagal Dyal Singh Tehsil & District Amritsar have declare that Ranjit is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

Shehdev Singh, presently residing at Jagtauli, Footatal, Chakar Nagar, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh-206125 is father of No. 15720478X Rank Sigmn Name Mukesh Singh posted in 15 IDSR, C/O 56 APO, have changed my name from Shehdev Singh to Shaheed Singh vide affidavit no. IN-PB91465341941235V dated 23-12-2024, before Notary Public, Amritsar

No. 14678558P Hav Arvind Kumar unit-Lrw 311 Med Regt resident of Narayanpur, Toor, Amroha, Uttar Pradesh-244501, Pin-823003 C/o 56 APO, have amended my son's date of birth from 15 Apr 2019 to 31 July 2019 vide affidavit dated 23-12-2024 before District Court, Amritsar

Jc-877480W Nb Sub Vinay Kumar unit-311 Med Regt resident of Village Dhakain, PO Chhatubag, District Gaya, State Bihar, Pin-823003 C/o 56 APO, have amended my son's name from Abhishek Kumar to Abhishek Kumar vide affidavit dated 23-12-2024 before District Court, Amritsar

hitherto known as Anil Kumar Son of Satpal Gupta residing at H.No.74, Basant Avenue, Opp Hall Mark, District Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

hitherto Known as Gurinderpal Singh Son of Surjit Singh residing at Village Raipur Beelam, Burj Rai Ke, Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran143401 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Anil Kumar Gupta

Amit Chanana S/o Ravinder Kumar & Anjali W/o Amit Chanana R/O H.No-205 Sector-8 Near park No 14 Urban Estate Ambala City inform that in My Minor Daughter Amisha Chanana Birth Certificate her Name wrongly Mentioned as Amisha & her Mother Name wrongly Mentioned as Anjali Chanana. But her correct name is Amisha Chanana & her Mother's correct name is Anjali

Priyanka Gupta W/o Sushant Bindal R/O H.No 1410 Sec 9 Distt Ambala Haryana I Have Changed My Name From Priyanka Gupta To Priyanka Bindal.

Salme W/O Shamshad R/O Vill Garhi Basic Distt Panipat Haryana I Have Changed My Name From Salme To Salmo.

Pooja Thapar W/o Vikas Oberoi R/O H.No-127, Housing Board Colony, Ambala Cantt have changed my name from Pooja Thapar to Pooja Oberoi.

Gulshan Kumar Madan S/o Chiman Lal Madaan R/O H.No.103, Huda sector 13-17, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Gulshan Kumar Madan to Gulshan Kumar Madaan. In future I should be known as Gulshan Kumar Madaan.

Akshay Madan S/o Gulshan Kumar Madaan R/O H.No.103, sector 13-17, Huda, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Akshay Madan to Akshay Madaan. In future I should be known as Akshay Madaan.

Manish Sharma S/O Anil Sharma, Flat No-704,Tower-6, Savitry Greens, VIP Road, Zirakpur have changed the name of my minor Son from Sarraansh Sharma to Saraansh Sharma.

Manju W/O Naveen Kumar 76 Modern Enclave Baltana SAS Nagar Have Changed My Name To Manju Goyal

Sonia alias Jeevan Bala (Aadhaar No. 2806-9950-3499) wife of Harpreet Singh resident of Village Katani Khurd, P.O. Katani Kalan, Tehsil & District Ludhiana (Punjab) India have changed my name to Sonia.

Daljeet Singh S/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh R/O 759/B1 Ratpur Colony Pinjore Tehsil Kalka Distt. Panchkula, Haryana, I have changed my name from Daljeet Singh to Daljeet Singh Bhasin.

Nirmal W/o Sh. Parveen Kumar R/O H.No.1946/B2 Gurudwara Road, Pinjore Tehsil Kalka, Distt. Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name from Nirmal to Nirmala Piplani.

Deepak Kumar Ahluwalia S/o Sh. Kamal Kishor Ahluwalia R/O House No.1503, Tower 6B,Suncity Parkarma society Sector-20 Panchkula Haryana have changed my name from Deepak Kumar Ahluwalia to Deepak Ahluwalia.

Prawin Kumar Pandey S/o A.P. Pandey R/O H No. 235, Sector 46-A, Chandigarh declare that Prawin K.R. Pandey, Prawin Pandey & Prawin Kumar Pandey is one & same person.

Balwinder Singh S/O Satnam Singh R/O VPO Adliwala Tehsil Ajnala Distt Amritsar have declare that my given name is Balwinder and Singh is my Surname.

Continuity Pg. No. 11

Bank of Maharashtra Bank of Maharashtra (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Branch: Gohana, Ward No. 11, Civil Road, Gohana-130130 (Haryana) Mobile No. 7496919674, Email Id: cb19674@canarabank.com

Pravesh son of Shri Satpal Singh resident of Dhingtana Tehsil and District Hisar, state that my mother's name is recorded as Mamta in my 10th and 12th certificates, which is wrong. My mother's correct name is Mamta Devi. My mother's name should be changed from Mamta to Mamta Devi in the above certificate.

Umesh Kumar Jain S/o Late Sh. Uggar Sain Jain R/O 9, GH-74, Sector-20, Panchkula have changed my name from Umesh Kumar Jain to Umesh Jain.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGISTRAR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, HANSI
Phone: 01663-298193Email : arcshansi1@gmail.com Website: www.rcsharyana.gov.in

Zone No.	No. of Zone and Name	Place of Polling
1.	Zone no. 1 (Individual) Reserve for SC	The Lahari Ragho Cooperative Marketing Co Processing Society Ltd. Lahari Ragho
2.	Zone no. 2 (Individual) General	The Lahari Ragho Cooperative Marketing Co Processing Society Ltd. Lahari Ragho
3.	Zone no. 3 (Individual) Reserve for Women	Habitapur Sale point of The Lahari Ragho M-PACS Ltd. Lahari Ragho
4.	Zone no. 4 (Societies) Reserve for Women	The Lahari Ragho M-PACS Ltd. Lahari Ragho (PACS) office
5.	Zone no. 5 (Societies) General	The Lahari Ragho M-PACS Ltd. Lahari Ragho (PACS) office
6.	Zone no. 6 (Societies) Reserve for BC	The Lahari Ragho M-PACS Ltd. Lahari Ragho (PACS) office

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGISTRAR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, HANSI
Phone: 01663-298193 Email:arcshansi1@gmail.com Website: www.rcsharyana.gov.in
Election program of Managing Committee of The Lahari Ragho Marketing cum Processing Society Ltd, Lahari Ragho on Dated 09-02-2025.

S.No.	Programme	Date and Time	Place
1.	Filling of nomination papers	17.01.2025 10:00 AM To 2:00 PM	Office of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Hansi 2nd Floor.Mini Secretariat Hansi
2.	Scrutiny of nomination papers	22.01.2025 10:00 AM To 12:00 PM	As above
3.	Display of list of validly nominated candidates.	22.01.2025 After 2:00 PM	As above
4.	Withdrawal of nomination papers	24.01.2025 10:00 AM To 01:00 PM	As above
5.	Allocation of symbols	24.01.2025 After 02:00 PM	As above
6.	Display of the list of contesting Candidate	24.01.2025 At 04:00 PM	As above
7.	Taking of poll, if necessary	09.02.2025 08:00 AM to 04:00 PM	As per List given below

Short Term Tender Notice
Sealed Tenders are invited for supply of Diet in Civil Hospital Gurdaspur. Terms & Conditions form and diet chart set can be obtained from the Office of SMO CH Gurdaspur by on payment of Rs.1000/- on any working day. Sealed Tenders through Courier/Registered post will be received till 11:00 AM on 07/01/2025 only. Undersigned has right to accept or reject all/any Tenders without assigning any reason.

Union Bank of India
REGIONAL OFFICE, Bathinda- SCF 136-137, ROSE GARDEN COMPLEX, GONIANA ROAD, BATHINDA -151001 Ph. No. 0164-5090190
PREMISES REQUIRED

Sealed tenders are invited by Union Bank of India for shifting of Rampuraphul factory road branch for well-constructed commercial premises admeasuring 1400 Sq. Ft. (+/- 10%) carpet area, in ready to possession state within 1-2 K.M. periphery of existing Rampuraphul factory road branch on the ground floor with sufficient parking space.

PUBLIC NOTICE : LOST POA
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st floor, Nehru Sidhant Kendre Building, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana, Punjab, PIN Code- 141001, Phone no 8146981432

POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF MAHARASHTRA, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) to repay within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Name of the Branch & Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property/ies	Amount due plus interest & other expenses	Demand Notice Date / Date of Possession
BRANCH OFFICE:- SIRS	Primary Security:- Equitable mortgage of Residential House bearing Property Tax Id No. S		

3 KZF Terrorists killed in joint Pb-UP Police operation in Pilibhit

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a meticulously coordinated operation that underscored growing inter-state collaboration against terror networks, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh Police have successfully neutralized three key operatives of the Pakistan-ISI-backed Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF). The operation followed an encounter in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, early Monday, confirmed Punjab's Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav.

The terrorists, identified as Varinder Singh alias Ravi, Gurwinder Singh, and Jashanpreet Singh alias Partap Singh, were implicated in a grenade attack at the Bakshiwala Police Post in Gurdaspur, Punjab, on December 18, 2024. The attack, which had sparked fears of escalating violence, was later claimed by KZF through social media.

Acting swiftly, Punjab Police shared critical intelligence with their UP counterparts, leading to the joint operation that culminated in Monday's encounter. The encounter occurred in the jurisdiction of Police Station Puranpur, Pilibhit, after the accused opened fire at the joint police team. Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Border Range, Satinder Singh said that the suspects had been tracked to Pilibhit based on reliable intelligence. Confronted by police, they retaliated with gunfire, prompt-

ing the security forces to respond. All three suspects sustained bullet injuries and were rushed to a local community health center, where they succumbed to their wounds.

From the site, authorities recovered two AK-47 rifles and two Glock pistols. Investigations suggested that the module was being orchestrated by Ranjeet Singh Nita, a Pakistan-based KZF chief, with operational support from Greece-based Jaswinder Singh Mannu. Notably, UK-based

Jagjeet Singh, reportedly working under the alias Fateh Singh Baghi and linked to the British Army, was the mastermind behind the December 18 grenade attack.

GRENADE ATTACK IN GURDASPUR

Neutralized Operatives

Varinder Singh alias Ravi — a resident of Agwan village in Kalanaur — emerged as the mastermind of the module. Known for his connections with Jagjeet Singh, Ravi played a pivotal role in executing the terror plans. Despite having no prior criminal record, Ravi's involvement in KZF activities was a calculated leap into terror under financial lure.

He was the primary breadwinner for his family, which includes five sisters and two brothers. Following the encounter, his house was found locked, with neighbours reveal-

ing that his family had disappeared. Jashanpreet Singh alias Partap Singh — the youngest member of the module hailed from Kalanaur and came from a poor family dependent on daily wages. Married just three months ago, Jashanpreet left home on December 17 under the pretext of seeking work but never returned.

His grieving mother, Parmjeet Kaur, and wife, Gurpreet Kaur, vehemently denied his involvement in terrorism, citing his limited edu-

cation and lack of exposure to such activities. Gurwinder Singh was adopted by his aunt and uncle in Rahimabad, and had a troubled past, including a murder case that left him on bail. A 12th-grade graduate, he had recently distanced himself from his adoptive parents and was residing alone in Kalanaur. His family expressed shock at his involvement, with his adoptive mother, Sarabjeet Kaur, claiming that he had left home days before the encounter.

While the police termed the operation a major success, the families of the neutralized terrorists remain in denial. Jashanpreet's mother argued that her son was incapable of such activities, while Gurwinder's family pointed to his troubled past but refuted allegations of recent involve-

ment in terrorism. Ravi's family remains untraceable, leaving questions about their possible knowledge of his activities.

The Bigger Picture
The operation highlighted the pervasive influence of international networks in local terror activities. Ravi, under the guidance of Jagjeet Singh, coordinated the module's operations and facilitated financial and logistical support. Jagjeet, who reportedly uses a fake identity in the UK, has been linked to the financing of similar terror modules, further emphasizing the need for global cooperation in countering terrorism.

DGP Yadav lauded the operation as a "classic example of inter-state police cooperation". He emphasized that Punjab Police's swift sharing of intelligence with UP authorities was instrumental in neutralizing the threat. "This operation is a testament to the capability of our forces to work together and protect citizens from the menace of terrorism," he added.

The Gurdaspur police have registered an FIR under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Explosive Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harish Dayama confirmed that investigations are underway to uncover further links and apprehend additional members of the module. "More arrests and recoveries are likely in the coming days," he said.

Pb tightens security around police stations after a string of attacks

Drones, CCTVs, protective nets, to keep police stations safe

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab, grappling with an alarming series of eight attacks on police stations in just 28 days, has ramped up its security apparatus in an unprecedented manner. From protective rooftop nets to high-tech drone surveillance, the state is leaving no stone unturned to thwart what officials describe as a calculated attempt to destabilize the region.

With Amritsar and Gurdaspur bearing the brunt of these assaults, Punjab Police are implementing advanced measures to protect their establishments, while collaborating with national agencies to counter the growing threat of terrorism.

The heightened security measures came in the wake of the fresh inputs by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which has also stepped in to provide strategic support to the Punjab Police. As per the recent reports shared by the NIA, there is evidence of a larger conspiracy to destabilize Punjab through coordinated attacks. The targeted police stations have been identified as the primary focus of these

efforts.

Investigations suggested that these attacks bear similarities to the infamous "dead drop" model used by Khalistani militants in the 1980s. Security agencies believed that extremist groups are attempting to replicate the chaos of the 1984 insurgency, with the goal of reviving militancy in the region.

The state police authorities, in a determined effort to counter terrorist threats, have introduced advanced safety protocols across vulnerable police stations. Amritsar, a key target in recent attacks, has already seen significant upgrades. Protective nets have been installed on the rooftops of police stations to intercept bombs and grenades before they can cause substantial damage.

Similarly, nets have been placed over low boundary walls to enhance their height and prevent projectiles from entering the premises.

To fortify surveillance, police stations in sensitive areas have been equipped with additional CCTV (close circuit television) cameras. The enhanced monitoring system aimed at keeping a close watch

on any suspicious activity in and around police establishments. At night, station gates will also be locked as an added precaution.

The top officials have also been asked to take personal charge of the situation, by conducting night-time patrols, reviewing all security arrangements time to time. Special guidelines have also been issued to ensure round-the-clock vigilance, with officers on high alert for any threats.

In addition to reinforcing physical security measures, Punjab Police have deployed specialized units, including the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Special Task Force (STF), to sensitive locations. The presence of these teams is intended to provide a swift response to any incidents and deter potential attackers.

Modern technology is also playing a critical role in Punjab's security strategy. Drones are being utilized to monitor crowded areas and police station surroundings. This aerial surveillance is expected to identify any unusual activities promptly. Simultaneously, the state's intelligence network has been strengthened, with local intel-

ligence agencies focusing on tracking suspicious individuals and organizations.

At the same time, the Punjab Police have urged the citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities immediately. The collaborative approach between law enforcement and the public is seen as a crucial component in countering the current security threats.

Central security agencies are on high alert, closely monitoring the situation in Punjab. A senior police official told The Pioneer that the State Government, in collaboration with the Union Home Ministry, is working to ensure that such incidents are curbed. The emphasis remained on pre-emptive measures and inter-agency coordination to counter the growing threat, said the police official.

While the recent attacks have sparked concerns among residents, Punjab Police have reassured the public of their commitment to maintaining law and order. By combining advanced security measures, rapid response protocols, and public cooperation, the state aims to thwart any further attempts to create unrest.

Chotta Sahibzadas' Supreme Sacrifice a Beacon of Courage and Justice: CM Mann

PNS ■ FATEHGARH SAHIB

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday paid homage at Gurdwara Sri Fatehgarh Sahib, lauding the unparalleled sacrifice of Chotta Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh, along with Mata Gujri Ji. Mann emphasized that their martyrdom continues to inspire generations to rise against tyranny, oppression, and injustice.

Calling the sacrifices of Chotta Sahibzadas and Mata Gujri Ji unprecedented in human history, the Chief Minister highlighted Punjab's reverence for December as the 'month of mourning'. He noted that the Sahibzadas' courage, demonstrated when they were bricked

alive by tyrannical rulers, remains a source of global pride for Punjabis and humanity at large.

Acknowledging the sanctity of Fatehgarh Sahib, Mann described the annual Shaheedi Jor Mela as a significant event to honour these martyrs. He stressed that the Sahibzadas' valour and steadfastness were inherited from their father, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who fought tirelessly for humanity.

The Chief Minister noted that Punjab's history is rich with sacrifices inspired by the teachings of great Gurus like Guru Arjun Dev Ji, Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, and Guru Gobind Singh Ji, all of whom stood for justice and righteousness.

Mann underlined the importance of

educating younger generations about these sacrifices to instill values of courage, selflessness, and patriotism. Recalling his time as a Member of Parliament, he mentioned how he ensured that the Lok Sabha paid tributes to the Chotta Sahibzadas on their martyrdom day, showcasing their bravery and fearlessness in resisting the Mughal Governor of Sirhind at a tender age.

The Chief Minister affirmed his government's commitment to serve the people of Punjab by following the ideals of the Sikh Gurus and martyrs. He vowed to leave no stone unturned in ensuring the welfare of every section of society, drawing inspiration from the unparalleled sacrifices that define Punjab's glorious history.

Three attending birthday party shot dead at hotel parking in Panchkula

PNS ■ PANCHKULA

Three people, including a woman, were shot dead by unidentified assailants in the parking lot of a hotel at Morni hills in Panchkula. The incident took place on Sunday night. The victims of the shooting incident have been identified as Vicky and Vipin, both from Delhi, and Nia from Haryana, said Sombir, Inspector and Station House Officer, Pinjore. As per preliminary examination, it could be a case of rivalry and Police teams are working on all angles, he added. Police sources said that the trio had left a resort after celebrating a birthday when miscreants fired multiple shots at their SUV. One of the deceased is Vicky, who along with his nephew and a woman, was there for the birthday celebrations. According to the

police, three men arrived at the scene in an Etios car, opened fire indiscriminately on the victims and fled from the crime scene. The police control room received information about the crime around 3.30 am. The victims were brought to the Civil Hospital of Sector 6 in Panchkula, where they were declared brought dead. According to the police, Vicky, who was aged around 30, had a criminal background and had some cases registered against him. The motive behind the killing was not immediately clear. "The three had come to attend a birthday party when the incident took place. The police team has been formed and they are scanning CCTV footage and gathering other clues and evidence," said Arvind Kamboj, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime), Panchkula.

Prez medal sought for cop who saved Sukhbir Badal; Harsimrat demands high-level judicial

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday recommended that Punjab Police's Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Jasbir Singh be conferred with the prestigious President's Police Medal for his "exceptional courage and selfless devotion to duty" in preventing a tragic event. The recommendation comes about a month after an assassination attempt on Sukhbir Badal's life on December 2 at the Shri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar.

his own life in the face of grave danger.

Sukhbir's letter also alluded to the broader conspiracy behind the assassination attempt. He suggested that those responsible for the attack were emboldened by powerful forces within the state, aiming to disrupt the peace and communal harmony that Punjab has long been known for. "The prevention of this tragic sequence of events was nothing short of providential," Sukhbir remarked, hinting at the possibility of high-level patronage for those behind the attack.

Alongside her husband's call for recognition of ASI Jasbir Singh's bravery, Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal has also written to Amit Shah, demanding a high-level judicial probe into the incident. In her letter, Harsimrat accused Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his Government of fostering an environment that allowed such a plot to unfold.

She sharply criticized the Chief Minister's administration for "provocative justifications" in rela-

tion to political violence and killings.

Further intensifying the controversy, Harsimrat highlighted that just moments before the assassination attempt, senior Punjab Police officers, including a Superintendent of Police (SP), were seen engaging with controversial figures, some with criminal backgrounds. Among them was Narain Singh Chaura, a notorious figure well known to law enforcement. These figures, according to Harsimrat, were allowed to move freely and were seemingly directed towards Sukhbir Badal. Shockingly, she pointed out that no plainclothes security officers were stationed around Sukhbir Badal at the time, leaving him vulnerable to the assassin's attack.

Harsimrat's letter underscored her belief that the attack was not a random act but a meticulously planned and sponsored conspiracy aimed at destabilizing Sikh leadership. "This was a premeditated act, designed to weaken and eliminate Sikh leadership, throwing the community into confusion and disarray," she concluded.

Haryana CM asks cops to ensure their visible presence in field

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday instructed police officers to take decisive and strict action against criminals, ensuring their visible presence in the field to instill a sense of fear among wrongdoers and anti-social elements.

He said this after chairing a review meeting to assess the law and order situation in the state.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister said that maintaining a robust law and order situation is of paramount importance for the state's security and peace.

He also expressed his commitment to personally reviewing the crime rate in an

upcoming meeting with the police department. While expressing satisfaction with the current law and order situation, Saini stressed the need for further improvement to ensure continued safety and security for the people of Haryana.

He also called for intensified efforts against the illegal drug trade in Haryana and directed police officers to take stringent action against those involved in drug trafficking and related offenses.

The Chief Minister also directed the police to work closely with civil society to raise awareness about the new criminal laws implemented across the country since July 1, particularly targeting the younger generation and educating the public about their implications.

People reaffirmed faith in BJP's policies by electing Govt for 3rd consecutive time: Hry CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday said that the people have reaffirmed faith in BJP's policies by electing the government for the third consecutive time. Addressing the people during the Dhanyawad programme in Indri, he expressed his gratitude to the people of the State for showing faith in BJP's policies.

Congress, Saini added. Taking a dig at Congress, the Chief Minister said how their leaders promised jobs during elections in exchange for votes.

Congress leaders had said they would provide one job for every 50 votes. But the people of Haryana rejected such opportunistic thinking. Voters decisively ousted those who planned job allocations for personal gain even before elections, said Saini.

Saini assured that in the third term, the present Government will accelerate development threefold.



During Congress' 10-year rule, only Rs 391 crore was spent on development in Indri, whereas the present State Government has spent Rs. 1,300 crore over the same period. He said that earlier, funds were misused due to corrup-

tion, depriving the poor of benefits. But the people have rejected such corrupt and nepotistic politics," he said.

Dismissing Congress' claims of faulty EVMs, the Chief Minister said, it was not the EVMs that were faulty, but Congress' policies, which led

people to reject them. Lauding the achievements of BJP Governments at the state and centre, he said that under the Ayushman-Chirayu Yojana, the state has spent Rs. 2,139 crore on medical care for 16 lakh families. Haryana is also providing gas cylinders at Rs500 under the 'Har Ghar Grihini' scheme, benefiting 13 lakh families.

The Chief Minister said that the Government has set a target to employ five lakh women as 'Lakhpati Didis'. So far, 1,45,773 women have achieved this milestone. Dedicated efforts have been made to ensure the delivery of clean drinking water to every household and 24-hour electricity in villages over the past

decade. Government aims to construct five lakh houses for the underprivileged and provide one-lakh families with 100-square-yard plots, he added. Saini also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of four development projects worth approximately Rs11.33 crore in the Indri Assembly constituency. Later, he addressed the Dhanyawad programme in Pehowa, Saini that the present state government, in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas and with the spirit of 'Haryana Ek-Haryanvi Ek' is ensuring holistic development of the state.

BRIEFS

Mercury drops in Haryana Punjab after rain
Chandigarh: The maximum temperatures dropped sharply in Haryana and Punjab as rain lashed many parts of the two states on Monday. According to the Meteorological Department here, Chandigarh, which received light rain during the day, recorded a maximum temperature of 13.7 degrees Celsius, down six notches against normal. However, the minimum temperature here settled at 9.3 degrees, which was slightly above normal limits. In Haryana, Ambala recorded a maximum temperature of 13.2 degrees Celsius, down six notches against normal while Hisar also had a cold day at a high of 14.1 degrees. Cold weather conditions also prevailed in Karnal during the day at 13.6 degrees while Sirsa recorded a high of 14.8 degrees. In Punjab, Patiala braved the chill during the day recording a high of 13 degrees, down six notches against normal. Amritsar recorded a maximum of 16.4 degrees while Ludhiana recorded a high of 14.5 degrees. The minimum temperatures at many places in Punjab hovered close to or below normal limits. Gurdaspur reeled under severe chill at a low of 4 degrees. Amritsar recorded a low of 6.2 degrees, Ludhiana registered a minimum of 7.4 degrees while Pathankot and Bathinda recorded respective minimums of 6.4 degrees and 5.6 degrees Celsius.

Shimla sees season's second light snowfall
Shimla: Himachal Pradesh's capital, Shimla, on Monday witnessed the second light snowfall of the season, bringing cheer to tourists, locals and farmers. Snowfall also occurred in nearby tourist spots of Kufri and Narkanda besides higher reaches including Kharapathar, Chaurdhar and Chanshal. The local meteorological department had forecast rain and snow in mid and higher reaches on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The snowfall is expected to boost tourist footfall in the state providing a fillip to local tourism business. Meanwhile, intense cold wave persisted in the lower hills of Himachal Pradesh, with Una, Hamirpur, Chamba and Mandi experiencing cold wave conditions and Sundernagar reeling under severe cold wave. **Shops and commercial establishments to remain open for 24 hours till January 5 in Himachal**

Shimla: To facilitate Christmas and New Year celebrations and heavy rush of tourists in Himachal Pradesh, the state government has decided to keep all the shops and commercial establishments open around the clock from December 23 to January 5, 2025. A spokesperson of the state government informed on Monday that this decision has been taken in public interest under the Himachal Pradesh Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1969 and an official notification has been issued. **Selja meets farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal**

Chandigarh: Senior Congress leader and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja on Monday met farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on a fast-unto-death for the last 28 days at the Khanauri border protest site. In her statement, she expressed her concern over the deteriorating health of Dallewal. Not a single BJP leader from the Centre Government has met Dallewal so far. Despite adverse weather conditions, farmers are protesting here, she added. Selja said that the government must take appropriate steps in this regard and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate action to address the farmers' demands. Dallewal himself has written an open letter to the Prime Minister raising 13 demands, including the MSP Guarantee Law, but the government seems unwilling to listen to the farmers. The government has turned the Punjab and Haryana borders into something akin to the India-Pakistan border, she alleged.

Chandigarh MP opposes power transmission
Chandigarh: City MP Manish Tewari on Monday alleged that the BJP Government is selling the public properties built by the previous government at a throw-away price. "We strongly opposed the decision of the Chandigarh administration to hand over the electricity transmission in the city to a private company as it is unfair to the employees to the department concerned," Tewari added. He said this after meeting with the fast-ing Congress activities who have continued their protest on the sixth day against the privatization of Chandigarh Electricity Department. He further said that the common people of the city are also likely to suffer as the private company is expected to lead to a significant increase in electric tariff in the city. Congress spokesperson Rajiv Sharma said that the chain hunger strike against privatization of the profit making department will continue for the 7th day on Tuesday.

Haryana becomes first State to procure all 24 crops at MSP: Hry Minister
Chandigarh: Haryana has become the first state in India to procure all 24 crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), said Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana. He said that the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has shown an unwavering commitment to the welfare of farmers. He described the decision to procure all 24 crops at MSP as a significant step towards securing the economic well-being of Haryana's farmers. **Bajwa slams Mann for prioritizing a cricket match in Australia over addressing state's issues**

Chandigarh: Senior Congress leader and LoP Partap Singh Bajwa on Monday lashed out at Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for prioritizing watching a cricket match in Australia over dealing with prevalent critical issues in the State. "CM Mann is all set to be at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Boxing Day (26 December 2024) to witness the fourth Test between Australia and India for the Border-Gavaskar Series.

Congress running smear campaign against Shah, accuses BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused the Congress of running a smear campaign against Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said, instead of indulging in such "drama", it should apologise for always "insulting and humiliating" B R Ambedkar.

It also accused the Congress of using out of context a small portion of Shah's recent speech in the Rajya Sabha in a bid to "establish its political identity".

The Congress has launched a weeklong nationwide campaign against Shah, alleging that he insulted Ambedkar with his remarks while participating in a debate on the Constitution in the Rajya Sabha last week.

As part of the "Ambedkar Samman Saptah", Congress workers and leaders will hold marches and press conferences to remember Ambedkar's legacy, the party said on Saturday.

Hitting back, senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad alleged that the Congress, which "always" insulted Ambedkar during his lifetime, was doing a "drama" of remembering his legacy.

"The Congress, which always insulted B R Ambedkar, is holding press conferences across the country... Stop this drama. Stop this hypocrisy," Prasad said in a press conference at the party headquarters.

"The Congress must tender an unconditional apology for all the insults and humiliations



done to B R Ambedkar during his lifetime and to his legacy after his death. First of all, publicly apologise and then hold press conferences," he added. The BJP leader asserted that the people of the country were very mature. "Its (Congress) efforts will not succeed."

Prasad said the BJP would hold press conferences around the country to "expose" the Congress by telling people how the party and its leaders insulted Ambedkar. "We have all the proof," he added.

The BJP leader also slammed Congress general secretary KC Venugopal for describing as a "badge of honour" the FIR against Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in connection with last week's face-off between

ruling and opposition MPs on the Parliament premises.

"A case was filed against Rahul Gandhi for pushing and shoving (BJP) MPs and a Congress general secretary, who is very close to him, said it was a badge of honour in their fight to honour the legacy of BR Ambedkar... What a bundle of lies," he said.

Rahul Gandhi is wearing "badge of dishonour for insulting and humiliating the legacy of Ambedkar", he charged.

Prasad said the BJP believed that all those who made "some honest efforts" to build the nation should be respected. "This is the difference (between the Congress and the BJP)... We honour even our staunch rivals who have tried to build the nation in their own ways. We published a book on EMS

Namboodiripad [CPI(M) leader and Kerala's first chief minister] when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was prime minister," he said.

After the BJP assumed power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Janshakti Party chief Ram Vilas Paswan was conferred with the Padma Bhushan and Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) supreme Sharad Pawar the Padma Vibhushan, he added.

Asked about Jawaharlal Nehru, Prasad said, "The biggest proof of honouring our rivals is the prime ministers' memorial and museum. Earlier, only Nehru's memorial was there. Now, there is (a memorial of) every prime minister. The country should remember all the prime ministers."

Nearly 10 lakh Govt jobs provided in mission mode: PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his government has provided nearly 10 lakh permanent government jobs to youths in the last one or one and a half years which, he asserted, is a record.

Addressing recruits at a Rozgar Mela through a virtual event, where over 71,000 people were given appointment letters, he said never before in the tenure of any previous government were jobs provided in such a "mission mode".

The young population is at the centre of his government's policies and programmes, he said, adding honesty and transparency have driven the recruitment process.

The prime minister said 'Rozgar Melas' (recruitment drives) are empowering the youth and unlocking their potential. "The youth of India today is full of new confidence, succeeding in every sector."

Noting that a large number of recruits are women, Modi said it is the endeavour of his government that they become self-dependent in every field. The government's decision to grant 26-week maternity leave to women has helped them a lot in their careers, he said and



underscored that women are the majority owners of the house constructed under the 'PM Awas Yojana'. Women-led development is taking place in the country, he said.

Modi said making maximum use of the Indian youths' abilities and talent is a priority of his government, and that they are at the centre of a host of schemes, be it start-up India, digital India or reforms in space and defence sectors.

The National Education

Policy has taken steps for the development of youngsters, he said, highlighting its emphasis on the use of mother tongues.

His government has ensured that language is not a barrier by ensuring that youngsters can take recruitment exams in 13 Indian languages, he added.

Noting that former prime minister Charan Singh, whose birth anniversary is being observed on Monday, stood

category.

The backward classes recruitment has seen a 27 per cent rise under the Modi government compared to the UPA's 10 years in power, he said. The Schedules Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 15.8 and 9.6 respectively for Monday's recruitments, Singh added.

In his address, Modi said the development of a country relies on the hard work, capability, and leadership of its youth, and India is committed to becoming a developed nation by 2047 as its policies and decisions focus on empowering its talented youth.

He said India is now the world's fifth-largest economy and the third-largest start-up ecosystem. Similarly, youths pursuing careers in sports have confidence that they will not fail because they now are supported by modern training facilities and tournaments.

Modi said the country is undergoing a transformation across various sectors, becoming the second-largest in mobile manufacturing. India is also making strides in renewable energy, organic farming, space, defence, tourism, and wellness, creating new opportunities and reaching new heights in each area, he added.

CISF launches new transfer-posting policy to ensure 'better work-life balance'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The CISF on Monday said it has unveiled a new organisational transfer and posting policy in order to ensure a "better work-life balance" for its personnel who guard some of the most vital assets and infrastructure in the country.

The policy will "impact" over 98 per cent of the paramilitary force's about 1.70 lakh workforce with personnel to retire within two years being the first category to be given "choice or preference posting" followed by women staffers, working couples and the remaining falling in the fourth category.

The policy, to kick in from December 31, is meant for non-gazetted officials (NGOs) in the ranks from constable to inspector, as grievances related to this issue is "higher" in these ranks, officials said.

"The policy is aimed to satisfy the force members when it comes to their transfer and posting, and place of work... Without compromising on the operational requirements of the force," CISF Inspector General (Administration) K C Samantary briefed the media. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has replaced the last such policy that was enacted in 2017. "The policy has been



made after conducting extensive consultations on the ground. We aim to make the CISF a future ready force to cope with emerging security challenges with training and building expertise in various security domains.

"We also see that there is a profound shift in social norms and family dynamics and work-life balance is not desirable but essential," the IG said. He said "more and more women" were joining the force and that "working couples" are increasing in the force and hence the policy is borne out after considering all such issues.

The IG said special care will be taken to ensure that the education of the children of the force personnel does not suffer and transfer orders will be issued in such a time that the academic cycle of their wards does not get affected.

"Choice-based posting in CISF has been made a rule as compared to being an exception earlier. Personnel who want to get a choice transfer or posting will have to opt for it," he said.

As per the CISF officials, personnel retiring within two years will be given the first preference while issuing posting orders followed by women personnel, then working couples and the rest will fall in the last category.

The IG said "domain experts and personnel who are highly talented" will also get preference in their choice posting due to their skills and demanding nature of work.

The domain experts are those who are adept in areas like information technology, cyber security, data science, aviation security, anti-drone solutions, weapons and tactics, among others.

PM Modi, Dhankhar, Yogi pay tributes to Charan Singh on birth anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday paid tributes to former prime minister Charan Singh on his birth anniversary.

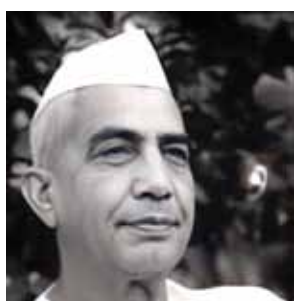
Dhankhar recalled Charan Singh's contribution to the agri sector. Talking to reporters at Kisan Ghat here after paying tributes to Singh on his 122nd birth anniversary, Dhankhar said it is an occasion for everyone to take a resolve that agriculture is necessary for India's rise.

Agro sector and farmer welfare are fundamentals for a passage to a developed nation at 2047," he said. Dhankhar said as Singh was committed towards holistic development of farmers, it was time for all of us to "converge our energies and get into the job that these celebrations are festive occasions for the farmer and would be game changer for the country's economy."

In his tributes, Prime Minister Modi described Charan Singh as a true well-wisher of the poor and farmers. In a social media post, Modi said Singh's dedication and spirit of service to the country will continue to inspire everyone.

Born in 1902 to a Jat family in western Uttar Pradesh, Singh went on to become a prominent leader, especially in north India, and an axis of anti-Congress politics after he quit the Congress. He also served as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

The Modi government bestowed the Bharat Ratna on him this year, acknowledging his contribution to public life. His grandson Jayant Singh is a minister in



the BJP-led NDA government. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said in a social media post "Humble tributes to former prime minister 'Bharat Ratna' Chaudhary Charan Singh ji on his birth anniversary. He dedicated his life to the upliftment of villages, poor and deprived and farmer welfare! Heartiest greetings of 'Farmers' Day' to the people of the state and the farmers who provide food!"

The chief minister also attended a programme marking the 122nd birth anniversary of the former prime minister. He said, "Chaudhary Charan Singh's birth anniversary has been observed as 'Kisan Samman Diwas' in Uttar Pradesh since 2002."

He recalled Singh's belief that India cannot prosper if its farmers remain poor, emphasising that the prosperity of the nation is integral to the well-being of its 'Annadata' farmers.

"The initiatives launched in 2014 are now recognised globally as a model for agricultural development", he stated. Reflecting this vision, the double-engine government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been relentlessly working to uplift farmers, he added.

Adityanath paid floral tributes to Singh's statue at the Vidhan Sabha and distributed new tractors to 11 farmers under the Chief Minister Krishak Uphaar Yojana.

Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas to be showcased at R-Day Parade 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas will be showcased through tableaux at Kartavya Path during Republic Day Parade 2025, defence ministry said here on Monday.

Every year states/UTs and Union government ministries/ departments showcase their tableaux on Kartavya Path as part of Republic Day Celebration (RDC). For RDC-2025, the theme for tableaux has been decided as 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas,' it said.

Since the beginning of this year, a consultative process has been adopted by the Ministry of Defence to decide on various aspects related to tableaux. A meeting at senior official level was held in April 2024 to deliberate on



improvement of tableaux quality. Various suggestions received during meeting has been included in process. Theme for tableaux was also decided based on suggestions from State/UTs.

There is a well-established system for selection of tableaux for participation in the Republic Day Parade as per which Ministry of Defence invites proposals for tableaux from all State/ UTs and central ministries/ departments.

The tableaux proposals received from various State/ UTs and central ministries/ departments are evaluated in a series of meetings of the Expert Committee, comprising eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture, choreography etc. Tableaux are one of the

important components of Republic Day Parade. Due to time allotted for tableaux in the overall duration of parade, shortlisting of tableaux is done by the Expert Committee.

While evaluating the tableaux ideas presented by various states/UTs and ministries, key aspects like conceptual uniqueness and novelty, creative expression with a clear, communicable message, combining subtlety as well as directness, striking balance between Virasat and Vikas in each tableau, exclusion of repetitive ideas, special attention to details like colors, forms, textures, flow, rhythm, proportions and balance, ensuring a well-composed aesthetic experience of grand scale were taken into consideration for selection.

Following 15 states/ UTs have been selected for showcasing their tableaux on Kartavya Path for RDC-2025: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadar Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat,

Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

In addition, 11 Ministries/ Department of Union government have also been selected for RDC-2025. All the states/UTs, irrespective of their selection for Kartavya Path, are invited to display their tableaux during Bharat Parv in Red Fort (26th-31st January 2025).

The entire selection process is robust, fair, transparent, based on merit and free from any bias. The selected tableaux would showcase India's diverse strengths and its constantly evolving cultural inclusiveness marching into glorious future, showcasing 'Swarnim Bharat - Virasat aur Vikas' to the world audience.

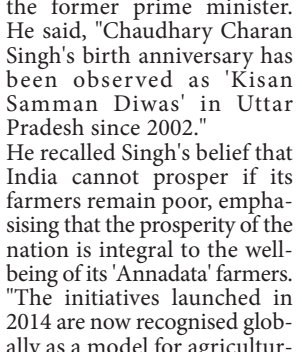
Delhi HC denies anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court on Monday refused to grant anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar in the criminal case lodged against her for cheating and wrongly availing of OBC and disability quota benefits in the civil services examination.

"Anticipatory bail plea is dismissed. Interim protection from arrest is vacated," Justice Chandri Singh said while ruling on the plea.

Justice Singh said a strong prima facie case was made out against Khedkar and investigation was required to unearth the conspiracy. It was a classic case of fraud committed on a constitutional body as well as society, the judge said. Khedkar is accused of misrepresenting



information in her application for the UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2022, to get reservation benefits.

The counsel for the Delhi Police as well as the complainant, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), opposed the plea for pre-arrest bail.

The UPSC was represented by senior advocate Naresh Kaushik and lawyer

Vardhman Kaushik. The UPSC initiated a series of actions against Khedkar in July, including lodging a criminal case, for availing exempt in the civil services exam by faking her identity.

The Delhi Police registered an FIR under provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Information Technology Act and Right of Persons with Disabilities Act.



compensation, if any, provided to the next of kin of the two victims, said the statement.

The Commission would also like to know the steps taken/proposed by the State government and Tangedco to ensure that such incidents do not recur, it added.

According to the media report, as per the preliminary investigations, the power supply to the cable was not fully turned off during the repair work. The workers were on the job without any protective gear.

In a similar incident, a worker was electrocuted to death while repairing a transformer in the Theothukudi district of Tamil Nadu last year. Last month, a migrant worker was reportedly electrocuted during Cyclone Fengal and his body was found near an ATM in Muthialpet, pointed out the NHRC in a statement.

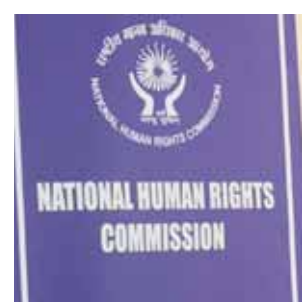
NHRC questions TN Govt about death by electrocution of two labourers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking suo motu cognisance of a media report that two persons, working as contract labourers with the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) died due to electrocution, The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the State Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu calling for a detailed report in the matter within two weeks.

The NHRC noted that while repairing a high-tension overhead power line near Olaiyur Ring Road in KK Nagar, Tiruchi in the Southern State on December 18.

"The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, indi-



cate gross negligence on the part of the electricity department resulting in the death of two labourers," said the Rights body in a statement issued here. The Commission has also noted that such incidents have occurred earlier too in the state. This is a serious human rights violation and a matter of concern for the Commission, it further added.

The notice is expected to include the status of the FIR registered in the matter and

NAME CHANGE I, Dipali D/o Sh. Suresh Kumar R/o Village Kanola, Tehsil Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar declare that my actual and correct name is Dipali and my DOB is 7.3.1998 and my mother name is Lila Wati. In my secondary & Senior Secondary certificate my mother name is mentioned as Neelam instead of Lila Wati. Now I want to correct my mother name in school certificate from Neelam to Lila Wati.

सर्वजनिक सूचना में दलजिन्द सिंह पुर सोहन सिंह निवासी मकान नं. 13 बी पटेल नगर बी की मिल के पीछे अम्बाला छावनी जिला अम्बाला ब्याज करता हु कि मेरी एक बायदाय जोकि ग्राम करधान जिला अम्बाला मे है जिसका रकबा 101 वर्ग म्ब है जो कि प्रलेख संख्या 7530 दिनांक 06.03.2006 को दर्ज है जो कि श्रीमती शोला रानी पत्नी सोपे ब्याज के नाम तस्दीक है और अब मेरी दलजिन्द सिंह पुर सोहन सिंह के नाम रिकर्ड है जो कि कही गूमे हो गयी है जिस किस्ती को मे मिले तो उतारो करे पुर सूचित करे।

Public Notice
The Pioneer
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT
OR BLACK AND WHITE ADS
CONTACT: 9417419351

सर्वजनिक सूचना
पब्लिक नोटिस
Public Notice
I, Dipali D/o Sh. Suresh Kumar R/o Village Kanola, Tehsil Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar declare that my actual and correct name is Dipali and my DOB is 7.3.1998 and my mother name is Lila Wati. In my secondary & Senior Secondary certificate my mother name is mentioned as Neelam instead of Lila Wati. Now I want to correct my mother name in school certificate from Neelam to Lila Wati.

सर्वजनिक सूचना
पब्लिक नोटिस
Public Notice
I, Dipali D/o Sh. Suresh Kumar R/o Village Kanola, Tehsil Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar declare that my actual and correct name is Dipali and my DOB is 7.3.1998 and my mother name is Lila Wati. In my secondary & Senior Secondary certificate my mother name is mentioned as Neelam instead of Lila Wati. Now I want to correct my mother name in school certificate from Neelam to Lila Wati.

THE PSB OFFICERS COOPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING 1ST SOCIETY LTD.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Sarjith Singh (Seller) Ritesh Rana (Purchaser)
It is hereby notified for the information of General Public and all concerned that Sh. Sarjith Singh S/o Sh. Jagjit Singh (Aadhar No. 207519303683), owner of Flat No. 653 (Duplex), First Floor of Category 'A', in The PSB Officers Cooperative House Building 1st Society Ltd, Plot No. 8, Sector 49-A, Chandigarh, Punjab (India) is selling the said flat to Sh. Ritesh Rana S/o Sh. Puran Chand (Aadhar No. 88830904372), R/o House No. 1852/1, Huseel Complex, Phase 10, Sector 64, Aruna Nagar (Mohali) on the basis of agreement to sell dt. 09.12.2024 entered between both the parties.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform that Mr Jaspal Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh has represented to the Punjab and Sind Bank that original title deed of property in the name of Gurcharan Singh S/o Piaraj Singh bearing details as Aruna 104.79sq yards Khanna No.503.532. 533, document No.1282 Bhat 1, page No.27-28, dated 21-04-1981 is lost and approached the Bank to tender such property as security, if anyone has any objection or any claim over this property, he/she may inform the bank within 15 days in writing along with proof of his objection/claim within the given period.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is informed that my SBI ID card no 1139540 is misplaced during transit at Kalash Chowk Ludhiana on date 8-12-24. A DDR no. 548865/2024 is being registered on date 17-12-24. If found please return at Vision Enterprises Second Floor, sector 34-A, Chandigarh. Mobile: 788806762

LOST & FOUND
General public is informed that my SBI ID card no 1139540 is misplaced during transit at Kalash Chowk Ludhiana on date 8-12-24. A DDR no. 548865/2024 is being registered on date 17-12-24. If found please return at Vision Enterprises Second Floor, sector 34-A, Chandigarh. Mobile: 788806762

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-51D, CHANDIGARH REGD. OFFICE: TBRL Sector-30, CHANDIGARH, REGD. NO.-621, DATED: 09/05/2003
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Santosh Kumari W/o Late Shri Gurcharan Dass, Original allottee of Flat No.-3208, Second Floor, 'B' Category, Defence Scientists (TBRL) Co-operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector-51 D, Chandigarh has applied for transfer of the allotment of the said Share/Flat in her name due to demise of Shri Gurcharan Dass, her husband and she being the nominee as per Section 13(2) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1919 for such transfer in her name. In case, anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Share/Flat, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence(s).

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-51D, CHANDIGARH REGD. OFFICE: TBRL Sector-30, CHANDIGARH, REGD. NO.-621, DATED: 09/05/2003
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Santosh Kumari W/o Late Shri Gurcharan Dass, Original allottee of Flat No.-3208, Second Floor, 'B' Category, Defence Scientists (TBRL) Co-operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector-51 D, Chandigarh has applied for transfer of the allotment of the said Share/Flat in her name due to demise of Shri Gurcharan Dass, her husband and she being the nominee as per Section 13(2) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1919 for such transfer in her name. In case, anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Share/Flat, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence(s).

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-51D, CHANDIGARH REGD. OFFICE: TBRL Sector-30, CHANDIGARH, REGD. NO.-621, DATED: 09/05/2003
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Santosh Kumari W/o Late Shri Gurcharan Dass, Original allottee of Flat No.-3208, Second Floor, 'B' Category, Defence Scientists (TBRL) Co-operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector-51 D, Chandigarh has applied for transfer of the allotment of the said Share/Flat in her name due to demise of Shri Gurcharan Dass, her husband and she being the nominee as per Section 13(2) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1919 for such transfer in her name. In case, anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Share/Flat, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence(s).

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-51D, CHANDIGARH REGD. OFFICE: TBRL Sector-30, CHANDIGARH, REGD. NO.-621, DATED: 09/05/2003
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Santosh Kumari W/o Late Shri Gurcharan Dass, Original allottee of Flat No.-3208, Second Floor, 'B' Category, Defence Scientists (TBRL) Co-operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector-51 D, Chandigarh has applied for transfer of the allotment of the said Share/Flat in her name due to demise of Shri Gurcharan Dass, her husband and she being the nominee as per Section 13(2) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1919 for such transfer in her name. In case, anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Share/Flat, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence(s).

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-51D, CHANDIGARH REGD. OFFICE: TBRL Sector-30, CHANDIGARH, REGD. NO.-621, DATED: 09/05/2003
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Santosh Kumari W/o Late Shri Gurcharan Dass, Original allottee of Flat No.-3208, Second Floor, 'B' Category, Defence Scientists (TBRL) Co-operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector-51 D, Chandigarh has applied for transfer of the allotment of the said Share/Flat in her name due to demise of Shri Gurcharan Dass, her husband and she being the nominee as per Section 13(2) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1919 for such transfer in her name. In case, anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Share/Flat, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence(s).

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-51D, CHANDIGARH REGD. OFFICE: TBRL Sector-30, CHANDIGARH, REGD. NO.-621, DATED: 09/05/2003
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Santosh Kumari W/o Late Shri Gurcharan Dass, Original allottee of Flat No.-3208, Second Floor, 'B' Category, Defence Scientists (TBRL) Co-operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector-51 D, Chandigarh has applied for transfer of the allotment of the said Share/Flat in her name due to demise of Shri Gurcharan Dass, her husband and she being the nominee as per Section 13(2) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1919 for such transfer in her name. In case, anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Share/Flat, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence(s).

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-51D, CHANDIGARH REGD. OFFICE: TBRL Sector-30, CHANDIGARH, REGD. NO.-621, DATED: 09/05/2003
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Santosh Kumari W/o Late Shri Gurcharan Dass, Original allottee of Flat No.-3208, Second Floor, 'B' Category, Defence Scientists (TBRL) Co-operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector-51 D, Chandigarh has applied for transfer of the allotment of the said Share/Flat in her name due to demise of Shri Gurcharan Dass, her husband and she being the nominee as per Section 13(2) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1919 for such transfer in her name. In case, anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Share/Flat, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence(s).

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-51D, CHANDIGARH REGD. OFFICE: TBRL Sector-30, CHANDIGARH, REGD. NO.-621, DATED: 09/05/2003
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Santosh Kumari W/o Late Shri Gurcharan Dass, Original allottee of Flat No.-3208, Second Floor, 'B' Category, Defence Scientists (TBRL) Co-operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector-51 D, Chandigarh has applied for transfer of the allotment of the said Share/Flat in her name due to demise of Shri Gurcharan Dass, her husband and she being the nominee as per Section 13(2) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1919 for such transfer in her name. In case, anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Share/Flat, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence(s).

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

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor, Description of Secured Asset to be enforced, Date of Notice sent/Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date. Contains details for Pankaj Kumar/Anuja Devi and Pankaj Kumar/Anuja Devi.

CHOLAMANDLAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: Chola Crest, Super B, C54 & C55, 4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules")

Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Name and Address of the No. Borrower(s) & Co-Borrower(s), Loan Amt., Dt. of Demand Notice & Amt. O/s., Description of the Property / Secured Asset. Contains details for Loan Account No. H25PLA00124436.

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and herein above within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s).

DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES
DRAW TIME: 06:00 PM ONWARDS DRAW DATE: 23/12/2024
RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 10 GOLD MONDAY WEEKLY LOTTERY
MRP Rs 10/- Per Ticket
1st Prize Amount (10)Rs.10,000/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits) (Seller Prize Amount Rs.500/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.10500/- each) 6247

Office of SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 6TH CIRCLE N.P. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, KULLU-175101 Ph: 01902_222530, E.mail:hp-kul@nic.in
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
The Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle HPP/W/D, Kullu on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under SDMF for the following work including maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HP-PWD/CPWD/P&T/Railways/other State Govt./Central Govt. Agencies. Non registered bidders may submit bids. However, the successful bidder has to register in appropriate Class with appropriate authorises in HP-PWD,.

Table with 6 columns: District, Under Head, Name of work, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Period of Completion, Bid security (Rs. Lacs) i.e. % of the total cost. Contains details for Kullu 1 SDMF.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for general public that the following documents - 1. A document letter in favour of Sh. Sanjay Chand vide dt. 20/5/1952 no 001, 2. Transfer letter in favour of Mr Mohinder Singh dt 1/8/1960 no 2747 and, 3. Transfer letter in favour of Mr Kamlesh Indar Singh S/O Sh Mohinder Singh dated 23/6/1977 vide no 8855 in respect of property bearing House no. 125, sector 9B, Chandigarh are lost and not traceable despite best efforts and a DDR bearing no. ICNMS/2024/038122, dated. 23.12.2024 has already been lodged with Chandigarh Police. If any person found the above mentioned documents in originals please contact Smt Seerat Cherry Sandhu, Mobile No.92510-21219.

INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED
PUNJAB STATE OFFICE (JALANDHAR DIVISIONAL OFFICE)
PUBLIC NOTICE
By the present Public Notice, it is being informed to all concerned that the following dealer has applied for reconstitution of their firm in favor of, as per details given below:

Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Name of the dealership, Location, District, Nature of dealership (RO/SKO), Name of the proprietor / Partner(s), Name of the proprietor / partner(s) applied for reconstitution, Reconstitution proposed in favor of. Contains details for Tractor Centre.

By the present notice, it is requested that if any person/firm/institution etc. has any kind of objection to the said reconstitution or has any rights or stake in the above mentioned firm, he/ she/ they may contact Divisional Retail Head, Jalandhar Divisional Office, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Jalandhar Divisional Office, Suchi Pind, Jalandhar, PIN 144009, along with all the original documents, to prove/substantiate their claims within 30 days of publication of this public notice. Claims raised thereafter, shall not be entertained by Indian Oil Corporation Limited. Indian Oil Corporation Limited shall also not be responsible for any delay in receipt of claims after the due date. In case no claim is received within stipulated time, Indian Oil Corporation Limited shall reconstitute the firm in favor of applicant(s) mentioned above.

Table with 5 columns: Name of the NPA Account / Branch, Description of the Immovable Properties, Date of the Demand Notice, Date of the Possession, Amount Outstanding. Contains details for M/s English Browne Hygiene Solutions.

Table with 5 columns: Name of the NPA Account / Branch, Description of the Immovable Properties, Date of the Demand Notice, Date of the Possession, Amount Outstanding. Contains details for Sh. Nirvair Singh S/o Sh. Gurbaksh Singh.

Table with 5 columns: Name of the NPA Account / Branch, Description of the Immovable Properties, Date of the Demand Notice, Date of the Possession, Amount Outstanding. Contains details for Sh. Paramjit Singh S/o Sh. Gurdial Singh.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Attack and aftermath

Christmas market attack in Germany reigniting polarising debates about immigration and national security

A recent attack on a Christmas market in Magdeburg, Germany, has reignited contentious debates about immigration and national security, with far-right groups seizing the moment to push for mass deportation of immigrants. The tragedy, which claimed the lives of five individuals and left dozens injured, has sent shockwaves across Germany, leading to both solemn remembrances and polarising political rhetoric. On the evening of December 20, a car driven by Taleb al-Abdulmohsen, a 50-year-old psychiatrist originally from Saudi Arabia, careened into a crowded Christmas market. The attack lasted three harrowing minutes, during which over 200 people were struck, leaving 40 with critical injuries. Authorities arrested al-Abdulmohsen at the scene, and he now faces multiple charges of murder, attempted murder, and grievous bodily harm. Despite living in Germany for nearly two decades, the suspect's motives remain unclear. Investigators have yet to establish any ideological or political motivations.



In the wake of the tragedy, far-right groups have amplified their calls for stricter immigration controls and mass deportations. On December 21, approximately 2,100 demonstrators gathered in Magdeburg to voice their outrage. Protesters, some wearing black balaclavas, carried banners with slogans like "Reimmigration Now" and "migration kills." The term "reimmigration" has become a rallying cry for far-right factions advocating the forced removal of immigrants and individuals deemed non-ethnically German. Chants such as "Anyone who doesn't love Germany should leave" and "We must take back our cities, our villages, and our homeland" echoed through the streets. The incident has deepened divisions within Germany over immigration and integration policies. Critics argue that far-right groups are exploiting the tragedy to stoke xenophobia and advance their anti-immigrant agenda. Meanwhile, local communities have sought to counter the rhetoric of hate with acts of solidarity. A silent vigil was held at Magdeburg's Cathedral Square on the same evening as the protest, with participants lighting candles in memory of the victims. German authorities have called for calm and emphasised the need for a thorough investigation. Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressed condolences to the victims' families and condemned both the attack and the use of such tragedies to spread divisive ideologies. The attack has reignited debates over Germany's approach to immigration and the balance between openness and security. While far-right voices call for stringent measures, advocates for multiculturalism warn against the dangers of collective punishment. This incident underscores the fragility of Europe's social cohesion in times of crisis. As Germany mourns, the challenge lies in addressing security concerns without succumbing to fear-driven policies that erode the values of inclusivity and tolerance that underpin the nation's democratic fabric.

our villages, and our homeland" echoed through the streets. The incident has deepened divisions within Germany over immigration and integration policies. Critics argue that far-right groups are exploiting the tragedy to stoke xenophobia and advance their anti-immigrant agenda. Meanwhile, local communities have sought to counter the rhetoric of hate with acts of solidarity. A silent vigil was held at Magdeburg's Cathedral Square on the same evening as the protest, with participants lighting candles in memory of the victims. German authorities have called for calm and emphasised the need for a thorough investigation. Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressed condolences to the victims' families and condemned both the attack and the use of such tragedies to spread divisive ideologies. The attack has reignited debates over Germany's approach to immigration and the balance between openness and security. While far-right voices call for stringent measures, advocates for multiculturalism warn against the dangers of collective punishment. This incident underscores the fragility of Europe's social cohesion in times of crisis. As Germany mourns, the challenge lies in addressing security concerns without succumbing to fear-driven policies that erode the values of inclusivity and tolerance that underpin the nation's democratic fabric.

PICTALK



People dressed as Santa Claus during Christmas celebration, in Chennai

Macau: The glittering gem in Xi Jinping's China



SANTOSH MATHEW

For the Chinese Communist Party, Macau is a beacon of controlled capitalism, showcasing the potential of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework

When Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Macau, the world's gambling capital, the air was thick with anticipation. Macau, often dubbed the "Las Vegas of the East," is much more than a beacon of wealth and opulence. For Xi and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), it is a sparkling gem in the palm of China's vast and complex economic system—a model of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework that allows capitalist practices to thrive under the watchful eye of a socialist regime. Xi's visit underscored the stark contrasts between theory and practice in the CCP's governance and the lessons it offers not only for China's neighbours but for the world at large. Macau's significance lies in its unique identity. A former Portuguese colony, it returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999 under the promise of autonomy. Today, its glitzy casinos, luxury hotels, and sprawling Special Economic Zone (SEZ) generate billions annually, contributing substantially to China's GDP. But while the dice roll and fortunes are made on Macau's gaming tables, the CCP's control remains unyielding.



The irony is palpable. The CCP, a party built on anti-capitalist ideology, oversees the largest SEZ in the world in Shanghai, nurtures capitalism in Hong Kong, and allows gambling—once condemned as a moral vice—to flourish in Macau. This duality reflects the pragmatic philosophy first espoused by Deng Xiaoping: "It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice." This approach has been pivotal in transforming China into the world's second-largest economy. Yet it also lays bare the contradictions at the heart of CCP rule. As Xi extolled Macau's success, he also warned against complacency and stressed the need for "long-term stability," a euphemism for unwavering allegiance to the CCP. For the CCP, Macau and Hong Kong are not just economic engines; they are experiments in controlled capitalism. The success of these regions bolsters the

party's narrative that socialism with Chinese characteristics can coexist with, and even benefit from capitalist mechanisms. The underlying contradictions are hard to ignore. The CCP's insistence on ideological purity clashes with its pragmatic embrace of market-driven policies. This duality is reflected in Xi's leadership, which combines Maoist centralisation with Dengist pragmatism. For Maoists, Naxalites, and urban Naxals in India, as well as other ideologues clinging to rigid dogmas, Macau stands as a testament to the power of adaptation. The CCP's ability to evolve, to reconcile its Marxist-Leninist roots with the demands of a modern, globalised economy, has been the cornerstone of China's rise. This is a far cry from the ideological purism that often paralyzes leftist movements elsewhere.

India, too, can draw inspiration from Macau. As the world's largest democracy grapples with its development challenges, it must consider the role of SEZs, MNC headquarters, and even industries like gambling in driving economic growth. While gambling remains taboo in much of India, the success of Macau shows how regulated gaming can become a major revenue source. Similarly, expanding SEZs and creating hubs for MNCs can



MACAU'S SIGNIFICANCE LIES IN ITS UNIQUE IDENTITY. A FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY, IT RETURNED TO CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN 1999 UNDER THE PROMISE OF AUTONOMY

transform India into a global economic powerhouse. At the heart of this debate is the question of whether ideology should dictate policy. The CCP's approach—that opinion is not an iron rod—offers a compelling case for pragmatism. Yet, the party's intolerance for dissent, as seen in its suppression of Mao's "Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom" campaign, highlights the dangers of unchecked authority. The CCP's success in economic management is undeniable, but its human rights record and stifling of democratic aspirations serve as stark reminders of the cost of its iron-fisted rule. As Xi Jinping departed Macau, the world was left pondering the paradoxes of modern China. Under his leadership, the CCP has doubled down on centralisation, curbing dissent while championing economic liberalisation. Macau's glittering casinos and towering skyscrapers are symbols of this duality, where capitalism thrives under the shadow of socialism. For Xi, Macau is more than a gem in China's palm; it is a symbol of the CCP's ability to adapt and endure. Whether in the neon-lit streets of Macau or the corridors of power in Beijing, the CCP's experiment in controlled capitalism continues to shape the future of China—and the world. (The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

transform India into a global economic powerhouse. At the heart of this debate is the question of whether ideology should dictate policy. The CCP's approach—that opinion is not an iron rod—offers a compelling case for pragmatism. Yet, the party's intolerance for dissent, as seen in its suppression of Mao's "Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom" campaign, highlights the dangers of unchecked authority. The CCP's success in economic management is undeniable, but its human rights record and stifling of democratic aspirations serve as stark reminders of the cost of its iron-fisted rule. As Xi Jinping departed Macau, the world was left pondering the paradoxes of modern China. Under his leadership, the CCP has doubled down on centralisation, curbing dissent while championing economic liberalisation. Macau's glittering casinos and towering skyscrapers are symbols of this duality, where capitalism thrives under the shadow of socialism. For Xi, Macau is more than a gem in China's palm; it is a symbol of the CCP's ability to adapt and endure. Whether in the neon-lit streets of Macau or the corridors of power in Beijing, the CCP's experiment in controlled capitalism continues to shape the future of China—and the world. (The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTROVERSY OVER AMBEDKAR

Madam —The row over the insult to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar is neither factual nor logical since the home minister never insulted Dr Ambedkar in his speech by words or intention; rather, the fact is that no leader from the BJP has ever insulted Dr BR Ambedkar publicly or in Parliament or state assemblies, whereas Congress has a documented history of opposition to Ambedkar. It is no secret that the first PM, J.L. Nehru, was never on good terms with Dr Ambedkar, and MK Gandhi too had an uncomfortable equation with Ambedkar, while it may be argued that the twin Congress leaders (Gandhi and Nehru) were right when it comes to national interest and the movement of Indian independence to oppose Dr Ambedkar. Unfortunately, the national politics has reached the spot where Dr BR Ambedkar has been established as a godly figure, though he never participated in any struggle for Indian independence for which the Congress claims sole credit and abuses Bharatiya JanaSangh and BJP for their nonparticipation, never mentioning Ambedkar for his nonparticipation because that would be politically incorrect. Neither making Ambedkar the god nor considering the Constitution a heavenly document would be democratically or even constitutionally correct.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

APATHY AT ITS WORSE

Madam—This is our modern India. When a Jaipur gas tanker explosion left motor mechanic Radheyshyam Choudhary with 85 per cent burns. He bravely walked 600 meters while engulfed in flames, even calling his brother before succumbing to his injuries at SMS Hospital. Shockingly, by mid-morning, videos of the aftermath of the gas tanker explosion on the national highway were circulating online, with more than one showing a burning man struggling to stay on his feet as he scampered for help amid

Indian diaspora remits \$129 billion



In 2024, Indian expatriates achieved a historic milestone by sending \$129 billion in remittances. This amount not only surpasses India's vast defence budget and foreign direct investment but also exceeds the combined budgets of Pakistan and Bangladesh. This flow of funds symbolises not just economic support but also the hard work, dedication, and unwaver-

ing love of Indians for their homeland. Remittances have unlocked new avenues for development in rural and urban areas, fostering investment in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. It has provided stability to rural economies while empowering small and medium enterprises. Indians living abroad establish their identity on foreign soil through resilience and courage. By dedicating a significant portion of their income to the development of their families and nation, they exemplify cultural values and familial commitment. This inflow strengthens India's foreign exchange reserves and energises local businesses. With strong policy measures, the government can further enhance this success. Remittances are not merely economic contributions; they represent the collective effort and national pride of Indians across the globe.

RK Jain | Barwani

ACTION AGAINST MINING MAFIA

Madam — The operation of the mining mafia is a well-known fact for a long time to both the governments of Rajasthan and Haryana, including the efforts put forth by the general public in complaining against such acts with no stoppage of the bringing down of the Aravalli hills. However, a common man hesitates to lodge an FIR, as he is aware of the consequences he will face with negligible police protection for a limited time and the creation of animosity with the mafia, resulting in a threat to his life and discouraging him from fighting with such a large force. Sending inspecting teams to the blasted site from both the government is purely an eyewitness in the eyes of the public until concrete action is taken at a national level involving the NIA. A strategic policy with amendments to the existing mining rules is required to be pondered upon to make it pragmatic and not theoretical to be effective.

RS Narula | Patiala

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Navigating the intersection of technology, law and human rights

In a world increasingly shaped by digital technologies, the concept of 'digital arrest' has emerged as a controversial tool in cyberspace



SHAINY SHARMA

The term 'Digital Arrest' often referred to as the restriction, monitoring, or apprehension of individuals through online mechanisms extends beyond the confines of traditional legal systems to encompass actions in cyberspace, such as freezing digital assets, blocking online accounts, or limiting access to certain platforms or limiting individual freedom in a virtual or online environment.



As technology permeates every aspect of life, the implications of digital arrest have grown even more significantly, offering both opportunities and challenges in governance, security, and individual rights in dismantling operations such as ransomware groups, hacking collectives, and online marketplaces for illegal activities. For instance, international efforts have led to the closure of dark web platforms such as Silk Road and the apprehension of their operators. Also, Cryptocurrencies and digital financial assets have brought about new forms of digital arrest, where govern-

ments or agencies freeze digital wallets associated with criminal activities thereby preventing the illicit flow of funds and supporting global financial regulations. While the concept is still evolving, digital arrest encompasses aspects of cybersecurity, legal frameworks, and the social consequences of living in a highly digitised world. At its core, this kind of arrest involves leveraging technology to enforce restrictions or punish actions taken in the digital sphere. Various government agencies, corporations, and even individual users can

participate in acts akin to digital arrest, raising questions about authority, power dynamics, and accountability in cyberspace. To balance security and individual rights in the digital era, taking measures such as establishing transparent and enforceable regulations that define the scope of digital arrest; overseeing the use of digital arrest mechanisms to ensure accountability and prevent misuse; developing universal guidelines for promoting fairness and consistency across jurisdictions and most importantly raising public awareness about digital rights and responsibili-

ties can equip individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to engage effectively and securely in the digital world. As the digital world continues to evolve, so too will the methods of enforcement and resistance. New technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, may influence how digital arrests are carried out and challenged. Transparency in enforcement, the right to appeal, and global cooperation on ethical standards are essential steps in creating a just digital society. There is no denying that digital arrest represents the intersection of technology, law, and human rights in the digital age. While it offers tools for enforcing order and combatting crime, it also poses risks to freedom and privacy. As society becomes increasingly reliant on digital infrastructure, the concept of digital arrest will likely continue to evolve, demanding thoughtful and ethical approaches to its implementation.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN SUCCESS THROUGH WORKPLACE INTELLIGENCE

It is the ability to adapt to the work environment through emotional and cognitive intelligence



SAKSHI SETHI

In today's dynamic work environment, workplace intelligence has become a cornerstone for achieving personal growth, team cohesion, and organisational excellence. Workplace intelligence refers to the ability of individuals and organisations to navigate, adapt, and thrive in the professional environment through effective understanding, communication and decision-making. It encompasses emotional intelligence, social intelligence, and cognitive intelligence blended together with technological advancements thereby creating a comprehensive approach towards addressing the root causes of toxicity and fostering a positive workplace culture. There is no denying that such intelligence not only plays a pivotal role in creating a healthy, harmonious and productive professional environment but also equips individuals and organisations with the tools to identify, mitigate and prevent toxic behaviours that can undermine morale, collaboration and overall success.

It is often believed that employees with high workplace intelligence can manage their tasks efficiently and adapt to new challenges with minimal disruption. By leveraging cognitive and emotional intelligence, they can prioritize effectively and maintain focus, leading to improved productivity. Also, social and emotional intelligence enables them to work harmoniously with others, promoting effective communication and minimizing conflicts. Strong teamwork followed by leaders with workplace intelligence inspires trust, and motivation and navigate through complex challenges with clarity and empathy. It even enhances creativity, innovation and the achievement of their collective goals and even reduces stress, boosts morale, and contributes to overall job satisfaction. In an era of rapid technological advancements and shifting market dynam-



ics, workplace intelligence equips employees and organisations with the resilience and adaptability needed to stay competitive. By fostering emotional and social intelligence, workplace intelligence helps identify and mitigate toxic behaviours, thereby ensuring a positive and respectful work environment.

By promoting training and development, organisations can invest in training programmes that focus on emotional intelligence, communication skills and technological proficiency. Open and constructive feedback mechanisms help the employee grow and refine their workplace intelligence over time. Emphasising diversity and inclusion helps individuals develop social intelligence by interacting with people from different backgrounds and perspectives. Encouraging continuous learning and adaptability ensures that employees remain agile and open to new ideas and methods. Remember, a workforce with high workplace intelligence is more likely to generate creative solutions and drive innovation. Employees are more likely to stay in organisations where they feel valued, supported, and empowered. Today, companies such as Heineken, Cooley, Cruise Automation, Urban Company, Amazon, Chipotle and many more are known for fostering workplace intelligence to attract top talent and build trust with stakeholders.

By investing in the development of workplace intelligence, organisations can create environments that promote collaboration, innovation, and sustainable success, ensuring they remain agile and competitive in an ever-evolving world. As organisations continue to navigate the complexities of globalisation and digital transformation, the importance of workplace intelligence will only grow. Artificial intelligence, remote work and diverse teams are shaping new paradigms that demand a more nuanced understanding of interpersonal and technological dynamics but organisations that invest in fostering workplace intelligence will gain a competitive edge, as their employees will be better equipped to adapt, innovate, and lead in an ever-changing world.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

A roadmap for financial sustainability of India Post



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGARWAL

India Post is at a crossroads. As private courier services continue to expand their market share with speed and convenience, it must adapt to stay competitive



India Post, a vital lifeline in connecting citizens across the country, needs to undergo a comprehensive review of its services. This reform should focus on introducing innovation, ensuring greater revenue generation for the Department of Posts (DoP), and maintaining affordability for the public. As private courier services continue to gain traction due to their convenience and efficiency, India Post must adapt to remain competitive and relevant in a rapidly changing environment.

Rationalising Postal Tariffs and Eliminating GST on Select Services

The current structure of postal services includes highly subsidised offerings, such as postcards priced as low as 50 paise. While such subsidies aim to make communication accessible, they are often exploited. For instance, during Lok Sabha elections in 2019, political parties used postcards extensively, resulting in significant costs to the public exchequer. Similarly, postcards are frequently misused for commercial purposes, such as reminders by chit-fund companies. These subsidised services, rarely used by the common man, burden taxpayers without corresponding benefits.

To address this, printed or rubber-stamped postcards should be discontinued unless they are sponsored. The introduction of sponsored Meghdoot postcards priced at Re1 and printed postcards priced at Rs10 could ensure a sustainable revenue model. Similarly, the tariff for registered newspapers could be rationalised to Rs1, reflecting the increased cost of inputs for small newspaper production.

Additionally, while normal postal services are exempt from GST, applying GST on premium services like Speed Post is counterproductive. It results in a redundant transfer of funds between government departments. Rationalising tariffs for Speed Post to Rs 20 or Rs 30 per 50-gram weight slabs and aligning other domestic and international postal tariffs in multiples of Rs 10 would streamline the system and reduce inefficiencies. International postal rates could follow a consistent structure, with uniform tariff increases per weight slab for air and sur-



THE 'MY-STAMP' INITIATIVE, WHICH ALLOWS INDIVIDUALS TO PRINT PERSONAL IMAGES ON POSTAGE STAMPS, HAS BEEN MISUSED. REPORTS INDICATE INSTANCES OF NOTORIOUS INDIVIDUALS OBTAINING STAMPS WITH THEIR PHOTOS, TARNISHING THE PROGRAM'S CREDIBILITY

Generating Revenue Through Sponsored Postal Stamps

To boost revenue, the DoP should introduce sponsored postal stamps. These stamps, carrying advertisements or approved messages, could be issued in bulk to sponsors at a fixed charge per printed stamp. This initiative could attract businesses, encouraging them to utilise postal services over private courier companies.

Additionally, a new series of definitive postal stamps and stationery could be launched annually on the first day of the financial year. These stamps should maintain consistent color schemes for specific denominations while showcasing new designs based on a selected theme. Commemorative stamps, previously issued in arbitrary denominations like Rs 12 and Rs 41, should be standardised to denominations in multiples of Rs 10. Furthermore, the practice of printing stamps of different denominations on the same sheet, except for miniature sheets, should be discontinued as it complicates usage. Miniature sheets, being collectible items, should be priced higher than the face value of the stamps they contain. Such measures could not only enhance revenue through philately but also rekindle public interest in postal services.

Replacing 'My-Stamp' with Sponsored Stamps

The 'My-Stamp' initiative, which allows individuals to print personal images on postage stamps, has been misused. Reports indicate instances of notorious individuals obtaining stamps with their photos, tarnishing the program's credibility. Since no robust mechanism exists to screen applicants' backgrounds, the programme is susceptible to abuse. Discontinuing the 'My-Stamp' concept in favor of sponsored stamps could address this issue. Sponsored stamps would

not only ensure better regulation but also offer a significant revenue stream.

Enhancing Consumer Convenience with Sticker Receipts

Currently, receipts issued by the Postal Department include a sticker only on the portion retained by the Department, leaving the consumer without one. Adding stickers to consumer receipts would eliminate the need for gum to paste them onto dispatch registers or documents. This small change could save public resources and improve the user experience, especially for organisations that rely heavily on postal services.

Introducing RTI Stamps and Rationalising Postal Orders

Postal orders in low denominations such as Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, and Rs 7 were discontinued due to high handling costs. For example, the handling cost of a postal order in 2011-12 was Rs 37.45, far exceeding its value. To minimise losses, higher denominations like Rs 100, Rs 200, and Rs 500 could be introduced. Furthermore, RTI-specific stamps in denominations of Rs 2, Rs 10, and Rs 50 could replace postal orders for fees under the RTI Act, streamlining the payment process. This approach aligns with recommendations from the Central Information Commission and addresses the issue of unfeasible copying charges below Rs10 due to the absence of lower-denomination postal orders.

Managing Inoperative and Matured Accounts

Unclaimed deposits in post office accounts often remain unnoticed due to deceased account holders failing to inform legal heirs. This creates a risk of fraud, as unscrupulous individuals may attempt to claim such funds in collusion with postal employees. To mitigate this risk, the Postal Department should send registered letters to account holders who have not operated

their accounts or claimed matured deposits for over three years. If no response is received within three months, the funds should be frozen in fixed accounts and made accessible only after rigorous verification. Publishing details of such accounts could help legal heirs claim their rightful amounts, subject to stringent scrutiny. The introduction of successive nominations, as practiced by LIC of India, would further safeguard deposits and simplify inheritance processes.

Expanding Postal Services Through Bank Counters

The closure of post offices in key commercial areas, such as Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi, has caused inconvenience for businesses that rely on Registered and Speed Post services. With banks increasingly adopting government savings schemes, their branches could be utilised for booking postal services. Offering banks a nominal commission for hosting these services would not only enhance accessibility but also integrate postal and banking ecosystems more effectively.

Revamping the Postal Ecosystem for Sustainability

India Post's transformation should emphasise efficiency, innovation, and customer-centricity. Rationalising tariffs, eliminating wasteful subsidies, and leveraging sponsored services are crucial steps toward financial sustainability. Additionally, addressing operational inefficiencies and improving service delivery will help India Post reclaim its position as a trusted and competitive communication medium.

By embracing these changes, India Post can not only secure its financial future but also continue serving as a cornerstone of India's communication network.

(The writer is a Guinness World Record holder and RTI Consultant; views are personal)

India's math geniuses shine bright in international math competition 2024

India, a nation with a rich legacy of mathematical brilliance, added another feather to its cap by triumphing at the UCMAS International Competition 2024

India has long been a land of great mathematicians, from Aryabhata to Ramanujan to Bhaskara, each leaving an indelible mark on the world with their mathematical ingenuity. Today, India continues to excel in the field, as evidenced by its stellar performance at the Universal Concept of Mental Arithmetic System (UCMAS) International Competition 2024 in New Delhi, where the country bagged both the highest individual and team trophies.

The competition, the world's largest event for Abacus and Mental Arithmetic, brought together over 6,000 students from nearly 30 countries. Participants faced the challenge of solving 200 arithmetic questions in just eight min-



SARIKA JHA

utes, relying solely on the Abacus or mental math techniques—a feat that truly felt like magic. For the second time, the World's Largest Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Event- UCMAS International Competition 2024 was held in India at the Delhi University Multipurpose Hall. Students from across the world competed with each other showcasing their men-

tal prowess in solving a very large number of mathematics problems in the quickest possible time to win the awards. This landmark event reaffirms its global significance in nurturing young minds in mathematics.

The competition aimed at promoting brain development, enhancing cognitive skills, and demonstrating the incredible abilities students can achieve through Abacus and Mental Arithmetic. Presenting the trophies to top performers, former Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi rightly said, "Smart brain produces smart solutions for every problem and prosperity is moving forward only when we have smart brains." Commending the efforts of the young participants, Lekhi emphasised

the importance of such initiatives and said, "UCMAS is enhancing cognitive skills and academic excellence." The blend of the ancient tool of the Abacus with modern teaching methodologies creates a unique educational experience.

Over 3 million children across the world have benefited from the Abacus and Mental Arithmetic curriculum, which encourages creativity, visualisation, and focus while developing strong arithmetic abilities.

In today's competitive academic environment, maintaining mental wellbeing has become an uphill battle for many children. The relentless pressure to excel often leads to stress, anxiety, and even depression. In some heartbreaking cases,



it drives students to take extreme steps, as seen in recent reports from Rajasthan's Kota district—a hub for competitive exam preparations. However, innovative educational programmes like the Abacus and Mental Arithmetic course are emerging as a ray of hope, helping children manage stress while fostering mental stability and

self-confidence. According to Dr Snehal Karia, CEO of UCMAS India, the course is designed to enhance children's mental stability by boosting their concentration, focus, and memory. It equips them with the confidence to understand and embrace their individuality, effectively reducing anxiety and depression. The Abacus & Mental Arithmetic program's key lies in its structured approach to building self-assurance through innovative teaching methods.

The encouragement and skills imparted during the training play a pivotal role in shaping a child's bright future. The program comprises eight levels, each lasting three to four months. Children attend weekly classes guided by

trained instructors, working through specially designed books and activities. Unlike conventional education, the course serves as a supplementary learning system to enhance cognitive abilities. There is an urgent need to complement the school's curriculum by focusing on brain development. The course improves memory, sharpness, and alertness.

As a result, students perform better academically and approach challenges with greater confidence. In a world where competition often overshadows creativity and self-worth, programs like Abacus & Mental Arithmetic provide children with the tools they need to thrive—mentally, emotionally, and academically. Alexan Wong, CEO of

UCMAS International Corporation, said, "The competition not only tests their skills but also serves as a platform to demonstrate their creativity, visual memory, and focus—all of which will shape their future success." The competition itself is a testament to the transformative power of such programs, where students not only test their math skills but also demonstrate the broader cognitive benefits that shape their academic and personal growth.

Ultimately, the world needs such initiatives to nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to face the challenges of the future with confidence and creativity. *(The author is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal)*

Bethlehem plans another somber Christmas under the shadow of war in Gaza

AP ■ BETHLEHEM (WEST BANK)

The Nativity Store in Manger Square has sold handmade olive wood carvings and religious items to people visiting the traditional birthplace of Jesus since 1927. But as Bethlehem prepares to mark its second Christmas under the shadow of the war in Gaza, there are almost no tourists, leaving the Nativity Store and other businesses unsure of how much longer they can hold on.

For the second straight year, Bethlehem's Christmas celebrations will be somber and muted, in deference to ongoing war in Gaza. There will be no giant Christmas tree in Manger Square, no raucous scout marching bands, no public lights twinkling and very few public decorations or displays.

"Last year before Christmas, we had more hope, but now again we are close to Christmas and we don't have anything," said Rony Tabash, the third-generation owner of Nativity Store.

Israel's war against Hamas has been raging for nearly 15 months, and there still is no end in sight. Repeated ceasefire efforts have

stalled.

Since the war began, tourism to Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank has plummeted. And after Israel barred entry to most of the 150,000 Palestinians in the West Bank who had jobs in Israel, the Palestinian economy contracted by 25% in the past year.

The yearly Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem — shared among Armenian, Catholic and Orthodox denominations — are usually major boons for the city, where tourism accounts for 70% of its yearly income. But the streets are empty this season.

Tabash said he continues to open the store every day, but often an entire week will go by without a sale. Tabash works with more than 25 local families who create hand-carved religious items out of the region's storied olive wood. But with no buyers, work has dried up for these families.

Lots of room at the inn: The number of visitors to the city plunged from a pre-COVID high of around 2 million visitors per year in 2019 to fewer than 100,000 visitors in 2024, said Jiries Qumsiyeh, the spokesperson for the Palestinian

tourism ministry.

According to the Christmas story, Mary was forced to give birth to Jesus in a stable because there was no room at the inn. Today, nearly all of Bethlehem's 5,500 hotel rooms are empty.

The city's hotel occupancy rate plunged from around 80% in early 2023 to around 3% today, said Elias Al Arja, the head of Bethlehem Hoteliers Association. At his own hotel, the Bethlehem Hotel, he said he has laid off a staff of more than 120 people and retains just five employees.

The city hosts more than 100 stores and 450 workshops dealing with traditional Palestinian handicraft, Qumsiyeh said. But just a week before Christmas, when the city should be bursting with visitors, Manger Square was mostly empty save for a few locals selling coffee and tea. Only two of the eight stores in the main drag of the square were open for business.

Qumsiyeh worries that when the war ends and tourism eventually rebounds, many of the families that have handed down traditional skills for generations will no longer be making the items that reflect



Palestinian heritage and culture. Many are leaving the region entirely. "We have witnessed a very high rate of emigration since the beginning of the aggression, especially among those working in the tourism sector," said Qumsiyeh.

A Christmas without joy: Almost 500 families have left Bethlehem in the past year, said Mayor Anton Salman. And those are just the families who moved abroad with official residency visas. Many others have moved abroad on temporary tourist visas and are working illegally, and it's unclear if they will return, Salman said.

Around half of the population in the

Bethlehem area, including nearby villages, works in either tourism or in jobs in Israel.

The unemployment rate in Bethlehem is roughly 50%, said Salman. Unemployment across the West Bank is around 30%, according to the Palestinian Economy Ministry.

Canceling Christmas festivities is one way to draw attention to the difficult situation in Bethlehem and across the Palestinian territories, said Salman. "This year we want to show the world that the Palestinian people are still suffering and they haven't the joy that everybody else in the world having," said Salman.

It is another blow to the Holy Land's dwindling population over the decade due to emigration and a low birthrate.

Christians are a small percentage of the population. There are about 182,000 in Israel, 50,000 in the West Bank and Jerusalem and 1,300 in Gaza, according to the US State Department.

Finding the light in the night: Father Issa Thalji, the parish priest of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Church of the Nativity, said many families are struggling financially, leaving them unable to pay rent or school fees, much less buy Christmas presents or celebrate the holiday in other ways. The church's social services have tried to help, but the needs are great, he said.

Thalji said his Christmas message this year focused on encouraging Palestinians in Bethlehem to stay despite the challenges.

"A church without Christians is not a church," he said, as workers hand-polished the ornate brass candelabras in the cavernous, empty church a week before the holiday. "The light that was born when Jesus Christ was born here is the light that

moves beyond darkness, so we have to wait, we have to be patient, we have to pray a lot, and we have to stay with our roots because our roots are in Bethlehem," he said.

Some families are finding ways to bring back pockets of joy. Bethlehem resident Nihal Bandak, 39, gave into her three children's requests to have a Christmas tree this year, after not having one last year. Decorating the tree is her favorite part of Christmas of her youngest daughter, 8-year-old Stephanie.

Mathew Bandak, 11 was thrilled his family brought back some of their traditions, but also torn.

"I was happy because we get to decorate and celebrate, but people are in Gaza who don't have anything to celebrate," he said.

Rony Tabash, the third-generation owner of Nativity Store, said he will continue to open the store, because it's part of his family's history.

"We are not feeling Christmas, but in the end, Christmas is in our hearts," he said, adding that the entire city was praying for a ceasefire and peace. "We have a big faith that always, when we see Christmas, it will give us the light in the night."

Trump threatens to try take back Panama Canal

Panama's president balks at the suggestion

AP ■ PHOENIX

Donald Trump suggested Sunday that his new administration could try to regain control of the Panama Canal that the United States "foolishly" ceded to its Central American ally, contending that shippers are charged "ridiculous" fees to pass through the vital transportation channel linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Panama's conservative president José Raúl Mulino, who was elected in April on a pro-business platform, roundly rejected that notion as an affront to his country's sovereignty.

The Republican president-elect's comment came during his first major rally since winning the White House on Nov. 5. He also basked in his return to power as a large audience of conservatives cheered along. It was a display of party unity at odds with a just-concluded budget fight on Capitol Hill, where some GOP lawmakers openly defied their leader's demands.

Addressing supporters at Turning Point USA's AmericaFest in Arizona, Trump pledged that his "dream team Cabinet" would deliver a booming economy, seal U.S. borders and quickly settle wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. "I can proudly proclaim that the Golden Age of America is upon us," Trump said. "There's a spirit that we have now that we didn't have just a short while ago."

His appearance capped a four-day pep rally that drew more than 20,000 activists and projected an image of Republican cohesion despite the past week's turbulence in Washington with Trump pulling strings from his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida as Congress worked to avoid a government shutdown heading into the holidays. House Republicans spiked a



bipartisan deal after Trump and Elon Musk, his billionaire ally, expressed their opposition on social media. Budget hawks flouted Trump's demand that they raise the nation's debt ceiling, which would have spared some new rounds of the same fight after he takes office on Jan. 20, with Republicans holding narrow control of the House and Senate. The final agreement did not address the issue and there was no shutdown. Trump, in his remarks in Phoenix, did not mention the congressional drama, though he did reference Musk's growing power. To suggestions that "President Trump has ceded the presidency to Elon," Trump made clear, "No, no. That's not happening."

"He's not gonna be president," Trump said. The president-elect opened the speech by saying that "we want to try to bring everybody together. We're going to try. We're going to really give it a shot." Then he suggested Democrats have "lost their confidence" and are "befuddled" after the election but eventually will "come over to our side because we want to have them."

Atop a list of grievances — some old, some new — was the

Panama Canal. "We're being ripped off at the Panama Canal," he said, bemoaning that his country "foolishly gave it away." The United States built the canal in the early 1900s as it looked for ways to facilitate the transit of commercial and military vessels between its coasts. Washington relinquished control of the waterway to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999, under a treaty signed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter. The canal depends on reservoirs to operate its locks and was heavily affected by 2023 Central American droughts that forced it to substantially reduce the number of daily slots for crossing ships. With fewer ships using the canal each day, administrators also increased the fees that are charged all shippers for reserving a slot. With weather returning to normal in the later months of this year, transit on the canal has normalized. But price increases are still expected for next year.

Mulino, Panama's president, has been described as a conservative populist who aligns with Trump on many issues. Panama is a strong US ally and the canal is crucial for its economy, generating about one-

fifth of that government's annual revenue.

Still, Trump said, that, once his second term is underway, "If the principles, both moral and legal, of this magnanimous gesture of giving are not followed, then we will demand that the Panama Canal be returned to the United States of America, in full, quickly and without question."

"I'm not going to stand for it," Trump said. "So to the officials of Panama, please be guided accordingly."

He did not explain how that would be possible. Shortly after Trump's speech, Mulino released a video declaring that "every square meter of the canal belongs to Panama and will continue to belong" to his country.

Without mentioning Trump by name, Mulino addressed Trump's complaints over rising fees for ships crossing the canal, saying they are set by experts who take into account operational costs, and supply and demand factors.

"The tariffs are not set on a whim" Mulino said. He noted that Panama has expanded the canal over the years to increase ship traffic "on its own initiative," and added that shipping fee increases help pay for

improvements.

"Panamanians may have different views on many issues" Mulino said. "But when it comes to our canal, and our sovereignty, we will all unite under our Panamanian flag."

The canal aside, Trump's appearance at Turning Point's annual gathering affirmed the growing influence of the group and its founder, Charlie Kirk, have had in the conservative movement. Kirk's group hired thousands of field organizers across presidential battlegrounds, helping Trump make key gains among infrequent voters and other groups of people that have trended more Democratic in recent decades, including younger voters, Black men and Latino men.

"You had Turning Point's grassroots armies," Trump said. "It's not my victory, it's your victory," Trump on Sunday also announced several new members of his incoming administration, most notably: Stephen Miran, who worked at the Treasury Department in Trump's first term, to lead the Council of Economic Advisers, an executive branch agency charged with providing objective economic advice to the president.

Callista Gingrich to be the US ambassador to Switzerland. Gingrich is US ambassador to the Holy See in Trump's first term. She is married to former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Separately, Australian billionaire Anthony Pratt announced he was donating \$1.1 million to Trump's inaugural fund to complement the \$14 million that he said he already had given to the Make America Great Again Inc. super political action committee — making him one of the president-elect's top donors.

Pratt is chairman of Pratt Industries, which uses recycled paper and boxes as a raw material in a process that produces new cardboard.

Pak govt, Imran's party agree to continue talks to resolve contentious issues

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government and the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party in their maiden meeting on Monday agreed to continue talks to address contentious issues, including the release of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan.

The long-anticipated talks between the committees representing the government and the PTI were chaired by the National Assembly (NA) Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, who had last week announced to facilitate the two sides in their effort to defuse the prevailing political tension.

Those who attended from the government side include Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, PM's political aide Rana Sanaullah, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, former premier Raja

Parvez Ashraf, former minister Naveed Qamar, lawmaker Farooq Sattar and Privatisation Minister Aleem Khan.

PTI was represented by former speaker Asad Qaiser, Sahibzada Hamid Raza, and Senator Raja Nasir Abbas.

Sadiq thanked the government's leadership and senior leaders of the opposition for holding the talks. He announced that the next session would be held on January 2 and PTI's team would present a charter of their demands in the next meeting.

"We discussed things about past and present and I hope that if we work together for the country's betterment, it will strengthen the political stability, strengthen democracy and help in dealing with challenges faced by Pakistan," he said after the meeting.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui read out the communiqué regarding

the talks that both sides described the talks as a positive development and emphasised the importance of keeping the negotiations ongoing.

Both committees expressed goodwill, saying that Parliament is the appropriate forum for resolving issues, the handout said. PTI's Qaiser informed the members that several members of his committee could not attend due to court proceedings.

It was agreed that both sides stand united in the fight against terrorism. A tribute was also paid to the martyrs for their sacrifice. There was also a declaration of support for standing alongside the forces in the war against terrorism.

The talks began amidst the ongoing political tension between the government and PTI as the latter was demanding the release of all political leaders, including Imran Khan.

Albanian prime minister says TikTok ban was not 'rushed reaction to single incident'

AP ■ TIRANA (ALBANIA)

Albania's prime minister has said that the ban on TikTok his government announced on Saturday was "not a rushed reaction to a single incident."

Prime Minister Edi Rama said Saturday the government will shut down TikTok for one year, accusing the popular video service of inciting violence and bullying, especially among children.

Authorities have held 1,300 meetings with teachers and parents since the November stabbing death of a teenager by another teen after a quarrel that started on social media apps. Ninety per cent of them approve of the ban on TikTok.

"The ban on TikTok for one year in Albania is not a rushed reaction to a single incident, but a carefully considered decision made in consultation with parent communities in schools across the country," said Rama on Sunday.

Following Tirana's decision, TikTok asked for "urgent clarity from the Albanian government" in the case of the stabbed teenager. The company said it had "found no evidence that the perpetrator or victim had TikTok accounts, and multiple reports have in fact confirmed videos leading up to this incident were being posted on another platform, not TikTok."

"To claim that the killing of the teenage boy has no connection to TikTok because the conflict

didn't originate on the platform demonstrates a failure to grasp both the seriousness of the threat TikTok poses to children and youth today and the rationale behind our decision to take responsibility for addressing this threat," said Rama.

"Albania may be too small to demand that TikTok protect children and youth from the frightening pitfalls of its algorithm," he said, blaming TikTok for "the reproduction of the unending hell of the language of hatred, violence, bullying and so on."

Albanian children comprise the largest group of TikTok users in the country, according to domestic researchers. Many youngsters in Albania did not approve of the ban.

Israeli airstrikes on Gaza kill at least 20 people

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Palestinian medics say Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip have killed at least 20 people. One of the strikes overnight and into Monday hit a tent camp in the Muwasi area, an Israel-declared humanitarian zone, killing eight people, including two children. That's according to the Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, which received the bodies. Hospital records show another six killed in a strike on people securing an aid convoy and another two killed in a strike on a car in Muwasi. One person was killed in a separate strike in the area.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah said three bodies arrived after an airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp. The Israeli military says it only strikes militants, accusing them of hiding among civilians. It said late Sunday that it had targeted a Hamas militant in the humanitarian zone. The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostages. Around 100 captives are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel's air and ground offensive has killed over 45,200 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry says women and children make up more than half the dead but does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its tally. The military says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence. **Lebanon's caretaker**

er prime minister visits military positions in the country's south: Lebanon's caretaker prime minister has begun a tour of military positions in the country's south, almost a month after a ceasefire deal that ended the war between Israel and the Hezbollah group that battered the country. Najib Mikati on Monday was on his first visit to the southern frontlines, where Lebanese soldiers under the US-brokered deal are expected to gradually deploy, with Hezbollah militants and Israeli troops both expected to withdraw by the end of next month. Mikati's tour comes after the Lebanese government expressed its frustration over ongoing Israeli strikes and overflights in the country. "We have many tasks ahead of us, the most important being the enemy's (Israel's) withdrawal from all the lands it encroached on during its recent aggression," he said after meeting with army chief Joseph Aoun in a Lebanese military barracks in the southeastern town of Marjayoun. "Then the army can carry out its tasks in full." The Lebanese military for years has relied on financial aid to stay functional, primarily from the United States and other Western countries. Lebanon's cash-strapped government is hoping that the war's end and ceasefire deal will bring about more funding to increase the military's capacity to deploy in the south, where Hezbollah's armed units were notably present. Though they were not active combatants, the Lebanese military said that dozens of its soldiers were killed in Israeli strikes on their premises or patrolling convoys in the south. The Israeli army acknowledged some of these attacks.

Palestinian security forces man killed

AP ■ JENIN (WEST BANK)

The Palestinian Authority says a second member of its security forces has been killed in the West Bank town of Jenin during clashes with Palestinian militants.

Brig Gen Anwar Rajab, the spokesman for PA security forces, said 1st Sgt Mehran Qadoos was killed on Monday by "outlaws" in the volatile northern town, where the security forces launched a rare crackdown earlier this month. A member of security forces also was killed on Sunday. An Associated Press reporter in Jenin heard heavy gunfire and explosions, apparently from a battle between the security forces and Palestinian militants. There was no sign of Israeli forces in the area. Militant groups had earlier called for a general strike across the territory, accusing the security forces of trying to disarm them in support of Israel's half-century occupation of the territory.

The Western-backed Palestinian Authority is internationally recognized but deeply unpopular among Palestinians, in part because it cooperates with Israel on security matters. Israel accuses the authority of incitement and of failing to act against armed groups.

Biden gives life in prison to 37 of 40 federal death row inmates

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden announced Monday that he is commuting the sentences of 37 of the 40 people on federal death row, converting their punishments to life imprisonment mere weeks before President-elect Donald Trump, an outspoken proponent of expanding capital punishment, takes office.

The move spares the lives of people convicted in killings, including the slayings of police and military officers, people on federal land and those involved in deadly bank robberies or drug deals, as well as the killings of guards or prisoners in federal facilities.

It means just three federal inmates are still facing execution. They are Dylann Roof, who carried out the 2015 racist slayings of nine Black members of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, 2013 Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Robert Bowers, who fatally shot 11 congregants at Pittsburgh's Tree of life

Synagogue in 2018, the deadliest antisemitic attack in US history.

"I've dedicated my career to reducing violent crime and ensuring a fair and effective justice system," Biden said in a statement.

"Today, I am commuting the sentences of 37 of the 40 individuals on federal death row to life sentences without the possibility of parole. These commutations are consistent with the moratorium my administration has imposed on federal executions, in cases other than terrorism and hate-motivated mass murder."

The Biden administration in 2021 announced a moratorium on federal capital punishment to study the protocols used, which suspended executions during Biden's term. But Biden actually had promised to go further on the issue in the past, pledging to end federal executions without the caveats for terrorism and hate-motivated, mass killings. While running for president in 2020, Biden's campaign website

said he would "work to pass legislation to eliminate the death penalty at the federal level, and incentivize states to follow the federal government's example."

Similar language didn't appear on Biden's reelection website before he left the presidential race in July.

"Make no mistake: I condemn these murderers, grieve for the victims of their despicable acts, and ache for all the families who have suffered unimaginable and irreparable loss," Biden's statement said. "But guided by my conscience and my experience as a public defender, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, vice president, and now president, I am more convinced than ever that we must stop the use of the death penalty at the federal level."

He took a political jab at Trump, saying, "In good conscience, I cannot stand back and let a new administration resume executions that I halted." Indeed, Trump, who takes

office on Jan. 20, has spoken frequently of expanding executions. In a speech announcing his 2024 campaign, Trump called for those "caught selling drugs to receive the death penalty for their heinous acts." He later promised to execute drug and human smugglers and even praised China's harsher treatment of drug peddlers. During his first term as president, Trump also advocated for the death penalty for drug dealers.

There were 13 federal executions during Trump's first term, more than under any president in modern history, and some may have happened fast enough to have contributed to the spread of the coronavirus at the federal death row facility in Indiana.

Those were the first federal executions since 2003. The final three occurred after Election Day in November 2020 but before Trump left office the following January, the first time federal prisoners were put to death by a lame-duck president since Grover Cleveland in 1889.

UN 2024: India calls for change at UN as conflicts persist

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

As the United Nations prepares to celebrate its 80th anniversary next year, India stressed that reform is "key" to the organisation's "relevance" in addressing current and future global challenges, as world leaders signed off on an ambitious pact in 2024 to transform global governance and drive sustainable action.

When world leaders descended at the UN Headquarters in September for the high-level 79th session of the General Assembly, they adopted by consensus the landmark 'Pact of the Future' - a document that covers themes from peace and security, sustainable development to climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and transformation of global governance.

Underlining the need for reform, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "We don't need a crystal ball to see that 21st Century challenges require problem-solving mechanisms that are more effective, networked and inclusive. We can't create a future fit for our grandchildren with systems built for our grandparents." India has been at the forefront of years-long efforts calling for reform of the Security Council, including expansion in both its permanent and non-permanent categories, saying the 15-nation Council, founded in 1945, is not fit for

purpose in the 21st Century and does not reflect contemporary geo-political realities. Delhi has underscored that it rightly deserves a permanent seat at the horse-shoe table. A polarised Security Council has failed to deal with current peace and security challenges, with Council members sharply divided on conflicts such as the Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas war.

Guterres noted that many of today's pressing issues were not foreseen when the UN's multilateral framework was created 80 years ago. India's message to the international community was that reforms in global institutions are essential for global peace and development. "Reform is the key to relevance... Global action must match global ambition," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his address to the UN's Summit of the Future, where the Pact was adopted.

Modi's clarion call for change from the UNGA lectern came amid ongoing global conflicts, including the Ukraine war entering its third year, the Israel-Hamas war, and escalating global threats like terrorism, climate crises, economic inequality, and attacks on women's rights.

Amid these global challenges, India consistently advocated dialogue and diplomacy to arrive at solutions and resolve conflicts. When Modi met Ukraine's President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the Summit of the Future before wrapping up his three-day visit to the US, he reiterated India's willingness to play a constructive role in the quest for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri emphasised Modi's commitment to finding a way forward and contributing in any way possible to a resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Modi-Zelenskyy meeting was the third in about as many months. Modi met the Ukrainian leader in Kyiv in August, just weeks after he met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow in July. In June, Modi held a bilateral meeting with Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy. Modi held bilateral talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, expressing concern over the Gaza crisis and advocating a two-state solution for sustainable peace in the region.

Modi also met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia in October amidst heightened tensions between Iran and Israel. Modi emphasised the need for dialogue and diplomacy to de-escalate tensions in the volatile region. Terrorism continued to pose a significant threat to peace and security globally in 2024. External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar's General Assembly address in September marked a strong stance, explicitly condemning Pakistan's "cross-border terrorism policy" for the first time in six years from the UNGA lectern while delivering the national statement at the high-level General Debate.

He asserted that terrorism is antithetical to everything that the world stands for. "When this polity instils such fanaticism among its people, its GDP can only be measured in terms of the radicalisation and its exports in the form of terrorism," Jaishankar said. "Pakistan's cross-border terrorism policy will never succeed. And it can have no expectation of impunity. On the contrary, actions will certainly have consequences. The issue to be resolved between us is now only the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan. And of course the abandonment of Pakistan's longstanding attachment to terrorism," he said.

His statement echoed late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's 2018 address, which criticised Pakistan's continued glorification of terrorism. "Pakistan's commitment to terrorism as an instrument of official policy has not abated one bit... Pakistan glorifies killers; it refuses to see the blood of innocents," Swaraj had said in her powerful take-down of Pakistan from the UNGA podium.

Internet rife with fake reviews; will AI make it worse?

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence tools that allow people to efficiently produce novel and detailed online reviews with almost no work has put merchants, service providers and consumers in uncharted territory, watchdog groups and researchers say.

Phony reviews have long plagued many popular consumer websites, such as Amazon and Yelp. They are typically traded on private social media groups between fake review brokers and businesses willing to pay. Sometimes, such reviews are initiated by businesses that offer customers incentives such as gift cards for positive feedback.

But AI-infused text generation tools, popularized by OpenAI's ChatGPT, enable fraudsters to produce reviews faster and in greater volume, according to tech industry experts.

The deceptive practice, which is illegal in the US, is carried out year-round but becomes a bigger problem for consumers during the holiday shopping season, when many people rely on reviews to help them purchase gifts.

Where are AI-generated reviews showing up?: Fake reviews are found across a wide range of industries, from e-commerce, lodging and restaurants, to services such as home repairs, med-

ical care and piano lessons. The Transparency Company, a tech company and watchdog group that uses software to detect fake reviews, said it started to see AI-generated reviews show up in large numbers in mid-2023 and they have multiplied ever since. For a report released this month, The Transparency Company analysed 73 million reviews in three sectors: home, legal and medical services. Nearly 14% of the reviews were likely fake, and the company expressed a "high degree of confidence" that 2.3 million reviews were partly or entirely AI-generated.

"It's just a really, really good tool for these review scammers," said Maury Blackman, an investor and advisor to tech startups, who reviewed The Transparency Company's work and is set to lead the organisation starting Jan 1. In August, software company DoubleVerify said it was observing a "significant increase" in mobile phone and smart TV apps with reviews crafted by generative AI. The reviews often were used to deceive customers into installing apps that could hijack devices or run ads constantly, the company said.

The following month, the Federal Trade Commission sued the

company behind an AI writing tool and content generator called Rytr, accusing it of offering a service that could pollute the marketplace with fraudulent reviews. The FTC, which this year banned the sale or purchase of fake reviews, said some of Rytr's subscribers used the tool to produce hundreds and perhaps thousands of reviews for garage door repair companies, sellers of "replica" designer handbags and other businesses.

It's likely on prominent online sites, too: Max Spero, CEO of AI detection company Pangram Labs, said the software his company uses has detected with almost certainty that some AI-generated appraisals posted on Amazon bubbled up to the top of review search results because they were so detailed and appeared to be well thought-out. But determining what is fake or not can be challenging. External parties can fall short because they don't have "access to data signals that indicate patterns of abuse," Amazon has said.

Pangram Labs has done detection for some prominent online sites, which Spero declined to name due to non-disclosure agreements. He said he evaluated Amazon and Yelp indepen-

dently. Many of the AI-generated comments on Yelp appeared to be posted by individuals who were trying to publish enough reviews to earn an "Elite" badge, which is intended to let users know they should trust the content, Spero said.

The badge provides access to exclusive events with local business owners. Fraudsters also want it so their Yelp profiles can look more realistic, said Kay Dean, a former federal criminal investigator who runs a watchdog group called Fake Review Watch. To be sure, just because a review is AI-generated doesn't necessarily mean it's fake. Some consumers might experiment with AI tools to generate content that reflects their genuine sentiments. Some non-native English speakers say they turn to AI to make sure they use accurate language in the reviews they write.

"It can help with reviews (and) make it more informative if it comes out of good intentions," said Michigan State University marketing professor Sherry He, who has researched fake reviews.

Magdeburg mourns Christmas market attack victims as fears swirl of deeper social divisions

AP ■ MAGDEBURG (GERMANY)

Mourners laid flowers near the scene of the deadly Christmas market attack on Monday as investigators puzzled over the motive of the suspect and fears swirled that the rampage could deepen divisions in German society.

The Johanniskirche, a church a short walk from the scene of the attack, has become a central place of mourning since the suspect drove a car into the busy market on Friday evening, killing five people and injuring 200. A carpet of flowers now covers the broad sidewalk in front of the church.

Authorities had identified the suspect as a Saudi doctor who arrived in Germany in 2006 and had received permanent residency. They say he does not fit the usual profile of perpetrators of extremist attacks.

The man described himself as an ex-Muslim who was highly critical of Islam and in many posts on social media expressed support for the far-right. A picture has emerged of someone who had come to authorities' attention in the past for threatening behaviour and been the subject of tipoffs, but was not known to have committed any violence.

German Interior Minister

Nancy Faeser said Sunday that "the views and statements that the perpetrator expressed are being investigated, as are the tipoffs and proceedings with various authorities and the justice system." She said "the right conclusions" will then have to be drawn.

The country's vice chancellor voiced fears that the attack will fuel online misinformation ahead of a national election expected in late February. He urged people to "take time for the truth" and said: "Don't let yourselves be infected by hatred."

"There is still a lot we don't know and a lot is unexplained,

including the exact motive," Robert Habeck said in a video posted Sunday. "All the same, I fear that the distrust that was immediately propagated on the net against Muslims, foreigners and people with a history of immigration will entrench itself deeper in society."

On Sunday night, police in the port city of Bremerhaven said they detained a man who threatened crimes at a Christmas market there in a TikTok video. German news agency dpa reported that he had said he would stab any people of Arabic appearance there on Christmas Day.

China warns Philippines over mid-range missile deployment plan

AP ■ BEIJING

China said a plan by the Philippines to deploy midrange missiles would be a provocative move that stokes regional tensions. The Philippines top army official told reporters in Manila earlier on Monday that the military plans to acquire a mid-range system to defend the country's territory amid tensions with China in the South China Sea.

"Yes, there are plans, there are negotiations, because we see its feasibility and adaptability," Lt Gen Roy Galido said.

The US deployed its Typhon mid-range missile system in the northern Philippines in April and troops from both countries

have been training jointly for the potential use of the heavy weaponry. China opposes US military assistance to the Philippines and has been particularly alarmed by the deployment of the Typhon system. Under President Joe Biden, the US has strengthened an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to counter China, including in any confrontation over Taiwan.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that deployment of the weapon by the Philippines would intensify geopolitical confrontation and an arms race.

"It is an extremely irresponsible choice for the history and people of itself and the whole of Southeast Asia, as well as for the security of the region," she told a daily briefing.

The Philippines would not necessarily buy the Typhon system, Galido said.

The army is working not only with the United States but with other friendly countries on a long list of weapons platforms that it plans to acquire, he said. The Philippines defence plan includes protecting its exclusive economic zone, which reaches 200 nautical miles (370 km).

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you, the public at large, that my clients Sh. Jitendra Singh (Aadhar card no. 279814961719) S/O Sh. Padam Singh permanent R/o H.No. 118, JAT Basti, Pidawali, Tehsil Bayana, Kohra, Bharatpur, Rajasthan - 321401 and Sri. Beenu Singh (Aadhar card no. 511961863343) W/o Sh. Jitendra Singh, both presently temporarily residing in Gurugram, Haryana, do hereby disown their son namely Sh. Sanjeet Singh (Aadhar card no. 75579155505), forever from all their movable and immovable properties/assets and they have no concern with any of his assets/liabilities whatsoever. Now onwards my clients does not have any relation with their said son namely Sh. Sanjeet Singh and his wife, Smt. Devika Arora. Any person having any claim against Sh. Sanjeet Singh or his wife may contact them directly and my client shall not be responsible for their assets and further shall not entertain any query regarding them. It is further informed that said Sh. Sanjeet Singh and his wife are no more residing with my clients at their House at Gurugram and my clients has severed all their relationship with them and wish to lead a peaceful life in their elderly age.

Rahul Kadyan Advocate Ch. No. 278, Civil Wing, The Hazari Courts Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Entire Second Floor without Roof Rights along with 25% undivided share on Lower Ground Floor referred to as "said floor" of Property Bearing No. F-713, built on Plot Nos. 8 & 9, area measuring 102 sq. yds., falling in Khassa No. 401, situated in the area of Village Shakarpur, in the abadi of Sri Nagar, District-110034, hereinafter referred to as "said property".

Be it known to all that our client, Mrs. Nidhika Bathia (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intends to purchase the said floor of the said property from the said seller. In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said floor. The seller has further informed the purchaser that a Sale Deed was executed by Mr. Vimal Pruthi, Mrs. Neelam Alias Neelam Khurana, and Mrs. Shashi Bala on 31.05.2010 registered as document No. 7613 and Mrs. Shashi Bala and Mrs. Neelam Alias Neelam Khurana owned the first floor with roof rights vide Sale deed dated 31.05.2010 registered as document No. 7613. Subsequently, they demolished the entire structure and reconstructed the above said property. Thus they became the joint owners of the said property and sold the vacant roof of first floor, as aforesaid, to the present seller. The seller has also informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor.

Any person including Banks/ Financial Institutions, relatives having any claim, right, title or any interest in any nature whatsoever into or upon the said floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the said floor of the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client. The undersigned shall not be responsible for the same.

Shivkant Arora, Advocate
M/s Integrale Law Offices
A-74, LGF, Defence Colony,
New Delhi -110024

Office of the Managing Director
Uttarakhand Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd.
Mangal Parao, Haldwani - 263139 (Nainital) Uttarakhand

कार्ड नं.- 4013/सहकारीदूध/नरिण्ड बुक नियम/2024-25 Re E-Tender Notice दिनांक 23/12/2024

E-Tender Notice No.: 23(1-9)/UCDF/2024-25, Date- 23-12-2024

E-tenders are invited by the undersigned, from only experienced, reputed and financially sound Authorized Manufacturers/Dealers for the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of various Milk and Milk products Testing equipments for laboratory of various milk union and central dairy lab. I/askan following items so as to reach this office on or before 01.01.2025 up to 5.00 PM. The tenders will be opened on 02.01.2025 at 11.00 AM.

S. No. Name of Work

- SITAC of analytical balance, digital BR. meter hand, electrical garbar machine, R.M.value set, QPCR(RT-PCR), Digital Butyoro Refractometer, Laboratory Mill, FTIR Based Milk Analyzer for liquid and semi solid dairy products, Real Time Self Life Detector/Randocly Tester.

Tender details/documents may be downloaded/uploaded from E-tender portal <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

noida
New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors / firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

Sl. No.	Job Number	Name of Work	Amount (Lac)	Publishing Time
(1)	15/GM/PE (PH-II)/ET/2024-25	Cleaning of covered drains & culvert with super sucker machine in PH-II area, Noida.	Rs. 58.36	2 nd Time

The above tender can be uploaded From dated 23/12/2024 to 30/12/2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened / downloaded on dated 31/12/2024 at 11.00 AM.

महत्वपूर्ण सूचना-

नवीन औद्योगिक विकासा प्रधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में शासन से स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के विपरीत निर्माण या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह अशुद्ध है। जनसामान्य को आगाह किया जाता है कि इस प्रकार का अशुद्ध कौलोनियों एवं अशुद्ध निर्मित बवनों में भूखण्डों / अपार्टमेंट / दुकान / गोडाऊन / फार्माहाउस की खरीद-फरोख्त से परहेज सचेत रहे तथा कौलोनियाँ/खरीद एवं फार्म हाउसों के कारोबार में सलियन नौएडा अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के रिज्डन एवं यमुना नदियों के डूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अनधिकृत/अशुद्ध निर्माण एवं फार्म हाउसों के कारोबार में सलियन भूमाफियाओं के चंगुल में न फँसे।

General Manager (Public Health) Noida.

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **MANREET SINGH** having address at **120, TAGORE PARK DELHI-110009** with **KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK B-1, GUJRANWALA, NEW DELHI - 110009** remains un-operated and the rent due for the last 4 years.

All the 3 letters earlier sent to **MANREET SINGH** calling upon him to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unopened and he is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by **MANREET SINGH** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **March 25, 2025** at around **12p.m.**

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **PARVEEN KAUR** having address at **120, TAGORE PARK DELHI-110009** with **KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK B-1, GUJRANWALA, NEW DELHI - 110009** remains un-operated and the rent due for the last 4 years.

All the 3 letters earlier sent to **PARVEEN KAUR** calling upon her to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unopened and she is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by **PARVEEN KAUR** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **March 25, 2025** at around **12p.m.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Change in Partnership
Maruti Authorized Service Station
M/s. Wig Automobiles, Delhi
(Mass Code 8012) as below:

Region: C1, Mass Code: 8012
Mass Name: Wig Automobiles,
Location: Delhi.

Constitution: Partnership, Old Partners : 1. Mr. Jatinder Nath Wig
2. Mr. Bhola Nath Wig
3. Mr. Virender Nath Wig
4. Mrs. Renu Bala S. Mrs. Alka Wig
5. Mrs. Prem Kumari,
New Partners with Shareholding
1. Mr. Virender Nath Wig - 55%
2. Mrs. Alka Wig - 10%
3. Mrs. Pia Wig Kochhar - 35%

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **KUNAL KHANNA** having address at **B-52 DERAWAL NAGAR, DELHI-110009** with **KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK B-1, GUJRANWALA, NEW DELHI - 110009** remains un-operated and the rent due for the last 4 years.

All the 3 letters earlier sent to **KUNAL KHANNA** calling upon him to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unopened and he is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by **KUNAL KHANNA** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **March 25, 2025** at around **12p.m.**

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **KUNAL KHANNA** having address at **B-52 DERAWAL NAGAR, DELHI-110009** with **KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK B-1, GUJRANWALA, NEW DELHI - 110009** remains un-operated and the rent due for the last 4 years.

All the 3 letters earlier sent to **KUNAL KHANNA** calling upon him to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unopened and he is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by **KUNAL KHANNA** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **March 25, 2025** at around **12p.m.**

SPECIAL TRAIN

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Northern Railway has decided to run the following Special Train as per details given below :-

Train No. 04082	04081
Central-Hazrat Nizamuddin SF Reserved Special Express Train	TRIPS
Train No. 04082	Train No. 04081
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 19:20	Hazrat Nizamuddin 06:45 --
19:45 ---	Thiruvananthapuram Central --- 07:50

Days of Run : 04082 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin on 28.12.2024 (Saturday) and 04081 Ex Thiruvananthapuram Central on 31.12.2024 (Tuesday)

Stoppages : Kota Jn., Ratlam Jn., Vadodara Jn., Udhana Jn., Vasai Road, Panvel, Roha, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Kankavali, Thivim, Madgaon Jn., Karwar, Kumta, Mookambika Road Byndor, Kundapura, Udipi, Mangalore Jn., Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Shoranur Jn., Thrissur, Aluva, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Kayankulam Jn., Kollam Jn. & Varkala Shivagiri stations

Accommodation : 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & General

For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

RailMadad Helpline No. **139**

Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

Download Railmadad App

Follow us on :-

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail : seec_bis@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCEEC- 10/ 2024-25
No:- 4725 Dt: 20.12.2024

Nature of work:- **Roads Works**
Number of works **1No Roads Work**
Amount put to Tender - **Rs. 7,83,58,657**
Class of Contractor: - **"A" Class & "Special" Class**
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal - **Dt.04.01.2025 at 10:00 AM**
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal: - **Dt.18.01.2025 up to 05:00 PM**
Date of opening of bid :- **Dt.19.01.2025 at 11:00 AM**
Name & address of the Office inviting bid: - **Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore**

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE Chief Construction Engineer Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore mode only.
OHP-34026/10007/2425

BSES
BSES Yamuna Power Limited

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Date: 24.12.2024

E-tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited as per the following details:

NT No.	Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/24-25/RS/SKSI/SAP/751	IMPLEMENTATION OF OT SECURITY 'REAL THREAT & VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM' IN BYPL	6.75 Crore	6.75 Lakh	16.01.2025 15:00 Hrs	16.01.2025 15:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1,800/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD-> Tenders-> Open Tenders
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U04910DL2001PLC11525
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Balbir Singh, son of Shri Jagat Singh, residing at Plot No. 31 B, Dilshad Garden, Near Flora Dale Public School, Delhi-110095, was previously known as Balbir Singh. However, I have now changed my name to Balbir Singh Jaswal. In the future, I shall be known and identified by this name.

PD(1129)C

I, YOGESH, S/O, KANHAIYALAL VANI, R/O, J-75, JAHANGIRPURI DELHI, 110033, THAT, I HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME FROM PIYUSH YOGESH WANI TO PIYUSH PERMANENTLY

PD(1130)C

I, Kumari Menka Kanwar, W/o- JC-473064 N/S Sub Amar Singh Rajput, R/o- Vill- Seemla, Teh- Baswa, Dist- Dausa, Rajasthan - 303315, have changed my name from Kumari Menka Kanwar to Menka Kanwar, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1131)C

I, Sadashiv, Father of JC- 857058X Sub(OPR) Arjun Bhoi, R/o- Vill-PO- Nanadi, Tal- Chikodi, Dist- Belagavi, Karnataka- 591244, have changed my name from Sadashiv to Sadashiv Bhuyi, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1132)C

I, Subhadra, Mother of JC- 857058X Sub(OPR) Arjun Bhoi, R/o- Vill-PO- Nanadi, Tal- Chikodi, Dist- Belagavi, Karnataka- 591244, have changed my name from Subhadra to Subadra Sadashiva Bhuyi, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1133)C

I, Pratibha W/o- JC-857058X Sub(OPR) Arjun Bhoi, R/o- Vill-PO- Nanadi, Tal- Chikodi, Dist- Belagavi, Karnataka- 591244, have changed my name from Pratibha to Pratibha Bhoi, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1134)C

I, JC-857058X Sub (OPR) Arjun Bhoi, R/o- Vill-PO- Nanadi, Tal- Chikodi, Dist- Belagavi, Karnataka- 591244, have changed my name from Preetam to Preetam Bhoi, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1135)C

I, SURENDER SINGH S/o Bhagot Singh R/o G-8/5 3rd Floor, East Vno Nagar, Delhi- 110091, hereby declare that in my son School documents my name wrongly mention as Surender Sing Rawat. My correct Name is Surender Singh.

PD(1136)C

Sensex climbs 500 points after five days of fall

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply on Monday after five days of steep decline amid value buying at lower levels and a rally in global markets. Besides, hectic buying in blue-chip stocks ITC, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries also helped in market recovery.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 498.58 points or 0.64 per cent to settle at 78,540.17. During the day, it soared 876.53 points or 1.12 per cent to 78,918.12.

The NSE Nifty surged 165.95 points or 0.70 per cent to 23,753.45. From the 30 blue-chip stocks,



ITC, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Titan, State Bank of India and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers. New entrant Zomato, Maruti,

Nestle, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finserv and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory while Shanghai

ended lower. European markets were trading mostly lower. Wall Street ended higher on Friday. In the past five sessions last week, the BSE benchmark tanked 4,091.53 points or 4.98 per cent, and the Nifty slumped 1,180.8 points or 4.76 per cent.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,597.82 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.44 per cent to USD 73.26 a barrel.

The 30-share BSE benchmark tumbled 1,176.46 points or 1.49 per cent to settle at 78,041.59 on Friday. The Nifty tanked 364.20 points or 1.52 per cent to 23,587.50.

Nissan, Honda announce plans to merge

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese automakers Honda and Nissan have announced plans to join forces, forming world's third-largest automaker by sales as the industry undergoes dramatic changes in its transition away from fossil fuels.

The two companies said they had signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday and that smaller Nissan alliance member Mitsubishi Motors also had agreed to join the talks on integrating their businesses.

"We anticipate that if this integration comes to fruition, we will be able to deliver even greater value to a wider customer base," Nissan's CEO Makoto Uchida said in a statement. Automakers in Japan have lagged behind their big rivals in electric vehicles and are trying to cut costs and make up for lost time.

News of a possible merger surfaced earlier this month, with unconfirmed reports



saying that the talks on closer collaboration partly were driven by aspirations of Taiwan iPhone maker Foxconn to tie up with Nissan, which has an alliance with Renault SA of France and Mitsubishi.

A merger could result in a behemoth worth more than \$50 billion based on the market capitalisation of all three automakers. Together, Honda and the Nissan alliance with Renault SA of France and smaller automaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp would gain

scale to compete with Toyota Motor Corp and with Germany's Volkswagen AG. Toyota has technology partnerships with Japan's Mazda Motor Corp. And Subaru Corp.

Even after a merger Toyota, which rolled out 11.5 million vehicles in 2023, would remain the leading Japanese automaker. If they join, the three smaller companies would make about 8 million vehicles. In 2023, Honda made 4 million and Nissan produced 3.4 million. Mitsubishi Motors made just

over 1 million. Nissan, Honda and Mitsubishi announced in August that they would share components for electric vehicles like batteries and jointly research software for autonomous driving to adapt better to dramatic changes centred around electrification, following a preliminary agreement between Nissan and Honda set in March.

Honda, Japan's second-largest automaker, is widely viewed as the only likely Japanese partner able to effect a rescue of Nissan, which has struggled following a scandal that began with the arrest of its former chairman Carlos Ghosn in late 2018 on charges of fraud and misuse of company assets, allegations that he denies. He eventually was released on bail and fled to Lebanon.

Speaking Monday to reporters in Tokyo via a video link, Ghosn derided the planned merger as a "desperate move".

Sebi to auction 28 properties of five companies next month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi will auction 28 properties of five companies, including Bishal Group and Sumangal Industries, on January 27, to recover money illegally collected from investors by these companies.

The properties will be auctioned for a reserve price of Rs 28.66 crore. Ravi Kiran Realty India, Mangalam Agro Products, and Purusattam Infotech Industries are the other companies, whose properties will be auctioned. The properties that will go under the hammer include flats, residential property and flats, land parcels, plots, and land with building structures located in West Bengal and Odisha.

Of the 28 properties being put on the block, 17 are linked to Bishal Group, 6 to Mangalam Agro Products, 3 are related to Sumangal Industries, and 1 each to Purusattam Infotech Industries and Ravi Kiran Realty India.



Sebi said the auction will be conducted online on January 27, 2025, from 11 am to 1 pm. The regulator has asked the bidders to make their independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, litigations, title of the properties put on auction and claims before submitting their bid. These entities had mobilised money from the investors without complying with the market regulations. Going by Sebi's earlier orders, Mangalam Agro had raised Rs 11 crore from the illegal issuance of secured non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to around 4,820 investors during 2011-2012, while Sumangal had collected Rs 85 crore from investors through illegal collective investment schemes (CIS). Bishal Distillers had raised funds of Rs 4 crore, Bishal Agri-Bio Industries and Bishal Horticulture and Animal Projects mobilised Rs 3 crore and Rs 2.84 crore, respectively.

Sebi said the auction will be conducted online on January 27, 2025, from 11 am to 1 pm. The regulator has asked the bidders to make their independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, litigations, title of the properties put on auction and claims before submitting their bid.

These entities had mobilised money from the investors without complying with the market regulations. Going by Sebi's earlier orders, Mangalam Agro had raised Rs 11 crore from the illegal issuance of secured non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to around 4,820 investors during 2011-2012, while Sumangal had collected Rs 85 crore from investors through illegal collective investment schemes (CIS). Bishal Distillers had raised funds of Rs 4 crore, Bishal Agri-Bio Industries and Bishal Horticulture and Animal Projects mobilised Rs 3 crore and Rs 2.84 crore, respectively.

Claims ratio of non-life insurers dips to 82.52 per cent in FY24: Irdai report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Net incurred claims to earned premium (claims ratio) of non-life insurance industry stood at 82.52 per cent during 2023-24 as against 82.95 per cent in the preceding fiscal year, as per the Irdai's annual report.

According to the Annual Report 2023-24 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), during 2023-24, the non-life insurance industry underwrote a total direct premium of Rs 2,90 lakh crore in India registering a growth of 12.76 per cent from previous year.

The contribution of public sector general insurers increased 8.88 per cent from Rs 82,891 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 90,252 crore in 2023-24. Private sector insurers, including standalone health insurers, have underwritten Rs 1.88 lakh crore as against Rs 1.58 lakh crore in 2022-23. The aggregate profit of the



non-life insurance sector was Rs 10,119 crore as against a net loss of Rs 2,566 crore in 2022-23.

During 2023-24, the aggregate net incurred claims saw a 15.39 per cent increase to Rs 1.72 lakh crore from Rs 1.49 lakh crore.

"The incurred claims ratio (net incurred claims to net earned premium) of the non-life insurance industry was 82.52 per cent during 2023-24 as against 82.95 per cent of the previous year," the report said.

The incurred claims ratio for public sector insurers was 97.23 per cent for 2023-24 as against the previous year's incurred claims ratio of 99.02 per cent.

The incurred claims ratio for private sector general insurers, standalone health insurers and specialised insurers were at 76.49 per cent, 63.63 per cent, and 66.58 per cent, respectively, for 2023-24 as compared to the previous year's ratio of 75.13 per cent, 61.44 per cent and 73.71 per cent, respectively.

The report also said that the life insurance industry paid total benefits of Rs 5.77 lakh crore in 2023-24, constituting 70.22 per cent of the net premium.

The benefits paid on account of surrenders/withdrawals increased 15.29 per cent to Rs 2.29 lakh crore in 2023-24 of which public sector life insurer accounted for 58.36 per cent.

During 2023-24, a total of 18 life insurance companies reported profits. Profits of the life insurance industry grew 10.79 per cent in 2023-24 with profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 47,407 crore as against Rs 42,788 crore in 2022-23.

Public sector life insurers reported an 11.75 per cent increase in profits while private sector life insurers reported a rise of 5.32 per cent in profit in 2023-24. Irdai said in 2023-24, the country's insurance penetration was at 3.7 per cent as compared to 4 per cent in 2022-23.

Gold climbs ₹570 to ₹78,700 per 10 gm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices recovered Rs 570 to Rs 78,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid value buying by stockists and investors following a firm global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal ended at Rs 78,130 per 10 grams on Friday.

Silver surged Rs 1,850 to reclaim the Rs 90,000 per kg mark on increased offtake by industrial units and coin makers. The white metal finished at Rs 88,150 per kg in the previous trading session.

The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity also jumped Rs 570 to Rs 78,300 per 10 grams on Monday. It closed at Rs 77,730 per 10 grams in the previous session on Friday.

Value buying by stockists and jewellers for the ongoing wedding season supported the uptrend in both gold and silver prices, traders said. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday, gold contracts for February delivery slipped Rs 48, or 0.06 per cent, to Rs 76,372 per 10 grams.

However, silver contracts for March delivery climbed Rs 637, or 0.72 per cent, to Rs 89,029 per kg on the commodities exchange. Comex gold futures fell USD 6.70 per ounce, or 0.25 per cent, to USD 2,638.40 per ounce in the overseas markets.

"Gold and silver prices recovered from one-month and three-and-a-half month lows in a highly volatile session. The dollar index and the bond yields showed profit taking which supported precious metal," Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

India's data centre capacity to more than double by FY27, on rising digitalisation: Crisil Ratings

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's data centre capacity is set to more than double to 2-2.3 GW by 2026-27, led by increasing digitalisation as organisations increase their investments in cloud storage, Crisil Ratings said in a report on Monday.

Further, the report stated that rising penetration of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) will drive the demand over the medium-term.

To support the strong demand, the incremental capital expenditure would be supported by a higher proportion of debt funding, which will result in a moderate increase in debt levels, it said.



Data centres cater to the computing and storage infrastructure demand as enterprises rapidly shifting their businesses to digital platforms, including cloud, a trend that has accelerated post Covid-19 pandemic, it said.

The other major factor is that increased accessibility of high-speed data has led to a surge in internet usage, including social media, over-the-top (OTT) platforms and digital payments, it added. Notably, mobile data traffic logged a compound annual

growth rate (CAGR) of 25 per cent over the last five fiscals, standing at 24 GB per month at end-fiscal 2024, and is expected to rise to 33-35 GB by FY26, the Crisil Ratings report said.

In addition to the ongoing demand, it said that the rapid advancement of GenAI, which requires higher computational power and low latency than traditional cloud computing functions, will also provide tailwind to the data centre demand in India. "To meet the growing data centre demand, an investment of Rs 55,000-65,000 crore is required over the next three fiscals, primarily towards land and building, power equipment and cooling solutions.

Dhanuka Agritech hosts Farmers' Day programme to honour farmers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To honour farmers of the country on the occasion of KisanDiwas, Dhanuka Agritech Limited successfully hosted a Farmers' Day program at the Dhanuka Agricultural Research and Technology Centre (DART) at Palwal.

The event aimed to provide insights into modern farming techniques to facilitate knowledge sharing and to discuss the future of Indian agriculture with leading scientists.

The event showcased Dhanuka's unwavering and continuous commitment to empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. It



included demonstrations and training sessions focused specifically on Rabi crops such as wheat, vegetables, and mustard. Farmers had the unique opportunity to learn advanced techniques and engage with experts in the agriculture field.

Speaking on the occasion, Vipul Goyal, Minister for Revenue & Disaster Management, Urban Local Bodies & Civil Aviation,

Cabinet Minister, Haryana inaugurated the program. The Guest of Honour Dr. P.K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Deptt. Of Agri & Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India was elated to see the huge gathering of farmers and their willingness to learn new techniques.

Their presence highlighted the significance of initiatives like these in supporting the agricultural community by making farmers aware of new and advanced farming practices. This program also encouraged practical solutions that contribute to the growth and sustainability in agriculture, ultimately benefiting farmers and the broader farming ecosystem.

This program also encouraged practical solutions that contribute to the growth and sustainability in agriculture, ultimately benefiting farmers and the broader farming ecosystem.

FMCG industry expects consumption revival in 2025

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The FMCG industry hopes for a revival in consumption growth in 2025 with some 'green shoots' already visible, after having a challenging year amid escalating input costs and a double-digit rise in food inflation, which ultimately slowed down the pace of the urban market growth in the second half of 2024.

Soaring prices of commodities such as palm oil, coffee, cocoa and wheat forced FMCG players to go for a hike of 3 to 5 per cent or resort to shrinkflation by reducing pack sizes and grammage to retain attractive price points, fearing a volume loss.

The makers also expect a shot in the arm in the upcoming annual budget, which would help the stressed middle-income group and stimulate consumption, besides a good monsoon and continued rejuvenation of the rural market. A resurgence of high food

inflation once again in 2024 disrupted consumption patterns, particularly among mass-segment consumers, said Emami Vice Chairman & MD Harsha V Agarwal, adding elevated food inflation continues to pose a significant challenge. "Consumption among the lower-middle and middle-class segments has remained subdued, with approximately 75 per cent of average retail spending directed towards food and grocery, leaving only 25 per cent for discretionary purchases," he said.

Agarwal, who is also the President of industry body FICCI, said 'positive signs' are emerging on the consumption front as food inflation has begun to ease. "A revival in consumption growth looks promising, supported by a good crop and increased government spending on large-scale infrastructure projects and rural schemes in the December quarter," he said.

Dabur India CEO Mohit



Malhotra also said that rising food inflation and a squeeze in urban demand were the key concerns during 2024. "While rural demand has been growing quarter on quarter, we expect a recovery in urban demand as the new year progresses. Premiumisation is expected to continue, and this will help improve value growth in 2025," he said.

Moreover, the FMCG makers also expect the trends of premiumisation, where a customer is ready to pay extra

for better quality products, particularly in urban India along with a high growth coming from quick commerce channels, which has transformed the grocery market. "Consumers are willing to pay a premium for products that offer better quality, unique features, or enhanced experiences. Premiumisation is expected to continue, and this will help improve value growth in 2025," said Malhotra.

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) MD and CEO Sunil D'Souza said he is 'optimistic' about 2025 and maintains a sharp focus on driving profitable growth and building future-ready capabilities. "In India, consumer trends such as premiumisation, health & wellness and convenience are expected to gather pace. Quick commerce has seen exponential growth, but physical distribution continues to stay extremely relevant at the same time," said D'Souza.

Gen Z and millennials are expected to contribute to an increasing share of consumption, by some estimates, 76 per cent of consumption by 2030. "This presents an opportunity for cooking aids, packaged food, healthier and guilt-free snacking and mini-meal options, all of which we have added to our portfolio in the last few years. It will also require shorter innovation cycles," he said.

Marico MD & CEO Saugata Gupta said shifts in consumer

behaviour have been profound, with sustainability, premiumisation and personalisation emerging as key trends.

"The direct-to-consumer ecosystem continues to thrive, with digital-first and premium brands demonstrating resilience and growth. The channels are undergoing a tremendous transformation with the consumer shifts that the industry is witnessing. The medium-term growth outlook for the industry is very much intact," he said.

Gupta expects rural consumption to steadily grow and urban consumption to revive in a couple of quarters. "Innovation, affordability, and availability will be key drivers of growth going forward," he said.

Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) CFO Aasif Malbari said: "Despite these challenges, we remain committed to navigating near-term headwinds while investing strategically for long-term growth."

Tata Power Club hosts National Urja Mela

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reflecting the spirit of National Energy Conservation Day, Tata Power on Saturday hosted the National Urja Mela 2024 at New Delhi, bringing together 1000+ students and teachers comprising 150 schools from 10 states across India to champion innovation and sustainability, while fostering the next generation of leaders to drive energy conservation efforts.

This annual event is a flagship initiative under Tata Power's award-winning Club Enerji program, highlighted the pivotal role of youth in creating a sustainable future in line with the company's 'Sustainable is Attainable' movement. The event featured an exciting array of activities, including competitions, workshops, and cultural performances designed to inspire students to become eco-conscious leaders. Mr. Himlal Tewari, CHRO,



Chief-Sustainability & CSR at Tata Power, said, "Sustainability begins with awareness, and the National Urja Mela reflects our commitment to nurturing innovation and responsibility in young minds. This initiative emphasizes the critical importance of energy conservation and environmental protection, empowering youth from across the country to drive a greener, more sustainable future. In collaboration with Tata Power, they will shape the new energy landscape, advancing a future centered on sustainability and the goal of achieving carbon net-zero."

Real Madrid's 4-2 win over Sevilla in the Spanish league



AP ■ MADRID

Kylian Mbappé added to his scoring streak with a superb strike in Real Madrid's 4-2 win over Sevilla in the Spanish league to finish the year on a positive note after hitting what he called "rock bottom" in early December. Mbappé sent a right-footed shot into the upper corner 10 minutes into the match for his fourth goal in as many games with Madrid in all competitions. It was Mbappé's sixth goal in his last eight matches with Madrid. He struggled early on with his new club, and Mbappé said his lowest point came when he missed a penalty kick in the team's 2-1 league loss at Athletic Bilbao on Dec. 4. "I know I have a lot more to give," Mbappé said Sunday. "The last few games I've played better, I took a lot of positives from the Bilbao game, when I hit rock bottom." The France star said that made him realize "I have to

give my all for this jersey and play with personality." Mbappé said he feels his period of adjustment with the club is finally over. "I think we now know each other better," he said. "I've joined the team and that changed a lot of things. The settling-in period is over, as the coach says. I feel very comfortable in the team and I play better with the others on the field. The team is playing much better." Federico Valverde, Rodrygo and Brahim Diaz also scored in the comfortable home victory that allowed Madrid to finish the year one point behind Spanish league leader Atletico Madrid. Atletico rallied to shock Barcelona 2-1 Saturday with a stoppage-time goal by Alexander Sorloth. Third-place Barcelona is two points behind Madrid, having played an extra game. Valverde scored in the 20th and Rodrygo in the 34th before Sevilla got on the board with Isaac Romero in the 35th. Diaz extended

Madrid's lead in the 53rd and Dodi Lukebakio got the visitors' other goal in the 85th at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. "It was a well-played game, with many scoring situations, a good end to the year," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "That was what we wanted, to be near the top and get some good rest for 2025." Madrid next faces Valencia on Jan. 3 in a match postponed because of the deadly floods that hit Valencia in October. Sevilla, sitting in 14th place, had won two of its last two games in all competitions. Navas' farewell</h2>It was the last game for Sevilla and Spain great Jesús Navas, who is officially retiring at the end of the year. The defender was honored by Sevilla and Madrid players and fans at the Santiago Bernabeu. Players from both teams made a guard of honor for Navas before the match, lining up as he entered the field, and Madrid's veteran midfielder Luka Modric handed him a jersey of the

club signed by players. Fans gave Navas a standing ovation during the ceremony. Substitute Navas came on midway through the second half. "What happened today was spectacular, the 39-year-old Navas said after the match, unable to hold back tears. "I had never seen anything like it in my life on a

rival field. It was crazy. In those last few minutes I couldn't see anything. I was looking at the ground recalling all the moments I've went through and the joy I've been able to give to Sevilla and the national team." Navas helped Sevilla win four Europa League titles and Spain clinch the 2010 World

Cup and the 2012 and 2024 European Championships. He was with Manchester City when it won the 2014 Premier League. "Navas really deserves it," Ancelotti said. "Navas is an example for everyone." Valencia draws late Second-to-last Valencia salvaged a 2-2 home draw

with Alaves, thanks to a goal by Dani Gómez eight minutes into second-half stoppage time after the visitors had taken the lead with Joan Jordán in the 88th. The setback drew more protests from Valencia fans who have been unhappy with the administration of team owner Peter Lim.

Other results Thierno Barry scored a hat trick and Gerard Moreno and Pau Cabanes added one goal each as fifth-place Villarreal won 5-2 at Leganes, while Las Palmas won 1-0 against 18th-place Espanyol. Ninth-place Real Betis was held by 12th-place Rayo Vallecano to a 1-1 draw at home.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I Pawan Kumar Jha S/o Durga Nand Jha R/O D-11, Shalimar Enclave HMTG, Dhakauli, SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab inform that in some documents my name is mentioned Pawan Kumar Jha and in other documents my name mentioned as Pawan Jha. My correct name is Pawan Kumar Jha.

I, Manpreet Singh S/o Sh. Balwinder R/O VPO Sangoha, Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Manpreet to Manpreet Singh.

I, Pankaj Kumar Ganotra S/o Parshotam Lal, Trivedi Camp VTC: Mubarakpur, SAS Nagar, Mohali, have changed name to Pankaj Kanghotra.

I, Baldev Raj S/o Mela Ram, Village Kalsa, Kurukshetra, declare that Baldev is my name and Raj is Surname.

I Am Jobanpreet Kaur Athwal W/O Ganimat Singh R/O H No. 553 Dasmesh Nagar G.T Road Batala . I Want To Change My Surname To Kaur From Athwal And I Want To Keep My Full Name As Jobanpreet Kaur.

I, Asiya Begam is legally wedded spouse of No. 155774241. Rank NK Name MD Tajamul Haque, Unit 104 ENGR Regt and Permanent resident of Sahangi, Bhojpur, Bihar 802203, have changed my Name from Ashiya Khatoun To Asiya Begam, and changed my Date of Birth from 14-05-1988 To 01-01-1987, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB91385382839539W, Dated 23-12-2024, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Service No. 155774241, Rank NK Name MD Tajamul Haque, Unit 104 ENGR Regt and Permanent resident of Sahangi, Bhojpur, Bihar 802203, have changed my Daughter Name from Shama Parveen to Shamma Parveen, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB91384278196166W, Dated 23-12-2024, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Service No. 155774241, Rank NK Name MD Tajamul Haque, Unit 104 ENGR Regt and Permanent resident of Sahangi, Bhojpur, Bihar 802203, have changed my son Name from Mohd Shahil to Mohamad Sahil, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB91383581082977W, Dated 23-12-2024, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Service No. 155774241, Rank NK Name MD Tajamul Haque, Unit 104 ENGR Regt and Permanent resident of Sahangi, Bhojpur, Bihar 802203, have changed my son Name from Mohd Aarif to Md Aarif, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB91382698328854W, Dated 23-12-2024, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Solanki Manubhai Bachubhai is Father of No. 155905931 Rank L/NK Name Solanki Sukhadevbhai Manubhai, Permanent resident of Shadesar, Motadesar, Gir Somnath, Una, Gujarat 362560, have changed my Name from SM Bachubhai To Solanki Manubhai Bachubhai, and changed my Date of Birth from 15-04-1973 To 01-01-1981, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB91387145941721W, Dated 23-12-2024, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Laxmiben Manubhai Solanki is Mother of No. 155905931 Rank L/NK Name Solanki Sukhadevbhai Manubhai, Permanent resident of Japachok, Vadama, Motadesar, Shadesar, Junagadh, Gujarat 362560, have changed my Name from SM Laxmiben Manubhai Solanki, and changed my Date of Birth from 30-08-1975 To 01-01-1975, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB91386079775090W, Dated 23-12-2024, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Prateeksha Mahadev Naik is legally Mother of Service No. 15326511M Rank: Hav. Name: Rajesh Naik Mahadev Naik residing at Village Karwar Post Karwar, Taluk Karwar, Distt. Uttara Kannada (State) Karnataka Pin-581301, have changed my name from Pratiksha M Naik to Prateeksha Mahadev Naik.

I, Padmakumari K is legally Mother of Service No. 16124660N Rank: SPR Name: Hari Krishnan S residing at Village Thamarakulam Post Thamarakulam, Taluk Mavelikara, Distt. Alappuzha (State) Kerala Pin-690530, have changed my name from Padmakumary to Padmakumari K.

I, Ram Kumar Kathuria S/o Krishan Chand Kathuria R/O H.No. 39-B, Street No.4, Opposite Tubewell, Dashmesh Nagar, Tripuri Town, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Ram Kumar to Ram Kumar Kathuria.

I, Shimpi Kathuria W/o Ram Kumar Kathuria R/O H.No. 39-B, Street No.4, Opposite Tubewell, Dashmesh Nagar, Tripuri Town, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Shimpi to Shimpi Kathuria.

I Anu Rani W/o Vikram Singla R/O 6481, Mehna Chowk, Bathinda has known as both names Anu Rani and Anu Singla.

I, Sumesh Kumar S/o Des Raj Chumber R/O H.No. 266, Khurla Kingra, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed the name of my minor daughter from Mehak to Mehak Chumber.

I, Parminder Singh Parmar S/o Kartar Singh R/O E.G-982, Prem Nagar, Near S.D. College, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Parminder Singh Parmar to Parminder Parmar.

I, Sandhya Parmar W/o Parminder Parmar R/O E.G-982, Prem Nagar, Near S.D. College, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Sandhya Parmar to Sandhya.

I, Pancha Devi m/o Sub/GD Sanjay Kumar Sharma serving in Unit 661 Army Avn Sqn 8 R & O Fit C/o 56 APO have change my name from Champa Devi to Pancha Devi.

I Domadiya Laljibhai Bhagvanjibhai F/O Service No. 14688166P Rank NK Domadia Sandip Laljibhai R/O Radhavadai Polt, Village Vadai, Distt. Junagadh, State Gujarat 362310, have changed my DOB from 01.07.1963 To 26.02.1962.

I, Nursy S/o Kula Nand Sharma R/O Near Shiv Mandir, Barot, Kaithal have changed my name Narsi Ram

I, Karamjeet Kaur W/O Balkar Singh R/O Karah Sahib, Pehowa, Kurukshetra, Haryana Changed Name Santro Devi.

I, Hoshiyari W/o Nihal Singh R/O VPO Dhad, Dhad(18), Hisar Haryana-125121 have changed my name from Satbiri Devi to Hoshiyari for all purposes in future.

I, Sumit Chahal S/o Udayvir Singh R/O H.No. 32, Defence Colony, Opposite Secretariat, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my minor son's name from Tanmay to Tanmay Chahal for all purposes in future.

I, Kashmir Singh S/O Pala Singh R/O Village-Waryah, Po- Hayat Nagar, Pin-143521, Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur Punjab, India. Declare That In My Documents My Father Name Pal Singh To Pala Singh.

I, Daljit Singh S/O Amarjit Singh R/O Vill- Pati Nijerpur. Po- Dargabad, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Singh Daljit.

I, Lakhwinder Singh S/O Joginder Singh R/O Vill- Amargarh. Po-Wadala Banger, Tehsil- Kalanaur, Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Singh Lakhwinder.

I, Pardeep Mahajan S/O Kewal Krishan. R/O H.No-137/19 Secretary Mohalla Gurdaspur, Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur, Pin-143521, Punjab India. Declare That Changed My Son Name From Aarav To Aarav Mahajan.

I, Pardeep Mahajan S/O Kewal Krishan R/O H.No-137/19 Secretary Mohalla Gurdaspur, Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur, Pin-143521, Punjab India. Declare That Changed My Daughter Name From Saanvi To Saanvi Mahajan.

I, Jagdev Singh S/O Kehar Singh R/O Patti Dhillon Buttar Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Jagdev Singh Jandu.

I Nirmal Kaur W/O Jagdev Singh Jandu R/O Patti Dhillon Buttar Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Nirmal Kaur Jandu.

I, Kirpal Singh S/O Kishan Singh R/O Vill. Arniala Shahpur P.O. Mustapur District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Kirpal Singh To Kirpal Singh.

I Balvir Kaur W/O Avtar Singh R/O Vpo. Dihana Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Balvir Kaur To Balbir Kaur.

I Gurbinder Singh S/O Harjinder Singh R/O Vill. Bhattian P.O. Garhdiwala District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Gurbinder Singh To Gurbinder Singh.

I Harvinder Singh S/O Nahar Singh R/O Vpo. Lopon Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala District Moga Have Changed My Name To Harvinder Singh Nahar.

I Parmjit Singh S/O Pritam Singh R/O Vpo. Sidhwan Khurd Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Parmjit Singh Sidhu.

I Harveer Singh S/O Balwant Singh R/O Vadel Patti Saffuwala Moga Have Changed My Name To Harveer Singh Samra.

I, Ajaib S/o Surjit Ram R/O Vpo. Dosaanjh Kalan Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) have changed my name Ajaib Dosaanjh and now Dosaanjh is my surname.

I, Harwinder Kumar S/o Gobind Lal R/O Vpo. Rawal Pindi Teh-Phagwara (Kapurthala) have changed my name Harwinder and now Kumar is my surname.

I, Neena D/O Saidass R/O H.No. 1492, Ward No.4, Adampur Doaba Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India, Have Changed My Name From Neena To Neena Kaur.

I, Laishram Nanaoba of 17 ASSAM Regt, C/o 56 APO Pathankot (Punjab) 910417 and father of Laishram Abemacha declare that my daughter's name is Laishram Abemacha. That L Abemacha and Laishram Abemacha is one and the same person.

I, Laishram Nanaoba of 17 ASSAM Regt, C/o 56 APO Pathankot (Punjab) 910417 and father of Laishram Rickson declare that my son's name is Laishram Rickson. That L Rickson and Laishram Rickson is one and the same person.

I Jaideep Singh S/O Avtar Singh R/O Golden Enclave, Deep Avenue, Tarn Taran Distt. Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name As Jaideep Singh Taneja.

I, Sukhdeep Kaur alias Sukhbant Kaur alias Sukhwant Kaur W/o Hoshiar Singh R/o Village Bhadla Nicha PO/ Tehsil Khanna {Ludhiana} That above said names are mine.

I, Baljeet Kaur W/o Satnam Singh R/o Village Khemkaran Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Baljeet Kaur to Baljit Kaur.

I Beant Singh Chheena Son Of Jarnail Singh Resident Of Village Rajiwala Tehsil & District Ferozeprur Have Changed My Name To Beant Singh.

I Sania Setia W/O Bhavuk Girdhar D/O Jagdish Setia R/O H.No. 540, Street Dhannu Mall, Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name Sania To Sania Setia.

I Simerjit Wife Of Avtar Singh Resident Of Vpo Mallanwala Ward No. 06 Tehsil Zira District Ferozeprur Have Changed My Name To Kulwinder Kaur.

I, Narinder Kaur Wife Of Chamkor Singh Resident Of Vill. Lehra Bet. P.O. Shianpari, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozeprur, Have Changed My Name To Narinder Kaur Alias Ramandeep Kaur.

I, Prabhavati Mahadeo Adhav Wife Of Adhav Mahadeo Bhausahab Residing At Village: Sarola Somwanshi, Po: Sarola Somwanshi, Teh - Shrigonda, Dist: Ahmednagar, State: Maharashtra Have Changed My Name From Prabhavati Adhav To Prabhavati Mahadeo Adhav Vide Affidavit Dated 23 December 2024 Before At Notary Ferozeprur.

I, Adhav Mahadeo Bhausahab Residing At Village: Sarola Somwanshi, Po: Sarola Somwanshi, Teh - Shrigonda, Dist: Ahmednagar, State: Maharashtra Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Sneha Mahadev Adhav To Adhav Sneha Mahadev Vide Affidavit Dated 23 December 2024 Before At Notary Ferozeprur.

I Army No. 16114004y Hav Durganand Mishra Of Unit 12 Rr Regt C/O 56 APO Residing At Kherajpur, Darbhanga, State Bihar Pin-846003 Declare That My Daughter Name Palk Kumari Wrongly Written In My Army Service Records But My Daughter Correct Name Is Palk.

I, R Muthulakshmi Spouse Of D Senthil Resident Of Village Kollangarai Po Nadur Tehsil & District Thanjavur State Tamilnadu Pin 614904 Have Changed My Name From R Muthulakshmi To Muthulakshmi Senthil Vide Affidavit Dated 23 December 2024 Before At Notary Ferozeprur.

I, Army No. 15484787h, Rank Dfr Name Sudarsan Parida, Unit Of 69 Armd Regt C/O 56 APO Pin 912669 Resident At Jagulji Chhanda Post Sahada District Bhadrak State Odisha Pin 756123 Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Preybrath To Priyabrata Sethi Vide Affidavit Dated 23 December 2024 Before At Notary Ferozeprur.

I, Gayatri Daughter Of No. 15484787h, Rank Dfr Name Sudarsan Parida, Unit Of 69 Armd Regt C/O 56 APO Pin 912669 Resident At Jagulji Chhanda Post Sahada District Bhadrak State Odisha Pin 756123 Have Changed My Name From Gayatri To Gayatri Sethi Vide Affidavit Dated 23 December 2024 Before At Notary Ferozeprur.

I, Namita Dav Spouse Of No. 15484787h, Rank Dfr Name Sudarsan Parida, Unit Of 69 Armd Regt C/O 56 APO Pin 912669 Resident At Jagulji Chhanda Post Sahada District Bhadrak State Odisha Pin 756123 Have Changed My Name From Namita Dav To Namita Das Vide Affidavit Dated 23 December 2024 Before At Notary Ferozeprur.

I, Priya Galhotra alias Manu W/o Vikas Galhotra R/O Basti Arian Wali, Distt. Ferozeprur Have Changed My Name From Priya Galhotra alias Manu to Priya Galhotra.

I, Dalbir Singh Multani S/O Jasvir Singh R/O H.No.68 B, Street No.3, Bahadargarh, Distt Patiala 147021 Punjab Have Changed My Name To Dalbir Singh.

I Bittoo S/O Bijender Chaudhary R/O House No-1907/3, Gali No-41, Sanjay Colony, Sector-23, Faridabad, Haryana-121005, Have Changed My Name To Arjun Dagar.

I Sahana Bhattacharjee D/O Sudhansu Sekhar, R/O House No-D1954, Palam Vihar, D-Block, Near Red Rose School, Choma (62), Gurgaon, Carterpuri, Haryana - 122017, Have Changed My Name To Sanchari Bhattacharjee.

I, Hitherto Known As Divya Rani W/O Vibhor Kumar Residing At Shop No. 100, Ward No. 8, Anaj Mandi, Jakhali Mandi, Tehsil Tohana, District Fatehabad, Haryana-125133, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Divya Garg.

Coaching crisis, heartbreaks and Olympic setbacks mark a disastrous year for Indian boxing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxing endured a turbulent year marred by coaching turmoil, crushing defeats, and a medal-less Paris Olympics campaign, all of it made worse by the national federation's negligence that brought unprecedented embarrassment to the country. There were very few positives to count in a year when, after a widely successful 2023, expectations were sky high. Yet no boxer was able to add to the three bronze medals - Vijender Singh (2008), M C Mary Kom (2012) and Lovlina Borgohain (2021) - that India had secured in the previous editions of the Olympics.



whereabouts failures within a year. The 2022 World Championship bronze-medallist failed to submit her whereabouts for the period between April 2022 and March 2023, as mandated by WADA regulations. The BFI was also to blame for this unprecedented embarrassment given that federation is duly notified of such a lapse by the international body. The federation ought to have intervened to ensure that the athlete submitted the required details on time. As a result, India had to fight afresh for qualification in the women's 57kg category, the spot ultimately going to Jaismine Lamboria in the final Olympic Qualifiers. There were wholesale changes for this event with former Asian Games gold-medallist Amit Panghal replacing Deepak Bhoria in the 51kg category. Eventually Panghal and Nishant made the cut for the quadrennial spectacle along with Jaismine, adding to the three quotas won by Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg) and Lovlina (75kg) last year. In all, six boxers qualified for Paris, a decline from the five men and four women who represented India in the 2021 Tokyo Games. Barren Olympics, Nishant's heartbreak Heading into the big event on the back of two consecutive World Championship titles, Zareen was hailed as one of India's strongest medal contenders. However, in the fiercely competitive 50kg category, the Telangana boxer was completely outclassed by

China's Wu Yu in a brutally one-sided bout. Zareen, unable to match the relentless pace of her opponent, later said that she had "not eaten for the last two days to maintain weight" and felt weak. A win away from a second consecutive Olympic medal, Lovlina too went down to a Chinese boxer. The Tokyo Games bronze winner couldn't get past familiar foe Li Qian. For Panghal, who was handed a fairly easy draw, it was deja vu as he made yet another pre-quarterfinal exit from the Olympics. The most heartbreaking loss, however, was endured by Nishant. The 23-year-old was defeated 1-4 by Mexico's Marco Verde Alvarez in the 71kg quarterfinal, despite appearing to dominate the bout. This outcome reignited the fierce debate and outrage over judging. The devastating result denied Nishant, the 2023 world championship bronze-medallist, a podium finish in his debut games as the Indian boxing contingent returned empty-handed from Paris. The sport has been dormant ever since. The boxers haven't competed in any tournament with the BFI deciding against sending a team for the Asian Championships. India joins World Boxing With the International Olympic Committee (IOC) threatening to leave boxing out of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics if national federations continued to align themselves with the suspended International Boxing Association (IBA), India joined the breakaway World Boxing (WB).

China's Wu Yu in a brutally one-sided bout. Zareen, unable to match the relentless pace of her opponent, later said that she had "not eaten for the last two days to maintain weight" and felt weak. A win away from a second consecutive Olympic medal, Lovlina too went down to a Chinese boxer. The Tokyo Games bronze winner couldn't get past familiar foe Li Qian. For Panghal, who was handed a fairly easy draw, it was deja vu as he made yet another pre-quarterfinal exit from the Olympics. The most heartbreaking loss, however, was endured by Nishant. The 23-year-old was defeated 1-4 by Mexico's Marco Verde Alvarez in the 71kg quarterfinal, despite appearing to dominate the bout. This outcome reignited the fierce debate and outrage over judging. The devastating result denied Nishant, the 2023 world championship bronze-medallist, a podium finish in his debut games as the Indian boxing contingent returned empty-handed from Paris. The sport has been dormant ever since. The boxers haven't competed in any tournament with the BFI deciding against sending a team for the Asian Championships. India joins World Boxing With the International Olympic Committee (IOC) threatening to leave boxing out of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics if national federations continued to align themselves with the suspended International Boxing Association (IBA), India joined the breakaway World Boxing (WB).

Disclaimer
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents for the advertisement (Display / Classified) carried in this newspaper. The Paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the content on their own.

Shami not fully fit yet, ruled out of remaining two Tests in Australia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
India pacer Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of the last two Tests against Australia as he is yet to regain full fitness, the BCCI said on Monday.
Shami, who last played for India in the ODI World Cup final in November, 2023, made a comeback from his right heel surgery during Bengal's Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh last month.
With calls for his selection growing, Shami played all nine games for Bengal in the subsequent Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy. He is also part of Bengal's squad for the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy but did not play the opening game on Saturday against Delhi.
His fitness has been a subject of intense debate and speculation, so much so that India skipper Rohit Sharma had asked the physios at the National Cricket Academy to provide clarity on

the matter following the Brisbane Test. Shami had developed swelling in his knees while playing the SMAT, and the clarification in that regard finally came on Monday.
"Based on the current medical assessment, the BCCI Medical Team has determined that his knee requires more time for controlled exposure to bowling loads. Consequently, he has not been deemed fit for consideration for the remaining two Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy," said the BCCI in a release.
"Shami will continue to undergo targeted strength and conditioning work under the guidance of the medical staff at BCCI's Centre of Excellence and build his bowling loads needed to meet the demands of the longest format of the game. His participation in the Vijay Hazare Trophy will depend on the progress of his knee."
The medical team said the veteran fast bowler has fully



recovered from the heel injury that kept him out of action after the ODI World Cup.
"The BCCI Medical Team at the Centre of Excellence has been working closely with Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami on his recovery and rehabilitation after his right heel surgery. Shami has completely recovered from this heel problem.
"However, his left knee has exhibited minor swelling due to increased joint loading from his bowling workload. The swelling is on the expected lines, owing to the increased bowling after a prolonged period," the BCCI said.
Shami bowled 43 overs in his comeback game in the Ranji Trophy.
Following that, he played in all nine games of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), where he also "engaged in additional bowling sessions on the sidelines to build his bowling volume in order to get ready for the Test matches."
The 34-year-old has taken 229 wickets in 64 Tests, 195 scalps in 101 ODIs and 24 wickets in 23 T20 Internationals. With India relying heavily on Jasprit Bumrah in Australia, Shami's presence in the bowling attack would have provided a much needed boost.



Strike rotation and solid defence key to face Bumrah, says Simon Katich

PTI ■ MELBOURNE
Former cricketer Simon Katich has advised Australian batters to concentrate on rotating the strike and maintaining a solid defence to succeed against the peerless Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah.
Katich noted that since Bumrah rarely bowls loose deliveries, the Australians must be strategically good in their approach.
"I know all the talk is around having more positive intent, and I think that's all well and good and it is certainly something they have to be mindful of. But against someone like Bumrah intent is not about just blazing him for fours, because he doesn't bowl many bad balls," Katich told SEN 1116.
"So a lot of that intent has to be about rotating strike and being able to defend really well, because you're not gonna be able to play with any intent if you aren't there after the tenth over. That's the challenge for all of these guys," Katich added.
To illustrate his point, Katich made a reference to Australia's second innings in the third Test at Brisbane, where the hosts attempted an aggressive approach but ultimately lost their wickets.
"We saw it in the second innings in Brisbane. Australians came out with really positive intent, trying to score more quickly and look what happened, 7/80 in no time.
"It's not easy to do against the red ball that moves around off the seam in a wearing wicket which the Gabba was starting to become with cracks.
"The top order has to be very careful and mindful of how they go about it. You're not going to score many runs if you're trying to take him on off the length, because he is so good," he added.
For the remaining two Tests, Australia has opted to place their trust in teenage sensation Sam Konstas, replacing opener Nathan

McSweeney, who was given a maiden call-up ahead of the series.
"I know the young kid's (Konstas) got a lot of potential, and a lot of ability, but it'll be a challenge because not many guys around the world have been able to do that to that quality of bowling," Katich said.
Marsh should make way for Webster
Katich also felt Mitchell Marsh's inability to bowl the expected volume of overs suggests he isn't "100%" fit and should be replaced by uncapped rookie Beau Webster for the Boxing Day Test against India.
Marsh has been dealing with recurring back stiffness since the white-ball tour of the UK in September. During the Perth Test, he bowled 17 overs in total, taking two wickets on the opening day but later pulled up sore.
In Adelaide, he bowled four overs while in Brisbane he rolled his arm for two overs.
"I've been saying for a couple Tests, Mitch Marsh has not been able to bowl the volume of overs that everyone expected of him. Given the conditions and given he is a wicket taker," Katich said on "SEN Breakfast".
"We saw that in Perth, he bowled well on day one. Took some key wickets and then struggled to back up. I mean obviously the Aussie hierarchy know better than we do around where his fitness is at.
"But for him to bowl two overs the other day after Josh Hazlewood went down, that to me indicates something's not 100% right with him."
After Marsh had pulled up sore, 30-year-old Tasmania all-rounder Webster was added to Australia's squad.
"At the end of the day, Beau Webster deserves to be in that squad," Katich said.
"He's done very well for Tassie in the last few years, he's a genuine all-rounder given what his role is for Tassie and he plays that dual role with bat and ball," Katich added.

Your Go-To App for Quality & Safety

More than **8 Million** Downloads and Growing. Have You Downloaded Yet?

SCAN FOR BIS CARE APP

GET IT FROM

APP FEATURES

- Verify Licence Details**: Check the authenticity of BIS marked products by entering CM/L no. mentioned below the BIS mark.
- Verify HUD**: Check the authenticity of hallmark gold jewellery item by entering six digit HUD number.
- Verify R-no. under CRS**: Check the authenticity of electronic products by entering R-no. (Registration) mentioned below the Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS) Mark.
- Know Your Standards**: Get information on any Indian Standard and licenses against it.
- Lodge Complaints**: Register complaints regarding substandard products and spurious use of BIS Quality Mark.
- Laboratories**: Get details of BIS Labs, empanelled labs and BIS recognized labs with provision to view their approved scope.
- Memes and Reels**: Watch memes and reels for quick tips on quality and safety.
- Training**: Stay updated on upcoming BIS training programs organised by NITS.
- Public Alert-Product Recall**: Get alerts for products with safety risks that could affect consumers.
- Certification**: Apply for BIS certification and license with ease on the BIS CARE App.
- About BIS**: Know your rights and penalties under the BIS Act, 2016.
- Standards**: Explore Standards, propose ideas, and join BIS as a member.

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
National Standards Body of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India

Website: www.bis.gov.in
Follow us on: @IndianStandards

National Consumer Day: Safety, Quality and Reliability Guaranteed by BIS

Every year on 24th December, National Consumer Day is celebrated in India. This day symbolizes the growing importance of the consumer movement.
National Consumer Day is celebrated every year on this day to commemorate the President's assent to the Consumer Protection Act on 24th December, 1986. This Act aims to protect consumers from defective goods, negligent services and unfair trade practices.
The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 was passed by the Parliament to replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
The Consumer Protection Act has six fundamental rights: right to safety, right to choose, right to be informed, right to be heard, right to seek redressal and right to consumer education.
The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) plays a vital role in this direction, protecting the rights of consumers by setting Indian standards and through conformity assessment schemes. BIS is not only limited to setting standards, but it is also actively involved in promoting consumer awareness. The BIS educates consumers about their rights and the quality of products through various means. This is done through consumer education programmes, awareness campaigns and publications. The BIS website and social media platforms are also a source of valuable information for consumers.
If you will win a consumer today, you will win him for life and enjoy great success in your business. No business can survive without consumers and therefore, consumers must be respected and valued more than anything else. A very Happy National Consumer Day to you.



BIS Chandigarh Organizes "Manak Fiesta" to Mark Upcoming BIS Foundation Day
Chandigarh: The Chandigarh branch office of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in collaboration with the Centre for Social Work, Panjab University, organized "Manak Fiesta", a fair for standards and quality, at the Student Centre, Panjab University, to mark the BIS Foundation Day. Shri Vishal Tomer, Director, BIS Chandigarh, said, "The purpose of organizing Manak Fiesta is to provide a direct platform for students to learn about standards followed in manufacturing processes at various industries, enabling them to become aware consumers."
Shri Gaurav Gaur, Professor, Centre for Social Work, Panjab University, appreciated the efforts of BIS, Chandigarh, in promoting standards. The event witnessed a footfall of around 1500 persons, including students from schools and universities, officials, and the general public. A total of 30 stalls were set up by industry, NGO exhibitions, and games. Other attractions at the event included face painting, nukkadnatak, quiz, and snake ladder games.



Medical and allied services recruitment portal GetMedJob launched
Chandigarh: GetMedJob, a specialized medical and allied services recruitment platform was launched here on Monday by team FuturaNexus Pvt Ltd which will unlock opportunities for graduates and helping employers find the right fit seamlessly. Addressing a press conference at Chandigarh Press Club, Start Up founder and CEO - Ajay Bhardwaj, said GetMedJob's unique focus on students, fresh graduates, and experienced talent. The platform connects young professionals with internships and jobs, empowering careers in fields like pharmaceuticals, healthcare IT, and hospital administration. By addressing the needs of both employers and job seekers, this portal ensures a win-win: efficient hiring for employers and tailored opportunities.

Central Bank of India, Zonal Office & Regional Office, Chandigarh
Chandigarh: Central Bank of India, celebrated its 114th Foundation Day on 21st December, 2024 with great enthusiasm. Zonal Head, Shri Shishram Tundwal, while cutting the cake, extended hearty greetings to all the staff members on this auspicious day. In addition to this, celebration function was organized by Zonal/Regional office Chandigarh at Park Plaza Hotel, Zirakpur and Mr. Rajeev Puri, Ex-ED, Central Bank of India grace this occasion as Chief Guest of this function. In his address he wishes vibrant future to Central Bank of India. Everyone present in the hall took advantage of this by welcoming him wholeheartedly. With the help of Chandigarh Zone, a special free health check-up was also organized under the medical camp in which all the staff members participated.
While presenting an entertaining program on the occasion of 114th Foundation Day, the staff members along with their children also presented various types of songs and dances etc. Zonal Head Mr. Shishram Tundwal awarded our total 24 staff members on the basis of their performance. Everyone enjoyed it and celebrated the program as a memorable event.

Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Shimla
Shimla: Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board has celebrated the Golden Jubilee Year of its establishment today on 21st December 2024. To mark the occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, unveiled our Golden Jubilee Environmental Calendar and released the 50-year commemorative logo inscribed on a memento today, on the conclusion of the winter session of the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha at Dharamshala on 21st December 2024. Hon'ble Chief Minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to the State Pollution Control Board on its 50th anniversary and conveyed his best wishes for its continued dedication to preserving the environment.
The commemorative logo shall be used in all our official correspondences during next one year. The Environmental Calendar of the State Pollution Control Board marks the beginning of its Golden Jubilee Year celebrations, commemorating 50 years since the Board's establishment on December 21, 1974. Over the coming year, from December 21, 2024, to December 21, 2025, the State Board will celebrate this significant milestone by organizing 50 activities on 50 environmentally significant dates that reflect its commitment to environmental stewardship.