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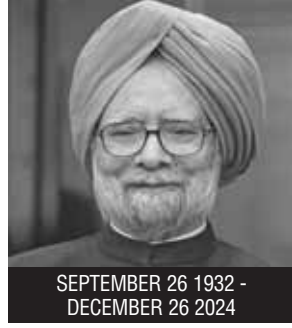
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ARCHITECT OF INDIAN ECONOMY PASSES AWAY

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms, died on Thursday night. He was 92. Singh's death was announced by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, where he was admitted in the Emergency ward around 8.30 PM in a critical condition. An AIIMS bulletin said "he was treated for age related medical conditions and had sudden loss of consciousness at home" on December 26. "Resuscitative measures started immediately at home. He was brought to the medical emergency at AIIMS Delhi at 8.06 pm. Despite all efforts, he could not be revived and was declared dead at 9.51 pm," said the bulletin. Singh, who was PM for two terms in the Congress-led



United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government from 2004 to 2014, had been in poor health for the last few months. He is survived by wife Gurcharan Singh and three daughters. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and her mother Sonia Gandhi reached the hospital as soon as the news of his hospitalisation became known. Singh, who was Finance Minister under the then PM PV Narasimha Rao, was the



architect and the brainchild of economic reforms in 1991 that pulled India from the brink of bankruptcy and ushered in an era of economic liberalisation that is widely believed to have changed the course of India's economic trajectory. Singh died as the Congress party concluded its Congress Working Committee meeting at Belagavi in Karnataka, where all top party leaders were present. Party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and



Rahul Gandhi rushed to Delhi from Belagavi followed by several top party leaders and workers from across the country. A galaxy of leaders across the political party lines condoled the death of Singh with Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarking "We had extensive deliberations on various subjects relating to governance; his wisdom, humility were always visible". "With the passing of former PM Manmohan Singh, India



has lost a visionary statesman, a leader of unimpeachable integrity," said Mallikarjun Kharge. "Manmohan Singh's policy of economic liberalisation and rights-based welfare paradigm profoundly transformed lives of crores," Kharge added before leaving the CWC meet at Belagavi. "Few people in politics inspire the kind of respect that Sardar Manmohan Singh did. Manmohan Singh's honesty will always be an

1962: D.Phil in Economics from Oxford University 1971: Joins Government of India as Economic Advisor in Commerce Ministry 1972: Appointed Chief Economic Advisor in Finance Ministry 1980-82: Member, Planning Commission 1982-1985: Governor of the Reserve Bank of India 1985-87: Served as Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission 1987-90: Secretary General of South Commission in Geneva 1990: Appointed Advisor to Prime Minister on Economic Affairs March 1991: Appointed chairman of University Grants Commission 1991: Elected to Rajya Sabha from Assam, and re-elected in 1995, 2001, 2007 and 2013 1991-96: Finance Minister under P V Narasimha Rao government 1998-2004: Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha 2004-2014: Prime Minister of India.

Congress and AAP cloud over INDIA Bloc

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a development that could be a major setback to the India Bloc as the growing rift between the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has escalated into open hostility thereby putting the alliance on shaky grounds. The AAP on Thursday threatened that it would talk to other parties of the INDIA Bloc to remove the Congress from the alliance, if it didn't take action against Delhi Congress leader Ajay Maken for making derogatory remarks against party's supremo Arvind Kejriwal, calling him an 'anti national'. The AAP leaders now demanded that the Congress take disciplinary action against Maken and other party leaders within 24 hours.



public with promises of non-existent welfare schemes and derogatory remarks by senior Congress leaders Ajay Maken and Sandeep Dikshit on party's national convener. The tension escalated during the Winter session of Parliament when murmurs arose about changing the leadership of the INDIA Bloc, with some including Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad suggesting Mamata Banerjee to take over. The INDIA Bloc, comprising parties like the Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress (TMC), RJD, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Shiv Sena (UBT), and AAP, face a crucial test of unity. The AAP's decision to hold talks with its allies could deepen the ongoing crisis. Singh accused Maken, and Dikshit of targeting AAP instead of focusing on the BJP. Singh slammed Maken for allegedly calling Kejriwal "anti-national" and urged Congress to take action against him within 24 hours. "At this point, all limits have been crossed. Filing an FIR, calling someone anti-national-such audacity from Ajay Maken and his party is unacceptable. I demand that the Congress take action against Ajay Maken within 24 hours. Otherwise, we will appeal to the other constituent parties of the INDIA Bloc to expel Congress from the alliance," asserted the AAP Rajya Sabha MP. Ajay Maken reads the BJP script, makes statements at the BJP's behest, and targets AAP leaders on BJP's instructions. And yesterday, he crossed all limits and called our leader Arvind Kejriwal anti-nation," Singh said. The Congress or Ajay Maken have never called any BJP leader in Delhi "anti-national," Singh said.

Kejriwal may lose NDMC membership

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday passed a resolution condemning former Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal for failing to implement the Narendra Modi-led Government's flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat. The Council is seeking legal opinion from the law department to cancel his membership as he has not been able to attend the meetings. "The matter will be raised in the next council meeting after receiving the department's response," he said while addressing the media. A condemnation resolution was also passed in the meeting against the AAP chief. The members of the Council

also passed a censure motion against Kejriwal on the fraud of 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman' and 'Sanjeevani Yojna'. Chahal said, "Kejriwal is not allowing the Ayushman Bharat Yojna implemented by the Prime Minister to reach the citizens of Delhi due to his personal and political reasons." New Delhi BJP Member of Parliament P Bansuri Swaraj, who is also a member of the NDMC, attended the meeting. "Today I attended the weekly meeting of NDMC with the council officials. In the meeting, a resolution condemning the neglect of public interest by former Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal by not implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme in Delhi was unanimously passed," she shared in a tweet.



EC makes world's largest electoral dataset public

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday released the world's largest electoral dataset for 2024 Lok Sabha and four State Assembly polls held this year. The move was aimed at enhancing "public trust" in the country's electoral system at a time when the opposition has been raising doubts over its credibility after it changed its rules to restrict public access to CCTV footage of polling booths and other poll documents. Sources in the election watchdog said since the One Nation One Election (ONOE) has been tabled in the Parliament and a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is monitoring it, this data will help the stakeholders to tread the path of ambitious simultaneous polls in the country. The EC officials asserted that such granular data is not shared by any of the election management bodies in democracies across the world. "This suo motu initiative is to enhance the public trust that constitutes the underpinning of India's electoral system," the EC said. In its 40 statistical reports related to Lok Sabha 2024 polls, released by the poll body on Thursday showed that the six national parties bagged over 63 per cent share of the total valid votes polled

in the Lok Sabha elections held this year. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)], Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and National People's Party (NPP) are the six national parties. Six recognised National parties, 47 State parties and 690 registered, unrecognised political parties contested the Parliamentary polls. Besides, 3,905 independent candidates forfeited the deposits. Out of the 3,921 independent candidates, 279 were women, the EC noted. The datasets cover a range of variables, such as details of PC/AC /State wise electors, number of polling stations, State/ PC wise voter turnout, Party wise vote share, gender-based voting behaviour. It also included State wise participation of women electors and much more. "This suo motu initiative, is to enhance the public trust that constitutes the underpinning of India's electoral system," it added. "It is the poll body said in the Statement. "The release of extensive data sets is also in furtherance of the Commission's policy of maximum disclosure, greater transparency and accessibility of election-related data for all stakeholders including academia, research and the general public," it added.

MARKETS



WEATHER



FIR registered in forged voter ID case: Delhi Police

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has registered a case against four individuals in connection with forgery in Voter ID card applications for the purpose of new voter registration and address shifting after the Election office flagged such suspicious cases to them in southeast Delhi's Shaheen Bagh. On Wednesday, the Election Commission flagged four such suspicious cases to the Delhi Police, following which the police registered cases under section 336 (Forgery for the purpose of cheating) and Section 340 BNS (Using forged documents as genuine). "It is to inform you that certain applicants have submitted online applications for voter registration through Form-6 and Form-8 by fraudulent means. These applicants have uploaded false documents, which have been tampered with, in support of their applications," the Election Registration Officer stated.

From deep sea, to outer space, Indian explorers will make history

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ HYDERABAD

As India is gearing up for its first space mission in 2026, plans are afoot to send a human into the deep sea the same year thereby showcasing the country's prowess in frontier scientific endeavours. Disclosing this, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science, Jitendra Singh said on Thursday "... One Indian up there, and one Indian in the deep sea. That will be once again, a record of sorts." He also emphasised the increasing importance of oceanic exploration in the country's journey toward becoming a 'Viksit Bharat'. The Centre is planning to send a human into the deep sea with the mission likely to coincide with the human space mission in early 2026, Singh said while speaking at the 'Commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami' at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). The minister recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had mentioned the Deep Sea Mission in the past Independence Day address. "We are also planning to send a human into the deep sea. I was telling Ravichandran (Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences) that it would be a strange coincidence-one human in space and another in the deep sea. This will



happen almost simultaneously," Singh said. The human space mission, initially planned for 2025, may not take place next year, but is now expected in early 2026, he added. Advocating for the sustainable exploration and conservation of India's 7,500-kilometre coastline and its abundant marine resources, the minister said the government is working to create an ecosystem to support these efforts. He told a news agency that the services and information provided by INCOIS are not only relevant to coastal communities along India's shoreline but also to people worldwide.

Beware the gangs Gurugram, 200 gangsters arrested so far

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In a major crackdown against active gangs involved in various crimes, the Gurugram police have arrested 200 members of 80 gangs, between January 1 to December 13 this year. While revealing the data, police said a number of 406 cases were also registered against them, and Rs 3.67 Crore were also recovered from their possession. "The arrested accused were mainly involved in robbery, house-breaking, theft, vehicle theft, snatching, ATM fraud, murder and others. The Gurugram police's crime branch teams and police station teams work hard to nab these criminals and recover huge amounts from them" Vikas Arora, Commissioner of Gurugram Police, said. Meanwhile, police said a special drive was initiated against these criminals at the direction of the Gurugram Police Commissioner. Many among the apprehended

offenders, were evading arrest for a long time. "We identified such offenders by collecting data from courts, sources and other inputs to keep an eye on the movements and activities of the criminals and anti-social elements. We believe such elements can be a threat to the city and disrupt law and order situation or execute any crime," Varun Dahiya, ACP (Crime), said. He said that such operations against the Proclaimed Offenders (POs), bail jumpers and as well as other dreaded culprits will be continued in future to further ensure a sense of security and safety among the people. Dahiya said that specific information and public cooperation are very important when it comes to tackling and preventing crime. Apart from that, he emphasised that cooperation between police and the public plays a significant role in investigating and prosecuting criminals engaged in different offences. "They were arrested after receiving information



from specific resources to keep an eye on the movements and activities of the criminals and anti-social elements. We believe such elements can be a threat to the city and disrupt law and order situation or execute any crime," he said. Apart from this, the Gurugram police had also recovered Rs 83.41 crores from 1,658 Cyber Fraudsters, including 22 bank officials of different banks in just 11 months from January 2024 to 30 November 2024, the Gurugram police said. Senior police officers of the Gurugram claimed that the police are closely working with other agencies and organisations to counter these

frauds. "The cyber fraudsters commit fraud by luring people with good profits, investing in the stock market, reducing electricity bills, in the name of buying/selling cheap goods online, sextortion through video calls on WhatsApp, morphing, sending links through various means, posing as a customs officer/police officer in the name of implicating false case, in the name of issuing a No-Objection Certificate, digitally arresting people by showing the fear of implicating them in a criminal case, etc," Priyanshu Divan, ACP (cybercrime), said. Cyber fraudsters call people and pretend to be police officers and commit fraud by telling them that any of their acquaintances or relatives have broken any law or that any of their relatives or acquaintances are ill, police said. They also dupe people; when people search for customer care numbers on Google for online hotel booking, wine delivery or for taking loans, cyber fraudsters keep their numbers there so that people call cyber fraudsters, and cyber fraudsters cheat them by taking them into confidence," Divan said. "As per the instructions of the Gurugram police chief, and to create awareness about cyber crimes, officials of RWA of residential societies, schools, companies and various institutions in Gurugram are being made aware by giving information about cyber crimes. We appealed to the public to steer clear of such dubious callers and advised caution in sharing personal details to strangers stalking them online," he added.

Farmers' Call for Punjab Bandh on Dec 30; To Disrupt Rail, Road Traffic

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmers' organizations have announced a complete shutdown in Punjab on December 30 in support of their demands, including a legal guarantee on Minimum Support Price (MSP) on crops. The bandh call would see suspension of all rail and road traffic, along with the closure of governmental and private institutions. The decision was taken during a pivotal meeting at Khanauri border on Thursday, where representatives from various sectors, including teaching, transport, electricity, ASHA workers, ex-servicemen, professors, journalists' associations, and trade boards, participated.

Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher stated that all road and rail traffic, along with government and private institutions, will remain closed during the bandh from 7 am to 4 pm. Essential and emergency services will be exempted, ensuring minimal disruption to critical operations. Public awareness efforts, including installing banners at toll plazas and announcements in villages' gurdwaras, aimed at ensuring a peaceful and well-informed protest.

Despite the intensity of the bandh, the farmer leaders have assured that essential services will not be hindered. "Medical services, examination schedules, and special events such as weddings will be allowed to proceed unhindered. Travelers heading to airports will also not face disruptions," said Pandher, reiterating, "Our fight is against injustice, not the common man. We aim to maintain public convenience while amplifying our cause."

To prepare for the bandh, district-level meetings are scheduled across Punjab on Thursday. Under the public awareness campaign for the bandh, the bus conductors will inform passengers about the closure before issuing tickets. Gurdwaras in villages will also be utilized as platforms to spread the message among people and seek public support for the farmers' cause.

The bandh is being organized as a peaceful demonstration of solidarity, with a call for unity and discipline from Punjab's youth and citizens. Emphasizing the signifi-

cance of the protest, Pandher said: "This bandh represents farmers' rights and their fight for a secure future. We urge everyone to respect the decisions made by the farmers' leadership and contribute to making this peaceful bandh a success."

Dallewal's Critical Health

The agitation's intensity has been heightened by the deteriorating health of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on a hunger strike for 31 days at the Khanauri border. Dallewal's fast aimed at pushing for the fulfillment of 13 primary demands, including the MSP guarantee. According to medical reports, Dallewal's condition is critical, with alarming blood pressure levels and physical weakness rendering him unable to speak, communicating only through gestures.

A medical bulletin issued by doctors attending him highlighted that Dallewal has consumed only water during his hunger strike. His hands have turned yellow due to prolonged fasting, and his overall condition remains precarious.

Dallewal's close aide and farmer leader Abhimanyu Kohar demanded transparency in his health assessment, calling for government doctors to conduct tests and share the findings publicly. "There should be complete transparency... All medical tests, including ketone body analysis, for Jagjit Singh Dallewal ji should be conducted by the government-appointed doctors," he demanded.

Kohar insisted that the findings of Dallewal's health reports should be shared with the nation to dispel any misconceptions among the Central and State Governments or constitutional authorities.

SKM Seeks Urgent Meeting with President Murmu to Address Farmer Issues

Amid escalating farmer protests and farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's critical health condition, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Thursday formally requested an appointment with President Droupadi Murmu to discuss pressing issues such as a legally guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops, the National Agricultural

Policy Framework, and the deteriorating situation in the agricultural sector.

SKM, in a letter to the President, highlighted the growing unrest among farmers and the urgency of addressing their demands. The organization emphasized the need for immediate intervention, citing Dallewal's precarious health, who has been on a hunger strike since November 26 at the Khanauri border. The farmer leader, aged 70, is protesting under the banner of SKM (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha.

In their letter to the President, the SKM urged for an early appointment to present their concerns. "A delegation of SKM requests an appointment with you at your earliest convenience to share our concerns about the precarious situation and the growing unrest among farmers across the country," it read.

The SKM believed that dialogue facilitated by the President can pave the way for constructive discussions with the Union Government. Such intervention could be instrumental in addressing the long-standing issues plaguing Indian agriculture and ensuring a resolution that benefits the farming community.

On December 23, farmers from over 500 districts joined the movement, submitting memoranda to the President through district magistrates. These memoranda call for her direct involvement in facilitating discussions between the Union Government and farmer organizations. Protests at district levels have been organized under the SKM banner to amplify these demands.

Among the farmers' key demands are a legal guarantee for MSP on crops; comprehensive debt waivers for farmers; pension schemes for farmers and agricultural labourers; rollback of increased electricity tariffs; withdrawal of police cases filed against protesting farmers; justice for victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence; formulation and implementation of a National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing, among others.

In addition to MSP, the SKM has reiterated the necessity of a National Policy Framework on Agricultural

Marketing. Such a framework would provide a sustainable roadmap for agricultural development, safeguarding farmers' rights while ensuring long-term economic viability for the agricultural sector.

Farmers Question Haryana's MSP Commitment

The farmers' movement has also spotlighted the Haryana Government's recent notification, which promises MSP guarantees for 24 crops. Farmer leaders have questioned the feasibility of such a commitment without the Central Government's cooperation. "State government agencies primarily purchase for the central pool, funded by the Central Government. Can a state independently finance MSP procurement for all crops?" asked the leaders, urging Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini to provide clarity.

The farmers' agitation has received widespread support, with Khap Panchayats from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana joining the cause. A Khap Mahapanchayat is scheduled for December 29 at Hisar in Haryana, where further support for the movement is expected to be discussed. Previously, Khap Panchayats in Haryana had announced their backing for the farmers by holding a press conference in Chandigarh.

Political leaders have also taken notice of the farmers' distress, and criticizing the BJP-led Central Government for its apathetic attitude. On Wednesday (December 25), Aam Aadmi Party's Punjab unit president Aman Arora, accompanied by Cabinet Ministers and MLAs, met Dallewal to request him to accept medical care while continuing his protest. However, the farmers' leadership remained steadfast, insisting that the agitation will persist until their demands are met.

The agitation began on February 13, with farmers gathering at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana after being denied entry into Delhi. Since December 6, groups of farmers have made multiple attempts to march on foot to the capital but were stopped by security forces in Haryana.

Punjab's Arhtiyas Join Farmers in Rejecting Centre's Agricultural Marketing Policy Draft

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab's arhtiyas (commission agents) have joined the ranks of the state farmers in vehemently rejecting the Centre's controversial draft policy on agricultural marketing. In a move that could redefine the state's agrarian future, Punjab's commission agents are not only voicing their discontent but also calling on the State Government to initiate action — demanding a special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha to formally reject the proposal. The powerful stand against the policy, which is seen as a covert attempt to revive the now-repealed farm laws, has intensified the ongoing battle over the future of Punjab's mandi system — one of the strongest in the country.

At a high-stakes meeting chaired by Punjab Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, the arhtiyas voiced their vehement opposition, calling for a special assembly session to unequivocally reject the policy. The meeting, attended by representatives from across the State, saw arhtiyas articulating their apprehensions about the draft policy.

The Agriculture Minister has appealed to the arhtiyas led by Vijay Kalra and Ravinder Singh Cheema and Rice Millers led by Tarsem Saini to send their inputs and concerns to Punjab Mandi Board so that it could be incorporated in the reply to be sent to the Union Government.

The state president of the Federation of Aarhtiya Association Vijay Kalra accused the Centre of attempting to dismantle Punjab's robust mandi system in favour of corporate control. "This policy is a direct attack on the mandi system, which safeguards both farmers and commission agents," said Kalra. He further urged the Punjab Government to take legislative action to nullify the Centre's proposals, echoing the sentiments of agitating farmers who view the draft as a backdoor entry for privatization.

Agriculture Minister Khuddian reassured all stakeholders of the State Government's solidarity,

emphasizing that Punjab Mandi Board is not just the backbone of its agrarian economy but a model for the rest of Asia. "The draft policy seeks to weaken this system under the guise of reforms. Punjab will not stand by as its agricultural foundation is eroded," Khuddian said.

The resistance to the draft policy has fostered an unlikely but powerful alliance between farmers and arhtiyas. While farmers focus on retaining MSP and preventing privatization, arhtiyas fear losing their intermediary role, which has been instrumental in maintaining the mandi ecosystem.

This alliance amplified Punjab's voice in opposing what is perceived as an overreach by the BJP-led Central Government. "The Centre's policies are designed to centralize control and disempower regional economies like Punjab's. We will not let that happen," said Kalra.

Punjab Government, led by Bhagwant Mann, has already announced its intention to formally reject the draft policy. However, the Centre has set a tight deadline of January 10, 2025, for states to submit feedback. In the coming days, the Punjab Assembly may convene a special session to formally denounce the policy.

The government has also already held brain storming sessions with the officials of Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), the Punjab State Farmers' Commission, and the state Agriculture Department, besides all other stakeholders seeking their valuable inputs and suggestions on the draft of this policy.

The state government do not want to leave any of its clauses unconsidered... Also a team of officers and agriculture experts is going through the document, decoding even the messages in between the lines," said a senior government official.

What is Centre's Draft Agricultural Marketing Policy

Released on November 25, 2024, by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the draft policy out-

lined a total of 12 sweeping reforms that include permitting private wholesale markets, and enabling direct wholesale purchases by processors, exporters, organized retailers, and bulk buyers. It also designated warehouses, silos, and cold storage facilities as "deemed markets." Additionally

The policy also advocated the creation of an e-trading platform, the introduction of a single, unified market fee, a single license for operations, and the streamlining of market fees and commission charges.

However, critics argued that these measures, particularly the promotion of contract farming and public-private partnerships in APMC markets, are eerily reminiscent of the contentious provisions of the three farm laws repealed after massive protests in 2021.

Chapter 7 of the draft explicitly stated that private markets are essential to create competition and improve farmer-market linkages. Yet, Punjab stakeholders view this as a thinly veiled attempt to bypass state-controlled markets, leaving farmers vulnerable to exploitation by large corporations.

Punjab's Stand

Punjab's mandi system is a cornerstone of its agrarian economy, ensuring assured prices through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and shielding farmers from the volatility of open markets. The state feared that dismantling this system could lead to significant economic and social upheaval.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led State Government argued that the Centre's new policy threatened to dismantle the state's well-established mandi system, putting farmers at risk of exploitation by profit-driven private players. There is growing concern across Punjab that these reforms could destabilize the state's agricultural economy, pushing farmers into an unregulated market where they would lose the protections and stability that the current system provides.

During the in-depth discussions between the State

Government and the arhtiyas that run for more than two hours on Thursday, it came to fore that the draft policy is totally silent on the Minimum Support Price (MSP), which is the most crucial for the state farmers and the clause regarding promoting the private markets will lead to overshadow the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets. They apprehended that once the APMC markets fall into disarray, it would lead to exploitation of the farmers and traditional traders.

"Rural Development Fee (RDF) and the Market Development Fee (MDF) is crucial for maintaining Punjab's extensive agricultural infrastructure, especially mandi infrastructure and maintaining roads connecting these mandis to the villages.

Khuddian was unequivocal in his criticism of the draft policy's provisions, particularly the imposition of a single tax system for mandis nationwide. Drawing parallels with the implementation of GST, he warned that such centralization could strip states of their financial autonomy. "The GST experience has already shown us how states can suffer under centralized systems. Punjab will not let history repeat itself," he declared.

The draft also proposed the creation of an "Empowered Agricultural Marketing Reform Committee of State Agricultural Marketing Ministers" to harmonize reforms across states. Critics argued that such centralization undermined the federal structure and the states' ability to tailor policies to their unique needs.

Farmers are voicing strong opposition, accusing the Union Government of undermining Punjab's highly regarded APMC system — widely considered the best in the country. They argued that, while they continue to fight for the assurance of legal guarantee on Minimum Support Prices (MSP), the Centre's plan threatened to strip the state of its financial autonomy and push the agricultural sector into the hands of private corporations.

Punjab Speaker Visits Dallewal, Extends Full Support to Farmers' Struggle

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a show of solidarity with the ongoing farmers' struggle, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kulraj Singh Sandhwan on Thursday met farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on a hunger strike for 31 days at the Khanauri border. Sandhwan, accompanied by several Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs, including Narinder Kaur Bharaj and Kulwant Singh Pandori, condemned the Centre's failure to address farmers' concerns, emphasizing that the fight for farmers' rights is not just for Punjab, but for the entire nation.

Sandhwan, speaking after the meeting, lauded Dallewal's unwavering commitment to humanity and the welfare of farmers, saying, "Dallewal Sahib is leading a fight for farmers across India, not just for

Punjab. Guaranteeing MSP is crucial not just for Punjab's prosperity but for the nation's food security." He expressed deep concern over Dallewal's deteriorating health due to the prolonged hunger strike, warning the Central Government to refrain from testing the patience of Punjabis.

Highlighting the sacrifices of farmers for the nation, Sandhwan urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to listen to their demands. "Farmers, whose ancestors fought for India's freedom and whose children continue to safeguard our borders, deserve to be heard. Ignoring their struggles is akin to ignoring the nation itself," he stressed.

Sandhwan criticized the Modi Government's approach, accusing it of pushing policies that benefit corporate giants at the expense of farmers. He

pointed to the disparity in government subsidies for farmers, contrasting the situation in the United States, where only one percent of the population farms but receives significant subsidies.

Also pledging unwavering support from AAP to the farmers' cause, Sandhwan emphasized that the party is actively working both at the party and government levels to push for farmers' rights. "Our Finance Minister Harpal Cheema and Cabinet Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar have been engaging with central officials. As Speaker, I will ensure this issue remains at the forefront in the Vidhan Sabha," he affirmed.

The Speaker concluded by calling on the public to recognize the farmers' struggle as a national issue, urging collective action to safeguard the interests of Punjab's farmers and the future of the nation.

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi on Thursday said that all heads of departments, managing directors and chief administrators of all boards and corporations have been directed to strictly adhere to established guidelines regarding transfer of an employee from one station to another.

A spokesperson said that all transfer orders, including temporary ones, must be issued through the HRMS (Human Resource Management System) module. Any order issued outside this system will be treated as invalid. Employees transferred without HRMS-issued orders will not be allowed to join at their new stations and must continue in their current positions. Joining

reports must also be submitted online via the HRMS module.

The government noted instances where transfer orders were issued by various departments, boards and corporations without obtaining the necessary advisory from the Chief Minister's Office or using the HRMS module. Such violations are against established rules and disrupt the transparent management process. The government has reiterated that no transfers, whether for employees in Group A, B, C and D, shall occur without the Chief Minister's transfer advisory. Upon receipt of such an advisory, the transfer order must be immediately issued through the HRMS module. Failure to adhere to these instructions will attract disciplinary action, the spokesperson added.

Draw inspiration from Veer Sahibzada sacrifices: Hry CM urges people

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, on the occasion of 'Veer Bal Diwas', called upon the people to draw inspiration from the sacrifices made by the Sahibzadas, the sons of Guru Gobind Singh.

Addressing the gathering at the state-level Veer Bal Diwas function in Kurukshetra, Saini said, "Parents should teach their children the values of courage, sacrifice, and dedication, just like those exhibited by Sahibzadas and instill these values in their lives. This will be our true tribute to their unparalleled sacrifice."

He also appealed to religious leaders and social institutions to unite in launching a mass movement against social evils like drug addiction, so that this grave issue can be eradicated from its roots and the youth can be saved.

Paying tribute to the valiant Veer Sahibzadas, the Chief Minister said that the sacrifice of Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh serves as an inspiration for making the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the nation. "The immortal saga of



the Veer Sahibzadas, who gave their lives at such a young age, is written in golden letters in the annals of history," he added.

Saini said that between 20 to 27 December 1704, all members of Guru Gobind Singh's family sacrificed their lives for the protection of religion and the welfare of the common people. He described the mar-

tyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's family as the greatest sacrifice in the history of the world. Their sacrifices were made to protect the country, religion, and society, and to safeguard the weak and helpless. Through their actions, they delivered a timeless message of truth, justice, and righteousness to all of humanity, he added.

Saini said that Lohgarh Bhagwanpur is being developed as a prominent tourism hub. To facilitate this, the Baba

Banda Singh Bahadur Trust has been established in Lohgarh. To encourage religious tourism, Haryana has launched the Swarn Jayanti Guru Darshan Yatra Yojana, providing financial assistance to pilgrims visiting prominent Sikh shrines such as Hazur Sahib Gurudwara, Nankana Sahib, Hemkund Sahib, and Patna Sahib.

'PM Declares Veer Bal Diwas to highlight overlooked chapter of history'

Earlier, Director General Information, Public Relations and Languages Department KM Pandurang welcomed the Chief Minister and said that this day honours the supreme sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh's sons, Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh, who gave their lives at a young age to protect their faith and principles. The Prime Minister Modi, decided to commemorate this day as Veer Bal Diwas to bring attention to a chapter of history that had been overlooked for many years. As a result, a state-level function is being organized here today to remember their valor and sacrifice, he added.

Investigate cases of fraud involving Rs 5 crore or more: Hry DGP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) Shatruijeet Kapur on Thursday directed the officers of the State Crime Branch to take over and investigate cases of fraud involving Rs. 5 crore or more in the State. Chairing a meeting to review crime control measures, Kapur sought a report from the officers regarding the action taken so far on 11 major pending cases in the State Crime Branch. DGP said that the State Crime Branch is a strong and important unit of Haryana Police, and therefore, it is imperative to investigate any case thoroughly. The team of the State Crime Branch should study the cases closely, keeping in mind all the aspects of the cases, so that strict action can be taken against the guilty person, he added. The DGP further directed in the meeting that three new criminal laws have been implemented across the country since July 1, so it is necessary to work in accordance with the new laws. In the meeting, Kapur also expressed his views regarding cybercrime control. He said that an appropriate and effective action plan should be made to catch the criminals in digital arrest related cases.

BRIEFS

PB & HRY UNDER GRIP OF SEVERE COLD CONDITIONS

Chandigarh: Several places in Punjab and Haryana reeled under severe cold conditions on Thursday, with the common capital of the two states, Chandigarh, recording a low of 7.3 degrees Celsius, MeT officials said. Pathankot and Faridkot in Punjab recorded identical minimum temperatures of 4 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department here. Among other places in Punjab, Amritsar experienced a cold night at 5.7 degrees Celsius, while Gurdaspur recorded a low of 6 degrees Celsius. Ferozepur and Rupnagar also endured intense chill, recording respective minimums of 5.7 and 5.9 degrees, while Ludhiana and Patiala registered identical minimums of 7.4 degrees Celsius. In Haryana, Narnaul shivered at a minimum temperature of 4.5 degrees Celsius, while Sirsa recorded a low of 5 degrees Celsius. Karnal also reeled under intense cold, registering a minimum of 5.5 degrees Celsius. Ambala recorded a low of 7.6 degrees, while Hisar registered a low of 6.9 degrees. Gurugram's minimum settled at 8.8 degrees Celsius.

2 LAKH POSTS LYING VACANT IN GOVT DEPTTS IN HRY: BHUPINDER HOODA

Chandigarh: Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Thursday said that unemployment is at its peak in the State and more than two lakh posts are lying vacant in government departments. "BJP has come to power by promising to give two lakh permanent jobs, but there is no trace of recruitment in the new government. Even the few recruitment that are taking place, are falling victim to scams. It is clear that this government is playing with the future of Haryana youth," he added. Hooda alleged that a new scam has been seen in the recruitment of PGT English, as the government declared its result, despite 33 questions being wrong in the PGT English recruitment paper and has clearly refused to take the paper again. For this, a notice has now been sent to HPSC by the High Court. Earlier, when the scam in HSSC and HPSC was exposed, the High Court reprimanded and fined them many times, he stated.

2 KILLED, 11 INJURED IN FIRING INCIDENT IN YAMUNANAGAR

Yamunanagar: Two men died and another got injured when some unidentified armed miscreants opened indiscriminate fire on them in a village Lakhia Singh Khedi in Yamunanagar on Thursday. According to Yamunanagar Police, as soon as the three men came out of a gym and were about to sit in their vehicle, four-five masked armed assailants arrived there on motorcycle and opened several rounds of fire at them, they said. While two men died, the condition of the other person is critical and he has been hospitalised. The police said the incident was also captured by a CCTV camera. The miscreants escaped after the incident. An investigation into the matter has been launched. The motive behind the killings was not yet clear, they said, adding that the two deceased were in their mid-30s, Police said.

HRY GOVT ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL DAYS FOR 2025

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government on Thursday announced the public holidays for 2025, which apply to all public offices under the State Government. According to the notification, the State Government has notified certain dates in the 2025 calendar as Special Days. However, these will not be designated as public holidays. The notification states that all Saturdays and Sundays will be observed as holidays throughout the year. The list of Public Holidays include Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti on January 6, Guru Ravidas Jayanti on February 12, Maha Shivratri on February 26, Holi on March 14, Eid-ul-Fitr on March 31, Mahavir Jayanti on April 10, Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14, Parshuram Jayanti on April 29, Akshaya Tritiya on April 30, Maharana Pratap Jayanti on May 29, Sant Kabir Jayanti on June 11, Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day on July 31, Independence Day on August 15, Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti on September 22, Shaheed Diwas/Haryana War Heroes' Martyrdom Day on September 23, Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti/Dussehra on October 2, Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti/Maharaja Ajimih Jayanti on October 7, Diwali on October 20, Vishvakarma Day on October 22, Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti on November 5 and Christmas on December 25.

President confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 children for excellence in various fields

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 children, recognizing their exceptional courage and outstanding achievements across diverse fields, including art, culture, sports and innovation. The President underlined the importance of nurturing and celebrating young talents. "Providing opportunities and recognizing children's talents has always been a part of our tradition. This tradition should be further strengthened to ensure that every child realizes their full potential," she said. The award celebrates extraordinary accomplishments in seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports and environment. The honourees -- seven boys and ten girls selected from 14 states and Union territories -- were presented with a medal, certificate and citation booklet. Among them was Keya Hatkar, a 14-year-old author and disability advocate, recognized for her excellence in art and culture. Despite living with spinal muscular atrophy, she founded initiatives like "IM POSSIBLE" and "SMA-ART," promoting inclusivity and disability awareness.



President Murmu highlighted the importance of honouring such talents, saying, "The tradition of recognising and nurturing children's potential has always been part of our culture. Their contributions will lead India to the pinnacle of progress." She further emphasised the Ministry of Women and Child Development's role in sharing these stories of inspiration with the wider public. The President also paid homage to the unparalleled sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh's sons, commemorated as 'Veer Bal Diwas' on December 26, saying, "Their sacrifices for faith and self-respect continue to inspire countless generations. On this day, the nation bows in reverence to their bravery and spirit." Among the other awardees was Ayaan Sajad, a 12-year-

old Sufi singer from Kashmir, honoured for his soulful contributions to Kashmiri music, while 17-year-old Vyas Om Jignesh, who has cerebral palsy, was lauded for his dedication to Sanskrit literature, having memorised over 5,000 shlokas and performed in over 500 shows. In bravery, Saurav Kumar (9) was recognised for saving three girls from drowning, and 17-year-old Ioanna Thapa was honoured for rescuing 36 residents from a fire. "Examples of courage and patriotism in children strengthen the nation's confidence in its future. Such acts are truly commendable," President Murmu remarked as she presented the award to the two children. In the innovation category, 15-year-old Sindhoora Raja was awarded for creating self-

stabilizing devices for Parkinson's patients, and cybersecurity entrepreneur Rishiek Kumar (17) was honoured for launching Kashmir's first cybersecurity firm. "Contributions to science, technology, and innovation by children like these show their unparalleled potential to transform lives," the President observed. Hembati Nag, a judo player from a Naxal-affected area was awarded in the sports category. She overcame numerous challenges to win a silver medal at the Khelo India National Games. Mentioning Nag's story, President Murmu said, "Hembati's resilience amidst adversity is an example of unmatched courage and determination." Chess prodigy Anish Sarkar, the youngest FIDE-ranked player at just three years old, was also honoured. The President envisioned a bright future for the awardees, adding, "In 2047, when we celebrate the centenary of our independence, these award winners will be enlightened citizens of the country. Such talented boys and girls will become the builders of a developed India, shaping its destiny through their talent and efforts." "May every child of this nation have a bright and prosperous future, for in their success lies the future of India," she said.

PM Modi pitches for equipping youngsters with skills in emerging technologies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday stressed the need for a futuristic approach to equip youngsters with skills in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning, as he highlighted the crucial role they play in the country's progress. Speaking at an event to mark Veer Bal Diwas, Modi underscored the need to adapt to rapid changes and challenges across various fields, emphasising the government's "youth-centric" policies and efforts to move in that direction with the start of the new education policy. With his government marking the journey of the Constitution's 75 years in a major way, Modi said the Constitution's principle of equality aligns with the teachings of gurus who advocated the welfare of all. Modi said his government is committed to supporting young talent and fostering their self-confidence. "This era has moved beyond machines to machine learning, AI is taking centre stage, and we can see its application replacing conventional software. It is essential to make our youth future ready to tackle



these challenges," he said. He urged the youth to work towards making their respective sectors, be it railways, semiconductors, travel or astronomy, the best. Remembering the "unparalleled" sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh's sons, the Sahibzadas, he said they chose "unwavering courage and faith over submission to the Mughal Empire's oppression." He noted that Veer Bal Diwas teaches an enduring lesson: "No matter how adverse the circumstances, nothing is greater than the nation's cause. Every act done in the interest of the nation is an act of valour." "More than 300 years ago, on December 26, the Sahibzadas, despite their tender age, displayed unparalleled bravery

and sacrificed their lives. They rejected every temptation and endured unimaginable torture, showing that for them, the nation's cause was supreme," he said, urging youngsters to draw inspiration from their legacy. He said India's strong democracy was built on the bravery and sacrifice of the Sahibzadas. "The Constitution teaches us that no one is small or big in the country," he said, adding that this principle aligns with the teachings of our gurus, who advocated for the welfare of all. The prime minister also interacted with the winners of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. Seventeen children from 14 states and Union Territories were honoured for their exceptional contributions in fields like art and culture,

bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and environment. Congratulating the awardees, Modi said, "These children have demonstrated what India's youth are capable of achieving. I extend my best wishes to all the winners on behalf of the nation." He elaborated on the government's focus on empowering the youth through targeted policies. "From startups to science, sports to entrepreneurship, a new wave of transformation is happening. Our policies prioritise giving strength to the youth. Whether it is the startup ecosystem, the future of the space economy, or sports and fitness, all our initiatives are youth-centric." On the occasion, Modi launched the 'Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan', a programme aimed at improving nutritional outcomes through active community participation. The initiative aligns with the government's broader goal of ensuring the well-being of every Indian. Modi also urged young Indians to embrace the values of courage, innovation, and service to propel the nation towards greater unity and progress.

Defence Secretary launches Rashtraparv website, mobile app

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A website that will facilitate access to information related to the organisation of events such as Republic Day and Independence Day, host their live streaming and provide details related to tickets and seating arrangements was launched on Wednesday. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh launched the Rashtraparv website along with its mobile app on the occasion of 'Good Governance Day' that commemorates the birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the defence ministry said. "The website will facilitate access to information related to organisation of national events such as Republic Day, Beating Retreat ceremony, Independence Day, live streaming, purchase of tickets, provide information related to seating arrangements and route-maps of events," it said in a statement. The defence secretary said the website and mobile app, developed by the ministry, "also has



a system for managing the tableaux proposals and historic data regarding events". It will host a tableau management portal to facilitate states and Union Territories, ministries and departments in designing and finalising their tableaux for the Republic Day event, the statement said. The website and mobile application have been a result of a consultative process adopted by the ministry. The states had suggested for a portal for the management of data related to the design of tableaux. Similarly, viewers of Republic Day events in the feedback had

suggested having information regarding events, parades, tableaux. The Rashtraparv website has been developed by incorporating all these inputs, it added. The website can be accessed at rashtraparv.Mod.Gov.In and the mobile app can be downloaded from the government app store (M-Seva), the ministry said. The initiative is a step further towards openness, transparency and citizen-centric governance and is a fitting tribute to the late former prime minister on Good Governance Day, the statement said.

Delhi tutor held for protests by civil service aspirants in Patna

PTI ■ PATNA

A Delhi-based tutor was held on Thursday on the charge of instigating aspirants who tried to "storm into" the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) office in Patna, demanding cancellation of its December 13 examination, an official said. Patna's District Magistrate (DM) Chandrasekar Singh told PTI that preliminary investigations into Wednesday's protests found that one Rohit, a tutor, mobilised and instigated the aspirants. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajeev Mishra said, "Initial investigations have revealed that Rohit had come from Delhi and brought along a number of persons, including girls, posing as disgruntled BPSC aspirants. He is being examined by the investigators." The source of their funding is also being investigated as they seem to be part of a larger conspiracy, he said. "We are probing the larger conspiracy behind yesterday's



incident. What is the source of funding for those who came from outside the state to instigate BPSC aspirants is also the focus of our probe. Rohit seems to be the mastermind of yesterday's protest. Patna Police will send a preliminary report to the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) to investigate their source of funding," he told PTI. Alleging irregularities in the 70th Integrated Combined Competitive Examination (CCE), aspirants demonstrated outside the BPSC office and sought re-examination. The police baton-charged the aspi-

nants to bring the situation under control. The protesters claimed they were treated "like terrorists" and many of them were injured in the police action, a charge which was denied by the authorities. Popular vlogger Motiur Rahman Khan, known as Guru Rahman, also joined the protests at Gardani Bagh. "Police action against BPSC aspirants was highly condemnable. Protesting BPSC aspirants should not have been treated like this. My support is always with the students," he said.

Home Minister Shah to embark on two-day visit to Odisha from Dec 28

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will embark on a two-day visit to Odisha from December 28, during which he will hold an interactive meeting with BJP leaders and workers and attend several other events, a senior party leader said on Thursday. BJP's Odisha in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar said that Shah will arrive in Bhubaneswar on December 28 night and stay till the evening of December 29. On December 29, Shah will attend a programme of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and interact with BJP MPs, MLAs and workers at an event in Kalinga Stadium. Shah will also virtually attend from Bhubaneswar an important meeting of BJP state unit presidents, organisational secretaries, in-charges, deputy-in-charges, and national office bearers from across the coun-



try, he said. Replying to a query, Tomar said there was no plan for Shah to visit Sambalpur though it was scheduled earlier. Shah had last visited Odisha from November 30 to December 1 to attend the DGP-IGP conference. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also visit Odisha on January 9 to attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas here. He will again visit the state on January 28 to inaugurate the 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha' investors' meet.

Thousands offer prayers at Sabarimala during mandala puja

PTI ■ PATHANAMTHITTA (KERALA)

Thousands of devotees offered prayers at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple on Thursday as the auspicious mandala puja was performed at the hill shrine. This marked the culmination of the 41-day-long first leg of the annual pilgrimage season. The mandala puja was conducted in a deeply devotional atmosphere between noon and 12.30 pm after the idol of Lord Ayyappa, the principal deity, was adorned with the "thanka anki," the sacred golden attire brought to the sannidhanam (temple complex) in a ceremonial proces-



sion on Wednesday evening. The temple will close for the night with the recitation of 'Harivarasanam,' temple

authorities said. They added that the Sabarimala temple will reopen at 5 pm on December 30 for the makar-

avilakku festival, which will conclude on January 14. The rituals were led by the temple's head priest, Kandararu Rajeevaru, who adorned the idol with the sacred attire. Thousands of pilgrims from Kerala and other states, who waited in queues for hours in and around the sannidhanam, attended the ceremonies. Prominent officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board were also present near the sanctum sanctorum. According to officials of the TDB, the apex temple body that manages the shrine, as of Wednesday, 32.5 lakh pilgrims had visited the shrine, an increase of 4.07 lakh compared to the same period last

year. In 2023, 28.42 lakh devotees visited the shrine during this period. Spot bookings were limited to 5,000 on December 25 and 26 as part of the arrangements for mandala puja. However, darshan was ensured for all devotees who arrived at Sabarimala, TDB officials said. On Wednesday, when the 'thanka anki' procession reached the sannidhanam, over 62,000 devotees had darshan, they said. By noon on Thursday, nearly 20,000 devotees visited the hill shrine through virtual queue and spot booking facilities before the temple closed, they added.

Rajnath Singh to chair sixth edition of Armed Forces Flag Day CSR conclave today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday here will chair the sixth edition of the Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) conclave, defence ministry said on Thursday. Giving details, officials said the event organised by Kendriya Sainik Board under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare aims to highlight the measures taken towards rehabilitation, resettlement and welfare of the veterans, widows and their dependents and for mobilis-



ing the CSR support towards these efforts. The defence minister will also felicitate the prominent CSR contributors to the AFFD Fund. Minister of state for defence Sanjey Seth, Chief of Defence

Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, Secretary ESW, Niten Chandra, members from the CSR fraternity, veterans, the defence service personnel and other senior officials of the ministry will also attend the conclave.

Yogi Adityanath's 2024: A year of fiery rhetoric and political messaging

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

In a year marked by political contests and cultural debates, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's speeches in 2024 transcended electoral rallies, becoming rallying cries that resonated deeply across India. His carefully crafted remarks, blending critique of opposition parties with appeals for unity among followers of Sanatan Dharma, cemented his position as a mass leader with a vision for a unified and culturally proud India. Among his most impactful slogans was "Katenge Toh

Batenge, Ek Rahenge Toh Nek Rahenge," delivered in Agra in August. This phrase, urging unity among communities, gained traction nationwide as a symbol of his call for solidarity and shared purpose. It underscored a year where Adityanath repeatedly sought to redefine narratives on governance, culture, and justice. Throughout 2024, his speeches targeted the opposition, particularly the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress, accusing them of fostering division, lawlessness, and pseudo-secularism. In Etawah, he raised the issue of justice for the families of victims of mafia violence, including the widows

of slain leaders like BJP MLA Krishnanand Rai and Umesh Pal. He said: SP should give account of Mangalsutra of Alka Rai, Pooja-Jaya Pal" (April 25, Etawah). By questioning the opposition's silence on these matters, Adityanath positioned himself as a crusader for justice and law and order. In his addresses to marginalised communities, Adityanath invoked symbols like Bajrang Bali to emphasize the collective power of unity. At a BJP Backward Class Morcha meeting in Lucknow, he likened the strength of the OBC community to Bajrang Bali's might,



declaring their unity as a force capable of dismantling the divisive strategies of pseudo-secular politics. He said:

"Bajrang Bali's power in OBC society will burn Ravana's Lanka" (July 29, Lucknow) The Chief Minister's rhetoric

often combined vivid imagery with sharp criticism. Phrases like "No Sadbhavna for Mafia and Goons, only the Bullet Train of Justice" captured his administration's stance on women's safety and law enforcement, while "SP ki Topi Laal, Kaarname Kaale" evoked allegations of corruption and criminality against his political opponents. In Haryana, during an election rally, Adityanath criticized Congress leaders as "Accidental Hindus raised in Roman culture," a remark aimed at reinforcing BJP's Hindutva narrative. His comments drew sharp criticism but also bolstered his party's

ideological position among its core supporters. Adityanath's speeches also highlighted his focus on cultural pride and historical legacy. At the unveiling of Rashtreev Durgadas Rathore's statue in Agra, he called for national unity by reflecting on the lessons of divided nations like Bangladesh. His one-liner: "Batenge to katenge, ek rahenge to nek rahenge" (August 26, Agra) became the theme of election campaign in Haryana and Maharashtra. In the Winter session of the state assembly, he reaffirmed India's cultural identity, emphasizing the legacy of

figures like Ram, Krishna, and Buddha while advocating mutual respect among religious communities. He said: "India will uphold the legacy of Ram, Krishna, and Buddha" (December 16, Lucknow). Through his speeches, Adityanath painted a narrative of a strong, unified, and culturally rooted Uttar Pradesh, countering what he described as the opposition's failures and divisive politics. As the year closes, his rhetoric has not only solidified his political standing but also ensured his voice continues to echo in the state's political and cultural discourse.

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short term Sealed item rate tenders on forms 6 & 8 for the below mentioned works are hereby invited from the contractors of appropriate class enlisted with the Jal Shakti Vibhag so as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Matiana on or before 01.01.2025 up to 3.00 P.M. The tender shall be opened on same day at 3.30 P.M in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized representatives who wish to be present at the time of opening of tenders. The tender forms and term and condition can be had on submission of Earnest Money on the production of valid registration in Jal Shakti Vibhag and registration under GST Act, from the office of the undersigned during working hours on 31.12.2024 up to 05.00 P.M payment of cost of form.

The contractor/Firm should provide Registration/Renewal of Enlistment, GST, EPF and PAN No. The earnest money shall be in the shape of NSC/ Saving Bank Account of Post Office in Himachal Pradesh F.D. or Demand Draft duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Matiana or certificate of exemption of earnest deposit. Tender application without cost of tender form and earnest money will be rejected. The telegraphic/conditional tender will not be entertained in any case. The offer shall remain open for 120 days Conditional tender will not be accepted. The Contractor must quote their rate both in words as well in figure. The Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. The contractor only authorized dealers are entitled to participate in the tender. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of tender, then the tender shall be opened on the next working day.

Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Name of Work, Estimate cost, E/Money, Time limit, Cost of form. Contains 4 items related to water supply and sewerage works in Shimla HP.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Matiana

RO NO. 4158/2024-2025 Dt. 26-12-2024

Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kuria Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India

Branch Office: 1st Floor, JTS Estate, Sector No. 3, Bhupindra Road, Patiala - 147001

Branch Office: 2nd Floor, SCO 337/38, Shastri Park, Chandigarh - 160022

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Table with 10 columns: Sr. No., Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Legal Heirs, Loan Account No., Details of the Secured Asset, Amount Outstanding, Reserve Price, Date and Time of Property Inspection, Date and Time of Auction, One Day Before Auction Date, SARFAESI Stage. Contains 2 items.

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL: Link-auctions.sami.in) of our auction agency Shriram Automall India Ltd. The Mortgages/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till January 28, 2025 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before January 28, 2025 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before January 28, 2025 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icicifhc.com/

Date: December 27, 2024 Authorized Officer: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Place: Punjab, CIN Number: U65922MH1999PLC120106

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number, Description of Symbolic Possession, Date of Demand Notice/Amount in Demand Notice (Rs), Name of Branch. Contains 1 item.

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: December 27, 2024 Place: Kaithal (Haryana) Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

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NAME CHANGE

My name is Mohammad Hamish son of Tajib Hussain resident 2464, Vijay Nagar Colony, Jagadhri District Yamuna Nagar. I declare that my home calling name is Nikka, due to which Nikka name is recorded in some of my documents. In my future I will be known as Mohammad Hamish alias Nikka. Make all relevant notes.

Branch Name/Name of Borrower/Guarantor, Description of Immovable property, Date of demand notice, Date of possession, Amount O/s

1. Borrower Sh. Rajkumar Branch Office : G.T. Road Near Roop Old Company Bahalgarh Sonapat

2. Borrower M/S R Enterprises Branch Office : SC-0-178, Sector 13-17, Panipat

3. Borrower Smt. Beena w/o Sh. Sain and Sh. Ravilal Sain, Sh. Indar Sain, Branch Office : M.C. Road, Ganaur - 131101 of village Ganaur with in M.C. Limit Ganaur, Tehsil Ganaur, Distt. Sonapat vide transfer deed no. 2201 dated 18.12.2020 which is bounded by: North : Rasta 24 ft. Wide, South : Plot of others, East : plot of others, West : Plot of Leena, Cersai id: 200130161831.

Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of my client namely Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. (AHFL), having its Branch office at Online Greenwood Plaza, 2nd Floor, Vishkarma Chowk, Gill Road, Ludhiana, it is hereby notified to General Public that Lalsha Singh W/o Dheer Singh/Rohit Singh No. 306, Street no. 7, Near Police Chowk, New Star City Colony Ludhiana, Ludhiana has applied for taking Home Loan for house measuring 64 square yards situated in Star City, Kullewal Ludhiana and comprised of Khata no. 320/321 Kharsa No. 15/21, 20/1/1, 1/2, 2/82, 9, 10, 11, 12/1, 12/2, 12/3, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22/1, 22/2, 23/1, 23/2, 23/15, 16, 25, to 13/2/2 as entered in the Jamabandi for the year 2006-2007 of Village Kullewal Hadast no. 178 Tehsil and District Ludhiana. Lalsha Singh is the owner of the Said Property vide Sale Deed dated the 13/03/2024 bearing number no. 2023-24/1061/29482. It is hereby informed that the previous original Sale Deed dated 13/03/2024 bearing vaska no. 10277 and Sale Deed dated 13/03/2019 bearing vaska no. 11826 and Sale Deed dated 26/09/2011 bearing vaska no. 13288 and Sale Deed dated 23/02/2011 bearing vaska no. 17709 which are part of chain of title documents in regard to Said Property, has been misplaced/lost to present owner Lalsha Singh and the same is not traceable. To this effect owner have not submitted any further documents in support of declaration furnished by the present owner Lalsha Singh the above sale deed was earlier in her possession and the said property is unencumbered and no mortgage, charge or lien has been created over the Said Property in favour of any Bank, any financial institution or any other person/transferor. If any Bank/financial institution or person has any claim or declaration in regard to the above transaction and creation of equitable mortgage of Said Property by the above said persons in favour of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), then it/s/he/s/they may kindly contact me or Mr. Arun Madan (Branch Manager) within 7 days from the date of publication of this public notice on the below mentioned address, no claim or objection whatsoever shall be entertained later on. Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) shall be free to exercise all its rights and privileges for disbursing the loan amount to above said proposed customer.

Public Notice It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned with the property No. Flat no 219A FF Housing Board Colony, Sector-3,4,4A, Pinjore, Kalka, Panchikula, Haryana, who are the owners of the said property in the name of Smt. Gurjit Kaur W/o Sh. Rajendra Singh, Tehsil and Distt. Patiala, area measuring 67 Marlas 16.00 Sq. Yds, comprised in Khewat/Khatoni no. 1478/2094, Kharsa no. 136/10m/2-1, (18-0), 12/2-0, Kite 3, Total area 18-0 Kanals out of which 17/300 shad 18-0 Kanals, 18-0 Kanals, in the name of Smt. Gurjit Kaur W/o Sh. Rajendra Singh vide sale deed no. 6468 dated 31.08.2017 vide mutation no. 159/2017 are as per revenue records. The present owner (Smt. Gurjit Kaur) is stating that the previous Original Sale deed no. 10071 dated 15/09/2017 regarding the property mentioned above has been lost and regarding this a DOR/D No. 161/1499/2017 dated 28.11.2017 registered with the Aditya Birla Finance Limited is required with the present owner of the said property which is unencumbered and no mortgage has been created over the said property in favour of any Bank or any financial institution. The said property has never been sold or transferred to any person and the same is not subject to any claim or lien in respect of the said property more particularly described in the schedule herewith or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equity/debt/registered), gift, trust, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to me with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned herein below and returned if found the missing transfer deed within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If any claim or lien of such person will be considered to have waived and my client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and creation of mortgage in respect thereof. If any person has grievance contact below.

Yours Faithfully, Rupinder Singh Advocate, Chartered Accountant, 508, 4th Floor, Ashwini Complex District Court, Patiala, On behalf of Aditya Birla Finance Limited MC - 99143-79170

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Public Notice



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A blow to regional peace

The fragile peace of South Asia faced a severe setback when Pakistan conducted airstrikes in Afghanistan

On the night of December 24, 2024, a series of airstrikes conducted by Pakistan in Afghanistan's Barmal district of Paktika province claimed the lives of at least 15 civilians, including women and children. The strikes targeted seven villages, causing significant destruction, particularly in areas like Murg Bazaar and Laman, where an entire family of five was killed. This incident has further strained relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, raising serious concerns about the stability of South Asia. The airstrikes appear to be a direct response to Pakistan's growing concerns over the activities of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Pakistan has justified the strikes as a necessary measure to eliminate TTP hideouts and secure its borders. However, the Afghan Taliban strongly denies these allegations, claiming instead that the airstrikes targeted civilians, including Waziristani refugees who had previously fled military operations in Pakistan's tribal areas. The implications of this attack extend far beyond the immediate violence, casting a shadow over peace and security in South Asia. The airstrikes, coupled with the Taliban's vow to retaliate, risk escalating into a broader conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Such hostilities could destabilise the region, which is already grappling with insurgencies, cross-border terrorism, and long-standing disputes.



In addition to the geopolitical ramifications, the humanitarian impact is profound. Afghanistan, a nation still recovering from decades of war, now faces further devastation. Civilian populations, particularly refugees, are bearing the brunt of this violence, with villages like Murg Bazaar reduced to rubble and countless families displaced. The destruction exacerbates an already dire humanitarian crisis, highlighting the urgent need for international aid and support. This conflict also undermines ongoing peace efforts in the region. Dialogues involving Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other stakeholders, essential for fostering stability, risk being derailed by such incidents. Additionally, it hinders cooperative initiatives against terrorism, a shared threat that requires coordinated regional action. The situation further complicates geopolitics in South Asia, prompting countries like India, China and Iran to reassess their strategies. Pakistan's actions, though driven by immediate security concerns, may strain its relationships with traditional allies and global powers advocating for peace in the region. To address this growing crisis, both countries must prioritise dialogue and cooperation. Constructive bilateral engagement is crucial to resolving mutual concerns, particularly regarding the TTP and border security. Neutral mediators, such as the United Nations, could play a vital role in facilitating these discussions. Beyond bilateral efforts, regional cooperation is essential. A unified initiative led by organisations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) could encourage collective action against terrorism and promote economic interdependence, reducing the incentives for conflict.

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PICTALK



The Badrinath Dham covered with snow during fresh snowfall, in Chamoli

Jordan's ambivalent stance on Palestine



BHOPIINDER SINGH

While maintaining a façade of solidarity, Jordan's actions often reveal a pragmatic, if controversial, approach to safeguarding its own interests in a volatile region

Jordanian reality towards the Palestinians) Jordanians have had a wounded, complicated, and manipulative history. House of Hashim or the Hashemite dynasty rules Jordan with the current King Abdullah II, as the 41st generation of the direct descendants of Prophet Muhammad. While Hashemites were the Sharif and Emir of Mecca with rule over larger Hejaz, they were violently ousted from the control over the same by the rival Saud family. This military loss led to the loss of the symbolically vital title of the "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques" to the Saud family, of modern-day Saudi Arabia. Hashemites were also to lose monarchical claim of rule on lands of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq and were left with only the Jordanian swathes - which unlike other Arab lands was bereft of oil, natural resources, ports, or any other meaningful lever of power. They had to be creative in dealing with the situation and remaining relevant and protected. Geographical contiguity to Palestinian lands led to Jordan demonstrating fluctuating concern that oscillated from supporting the Palestinian cause to wily-nilly, acting against the same. During the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, Jordan occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem (which it annexed in 1950), only to lose the same to Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967. Historians often note the unique culture of "back channels" (facilitating clandestine meetings) between the Jordanians and Israelis that led to counterintuitive accommodations, even amid war. In the subsequent Arab-Israel War of 1973 (Yom Kippur War), Jordan had curiously avoided joining Arab ranks against Israel. Jordanian King Hussein had secretly flown to Tel Aviv to warn Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir of the impending Arab plans to attack Israel. Ultimately when Jordan was morally forced to support the war against Israel, declassified accounts confirm that it was only to preserve Jordan's image in the Arab world and that it had already entered into a tacit agreement with Israel that it would not attack Israeli elements.



It wasn't the first time the Jordanians had worked duplicitously against the Arab or Palestinian cause, as just a couple of years earlier, the infamous and bloody "Black September" (Sep 1970 - July 1971) had occurred. Jordanian Army had surrounded camps and townships with Palestinians fideyeen of various groups and brutally cut them down to size. Nearly 3500 were killed in the purge and the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organisation) fighters were expelled to neighbouring Lebanon. Again, the Jordanians had aligned with Israel before commencing this attack. Importantly Syrian forces that had intervened on behalf of Palestinian fighters were repulsed leaving 600 Syrians dead and a loss of 120 tanks. Interestingly, like the historically insincere support of Jordanians towards the Palestinians, one important figure who participated along the Jordanian forces in massacring the Palestinians was a then Pakistani Brigadier (later dictator) Zia-ul-Haq, who was on deputation! In 1987 Jordanian King Hussein and Israeli foreign affairs minister (later President) Shimon Peres met secretly to work on a peace treaty which was followed up with Jordanians forsaking their claim on the West Bank, the subsequent year. By 1994 the two countries



IN THE SUBSEQUENT ARAB-ISRAEL WAR OF 1973 (YOM KIPPUR WAR), JORDAN HAD CURIOUSLY AVOIDED JOINING ARAB RANKS AGAINST ISRAEL

signed a formal Peace Treaty (the second Arab nation after Egypt) and normalised relations with Israel. Odd public bickering on issues like Al Aqsa Mosque aside, the top leadership of both countries kept meeting discretely, whilst Jordan kept maintaining the façade of support towards Palestine. Practically, they engaged and operated as allies. Post the Hamas terror attack (7th Oct 2023) on Israel and the subsequent and disproportionate budgeoning of the Gaza Strip, the Jordanians had no choice but to expel the Israeli ambassador to maintain face in the Arab world. However, as it was only Iran and its proxies like the Syrian Bashar Al Assad government and the Lebanese Hezbollah who were offering any meaningful resistance to the Israelis - then the Jordanians did the unthinkable in favour of the Israelis when they shot down Iranian drones attacking Israel. Practically, the Jordanians weighed in favour of the Israeli military (all perfunctory concerns towards the beleaguered Palestinians, notwithstanding). Jordanians watched silently as Southern Lebanon was attacked and as the Syrian regime was overrun by forces born out of Al Qaeda, ending the last possible faction that had taken on the Israelis in favour of the Palestinians. For

a long, Jordanian King Abdullah had warned against the spectre of a rising "Shia Crescent" (assertion of Shiite rule in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon). He therefore would be presumably pleased to see the decimation of the sectarian rivals, which coincidentally also ended the last modicum of challenge to the Israelis. Beyond vacuous words, the practical conduct of the Jordanians has been suspiciously two-faced on the ostensible redlines as defined by King Abdullah i.e., "No to abandoning the guardianship of Jerusalem and the holy sites, no to the one-state solution, and no for Jordan to be an alternative homeland for the Palestinians". The picture has perhaps never been further from the so-called Jordanian redlines, as now, the fate of Palestinians, Jerusalem, and the possibility of a two-state solution, is at its lowest. History will judge the conduct of Arab monarchies and their lip-serving commitment towards Palestine, but perhaps none as ambidextrously as the Jordanians, who often fancy themselves to be of the highest order. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOLVING INDIA'S WATER CRISIS

Madam — Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa river linking project, the first initiative under the national river linking policy, at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. It is really a welcome step in solving the water crisis in India. Nearly 65 lakh people of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh will get drinking water, and more than 7 lakh farmer families of 2000 villages will benefit from the project. Also, it has been proposed to generate 103 MW of hydropower. The project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to Betwa in UP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region. Under the project, a 77 m high and 2.13 km long Daudhan dam and two tunnels will be constructed on the Ken River. Interlinking rivers can control both floods and droughts. This river linking project can have significant ecological consequences, can impact the biodiversity of the region, and can affect Panna Tiger Reserve too. Even then the project will create many employment opportunities as well as boost the rural economy. Ken-Betwa is the first river linking project under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for the linking of rivers. The National Water Development Agency should identify a few more river linking projects to avoid floods and to cultivate more lands in drought-prone areas in India.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

DEBATE ON CONSTITUTION

Madam — The recent debate commemorating 75 years of the Constitution's adoption left the citizens highly disappointed. The expectation from our parliamentarians was of a healthy debate and an academic discussion. Instead what we saw was a brownie point scoring match between our parliamentarians, who decided to nitpick on what our founding fathers had said and when without providing the context in which it was said.



KAPEEL BARSAIYAN

India's hidden crisis: Battling malnutrition for a healthier future

Malnutrition among children in India stands as a pressing public health challenge, intricately linked to poverty, systemic inequalities and environmental hurdles

Malnutrition among children remains a critical public health issue in India, deeply intertwined with poverty, systemic inequalities, and environmental challenges. Despite the nation's economic progress, the persistent issues of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies continue to hinder India's overall growth and development, casting a shadow over its aspirations for a healthier future. The 2023 Global Hunger Index paints a grim picture, with India ranked 111th out of 125 countries and a score of 28.7, indicating a "serious" hunger situation. Although there has been marginal improvement from a score of 29.2 in 2015, the pace of progress lags behind peer economies. Disturbingly, India records the world's highest rate of child wasting at 18.7 per cent, while 35.5 per cent of children under five are stunted. These figures highlight the long-term health and developmental implications of malnutrition. Several interconnected challenges exacerbate this issue.



Poverty remains a significant factor, with India contributing nearly 40 per cent to the global poverty rate and 389 million people living in poverty across South Asia. Millions of children are left vulnerable to malnutrition due to limited resources. Compounding this is inadequate nutrition and sanitation, as poor dietary intake, restricted access to clean water, and insufficient healthcare facilities worsen the situation. The health and cognitive impacts of malnutrition are profound, weakening immune systems, increasing susceptibility to diseases, and impairing cognitive development. These effects

ripple through to academic performance and future opportunities, trapping many in a cycle of poverty. Regional disparities further intensify the problem, with states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh shouldering a disproportionate burden of malnourished children. Higher poverty rates and systemic challenges in these regions make addressing the issue even more complex. To combat malnutrition, the Government of India has implemented various programs. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to enhance the nutritional status of children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program offers supplementary nutrition, education, immunisation, and health check-ups. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme addresses hunger and malnutrition among school-going children, while the National Food Security Act (NFSA) provides subsidised food grains to economically vulnerable populations. Other initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Matru

Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and the National Health Mission (NHM), include financial incentives for pregnant women and specialised care through Nutrition Rehabilitation and Lactation Management Centres. While these efforts have yielded positive outcomes, more comprehensive strategies are needed to address the root causes of malnutrition. Tackling poverty, improving education, expanding healthcare access, and ensuring sanitation are critical steps toward sustainable progress. Collaborative efforts among policymakers, non-governmental organisations, and local communities are essential to create meaningful change. True progress is reflected in the wellbeing of every individual, especially the youngest members of society. By prioritising nutrition and equity, India can foster a healthier, well-nourished generation and pave the way for sustainable development. (The writer is Kapeel Barsaiyan, President, Buddh Jyoti Foundation; views are personal)

One Nation, One Subscription



The Government of India's One Nation-One Subscription (ONOS) initiative aims to transform education, research, and innovation by ensuring equitable access to academic resources. Announced in 2022 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to create a knowledge-based society. With a Rs 6,000 crore budget allocated for 2025-2027, ONOS will provide subscriptions to international research

journals, academic databases, and other resources, addressing disparities in education and research. The initiative will empower students and researchers, especially from rural and smaller institutions, by granting them access to resources previously limited to well-funded universities. This inclusivity will bridge the rural-urban divide and foster innovation by enabling access to global advancements. Additionally, its focus on digital platforms reduces dependency on physical materials, supporting environmental sustainability and the objectives of the Digital India campaign. Despite its promise, ONOS faces challenges, including concerns over its high cost and limited digital infrastructure in rural areas, which could restrict access. Critics caution that without transparent implementation, the initiative may primarily benefit larger institutions.

RK Jain | Barwani

Our parliamentarians decided to cherry-pick the words of our founding fathers, like B R Ambedkar, J L Nehru, K M Munshi, etc., to suit their own narrative. The constituent assembly had various members with varying views. Each motion was debated and voted in favour of or against, and ultimately the majority carried, but to now selectively pick up each and every sentence and comma from their speeches to paint a narrative is a disservice to the memory of our founding fathers. It is necessary to remember the words of two members of the Constituent Assembly who went on to forge different paths later in life - one Mino Masani, a parsi who joined Sawtantarta Party and became Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha who said, "Where the state belongs to the people, the state is subordinate to the people and only then does the state serve the people" and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, a devout hindu who served in Nehru's cabinet who said, "We shall go ahead with our work in spite of all obstacles and help to create that great India, united and strong

which will be the motherland of not this community and that, not of this class Or that but of every person, man, woman and child inhabiting this country. " May these words of our founding fathers guide our parliamentarians in securing a bright future for India, and may their sacred constituent be their conscious keeper. Gurnoor Grewal | Chandigarh

KHEL RATNA CONTROVERSY

Madam — It is baffling that Manu Bhaker, who made history by bagging two medals in a single Olympics in Paris, is absent from the list of Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna awardees. If any athlete deserves to be given this award this year, it is Manu Bhaker. Her father is absolutely right: Manu has done her part by giving huge laurels to the country where we have only a handful of individual medal winners; now it is up to the GoI to recognise her feat and reward it.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

ACHIEVERS NEVER QUIT

Achievers are not born but forged by their ability to ignite their natural talents over time



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

Jack Croushore was a charismatic leader, a successful steel magnate and an achiever, who never called it quits, regardless of the situation that confronted him. He was also equally adept in adopting the strategy of using kid gloves when situations so required. Over a period, his mind learnt that situational factors influence leadership effectiveness. Successful leaders are high-end achievers, those who do not quit. They are blessed with halcyon days in life, which provide them with joyful moments, and there may be woe-begone incidences that fortuitously do not cripple their passion to climb the ladder of prosperity. Nancy Gibbs says, "High achievers, we imagine, were wired for greatness from birth. But then you must wonder why, over time, natural talent seems to ignite in some people and dim in others." Recall the talismanic movie 3 Idiots. Aamir Khan, Sharman Joshi and R. Madhavan essayed the principal roles.

They were euphemistically called the 3 idiots by the director of the institute. Among them, Rancho (Aamir Khan) was an achiever blessed with natural talent, out-of-the-box thinking and revolutionary ideas. There is a poignant scene in the movie where Ali Fazal, who played the role of Joy Lobo, snuffs out his life as he was unable to meet the deadline for completing the assigned project work and thus became a laggard. He was working on a battery-operated 'flying machine', which could capture various events through its magical eyes and features. Alas, his attempts were abortive, while the consummate Rancho was successful in designing the machine... and during a test flight, he and the entire college were witnesses to the shocking tragedy of Joy Lobo taking his life. Dismayed at the turn of events, Lobo prominently wrote on the walls of his room - I QUIT.



The scene graphically recorded the miscarriage of the project and the abject subjugation of the character who was not an achiever. Once, some superiors decided to cashier an employee for a lacklustre performance. He decided to quit all relationships and his spirituality, and in sheer desperation informed God that he had decided to abandon his life. God asked him to look around in a forest for ferns and bamboo. When God planted ferns and bamboo seeds, he took special care of them and protected them from all the vagaries of weather. Within a year the ferns became resplendent and indescend, covering the entire floor space, while the bamboo seeds showed no growth.

Over the following four years, the forest became verdant with the ever-expanding ferns and yet there was no sign of the bamboo growing or developing into a tree. In the fifth year, the bamboo seeds began to sprout. Within the next six months, the bamboo shoots rose to a height of a hundred feet, lording over the fern plantation. God smiled at the man and said that he never gave up on the bamboo seeds over five years. During this timeframe, the roots of the bamboo tree were growing. Our period of struggle is akin to the development of the roots of the bamboo tree. Both the fern and the bamboo grew at their own pace, as willed by the universe and nature. They complemented each other's growth and were not competitors. Happiness makes us sweet and trials fortify us; sorrows when encountered should make us strong and success ought to make us grateful and radiant. In the ultimate analysis, it is only a positive disposition and thoughts that keep us ticking so that achievers do not lower their guard and thereby do not quit.

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

The key to shaping inclusive future

As automation, artificial intelligence and globalisation reshape industries, lifelong learning and adaptability are essential to staying competitive



DINESH SOOD

In an era of rapid technological advancements and shifting economic landscapes, the conversation around skill development has never been more relevant. Skills are no longer just tools for employment; they are the chisels and hammers that sculpt our collective future, shaping individuals and nations. Historically, skills were tied to tradition and geography. A farmer learned the trade from generations before, and an artisan honed their craft through years of apprenticeship. But the 21st century has shattered these boundaries. Today, the Advent of automation, artificial intelligence, and globalisation demands a workforce that can continuously adapt, innovate, and learn. Skills are not static; they evolve, and the pace of this evolution is accelerating. At the heart of this transformation lies the understanding that skill development is no longer a one-time event but a lifelong journey. The future belongs to those who embrace this mindset. A software engineer may need to transition to being a data analyst tomorrow. A marketer should delve into behavioural psychology or artificial intelligence. The world is moving toward a gig economy, where flexibility, creativity, and adaptability are not just assets but necessities. Those who rest on their laurels risk being left behind in a world where change is the only constant. India has the brain power needed to rise in the skilled world. Governments, educational institutions, and private enterprises all play a role in fostering a skill development culture.

Traditional education systems, built to serve industrial-era needs, must undergo a radical shift. The focus should be more than rote learning or degree acquisition, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and technical competencies. Initiatives like coding boot camps, vocational training, and online learning platforms have already begun to disrupt the status quo, democratising access to quality education. But more must be done to ensure inclusivity and widespread reach. When we talk of skills, we mean making one employable to earn a livelihood quickly and decently. As per the National Policy of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015, We had the target to impart various skills to 40 crore people by the end of 2022. However, around 4 crore people have been trained. Still, there is a massive opportunity for varied stakeholders to come forward and arm our men and women with employable skills. It is nothing but aligning the entire skilling ecosystem with the demands of employers. Today, a considerable gap exists between the demand for a skilled workforce and their availability in the market.

Among 150 million young people in developing countries, around 33 per cent are skilled but unemployed, as their employability quotient could be better. Government policy interventions can bridge the gap between demand and supply in the workforce market. Incentivising employable skill development through subsidies, tax benefits, or public-private partnerships can empower citizens to upskill or reskill. Furthermore, governments must create frameworks encouraging lifelong learning, such as subsidised courses or learning credits for professionals looking to update their skills. Meanwhile, industries must recognise their role in creating agile workforces.



AMONG 150 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AROUND 33 PER CENT ARE SKILLED BUT UNEMPLOYED, AS THEIR EMPLOYABILITY QUOTIENT COULD BE BETTER. GOVERNMENT POLICY INTERVENTIONS CAN BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN DEMAND AND SUPPLY IN THE WORKFORCE MARKET

Corporate training programs, mentorship initiatives, and collaborations with educational institutions are not just investments in employees but investments in the future of the business itself. Companies that foster a culture of continuous learning often enjoy higher productivity, better employee retention, and a competitive edge in their industries. Moreover, the private sector can lead the way in identifying future skills by analysing market trends and technological advancements, ensuring training programmes remain relevant and forward-looking. However, skill development is not just about economic progress but also a tool for social empowerment. In many developing nations, lack of access to education and skills has perpetuated cycles of poverty. Equipping marginalised communities with in-demand skills can uplift entire populations, ensuring more inclusive growth. A young woman in a rural village learning coding or a displaced worker mastering digital marketing are potent examples of how skills can change lives. These stories highlight the transformative potential of skill development, turning adversity into opportunity and fostering hope where it is needed most. This empowerment extends beyond individuals to communities and entire societies. Skilled populations are better equipped to address local challenges, from improving infrastructure to boosting small businesses.

In this way, skill development catalyses innovation and self-reliance, reducing dependency on external aid and fostering sustainable growth. Communities investing in their human capital often see a ripple effect, where increased productivity and prosperity lead to better healthcare, education, and quality of life. As we champion skill development, addressing the challenges it pre-

sents is also critical. The digital divide, for instance, threatens to exclude those who lack access to technology or internet connectivity. Rural areas and underserved regions often bear the brunt of this inequity, leaving millions without the tools to participate in the modern economy. Bridging this gap requires a concerted effort from the public and private sectors, including infrastructure investments, affordable technology, and localised training programs catering to specific regional needs. Similarly, a one-size-fits-all approach to skills training is likely to fail. Each individual's journey is unique, shaped by their aspirations, context, and potential. Personalised, learner-centric approaches must become the norm. Adaptive learning technologies powered by artificial intelligence can significantly tailor educational content to suit individual needs and learning styles. This ensures that skill development is essential, practical, engaging, and relevant. Moreover, we must shift the narrative around failure in skill acquisition. Learning a new skill often involves trial and error, and creating an environment where individuals feel encouraged to experiment and grow without fear of judgment is essential. Employers and educators must foster a culture that values resilience and continuous improvement over perfection. The metaphor of skill as a sculptor is apt. Like marble, raw talent has limitless potential. But becoming something remarkable requires the right tools, guidance, and effort. Skill development chisels away ignorance, carves out opportunities and polishes the rough edges of human potential. It bridges the gap between dreams and reality, between where we are and where we aspire to be. As we look to the future, let us remember the power

of skills to redefine what is possible. Whether combating climate change, revolutionising healthcare and wellness, or exploring the frontiers of space, skilled individuals will be at the helm of every breakthrough. By investing in skill development today, we are not just preparing for tomorrow but shaping it. The urgency of this investment cannot be overstated. The COVID-19 pandemic served as a wake-up call, highlighting the vulnerabilities of unskilled or under-skilled workers in a volatile economy. Millions faced job losses, and industries struggled to adapt to new remote work and digital operations norms. Yet, it also demonstrated the resilience of those equipped with the right skills to pivot and thrive in uncertain times. The lessons learned must guide our approach, emphasising the importance of resilience, adaptability, and future-proof skills. Furthermore, as technology evolves, ethical considerations must be integrated into skill development. Understanding the implications of artificial intelligence, data privacy, and sustainability is as crucial as mastering technical competencies. This holistic approach ensures rapid and responsible progress, fostering a future where innovation aligns with human values and societal well-being. In conclusion, skill development is more than a response to economic demands; it is a transformative force that shapes our world. It empowers individuals, drives innovation, and fosters inclusive growth. By investing in skills, we invest in people, and by investing in people, we invest in the future. (The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres. The views expressed are personal)

Witch-hunting in India: A persistent plague claiming women's lives

Despite legal interventions, witch-hunting remains a grim reality in parts of India, targeting marginalised women

In 2014, Partners for Law in Development (PLD), a legal resource group working on social justice and women's rights, carried out a study to understand the reasons behind rising violence against women in the name of witch hunting in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. They found that women were blamed for illness, death and even a bad crop and branded as witches.



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

there was complicity in the community. Their study also revealed that although laws in Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh criminalising acts/offences particular to witch hunting, such as 'identifying' any person as a witch along with the mental and physical torture accompanying such identification existed, the apathy of the state led to the continuation of witch hunting prac-

tics. Ten years later, nothing seems to have changed. Witch hunting continues to claim women's lives even in 2024. Over 663 were killed for allegedly practising witchcraft during 2015 and 2021 according to the National Crime Research Bureau (NCRB). Worryingly, the main perpetrators of this violence also remain the same, says Nirantar Trust, a NGO working on gender and education. Findings of the Trust's recent survey on witch hunting in 114 villages across 10 districts in Bihar showed 43 per cent of the victims were targeted by members from their own family. Their study, released earlier this month, also found a significant proportion of the

women victimised as witches were between the age group 45 to 60. Moreover, 73 per cent of the victims had never been to school. Nirantar also found that more than single women or widows, it was married women who were branded as witches, corroborating the findings of the 2014 PLD study. In many instances, perpetrators were related to the male kin of the husband and thus negated the traditional belief that married women were safer than single women. Another grave concern raised in the 2024 study is the targeting of women from marginalised backgrounds who have shown agency and the courage to raise their voices against the



deeply entrenched patriarchy. The inability of the government to sensitise men while pushing for women's empowerment has endan-

gered many women in leadership roles. One of the easiest ways to show the woman her place has been to brand her as a witch. Of the 44 per cent of women who faced

accusations of witchcraft from castes other than their own, the majority were from the upper caste. Nirantar found that most women preferred not to report this mental and physical assault as they were afraid it would lead to increased violence, greater social ostracisation and humiliation. They also lacked trust in the sincerity and efficacy of law enforcement agencies. The inability to provide timely justice can be fatal as found by Action Aid Association. The NGO, which detailed 102 case studies from Odisha's 12 districts reporting maximum witch-hunting incidents in 2021, found that despite the law, more than 30 per cent of the total cases had led to the death of the

woman branded as a witch. Chhutki Mahto, the fire-brand social activist from Jharkhand, who received the Padma Shri in 2021 for her role in rescuing over 100 women accused of witchcraft, knows the pain because she too, was targeted as a witch. She survived and embarked on a mission to help others. But why is the onus only on survivors? NCRB data shows that since 2000, over 2,500 women have been killed for being witches. How many more women need to die before action against such inhuman acts is given the priority it deserves? (The author is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views expressed are personal)

**SUKHO KHALSA SR. SEC. SCHOOL
JAIL ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058
A GOVT. AIDED MINORITY SCHOOL**

CORRIGENDUM

Reference previous advertisement dated 11.10.2024 published in two newspapers "The Pioneer" Delhi NCR (English + Hindi), following changes are being made in two vacancies only.

- * The post of TGT Social Science is deleted due to some administrative reasons.
- * The post of TGT English is reserved for PwBD.

All other contents of previous advertisement dated 11/10/2024 remain same and the candidates who previously applied for other posts (except the above 2 posts) in response to Advertisement dated 11/10/2024 need not apply afresh.

Age, Qualification etc. are as per Recruitment Rules applicable for Govt. Aided Minority Schools of the Directorate of Education Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Blank application form (to apply for the post of TGT English reserved for PwBD) to be collected from school office on all working days between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The blank application forms will be provided free of cost.

Application form duly completed in all respect along with self attested copies of testimonials should reach through speed post/registered post to the Chairman/Manager Sukho Khalsa Senior Secondary School, Jail Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-58 within 10 days from the date of this advertisement. Thereafter no application will be accepted. No application will be received by hand.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/30/2024-25 Dated: 24-12-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SN.1. Tender No. 30/24/5105/OT/252/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 31-12-2024

Brief Description: NG Carriage Bogie Components (AS PER ANNEXURE-1 (CONSISTING 32 ITEMS except SN- 24) & DRAWINGS ARE ATTACHED). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0] [U/VAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods Qty- 10 Set for SSE/WS/Tindharia, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No. - 300003620016.

SN.2. Tender No. 70/24/0895/OT/253/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 06-01-2025

Brief Description: PVC in Roll Size- 2 mm x 1.62 m x 14 m including PVC electrode dia 2 mm = 50 m per roll, Shades & patterns -RDSO sample NAC FLG 02, Colour - Blue. RDSO Spec. No. RDSO/2006/CG-12 (Rev.1) with amend. 5 of July 2019 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] 1) Qty-10000.00 Metre for Dibragurh Town/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 12800.00 Metre for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. 75613839.

SN.3. Tender No. 37/24/0551A/OT/254/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 08-01-2025

Brief Description: Constant contact polyurethane side bearer pad assembly. Drg No.: RDSO Approved drawing No. AAL-021101, alt-8. Mat. Spec.: WD-38-MISC-2004 REV-2 of Nov/2022 [Warranty Period- 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [U/VAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods, 1) Qty- 1391 Set for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 347 Set for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No. - 38106528.

SN.4. Tender No. 40/24/0597D/OT/255/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 06-01-2025

Brief Description: Coupling socket assembly complete as per RDSO drawing No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0177(Rev.1) 2013 and RCF drawing No LW71300 as per Drg. No. N/A spec no. EDTS-105(Rev/E) Amndt-1, 2 and 3. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [U/VAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods, Qty- 45 Nos for Dibragurh Town/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty: 15 Nos for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 45150242.

SN.5. Tender No. 61/24/5325/OT/256/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 08-01-2025

Brief Description: Manufacture and supply of Mono Block Pre-Stressed concrete Line Sleeper (Pre-tensioned type) conforming to RDSO Drg.No. T-8746 and IRS specification No T-39 (as amended up to date of tender opening) duly loaded in to Wagons/road vehicles. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp. NA, Stages: 0] U/VAM Linking: Item Type: Goods i) Qty- 137742 Nos for Sr. DEN/C/Kathihar, NFR (Bihar), ii) Qty: 422329 Nos. for DRM/W/Alipurduar Jn., NFR (West Bengal). iii) Qty: 69449 Nos for Sr. DEN/C/Lumding, NFR (Assam). iv) Qty: 171412 Nos for DRM/W/Tinsukia, NFR (Assam). v) Qty: 95086 Nos for CH.OS/G/ENGG/Rangiya, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.- 601600900143.

SN.6. Tender No. 70/24/0003A/OT/257/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 10-01-2025

Brief Description: Decorative Thermosetting Synthetic Resin Bonded Laminated sheets with fir worthiness property Size: 2440 mm x 1220 mm x 3 mm. thickness. As per RDSO Spec. No C-K514 (Rev-0 of Dec 2005) with 7 Amendments. Last Amendment No 7 of August 2016 and with corrigendum No 1 of June 2015.As per RDSO Approved Sample CODE AC_SP02 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [U/VAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods, i) Qty- 309 Nos for Dibragurh Town/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty: 2875 Nos. for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam) P.L. No. - 75400250.

SN.7. Tender No. 37/24/0636/OT/258/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 13-01-2025

Brief Description: Poly Rinhgs-3 for side Bearer Pad Assembly. Drawing-AAL-021101. Item-5mAlt-8. Mat. Spec.-RDSO Spec-No. WD-38-Misc-2004 (Rev.2). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [U/VAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods, i) Qty: 5991 Nos for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam). ii) Qty: 706 Nos. for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No-38106530.

SN.8. Tender No. 40/24/5427/OT/259/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 13-01-2025

Brief Description: Supply of Self-locking Spring inserted steel nut single piece reusable of size M-27 for 28 mm dia hook bolt as per RDSO spec. No 1773549/2023/O/o ED/BnS/RDSO. including 01 no. appropriate box Wrench/50 nos.nuts.Spec.details.Ln-37.5 mm, Sn-41.0 mm, Hn-22.0 mm, Bn-41.0 mm, Cn-47.3 mm, Plating-Electro-galvanized or Hot-dip galvanized or nickel alloy. NAS3350 Vibration test certificate required with proper OEM/authorization certificate. Make- SAPER LOCK or similar. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0] [U/VAM Linking] Item Type: Goods i) Qty: 500 Nos for SSE/P/WAY/Dalkhola, NFR(West Bengal), ii) Qty-1500 Nos for SSE/P-WAY/Samsi, NFR (West Bengal) P.L. No. 731301690012.

SN.9. Tender No. 70/24/0476/OT/260/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 16-01-2025

Brief Description: "Bolt MS Hex Head M16 X 50 with Nut as per Specn. BIS Specification No: Steel, IS-1363, pt-1-2002 for Bolt and IS: 1363-PI-III-2002 for Nut.Property Class 4.6 [four point six] [for Bolt and 5 (Five) for Nut] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [U/VAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods i) Qty-11000 Kgs for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam). ii)6000 Kgs for Dibragurh Town/WORKSHOP/DEPOT,NFR (Assam) iii) Qty: 400 Kgs for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam) iv) Qty-19000 Kgs for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal) P.L. No.-73031379.

Note: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in). Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM, Maligaon

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China approves world's largest dam over Brahmaputra river

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has approved the construction of the world's largest dam, stated to be the planet's biggest infra project costing USD 1.37 billion, on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet close to the Indian border, raising concerns in riparian states — India and Bangladesh. The Chinese government has approved the construction of a hydropower project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, the Tibetan name for the

Brahmaputra, according to an official statement quoted by state-run Xinhua news agency on Wednesday. The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra river makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh. The total investment in the dam could exceed one trillion yuan (USD 137 billion), which would dwarf any other single infrastructure project on the planet including China's own

Three Gorges Dam, regarded as the largest in the world, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday. China has already Operationalised the USD 1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet in 2015. The Brahmaputra dam was part of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the

Year 2035 adopted by Plenum, a key policy body of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2020. Concerns arose in India as the dam besides empowering China to control the water flow, the size and scale of it could also enable Beijing to release large amounts of water flooding border areas in times of hostilities. India too is building a dam over Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh. India and China established the Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) in 2006 to discuss various issues related to trans-border rivers under which China

provides India with hydrological information on the Brahmaputra river and Sutlej river during the flood seasons. Data sharing of trans-border rivers figured in the talks between India, China Special Representatives (SRs) for border question, NSA Ajit Dwal and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, held here on December 18. The SRs "provided positive directions for cross-border cooperation and exchanges" including data sharing on trans-border rivers, a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The Brahmaputra Dam presents enormous engineering challenges as the project site is located along a tectonic plate boundary where earthquakes occur. The Tibetan plateau, regarded as the roof of the world, frequently experiences earthquakes as it is located over the tectonic plates.

The official statement on Wednesday sought to allay concerns about earthquakes, saying that the hydropower project is safe and prioritises ecological protection.

Through extensive geological explorations and technical advancements, a solid foundation has been laid for the science-based, secure, and high-quality development of the project, it said.

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
Head office at: C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058. Phone: 911-25611842, 25611843, 25611844. E-mail: legal@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com, Website: www.kangrabank.com

APPENDIX IV
(See rule 6(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 16-07-2024, calling upon the borrower Smt. Shalini Yaduvanshi W/o. Sh. Deepak H.No.R-62, Phase-2, Street No.6, Shiv Vihar Karwal Nagar, Delhi-110094 also at Smt. Shalini Yaduvanshi W/o. Sh. Deepak, C/o. M/s. Engineer Dheeraj Sharma Computer, Training Institute, Khasra No.175, Asarwal Nagar, Delhi-110094, and Smt. Shalini Yaduvanshi W/o. Sh. Deepak C/o. M/s. Deep Computer Education Institute, B-96, S/F No. 710, Sadat Pur Extn., Main Road, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094 and calling upon the mortgagor & surety and Smt. Sarvesh W/o. Sh. Nanhe Singh H.No.R-62, Phase-2, Street No.6, Shiv Vihar Karwal Nagar, Delhi-110094, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.14,63,766/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Six Only), together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice. The above mentioned borrower, mortgagor & surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, mortgagor & surety and the public in general that the Bank has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with rule [8] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 24th day of December 2024.

The borrower, mortgagor & surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of Rs.14,63,766/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

The borrower, mortgagor & surety attention is also been invited towards provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the below mentioned mortgaged property/Secured Asset.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY
The property under consideration is Built up ground floor area measuring 41.80 Sq. Mtrs.

All that part and parcel of the HOUSE NO.R-62, (KHASRA NO.20/13), OLD NO. 250/2 & 38-C, PLOT NO.38-C, STREET NO.6, PHASE-II, GIS ID NO.GEO-COORDINATES FILE DDA/GIS/07122020054511/ 227001 & MEASURING 41.80 SQ.MTRS. HAVING FLOOR 01, SITUATED COLONY SHIV VIHAR PHASE-II, KARAWAL NAGAR, DELHI-110094. Falling under the Registration of Sub-Registrar IV, Delhi.

(HARISH SHARMA)
AUTHORISED OFFICER
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
HEAD OFFICE AT: C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58. Phone:91135684018, 9013568419, 9810487548

Place: DELHI
DATED: 24-12-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Pushpa Taneja W/o Late V. P Taneja R/o R-9/300, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP-201002, lost Documents In respect of DDA Janta Flat No. 469, Madipur (Paschim Puri) Delhi-110063 Vide File No.-25 (140)1972/HB/LAB(H) has applied for conversion of the aforesaid Flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents, Demand Letter 2.DDA Possession in Letter 3, NOC (water&Electric) & Site Possession of the above flat has been lost. An NCR(FR) of this effect has been lodged in police station Nirvana Country, Sector-50, Gurugram-120018, vide NCR App No.: 1227103240057dt: 07/09/2024 time :11:00. I/Myself any person(s) claiming any right, interest, any objection or found any/all documents of original documents, may write/contact with named person at above address/phone No. 09958/57222 within 15 days from the dt.of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to: Dy. Director LAB (H) DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client Smt. Reshma Kulkreja owner of the FIRST FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF PROPERTY NO.-WZ-93/94, (NEW NO.-J-5 [AREA 50SQ YARDS] KHASRA NO.-1575, VILLAGE THAR NEW DELHI-110018 and Smt. Reshma Kulkreja Have Not Originals 1. Probate of Will executed by Smt. Bimla Devi Sapra in favour of Smt. Reshma Kulkreja, 2. Death and Survivor Certificate of Sh. Kishan Lal, And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.

FORM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 762, Oberoi Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Mobile - 9899013918

LEASING OF SLR OF VARIOUS TRAINS OVER ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Auction is invited for leasing of SLR of Various trains over Alipurduar division. Auction Catalogue No.: C-AP-PCL-LEASE. Description: Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment); Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee. Auction Start Date & Time : 11:00 hrs. on 07-01-2025.

Seq.No.	Lot No./Category	Lot End Date & Time
AA/1	15769-SLR-F2-APDJ-MXN-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	At 11:30 hrs. on 07-01-2025
AA/2	13150-SLR-F1-APDJ-SDAH-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	At 11:40 hrs. on 07-01-2025
AA/3	13148-SLR-F1-BXT-SDAH-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	At 11:50 hrs. on 07-01-2025
AA/4	12378-SLR-F1-NOQ-SDAH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	At 12:00 hrs. on 07-01-2025
AA/5	15417-SLR-R1-APDJ-SHTT-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	At 12:10 hrs. on 07-01-2025
AA/6	13142-SLR-R1-NOQ-SDAH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	At 12:20 hrs. on 07-01-2025
AA/7	15769-SLR-R1-APDJ-MXN-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	At 12:30 hrs. on 07-01-2025
AA/8	15769-SLR-F1-APDJ-MXN-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	At 12:40 hrs. on 07-01-2025

Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. Note : Prospective bidder are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.

Sr. DCM, Alipurduar Jn.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT UNDER THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY 2013 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

Applications are invited from the general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide Notification No.PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Details available at the Department website i.e. www.tchpharyana.gov.in).

1	Project Approvals	Colonizer/Developer: Sriflex Projects Private Limited. Licence No./Year :133 of 2023 dated 26.06.2023. Building plans approved on 19.03.2024 vide Memo No. ZP-1862/JD/(RA)/2024/10267 & RERA Registration No. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/814/546/2024/41 dated 15.04.2024.
2	Location	Sector 4, Sohna, District – Gurugram, Haryana.
3	Provisions	Project land is 8.76875 Acre. However the same is developed phase-wise as per DTCP Phasing Approval ZP-1862/JD/(RA)/2023/41092 dated 05/12/2023. Under the Phase I there were 1105 residential units however land measuring 1.9875 acre comprising 270 residential units was mortgaged with DTCP hence 835 units were allotted vide Draw of Lot held on 28/06/2024. Now balance 270 units are de-mortgaged vide release of mortgage deed dated 20.11.2024 bearing document no 11392 hence the present offer is for balance 270 units under Phase I, in the present offer of 270 units, 5% (13 units) are reserved for Management Quota and balance 95% (257 Units) are for general public. Community Facility - One Community Hall of more than 2000 sq. ft. and one Anganwadi-cum-croche of more than 2000 sq. ft.
4	Apartment Details	Type I: 2 BHK -108 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 99.67sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type II: 2 BHK - 95 no. of apartments of 644.85sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 145.74sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type III: 2 BHK - 54 no. of apartments of 637sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 93sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type II: MQ :2 BHK - 13 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 145.74sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking.

S. No.	Unit Type	Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Units of General Category	Total Units of Management Quota	No. of Units
1	Type-I	644.65	108		108
2	Type-II	644.65	95	13	108
3	Type-III	637.00	54		54
	Total		257	13	270

5 Allotment Rate of Apartment (All inclusive)* Taxes & other charges as applicable will be extra
Type I: Rs.30,20,533/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra.
Type II: Rs.30,20,925/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra.
Type III: Rs.29,78,100/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra.

The above rates are as per the rates prescribed under the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 of the Government of Haryana vide Notification No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 including the amendments thereof (Details available at Department website i.e. www.tchpharyana.gov.in). However, possession charges and registration fees etc. are extra.

6 Payment Terms
i. With Application: Booking amount i.e. 5% of Carpet area of apartment:
Type I: Total amount of Rs. 1,45,046/-
Type II: Total amount of Rs. 1,45,046/-
Type III: Total amount of Rs. 1,43,325/-
ii. 20% of total cost shall be payable on Allotment and the balance consideration amount shall be paid according to the construction-linked payment plan of the project duly approved by HARERA, as applicable in terms of construction stages at the relevant point in time. No interest shall accrue before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall attract interest at the rate specified in Rule 15 of the Rules 2017 by HARERA.

7 Board Specifications of the Apartment
Drawing Room/ Lobby Flooring: Tiles / IPS | **Drawing Room/ Lobby Wall Ceiling finish:** OBD / Color Wash | **Bedrooms Flooring:** Tiles / IPS | **Bedroom Wall Ceiling finish:** OBD / Color Wash | **Toilet Walls Finish:** Tiles up to 4 feet and OBD/ Color wash in balance area | **Toilet Flooring:** Tiles / IPS | **Kitchen Flooring:** Tiles / IPS | **Kitchen Wall Finish:** Tiles up to 2 feet high above stone/ Tile Counter and OBD / Color wash in balance area | **Fixture & Fittings:** Single bowl steel sink & CP / PVC/ PTMT Fittings | **Balcony Flooring:** Tiles / IPS | **Windows:** MS Z-section & Glass / Alu steels & Glass | **Door Frame / Doors:** MS/ Fiber Door frames with flush Door/ Fiber Door | **Common Area Flooring:** Stone / Tiles / IPS | **Lift Lobby:** Stone / Tiles/ IPS | **Chinaware:** Standard Fittings | **Electrical:** ISI marked products for wiring, Switches and circuits | **Security:** Gated Complex

8 Applications Timelines
i. Application form will be filled online by Registration on <http://edraw.tchpharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home>
ii. Booking start from 14/12/224 00:01
iii. Payment closure date 28/12/2024 23:59
iv. Last date of submission of application form is 30/12/2024 23:59

Eligibility:
1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
2. Any person can apply, however, preference will be given to PMAY beneficiaries, including their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana, under the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna for All" program. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the state of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, preference will be given to persons, including their spouse or dependent children, who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed Colony/sector or any licensed colony in the urban areas in Haryana. UT of Chandigarh, and NCT.
3. Any applicant can submit only one application. A successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for the allotment of any other flat under this policy in another colony. In the event that he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have the choice to retain only one flat. Supportive affidavits and certificates suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded on the TCP website while submitting the application for allotment.

Allotment Criteria:
1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through e-draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of colonizer concerned.
2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers on which the original advertisement was issued.
3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 including the amendments thereof notified vide No.PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Available at the Department website i.e. www.tchpharyana.gov.in).

Disclaimer:
1. The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 and the rules made thereunder have brought significant changes to the real estate sector. The Promoter/Developer is fully committed to comply with the provisions laid down under RERA. The promoter/developer urges every applicant to inspect the site where the project is proposed to be constructed and not merely rely upon or be influenced by any architectural impression, plan, or sales brochure. Therefore, applicants are requested to exercise personal judgment prior to submitting an application for booking.
2. The images shown on TCP Site / offer of Application are indicative designs and for illustrative purposes only. Further designs may vary in form and finish for the above project details. Specifications can also be accessed at the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website, i.e., <https://haryanarera.gov.in>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of ANUBHAV JAIN who is purchasing PROPERTY No. K.I.120, AREA MEASURING 284.87 SQ.YDS. SITUATED AT RESIDENTIAL COLONY G.P. KAVI NAGAR, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT-GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH from M/s. Syndicate Builders Private Limited who had purchased the subject property by virtue of Sale Deed executed by Mr. Raj Kumar Tomar, Mr. Sameer Tomar, Mrs. Om Lala Tomar and Mrs. Manju Devi, bearing Regn./Document no.4327. Book no.1, Volume no. 20906, on pages 235-261, dated 04.02.2024. (SFO-1 GHZABAD) and ANUBHAV JAIN intend to mortgage the subject property against the financial assistance from Aadiya Birla Housing Finance Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/interest/mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances. lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.13, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110043, Contact No. 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that Smt. Sahana Khat

Azerbaijan observes day of mourning for air crash victims as speculation mounts over its cause

BAKU (AP): Azerbaijan on Thursday observed a nation-wide day of mourning for the victims of the air crash that

killed 38 people and left all 29 survivors injured as speculation mounted about a possible cause of the crash that remained

show the aircraft making a steep descent before smashing into the ground in a fireball. Other footage showed part of its fuselage ripped away from the wings and the rest of the aircraft lying upside in the grass. On Thursday, national flags were lowered across Azerbaijan, traffic across the country stopped at noon, and signals were sounded from ships and trains as the country observed a nationwide moment of silence.

Massive fire breaks out at Bangladesh Secretariat

A massive fire broke out at a major building of the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka on Thursday, damaging official documents that prompted authorities to form a high-powered investigation committee amid suspicions that it could be

an act of sabotage. The fire broke out in Building 7 of the Bangladesh Secretariat and it was brought under control after nearly six hours of firefighting efforts. According to officials, the fire broke out Thursday early morning in the nine-storey building housing seven ministries inside the high-security complex. "The fire broke out in three spots (of the building) simultaneously - hours after midnight yesterday," fire service chief Brigadier General Zahed Kamal told newsmen indicating it might not be an accidental inferno. Officials said a power outage caused by the fire forced as well other ministries apart from the building to halt their normal work while security agencies restricted entry inside the complex preventing many staff and officials from entering into the complex at the central part of the

capital.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Suresh Chand Singla S/o Late Dharam Chand resident of TU-40, Pitampura, Delhi 110034 hereby inform all concerned that I have changed my name from Suresh Chand to Suresh Chand Singla.

PD(1150)A I Vikas Kumar Jain S/o Yuvraaj K Jain R/o : 34, Radhey Shyam Park, Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051, I have changed my name Yuvraj Jain to Yuvraaj K Jain for all purpose in future.

PD(1151)A I, Dinesh Kumar Chauhan S/o-Lajje Ram R/o- Village-Shahpur, Sector-128, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. 201304 declare that in my daughter school documents my mentioned name is Dinesh Chauhan that is my incorrect name my correct name is Dinesh Kumar Chauhan and Dinesh Kumar Chauhan is one & both are same person.

PD(1152)C I, hitherto known as MANJEET KAUR alias MANJEET KAUR TULI w/o- Gurdeep Singh Tuli, residing at - A-86, 2nd Floor Chandler Nagar, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANJEET KAUR TULI. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PD(1153)C

verka THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop

NTPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise) Registered Office: NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Table with 6 columns: Particulars, Year-wise tariff sought to be determined, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Property/Plot No. 10, land area measuring 520 sq. yds., "said portion" out of total land area measuring 6 Bighas 10 Biswas, falling in Kharsa No. 11/17 (01-14) & 11/18 (04-16), Situated in the area of Village Kamalpur Majra Burari, abadi known as Block-A, Kamal Vihar, Kamalpur, Gurugram, Delhi-110027, (hereinafter referred to as the "said Property").

General public is hereby informed that We 1. (A) Ashok Nagpal S/o late Shri Surjit Lal alias Surjeet Lal Nagpal, (B) Nishant Nagpal, W/o late Shri Vijay Nagpal 2. (A) Sushil Kumar Nagpal S/o late Shri Jagdish Lal Nagpal (B), Alka Nagpal alias Alka W/o late Shri Kishore Kumar Nagpal are filing application in L&DO for substitution of the property No. 30/9-9A, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 in the name of 1. (A) Ashok Nagpal, (B) Nishant Nagpal, 2. (A) Sushil Kumar Nagpal, (B) Alka Nagpal alias Alka on the grounds of relinquishment deed. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Noida Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at lod@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Rupali Bajaj has acquired Property No. 32, area measuring 344.31 Sq. Yds., situated on Road No. 18, Residential Colony known as (East) Punjabi Bazar, New Delhi by way of Sale Deed dated 12.08.2024 as Document No. 5902 dated 12.08.2024 as Document No. 5902. Now, Mrs. Rupali Bajaj intends to sell above said property to Mrs. Saroj Jain & Mrs. Sangeta Jain by way of Sale Deed and further, Mr. Suresh Kumar Singh (Advocate), Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, Mr. Satbir Jain & Mrs. Sangeta Jain availing loan on above said property from Axis Finance Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh (Advocate), Acculaw Source LLP, Unit No. S-2-U, 2nd Floor, built on Plot No. 4 and 5, Ansal Utiy Commercial Center, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110053 or contact : +91 9850309509 (M)

This is to inform general public that Mr. Kshetrpal Singh S/o Mr. Virendra Singh has acquired Plot No. 53, measuring 100 Sq. Yds. i.e. 83.61 Sq. Mtrs., out of Kharsa No. 126m, Kharsa No. 156, situated in Block 'B', situated in Sharm & J. Dept., Estate at New Rajpuria, New Delhi by way of Sale Deed dated 10/11/2024, Document No. 25892. Documents related to the above said property has been misplaced i.e. Sale Deed dated 25.08.2008 executed by Mr. Pram Singh S/o Mr. Hardan in favour of Mr. Chandravar S/o Mr. Dilwaj Singh, duly registered as Doc. No. 8307, in Bani No. 1, Jld No. 3214, on pages 284 to 297, dated 25.08.2008. Anyone who find the said document shall handover the same to Mr. Kshetrpal Singh availing loan on above said property from Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh (Advocate), Acculaw Source LLP, Unit No. S-2-U, 2nd Floor, built on Plot No. 4 and 5, Ansal Utiy Commercial Center, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110053 or contact at +91 9850309509 (M) (W)

General public is hereby informed that We (1), Shekhar alias Shekhar Sharma, (2) Deepak alias Deepak Sharma both sons of Shri Hardyal alias Hardyal Sharma are filing application in L&DO for substitution of the property No. Nil-38/A, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 in the name of (1), Shekhar alias Shekhar Sharma, (2) Deepak alias Deepak Sharma on the grounds of Will. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Noida Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at lod@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

My client, Sh. Ramesh Chandra Singh, Heera Lal & Smt. Sharmila Yadav w/o Smt. Yadav is the registered owner of entire Residential First Floor Bearing H. No.-91 In Block-D, Area Measuring-135.83 Sq. Mtrs., Built On Plot Of Land Area Measuring-300 Sq. Mtrs., situated in Vpud Village, Sec-48, Gurugram, Badshahpur, Gurugram, Haryana vide registered sale deed dated 15.03.2022 having doc no. -13816 at Sr Badshahpur; that the original documents of the above said property i.e. builder buyer agreement, payment receipts from Vipul World, alias & sale deed dated-15.03.2022 vide reg. no. -13816 has been lost and, in this regard, lost property report no. 132270032402019 has been registered at PS. Badshahpur, Gurugram, if any person found please return it to the undersigned the earliest.

Subject: Transfer of ownership of House No. 190P, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana in respect of consequent upon the immediate death of the Alottee Sh. Mohinder Nath Bajaj S/o. Jai Dayal Bajaj, Late Sh. Mohinder Nath Bajaj S/o. Jai Dayal Bajaj, being the Alottee of the subject cited property, as per record, has died on 24/12/2019 and he has not left registered or unregistered will and leaving behind following legal heirs - 1. Deepak Bajaj (Son) 2. Pankaj Bajaj (Son) 3. Anakshi Sharma (Daughter) 4. Anakshi Gha (Daughter). Now, Deepak Bajaj & Pankaj Bajaj, both sons of Late Sh. Mohinder Nath Bajaj, and both Resident of House No. 190P, Sector-14, apply for the transfer of the said property in their favour being the legal heir and request for allotment in the name of Deepak Bajaj & Pankaj Bajaj, both sons of Late Sh. Mohinder Nath Bajaj. If any person is having any objection against the transfer of house, he/she can submit objections in writing to the Estate Officer-I, HSPV, Sector-14 Gurugram, along with supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise the Estate Officer may accord permission to transfer/allotment of the said property as per HSPV policy and will not entertain subsequent claim, if any.

ADVERTISEMNT CONTRACT OVER KATHIR DIVISION E-Auction invited for Display of advertisement contract over Kathir division. Auction Catalogue No.: C-ADVT-RGJ-KAJ. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee. Auction Start Date & Time : 11:00 hrs. on 07-01-2025.

pnb Housing Finance Limited Ghar Ki Baat Regd. Office: 9th Floor Antriksh Bhawan, 22, K. G. Marg, New Delhi-110001

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Areas of Jurisdiction: Part of Uttar Pradesh)

1. Nasim S/o Rahisudin R/o -566, Ashok Vihar-1, Loni Pavi, Sandanpur, Ghaziabad-20102 (Borrower) 2. Saleem S/o Rahisudin R/O Ashok Vihar-1, Loni Dehat, Loni, Ghaziabad-20102 (Guarantor)

PROVISION OF ANNUAL REPAIRING CONTRACT OF INTEGRATED PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM E-Tender Notice No.: N-2024-K-29. Dated: 20-12-2024. E-Tender is invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of Work: Provision of Annual Repairing contract of Integrated Passenger Information System (IPIS) of New Jalpaiguri station for one year.

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. C-29, Community Centre Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058. E-Auction invited for Display of advertisement contract over Kathir division. Auction Catalogue No.: C-ADVT-RGJ-KAJ. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee. Auction Start Date & Time : 11:00 hrs. on 07-01-2025.

भारतीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान, रॉजी Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi Faculty Recruitment Drive IIM Ranchi invites applications from candidates with exceptional academic backgrounds for faculty positions in the following areas:

भारतीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान, रॉजी Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST/NC-OBC/EWS/PWD for Faculty Positions

OAKNORTH GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED Regd. Third floor with roof rights, referred to as "said floor" of Entire Built-Up Property bearing No. W3-L-2/69-A, Built on Land Area measuring 100 sq. yds. out of Kharsa No. 35, Situated in the Area of Village Gurgaon, Colony known as "State of Haryana", Extension, Known as New Bahar Nagar, New Delhi-110018; hereinafter referred to as "said property".

OAKNORTH (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED Regd. Office: D-33, EAST OF KAILASH, SOUTH DELHI, NEW DELHI, DELHI, INDIA, 110065

OAKNORTH (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED Regd. Office: D-33, EAST OF KAILASH, SOUTH DELHI, NEW DELHI, DELHI, INDIA, 110065

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. C-29, Community Centre Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058. E-Auction invited for Display of advertisement contract over Kathir division. Auction Catalogue No.: C-ADVT-RGJ-KAJ. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee. Auction Start Date & Time : 11:00 hrs. on 07-01-2025.

RBI sets up eight-member panel on ethical use of AI

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank of India announced the setting up of an eight-member committee to develop a framework for responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the financial sector. Headed by IIT Bombay professor Pushpak Bhattacharyya (Department of Computer Science and Engineering), the panel will assess the current level of adoption of AI in financial services, globally as well as in India. It will also review regulatory and supervisory approaches on AI with focus on the financial sector globally. The panel will also identify potential risks associated



with AI, if any, and recommend an evaluation, mitigation and monitoring framework and consequent compliance requirements for financial institutions, including banks, NBFCs, FinTechs, PSOs, etc. The committee will recommend a framework including governance aspects for responsible, ethical adoption of AI models / applications in the Indian financial sector, the RBI said. The other members of the panel are: Debjani Ghosh (Independent Director, Reserve Bank Innovation Hub); Balaraman Ravindran (Professor and Head, Wadhvani School of Data Science and AI, IIT Madras); Abhishek Singh (Additional Secretary; Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology); Rahul Matthan (Partner, Trilegal); Anjali Rathor (Group Head and Chief Digital Experience

Officer, HDFC Bank); Sree Hari Nagaralu (Head of Security AI Research, Microsoft India); and Suwendu Pati (CGM, FinTech Department, RBI). The Committee will submit its report within six months from the date of its first meeting, the RBI said. The central bank had made the announcement regarding the panel in its December monetary policy meeting.

Rupee plunges 12 paise to close at 85.27 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The rupee stayed weak for the third straight session and fell 12 paise to settle at a fresh all-time low of 85.27 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, amid a strong greenback and rising crude oil prices. Forex traders said, increased month-end as well as year-



end dollar demand from importers and fear of an aggressive import tariff by the Donald Trump administration lifted the American currency. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened weak at 85.23 and touched the lowest-ever level of 85.28 against the greenback during intraday trade.

West Bengal's 2024 economy: Story of growth amid challenges

PTI ■ KOLKATA
West Bengal's economic narrative in 2024 was one of striking contrasts - steady growth and fresh investments juxtaposed with fiscal concerns and a worrying trend of industry flight from a perceptibly "non-investor friendly" state. The state demonstrated a significant economic expansion outlook, with its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) projected to surge by 10.5 per cent in the 2024-25 fiscal, significantly outpacing the national average of 7.32 per cent and reinforcing its position as the fourth-largest economy in India, according to state industries minister Shashi Panja. The manufacturing sector played a crucial role in this upward trajectory during the year, achieving a robust growth rate of 7.8 per cent, exceeding the national average. This growth was further propelled by substantial investments across various sectors. Infosys inaugurated a Rs 426 crore development centre, spread over 3,20,000 sq ft, in New Town. It is set to house over 4,000 employees and focus on cloud computing and digital services. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, calling it "A New Year gift to



West Bengal", expressed hope for increased IT investments in the state. The manufacturing sector's strong performance was underscored by the inauguration of two major projects with investments totalling Rs 2,100 crore - Shyam Steel's integrated steel facility and Dhunseri Poly Films venture. These projects are expected to create over 5,000 jobs, providing a significant boost to the state's industrial health. The state government is developing a 200-acre Silicon Valley project in New Town, aiming to attract Rs 27,000 crore in investments and create 75,000 jobs, positioning Bengal as a key IT hub. In terms of data infrastructure, NTT completed the first phase of its data centre campus in Kolkata which began operations in March 2024, with an initial capacity of 6 mw and a potential expansion of up to 25 mw. CtrlS Datacenters also announced an investment of Rs 2,200 crore (about USD 264 million) to develop a data centre in Kolkata, to be implemented in four phases, with the first phase, a 16 mw facility, expected to go live shortly. The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector also displayed resilience, with the state looking to exceed its credit target of Rs 1.53 lakh crore for the fiscal year 2024-25, building upon the previous year's achievement of Rs 1.42 lakh crore and representing a 7.7 per cent increase.

Branded hotels to log 13 to 14 per cent growth: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Branded hotels in the country are likely to see double-digit revenue growth of 13-14 per cent in 2024-25, and 11-12 per cent in the next financial year on demand surge, report said on Thursday. While domestic leisure and business travel will continue to be the primary demand drivers, growing traction in MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) segment and pickup in foreign tourist arrivals will provide additional fillip, Crisil Ratings said in a report.

Gold rises ₹250 to ₹78,850 per 10 grams, silver climbs ₹300

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Gold prices increased Rs 250 to Rs 78,850 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid a firm global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 78,600 per 10 grams on Tuesday. Silver extended its rally for the third straight session by climbing Rs 300 to Rs 90,800 per kg on Thursday. The metal had ended at Rs 90,500 per kg in the previous close. The commodities market was closed on Wednesday on the occasion of Christmas. The price of 99.5 per cent purity advanced Rs 250 to Rs 78,450 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs 78,200 per 10 grams. Traders attributed the climb in gold prices to firm trends in the overseas markets which aided in bullion prices. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for February delivery advanced Rs 442 or 0.58 per cent to Rs 76,712 per 10 grams. "Gold prices edged higher on Thursday, supported by a slightly weaker dollar as markets resumed trading post-Christmas.

Tata Power-DDL recognised with the North India Best Employer Brand Award 2024

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) has been honoured with the "North India Best Employer Brand Award 2024" at a ceremony held on December 20, 2024. The award recognises discom's exceptional efforts in HR practices, talent management, employee engagement, and its overall contribution to creating a sustainable, inclusive work environment, and a positive work culture, setting an inspiring example for the future of the power



sector. The award was conferred at the North India Best Employer Brand Awards, a prestigious platform that celebrates organizations excelling in human resources and corporate sustainability and was received by Mr. Praveen Agrawal, Chief - Human Resource, Industrial Relations, Facility Management & Health Services and Ms. Sonal Trehan, AGM, CEO Cell & HoG Facility Management of Tata Power-DDL.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Suman W/o Navneet R/o Village Rajthal Tehsil Narnaund Distt. Hisar declares that I have changed my name from Suman (old name) to Suman Rani for all future purposes.

I, Kashmir Singh Malhi S/o Sardara Singh Malhi R/o. Village and Post Office Sathiala Tehsil baba Bakala District Amritsar have Changed my name to Kashmir Singh and my father name to Sardara Singh

I, M.Mathammal, W/o Munisamy, aged about 50 years, residing at No. 37B/2, Sanar Street, Kilimurungai Village & Post, Ambur Taluk, Tirupattur District 635812, That M.Mathammal and Madhammal. M names are one and the same person name. Vide Affidavit No. CZ 317736, Dated 01-03-2024, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Rajesh Kumar (Old Name, which is to be changed) S/o Ashok Kumar Singal Res. of Old Grain Market Barwala, Distt. Hisar do hereby solemnly affirm and declared as under That my old name is Rajesh Kumar and I want to change my name to Rajesh Kumar Singal (New name). Deponent

I, Sandeep S/o Sh. Lili Ram R/o Bhatol Jattan, Tehsil- Hansi, District Hisar, Haryana, India declare that I have changed my name from Sandeep to Sandeep Panchal for all future purposes.

I, Ritu Kumari W/o Sushil Kumar Singla R/o Gulab Colony, Uklana, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Ritu Kumari to Ritu Singla for all future purposes.

I, Tinku Dhankar S/o Baljeet Singh R/o Village Sadarpur, Tehsil Gharaunda Distt. Karnal (Haryana) have changed the name of my minor son from Sanam Chaudhary to Sanam Dhanker. In future it should be known as Sanam Dhanker.

I, Rajesh Kumar Chandel S/o Hoshiar Singh, Banjar Villi Sharabai, Bajaura, (Kullu) Himachal, have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar Chandel to Rajesh Kumar.

I, Ajay S/o Dharambir R/o Village Taragarh Distt. Kaithal I have declared that my name changed From Ajay To Ajay Ravish.

मै सोनू पुत्र श्री बलवान सिंह निवासी मकान नंबर 763/30 देव कॉलोनी नजदीक जाट कॉलेज रोहताक ने अपनी बेटी का नाम कोमल से बदलकर कोमल मलिक रख लिया है भविष्य में मेरी बेटी को कोमल मलिक के नाम से जाना जाए।

I B Mallika is legally Mother of No. 2608296H, Rank Hav, Name B. Sivakumar Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Cantt, Residing at Vill Ramapuram, Po. Sathiyamangalam, Teh. & Distt. Vellore (TN) 632114, Declare that my date of birth in my Son service record is 11/05/1955 which is wrong & my correct date of birth is 11/02/1960.

I, Balaraman is legally Father of No. 2608296H, Rank Hav Name B. Sivakumar Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Cantt, Residing at Vill Ramapuram, Po. Sathiyamangalam, Teh. & Distt. Vellore (TN) 632114, Declare that my date of birth in my Son service record is 10/05/1952 which is wrong & my correct date of birth is 17/09/1950.

I Jugesh Prasad is legally Father of No. JC-384357X SUB Shailendra Kumar Ranjan of Unit 7 INF Div Sig Regt C/o 56 APO Residing at P.s-Rampur Chauram, Gram Kudrasi, Post Anandpur, Kudrasi, Arwal, State Bihar Pin-804419 Declare That my Name Jagdesh Prasad Singh and Date of Birth 01 July 1936 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Jugesh Prasad and correct Date of Birth 01 Jan 1950.

I, Susheela Devi is legally Mother of No. JC-384357X SUB Shailendra Kumar Ranjan of Unit 7 INF Div Sig Regt C/o 56 APO Residing at P.s-Rampur Chauram, Gram Kudrasi, Post Anandpur, Kudrasi, Arwal, State Bihar Pin-804419 Declare That my Name Sushila Devi and Date of Birth 01 July 1941 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Susheela Devi and correct Date of Birth 01 Jan 1950.

I, Raj Khatri w/o Sh. Dharam Pal r/o 16/445, Sikka Colony, Near Laxmi Narayan Mandir, Sonipat (131001) Haryana have changed my name from Raj Khatri to Raj Rani for all future purposes.

I, Hari Parkash Taneja S/o Sh. Asha Ram R/o 16/455, Ward no.-13, Laxmi Nagar, Sonipat have changed my name from Hari Parkash Taneja to Hari Parkash for all future purposes.

I, Ranvir Singh S/o Maniram R/o H. No. C-38, Old GJU Campus, GJU University, VTC Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Ranvir to Ranvir Singh for all purposes in future.

I, Damanpreet Kaur D/o Harjinder Singh R/o L/1 469, Gali No. 2, Friends Colony, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Damanpreet Kaur to Kaur is my surname and Damanpreet is my given name.

I, Joginder Kaur Mother Of Service No Jc-510937F Rank Sub Name Raj Singh Of Unit 10 Sikh Li C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Name From Joginder Kaur To Jaginder Kaur Vide Affidavit No 53AA535486 Dated 26-12-2024, Before Ambala Cantt.

I Keshav s/o Sandeep Kumar r/o Village Malikpur Bangar, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my name from Keshav to Keshav Kumar. In future I Should be known as Keshav Kumar.

I Laxmi Mohan Narute m/o Narute Umesh Mohan r/o Village Awar Pimpri Post Kapilapuri Tehsil Paranda district Dhara ashv have changed my name from Laxmi to Laxmi Mohan Narute.

I, Parminder Singh s/o Chaman Singh r/o Vill. Khizerpur, Po. Seeprian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144221 declare that Given name as Parminder & Surname as Singh.

I, hitherto Known as Jaswinder Kaur W/o Mohinder Singh R/o Village Nano Majara, Po. Dosanjh Kalan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar-144502, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Surinder Kaur.

I Dimple W/O Harjinder Kumar R/O Village Begampur, P.O. Sangatpur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Dimple To Dimple Bhatoy After Marriage.

I Samanjeet Singh S/O Chamkaur Singh R/O Vpo. Madoke Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Lakhvir Singh. Please Concerned Note.

I, Jyoti Rani W/o Harjeet Singh R/O Ladwa Farm PO Murtzapur, District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Jyoti Rani to Jyoti Kaur.

I, Sukhjit Kaur W/O Deepak Kumar R/O H No 56 Bishangarh PO Segti Ambala That I have change my name to Sukhjit Kaur

I, Harjinder Kaur W/o Surjit Singh, Resident of H no 2015 Sector 17 Huda Jagadhri, Yamunanagar, have Changed Name from Harjinder Kaur to Name Harjinder and Surname Kaur.

I, Loknathan S/o of Sellamuthu R/o House No. 2434, Phase-2, Ram Darbar, Chandigarh. declare that I have changed my name from Loknathan to Loknath.

I, Yuvraj Singh S/O Baljit Singh R/O Vpo- Bishankot, Tehsil- Kalanaur, Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Singh Yuvraj.

I, Karanjot Singh S/O Manjinder Singh R/O Vpo- Bhakhariwal, Tehsil- Kalanaur, Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Singh Karanjot.

I Daljit Kaur Padda W/o Gurkiral Singh resident of Ward No 3, Mohalla Nawa Katra VPO Kalanaur District Gurdaspur have changed my name from Daljit Kaur Padda to Daljeet Kaur concerned note please.

I Madhu Salaria Daughter of Tersam Singh is legally wedded spouse of Sukhwinder Singh presently residing at VPO Chaunta Teh & Distt Gurdaspur, have changed my name from Madhu Salaria to Madhu Baala. As per affidavit dated 23 Dec 2024

I, Kripal Singh resident of House No.6, Marg No. A-9, Kumawat Colony, Jhotwara, Post- Jaipur, Tehsil- Jaipur, District- Rajasthan, Pin-302012, have changed my Daughter name from Minakshi Shekhawat to Meenakshi Shekhawat Vide affidavit No.IN-PB91347167118173W dated 23 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Baby spouse of No.JC-583779A Sub Ajay Kumar resident of Village- Panjtoot, Post- Pallan Walla, Tehsil- Akhnoor, District- Jammu, State- J&K, have changed my name from Baby to Baby Chib Vide affidavit No.IN-PB91049721715672W dated 21 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Renu Mother of Satyam Solanki resident of Village- Bouruli, Post- Khurja, Tehsil- Khurja, District- Bulandshahr, State- UP, Pin-203131, have changed my name from Renu Solanki to Renu Vide affidavit No.IN-PB92390396327129W dated 26 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Prabha Danu spouse of Harish Singh resident of Village- Baghar, Post- Baghar, Tehsil- Kapkote, District- Ultrakhand, Pin-263632, have changed my name from Prabha Danu to Prabha Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB92378832858462W dated 26 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15789484W Hav Rajendra Singh resident of Village- Farah, Post- Farah, Tehsil- Mathura, District- Mathura, State- UP, Pin-281122, have changed my Mother name from Maya Devi to Maya Vide affidavit No.IN-PB9190385001542752W dated 24 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Badshaha Father of No.15676710P Hav Nadaf Ismail Badshaha resident of Village- Kaletek, Post- Narayanwadi, Tehsil- Karad, District- Satara, State- Maharashtra, Pin-415539, have changed my name & DOB from Badshaha to Badshaha Daval Nadaf and date of birth from 01 July 1952 to 15 Oct 1947 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB92380295670235W dated 26 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Bismilla Mother of No.15676710P Hav Nadaf Ismail Badshaha resident of Village- Kaletek, Post- Narayanwadi, Tehsil- Karad, District- Satara, State- Maharashtra, Pin-415539, have changed my name & DOB from Bismilla to Bismilla Badshaha Nadaf and date of birth from 01 July 1957 to 01 Jan 1951 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB92379739693012W dated 26 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Babli spouse of No.15614342H Hav Shivraj Singh resident of Village- Mehmdwa, Post- Mehmdwa, Tehsil-Roun, District- Bhind, State- MP, Pin-477335, have changed my name from Babli to Babli Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB9238123622025W dated 26 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15614342H Hav Shivraj Singh resident of Village- Mehmdwa, Post- Mehmdwa, Tehsil-Roun, District- Bhind, State- MP, Pin-477335, have changed my Daughter name from Miss Kajal to Kajal Kumari Vide affidavit No.IN-PB92382191832730W dated 26 Dec 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sunita Sanjay Gaikwad W/o No. 15778336L Rank Hav (OPR) Name Gaikwad Sanjay Ranganath R/o Vill & PO Ambashi, Teh- Chikhli, Dist- Buldan, State-Maharashtra, Pin- 443201 declare that I have changed my Name from Sunita (Incorret name in my husband service record)to Sunita Sanjay Gaikwad (Proposed of correct name) as per my Aadhar & PAN Card are the same name. That my date of birth is 11 Nov. 1983.

I, No. 15805180L Rank L NK Name Mote Dhanjay Narayan S/o Narayan Mote R/o Unit No.510 LT AD MSL Regt. (SP), Madhopur, Pathankot declare that I want to change the name of my wife from Vrunda Rajendra Kokare (incorret name) to Vrunda Dhanjay Mote (correct name) in my service documents.

I, Ranbir Kaur wife of Ravinder singh resident of village Gandhon kalan, Tehsil & District Rupnagar have changed my name to Ranvir Kaur,

I, Smt Sheema is legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: JC343470X Rank-Sub(FTR) Name: Dinesh Chandra Presently Posted At Unit: 70 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: H.No:22,Block-A, New Bharat Colony, Dhandhera, Haridwar,Uttarakhand-247666 Declare that I have changed My Name from Smt Sheema to Seema Bahukhandi. Vide Affidavit No:48AA 901288, Dated:26/12/2024

I, Yash Goyal S/o Sh. Suresh Kumar Goyal R/o H.No. 270, Gali No. 5, Aggarsain Colony, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my minor son name from Kiyansh to Kiyansh Goyal, in future my minor son name is to be called as Kiyansh Goyal.

I, Hoshiar Singh S/o Sh. Joginder Singh R/o Village Dhani Gillan Khera, Distt. Fatehabad (Haryana). That I have changed my minor son name from Aman to Aman Thakur , in future my minor son name is to be called as Aman Thakur.

I Sharwan Singh Sekhon S/O Sucha Singh Sekhon Vpo Wadala Khurd, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt Amritsar have changed my name from Sharwan Singh Sekhon to Sharwan Singh.

I Gurnam Chand S/O Mohinder Singh R/O Vpo Kangna Bet Teh Balachaur District Sbs Nagar Have Changed My Name Chand As Surname Gurnam As Given Name.

I, Gurdeep Kaur alias Hardeep Kaur W/O Gurmeet Singh R/O Phkoke Distt. Barnala have declare that Gurdeep Kaur and Hardeep Kaur is name one and the same lady of both name concerned.

I Sarabjeet kaur W/O Sukhdeep Bawa R/O Vill. Sahina Teh. Tapa Distt. Barnala have changed my name to Sarabjit Kaur.

I, Gurcharan Singh S/o Baljit Singh R/o Gali No. 04 Bath Road Green Avenue Malia Teh & Distt. Tarn Taran i have changed my name from Gurcharan Singh to Gurcharan Singh.

I, Mandeep Kaur W/o Balwinder Singh R/o New Zira Road Near Gaushalia Zira Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Mandip Kaur.

I, Sukhjeet Kaur W/o Rajinderpal Singh R/o Vill: Kohala Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Sukhjit Kaur.

I, Daljeet Kaur W/o Nirmal Singh R/o Nanak Nagri Nava Zira Road Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Daljit Kaur.

I Hitherto Known As Gagandeep Singh S/O Amrik Singh Residing At Vill. & P.O. Dhamian, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Singh Gagandeep.

I, Ravi Kant S/o Kshetra Pal R/o House No. 209, Village: Palsora, Chandigarh, have changed my name to Ravi Kant Mishra.

I Sukhwant Singh Son Of Joginder Singh Resident Of Village Hassan Dhutt, Khai, Tehsil & District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Kulwant Singh.

I Rajdavinder Kaur Wife Of Jagdev Singh Resident Of Village Sadhan Wala District Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Kaur Rajdavinder.

I Rajeev Kumar Son Of Harbans Lal R/O # 2425 Dashmesh Nagar Sri Muktsar Sahib District Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Rajeev Kumar Chhabra.

I Sahil Jassam Son Of Tilak Raj Resident House No 60 Raviddas Nagar Basti Danishmanda Jalandhar Have Changed My Name To Sahil Jassam.

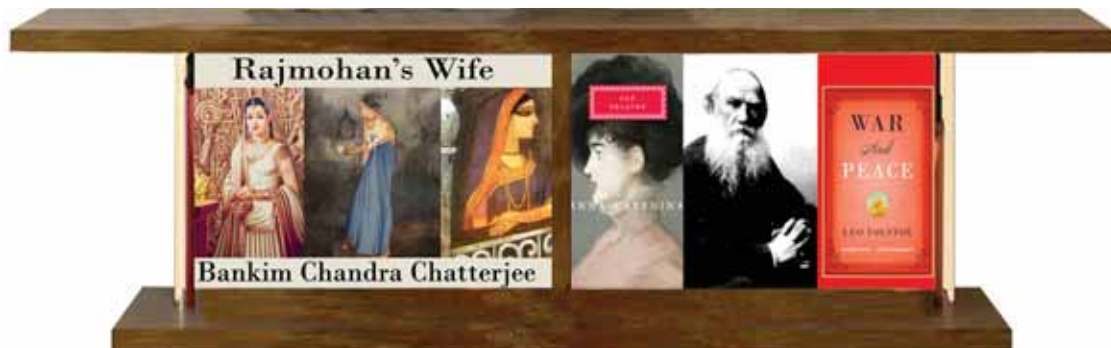
I Jaswinder Singh Brar S/O Mahinder Singh Resident At Vpo Kirian Wala, District Fazilka Have Change My Name To Jaswinder Singh.

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2025 ushers in lot of hope in literary world

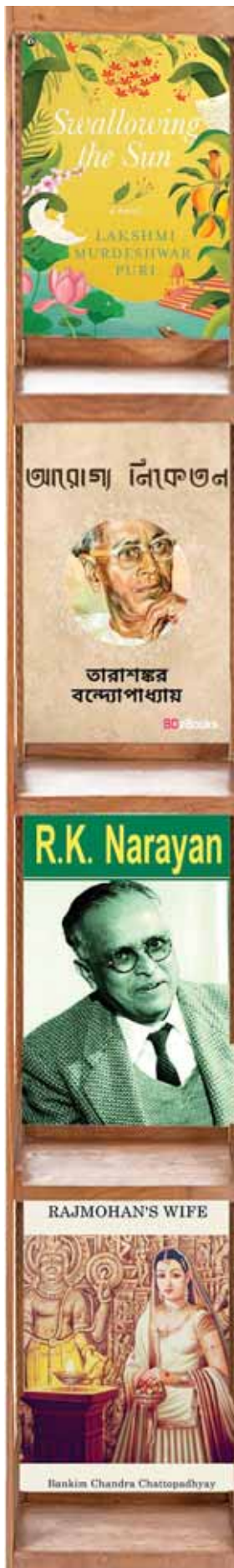
EXPLORING THE TIMELESS CHARM OF NOVELS, THEIR UNIQUE STORYTELLING AND THE PROMISING VOICES SHAPING INDIA'S LITERARY LANDSCAPE IN 2024, SAYS **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**



It is not without reason that the word novel has been assigned two meanings. Although the English language can often be amusing with its many words having multiple meanings, the term novel has a significant connection to its different interpretations. The dictionary defines novel as "an invented prose narrative that is usually long and complex and deals especially with human experience through a usually connected sequence of events." The word also has another meaning - something that is new, original, and never seen, used, or even thought of before. A novel, as a literary form, tells a story and features multiple characters interconnected through a sequence of events. Each novel offers a new, fresh and unprecedented experience. What makes a novel truly special is its readability and the ease with which it allows readers to identify with the characters it presents. Let us reflect on the novels of the past. Timeless classics like *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina* (Leo Tolstoy), *The Mother* (Maxim Gorky), *Gone with the Wind* (Margaret Mitchell), *The Far Pavilions* (M. M. Kaye), and *Crime and Punishment* (Fyodor Dostoevsky) continue to resonate with readers. These masterpieces transport us to a different world through their narrative, characters, and the time and space they depict. It is rare to encounter someone who feels these novels fall short of their expectations. The first novel to grace bookshelves in India was *Rajmohan's Wife* by Bankimchandra Chatterjee in 1864. This makes the novel as a literary genre relatively new in this region. India has produced remarkable writers like *Tarasankar*

Bandyopadhyay, whose works include *Ganadevata* and *Arogya Niketan*, the latter being particularly popular. *Bankimchandra Chatterjee's Anandamath* (1882), set against the backdrop of the *Great Bengal Famine of 1770*, is widely regarded as the finest novel ever written in the subcontinent. During my school days, our language teacher, *P. U. Madhavan*, emphasised the importance of reading these classics. He was our gateway to the world of literature. Years later, at university, we studied a prose piece by *A. J. Cronin*, the renowned Scottish novelist, about the art of writing a novel. *Cronin* often told his wife that he would write a novel loved by all. During a period of recovery from illness, *Cronin* wrote *Hatter's Castle*, a landmark in English literature. He abandoned his medical career to pursue writing full-time. *Cronin's* success, along with that of other novelists, lies in their ability to tell compelling stories. *Ponniyin Selvan* (Son of Ponnai) by *Kalki Krishnamurthy*, for instance, is based on the life of *Arulmozhiarman*, a 10th-century *Chola prince*. Reading this book is akin to watching a film projected on a Vistarama screen, the most advanced film projection system I've ever seen. Novels, poems and stories resemble rivers and streams flowing from mountains, meandering through valleys, plains and plateaus. A well-written novel provides the sensation of sailing smoothly down a serene river. Conversely, a poorly written one feels like driving on a pothole-filled road. Unfortunately, contemporary Indian literature in English often lacks the quality we once enjoyed with authors like *R. K. Narayan*, *Raja Rao* and *Shobhaa De*.

These authors wrote straight from the heart. Today, however, publishers often dictate the content to maximise sales. In India, literary works that criticise certain religions or spiritual figures tend to attract significant attention and awards. While we lack the likes of *Mitchell*, *Tolstoy* and *Kaye*, a few noteworthy works of fiction emerged in 2024, offering hope for the novel genre. *Swallowing the Sun*, the debut novel by *Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri*, was a breath of fresh air. *Puri* masterfully narrates India's freedom struggle and the emancipation of women from societal constraints. The protagonist, *Malati*, guides readers through a vivid journey across the Konkan region and Bombay, where she and her sister *Kamala* break into a male-dominated world. Thrilling and vibrant, *Swallowing the Sun* feels like a long-awaited monsoon, refreshing and full of intensity. Another standout author is *Harinder S. Sikka*, a former Indian Navy commander known for *Gobind*, *Vichhoda* and *Calling Sehmat*. Drawing on his naval experiences, *Sikka* crafts authentic stories, earning him the title of "India's Jeffrey Archer." Readers eagerly await more from writers like *Puri* and *Sikka*, who draw inspiration from real life. As Malayalam literary rebel *Keshava Dev* once said, "You will understand life only if you learn how to live. That experience will guide you in writing novels and stories. No university can teach you this." Thank you, *Lakshmi Puri* and *Harinder S. Sikka*, for giving us hope. And thank you, 2024, for these promising voices in literature.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS By HARPERCOLLINS

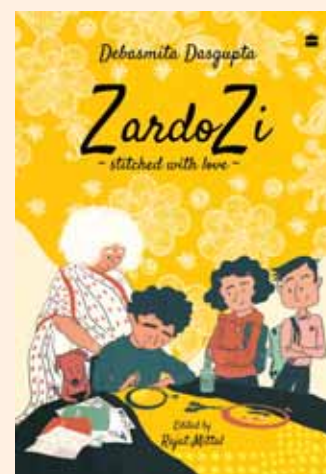
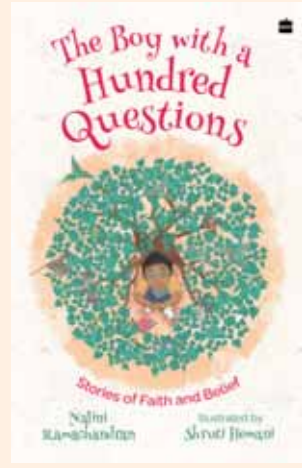


GOLDEN SPORTSPERSONS
by Tanushree Podder

A compelling compilation of India's legendary athletes like Neeraj Chopra, Mary Kom, and P.V. Sindhu. These stories of grit, discipline and resilience showcase how they overcame barriers to achieve greatness in sports such as athletics, boxing and chess. A must-read for sports enthusiasts and dreamers alike.

THE BOY WITH A HUNDRED QUESTIONS
by Nalini Ramachandran

Follow Shunya, a curious nine-year-old, on an enchanting adventure as he uncovers profound philosophies and the true meaning of his name. Through mystical tales and intriguing beliefs, this book celebrates the magic of curiosity and the wonder of exploring life's big questions.

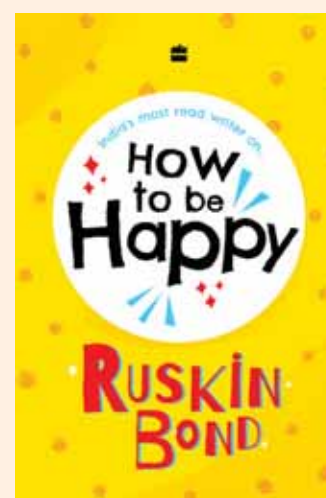


ZARDOZI
by Debasmita Dasgupta

Zi, a ten-year-old embroidery enthusiast, struggles against societal expectations. This heartwarming tale weaves themes of history, identity, and courage as Zi embarks on a journey of self-discovery. A beautiful story about embracing one's true self amidst life's challenges.

ROYAL-ISH
by Amrita Gandhi

Join Lily Ray, an awkward tween and nature vlogger, on a royal adventure in Bagradoo. With quirky companions and thrilling twists, Lily unravels a mystery threatening the kingdom's secrets. A delightful, action-packed tale filled with humour and heart.



HOW TO BE HAPPY
by Ruskin Bond

In this heartfelt book, Ruskin Bond shares nuggets of wisdom on leading a contented and fulfilling life. From embracing simplicity to finding joy in small moments, his advice is relatable, warm and timeless. A guide to happiness from a literary legend.

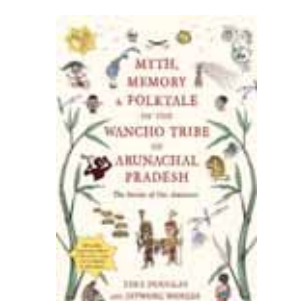


INDIA IN SCIENCE

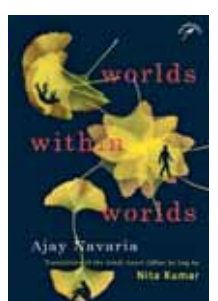
Discover India's incredible journey in science, featuring pioneers like J.C. Bose and Asima Chatterjee. With engaging illustrations, Nobel laureate highlights, and hands-on activities, this book is perfect for young science enthusiasts eager to learn and experiment.

YEAR-END BESTSELLERS

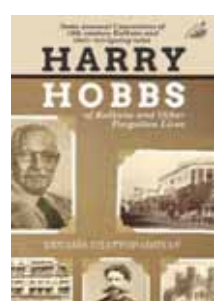
As we bid farewell to another year. Here's a curated list of books that have been the year's most talked-about and cherished reads, brought to you by the publisher, Niyogi Books



MYTH, MEMORY & FOLKTALE OF THE WANCHO TRIBE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
Authors: Tara Douglas & Jatwang Wangsa Price: ₹595/-



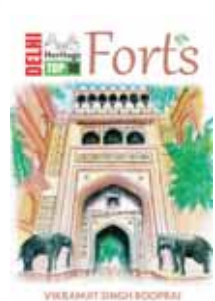
WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS
Author: Ajay Navaria
Translator: Nita Kumar
Price: ₹495/-



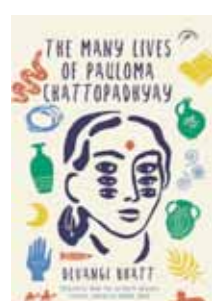
HARRY HOBBS OF KOLKATA AND OTHER FORGOTTEN LIVES
Author: Devasis Chattopadhyay
Price: ₹595/-



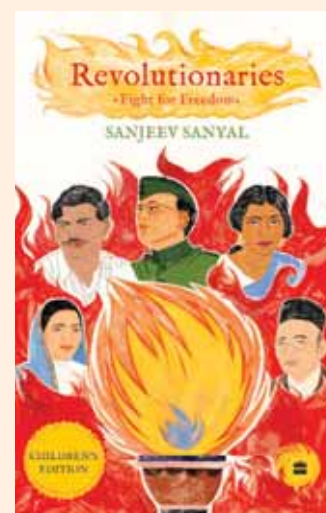
CHARLES CORREA: CITIZEN CHARLES
Author: Mustansir Dalvi
Price: ₹299/-



DELHI HERITAGE TOP 10 FORTS
Author: Vikramjit Singh Roorprai
Price: ₹499/-



THE MANY LIVES OF PAULOMA CHATTOPADHYAY
Author: Devangi Bhatt
Translator: Mudra Joshi
Price: ₹350/-



REVOLUTIONARIES
by Sanjeev Sanyal

An abridged tale of India's armed resistance, this book chronicles the bravery of revolutionaries like Subhas Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh. With intrigue, espionage, and adventure, it reveals the untold story of their fight for freedom. An inspiring read for young history buffs.

Top order hepls Australia score 311/6, Bumrah keeps battle alive

PTI ■ MELBOURNE
Jasprit Bumrah's knack of coming up with magic deliveries in crunch situations kept India alive after Australia's top-order, headed by teen debutant Sam Konstas' stroke-filled half-century, guided the hosts to 311 for 6 on the opening day of the fourth Test here on Thursday.
If Konstas' audacious 60 off 65 balls enthralled the near sell-out crowd of over 80,000 at the MCG during a humid morning session, Bumrah's (3/75 in 21 overs) deception of length to dismiss Travis Head (0) also had its takers as chants of 'Boom, Boom, B o o o o m r a a a a a h' reverberated through the stands.
Coming into the Test with back-to-back hundreds, Head couldn't judge the length of a Bumrah delivery that was pitched slightly fuller than what the batter expected. He shouldered his arms trusting the bounce but the 66.2 overs old Kookaburra nipped back to clip the off-ball.
In the next over, he removed an out-of-form Mitchell Marsh (4), having got Usman Khawaja (57 off 121 balls)

with the half-tracker in the post-lunch session. The first two sessions, however, belonged to Australia with senior players Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne (72 off 145 balls) and Steve Smith (68 batting, 111 balls) scoring half-centuries.
The final session was all about Bumrah magic. The Indian spearhead didn't let the hosts completely walk away with the game which they threatened to do at one stage.
He now has 24 wickets in the series. With Mohammed Siraj (0/69 in 15 overs) off-colour, Bumrah didn't have much support save off-spinner Washington Sundar (1/37 in 12 overs), who bowled a containing line.
Akash Deep (1/59 in 19 overs) though got Alex Carey with the second new ball at the fag end of the day. Even Ravindra Jadeja (1/54 in 14 overs) leaked runs despite getting Konstas out and Nitish Reddy, the batting all-rounder, was only used before the second new ball was taken.
'Sam Jams at the G'
The morning was owned by the precocious 19-year-old



from New South Wales. Konstas didn't show any nerves during his scintillating knock, which comprised of two sixes off Bumrah. He also didn't mind a good scrap with India's superstar Virat Kohli, whose shoulder brush with the 19-year-old led to a brief confrontation. In fact, Bumrah was hit for a six for the first time in a Test since Cameron Green hit him for one back in 2021. The gap between Konstas' first six, which was a lap scoop, and the one that Green hit three years ago was 4000 legal Test match deliveries.
After a conventional lap scoop for maximum, Konstas also hit a reverse lap scoop towards third man for another boundary. The second six was pummelled over mid-on.
The way he attacked the Indian bowling with gusto gave his veteran opening partner Khawaja a chance to get back to form with a patient half-century.

But Khawaja would be really annoyed with himself as he couldn't time a pull shot off a Bumrah half-tracker, which went straight into KL Rahul's hands in the post-lunch session.
The duo added 89 runs in such quick time that Labuschagne and last match's centurion Smith didn't need to show any urgency.
For Konstas, it all began with a few play and misses off Bumrah's opening over but as soon as the teenager got his first couple of runs, things changed dramatically.
The fearlessness of youth stood out on the big stage as Konstas pulled off the lap-scoop against Bumrah before smashing him over mid-on for another maximum.
The fans and experts alike were forced to think the last time Bumrah (1/50 in 15 overs) was hit for two sixes in his first spell of a Test match. They couldn't because it never happened in a first spell.
The stump mic caught Bumrah saying "Beginner's Luck" but Konstas seemed to have enough wares to answer his probing queries. And it was laced with a lot of spunk as he got into a verbal duel with Kohli after their shoulders brushed while crossing each other.
He often shuffled towards leg-stump to make room and on one occasion, crunched Bumrah past cover.
Mohammed Siraj was welcomed into the attack with a loud round of boos as he sledged the youngster due to his unconventional hitting style.
In all, Konstas hit six fours apart from the two maximums. Only Akash bowled a good channel among the pacers as Siraj was guilty of going too full or too short.
As Australia scored at more than a fair clip, skipper Rohit Sharma had to introduce Ravindra Jadeja (1/33 in 11 overs) in the 16th over to at least stem the flow of runs before it went out of hand.
The decision did pay dividends as the seasoned spinner got an arm ball to skid through with the angle to trap Konstas in front.
Khawaja and Labuschagne then added 65 for the second wicket with the Pakistan-born opener hitting Akash for a couple of boundaries to complete his first fifty of the series.

Andy Pycroft completes 100 Tests as match referee

PTI ■ MELBOURNE
Former Zimbabwe captain Andy Pycroft on Thursday became only the fourth official in the history of men's Test cricket to complete 100 games as a match referee with the Boxing Day contest between India and Australia that began here on Thursday.
The exclusive list is led by former Sri Lanka player Ranjan Madugalle as the most experienced match referee with 225 Tests, followed by New Zealand's Jeff Crowe (125) and England's Chris Broad (123). The 68-year-old Pycroft played three Tests and 20 ODIs for Zimbabwe from 1983-1992.
'Pycroft, who has also officiated in 238 men's ODIs, 174 men's T20Is and 21 women's T20Is since 2009, said he has enjoyed every minute of the journey to 100 matches as a match referee; the ICC said on its website.
Pycroft said touching the mark is a great honour and he is thankful to have been afforded the opportunity to officiate all over the world, "embracing different cultures."
"It has been a rewarding journey and I have treasured every moment of it," he added.

Arjun Erigaise looking to qualify for next Candidates through World Rapid and Blitz

PTI ■ NEW YORK
Grandmaster Arjun Erigaise will have to tackle obstacles to retain his chances of becoming the first Indian to enter the 2026 Candidates' tournament when he opens his campaign at the World Rapid and Blitz chess tournament here.
Erigaise, who currently trails Fabiano Caruana of the United States in the list of players slated to qualify from 2024, will have a tall order to win the World Rapid chess championship that gets underway here.
It may be noted here that the last time an Indian won the crown here was in 2019 when Koneru Humpy triumphed and in 2017 Viswanathan Anand had defied all odds to win the



title. World's top rated Magnus Carlsen will be back to defend his title in the faster version of the game as the top seed in both rapid and blitz and he will certainly be the most formidable rival for anyone in the fray.
For Erigaise to eclipse Carlsen as well as Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura of the United States is easier said than done, given the proficiency of the trio in quick chess.
The participants list is a virtually who's who of the chess world and the only big name missing is D Gukesh, who withdrew after winning an exhausting world championship match against Ding Liren of China just a

couple of weeks back in Singapore.
From India, much can be expected from R Praggnanandhaa as well. He is well rested and must be looking for this event to end the year on a high note.
Apart from Erigaise and Praggnanandhaa, Raunak Sadhwani and Aravindh Chithambaram are the other two Indians to take note of in the open section.
In the women's section, Humpy will start yet again as favourite amongst the Indians. R Vaishali and Divya Deshmukh are the two emerging stars and have been doing pretty well in the last one year.
Vaishali, in fact, had taken the chess world by surprise by qualifying for the Women's Candidates in 2023.

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Deshmukh was one of the mainstays for Team India in the gold medal winning performance during this year's chess Olympiad.

India needed Rohit to open, Washington's variation at MCG, says Nayar on axing Gill

PTI ■ MELBOURNE
India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar on Thursday defended axing Shubman Gill from the Boxing Day Test, saying it was in team's best interest to not only have Rohit Sharma back to his usual opening slot but also add some sting to the attack by drafting in spin all-rounder Washington Sundar.
Gill, who missed the first Test due to a finger injury, scored 31 and 28 in the Pink Ball Test and looked the most assured among Indian batters. He, however, got out for a duck in Brisbane. With Rohit Sharma opening the innings and KL Rahul coming at No. 3, Gill had to make way for a third specialist all-rounder in Washington.
"Yes, Rohit will come up in the order and more likely than not, he will open the innings. That was the thought process. Unfortunately for Gill, just how things



spanned out, he had to miss out," Nayar said at the end of the day's play.
"I just feel for a young player in a position like that, a big day, he wants to make his mark. He understands it's the team's requirement and it's unfortunate, but I wouldn't say that he's been dropped per se. It's just unfortunate that he couldn't find

his place in this game," the former Mumbai stalwart said but the explanation lacked conviction.
He elaborately explained why playing Washington at the MCG made sense ahead of Gill.
"A lot of the decisions when they are made, and the process of it being made, the communication is always there and transparency is there. It's pretty obvious that we felt in these conditions, looking at the pitch, having Washy in the bowling attack will give us that variation, especially towards the end once the ball gets old," he said.
"Post the 50 overs, we felt that was an area that we wanted to get better at. We felt Washy could give us that solidarity with Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja), especially the way Travis Head and Alex Carey were getting runs lower down. So we felt having an offie in the ranks will provide us with that."

Virat Kohli fined 20 per cent match fees for altercation with Sam Konstas

PTI ■ MELBOURNE
Virat Kohli and Australian youngster Sam Konstas were on Thursday involved in a physical altercation because of which the Indian superstar was fined 20 per cent of his match fee and handed a demerit point even though it was played down as an accidental bump by the 19-year-old debutant.
The brief showdown took place after the 10th over of the Australian innings on the opening day of the fourth Test here when the players were crossing over. Kohli and Konstas bumped shoulders while moving across the pitch in the face off that was initiated by the travelling star. Kohli was eventually charged with breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct by on-field umpires Joel Wilson and Michael Gough, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Shawn Craig.
He accepted the sanctions

proposed by match referee Andy Pycroft at the end of day's play.
"Virat Kohli has been fined 20 per cent of his match fee and awarded one demerit point for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct," the ICC said in a statement.
"No formal hearing was needed as Kohli accepted the sanctions proposed by Match Referee Andy Pycroft," it added.
After the physical contact, both players quickly turned around to glance at each other and engage in a heated exchange of words before Konstas' teammate Usman Khawaja stepped in to separate them. The on-field umpires also had a word with the two and things cooled down rather quickly.
Speaking to reporters after stumps, Konstas said Kohli bumped into him but it wasn't deliberate.
"I was just doing my gloves and I think he accidentally bumped me. I think that's just



cricket and can happen with tension," said the teenager.
"I think the emotions got to both of us," Konstas had told 'Channel 7' during the second session.
The ICC's Code of Conduct states that "any form of inappropriate physical contact is prohibited in cricket. Without limitation, players will breach this regulation if they deliberately, recklessly and/or negligently walk or run into or shoulder another player or umpire".
Kohli's match fee for the game was to be Rs 15 lakh but that amount would be reduced to Rs 12 lakh owing to the fine. This is the first demerit point that Kohli has logged since 2019. Four demerit points over a period of two years lead to a suspension of one Test.
Konstas, who was batting on 27 at the time, went on to hit Jasprit Bumrah for two boundaries and a six in the next over. The teenager scored a stunning fifty on

debut before Ravindra Jadeja trapped him leg before wicket.
India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, who addressed the media in the end-of-day press conference, also brushed aside the incident as nothing big.
"When you play a game, there will be emotions but it is not as big as it seems. I wasn't aware of what happened and don't know what was said," he said in response to queries.
Kohli criticised for his actions Konstas might have dismissed it as routine but former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting blamed Kohli for instigating the exchange. He went to the extent of saying that Kohli could face disciplinary action for it.
"Have a look where Virat walks. Virat's walked one whole pitch over to his right and instigated that confrontation. No doubt in my mind whatsoever," Ponting said on Channel 7 while watching the replay of

the incident.
"I have no doubt that the umpires and the referee will have a good look at that. Fielders should be nowhere near the batsman at that stage. It looked to me that Konstas looked up really late, wouldn't even know anyone is in front of him. That man on-screen there (Kohli) might have a few questions to answer," Ponting added.
Former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who was at the helm during Kohli's captaincy, said the run-in was unnecessary.
"There is a line and you don't want to overstep that line. That's unnecessary, totally unnecessary. You don't want to see that. You know Virat is a senior player, he has been captain of the side," he said on 'Fox Sports'.
"He will have his own explanations for this but it's something you don't want to see. One person who would be watching, his eyes locked into the proceedings is Andy Pycroft," he added.

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Advt.No.CSB/03/2024 Date: 27.12.2024

EXTENSION NOTICE

Central Silk Board has published the Notification No.CSB/03/2024 dated 12.10.2024 which appeared in the Employment News of 12-18 October, 2024 for filling various posts on deputation basis. It is for information to the applicants that the last date for the receipt of application against various posts has been extended upto 27.01.2025.
For details, refer CSB website: www.csb.gov.in
CBC: 41109/12/0022/2425 Central Silk Board

USP
Punjab and Sind Bank recently hosted a Sports/ MSME customer meet at Jalandhar. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Sh. Ravi Mehra (Executive Director), Sh. Chaman Lal Shienhmar (Field General Manager, Chandigarh) and Sh. Milind Buchke (Zonal Manager, Jalandhar).
Sh. Milind Buchke welcomed all the guests present and Sh. Ravi Mehra talked with the entrepreneurs and industrialists of Jalandhar and Kapurthala present and highlighted the Banks scheme present for the MSME Customers. Also bank has recently launched e - Apna Ghar and e - Apna Vahan for retail customers where the customer can get loan without any human intervention even on holidays. Sh. Ravi Mehra Ji also announced that on same lines MSME loans are also being launched in a few days. Also a new branch is being inaugurated in coming times in Basti Nau, dedicated to catering to the Sports and MSME customers of Jalandhar. Sh. Ravi Mehra saluted the spirit of people of Punjab and their will to start new businesses and establishing Jalandhar as the Sports hub of India.

Bank of Maharashtra's branch 17C Chandigarh celebrated its 50th anniversary today. All the senior citizens and other distinguished customers and Deputy Zonal Manager Gopal Mehra and all other employees were present in the dignified presence of the guests. Branch Manager Kumar Gautam welcomed everyone and expressed his commitment to provide better customer service and to bring various new products of the bank like personal loan, home and car loan to the customers. Among the customers present were B K Bansal, Saranjit Singh, Indrepreet Singh etc. All the customers expressed their satisfaction over the better banking service provided by the branch and also accepted that along with the bank branch, they too have become very prosperous with the cooperation of the bank in the past years.