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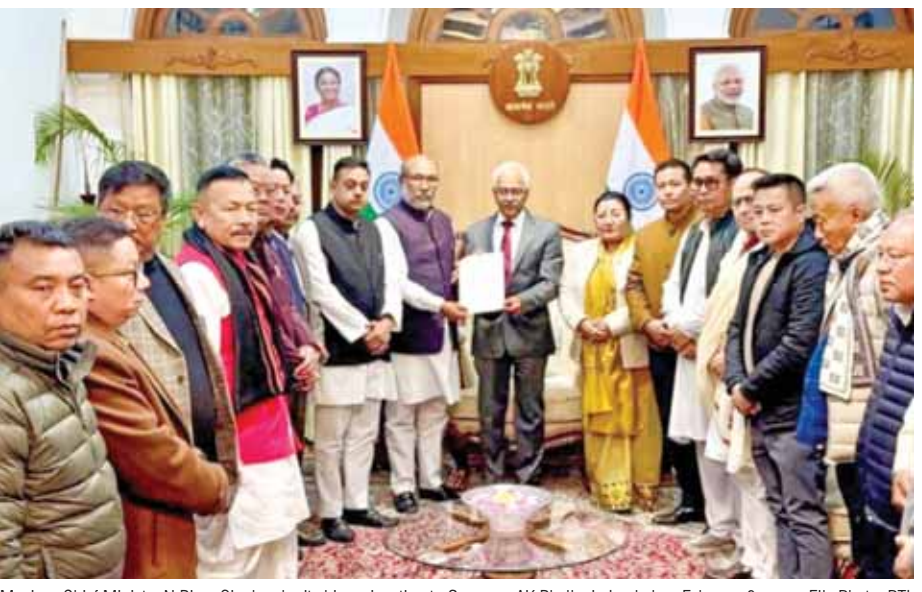
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MANIPUR UNDER PRESIDENT RULE



Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh submits his resignation to Governor AK Bhalla, in Imphal on February 9. File Photo: PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/IMPHAL

In a quick turn of events in a strife torn Manipur, President's rule was imposed in the State on Thursday and the State Assembly put under suspended animation. This comes days after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned from his post that led to political uncertainty in the northeastern state and within a month of taking over of bureaucrat turned Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. The Manipur Assembly, which has tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation, according to a notification issued by the

Ministry of Home Affairs. Singh, who was heading the BJP government in Manipur, resigned as chief minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far. Singh resigned on February 9 and submitted his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in Imphal, hours after his meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the national Capital. The Congress which has been continuously raising the issue of Manipur at every platforms including the Parliament, rued the fact that President's rule in the state came after fabric of state's society was allowed to be severely damaged, if not destroyed. "President rule

imposed in Manipur after Home Minister Amit Shah clearly failed to manage state, a task entrusted by Prime Minister. BJP, allies got majority in Manipur in 2022, but their politics led to 'colossal tragedy' 15 months later," the Congress said in a statement. The decision to impose the Central rule was taken after the governor sent a report to President Droupadi Murmu. "After considering the report and other information received by me, I am satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of that state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India," the notification said.

New I-Tax bill to be simpler

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha on Thursday and urged Speaker Om Birla to refer it to a select committee of the House. The much-anticipated Bill will replace terminologies such as "assessment year" and "previous year" with the easier-to-understand "tax year" as part of a move to simplify language while removing provisos and explanations. Following introduction, the Bill was referred to the select committee of the Lok Sabha, which is mandated to submit its report by March 10. Responding to the objections raised by some Opposition members at the introduction stage of the bill, the Finance Minister said Manish Tewari



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi. PTI

of the Congress and NK Premchandran of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) were incorrect in stating that the new bill has more sections in comparison with the existing income tax law. Finance

Minister said that while in 1961 the present law had fewer sections, after a series of changes over the years it now has 819 sections. The proposed Act only has 536 sections. The simplified Income Tax Bill,

which is half the size of the 1961 Income Tax Act, seeks to achieve tax certainty by minimising the scope of litigation and fresh interpretation, said the Income Tax Department, after tabling of the new bill. The new bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha, has a word count of 2.6 lakh, lower than 5.12 lakh in the I-T Act. The number of sections is 536, as against 819 effective sections in the existing law. The number of chapters has also been halved to 23 from 47, according to the FAQ issued by the I-T department. The Income Tax Bill 2025, has 57 tables, compared to 18 in the existing Act and removed 1,200 provisos and 900 explanations. Provisions relating to exemptions, and TDS/TCS have been made crispier in the bill by putting them in a tabular format.

Modi, Gabbard talk counter-terrorism

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the newly appointed Director of National Intelligence in the Donald Trump administration Tulsi Gabbard, and discussed India-USA friendship, of which he said, she has been a "strong votary". Modi also congratulated Hindu-American Gabbard on her confirmation as the nation's top intelligence official. She was confirmed on Wednesday. "Met USA's Director of National Intelligence, @TulsiGabbard in Washington DC. Congratulated her on her confirmation. Discussed various aspects of the India-USA friendship, of which she's always been a strong votary," Modi posted on X. Discussions also focused on enhancing intelligence cooperation in counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and emerging threats, Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with USA's Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard in Washington DC. PTI

"PM @narendramodi held a productive meeting with US Director of National Intelligence @TulsiGabbard in Washington DC today. Discussions focused on enhancing intelligence cooperation in counter-terrorism, cybersecurity & emerging threats," the post said. Modi arrived in the US capital on Wednesday around 5.30 pm (Thursday, 4 am IST) after a visit to France where he had co-chaired the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron. Modi and Trump will hold bilateral discussions in the White House on Thursday. "Our nations will keep working closely for the benefit of our people and for a better future for our planet," Modi said on X. On Wednesday, Gabbard was sworn in as director of national intelligence on Wednesday in the Oval Office, hours after the Senate confirmed her, The Hill reported.

Attorney General Pam Bondi administered the oath of office to Gabbard, who Trump called "an American of extraordinary courage and patriotism." He noted that she was deployed three times in the Army National Guard and that she is a former Democratic congresswoman, riffing "Can you believe that?" Gabbard, 43, a former Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii, had faced bipartisan scepticism about her suitability for overseeing the spy agencies. Gabbard thanked the president for his trust in her and vowed to "refocus our intelligence community" after she was sworn in. "Unfortunately, the American people have very little trust in the intelligence community, largely because they've seen the weaponization and politicization of an entity that is supposed to be purely focused on ensuring our national security," the new intelligence chief said.

Waqf Bill report sparks protests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The report of the joint committee of Parliament on the Waqf bill was tabled in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha amid uproar on Thursday, with the proceedings briefly adjourned following a heated debate between the treasury and the Opposition benches. In Rajya Sabha the Opposition MPs led by Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that dissent notes were deleted from the report. Later in Lok Sabha Home Minister Amit Shah asserting the BJP has no objection to the Opposition's dissent notes being included without redaction, and asked the Speaker decide according to procedures. When panel chairman Jagdambika Pal rose to table the report, Opposition members shouted slogans, which were countered by thumping of benches by the Treasury side. The Opposition members then staged a walkout, raising slogans against Pal. Amid noisy protests by the Opposition, Shah said, "Some opposition members have objected to their dissent notes not annexed fully. I wish to request you on behalf of my party that whatever their objections you can attach the same to the report as per parliamentary practice as you feel appropriate." "My party has no objection to it," he added. The Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill adopted the report on the draft legislation by a 15-11 majority vote. Earlier, reacting to Malikarjun Kharge's charges, at a press conference in Parliament House complex, Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that certain portions which amounted to casting aspersions on the panel itself were



Members protest in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament. PTI

redacted. "Some of the points which amount to casting aspersion on the committee itself have been removed. The chairman of the committee has powers to do so," he said, asserting, "Everything has been done as per rules," he said. Later redacted portions were also submitted to Rajya Sabha. The report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was tabled in Rajya Sabha by BJP member Medha Vishram Kulkarni, a member of the panel. The tabling of the report was followed by uproar by members from the Opposition benches. The clamour continued as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar tried to read out a message from President Droupadi Murmu. "Don't show disrespect to the President of India..." Dhankhar said and urged Kharge to ask the Opposition members to take their seats. As the uproar continued, the Upper House was adjourned till 11:20

am. When the Upper House reconvened, the chairman read out the message from the president that she had received the expression of thanks by members of the Rajya Sabha on her address to a joint sitting of Parliament on January 31. When the chairman tried to proceed with the Zero Hour, Opposition members continued to protest and some MPs trooped into the well of the House. Leader of the House JP Nadda regretted that the Rajya Sabha was not in order when the president's message was read out. Chairman Dhankhar said Samirul Islam, Nadimul Haque and M Mohamed Abdulla "created chaos and disruption in the House". Kharge was then called to speak. The Congress chief said dissent notes from the Opposition MPs to the Waqf bill were redacted from the report. "The report of the joint

committee of Parliament on Waqf... in which several members had given their dissent note has been taken out. Bulldozing the report by only keeping the views of the majority members is not right. It is condemnable, anti-democratic," he said. Calling it a "fake report," he said it should be withdrawn and sent back to a committee. The MPs are protesting not for personal reasons but because of the injustice being done to a community, he said. "This is not about any individual... These MPs are not protesting for their own sake, they are protesting for the community against which injustice is being done," Kharge said. DMK's Tiruchi Siva and AAP's Sanjay Singh also objected to the alleged removal of dissent notes from the report. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rijiju, however, denied the charge. "There is no deletion or removal of any part of the report. Don't mislead the House. Opposition members (are) making unnecessary issues. The allegation is false," he said. Union ministers Bhupender Yadav and Nirmala Sitharaman also accused the opposition parties of misleading the Upper House, prompting another heated exchange between the treasury and the opposition benches. The Congress' Syed Nasir Hussain accused Rijiju -- who is also the Union Minority Affairs Minister -- of misleading the House and said, "My own dissent note has been redacted." TMC member Saket Gokhale said it was not a "religious" but a "Constitutional issue". Rijiju reiterated that the report had all annexures and nothing was taken out. The opposition MPs then staged a walkout and the House proceeded with the Question Hour.

PMLA misused like dowry law: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday pulled up the ED for using the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to keep an accused in jail and questioned if the provision was "being misused" like the dowry law. A bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan made the observation on Wednesday while granting bail to Arun Pati Tripathi, a former Excise Officer from Chhattisgarh. The top court expressed surprise at how the accused was kept in custody if a court order taking cognisance of the complaint was quashed by Chhattisgarh High Court. "The concept of PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) cannot be that a person should remain in jail. If the tendency is to keep the person in jail, even after cognisance is quashed, what can be said? See what happened in 498A cases. PMLA also being misused like that?" the bench asked. Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code protects married women from cruelty by their husbands and their relatives. During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate (ED), opposed the grant of bail, saying crooks could not get away on technical grounds. Raju submitted cognisance was quashed for



lack of sanction and that it was irrelevant for bail. Expressing dismay, the bench said, "It is shocking that the ED knows the cognisance was quashed, yet this was suppressed. We should summon the officers. The ED must come clean." "What kind of signals are we giving? Order taking cognisance is quashed and the person is in custody," the top court bench said. The top court was hearing an appeal of Tripathi, an Indian Telecom Services officer, challenging a Chhattisgarh High Court order denying him bail in connection with the high-profile liquor scam in the state. Tripathi, who served on

deputation as Special Secretary and managing director of the Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Limited, was arrested after an ED investigation. The ED initiated the probe based on a predicate offence registered by the economic offences wing, Raipur, under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act. The federal agency alleged a criminal syndicate comprising senior government officials, private individuals, and political executives manipulated the state's excise policies to extort illegal earnings from the liquor trade.

Wedding crashers: Leopard joins baraat; sends guests running for cover

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

What was supposed to be a grand wedding celebration in Uttar Pradesh's capital turned into an action-packed thriller when an uninvited guest-a leopard-decided to join the festivities. Akshay Srivastava and Jyoti Kumari's wedding at MM Lawn was in full swing on Wednesday night, with music, laughter, and clinking glasses setting the mood. That was until, at around 11 PM, a four-legged gate crasher made a dramatic entry, turning the dream wedding into a scene straight out of a survival movie. "I thought it was part of the decor at first-until it moved!" said one stunned guest, still catching his

breath. What followed was pure chaos. Guests abandoned their plates and fled in all directions. Some made a beeline for the gate, while one particularly panicked guest decided that jumping off the first floor was a better idea-unfortunately, he ended up with injuries. "I could not believe my eyes. One moment we were enjoying the wedding, and the next, we were running for our lives," said Rajesh Verma, a family friend of the groom. Meanwhile, the bride and groom, proving their teamwork skills early in their marriage, sprinted to their car and locked themselves inside. On the other hand, the leopard,



A leopard is seen in the left image after it entered a banquet hall amid an ongoing wedding, while the bride and others are seen on the right image running to save their lives, in Lucknow. PTI



The bride and others are seen on the right image running to save their lives, in Lucknow. PTI

confused by the flashing lights and the screaming people, darted around the venue, looking for an

escape. Forest officials and police arrived after an urgent SOS and began

what turned into a five-hour game of hide-and-seek with the big cat. To locate the leopard, the

authorities then deployed a drone. The live footage confirmed that the animal was on the roof, crouching in a corner. As the forest department's team cautiously climbed the stairs to approach the leopard, the animal, sensing danger, suddenly leaped down. "It all happened in seconds. One moment the leopard was on the roof, and the next, it was charging toward us. It roared and pounced on our officer," said Mukul Yadav, a police constable. The leopard was eventually located on the first floor, crouching in a room, probably wondering why no one had offered it any biryani. As forest official Muqaddar Ali approached the feline intruder,

the animal made its objections clear-by swiping at him with its paw. The next moment, Ali's left hand was covered in blood. "That leopard had no wedding invitation, but it sure had sharp claws," Ali later said, holding his bandaged hand. Finally, at around 3:30 AM, the leopard was safely captured, allowing everyone to exhale for the first time in hours. Two camerapersons, caught up in the chaos, also suffered minor injuries. By morning, with the drama behind them and the leopard safely out of the picture, the wedding rituals resumed-though guests were likely keeping one eye on the mandap and the other on the exits.

Govt's Big Push: 60k Jobs, Rs 14k-cr Pay Arrears, Special NRI Courts, Housing Schemes

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After a four-month hiatus, the Punjab Cabinet on Thursday convened a crucial meeting lasting three hours and discussing nearly 70 agendas. A slew of transformative decisions was made, ranging from employment generation and NRI welfare to financial relief for government employees, housing for economically weaker sections (EWS), and environmental sustainability. The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, aimed at addressing key governance challenges while boosting the state's development trajectory. In a major relief to government employees and pensioners, the Cabinet approved the disbursement of Rs 14,000 crore in pending arrears from the Sixth Pay Commission in a phased manner until 2028. Additionally, the Government greenlit the recruitment of 3,000 individuals across various departments, the creation of 60,000 jobs in government and private sectors, and a special amnesty policy for defaulting land allottees.

Other notable decisions included the establishment of six fast-track courts for NRIs, enhancement of financial aid for acid attack victims, pilot project to install 200 solar pumps, increase in honorarium of village chowkidars, massive housing initiative for the EWS over 1,500 acres of land, among others. **Job Bonanza for Punjab's Youth** Continuing its push for employment generation, the Cabinet approved the recruitment of 2,000 Physical Training Instructors (PTI) teachers, and 822 healthcare professionals, including lab technicians, staff nurses, and multipurpose health workers. Additionally, the Punjab State Legal Services Authority will see 22 new Lok Adalats, and three new posts will be created in the newly established district of Malerkotla. To further strengthen the Excise and Taxation Department, 53 drivers will be recruited, while the nomenclature of department inspectors will be changed to State Taxation Officers. The revival of 822 Group C cadre positions in the Health and Family Welfare Department and the creation of 97 posts at

PUNJAB CABINET

the Dr BR Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences, SAS Nagar, were also approved.

A major boost for industrial employment came through a decision to waive stamp duty, registration fees, and other charges for transferring land to the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) project. The initiative is expected to generate over 50,000 jobs, including 32,724 industrial jobs and 14,880 in support services.

EWS Housing and Land Utilization

In an effort to address housing shortages for the economically weaker sections (EWS), the Cabinet approved a policy to optimize 1,500 acres of reserved land. Scattered land parcels across

Two-Day Punjab Assembly Special Session On Feb 24-25

Punjab Cabinet on Thursday approved a two-day special session of the Vidhan Sabha on February 24 and 25 to address key legislative matters and pending bills. Announcing the decision after a Cabinet meeting, the state Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said: "The special session of the Punjab Assembly will be held on February 24 and 25 for some pending bills and legislative business."

Cheema also confirmed that the Budget Session would be held in March. The special sitting aimed at expediting crucial policy decisions, clear pending legislative work, and ensure smooth governance.

Swift Justice for NRIs with Six New Special Courts

Acknowledging the concerns of the Punjabi diaspora, the Government has approved six fast-track courts in key NRI-dominated districts — Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Moga, and Ludhiana. These courts will expedite long-pending legal matters of NRIs and ensure a fair and quick resolution of their disputes.

Social Welfare Boost for Acid Attack Victims, Village Chowkidars

The Cabinet decided to enhance the monthly financial assistance for acid attack victims from Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000; and expanded the Punjab Financial Assistance to Acid Victims Scheme, 2024 to include male and transgender victims also.

This move makes Punjab among the few states in India to offer gender-neutral support for acid attack survivors. In another welfare decision, the

Financial relief to Punjab's workforce

various colonies will be monetized, and the revenue generated will be used to develop dedicated housing units for EWS families.

The Bathinda Thermal Power Plant land will also be repurposed for residential and commercial projects, including a water treatment plant, bus stand, ESI hospital, and schools, with an additional 173 acres developed into a tourist hub.

Relief for Punjab's Employees and Pensioners In a significant move benefiting three lakh government employees and three lakh pensioners, the Cabinet approved the release of Rs 14,000 crore in arrears from the Sixth Pay Commission.

The arrears, covering the period from January 1, 2016, to June 30, 2022, along with DA/DR payments from July 1, 2021, to March 31, 2024, will be disbursed in phases. This decision provides much-needed

honorarium for village chowkidars was increased from Rs 1,250 to Rs 1,500 per month, acknowledging their role in maintaining law and order in rural areas.

Green Energy Push: Solar Pumps, Paddy Straw-Based Boilers

To promote renewable energy, the Cabinet approved a pilot project to install 200 solar pumps for agricultural use, with 90 percent funding from the State Government. This ini-

Major Policy Changes and Infrastructure Approvals

■ **Amnesty Policy for Defaulting Land Allottees:** Defaulted allottees can now repay their dues in lump sum without penalties with a 50 percent waiver on non-construction charges

■ **E-Auction Policy Amendments:** As per the amendments in the policy, in case a plot remains unsold after two consecutive auctions, its reserve price will be reduced by 7.5 percent. If unsold after additional rounds, reductions could reach 22.5 percent

■ **Rental Housing Policy Overhaul:** Rental projects are now permitted in institutional zones, with changes aimed at attracting more private investment

■ **Bio-Methanation Plant at Buddha Nullah:** The Cabinet approved a 2.5-acre Bio-Methanation Plant with a 300-ton daily capacity to process cow dung and industrial waste, aimed at reducing Buddha Nullah's pollution levels

■ **Sub-division Realignments for Better Administration:** Several villages were reassigned to different tehsils to streamline governance and public service access

■ **Extension of Time for PAPRA, MEGA Projects:** To support developers and ease hardships for allottees, Cabinet approved a two-year extension for PAPRA-licensed projects (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025) at Rs 25,000 per acre per year; and one-year extension until December 31, 2025, for MEGA projects also at the same fee

■ **UGC Pay Scales for Punjab Sports University:** Cabinet also approved UGC pay scales for teaching faculty at Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University, Patiala. This move aligns faculty salaries with national standards, enhancing academic opportunities and attracting top-tier educators to the institution

tiative aims to reduce farmers' dependence on traditional electricity sources while encouraging sustainable farming practices.

Furthering its environmental sustainability agenda, the Cabinet also announced a Rs one crore capital subsidy for setting up paddy straw-based boilers and Rs 50 lakh for upgrading existing ones. This policy will help curb stubble burning and create eco-friendly energy solutions.

LS Speaker Om Birla to inaugurate two-day orientation programme for MLAs in Hry today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate a two-day orientation programme for members of the Haryana Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Union Housing and Urban Affairs and Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, former Chief Minister Bhupendra Singh Hooda, Punjab Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Haryana Deputy Speaker Krishan Lal Middha, Uttar Pradesh Speaker Satish Mahana, Himachal Pradesh Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania and Gujarat Speaker Shankarbhai Chaudhary will be special participants in the programme.

This program is being organised by the Haryana Legislative Assembly in collaboration with the Institute for Parliamentary Democracy Research and Training (PRIDE) of the Lok Sabha. Haryana speaker Harvinder Kalyan

said the training sessions for MLAs will take place in the House, with special arrangements being made across the campus.

A team from the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies will conduct sessions on various subjects. A video film about the functioning of PRIDE will also be screened.

On the first day, the Preamble of the Constitution of India will be read out and in the afternoon, Punjab Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan and Speaker of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Satish Mahana will deliver an address on legislative experience. Lok Sabha Member and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Jagdambika Pal will address on how to be an effective MLA, what members should do and what they should not do. Apart from this, Lok Sabha Member and Chairman of the Estimates Committee Sanjay Jaiswal and Advisor to AICTE,

Ministry of Education, Government of India, (Joint Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat) Raghav Prasad Das will speak on the accountability of the executive through questions and other means in the legislatures.

Former Member of Parliament, Satya Pal Singh and Joint Secretary of Lok Sabha Secretariat YM Kandpal will give a speech on the Committee System - Reflection of Parliamentary Democracy. The spokesperson said on February 15, in the morning session, Gujarat Speaker Shankar Bhai Chaudhary will give a speech on legislative experience.

Apart from this, former Lok Sabha member Satya Pal Singh and Joint Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat Raghav Prasad Das will give a speech on legislative and financial work in the Indian Parliament and Haryana Legislative Assembly. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister and Power Minister Manohar Lal will give a speech on the role of a minister in legislative processes.

Observers asked to monitor election process continuously to ensure fair MC polls in Hry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To ensure free, fair and transparent Urban Local Body elections, Haryana State Election Commissioner Dhanpat Singh on Thursday said that all observers should continuously monitor the election process effectively.

After holding a meeting of general and police observers, Singh said that all observers will coordinate with the District Deputy Commissioner and police officers to conduct the municipal elections in a free, fair, peaceful and transparent manner.

He said that all observers should visit as many polling stations as possible, especially sensitive and hypersensitive polling stations.

Strict vigil should be maintained on distribution of cash or liquor, clothes or any other material by the contesting candidates, their representatives

and political parties to influence the voters. The State Election Commission should be informed about the seizure action taken daily till the completion of the election.

The State Election Commissioner said special vigil should be kept on the movement of anti-social elements, history-sheeters, fugitives, proclaimed offenders, people on parole/furlough, former convicts etc.

Also, ensure that the district administration takes immediate and effective action on all complaints related to law and order. He said the observers should fix a time to meet the contesting candidates, representatives of political parties and the public and after listening to their complaints, problems and suggestions, ask the concerned Deputy Commissioner, Police Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and Returning Officer to implement them.

Govt revises lump sum fee structure on cold storages operating in Hry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a move to support small cold storage operators, the Haryana Government has decided to revise the lump sum fee structure based on the capacity of cold storages operating in the state. Now, a lump sum fee of Rs. 35,000 will be applied to cold storages with a capacity of up to 2,000 metric tons.

For cold storages with a capacity ranging from 2,001 to 5,000 metric tons, the fee will be Rs. 55,000. Cold storages with a capacity of 5,001 metric tons or more will be charged a lump sum fee of Rs. 70,000. A spokesperson said that under the current notification, cold storages in the state were required to pay a lump sum fee of Rs. 70,000 per cold storage.

Drive against illegal mining: 324 vehicles seized in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Stepping up its efforts to combat illegal mining, the district-level Mines and Geology officials in Haryana have carried out a special inspection drive under which 3,950 locations have been inspected across the State. This extensive effort led to the seizure of 324 vehicles involved in illegal mining from January till date, generating revenue of approximately Rs 1.37 crore, a statement said on Thursday.

"Haryana Mines and Geology Department is stepping up its efforts to combat illegal mining in the state. With the objective of conserving natural resources and stopping unauthorized mining activities, the department has put in place a robust enforcement strategy that includes increased inspections, monitoring, and the use of cutting-edge technology," the statement added. As part of these measures, drones and other advanced tools are being

deployed to detect illegal mining operations, while vehicles associated with illicit activities are being seized. In addition, FIRs are being registered, and hefty fines are being levied on violators.

Acting swiftly on a complaint of illegal mining in Bhagwanpur village of Yamunanagar district, the department conducted an inspection of the area. The investigation revealed that boulders, gravel, sand, and ordinary soil were illegally mined over approximately 2 acres of land. As a result, a fine of Rs 65,37,732 was imposed, and an FIR was registered on February 11.

As per the guidelines of the Mining Department, regular inspections are ongoing in every district of Haryana. Notably, in Yamunanagar district, 123 vehicles have been seized, and 116 FIRs have been registered for illegal mining activities during the months of January and February (till February 10).

BRIEFS

Punjab Govt to Fill 111 Horticulture Development Officer Vacancies Soon: Bhagat

Chandigarh: The Punjab Government has approved the recruitment of 111 Horticulture Development Officers (HDOs) to enhance the overall development of the horticulture industry, support farmers, and create new employment opportunities in the state. Horticulture Minister Mohinder Bhagat on Thursday informed that the Chief Minister has given his approval to proceed with the recruitment process for filling these 111 vacancies of HDOs. He has instructed senior officials to submit the necessary details to the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) to initiate the selection process at the earliest. The Minister further emphasized that the appointment of HDOs will significantly contribute to the development of the horticulture sector by providing farmers with technical expertise, modern agricultural practices and improved support services.

Horticulture fair in Bhiwani on Feb 15, 16

Chandigarh: To encourage farmers towards horticulture, the second horticulture fair will be organised by the Horticulture Department on February 15 and 16 at the Center of Excellence for Semi Arid Horticulture, Gignow, Loharu in Bhiwani district. A government spokesperson said farmers willing to visit the fair can register their name by contacting the Horticulture Development Officer of the concerned district. He said mainly horticulture activities, seminars, horticulture mechanization, stalls and honoring progressive farmers etc. will be organized in the program.

Chandigarh F&CC recommends Rs 1664.75 crores draft budget proposal for 2025-26

Chandigarh: The Finance and Contract Committee of Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh on Thursday recommended the Budget Estimates of Rs 4.67 lakh crore under capital head and Rs 1197.00 crore under the revenue head for the financial year 2025-26 during its meeting. The meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Harpreet Kaur Babla, Mayor, and attended by Amit Kumar, Commissioner and members of the committee among others. The members of committee discussed other various important agenda items in detail and accorded approval for repair and renovation of civil dispensary at Sector 50 Chandigarh at an estimated cost of Rs 7.66 lakhs among others.

Fire incident in Gurugram: Hry Power Minister suspends Chief Engineer

Chandigarh: Haryana Power Minister Anil Vij on Thursday suspended Anil Kumar, Chief Engineer/TS of Haryana Viduyt Prasaran Nigam Limited (HVPNL), Hisar with immediate effect after failed to inform his higher authorities about the fire at the 33 kV GIS in the Sector-107 substation in Gurugram on February 9. The Headquarter of Anil Kumar during the suspension is fixed at Panchkula. Vij said that a report was received regarding a fire incident at the 33 kV GIS at the 220 kV substation in Sector-107, Gurugram, on February 9. He informed that this incident had disrupted the power supply to around 22 societies and other areas in Gurugram.

"Walk Against Addiction" organised in Chd

Chandigarh: The department of Social Welfare, Women & Child Development, in collaboration with the Department of Police (Crime & Traffic Branch) and the Department of School Education conducted the Walkathon: "Walk Against Addiction" on Thursday at Plaza, Sector 17, Chandigarh, under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. The event saw an overwhelming response, with participants marching from four different directions and converging at the central assembly point at Plaza, Sector 17. More than 200 officials from the Department of Police, Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), Traffic Police and students from the Department of School Education, UT, Chandigarh actively took part in this initiative.

Hry's gymnasts win 7 medals in National Games

Chandigarh: Haryana's players performed brilliantly by winning 7 medals in the gymnastics competition, including 2 silver and 5 bronze medals in the 38th National Games in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Haryana Sports Minister Gaurav Gautam felicitated the winning players and said they are getting a lot of benefits from Haryana's excellent sports policy. "Our players are bringing laurels to the country and the state by winning medals in Olympics, World Championships, Asian, Commonwealth and National Games. Haryana has become the hub of sports. Other states of the country are also following Haryana's sports policy," he said. The Sports Minister praised the excellent performance of Haryana's gymnasts in the National Games and said this achievement is not only the result of the hard work of the players, but is also a proof of the encouragement being given to sports by the state government.

Development works will be fast-tracked after municipal elections: CM Saini

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said that the development works will be fast tracked after municipal elections and new projects will also be implemented at an accelerated pace.

The election to 33 municipal bodies, including eight municipal corporations, in the State will be held on March 2 and the counting of votes will take place on March 12. Addressing the party workers in Narnaud, he urged the workers to ensure the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates in the civic elections and to push for further development of the region.

The Chief Minister also

criticized former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, recalling how, during the Delhi elections, Kejriwal spread various rumors, including the false claim that Haryana had poisoned the Yamuna River. He said that Kejriwal himself was born in Haryana, a place where the people have a long history of resilience, capable of enduring hardships themselves and sharing blessings with others. He added that the people of Haryana are deeply rooted in Sanatan culture.

Saini said that Kejriwal had claimed that, no one could defeat him, but his falsehoods were no match for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Guarantee. The people of Delhi proved this by giving a decisive mandate to the BJP, turning the Prime Minister's vision into a reality. He encouraged workers to accept any decisions the party makes regarding the civic elections, stressing the importance of unity to ensure the BJP's victory.

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab, which has witnessed a relentless election cycle over the past year, is gearing up for another round of polls — this time for the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections. As per a notification issued by the State Election Commission on Thursday, these elections must be conducted by May 31. While an exact date is yet to be finalized, sources suggested that the elections will be scheduled after the wheat harvest concludes in late April to prevent any disruption in the crucial agricultural cycle.

The previous elections for these rural bodies were conducted in September 2018, making the upcoming polls long overdue. Punjab has 23 Zila Parishads and 153 Panchayat Samitis, which form the backbone of local governance in rural areas.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the opposition Congress are expected to engage in a fierce battle to establish dominance in these grassroots political institutions.

Punjab's Continuous Election Season

Since March 16, 2024, when the model code of conduct was enforced for the Lok Sabha elections, the state has been in continuous election mode, severely impacting governance.

Punjab has seen at least five elections since March 2024 — starting from Lok

Sabha elections on June 1, 2024; Jalandhar (West) Assembly Bypoll on July 10, 2024; Panchayat Elections on October 15, 2024; assembly bypolls to four segments on November 20, 2024; and Municipal and Nagar Panchayat Elections in December 2024.

For Lok Sabha elections, the election code was in force from March 16, when the polls were announced, affecting governance for nearly three months.

The Congress won eight seats, while AAP, which rules the state, suffered setbacks. Following closely, a bypoll for the Jalandhar (West) assembly segment was announced barely 10 days after the Lok Sabha elections on June 10, extending the model code in Jalandhar district until July 10. Subsequently, in September 2024, panchayat elections were announced, bringing another wave of political activity, particularly in over 13,000 villages.

As if that were not enough, Punjab's political landscape remained heated as state leaders, except for those from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), were actively involved in campaigning for the Assembly elections in neighbouring Haryana on October 5.

The state finally conducted panchayat elections on October 15, 2024.

But even before political parties could recover, the Election Commission announced bypolls for four assembly segments — Gidderbaha, Barnala,

Chabbewal, and Dera Baba Nanak — leading to yet another electoral contest on November 20.

In December 2024, Punjab saw municipal elections, further extending the election season. The prolonged implementation of the MCC, which restricts policy decisions and financial allocations by the government, impacted governance significantly.

During the previous year, the State Government was able to convene only five Cabinet meetings throughout the year — on March 9, August 14, August 29, September 5, and October 5. While the Vidhan Sabha's Winter Session was given amiss, the planned Assembly session for early January this year to discuss the Centre's draft agriculture marketing policy was also postponed due to the Delhi Assembly elections as the entire cabinet, including the chief minister Bhagwant Mann, campaigned for the party.

Political Stakes and Rural Power Struggles

The upcoming Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections are expected to be a crucial battleground, particularly for AAP and Congress. In the previous elections held in 2018, Congress dominated these rural bodies.

However, AAP, which made significant inroads in Punjab's urban areas during the municipal elections, is expected to make a strong push to expand its rural influence.

For AAP, winning these

elections is crucial to consolidate its position ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. The rural electorate plays a decisive role in shaping Punjab's political landscape, and a victory here would cement AAP's credibility beyond urban strongholds. Conversely, for Congress, retaining control of these bodies is imperative to mount a challenge against AAP's dominance.

Furthermore, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will also attempt to make their presence felt. SAD, once a dominant force in rural Punjab, has been struggling with internal conflicts and declining support.

The BJP, which has failed to make significant electoral gains in Punjab despite repeated attempts, will likely use these elections to test its rural appeal.

Election Strategy and Possible Delays

While the notification mandated that the elections be completed by May 31, the Government is expected to take into account multiple logistical factors.

Board examinations in March could delay the election process, as teachers assigned to election duties will be occupied with exam invigilation. Immediately after exams, the wheat harvesting season will commence, further limiting the window for conducting polls.

Despite these logistical challenges, the State Election Commission, led by Raj Kamal Chaudhary, has assured that the elections will be conducted at the earliest possible date.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gurjeet Singh (Aadhar No. 7801 5590 1459) S/o Sh. Balvinder Singh R/o villa. Pipaltha Teshsil Narwana District Jind I have to declared that my son name Jasnoor changed to Jasnoor Singh for all future purpose.

I, Deepa Devi W/o Sh. Surender S/o Sh. Rampratap R/o H.No. 559, Ward No. 4, Kachcha Beri Road, Rohtak declare that my name is Deepa Devi, Deepa Bansal and Deepa name is written in different documents. Deepa Devi alias Deepa Bansal alias Deepa, these three names are my own names and are the names of the same person.

I, RAJVINDER KAUR W/O SURAJ PARKASH VILLAGE BADHUPUR TEHSIL MUKERIAN DISTT HOSHIARPUR HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM RAJVINDER KAUR TO RAJVINDER KAUR.

I, Anil Kumar Gupta S/O Punnu Ram R/O House no.69 R-3 Ward no.8 Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Anil Gupta to Anil Kumar Gupta.

I, Neha Gupta W/O Anil Kumar Gupta R/O House no.69, R-3 Ward no.8 Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Neha to Neha Gupta.

I, Parminder Singh S/o Bhupinder Singh R/O House No. 505, Block-A, Regalia Tower, Dhakoli, Zirakpur SAS Nagar Punjab have changed my name from Parminder Singh to Parminder Singh Walia.

I, NIIL KAMAL S/O BOKU SHAH R/O #372, BARMHAJRA MOHALI TEHSIL & DISTT. MOHALI HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM NIIL KAMAL TO NEEL KAMAL.

I, HARMANDEEP SINGH NAKAI SANDHU S/O MANJEET SINGH R/O VILLAGE PAKAN, FAZILKA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARMANDEEP SINGH.

I, Navya D/o Sh. Harish R/o 46 A, Dev Vatika, New Indra Colony, Hissar (Haryana) have changed my name from Navya Grover to Navya for all future purposes.

I, Anita W/o Shri Naresh Kumar, R/o village Mohali, Tehsil Bapoli, District Panipat, have changed my name from Anita to Anita Adhikha for all future purposes.

I, Asha Rani w/o Gulshan Madan r/o Plot No. 2, Hospital Area, Nilokheri, District Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Asha Rani to Suman Madan. In future I should be known as Suman Madan.

I, Manjeet Kaur Gill W/O Darshan Singh R/O Village Rasulpur Malla, Tehsil Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana, Have Changed My Name To Manjit Kaur.

I, Darshan Singh Gill S/O Gajjan Singh R/O Village Rasulpur Malla, Tehsil Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana, Have Changed My Name To Darshan Singh.

I, Arvindpal Singh Soni S/O Thakur Singh R/O Pakhowal Road Ludhiana Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Jaiveen Kaur To Jaiveen Kaur Soni.

I, Rajinder Singh Dhalla S/O Gurmali Singh R/O Vpo. Maluka Tehsil Phul Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Rajinder Singh.

I, Daljit Singh S/O Nanta Singh R/O Bughipura Distt. Moga My Father Was Known By Both Names As Nanta Singh Alias Neta Singh.

I, Jit Singh Alias Daljit Singh S/O Nanta Singh R/O Bughipura Distt. Moga Am Known By Above Both Names Both Names.

I, Sarabjit Singh S/O Rattan Singh R/O 6-B-1, Model Town, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Sarabjit Singh To Sarbjeet Singh.

I, Jasmeet Singh S/O Jasbir Singh R/O Vpo. Sahri District Hoshiarpur Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Jasmeet And Surname As Singh.

I, Sunita W/O Sushil Kumar R/O H.No.124 B20, New Civil Line, Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Sunita Rani To Sunita.

I, Gurpreet Singh S/O Amarjit Singh R/O Vill. Hossainpur Guru P.O. Kotla Naudh Singh, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Gurpreet And My Surname As Singh.

I, Harsh S/O Suresh Singh R/O Vill. Ferozepur P.O. Behbal Manj Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur Declare That My Given Name As Harsh And My Surname As Thakur.

I, Sukhjeet Kaur W/O Dhanna Singh R/O Vpo. Bhagta Bhai Ka Tehsil Phul, Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Sukhjeet Kaur Sidhu.

I, Kamaljeet Kaur Alias Neeru W/O Sandeep Singh R/O House No.-195 B Model Gram Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Kamaljeet Kaur.

I, Jeevan Sharma S/o Man Bahadur Shahu R/o H.No. 4210, Maloya Colony, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Jeevan Sharma to Jeevan Shahu.

I, Rajwint Kaur W/o Hardip Singh R/O Village Achintkot, PO Hoshiar Nagar District Amritsar Punjab Have Changed my name from Rajwint Kaur to Rajwint Kaur/Rajwint Kaur/

I, Rakesh Saini S/o Ram Murti R/o H.No.89, Street No.1, Batala Road, Gokul Vihar Jagdambe Colony Amritsar Have Changed my name from Rakesh Kumar To Rakesh Saini/

I, Dalip Kumar Chaudhary S/o Bisheshwar Chaudhary R/O.H.No.63-A, Gali No.1, Rajinder Nagar, Near Alpha One Mall, Amritsar have changed my name from Dalip Kumar To Dalip Kumar Chaudhary/

I, am Davinder Singh S/o Sukhwinder Singh R/O VILL-RAREWALI,PO-SHEZADA,TEHSIL.DERA BABA NANAK GURDASPUR,Punjab have add my surname to Singh. Given Name- DAVINDER Surname - Singh DAVINDER Singh.

I, am KARANDEEP KAUR W/O DAVINDER Singh R/O VILL-MALLU DAWARA TEHSIL.BATALA GURDASPUR,Punjab have add my surname to Singh. Given Name- KARANDEEP Surname - KAUR KARANDEEP KAUR.

I, Jatinder Singh S/o Surjit Singh R/o H.No.267 Gali No.5/3 Harkrishan Nagar Ghanpur Kale Road Chheharta Distt. Amritsar Punjab Declare That Jatinder is my Given Name and Singh is my Surname.

I, RAMJIYAVAN is Father of No. 15699848W Rank NK, Shivkaran of Unit 15 IDSR C/o 56 APO and Permanent resident of Vill Khapthakalan, Tehsil - Pailani, P/s Pailani, Distt. Banda, State -Uttar Pradesh 210001, have changed my Name from RAMJIYAVAN to RAMJIYAVAN and changed my date of Birth from 01-07-1953 to 01-01-1950, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB06735505764640X Dated 13-02-2025, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Suresh Chand Jain S/o Lal Chand Jain R/o 93, Jain Gali, Hissar have changed my name from Suresh Chand Jain to Suresh Jain for future.

I, Mukesh w/o Sunil Kumar, r/o H.No.88, Near Katha Chaupal VPO Babail Tehsil & District Panipat, declare that I have changed my name Mukesh Ahlawat to Mukesh for all purposes.

I, Sunil Kumar s/o Sh. Rajpal, R/o H.No.88, near Katha Chaupal VPO Babail Tehsil & District Panipat, declare that I have changed my name Sunil Ahlawat to Sunil Kumar for all purposes.

I, Love S/o Paramjit R/o Gali No.1, Ajit Nagar, Near GTB School, Kapurthala have changed my name from Love to Love Babbar.

I, hitherto known as Rahul S/o Baljinder Kumar R/O VPO. Bohani, Bohani, Kapurthala, Punjab-144403 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rahul Dadra.

I, hitherto known as Nitika Talwar D/o Adarsh W/o Saurabh Mishra R/o Q-1204, Q Block, Jalandhar Heights-2, 66 feet Road, Pholriwal, Jamsheer, Jalandhar-144020, Punjab Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nitika Talwar Mishra.

I, hitherto known as Jaspreet S/o Swaran Singh R/O Village Bhandal Dona, Po. Sidhwan Dona, Distt. Kapurthala-144625, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jaspreet Singh.

I, Raj Kamar S/o Om Parkash R/o House No. 1282, Sector-66, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab declare that in my office records my wife's name erroneously written as Anju Bala but her correct name is Reetika. Anju Bala and Reetika is one and the same person.

I, Kamaljit Kaur Gill hitherto known as Kamal Jit Kaur W/o Joginder Singh Gill R/O House No. 2149, Sector 71, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab have changed my name from Kamal Jit Kaur to Kamaljit Kaur Gill.

I, Suryakali is legally Mother of Service No. 16113954F Rank: Hav Name: Raj Kumar residing at Village Pure Ganga Mishra Post Teekarma Phi, Taluk Amethi, Distt. Amethi (State) Uttar Pradesh, Pin-227413, have changed my name from Surkali Devi to Suryakali.

I, Jayram Pal is legally Father of Service No. 16113954F Rank: Hav Name: Raj Kumar residing at Village Pure Ganga Mishra Post Teekarma Phi, Taluk Amethi, Distt. Amethi (State) Uttar Pradesh, Pin-227413, have changed my name from Jayram to Jayram Pal.

I, Heerabai Jirati Mother of Army No. 14943768P Rank: Nk Avnesh Jirati Unit: 6 Mech Inf C/o 56 APO, Resident of Village Godgaon, Godgaon, PO. Fafund, Distt. Dhar, Madhya Pradesh Pin- 453661 have changed my name from Heerabai Jirati to Hira Bai.

I, Jagannath Jirati Father of Army No. 14943768P Rank: Nk Avnesh Jirati Unit: 6 Mech Inf C/o 56 APO, Resident of Village Godgaon, Godgaon, PO. Fafund, Distt. Dhar, Madhya Pradesh Pin- 453661 have changed my name from Jagannath Jirati to Jagannath.

I, Divya Avnesh Jirati Legally Wedded Wife of Army No. 14943768P Rank: Nk Avnesh Jirati Unit: 6 Mech Inf C/o 56 APO, Resident of Village Godgaon, Godgaon, PO. Fafund, Distt. Dhar, Madhya Pradesh Pin- 453661 have changed my name from Divya Avnesh Jirati to Divya Jirati.

I, Harpreet Kaur W/o Makhnan Singh R/o VPO. Muradpur Naryal, Tehsil Tanda, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Harpreet Kaur to Harpreet Kaur Thiara.

I, No. 15445709P Rank Sep Name Sunil Kumar Tiwari presently residing at Vill - Bhilai, PO - Khursipar, Distt - Durg, State - Chhattisgarh, PIN - 490011 hereby declare that as per my service record my mother name erroneously recorded as Nirmala Devi whereas her correct name is Nirmala Tiwari vide Affidavit dated 23/01/2025 before executive Magistrate Jalandhar.

I, Manju Devi W/o Yash Pal R/o Vill. Hathon, PO. & Teh. Kanda Ghari, Distt. Solan (HP) have changed my minor son's name from Navik Rajput to Naitvik Rajput.

I, No. 15445709P Rank Sep Name Sunil Kumar Tiwari presently residing at Vill - Bhilai, PO - Khursipar, Distt - Durg, State - Chhattisgarh, PIN - 490011 hereby declare that as per my service record my spouse name erroneously recorded as Rekha Tiwari whereas her correct name is Rekha Mishra vide Affidavit dated 23/01/2025 before executive Magistrate Jalandhar.

I, Poonam Kumari legally spouse of Jeet Kumar resident of Vill and PO - Bharatpur, Distt - Bharatpur, State - Rajasthan, PIN - 321001 have changed my date of birth from 01-09-1998 to 01-09-1988 vide Affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before executive Magistrate Jalandhar.

I, Amolkajit Singh am legal deponent of JC-511625X Sub Kuldev Singh of 8 Sikh Li R/o Village Sarja, PO, Dhulka, PS-Tarsikka, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab-143111 have changed my name from Amolkajit Singh to Amolkajit Singh Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB05880929371049X.

I, Jai Vardhan S/o Late Ganga Narain R/O Near Jawahar Park, H.no. 42 A, Engineers Bungalow, Ward no. 6, Teh. & Distt. Solan declare that my correct name is Jai Vardhan but in the my share certificate record my name entered as Jai Vardhan Diwan should be corrected as Jai Vardhan.

I, hitherto Known as Ranjit Kaur Durha W/o Hardev Singh Duhra R/o VPO. Duhre Distt. Jalandhar-144302 Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ranjit Kaur Duhra.

I, Ishwar Chand S/o Thakur Datt R/o Ward No.10,Bhai Ji Wali Gali, Pehowa,Kurukshetra have changed my name Ishwer Chand Tiwari.

I, Saroj W/O Bhushan Pal R/O 57/212 Durga Khera, Thanesar distt. Kurukshetra Haryana have Changed my name Saroj Bala for all future purposes.

I, Aryan S/o Balinder R/o Near Balmik Chopal, Bikkhari Patty,Guliana ,Kaithal have changed my given name Aryan Surname Singh.

I, HEENA GANDOTRA W/O DALIP KUMAR R/O H.NO.B-3/270, NEAR MANDIR & MASZID, NABIPUR, GURDASPUR. PUNJAB. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM HEENA GANDOTRA TO HEENA SHARMA.

I, VINOD KUMAR MAHAJAN S/O JAGDISH RAI R/O 130 A/4 ADARSH NAGAR MANDI GURDASPUR. TEHSIL /DISTT GURDASPUR, PUNJAB-143521. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM VINOD KUMAR MAHAJAN TO VINOD KUMAR.

I, S.R. BHARDWAJ S/O NARAIN DASS R/O TIBRI ROAD DEV NAGAR BEHIND NAG DEVTA MANDIR GHURALA. TEHSIL/DISTT-GURDASPUR, PUNJAB. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM S.R. BHARDWAJ TO SANTOKH RAJ BHARDWAJ.

I, KARANDEEP SINGH S/O MANJIT SINGH RESIDENT OF VILL DEHRIWAL KIARN PO BISHANKOT TEHSIL KALANAUR DISTT. GURDASPUR STATE PUNJAB PIN CODE 143512.I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM KARANDEEP SINGH TO SINGH KARANDEEP .SURNAME AS SINGH AND GIVEN NAME AS KARANDEEP .

I, MOHD RAFIQ SHAH IS LEGALLY FATHER OF SAYED SUHAIB (SON) PRESENTLY RESIDENT AT VILL-LALPORA (LARRIDORA) POST OFFICE-BARAMULLA, DISTT-BARAMULLA, STATE- JAMMU AND KASHMIR, PIN-193101, HAVE CHANGED MY SON NAME FROM SAYED SUHAIB TO SAYED SUHAIB RAFIQ VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO-IN-PB06764579680838X DATED 13-02-2025 BEFORE DISTRICT COURT GURDASPUR PUNJAB.

I, SUSHILA DEVI mother of No. 15802269M Rank NK Name SURENDRA presently residing at Vill - MUNAVVARPUR URF MUNIMPUR, PO - BUDERNA, Teh - NAUGAWAN SADAT, Dist - AMROHA, State - UTTAR PRADESH, have changed my name from SUSHILA DEVI to SUSHILA vide Affidavit No IN-PB06744079898681X Dated 13-02-2025 before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

I, KASHREE DEVI mother of No. JC-302753K Rank SUB MAJ (TIGM) Name RAJEEV KUMAR presently residing at Vill - KOHALWIN, PO - GAHLI, Teh - GALORE, Dist - HAMIRPUR, State - HIMACHAL PRADESH, have changed my name from KASHREE DEVI to KESRI DEVI vide Affidavit No IN-PB06744079898681X Dated 13-02-2025 before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

I, KAMAL DEEP son of No 173866M Rank MT DVR Name PRABH DYAL of HQ 141 DMC (1540 RMP) resident of Village and Post Office - Ferozepur Kalan, Tehsil and Distt - Pathankot, State - Punjab (India), PIN - 145023 declare that my date of birth is wrongly recorded as 06-10-2002 in my father's Service documents. My correct date of birth is 06-08-2002 vide Affidavit No IN-PB06505441440625X Dated 13-02-2025 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, BHIMAVVA BANDIWADDAR mother of Army No. 16118845Y Rank HAV Name Hanamant Bandiwaddar of Unit 5 Engr Regt c/o 56 APO have changed my name from BHIMAVVA TO BHIMAVVA BANDIWADDAR Vide Affidavit Dated 13 Febury 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, No 13765619F Ex Hav Dalwinder Singh resident of Village - Khalah, PO - Madhopur, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot (Punjab) have changed name of my mother from GURMEET KOUR to GURMEET KOUR vide Affidavit No. IN-PB06625134898892X Dated 13-02-2025 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, REETA KAUR spouse of No. TJ-007318A Rank SUB Name JAGDEV SINGH presently residing at Village and Post Office Larhun, Tehsil Nurpur, Distt Kangra, State Himachal Pradesh, PIN-176022, have changed my name from REETA KAUR to REETA DEVI vide Affidavit No IN-PB06426843407780X Dated 13-02-2025 before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

I, MUNNI SACHAN mother of PRABHAT KUMAR presently residing at Village - Bamthara, Distt - Fatehpur, State - Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name from MUNNI SACHAN to RAM DULARI vide Affidavit No IN-PB06745444050691X Dated 13-02-2025 before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

I Manpreet Kaur Chouhan D/o Karnail Singh Rathour R/o Mand Jodhewal, Tehsil Samrala (Ludhiana) have changed my name as Manpreet Kaur Rathour.

I, Hitherto Known As Gurpreet Singh S/O Sh. Dhian Singh Residing At Vill Aulia, Po Umarpur, Teh. Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Singh Gurpreet.

I, Babaljeet Kaur W/o Karamjit Singh Attal R/O Raikot (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Babaljit Kaur.

I, Inderjit Singh Matharu S/o Gurmeet Singh R/o Vill: Dadhahur (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Inderjit Singh.

I, Simratpal Singh S/o Lakhwinder Singh R/o Vill Dhunda Teh Khadur Sahib Distt Tarn Taran Punjab have changed my given name to Simratpal and surname to Singh.

I, Sukhbir Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/o Alipur (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Sukhbir Singh Bhullar.

I, Harvinder Brar alias Gurbachan Kaur (D/o Balwant Singh) W/o Harpal Singh Brar R/o #452 Urban State Bathinda Teh & Distt. Bathinda (Punjab) declare that both name are one and the same person.

I, Harpreet s/o Baldev Singh R/o VPO Bopa Rai Kalan, Tehsil Nakodar, district Jalandhar Punjab India 144040 have changed my name Harpreet to Harpreet Dabb.

I, Vikas Ghai S/o Varinder Ghai R/o Village Ikolaha, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my minor son's name from Jaysh Ghai to Jayesh Ghai.

I, Monia W/o Vikas Ghai R/o Village Ikolaha, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Monia Ghai.

I, Vimal Kumar Miglani S/o Widya Nand R/o H.No.139, City Homes, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my minor daughter's name from Sara to Sara Miglani.

I, Jaswant Singh S/o Late Jagdish Singh R/o House No. 142, Street No. 11, Guru Nanak Colony V.P.O Bassi Purani Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my minor daughter name from Jasmeen to Jasmeen Saini.

I, Renu Rani W/o Ramesh Kumar R/o VPO Pabnawa Tehsil Dhand, Distt. Kaithal, Haryana have changed my son's name from Lavish Kumar to Lavish Kumar Tamak.

I, Karmbir Singh S/o Jaibir Singh R/o House No-101, Near Govt Primary School, Sarsod(129), Hissar, Haryana - 125121, have changed my name to Karmbir.

I, BHIMAVVA BANDIWADDAR mother of Army No. 16118845Y Rank HAV Name Hanamant Bandiwaddar of Unit 5 Engr Regt c/o 56 APO have changed my name from BHIMAVVA TO BHIMAVVA BANDIWADDAR Vide Affidavit Dated 13 Febury 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, No.14931315X RANK HAV NAME BHOSALE SHRIKANT OF UNIT 23 MECH INF REGT C/O 56 APO, Presently Residing at EKSAL SHIRAMBE KOREGAON SATARA MAHARASHTRA PIN 415501 have changed my SON name from PRITHVIRAJ TO BHOSALE PRITHVIRAJ SHRIKANT Vide Affidavit Dated 13 Febury 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, LAL CHAND is Father of No.JC-423327Y RANK SUB NAME MAHENDRA SINGH SAINI OF UNIT 23 MECH INF REGT C/O 56 APO, Residing at DHANI TODIYALA VILLAGE GADRATA TSH KHETRI DISTRICT JHUNJHUNU STATE RAJASTHAN PIN 333501 have changed my name from LAL CHAND TO LAL CHAND SAINI Vide Affidavit Dated 13 Febury 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, G PAVITHRA legally Spouse of No. 15151361H Rank Hav (OPR) Name C GANDHI UNIT 310 Fd Regt C/o 56 APO Residing at 52/WI-3, VADAKKU STREET (NORTH STREET), VTC ROYAPPANPATTI, PO ROYAPPANPATTI, DISTRICT THONL, STATE TAMIL NADU, PIN625526 have Changed my Name from PAVITHRA TO G PAVITHRA Vide Affidavit Dated 13 Febury 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Army No. 15444374W, Rank: NK/PTA, Name: Bhojar Shubham Jagdishrao R/o Village Kawadshi, Post - Shahapur, Tehsil - Bhandara, District- Bhandara, PIN - 441906, State - Maharashtra, I have changed my mother Name from Sunita to Sunita Jagadish Bhojar vide Affidavit No.IN-KA48621765395464X Dated 11-02-2025 before at Notary Bengaluru.

I, Army No. 15444374W, Rank: NK/PTA, Name: Bhojar Shubham Jagdishrao R/o Village Kawadshi, Post - Shahapur, Tehsil - Bhandara, District- Bhandara, PIN - 441906, State - Maharashtra, I have changed my father Name from Jagdishrao Dadaram Bhojar to Jagdish Dadaram Bhojar vide Affidavit No.IN-KA48621977598902X Dated 11-02-2025 before at Notary Bengaluru.

I, Shinde Ganesh Vitoba resident of Village - Tandulwadi, Post Office- Tandulwadi, Tehsil and Distt- Solapur, State- Maharashtra- 413310 have changed my son's name from Vishvajit G Shinde to Vishvajit Ganesh Shinde Vide Affidavit Dated 05 February 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Jyoti wife of Shinde Ganesh Vitoba resident of Village - Tandulwadi, Post Office- Tehsil and Distt- Solapur, State- Maharashtra- 413310 have changed my name from Jyoti to Jyoti Ganesh Shinde Vide Affidavit Dated 05 February 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Subhash Chand S/o Jattu Ram R/o Adarsh Nagar, Guruharsahi, Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Name from Subhash Chand to Subash Chander.

I, Ankush S/o Subash Chander R/o Adarsh Nagar, Guruharsahi, Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Name from Ankush to Ankush Jasuja.

I, Jagannath Agrawal S/o Raghunandan Prasad R/o H.No. 212/27/1800/7 St.No. 09 Mohinder Nagar Lohara Road Lohara (Ludhiana) have changed my son name from Piyush Kumar to Piyush Kumar Agrawal.

I, No.15772023W Hav Mahesh Kumar resident of Village- House No.48, Amit Nagar Colony, Deori Road Agra, Tehsil- Sadar Bazar, District- Agra, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-282001, have changed my Mother name from Rashma Devi to Reshma Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB05436044515481X dated 10 Feb 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

I, No.15776412N BHM (OCC) Kishore Kumar Mridha resident of House No.2 - 238/4 Panchashilnagar, Easgaon Komaran Bheem, State- Telengana, Pin-504296, have changed my Son name from Niteen Mridha to Neetin Mridha Vide affidavit No. 94AB. 047442 dated 17 Oct 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Manjeet Kaur W/o Gurpreet Singh R/O W.No.09, Ram Nagar, Mukdi Teh & Distt Ferozepur have changed my minor daughter's name from Abjot to Abjot Kaur.

I, Rukhmina Bai Mother of No.15630239F L/NK Berad Machchindra Ragho resident of Village- Bharaj (BK), Post- Bharaj (BK), Tehsil- Jafrabad, District- Jalna, State- Maharashtra, Pin-431206, have changed my name from Rukhmina Bai to Rukhmanbai Ragho Berad Vide affidavit No.IN-PB06274041566235X dated 12 Feb 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

I, No.15785630N Hav (OCC) Sharad chandra Kumar resident of Village- Farda (Malik Tola) Post- Farda, Tehsil- Jamalpur, District- Munger, State- Bihar, Pin- 811202, have changed my Mother name from Runju Devi to Ranju Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB06060021377542X dated 11 Feb 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Mehnuma Mother of No.JC-387160M Sub Maj Firoz Khan resident of B-365, Subhash Vihar North Ghonda, Post- Seelampur, Post- Seelampur, Tehsil- Seelampur, District- North East, State- New Delhi, Pin-110053, have changed my name & DOB from Mehnuma to Memuna Begum and DOB from 01 July 1930 to 30 March 1935 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB06179487311058X dated 11 Feb 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Alok Bhunia Father of No.14877373L NK Deviyati Bhunia resident of Villageti Chak Manu, Post- Jhikuria, Tehsil- Khagapur, District- Paschim Medinipur, State- West Bengal, Pin-721156, have changed my DOB from 01 Jan 1965 to 18 April 1966 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB06764070834242X dated 13 Feb 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Anjali Bhunia Mother of No.14877373L NK Deviyati Bhunia resident of Villageti Chak Manu, Post- Jhikuria, Tehsil- Khagapur, District- Paschim Medinipur, State- West Bengal, Pin-721156, have changed my DOB from 01 Jan 1972 to 19 March 1978 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB06763248979720X dated 13 Feb 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Anjali Bhunia Mother of No.14877373L NK Deviyati Bhunia resident of Villageti Chak Manu, Post- Jhikuria, Tehsil- Khagapur, District- Paschim Medinipur, State- West Bengal, Pin-721156, have changed my name from Anjali Karak Bhunia to Anjali Bhunia Vide affidavit No.IN-PB06761608448357X dated 13 Feb 2025 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Sunita Verma W/o Sh Mukesh Verma R/O House No. 622, Sector 8-B, Chandigarh do declare that my service documents mentioned my name is Sunita Kumari but my all documents i.e. Aadhar card, PAN Card, Voter card and Passport also my name is Sunita Verma.Sunita Kumari and Sunita Verma is one and the same person.

I, MEENAKSHI is legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: 15571957X Rank-HAV Name- Sampat Thakaji Raut Presently Posted At Unit: CME Pune Maharashtra-411031 Permanent Address: Rautwadi, Post: Vadzire, DIST: Ahmadnagar, State: Maharashtra, Pin-414307 declare that I have changed My Name from MEENAKSHI TO MEENAKSHI SAMPAT RAUT. Vide Affidavit No:48AA 901423, Dated:13/02/2025.

I, Army No: 15571957X Rank-HAV Name- Sampat Thakaji Raut Presently Posted At Unit: CME Pune Maharashtra-411031 Permanent Address: Rautwadi, Post: Vadzire, DIST: Ahmadnagar, State: Maharashtra, Pin-414307 declare that I have changed My Name from MEENAKSHI TO MEENAKSHI SAMPAT RAUT. Vide Affidavit No:48AA 901423, Dated:13/02/2025.

I, Sajjan Goel S/o Sh. Jagan Nath Goel R/o H.No. 245/6, Old Anaj Mandi, Meham, Rohtak declare that I have changed my name to Sajjan Goyal for all future purposes.

I, No. 2981301K Ex Hav

Dharam Singh S/o Mahabir Singh R/O Vill : Ballam PO : Garhi, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Rohtak (Haryana) declare that I have changed my father name in my Army Records / Disch. Book from MAHABIR SINGH (existing name) to MAHABIR (new name) My Father Mahabir correct /actual DOB is 01.01.1938 instead of 15.07.1941 And also changed my mother name from RUMALI DEVI to RUMALI. My mother Rumali correct /actual DOB is 01.01.1943 instead of 15.07.1946 as per my parents Aadhaar / Pan Card for all work purposes, please correct in my Army Records Vide Affidavit dated FEBRUARY 2025 before Ist Class Magistrate Kalanaur (Rohtak).

I, SITA DEVI (existing name) W/o No. 2981301K Ex Hav Dharam Singh R/o Vill Balam PO Garhi, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Rohtak (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name in my husband Army Records / Disch. Book from SITA DEVI (existing name) to SEETA DEVI (new name) My correct /actual DOB is 01.01.1965 instead of 12.06.1966 . In future I shall may be known/Written/Called as SEETA DEVI (DOB : 01.01.1965) as per my Aadhaar / Pan Card for all work purposes, please correct in my husband's Army Records Vide Affidavit dated FEBRUARY



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Revamping the tax regime

Nirmala Sitharaman introduces the Income Tax Bill 2025 in Parliament, aiming to replace the 1961 Act with a more taxpayer-friendly framework

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Income Tax Bill 2025 in Parliament on Thursday. This new bill aims to replace the Income Tax Act, 1961, which has become cumbersome due to numerous amendments over the last six decades. The bill focuses on simplification, clarity and ease of compliance for taxpayers while retaining the fundamental structure of the tax system. The bill consists of 536 sections, 23 chapters and 16 schedules within 622 pages, making it significantly more concise than the 880-page 1961 Act. One of the major changes is the replacement of the term 'previous year' and 'assessment year' with 'tax year,' eliminating confusion regarding tax filing timelines. To further enhance clarity, ambiguous terms such as 'notwithstanding' have been replaced with 'irrespective.' The new bill also introduces tables and formulae for key calculations, such as TDS, presumptive taxation, salary taxation and deductions for bad debts. Complex explanations and provisos have been omitted, making the law more comprehensible and user-friendly.



A formal Taxpayer's Charter has been included, outlining rights and responsibilities to promote transparency and fairness in tax administration. All TDS-related provisions have been consolidated under a single clause using simple tabular formats, reducing complexity and improving compliance. Additionally, the bill integrates key court rulings from the last 60 years, providing more legal certainty and reducing disputes. The tax treatment for employee stock options has been refined, offering a more transparent taxation structure to ensure fair and predictable tax treatment for employees receiving stock options. To make tax exemptions clearer,

income that does not form part of total income has now been moved to dedicated schedules instead of being scattered throughout the Act. These changes are expected to bring multiple benefits, such as simpler compliance, a clear taxation structure, reduced litigation, an easier TDS framework and greater predictability for employees with stock options. Despite these advantages, the bill faces certain challenges. Taxpayers and businesses will need time to adapt to the new terminologies and provisions. The removal of 'previous year' and 'assessment year' may cause temporary confusion during the transition. Additionally, the introduction of tables and streamlined TDS clauses will require updates in income tax return (ITR) forms, software utilities and reporting systems. The Income Tax Bill 2025 marks a significant step toward a more transparent, efficient and taxpayer-friendly system. While it does not introduce new taxes, its simplification of language, removal of redundancies, and integration of judicial precedents will reduce compliance costs and tax disputes. If successfully implemented, this bill could enhance tax administration efficiency and encourage better voluntary compliance among taxpayers. After deliberation by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, it is expected to come into effect from April 1, 2026. How it will actually work will only be clear then.

PICTALK



Farmer carries rose flowers during the Valentine's Week, in Agartala

Russia combines diplomatic strategy with military tactics



NISHAKANT OJHA

Russia's military philosophy extends beyond traditional warfare, incorporating hybrid tactics that blend Eastern endurance with Western innovation

Russia's military strategy has long been shaped by its geopolitical position, straddling both Europe and Asia. This dual identity has led to a warfare doctrine that merges Western technological advancement with Eastern strategic depth and endurance. The ongoing evolution of Russian military tactics provides valuable insight into its approach to global conflicts, shaped by a fusion of European and Asian influences. From the European side, Russia has historically adopted a professionalised military structure similar to Western armies, particularly during the Imperial era and through Soviet reforms. Its command structures have evolved to centralise authority while enabling flexibility on the battlefield. The modernisation of weaponry has also followed Western advancements, integrating precision-strike capabilities and network-centric warfare. Drawing lessons from NATO conflicts, Russia has enhanced its rapid manoeuvre warfare strategies, incorporating elements of German Blitzkrieg and modern NATO doctrines, which were evident in its campaigns in Georgia and Ukraine.

On the other hand, Russia's Eastern influences are deeply rooted in its strategic patience and attritional warfare, a legacy of the Mongol conquests and Soviet-era endurance strategies. Rather than seeking swift victories, Russia often engages in prolonged, resource-draining conflicts that wear down its adversaries over time. Its embrace of asymmetric and hybrid tactics aligns with guerrilla warfare methods, employing unconventional approaches such as cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns and proxy warfare. This strategic approach mirrors the methods used by China and other Eastern powers, relying on destabilisation rather than direct confrontation. Furthermore, Russia's influence in regional conflicts extends beyond conventional military engagements, utilising mercenaries like the Wagner Group and supporting separatist movements, a strategy similar to



Iran's and China's use of regional proxy forces.

Russia's military doctrine extends its influence over neighboring states, shaping their security and geopolitical dynamics. Ukraine has been the epicenter of Russia's hybrid warfare, where cyberattacks, military incursions, and disinformation campaigns have been employed to destabilise the country. Belarus remains a critical ally, hosting Russian forces and acting as a logistical facilitator for military operations. The Baltic states—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—are under constant Russian influence, facing frequent cyber intrusions and political destabilisation efforts, despite their NATO membership. In Central Asia, Russia maintains a military and economic presence in former Soviet republics like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, ensuring their alignment within its sphere of influence. Similarly, in the Caucasus, Russia has engaged in military conflicts, as seen in Georgia, and continues to exert influence in Armenia and Azerbaijan through peace-keeping operations and strategic alliances. Beyond its immediate borders, Russia balances relationships with China and India, maintaining military cooperation with the former while supplying arms to the latter, ensuring its strategic autonomy amid shifting glob-



DRAWING LESSONS FROM NATO CONFLICTS, RUSSIA HAS ENHANCED ITS RAPID MANOEUVRE WARFARE STRATEGIES, INCORPORATING ELEMENTS OF GERMAN BLITZKRIEG AND MODERN NATO DOCTRINES, WHICH WERE EVIDENT IN ITS CAMPAIGNS IN GEORGIA AND UKRAINE

al alliances. The geopolitical strategy of the United States in the Russia-Ukraine war has been pivotal in countering Russian aggression through military, economic, and diplomatic means. One of the most significant aspects of US involvement has been its military support for Ukraine. The US has supplied Ukraine with advanced weaponry, including Javelin anti-tank missiles, HIMARS rocket systems, and Patriot air defence systems, significantly enhancing its defensive and offensive capabilities. Another key aspect of the economic strategy has been reducing Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas. The US has increased its liquefied natural gas exports to Europe and supported alternative energy sources to mitigate Russia's ability to use energy as a political weapon. Additionally, billions of dollars in direct economic aid have been provided to Ukraine to stabilize its economy and sustain its military operations. India, as a key global player, has maintained a delicate balancing act in the Russia-Ukraine war due to its historical ties with Russia and its growing partnerships with the West. Economically, India has continued its energy cooperation with Russia, increasing imports of Russian oil at discounted prices to mitigate global energy inflation. At the same time, India is expanding

its trade partnerships with Western nations to ensure diversification and avoid over-reliance on any single economic partner. In the geopolitical sphere, India has positioned itself as a neutral entity, abstaining from several UN votes condemning Russia and advocating diplomatic dialogue over sanctions. India's military procurement strategy reflects this balance, as it continues to acquire Russian military hardware such as S-400 missile systems while simultaneously strengthening defense ties with the US and France to modernise its armed forces. The broader Indo-Pacific security landscape remains a key concern for India, as it remains wary of deepening Russia-China military ties. Given China's aggressive posturing in the region, India has increased its engagement with Western powers, particularly through the QUAD alliance with the US, Japan and Australia, to counter-balance Chinese influence. Russia's military philosophy extends beyond traditional warfare, incorporating hybrid tactics that blend Eastern endurance with Western innovation. Cyber and information warfare play a significant role in Russia's strategy, heavily influenced by China's cyber tactics.

(The writer is an expert on cyber security and counter terrorism; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COUNSELLING CENTRES FOR COUPLES

Madam — Recently, many cases of divorce rocked the nation. The case of Atul Subhash, who ended his life, giving up due to the mental agony faced by his wife during divorce and another incident where a Karnataka woman demanded Rs 6.16 lakh per month as alimony, raised doubts among youth on the institution of marriage. To curb the rising cases of divorce, the Odisha government has come up with a welcome initiative to open a pre-marriage counselling centre in the state. CM Mohan Charan Majhi, following a proposal from National Commission for Women (NCW) Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, took this thoughtful initiative. With the changing times, the mindset of the young couples is changing. The word 'divorce' is becoming very common in the country these days.

In case of any conflict, be it external or internal, without giving a second thought, the married couple is straightaway heading for a divorce, just like returning a defective product to a shop. Due to a lack of guidance and understanding, some couples don't even put effort into fixing their marriage, which later leads to affairs and family disputes. This practice needs to change; this is where the pre-marriage counselling centres will help the couples. There are some conflicts that can be resolved under proper guidance and advice that the pre-marriage counsellors will provide to couples. This initiative will pave the path for young couples to take the right call at the right time without falling prey to any misjudgments and misunderstandings. The initiative from the Odisha government is a commendable approach to curb divorce cases and to ensure the mental and emotional wellbeing of married couples.

Manoj Kumar Jena | Cuttack

IAF CHIEF CRITICISES HAL

Madam — Indian Air Force Chief Air Marshal Amar Pratap Singh has said his confidence in defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) continues to

Supreme Court slams freebies



Recently, during the hearing of a PIL seeking shelter for the homeless in Delhi, the Supreme Court's bench deprecated the distribution of freebies ahead of elections and remarked that it would be better if the homeless were sought to be integrated into mainstream society so that they could contribute to the nation. The order has been passed in the backdrop of a chart handed over in the court by a petitioner in person, which showed the statewide position with regard to the number of homeless persons, the

number of shelters available, and the number of persons who could be accommodated in the said shelters. The Supreme Court expressed concern over political parties promising freebies and asking whether it was not "creating a class of parasites" instead of bringing people into the mainstream workforce who could contribute towards the nation's development.

The bench has also remarked that people are not willing to work due to the lure of cash transfer schemes like "Ladkhi Behin" and free rations. Shooting down his submission, Justice B R Gavai recounted his personal experience of how agriculturists in Maharashtra were not getting labourers as they were getting things free at home. SC's strong observation comes at a time when political parties go all out to woo voters by promising freebies like free electricity and water with little concern for state finance.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

INVEST IN AI

Madam — The Chinese DeepSeek has motivated the major countries including India seeking deep into the Artificial Intelligence pursuit. China surprised the world with its latest AI application but it is the hard work of their government, fund managers, institutions, regulatory authorities for two decades with the investment of billions of US Dollars. The global cooperation in developing the latest AI technology to excel ahead of DeepSeek is welcome. Our 23 IITs and 26 IIITs, IISC have thousands of students, researchers and the most competent faculty who can synergise their efforts, resources and infrastructure to develop our own advanced AI. The Government should immediately thrust their concerted efforts with the regulatory framework, funding and infrastructural resources and pool our top and globally prestigious engineering institutions to develop our own AI at a fast pace.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The true cost of 5G: Why prices are high now—but will not stay that way



GAURAV GANDHI

New technologies start costly but become more affordable as adoption grows. With economies of scale, 5G costs will drop, unlocking new opportunities for businesses

The 5G technology is widely recognised for its ability to deliver lower latency, faster speeds and improved connectivity, supporting a vast number of devices simultaneously. However, many consumers perceive 5G as an expensive innovation, primarily due to the high cost of chipsets, while overlooking broader cost factors. Although chipset expenses are a component, they do not represent the complete financial picture. The Cost of 5G Hardware When considering 5G, it is common to focus on the price of chips. While 4G chips are priced below \$10, 5G chips currently exceed \$100. However, focusing solely on chipset costs ignores the larger financial framework. The primary expense of 5G stems from the extensive infrastructure required to support the network. Telecom providers must invest in building new base stations, fibre-optic networks, and antennas to enable 5G connectivity. Historically, new technologies such as cloud computing and smartphones were expensive when first introduced.



of scale. As more telecom providers, businesses and consumers adopt 5G, the cost of deployment will continue to decline. The larger the global 5G network, the more cost-effective its implementation becomes. Research by Juniper predicts that global 5G connections will surge from 5 million in 2019 to 1.5 billion by 2025. Mass production plays a crucial role in reducing costs. Increased production volumes lead to lower prices for 5G hardware, including chips, antennas, and base stations. The 5G base station market is expected to grow from \$37.44 billion in 2020 to \$132.06 billion by 2025, at a CAGR of 28.67 per cent, according to Mordor Intelligence. These massive investments will drive economies of scale, further lowering the cost of private 5G network deployment for businesses.

The Inevitable Drop in 5G Costs

Technological progress consistently follows a pattern: initial prices are high, but they decline over time. A case in point is the smartphone market, where the average cost dropped from \$443 in 2011 to \$372 in 2013. Similarly, cloud computing services have become significantly cheaper over the past decade. The same economic principles apply to 5G. As technology advances and adoption rates increase, costs will inevitably decrease.

Economies of Scale and Cost Reduction

One of the key drivers of cost reduction in 5G is economies

Affordable 5G Handsets and Private Networks The competition in chipset manufacturing is already pushing down 5G handset prices. As these prices drop, the overall cost of related hardware and services will follow, accelerating global 5G

adoption.

5G's Impact on Business

As 5G technology becomes more affordable, businesses will have greater opportunities to enhance their operations. While early adoption may come with higher costs, the long-term benefits will far outweigh these expenses. 5G's ultra-fast connectivity and real-time data transfer capabilities will drive productivity, streamline processes, and facilitate better decision-making. Furthermore, 5G can revolutionise industries by enabling advanced applications in customer service, video streaming, and mobile capabilities.

The Future of 5G Affordability

As adoption scales up, deployment costs will decline, making 5G a more democratised technology. This affordability will allow businesses of all sizes to embrace 5G, fostering innovation in artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and beyond. The widespread availability of 5G will enable businesses to stay competitive in the digital world.

(The writer is Founder & CEO, Echelon Edge Pvt Ltd; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

INDIA'S AI DIPLOMACY

India's plan to host the fourth global AI summit in Delhi underscores its strategic push for leadership in AI innovation



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visits to Paris and Washington, where he engaged with two of the most influential leaders from the developed world, come at a crucial juncture of shifting geopolitical dynamics. The central theme of these high-level bilateral discussions revolved around advanced technology cooperation in an increasingly fragmented world. India played a significant role as the co-chair of the AI Action Summit in Paris, alongside host nation France. This marked the third global event dedicated to artificial intelligence, drawing comparisons to the Kumbh Mela of technology—bringing together policymakers, corporate leaders, experts, and world leaders.

The summit's primary focus was on leveraging the transformative potential of AI, a technology that has been likened to groundbreaking human advancements such as the invention of the wheel and the mastery of fire. Meanwhile, China introduced DeepSeek, a nimble generative AI tool, posing a serious challenge to the near-monopolistic dominance of US tech giants that have invested billions in AI research and development. Compounding the complexities of global AI governance, former US President Joe Biden, during his final week in office, passed an executive order known as the Interim Final Rule (IFR) on the Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion.

This order imposed export restrictions on critical software and hardware essential for AI development, targeting nations deemed adversarial to US interests—chiefly China—but also impacting close allies



such as India. Global technology stakeholders have since urged the new US administration to maintain consistency with the previously established Regulatory Freeze Order. They have called for the suspension of the AI Diffusion Rule until further review and stakeholder consultations ensure that the regulations align with both national security and international trade interests.

Despite industry appeals, President Donald Trump has yet to overturn the executive order signed by his predecessor. However, his administration issued a fresh executive order on January 23, signalling a possible shift in approach. Within days of assuming office, President Trump reaffirmed the United States' commitment to AI leadership, stating that the country has historically been at the forefront of AI innovation due to its robust free-market economy, world-class research institutions, and entrepreneurial drive. His directive emphasized eliminating barriers that could hinder American AI progress, revoking certain existing AI policies, and reinforcing the US's global leadership in AI. He further asserted that sustaining AI dominance was vital for human advancement, economic competitiveness, and national security. India, aiming for a prominent role in global AI governance, innovation and development, has set forth an ambitious AI mission of its own.

This vision, however, is heavily reliant on high-end semiconductor chips and Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) currently controlled by US technology firms. Any restrictions on access to these critical processors could pose significant challenges to India's AI aspirations. Modi's engagements in Paris, India's announcement to host the fourth global AI summit in Delhi, and his discussions with President Trump and other world leaders signal a strategic move toward securing India's place at the forefront of global AI advancements. These diplomatic efforts mark an essential step in navigating the rapidly evolving AI landscape and ensuring India's stake in shaping the future of this transformative technology.

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

Will 'Jan Vishwas 2.0' deliver real reform



A S MITTAL

While initiatives like upcoming Jan Vishwas 2.0 aim to ease regulatory burdens, deeper reforms are essential to cut red tape and curb the menace of bribery



Despite concerted efforts to combat corruption, red-tapism and bribery remain formidable barriers to business growth in India. The recent "India Business Corruption Survey 2024" presents a troubling picture: 66 per cent of business entities admit to paying bribes, with 54 per cent stating they were coerced to expedite government processes, obtain permits, ensure compliance, or acquire duplicate licenses. The problem is most acute in sectors governed by over-reaching officials in labour, GST, income tax, pollution, provident funds, property registration, drug and health departments. The economic impact is undeniable.

A survey by EY-FICCI reveals that four out of five respondents believe corruption is a significant deterrent to foreign direct investment (FDI). This underscores the urgent need to overhaul India's compliance framework to foster a transparent, fair, and predictable regulatory environment. While the government initiated compliance reforms two years ago, progress has been sluggish.

The Jan Vishwas Act of 2023 was a step forward, decriminalising 180 provisions related to imprisonment clauses that burden businesses and entrepreneurs. However, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's 2025 budget announcement about 'Jan Vishwas 2.0' aims to further decriminalise around 100 provisions. While this is a welcome step, it barely scratches the surface—over 20,000 provisions with imprisonment clauses remain untouched.

The Constant Flux of Compliance Rules

For Indian businesses, compliance is already a complex challenge, but its intersection with corruption makes it nearly insurmountable. Regulatory officials often wield compliance provisions as tools to extract bribes. Many businesses report that unofficial payments are still required to secure regulatory approvals, even when all necessary compliances are met. A significant flaw in the system is



FOR INDIAN BUSINESSES, COMPLIANCE IS ALREADY A COMPLEX CHALLENGE, BUT ITS INTERSECTION WITH CORRUPTION MAKES IT NEARLY INSURMOUNTABLE

the enormous subjectivity granted to inspectors, who can threaten imprisonment or factory shutdowns without accountability.

Another pressing issue is the overwhelming frequency of compliance updates, which fosters inefficiency and corruption.

Over the past year alone, there have been 9,420 compliance updates—an average of 36 daily changes. This staggering rate of change indicates either regulatory incompetence or a deliberate design to create systemic corruption pipelines. A bureaucracy that needs to update rules at such an erratic pace is either incapable of foresight or complicit in fostering an environment where bribes become inevitable.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) recent directive is a promising initiative to curb this chaos. Effective this January, changes to food label regulations will be announced only once a year, offering a model for predictable regulatory changes. Similar measures should be extended across all regulatory bodies.

Labour Laws: The Elephant in the Room

A significant portion of compliance-related imprisonment clauses stem from labour laws, which fall under the Concurrent List of the Constitution. While India has replaced 29 colonial-era labour laws with four modern labour codes, they remain in limbo, awaiting implementation. Without this critical step, the long-touted "biggest labour reforms in independent India" remain mere rhetoric. State governments must act swiftly to operationalise these reforms.

Simplifying Business Permits: A Digital-First Approach

Establishing a factory in India

requires submitting hundreds of self-attested and notarised documents across more than 40 government departments.

This archaic system breeds corruption and inefficiency. A digital-first approach could transform the process. Imagine a scenario where entrepreneurs can apply for factory permissions using a single business identifier, granting regulators access to verified documents via an entity called Digi Locker. Such a tamper-proof, authenticated repository could cut approval times from months to days, mirroring the success of India's Digi Yatra in streamlining airport security.

One Nation, One Business Identity

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has revolutionised governance, but business compliance remains fragmented. Entrepreneurs must navigate at least 23 identity numbers issued by various Union and state authorities—from PAN, GSTIN, and CIN to professional tax numbers and factory licenses. Each identifier has its lifecycle, requiring periodic renewals and payments, leading to inefficiencies and corruption. A unified One Nation, One Business Identity system could dramatically simplify compliance, reducing bureaucratic friction and the opportunities for corrupt practices.

A small budgetary allocation toward this initiative could streamline regulatory interactions, enhancing India's appeal as a business destination.

A Global Perspective: The US Efficiency Threat

The global competition for investment and talent is intensifying. The United States is advancing governance reforms, including the proposed

Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), to make business operations seamless. If the world's largest economy (GDP: \$27 trillion) becomes even more business-friendly, why would investors choose India's \$4 trillion economy, where red tape and corruption persist? The answer is simple: they won't. As American efficiency attracts global capital, India risks losing out on both investment and entrepreneurial talent, a fundamental driver of its knowledge economy.

The Way Forward

The time for complacency is over. Yesterday is now an urgent necessity. To sustain its economic momentum, India must dismantle bureaucratic hurdles, create a predictable compliance environment, and eradicate corruption. A clear, well-structured compliance framework—ushered in through Jan Vishwas 2.0—is not just about ease of doing business; it's about safeguarding India's economic future.

The government must act decisively to attract global companies and empower Indian entrepreneurs to innovate, expand, and create jobs without fear or unnecessary regulatory friction. India stands at a crossroads. Whether the High-Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms embraces a bold compliance overhaul or hesitates, the stakes are high. The choice is clear: modernise or risk being left behind in the global economic race.

(The author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board and Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are personal)

Making road safety a national priority: A targeted mission to save lives

To achieve meaningful change and save lives, India must move beyond symbolism and adopt a mission-driven approach, treating road safety as a national imperative

Every year, India observes Road Safety Month, during which various events and programmes are organised by the government and civil society organisations at national and regional levels. These initiatives focus on raising awareness and educating the public on ways to reduce road casualties.

While this acknowledgment is a step forward, the critical question remains—has road safety truly become a national priority? Unfortunately, our approach is often reactive, addressing the issue only after tragic accidents occur, rather than proactively implementing global best practices to prevent them.

A Grim Reality: What the Data Reveals

Road accident statistics paint

a stark picture, suggesting that road safety is yet to be treated as a priority by Indian citizens. Road accidents are an everyday occurrence in India, and there is rarely a day when one does not hear about a fatal crash.

According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) report for 2022, India witnessed 461,312 road crashes, resulting in 168,491 deaths and 443,366 injuries. Alarmingly, nearly 70 per cent of these fatalities involved young individuals—many of whom were the primary earners of their families.

While the 2023 report is yet to be released, officials have already indicated a steep rise in casualties, making Indian roads even more hazardous. The United Nations Decade of



ASHIM SANYAL

Action for Road Safety aims to reduce road deaths by 50 per cent by 2030, and India is a signatory to this ambitious goal. However, despite past commitments, the recent MoRTH report shows an 11.9 per cent increase in accidents, with deaths rising by 9.4 per cent and injuries by 15.3 per cent compared to 2021. This translates to an average of 1,264 accidents and 462 deaths

per day, or 53 accidents and 19 deaths every hour. Achieving the 50 per cent reduction target by 2030 seems increasingly difficult unless immediate and sustained action is taken at both central and state levels.

Strengthening Laws and Enforcement

The introduction of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, was a significant step toward improving road safety, imposing stricter penalties and regulations. Initially, the law was taken seriously, but its impact faded over time due to inconsistent enforcement. Socio-cultural factors often override the fear of legal consequences, making road safety a neglected concern. The reality is that road crashes are preventable, and the



term "accident" itself is misleading.

The Urgent Need for Action

Adopting a structured and data-driven approach to road safety is imperative. Studies indicate that focusing on key risk factors—such as speeding, non-compliance with seatbelt and helmet laws, and unsafe road designs—can significantly reduce casualties. Speeding alone contributes to approximately 73 per cent

of all road accidents in India. Scientific speed limits should be enforced on expressways, highways, urban roads and even rural areas where mobility is increasing rapidly. Non-compliance with safety measures is another major concern. In 2022, over 16,715 people lost their lives due to not wearing seatbelts, and more than 50,000 two-wheeler riders died because they were not wearing helmets. These numbers highlight the urgent need to enforce safety regulations strictly and create widespread awareness about their importance.

Road Safety as a National Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has successfully led multiple national missions, including Swachh Bharat

Abhiyan, Skill Development, Yoga for Fitness, Immunisation Programmes, and Child Health Initiatives. These programmes achieved remarkable success through targeted policies, funding and regular progress reviews.

Given the scale of road safety concerns, India must adopt a similar mission-driven approach. Declaring road safety a National Mission would ensure the allocation of dedicated budgets, the establishment of clear targets, and continuous monitoring at both central and state levels. Regular progress reviews, monthly reports, and rigorous enforcement mechanisms would motivate authorities to take proactive steps toward improving road safety.

A Collective Commitment to**Saving Lives**

Road safety is not just about reducing casualties; it is about safeguarding the wellbeing of every citizen, strengthening the economy, and securing the future of India's youth. The financial burden of post-crash medical care, loss of productivity and emotional distress on families is immense.

As a global signatory committed to saving lives, India must take decisive steps to ensure road safety is not merely a campaign but an integral part of governance. The time to act is now—by adopting a mission-mode approach, enforcing existing laws and making road safety a top national priority, we can create safer roads for all.

(The author is COO consumer VOICE; views are personal)

Erdogan urges India, Pak to resolve Kashmir issue

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved through dialogue between India and Pakistan, with due consideration for the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

President Erdogan, who is in Pakistan on a two-day visit, made the comments after holding one-on-one and delegation talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The leaders also witnessed the signing ceremony of 24 agreements and a Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides.

Following this, they read statements to the media, expressing resolve to strengthen their bilateral ties, during which Erdogan also talked about the Kashmir issue.

"The Kashmir issue should be addressed according to the UN resolution through dialogue and keeping in mind the aspirations of the people of Kashmir," Erdogan said.

"Our state and our nation, as in the past, stands in solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers today," he added.

India has repeatedly emphasised that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were, are, and "shall forever" remain an integral part of the country.

The ties between the two countries nosedived after India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the spe-



cial status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

In his statement, President Erdogan also showed keen interest in promoting ties with Pakistan. "In the seventh session of our council, which we just concluded, we have agreed to further strengthen our relationship," he said.

In the 7th Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council meeting, the two countries agreed to continue their efforts to achieve the goal of a USD 5 billion trade volume.

At its conclusion, the two leaders signed a joint declaration to further deepen, diversify and institutionalise their Strategic Partnership.

"Within the framework of this visit, we have signed a total of 24 agreements and MoUs in the fields of trade, water resources, agriculture, energy, culture, family, and social services, along

with science, banking, education, defence, and health." Speaking on the occasion, Shehbaz said that Pakistan was the second home of the Turkish leader and added that it was wonderful to have him back after five years.

"The people of Pakistan are extremely happy today to see you, along with your delegation, visiting your brotherly country," he said.

He thanked Turkiye for standing by Pakistan "through thick and thin" during earthquakes and floods. "Your visit to Pakistan today has given a new level to our brotherly relations," Shehbaz said.

He also called Erdogan an important and highly respected leader of Islamic world. "You have also led from the front, speaking for the problems and speaking for the rights of oppressed people, be it people of Gaza, Palestine or Kashmir," Sharif said. "When you speak, not only millions of people in Islamic world hear you very attentively but the globe hears you when you speak," he added.

The prime minister and President Asif Ali Zardari received Erdogan at the Nur Khan airbase when he arrived early in the morning.

The Turkish president was accompanied by First Lady Emine Erdogan and a delegation of investors and business leaders. A formal welcome ceremony was held in Erdogan's honour at the Prime Minister's House, where a contingent of armed forces presented him with a guard of honour. He was also honoured with a fly-past by F-16 fighter jets.

Erdogan and Shehbaz also planted a sapling at the PM House. Later, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir also met Erdogan and extended greetings on his visit.

ERDOGAN LASHES

OUT AT ISRAEL

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan lashed out at Israel during a visit to Pakistan on Thursday, speaking up in defence of Palestinians in Gaza and condemning ideas to forcibly displace them from their land.

Speaking at a business forum, Erdogan accused Israel of failing to keep to a ceasefire agreement, warning that the region was being dragged "toward blood and tears again."

Erdogan reiterated his opposition to President Donald Trump's proposal to relocate Palestinians from Gaza. "Gaza belongs to our Gazan brothers and sisters and will remain so forever," he said in a televised speech at a business forum in the capital, Islamabad. Erdogan arrived on a two-day visit on Wednesday night. "The homeland for which the Palestinians have sacrificed tens of thousands of their children is not up for bargaining," he added. Earlier on Thursday, Erdogan held talks on Gaza and bilateral Turkiye-Pakistani trade and cooperation with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "Alongside Pakistan, we strive to provide every effort possible to support to the just cause of our Palestinian brothers, both within the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and other platforms," Erdogan also said.

"We must strengthen this determined stance, especially at a time when there are unlawful and morally unacceptable proposals such as tearing our Gazan brothers from their homeland," he added.

NATO allies insist Ukraine, Europe must be in peace talks

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

Several NATO allies stressed Son Thursday that Ukraine and Europe must not be cut out of any peace negotiations as US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth denied that the United States is betraying the war-ravaged country. European governments are reeling after the Trump administration signalled that it is planning face-to-face talks with Russia on ending the Ukraine war without involving them, insisted that Kyiv should not join NATO, and said that it's up to Europe to protect itself and Ukraine from whatever Russia might do next.

"There can be no negotiation about Ukraine without Ukraine. And Ukraine's voice must be at the heart of any talks," UK Defence Secretary John Healey told reporters at NATO headquarters, as the organisations' 32 defence ministers met for talks on Ukraine. German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said: "For me, it's clear ... that Europe must be involved in the negotiations — and I think that's very easy to understand," particularly if

Europe is "supposed to play a central or the main role in the peace order."

Europe "will have to live directly" with the consequences, he added.

Hegseth denied that the US has betrayed Ukraine by launching negotiations about its future without Kyiv's full involvement. After talks with Putin and then Zelenskyy, Trump said on Wednesday he would "probably" meet in person with the Russian leader in the near term, possibly in Saudi Arabia.

"There is no betrayal there. There is a recognition that the whole world and the United States is invested and interested in peace. A negotiated peace," Hegseth told reporters. The European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, expressed surprise that Hegseth and Trump had listed what appeared to be concessions to Russia even before talks have begun in earnest.

"We shouldn't take anything off the table before the negotiations have even started, because it plays to Russia's court," she said. "Why are we giving them everything that they want even before the

negotiations have been started? It's appeasement. It has never worked."

Hegseth warned that the war in Ukraine must "be a wakeup call" for NATO's European allies to spend more on their own defence budgets.

Twenty-three of the 32 member countries were forecast to have met the organisation's guideline of spending 2 per cent of gross domestic product on their national defence budgets last year, but a third still do not.

But Hegseth's French counterpart, Sebastien Lecornu, described the wrangling over greater defence spending as "a false debate," saying that governments and parliaments across Europe are already approving more weapons purchases and bigger military budgets while helping Ukraine staff off an invasion.

Lecornu warned that the future of NATO itself is now in question.

"To say that it's the biggest and most robust alliance in history is true, historically speaking. But the real question is will that still be the case in 10 or 15 years," he said, after the US — by far NATO's biggest and

most powerful member — signalled that its security priorities lie elsewhere, including in Asia.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, who was chairing Thursday's meeting, said that whatever agreement is struck between Russia and Ukraine, it is crucial that the "peace deal is enduring, that Putin knows that this is the end, that he can never again try to capture a piece of Ukraine." Touting Europe's investment in Ukraine, Swedish Defence Minister Pal Jonson said European nations provided about 60 per cent of the military support to Kyiv last year and must be involved, especially given US demands that Europe take more responsibility for Ukraine's security in the longer term. His Estonian counterpart, Hanno Pevkur, underlined that the European Union has driven sanctions against Russia, has invested heavily in Ukraine's defence, and will be asked to foot the bill for rebuilding the war-ravaged country. "We have to be there. So there is no question about it. Otherwise this peace will not be long lasting," Pevkur warned.

Aus accuses Chinese fighter of endangering surveillance plane over South China Sea

Melbourne (PTI): Australia protested Thursday what it described as an unsafe and unprofessional interaction over the South China Sea where a Chinese fighter is accused of releasing flares that endangered an Australian military surveillance plane. Chinese J-16 fighter released flares on Tuesday that passed within 30 meters (100

feet) of a P-8 Poseidon surveillance jet in daylight and in international air space, Defense Minister Richard Marles said on Thursday.

The Australian plane usually carries eight or nine crew. The plane was not damaged and no crew member was injured, Marles said. "The J-16 was so close that there's no way you

could have been able to ensure that the flares did not hit the P-8," Marles told Sky News.

"Had any of those flares hit the P-8, that would have definitely had the potential for significant damage to that aircraft," he added.

China's foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun in turn accused the Australian military aircraft of "deliberately" intruding into airspace over the disputed Paracel Islands, which China claims.

"China's measures to drive away the aircraft were legitimate, law-between Chinese and Australian forces that Australia has disclosed in nine months.

Australia accused the pilot of a Chinese J-10 fighter of unsafe and unprofessional behaviour over the Yellow Sea in May last year by dropping flares in the path of an Australian navy Seahawk helicopter.

Australia said the helicopter pilot had to take evasive action

ful, professional and restrained" Guo said.

Australia has protested in its capital Canberra and in Beijing on Wednesday and Thursday, Marles said.

The protest accused the two Chinese pilots of an "unsafe and unprofessional maneuver that posed a risk to the aircraft and personnel," a statement said. The protest highlights that while bilateral diplomatic and trade relations have improved, relations between the two militaries remain dangerous. The interaction is the first significant clash to avoid the flares.

There were no injuries or damage, although experts warned the helicopter could have been forced to ditch at sea if a flare had struck an engine.

China protested at the time that the helicopter had flown close to Chinese airspace and had attempted to carry out reconnaissance on a Chinese navy training exercise.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client PAVAN KUMAR owner of the FIRST FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF, PLOT NO. 85, AREA 50 SQ. YDS, KHASRA NO.794 TO 797, VILLAGE NAWADA, OM VIHAR, PHASE-1, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 and. Pawan Kumar purchase property from Sh. Anil Kumar vide Notarized GSA, AFS and will dated 17.10.2018. Now Pawan Kumar wants to sell aforesaid property. 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 15 days of this publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client RAJ KUMAR SINGH BHANDARI owner of the ENTIRE UPPER GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF, PROPERTY NO. C-268/A, AREA 87 SQ. YDS, KHASRA NO. 375 VILLAGE GHONDA GUARAN KHADAR GALLI NO. 12 BHAJAN PURA, SHAHDARA-110053 and Raj Kumar Singh Bhandari have Not Originals 1. Death and Survivor Certificate of Sh. Gulab Singh in favour of his legal heirs i.e. 1. Yashoda (Wife), 2. Ayushman Singh (Son) 3. Varnika Bhandari Daughter) 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 15 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 Mobile - 9899013918

RenServ Global Private Limited
(Formerly known as ReNew Services Private Limited)
CIN No. : U74999DL2019PTC348911
Regd. Office : 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066
Corporate Office : ReNew.hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram, 122009, Haryana, Phone - 0124-4896 670/ 80
Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2024
(Amounts in INR millions, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	Quarter ended 31 December 2024	Quarter ended 30 September 2024	Quarter ended 31 December 2023	9 months ended 31 December 2024	9 months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 March 2024
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	Audited
Total Income from Operations	1,266	1,214	1,053	3,589	3,083	4,214
Net Profit for the year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	157	9	183	120	405	140
Net Profit for the year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	157	9	183	120	405	140
Net Profit for the year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	142	16	183	114	405	189
Total Comprehensive Income for the year (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	142	16	183	114	405	192
Paid up Equity Share Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	128	(14)	228	128	228	16
Net worth*	278	136	228	178	228	16
Debt Equity Ratio*	3.36	2.63	3.76	3.36	3.76	2.39
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each (for continuing and discontinued operations))						
1. Basic: (in INR)	14,221.74	1,581.51	18,304.30	11,377.16	40,514.97	18,869.11
2. Diluted: (in INR)	14,221.74	1,581.51	18,304.30	11,377.16	40,514.97	18,869.11
Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	0.58	1.53	11.57	0.90	10.80	2.64
Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	0.58	1.53	11.57	0.90	10.80	2.64
Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	1.79	1.53	7.65	1.52	10.80	2.64
Current ratio	1.26	1.30	1.98	1.26	1.98	2.18
Long Term Debt to Working Capital	1.02	1.02	1.03	1.02	1.03	1.03
Bad debts to Account receivable Ratio*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Current Liability Ratio	0.78	0.75	0.50	0.78	0.50	0.45
Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio	0.59	0.57	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.59
Debtors Turnover Ratio*	0.27	0.36	0.31	0.81	0.99	1.24
Inventory Turnover Ratio*	0.56	0.58	0.72	1.86	2.39	3.18
Operating margin (%)	20%	6%	23%	12%	18%	8%
Net profit margin (%)	11%	1%	17%	3%	13%	4%

Notes :

- Ratios have been computed as follows :
 - Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares
 - Debt Equity Ratio = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing)
 - Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period items, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / (Total Interest Expense).
 - Debt Service Coverage Ratio = (Net Profit after taxes + non-cash operating expenses + interest + tax expense) / (Total Interest Expense + Long Term Debt Principal repayments)
 - Current Ratio= Current Assets/ Current Liabilities
 - Long Term Debt to Working Capital= Non- Current borrowing including current maturities of Non-current borrowings/ (Current Assets - Current Liabilities excluding current maturities of Non-Current borrowings)
 - Bad debts to Accounts Receivable Ratio= Bad debts / Average Trade receivables and Average unbilled Revenue
 - Current Liability Ratio = Current Liabilities/ Total Liabilities
 - Total Debts to total Assets= Total outstanding debts/ Total Assets
 - Debtors turnover= Revenue from operation/ Average trade receivables and Average unbilled Revenue
 - Inventory Turnover= Revenue from operations/Average inventories
 - Operating margin(%)= (Profit before tax + Finance costs - Other income)/ Revenue from operations
 - Net Profit Margin (%) = Net profit after Tax/ Revenue from Operations
 - Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders)
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the BSE Limited (BSE) under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange and the Company - <https://renew.com>.
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the BSE and can be accessed on the URL <https://www.bseindia.com/>.
- The company is in the business of operation and maintenance of wind and solar power plants. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".
- The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2024 have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 13 February 2025.
- The statement has been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles laid down in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" ("Ind AS 34") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and relevant rules issued thereunder and other recognized accounting practices and policies.
- Care Rating has assigned long term issuer rating and rating for the outstanding non-convertible debentures of the Company to "CARE A+ (CE)" with stable outlook.
- Previous period figures have been re-grouped / re-classified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification.

For and on behalf of the

RenServ Global Private Limited (Formerly known as ReNew Services Private Limited)
Place : Gurugram (Sd./) Sanjay Jagadish Kulkarni
Date : 13 February, 2025 Managing Director, DIN : 07852390

SAR Televenture Limited
CIN: L45202UP2019PLC213062
Regd. Off.: B-16, First Floor, Sector 2, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301
Contact: +91-8587050050, Email: info@sarteleventure.com

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & NINE MONTHS ENDED ON 31 DEC 2024
(Rs. in Lacs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	For The Quarter Ended On			Nine Month Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2024 Unaudited	30.09.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2023 Unaudited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2023 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	562.90	357.90	162.76	1,101.36	484.71	644.47
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	335.33	155.08	35.70	514.04	90.32	147.04
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary items#)	335.33	155.08	35.70	514.04	90.32	147.04
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	236.36	116.79	27.55	378.44	66.84	106.61
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Equity Share capital	742.85	742.85	300.00	742.85	300.00	300.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Earning per Share (face Value of Rs. 10/- each (not annualised)						
	1. Basic	0.64	0.38	0.69	1.02	0.69	0.73
	2. Diluted	0.64	0.38	0.69	1.02	0.69	0.73

NOTES:

- The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on 13th Feb 2025
- The above Unaudited financial results have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards (AS), the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act"), as applicable and guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI").
- There are no reportable segments, which signify or in the aggregate qualify for separate disclosure as per provisions of the relevant Accounting Standards. The Management does not believe that the information about segments which are not reportable under Accounting Standards, would be useful to the users of these financial statements.
- EPS for 9 months ended on 31.12.2024 has been calculated by taking basis of weighted average no. of shares.
- Figures has been rounded off and regrouped / re-arranged wherever necessary.

For SAR Televenture Limited
Sd/ Pankaj Nagpal
Director

Date: 13.02.2025
Place: Noida

SAR Televenture Limited
CIN: L45202UP2019PLC213062
Regd. Off.: B-16, First Floor, Sector 2, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301
Contact: +91-8587050050, Email: info@sarteleventure.com

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & NINE MONTHS ENDED ON 31 DEC 2024
(Rs. in Lacs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	For The Quarter Ended On			Nine Month Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2024 Unaudited	30.09.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2023 Unaudited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2023 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	8,511.33	6,774.18	3,656.16	22,895.56	7,237.66	12,416.97
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	1,447.58	1,213.33	431.31	3,391.54	850.35	1,606.61
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary items#)	1,447.58	1,213.33	431.31	3,391.54	850.35	1,606.61
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	1,285.10	1,175.04	438.43	3,123.49	826.87	1,566.16
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Equity Share capital	742.85	742.85	300.00	742.85	300.00	300.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Earning per Share (face Value of Rs. 10/- each (not annualised)						
	1. Basic	3.46	4.31	2.92	8.41	8.51	16.12
	2. Diluted	3.46	4.31	2.92	8.41	8.51	16.12

NOTES:

- The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on 13th Feb 2025
- The above Unaudited financial results have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards (AS), the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act"), as applicable and guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI").
- There are no reportable segments, which signify or in the aggregate qualify for separate disclosure as per provisions of the relevant Accounting Standards. The Management does not believe that the information about segments which are not reportable under Accounting Standards, would be useful to the users of these financial statements.
- EPS for 9 months ended on 31.12.2024 has been calculated by taking basis of weighted average no. of shares.
- Figures has been rounded off and regrouped / re-arranged wherever necessary.
- The company has adopted the policy to submit financial results on quarterly basis. Comparative figures of quarter ended December 31, 2023 have been restated by the Management of the Company and Prepared by exercising necessary due diligence to ensure that the Financials reflect, true and fair view of company affairs.
- In Q3, FY25, the Company has acquired the 100% Shares of M/s Fusionnet Web Services Private Limited & M/s Parametrique Electronics Private Limited during the period

For SAR Televenture Limited
Sd/ Pankaj Nagpal
Director

Date: 13.02.2025
Place: Noida

Rescued from virtual slavery in Myanmar, Indians among 260 foreigners being repatriated

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Some 260 people, including some Indians, believed to have been trafficked and trapped into working in online scam centres are to be repatriated after they were rescued from Myanmar, Thailand's army announced Thursday.

In a fresh crackdown on scam centres operating from Southeast Asia, the Thai army announced Thursday it is coordinating an effort to repatriate some 260 people believed to have been victims of human trafficking after they were rescued and sent from Myanmar to Thailand.

Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, which share borders with Thailand, have come to be known as havens for criminal syndicates who are estimated to have forced hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Asia and elsewhere into helping run online scams including false romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes.

Such scams have extracted tens of billions of dollars from victims around the world, according to UN experts, while the people recruited to carry them out have often been tricked into taking the jobs under false pretenses and trapped in virtual slavery.

An earlier crackdown on scam centres in Myanmar was initiated in late 2023 after China expressed embarrassment and concern over illegal casinos and scam operations in Myanmar's northern Shan state along its border. Ethnic guerrilla groups with close ties to Beijing shut down many operations, and an estimated 45,000 Chinese nationals suspected of involvement were repa-

triated.

The army said that those rescued in the most recent operation came from 20 nationalities — with significant numbers from Ethiopia, Kenya, the Philippines, Malaysia, Pakistan and China. There were also nationals of Indonesia, Nepal, Taiwan, Uganda, Laos, Brazil, Burundi, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Ghana and India. They were sent across the border from Myanmar's Myawaddy district to Thailand's Tak province on Wednesday.

Reports in Thai media said a Myanmar ethnic militia that controls the area where they were held, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army, was responsible for freeing the workers and taking them to the border. Myanmar's military government exercises little control over frontier areas where ethnic minorities predominate.

Several ethnic militias are believed to be involved in criminal activities, including drug trafficking and protecting call-center scam operations.

The Thai army statement said the rescued people will undergo questioning, and if determined to be victims of human trafficking, will enter a process of protection while waiting to be sent back to their countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai, who is also defense minister, said Wednesday that there might be many more scam workers waiting to be repatriated from Myanmar through Thailand, but that Thailand would only receive those that are ready to be taken back right away by their country of origin.

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all that my client Mr. Ajay Kumar S/o Sham Sunder and Mrs. Nirmal W/o Ajay Kumar R/o D-93, 1st Floor, Fateh Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have disowned/debarred their son Deepak Valcha and daughter in law Jaya Babuta from all their movable & immovable properties and severed all relations with both of them due to their misconduct. Any person dealing with them shall be doing at his/her own risk. PRAVEEN RASTOGI (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Sh. Manish Sharma s/o Sh. Dhianesh Chand Sharma Owner of Residential House, area measuring 231 sq. yards, E. 153.13 sq. meter, of Khata No. 205, situated at Village Shahdara, Pargana Dabri Jhansi, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. Through Registered Gift Dated 04.02.2025 executed Sh. Dhianesh Chand Uf Dhianesh Chand Sharma vide Reg. No. 4100 at SR-G NOIDA U.P. The above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fedbank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notify to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092. Mobile Number- 9811215181.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to public at large that on the instructions of my client, M/s The MN Matrimony Pvt. Ltd., my client, including its Directors, employees, website: www.thematrimonyindia.com, and its subsidiary 'Shivay Services' have no relation, connection, or affiliation whatsoever in any manner with the company named M/s Weblinkin Pvt. Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as 'the said company') or its website. Any customer who chooses to engage with the said company and subsequently approaches my client does so entirely at their own risk and discretion. My client is neither responsible for nor involved in any dealings, transactions, services, or representations made by the said company. Ms. Seema Rani, Advocate For DASK & Co. Advocates & Solicitors E-57, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE Sealed item rate tenders are invited from reputed firms for repair of OHT's, Ramps and basement tunnels of Block 2,3 & 9. Tenders can be downloaded from Society website http://www.navsandsad.in/Tenders.aspx and can be submitted in the Society office on or before 28.02.2025. Secretary Nav Sansad Vihar CGHS Ltd. Plot No. 4, Sector-22, Dwarka New Delhi-110077

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, P.H. CIRCLE, NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK-753004. NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Invitation For Bids (IFB) No.ACEPHCTC-02/2024-25 Dtd.06.02.2025. Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in

APPOINTMENTS The Punjab state Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (Milked Punjab) invites applications/resumes for appointment of one full time consultant (Sales & Distribution) with Head Quarter at Delhi on contract basis initially for period of one year (which could be extended further as per requirement) - Qualification & Experience: The desired candidate should have MBA in Marketing/Equivalent from a reputed institute and should have minimum 15 years of experience in Sales & Marketing, out of which minimum 10 years experience in dairy sector. Preference shall be given to candidates having prior working experience in Delhi-NCR. Salary for the above consultant shall be negotiable. Interested eligible candidates may send their resumes by post/e-mail. The last date of receipt of the resumes is 02.03.2025. Milked Punjab reserves the right to evaluate the resumes and call selected number of candidates for further interview. For further detailed information & updates, may please visit our website https://verka.coop/career/ Dy. General Manager (HR)

LOST & FOUND I, Krishna Singh, Mother of JC-472354M Sub Manoj Kumar Singh, R/o- Vill-Medhauna, Tiloi, Dist-Amethi, U.P., have changed my name from Krishna Singh to Krishna Devi, vide affidavit dated 13/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1483)A CHANGE OF NAME I, Jitendar S/o Hukum Singh R/o 846, GF-2, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad (U.P) 201010 declare that my name has been wrongly written as Jitender in my Driving License No. P08062005442091. The actual name of mine is Jitendar. In future I will be known as Jitendar. PD(1480)A I, Jheel Jain D/o Shri Praveen Jain R/o B-601, Kushal Vatika Near RTO, Pal, Surat City, Navvy College Surat, Gujarat. I have changed my name from Dixita Pravinbhai Jain to Jheel Jain for all future purposes. PD(1481)C I, Ashish Rathore, S/o Rajinder, R/o Plot No 10-A, Khasra Number 39/14 and 17 Gali No. 9, Gautam Colony, Narela, Delhi - 110040, holder of Aadhaar Number 962154980742 and Pan Card Number FQOPA7225N declare that I have changed my name from Ashish Dewan to Ashish Rathore for all purposes. PD(1482)C I, Chaitanya Arora S/o Mr. Sanjay Arora R/o H.No-2602, Gali No-4, Shadipur Main Bazar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008, declare that my name has been written in my 10th certificate as Chatney Arora instead of Chaitanya Arora. My correct name is Chaitanya Arora which may be amended accordingly. PD(1484)C

ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED Regd. Office: A-104, 3rd Floor, DDA Shed Okhla Industrial Area Phase-II, New Delhi-110020. CIN: L51109DL1980PLC256335, Tel.: +91-120-2529335. E-mail: atul.addi@gmail.com & addiind@gmail.com. Statement of Unaudited Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results For the Quarter and Year Ended December 31, 2024. (Rs. in Lakh, except per share data)

ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED (Continued) Statement of Unaudited Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results For the Quarter and Year Ended December 31, 2024. (Rs. in Lakh, except per share data)

PUBLIC NOTICE It is informed in public that my father SH. RAUBIR SINGH was the lessee of 50% share of Plot No. 008, Block P.K. Sector-122, Noida, Dist-Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 measuring 450 sq. mtr. My father SH. RAUBIR SINGH executed a will in my favour on 29-09-2023 of his share which was registered in the office of Sub Registrar-II, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh at Block No. III, Volume No. 963 at pages 271 to 282 at Document No. 226 on 25-05-2023. My father SHRI RAUBIR SINGH expired on 15-01-2025. I want to mutate above property in my favour on the basis of will, if any body have any objection for above mutation may file objection in the residential plot of NOIDA Authority Sector-6, Noida, within 30 days MOHIT BENIWAL.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs. Sareena Singh (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagee/Borrower) is purchasing Flat Bearing Pvt. No. 36, 36m. 2750 Sq. Ft., Second Floor, built on Plot No. 9-9, adm. 1,500 Sq. Yds., Southend Castle, Jangra, Mathura Road, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as 'said property') from Mr. Deepak Agarwal & Mrs. Astha Agarwal who are it's owners by virtue of Certificate of Sale dated 28.04.2022 executed in their favour by Deutsche Bank AG India through it's Authorized Officer: Mr. Vishal Charan, Regd. as Doc. No. 2548 on 09.05.2022. The Borrower will create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients Indusbank Bank Limited, 12th Floor, Hyatt Regency Complex, Bhikai Cama Place, New Delhi-110065. Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claims of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or purchaser. Mr. Akhil Gupta (Advocate) Khatian & Khattar A-38, Kalkaji Colony New Delhi, 110048 Tel. + 1149714545/99

PUBLIC NOTICE Reg. Portion of Property bearing No. B-61B, area measuring 64 sq.yds. 'said portion' out of total land area measuring 850 sq.yds., falling in Khata No. 12/18, Situated at Village Karawal Nagar in the abadi of Mukand Vihar, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi (Hereinafter referred to as the 'Said Property'). Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Bantu Kumar & Mrs. Pooja (hereinafter called the 'Purchaser') intend to purchase the said portion from Mr. Jayant G.P.A of Mr. Narendar Kumar (hereinafter called the 'Attorney-holder') in this connection, the Attorney-holder has informed the purchaser that he is the sole and absolute attorney holder in respect of the said property vide POA documents viz., GPA (registered as Document No. 12333 on 25.03.2005, and Will (registered as Document No. 5485 dated 25.03.2003) executed by Mr. Narendar Kumar in his favour. The Attorney holder has further informed that Mr. Narendar Kumar owned the said property by means of Revenue records. Thus, the Attorney holder is the sole and absolute attorney in respect of the said property including the said portion. The Attorney holder has also informed the purchaser that the said portion is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said portion. Any person including Banks, Financial Institutions, relatives/having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said portion is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the attorney-holder in respect of the said portion shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intelective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED CIN: L74899DL1994PLC059252 Regd. Office: 110, Bahar Road, New Delhi - 110 001. EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31.12.2024. (Rs. in Lacs)

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED (Continued) EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31.12.2024. (Rs. in Lacs)

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED (Continued) EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31.12.2024. (Rs. in Lacs)

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Sh. Gopal S/o Ram Lubhaya, residing at House No. C-19, Rani Garden, Shastri Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110031, disowned/severed all relations with his brothers, Karan and Prem, along with their wives, Jyoti/Anita and Jyoti, excluded them from any claim to his movable/immovable properties. Engaging with them is at your own risk, my client shall not be held liable for any dealings/ actions involving them, arising from their misconduct and unavul behavior towards him, and their failure to adhere to his instructions. Tushar Malhotra (Advocate), Ch. No. G-720, Karkardooma Court Shahdara, Delhi-110032.

PUBLIC NOTICE Mr R R TEXKINT LLP, is pleased to inform that the Grant of Environmental Clearance had been accorded with Environmental Clearance vide Environmental Clearance No. EC24C3801DL556057N Dated 13.01.2025 from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & climate change (MoEF& CC), Delhi. The copies of the clearance letters are available with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi and can also be seen on their website and on our website (www.rtxkint.in) Ms R R TEXKINT LLP Sd/- Rakesh Kumar Sharma Designated Partner

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Susmitha Wats W/o Late Sh. Naresh Wats R/o 32/GF/SBI Colony, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 applied for transfer of ownership of flat No. T-3/0702, & customer ID No. KLH4/0038/16-17 Plot Floor, LAKE HEIGHT, Sonapat, Harjana in her/his name claiming her/his legal heir of deceased Late Sh. Naresh Wats S/o Harbans Lal Wats per document dated 04.02.2017 in records of office i.e. TDI INFRACORP (INDIA) LTD. Having its office Vandana building-11, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001. Any person having any objection for transfer of the said flat in favour of Mrs. Susmitha Wats S/o Late. Sh. Naresh Wats may send at the above noted office of company with supporting documents through email customer.care@tdiinfacorp.com within 15 days of the publication of this notice otherwise it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed transfer of the said flat in his/her name. After that company shall be liable for any claim whatsoever after 15 days. TDI Infacorp India Ltd. Having its office Vandana Building, 11, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001, Phone No. 011-43111111

MY MONEY SERVICES LTD. CIN : L67120DL1992PLC047890 Regd Office : 10-A, UNDERHILL, LANE, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-54 Ph : 011-47087300, 23030555. EMAIL : mymoneyviews@outlook.com. Extract of the Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2024. (Rs. in Lakhs)

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED (Continued) EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31.12.2024. (Rs. in Lacs)

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED (Continued) EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31.12.2024. (Rs. in Lacs)

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all by way of this Public Notice that my clients Rajesh Shanker Khatri and others have applied for the substitution/mutation of leasehold rights in their names in respect of property No. 37/22, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 to Land & Development Office (L&DO) if any person (general public) has any objection for the said substitution/mutation, then such person should notify the same to the L&DO forthwith alongwith valid documentary proof, through regd. post or by personally visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi and/or through an email at ldo@nic.in within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Jagdish Chandra Triksa (Adv.), M-4, Civil Side, Tiz, Hazari Court, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all by way of this Public Notice that my clients Tajinder Kaur and others have applied for the substitution/mutation of leasehold rights in their names in respect of property No. 15/82, Single Storey, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015 to Land & Development Office (L&DO) if any person (general public) has any objection for the said substitution/mutation, then such person should notify the same to the L&DO forthwith alongwith valid documentary proof, through regd. post or by personally visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi and/or through an email at ldo@nic.in within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Jagdish Chandra Triksa (Adv.), M-4, Civil Side, Tiz, Hazari Court, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that Shri Chirojit Bhatlacharya son of Shri Biswaji Bhatlacharya resident of A-9, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi 110019 has agreed to sell, the entire Ground Floor including but not limited to entire exclusive drive way and parking with exclusive drive way entrance for the Ground Floor, open front and back area on Ground Floor, in/of the said property bearing No. A-9, measuring 409 square yards, situated at Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi 110019 free from all encumbrances, any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at B-31, Soam Nagar, New Delhi 110017 within fourteen days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived. Rishi Kumar Srivastava E-mail id: rshikj@yahoo.com Mobile No. +91-9871577222 Address: B-31, Soam Nagar, New Delhi-110017

Rungta Irrigation Limited Regd. Office: 101, Pragati Tower 26, Rajendra Place, New Delhi 110008 Tel: 011-40453330, 31, 32, E-mail: cs@rungiirrigation.in, Website: www.rungiirrigation.in CIN : L74899DL1986PLC023934. Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31-12-2024. (Rs. in Lakhs, Unless Otherwise Stated)

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LIMITED Regd. Office: Judges Barelilly Road, Rampur 244 901 (U.P.) CIN: L15136UP1988PLC010084 Email id: rkumar@rampurfert.com, Web.: www.rampurfert.com. Extract of unaudited financial results for the quarter ended on 31st Dec. 2024. (Rs. in Lacs)

EMAAR INDIA LIMITED CIN- U45201DL2005PLC13361 Registered Office : 306-308, Square One, C-2, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017 Email ID - bharat.garg@emaar.ae, Website - www.in.emaar.com. UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024. (Rs. in million)

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that Shri Chirojit Bhatlacharya son of Shri Biswaji Bhatlacharya resident of A-9, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi 110019 has agreed to sell, the entire Third Floor, & Entire Terrace above/upon the Third Floor and thereabove up to the limit of sky (with right to construct, own and possess any number of floors on the said terrace and on subsequent terrace(s) as and when permitted by the authorities concerned), in/of the said property bearing No. A-9, measuring 409 square yards, situated at Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi 110019 free from all encumbrances, any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at B-31, Soam Nagar, New Delhi 110017 within fourteen days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived. Rishi Kumar Srivastava E-mail id: rshikj@yahoo.com Mobile No. +91-9871577222 Address: B-31, Soam Nagar, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that, I MANOJ KUMAR VIMAL S/O SH. RADHA MOHAN R/O FLAT NO. 67A, 1ST FLOOR, BLOCK-C-7, LAWRENCE ROAD, KESHAV PURAM, DELHI mutatee of the DDA LIC FLAT NO- 67A, 1ST FLOOR, BLOCK-C-7, LAWRENCE ROAD, KESHAV PURAM DELHI-35 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from leasehold to freehold. The original document i.e. Mutation Letter of the above-mentioned property has been lost, An FIR against this effect has been lodged in Police station. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection of found in possession of original documents, may write contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9999905657 with 15 days, from the date 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 (LG) or Director (H)-2, D-Block, 2nd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that Shri Chirojit Bhatlacharya son of Shri Biswaji Bhatlacharya resident of A-9, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi 110019 has agreed to sell, the entire Ground Floor including but not limited to entire exclusive drive way and parking with exclusive drive way entrance for the Ground Floor, open front and back area on Ground Floor, in/of the said property bearing No. A-9, measuring 409 square yards, situated at Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi 110019 free from all encumbrances, any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at B-31, Soam Nagar, New Delhi 110017 within fourteen days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived. Rishi Kumar Srivastava E-mail id: rshikj@yahoo.com Mobile No. +91-9871577222 Address: B-31, Soam Nagar, New Delhi-110017

Rungta Irrigation Limited (Continued) Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31-12-2024. (Rs. in Lakhs, Unless Otherwise Stated)

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LIMITED (Continued) Extract of unaudited financial results for the quarter ended on 31st Dec. 2024. (Rs. in Lacs)

EMAAR INDIA LIMITED (Continued) UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024. (Rs. in million)

PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice regarding cancellation of property This Public Notice is from M/S JKG Construction Pvt Ltd for Mr Manish Dutt Sharma and Mrs Shikha Sharma bearing unit No. C1-1604 at JKG Palm Court, Plot No. GH-01D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh- 201009. We have offered possession of your allotted unit in February 2021, basis which we have shared final demand notice of unit C1-1604 on 21.06.2021, 30.11.2022, 17.08.2024, 21.08.2024, 24.08.2024 & 27.08.2024 but you failed to make the payment as per final demand notice. Hence we have cancelled your allotted unit via cancellation intimation letter dated 02.12.2024. Neither got any response from your end nor we have received any payment so far which tantamount to your tacit acceptance that you are no more interested in taking possession of the said flat. Hence your all owed flat C1-1604 is being cancelled on 16.01.2025, as such the allotment has become null & void and you have no claim on the dwelling unit and your deposited amount shall be refunded as per BBA Claus. For M/S JKG Construction Pvt Ltd

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REGISTERED A.D. POST SHRI ABHISHEK KUJUR Flat No. 611, Rama Apartments, Plot No.2, Set 11, Dwarka, South West Delhi-110075 No.: HR/SS/1821, Date: 11.11.2024. Dear Sir, VOLUNTARY VACATION OF SERVICE It is observed that you have been absenting from duty, despite your leave being refused/beyond the period of sanctioned leave, since 18.07.2023. In this connection, we refer to the Regd. A. D. notice H.C/BG/11/2024-25/20, dated 07.08.2024 (and paper publication on 09.08.2024), issued by the Assistant General Manager, Home Loan Centre, Bengaluru Central instructing you to report for duty and explain the reasons for your absence within 30 days of the notice. It is however, observed that you have so far not complied with the instructions contained therein. 2. Now that you have failed to report for duty in site of the above said notice, it is deemed that you have voluntarily vacated your service amounting to voluntary resignation from service of the Bank with effect from 09.09.2024. 3. You are hereby requested to pay three months emoluments within 15 days of the receipt of this notice, failing which the Bank will be constrained to set off the same against your terminal dues and any other amount payable to you without prejudice to recovering the full amount or part thereof by suit. Yours faithfully, General Manager. NW I, Appointing Authority

Rungta Irrigation Limited (Continued) Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31-12-2024. (Rs. in Lakhs, Unless Otherwise Stated)

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LIMITED (Continued) Extract of unaudited financial results for the quarter ended on 31st Dec. 2024. (Rs. in Lacs)

EMAAR INDIA LIMITED (Continued) UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024. (Rs. in million)

Income Tax Bill aims to achieve tax certainty: IT dept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The simplified Income Tax Bill, which is half the size of the 1961 Income Tax Act, seeks to achieve tax certainty by minimising the scope of litigation and fresh interpretation, the Income Tax department said on Thursday. The new bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha, has a word count of 2.6 Lakh, lower than 5.12 Lakh in the IT Act. The number of sections is 536, as against 819 effective sections in the existing law.

The number of chapters has also been halved to 23 from 47, according to the FAQ issued by the I-T department. The Income Tax Bill 2025, has 57 tables, compared to 18 in the existing Act and removed 1,200 provisions and 900 explanations. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while introducing the Bill in the Lok Sabha, had said that "substantial changes" have been made in the Bill. The number of words have been halved from 5.12 Lakh, and sections reduced from 819 to 536. Following introduction, the Bill was referred to the select committee of the Lok Sabha and mandated to submit its report by March 10. Provisions relating to exemptions, and TDS, TCS have been made crispier in the Bill by putting them in a tabular format, while the



chapter for not-for-profit organisations has been made comprehensive with use of plain language. As a result of this, the word count has come down by 34,547. "While undertaking simplification exercise, a conscious attempt has been made to minimise the scope of litigation and fresh interpretations," it said to a query on whether principles of Tax Certainty were followed in drafting of the new bill. Key words, phrases, especially where courts have given rulings, have been retained with minimal modifications. Provisions have been made clear to minimise scope of multiple interpretations and

tax certainty has been ensured with regard to various sections of international taxation. The FAQ further said that while "no major policy-related changes" or tax rates changes have been made in the IT Bill, "material" changes are being proposed in the existing law. The bill consolidated provisions pertaining to salary at one place for ease of understanding so that the taxpayer does not have to refer to separate chapters for filing return of income. Deductions, like gratuity, leave encashment, commutation of pension, compensation on VRS and retrenchment compensation, are now part of the salary chapter itself.

"The drafting style of the new bill is straightforward and clear, making the provisions easier to understand... This (Tables) minimises cross-references and conflict by aggregating all applicable provisions related to a single scenario in one place," the FAQ said. A significant aspect of the bill is the elimination of the concepts of "previous year" and "assessment year". As a taxpayer had to track two different periods, it presented difficulties in complying with the provisions of the Act, especially for a new taxpayer who had to keep track of "previous year", "assessment year" as well as the "financial

year", the FAQ said. It said provisions involving the same issues, which were present in different chapters in the current Act, have now been consolidated. In case of provisions relating to non-profit organisations (NPOs), it has been consolidated and structured into seven sub-parts. The FAQ further said the current Income Tax Act was enacted in 1961 and came into existence with effect from April 1, 1962. It has been amended nearly 65 times with more than 4,000 amendments. Concerns were expressed over the accumulation of amendments, intricate language, detailed provisions, redundancies and the heavy structure of the IT Act and hence the government decided to come out with a new law. Consultations were held with various stakeholders, including Australia and the UK where tax laws were rewritten in the past. A total of 20,976 online suggestions were received. Also, references were drawn from the 2009 Direct Taxes Code as also the 2019 report of the government constituted six-member committee to redraft the IT law. The FAQ said 150 officials of the IT department were involved in drafting of the Income Tax Bill, 2025, and more than 60,000 man hours were dedicated in its drafting.

India's white-collar hiring grows by 32 per cent: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Hiring for white-collar jobs witnessed a 32 per cent year-on-year surge in January, driven by industries such as semiconductors, energy, waste management and manufacturing in India, a report said on Thursday. The growth in hiring is attributed to surging consumer demand, strategic incentives outlined in the Union Budget 2025-26 and an increased focus on sustainability initiatives, according to foundit Insights Tracker. There was a 32 per cent year-on-year jump in hiring for January 2025, signalling renewed confidence in the market, it said. The report revealed that green jobs stood out in January, witnessing a 41 per cent increase over the last two years led by expanding clean energy initiatives. Sectors like semiconductors, energy, and waste management are leading this growth, fuelled by global net-zero emission targets, the report said. Bengaluru, Delhi and Pune are emerging as key hubs for these roles, which demand specialised skills in areas like energy auditing and sustainability strategy, it added. Demand for green jobs is



projected to rise another 11 per cent in 2025, driven by renewable energy, EVs, and green hydrogen initiatives. "India's job market continues to grow at a strong pace, with hiring surging across key industries. Sectors like travel, retail, and green jobs are seeing sustained momentum, reflecting business confidence and evolving industry priorities," foundit Chief Revenue and Growth Officer Pranay Kale said. Government policies, including key budget provisions, are accelerating this shift - especially in renewable energy, EVs, and sustainability-focused industries. "As hiring expands beyond metro cities, Tier II hubs are also emerging as key employment centres, reinforcing India's transition to a future-ready, greener

economy," Kale said. Further, the report added that the travel and tourism sector recorded a 17 per cent increase in hiring growth in January 2025, driven by strong consumer demand and favourable government initiatives. This trend is evident across aviation, luxury, and e-commerce segments, and new roles emerging in travel technology that leverage AI and data analytics, the report said. Similarly, the retail sector saw a 24 per cent year-on-year surge, driven by rising consumer spending and digital transformation, it added. Consequently, demand for skilled professionals in supply chain management, customer experience, and AI-driven retail analytics is rising, according to the report.

Rupee settles three paise higher at 86.92 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee settled almost flat with a gain of just 3 paise at 86.92 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday as the support from soft American currency and easing crude oil prices overseas was negated by a lacklustre trend in domestic equities. According to forex traders, the unabated outflow of foreign funds weighed on the Indian currency and capped its recovery even though the greenback weakened after the US data showed higher-than-expected inflation, trimming hopes of a rate cut by the Federal Reserve. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened stronger at 86.82, touched a high of 86.77 during intraday trade. However, the unit pared its most gains and touched the day's low of 86.94 before ending the session at 86.92 (provisional) against the American currency, higher by just three paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the domestic unit closed 16 paise lower at 86.95 against the dollar. In the preceding session on Tuesday, the rupee had



appreciated 66 paise, logging the maximum single-day gain since March 3, 2023, to close at 86.79 against the greenback. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee traded flat to positive on Thursday amid weak US dollar index and selling pressure from FIIs. He said the rupee is expected to trade with negative bias amid overall weakness in the domestic equities and underlying strength in the US dollar. "FII selling may also weigh on the rupee. However, any further intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may take cues from PPI data from the US," Choudhary said and

projected the \$-INR spot price in a range of ₹86.60 to ₹87.30. Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.33 per cent lower at 107.47. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 1.17 per cent to \$ 74.30 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 32.11 points, or 0.04 per cent, to settle at 76,138.97, while the Nifty fell 13.85 points, or 0.06 per cent, to 23,031.40 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,969.30 crore on net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

IOC signs long-term LNG import deal with UAE firm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, has signed a \$7.9 Billion deal to import LNG from UAE on a long-term 14-year contract. IOC signed a long-term deal to receive 1.2 Million tonnes per year of LNG from the United Arab Emirates beginning 2026 for 14 years. "ADNOC Gas has signed a 14-year sales and purchase agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) for the export of up to 1.2 Million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India's largest integrated and diversified energy company which will be supplied from Das Island liquefaction facility," ADNOC Gas said in a statement. The deal was signed on the sidelines of India Energy Week here. "The agreement, valued in the range of \$7 Billion to \$9 billion over its 14-year term signifies a major step forward in the partnership with IOC and we look forward to supporting India's plans to make gas 15 per cent of its primary energy basket by 2030," it added. The deal with IOC is the second LNG supply deal that the UAE giant signed with an Indian firm at the IEW. It

signed a deal with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to supply 2.4 Million tonnes of LNG over a period of 5 years, starting April 2025. The agreement is extendable by another 5 years with mutual consent. Separately, French energy giant TotalEnergies signed a deal to sell 4,00,000 tonnes a year of LNG to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd (GSPC) for 10 years starting 2026. The LNG, sourced from TotalEnergies' global portfolio and delivered to terminals on India's west coast, will primarily serve GSPC's industrial customers. It will also supply Indian households for domestic use, businesses, and service stations for vehicles running on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), such as auto-rickshaws. TotalEnergies had in June last year signed a deal to sell 8,00,000 tonnes a year of LNG to state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for 10 years starting 2026. While GSPC has an LNG import facility at Mundra in Gujarat, IOC can import the LNG at Dahej in Gujarat or at its Ennore terminal in Tamil Nadu. ADNOC Gas plc and its subsidiaries signed a 14-year sales and purchase agreement



(SPA) with IOC which converts the last year's Heads of Agreement signed by them. First deliveries will begin in 2026. Fatema Al Nuaimi, ADNOC Gas CEO, said, "This agreement strengthens our long-standing partnership with IOC and is a testament to the dynamic and robust energy ties between the UAE and India. As a reliable and responsible supplier of lower-carbon gas, ADNOC Gas looks forward to supporting India's plans to make gas 15 per cent of its primary energy basket by 2030." The agreement builds on ADNOC Gas' strategy to expand its customer base, following a series of LNG agreements signed over the past two years. These deals range from 0.4 Million tonnes

towards India's energy security and diversification of its sources. Also, India signed its first LNG export agreement when the IOC signed a sales agreement with Yogya Holdings Nepal for the export of around 1,000 tonnes of LNG to Nepal. It will be the first-ever sale of LNG to Nepal from India by dhramic trucks through Chyagan Terminal in Odisha. Contract for 5 years with an annual quantity of 240 tonnes per annum. BPCL has also partnered with Eco Wave Power to develop India's first wave energy pilot project, leveraging the nation's substantial wave energy potential as a sustainable and commercially viable renewable resource. The proposed system for BPCL will utilise Eco Wave Power's proven wave energy converter technology, demonstrating wave energy in Mumbai through a 100 kW pilot installation. BPCL also signed a MoU with the National Sugar Institute (NSI), Kanpur, UP. The National Sugar Institute (NSI), Kanpur, renowned for its expertise in sugar and allied industries, has successfully demonstrated the potential of sweet sorghum for bioethanol production at its in-house facility.



Gold rises ₹140 to reclaim ₹88,000 per 10 grams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose ₹140 to ₹88,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid strong trends in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹87,960 per 10 grams on Wednesday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity went up ₹140 to ₹87,700 per 10 grams from the previous close of ₹87,560 per 10 grams. "Gold recovered from a recent swing bottom and traded higher on Thursday, as haven demand remains intact in response to multiple disruptive tariff announcements by President Trump that are scheduled to be implemented shortly," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. Silver prices also jumped ₹800

to ₹98,000 per kg on Thursday. The white metal had settled at ₹97,200 per kg in the previous trading session. Investors remain worried that US President's trade tariffs might trigger a global trade war, which continues to act as a tailwind for safe-haven metals like gold, Gandhi said. In futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for April delivery climbed ₹364 to trade at ₹85,845 per 10 grams. "Gold prices gained once again despite the US CPI (Consumer Price Index) data not rising significantly and the US Federal Reserve indicating no urgency in cutting rates," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said. The safe-haven appeal of gold continues to support its strength, keeping the broader bullish sentiment intact, Trivedi added.

NSDC plans to set up 50 new Future Skills Centres

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) on Thursday announced a significant expansion in its skilling footprint across India with plans to set up 50 new Future Skills Centres and 10 NSDC International Academies to advance skill development and training programs. Addressing the annual press conference, Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO, NSDC and MD, NSDC International, shared his roadmap to skill and upskill the Indian youth for domestic and global job markets. "The number of industry-aligned programs will increase beyond 300, covering 12 major emerging technologies. The goal is to train over 2 lakh candidates and establish over 2.70 Lakh square feet of training infrastructure, further strengthening employability and workforce readiness," he said. The industry aligned programs aim to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills by aligning education with emerging technologies and industry needs. So far, 33 global corporations have partnered, and 21 Future Skills Centres have been established in



Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Over 200 industry-aligned programs have been assessed and certified by corporations, covering 9 major emerging technologies. More than 27,000 candidates have been trained, with over 1.20 lakh square feet of training space developed. NSDC aims to make quality education accessible to students from tier 2 and 3 colleges by addressing challenges in emerging technologies through collaborations with Institutes of National Importance. So far, 11 premium institutions have partnered to launch 17 micro-credential programs, awarding more than 75,000 credits and training over 5,000 candidates. Looking forward, NSDC plans to collaborate with 15 premium institutions, introduce over 30 micro-credential programs, and

award around 1,80,000 credits, further enhancing access to quality education and skill development. Students will receive specialised training in emerging technologies across key industry verticals such as aerospace, automotive, mining, and infrastructure. The OEMs' tools and curriculum will be integrated into structured guided pathways, supporting different proficiency levels and leading to job opportunities across various domains. As part of the Job-as-Skills model, Tiwari said, "There are plans to onboard 1 million students, establish MoUs with leading OEMs, bring in training partners, select industry-specific tools, design career progression pathways, implement joint certification with NSDC and OEMs, and introduce new industry verticals in a phased manner."



Ensure fair treatment to customers: RBI Governor to NBFCs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday asked NBFCs to ensure customers are treated fairly and put in place a mechanism for quick redressal of grievances. The governor met with managing directors and chief executive officers of select non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) across all layers, including government NBFCs, housing finance companies and micro-finance institutions. These NBFCs constitute nearly 50 per cent of the total assets of the NBFC sector. Malhotra, in his opening remarks, underscored the role played by NBFCs in credit intermediation, particularly in making credit available for small businesses

and niche segments, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement. Highlighting the collaborative efforts required between the Reserve Bank and the NBFCs, the Governor stressed upon balancing growth aspirations with sound practices for ensuring inclusive development, customer protection and financial stability. "He also underscored the significance of ensuring fair treatment to customers and putting in place a prompt grievance redress mechanism," the RBI said. Urging the NBFCs to further their contribution towards financial inclusion, the Governor requested them to become part of Unified Lending Interface (ULI) being put in place by the Reserve Bank.

Paytm Money settle market norms violation case with Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Paytm Money, an arm of fintech firm One97 Communications, on Thursday settled with markets regulator Sebi a case pertaining to alleged violation of norms after paying ₹45.50 Lakh in settlement amount. The case stemmed from alleged violations of Sebi's technical glitch framework outlined in its circular dated November 25, 2022. The order came after Paytm Money filed a settlement application in September last year, proposing to settle the instant proceedings initiated against it, without "admitting or denying the findings of facts and conclusions of law." "The instant adjudication proceedings initiated against the noticee vide SCN dated July 24, 2024, is disposed of in terms of the settlement regulations," SEBI's adjudicating officer Asha Shetty said in the order. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) initiated adjudication proceedings against Paytm Money Ltd for the alleged violation.

Exploring the Magic of Childhood

Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Anup Soni bring Vani Tripathi Tikoo's imagination to life, says **TEAM VIVA**



At the heart of every child's world lies a boundless imagination, a place where rules fade and dreams take flight. It's this magic that Vani Tripathi Tikoo's book *Kyon Nahi Ho Sakte Haathi Lal* brings to life. The launch event at the National School of Drama in New Delhi was a celebration of creativity and storytelling, filled with warmth and nostalgia.



Nawazuddin Siddiqui, reflecting on his time at NSD with Vani Tripathi Tikoo, shared how their theatre journey shaped their understanding of narrative and imagination. He highlighted the book's core message, adults should embrace a child's creativity and view the world through their eyes, full of possibility.



Anup Soni's captivating reading added to the evening's charm, drawing the audience into the whimsical story. *Kyon Nahi Ho Sakte Haathi Lal* captures the playful spirit of childhood, offering a reminder that some of the most meaningful lessons come from the stories we tell our children.

The book is a tribute to the boundless imagination of childhood, celebrating art, creativity and the magic of storytelling. It encourages readers to embrace curiosity, cherish the joy in small moments and never lose sight of the wonder that makes childhood and every new idea, so special.

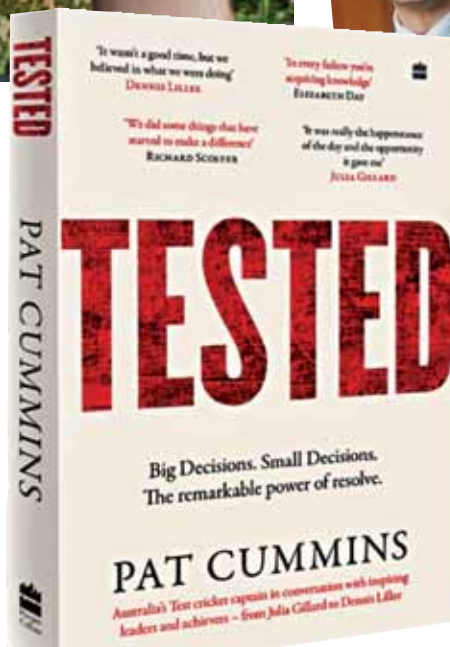


Australian cricket captain steps off the pitch into the world of storytelling with his book *Tested*, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

In life, every decision, big or small, plays a role in shaping our journey. It is in the moments of choice that our true character is revealed, and our ability to navigate challenges determines our growth. Australian Test captain Pat Cummins, known for his fearless leadership on the cricket field, now brings this philosophy to the pages of his book, *Tested*. Releasing tomorrow, *Tested* is an analysis into the trials of leadership, resilience, and the defining moments that shape individuals.

Pat Cummins, widely regarded as one of the finest fast bowlers and a leader par excellence, has faced his own share of trials, both on and off the field. From injuries that threatened his career to the immense responsibility of captaining one of the most scrutinised cricket teams in the world, he has learned firsthand the value of resolve. In this book, he turns the spotlight away from himself and onto eleven extraordinary individuals who have inspired him with their ability to rise above adversity.

Through *Tested*, Cummins explores the stories of a diverse set of personalities, ranging from Australia's first female Prime Minister, Julia Gillard to a groundbreaking scientist, an indigenous leader to a cricketing legend, and more. These individuals also have one common thread, an unbreakable spirit that allows them to push through moments of doubt, seize opportunities, and create meaningful impact. Their journeys serve as powerful testaments to the idea that resilience is not just about bouncing back but about pushing forward with intent and purpose.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Tested
Author: Pat Cummins
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: ₹499/-

Tested has been divided into 11 different conversations as chapters, like Beyond all of the noise and glory of leadership is the work, which can be a harbour when you need on which is a conversation with Julia Gillard. Every inspired person has stood on the shoulders of giants which is a conversation with Richard Scolyer and many more.

MOMENT OF CHALLENGES IN PAT'S LIFE

When Pat Cummins unexpectedly became Australia's 47th Test captain at age 28, it was the beginning of a personal leadership journey for him, a unique moment of challenge and pressure that would see him become a seasoned captain and, in his private life, become a father and husband but also lose his mother to cancer.

Pat Cummins, Beyond the Game

RELEASING TOMORROW



CHAPTERS IN CONVERSATION WITH



(Clockwise) Julia Gillard, Elizabeth Day, John Bertrand, Dennis Lillee, Ronnie Screwvala, Rob Sitch, Richard Scolyer and more. All the 11 invited guests or the people in conversation with Pat in the book have a story to tell about the life lived, decisions made be it big or small.

Cummins himself describes *Tested* as a deeply personal project, shaped by his own experiences of seeking guidance in moments of uncertainty.

Pat Cummins was offered the Australian captaincy shortly after his wife, Becky, gave birth to their first child, during a time when players lived under strict pandemic restrictions, resembling caged circus animals.

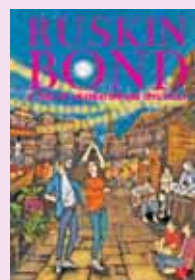
To this Pat wrote in the book, "I didn't feel prepared. I'd recently captained New South Wales in a handful of one-day matches, but before that I hadn't captained a side since I was fifteen. I hadn't even really thought that much about being the captain, even though I'd been a vice-captain for sometime. I was a bowler, after all; there hadn't been a bowler who'd captained the Test team for generations."

Talks like these have made the book interesting wanting to know more about his life both as a cricketer fan and an inspiration.

With a blend of inspiration, insight, and thought-provoking narratives, *Tested* is a master class in overcoming adversity. As it hits bookshelves tomorrow, it promises to be an essential read for anyone and everyone looking to understand the true essence of resilience and leadership.



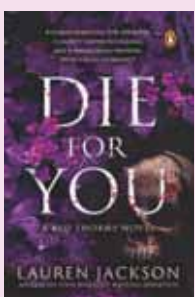
SOULFUL READS



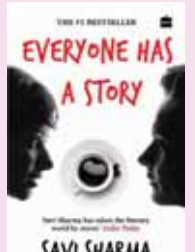
Book: A Year of Celebration and Spectacle
Author: Ruskin bond
Publisher: Rupa
Price: ₹295



Book: Dating Dr. Dil
Author: Nisha Sharma
Publisher: HarperCollins India
Price: ₹250



Book: Die For You
Author: Lauren Jackson
Publisher: India Penguin
Price: ₹499



Book: Everyone Has A Story
Author: Savi Sharma
Publisher: HarperCollins India
Price: ₹499



Book: Izmirlı, My Last Love
Author: Firat Sunel, Feza Howell
Publisher: India Penguin
Price: ₹599

The Ramayana in Art

NEW LAUNCH



BY TEAM VIVA

Ramayana in World Art and Thought – An Anthology of Perspectives, edited by Padmeshri Shovana Narayan, features contributions from sixteen respected writers, scholars and thought leaders, including Sharon Lowen, Lady Kishwar Desai, Amb. (Retd.) Sangeeta

Bahadur, Dr. K.K. Mishra, Dr. Abira Bhattacharya, Rear Admiral (Retd.) Dr S. Kulshreshtha and Rana Safvi. Produced by Shubhi Publication, this coffee table book examines ethics, spirituality and morality within the Ramayana. It offers readers insightful perspectives on the epic's influence on art, culture and history across the world.

A Call to Protect the Earth

Our Potpourri Planet' by Ranjit Lal is both a wake-up call and a guide to understanding the environmental crisis. With a blend of personal anecdotes, facts and sharp observations, Lal highlights urgent solutions ranging from lifestyle changes to policy reforms. The book also confronts our changing world: rising temperatures, melting glaciers, vanishing forests and polluted cities. Blending personal anecdotes with sharp facts, Lal highlights environmental crises and actionable solutions, criticising profit-driven policies. Engaging and hopeful, this book urges societal change, reminding us that while challenges are immense, the power to shape our future remains in our hands.



A Story of Unseen Affection forever

"On the Banks of the Mayyazhi", A moving saga of Mahe's people under French rule, says **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

Way back in the 1960s, in the neighbourhood of Kanjirakkadu where we have our house, lived a Tamil Nadu-born woman named Pappamma. She was one of the early migrants to Perumbavoor who came there as a sanitary worker. Pappamma, tall and lean with a dark complexion, spoke only Tamil and covered herself in a sari sans blouse/jacket. The sanitary workers from Tamil Nadu, numbering around a dozen, were "herded" into a colony set up by the municipal authorities. They were given small tiled houses to stay in. While mornings were peaceful, the silence gave way to a kind of cacophony in the evenings when the workers returned home fully drunk.

Pappamma was an exception and kept away from the merry-makers. She developed an instant friendship with my mother and was always ready with a helping hand, whether it was drawing water from the well or washing utensils. In return for a couple of dosa and idli, my mother would get all the local news from Pappamma. Her friendship extended to me as well, and I still remember her bringing home coconut burfi from the local bakery. She was an embodiment of love and affection and would always scold my mother whenever she thrashed me for my childhood mischief.

When a person living at the far end of the alley bought an old Ambassador car, we children were thrilled because cars were a rare sight in our area. This was the first four-wheeler to join the neighbourhood and we would gather around it, watching the driver trying to kick-start the engine. One day, Pappamma told me, "Kumar, you should buy a car of your own so that I too can travel in it." I had no reply to her comment, but it was she who instilled in me a craving for an Ambassador car, a wish that remains unfulfilled even today.



Memories of Pappamma always haunt me, as she was like a member of our family, though the residents of the locality treated her and others in the colony as "untouchables." Pappamma passed away long ago, but her descendants continue living in the same colony. Interestingly, many of them now own cars, both used and brand new.

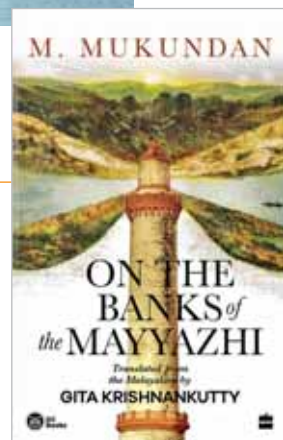
What brought Pappamma to my mind all of a sudden was the novel *On the Banks of the Mayyazhi* by M Mukundan, an avant-garde Malayalam writer. Mukundan was born in Mahe, a former French enclave in Kerala, now administered by the Union Territory of Puducherry. The novel, published in 1974, tells the story of the agitation launched by a section of people in this enclave for freedom from French rule and integration with India. However, there was an older genera-

tion in the French colony for whom Europeans remained the real masters. It was Kurambi Amma, grandmother of Dasan, the protagonist of the story, who reminded me of Pappamma.

Kurambi Amma, a staunch French loyalist, held the Sayivs (Malayalam term for Europeans) in high esteem. Leslie Sayiv, a half-French man, was an icon for Kurambi. Every evening, he would visit her for a pinch of snuff. One evening, Kurambi asked him to buy a car, one similar to that of the local French administrator. The interactions between Kurambi Amma and Leslie Sayiv, though described briefly, reveal much about the people who lived in the French colony in those days.

The story revolves around Kurambi's grandson Dasan and his love interest, Chandrika. Dasan, a revolutionary, was imprisoned by the French government for his Communist ideology. He later escaped to India and returned to Mahe after the French flag was lowered. Though the French authorities offered him the opportunity for higher education and a government job in Paris, Dasan rejected it, as he could not reconcile with the bourgeois system. This forms the core of the novel, but what makes it truly engaging is Mukundan's ability to create relatable characters. The story flows like the Mayyazhi River taking the readers along with it in its journey in search of the Arabian Sea.

On the Banks of the Mayyazhi placed Mukundan in the league of top writers. Gita Krishnankutty's translation of the novel is commendable. The usual hitches and awkwardness that plague translated works are absent, making this book a delight to read.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: On the Banks of the Mayyazhi
Author: M Mukundan
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: ₹399/-

Shreyas was never supposed to be benched: Gambhir

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has rubbished speculation that Shreyas Iyer was being side-lined from the ODI set-up despite his brilliant form, saying that the consistent right-hander was always in the "scheme of things" and will be an important player in this month's Champions Trophy (CT).

Iyer displayed excellent form during the just-concluded 3-0 ODI series sweep against England, hitting a counter-attacking 36-ball 59 in the opener when India were 19/2 chasing 249 in Nagpur, and scoring 44 and 78 in the next two games.

After the opening match, he created quite a stir by stating that he got into the side only after Virat Kohli had to sit out of the game because of a sore knee. This led to speculation that he would be dropped for Kohli in the next two games.

"He was not supposed to be benched throughout the series. We wanted to give Yashasvi (Jaiswal) a go in the first game and see what he can bring on the table because he was in (a) really good form in Australia," Gambhir said after the third and final match here on

Wednesday.

Iyer was preferred over Jaiswal eventually and Gambhir described him as an "important player" in the side.

"I know that you cannot judge someone (Jaiswal) by one innings. But we always knew that Shreyas was going to be an important player for us. Sometimes when you've only got three games, you want to try and rotate your squad as well," the coach reasoned.

"(And) when you have got Champions Trophy around the corner, you want to try and maximise these three games and try and give everyone an opportunity. But Shreyas was always in the scheme of things (and it is) good that he played all the three games," Gambhir added. The Champions Trophy gets underway on February 19 with India talking Bangladesh on February 20 in Dubai.

Harshit and Arshdeep will have to step up

Someone's missed opportunity is another person's golden chance, believes Gambhir, who expects the likes of Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh to step up and fill the void created by pace talisman Jasprit Bumrah's injury-forced absence from the Champions



Trophy. Bumrah, who played a decisive role in India's T20 World Cup win last year with 15 wickets including a vital spell in the final, has been ruled out of the eight-team event

which begins on February 19 owing to a nagging back problem. "Someone missing out opportunity could be a great opportunity for someone else as well, that is how sport goes.

Hopefully, these guys (Rana, Arshdeep and Mohammed Shami) can deliver and put their hand up and do the job for the team," he said. "It's a great opportunity for them

to try and deliver for the country, (it is) as simple as it can get. What we don't have, we do not have. What we have is what we have, and we are going to try and go with a very clear mind," he added.

Bumrah's replacement, Rana, has done reasonably well and was drafted into the Champions Trophy squad on Tuesday night.

"I think guys have shown some really good signs. Harshit has come along really well. Arsh (Arshdeep) was really good today (Wednesday) as well. Obviously, you would always miss a bowler like Jasprit Bumrah," Gambhir said.

"But then, it is always good to have someone like Mohammed Shami back with his experience and quality."

When asked if Bumrah's absence will give opposition teams any psychological advantage over India, Gambhir said, "We can't help it."

"If he's not available, he's not available. If he's injured, he's injured," Gambhir said.

"Whether it's me, (or) whether it's the captain, we can't do much about it. We know that he's an important factor, but as I just mentioned, people like Harshit, Arsh (and) Mohammed Shami, all

these guys will put their hand up."

Axar's elevation to No.5 Gambhir said the promotion of all-rounder Axar Patel at No 5 in the first two ODIs was largely to ensure a left-handed batter in the mix.

"That's the way cricket is meant to be played. I know a lot of people talk about it but that's the way we've got to play the game and that's the way cricket should be played," he said.

"It's not about the batting order, it's about who can create what (kind of) impact. If you have the option of putting a quality left-hander in the middle, why won't you do that? Why would you want to have top five as right-handers?" he asked.

Gambhir said he the only criteria for deciding the order is the impact assessment of a player, which he believes, cannot be done purely through statistics.

"We don't look at averages and stats and all that stuff, we look at who can deliver more at that number and Axar has done fabulously well, (in) both the games he got the opportunity, (and) he delivered for us," he said. "I know there will always be people talking about it but I think that's the way we want to go in the future as well," he added.



Families not to travel with Team India for ICC Champions Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Families will not be accompanying the Indian cricket players heading to Dubai on February 15 for the ICC Champions Trophy (CT) as the BCCI's new travel policy comes into effect for the first time with this tournament.

The Indian team starts its campaign in Dubai against Bangladesh on February 20, followed by the marquee clash against arch-rivals Pakistan (February 23) and the final preliminary face-off with New Zealand on March 2. The Rohit Sharma-led squad will play its games in Dubai while the rest of the tournament unfolds from February 19 in Pakistan across three venues.

Given that the duration of the tour is just over three weeks even if the final on March 9 is taken into consideration, the BCCI will not allow families to accompany the players. As per the new policy, families can be with players for a maximum of two weeks during a tour which is of 45 days or more.

"If anything changes then it is different but as of now, the players are unlikely to be accompanied by their wives or partners for this tour. One of the senior players had enquired about it and he was told that the policy decision will be followed," a senior

BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Since the tour is of less than one month, families won't be accompanying the players. But if exceptions are made, I think that individual will have to bear the full expenses as BCCI won't be covering any cost," he added.

The BCCI policy document states: "Players absent from India for more than 45 days during overseas tours can be joined by their partners and children (under 18) for one visit per series (format wise) of up to a two-week period.

"Any deviation from this policy must be pre-approved by the coach, captain and GM Operations. Additional expenses outside the visitors' period will not be covered by the BCCI."

However, families will be there with the team during the five-Test tour of England in June-July-August as the five-Test. The window for their two-week stay during the trip will be worked out later.

The new rules were drafted after India's horror tour of Australia during which the team was outplayed 1-3, leading to speculation about lack of discipline and cohesion in the dressing room.

Rules already put into effect The senior official said that most of the rules have already been enforced by the BCCI.

"If you look at it, already no player can ask for a private vehicle to come for practice. All state units have been notified. Similarly once the players assembled in Kolkata (for the T20 series against England) and Nagpur (for the ODI series against the same side), the team has travelled together," he confirmed.

The stars have also adhered to the new regulations of playing domestic cricket when they get time off from their international assignments.

Accordingly, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Shivam Dube turned up for Mumbai.

Virat Kohli played his first game for Delhi in more than 12 years amid a lot of fanfare. So did Rishabh Pant while KL Rahul represented Karnataka. Ravindra Jadeja played for Saurashtra.

Personal staff to stay at different hotel

Restrictions have also been imposed on personal staff (managers, agents, chefs), who were accompanying the team and the coaching group earlier. Accordingly, the personal secretary of a member of the coaching staff, who was regularly seen staying at the team hotel, now stays at a different facility even though he has been seen at every venue during the England home series.

RCB names Rajat Patidar as captain for IPL 2025

PTI ■ BENGALURU

IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday named Rajat Patidar as its captain for the upcoming season starting March 21, replacing South African Faf du Plessis who was released from the squad last year.

Patidar was among RCB's retained players before the mega auction in November, 2024 and has the experience of leading Madhya Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (T20) and the Vijay Hazare Trophy (ODI).

The 31-year-old, who signed up with the franchise in 2022, guided Madhya Pradesh to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final where his side lost to Mumbai by five wickets last year.

"Rajat has the simplicity, (he) cares about the people around him, we have closely seen how he has led Madhya Pradesh, we really liked it," RCB chief coach Andy Flower said at the franchise event to announce



Patidar's elevation. The right-hander was also the second highest run-getter in the premier domestic T20 tournament, behind Ajinkya Rahane, scoring 428 from 10 matches at an average of 61 and a strike-rate of 186.08.

Patidar takes over from du Plessis, who was released after captaining the team from 2022 to 2024. The 40-year-old South African will play for Delhi Capitals this season.

Prior to the announcement on Thursday, there was some

speculation about Virat Kohli returning as captain of the franchise. Kohli was the RCB captain from 2013 to 2021 and has a fine record though he could not land them the title. The 36-year-old led RCB in 143 matches, the second longest stint as captain after the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni for Chennai Super Kings.

Under him, the team won 68 games, and logged 70 losses and four no-results.

In 2016, Kohli had led the franchise to the IPL final, and made 973 runs, to date the highest for a batter in a single IPL season.

In IPL 2024, Kohli was the top run-getter with 741 runs at a strike-rate of 154.

The franchise conceded that Kohli's name was also discussed for the leadership role.

you, Rajat," Kohli said in a video statement shared by the franchise.

"The way you have grown in this franchise and the way you have performed, you've made a place in the hearts of all RCB fans. This is very well deserved," he added.

Kohli had a fine run as RCB captain, though he could not land them the title. The 36-year-old led RCB in 143 matches, the second longest stint as captain after the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni for Chennai Super Kings.

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Bahutule appointed Rajasthan Royals spin-bowling coach

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Former India cricketer Sairaj Bahutule was on Thursday appointed Rajasthan Royals' spin-bowling coach for the upcoming IPL season, adding to the long list of support staff led by head coach Rahul Dravid.

Bahutule, a former leg-spinner and left-hand batter, played two Tests and eight ODIs taking a total of five wickets but his exploits in first-class cricket put him in the league of domestic greats.

Bahutule, 52, scored over 6,000 runs and took 630 wickets, besides 197 scalps in List A games.

"The 52-year-old returns to the Royals having been a part of the setup from 2018-21. He represented India in two Tests and eight ODIs and has since transitioned into a successful coaching career, mentoring teams such as Mumbai, Bengal, Kerala and the Indian national men's team where he has been instrumental in developing emerging talents," said Rajasthan Royals in a statement.

Head coach Dravid said Bahutule would bring a wealth of experience to the side that won the inaugural edition of the IPL in 2008 under the legendary Shane Warne.

"Sairaj's deep understanding of spin bowling and his extensive coaching experience make him an invaluable addition to our team. His proven ability to mentor young bowlers aligns perfectly with our vision at Rajasthan Royals.

"Having worked with him before, I am confident that his insights and guidance will significantly benefit our players as we strive for excellence in the upcoming season," said Dravid. Bahutule said he was looking forward to working with Dravid.

"I am eager to work alongside Rahul and the rest of the coaching staff to develop our bowling attack and contribute to the team's success," said Bahutule.

Three Pakistan players fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

PTI ■ KARACHI

International Cricket Council (ICC) has slapped Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi, Saud Shakeel and Kamran Ghulam with fines and a demerit point each for their belligerent behaviour during the tri-series match against South Africa here.

Shaheen was fined 25 per cent of his match fee for breaching Article 2.12 of the Code, which pertains to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) during an International Match."

The incident occurred in the 28th over of South Africa's



innings when Shaheen deliberately obstructed batter Matthew Breetzke as he ran a single, resulting in physical contact and a heated exchange between the two players on Wednesday.

The ICC had imposed a similar 20 percent match fees

fine and one demerit point on Indian star Virat Kohli for barging into Australia's Sam Konstas during the Border Gavaskar Trophy series. Interestingly, while Kohli got a lot of flak for his action, Shaheen has hardly been criticised in Pakistan for his

behaviour. The tall fast bowler admitted after the match that he had been trying to rile up and disturb Breetzke for a while in the match but once it was over everything was forgotten and both shook hands.

In another incident, Shakeel and substitute fielder Ghulam were fined 10 percent of their match fees for celebrating too closely to batter Temba Bavuma following his run-out in the 29th over.

Both players were found guilty of breaching Article 2.5 of the Code, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

Kane lifts Bayern to beat Celtic in Champions League playoffs

PTI ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich looks set to survive the new Champions League playoffs round. AC Milan joined Atalanta and Monaco losing their first-leg games Wednesday.

Bayern got high-class strikes from Michael Olise and Harry Kane either side of halftime in a 2-1 win at Scottish champion Celtic. The return game is Tuesday in Munich.

"The (Celtic) fans haven't seen many losses here, especially in Europe, so we appreciate the importance of the game and the victory," Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said.

Bayern had joined Real Madrid and Manchester City as Champions League title winners in the past five years who surprisingly found themselves in the playoffs because they finished outside the top eight in the new 36-team single standings format.

Madrid won 3-2 in Manchester on Tuesday.

Feyenoord's goal in a rain-soaked 1-0 win over Milan came in the third minute and relied in France goalkeeper Mike Maignan spilling Igor Paixão's shot into the net. Feyenoord's Brazilian winger gave Milan new signing Kyle Walker a tough first game in the competition for the seventh-time European champion.

It also was a quick winning start for Feyenoord's interim coach Pascal Bosschaert in his first game after the firing Monday of Brian Priske. Benfica won 1-0 at Monaco with another goal from Vangelis Pavlidis, a delicate chip shot in the 48th. Monaco had Al Musrati sent off four minutes later.

Club Brugge scored with a disputed penalty kick in stoppage time to beat Atalanta 2-1. That was a meeting of teams that finished 24th and ninth, respectively, in the 36-

team standings two weeks ago. The top eight teams in those standings advanced direct to the round of 16 in March, leaving Nos. 9 to 24 to compete this month for eight more entries in playoffs over back-to-back midweeks.

Kane vs Schmeichel

Harry Kane loves scoring against Kasper Schmeichel, his longtime rival in Tottenham vs Leicester England vs Denmark games. Bayern star Kane's sharp volley in the 49th, when left unmarked at the back post at a corner, was his 19th career goal past Schmeichel, more than any other goalkeeper he has faced.

It was a second impressive goal conceded by Schmeichel, who was helpless against Michael Olise's rising left-footed shot in the 45th. On a tough evening for Celtic's all-American central defense of Cameron Carter-Vickers and Auston Trusty,



the Scottish champion has more hope next Tuesday thanks to Japan forward Daizen Maeda cutting the deficit late on.

"At 2-1, Bayern are hanging on," Celtic coach Brendan Rodgers said. "Let's go and have no regrets and see where it takes us. We've shown we

can play football and be a threat." Pavlidis hot streak Benfica's Greece forward might be the most in-form

striker in the Champions League. It is now six goals in the competition and five in the past three games including a hat trick against Barcelona. The 26-year-old Pavlidis latched onto a pass from the halfway line and shrugged off defender Mohammed Salisu before neatly clipping the ball over goalkeeper Radoslaw Majecki in the 48th minute.

Benfica's win was soured by another injury for veteran winger Angel Di Maria. The 2022 World Cup winner with Argentina lasted 20 minutes as a substitute before sustaining a left hamstring injury. He pulled up near the penalty area and immediately lay on the ground.

It was Benfica's second win in Monaco, adding to a 3-2 victory in November in the league phase.

Atalanta anger in Brugge A late light-touch clash between two Sweden teammates was decisive in Club Brugge's 2-1 win over Atalanta.

Entering stoppage time, Atalanta defender Isak Hien was judged to have raised a hand into the face of Brugge forward Gustaf Nilsson as they chased a loose ball. Turkish referee Umut Meler awarded a penalty and showed yellow cards to three Atalanta players, including Hien, for protesting before Nilsson won the game. He sent goalkeeper Rui Patrício the wrong way with his spot kick.

"We are now going in a direction outside of what football should be," Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini told broadcaster Sky Italia of the penalty decision, "but beyond the controversy we now have to accept these rules that I no longer recognize."

Brugge had led on former Barcelona forward Ferran Jutillas shot in the 15th minute and Atalanta leveled in the 41st on Mario Pašalić's header.