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BJP leader and Delhi Chief Minister-designate Rekha Gupta after BJP legislature party meeting, at the Delhi BJP party office. Photos Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

Rekha Gupta is Delhi Chief Minister

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The suspense over Delhi's new chief minister ended on Wednesday as the BJP on Wednesday named first-time MLA Rekha Gupta, 50, as the new chief minister of Delhi, marking the BJP's comeback in the national capital after 27 years. She will be the fourth chief minister of Delhi after Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit and Atishi and the only woman chief minister among the states being ruled by the BJP at present. Gupta is an old Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), hand who was part of the Sangh's students' wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's legislature party on Wednesday evening in the presence of Central observers Ravi Shankar Prasad and O P Dhankar where she was chosen as the Leader of the House in the Delhi Assembly. The new BJP government, led by Gupta, will be sworn in at a grand ceremony at the Ramlila Maidan on Thursday afternoon in the presence of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, chief ministers from the party-ruled states and many celebrities. The formal announcement came from the X handle of the Delhi BJP. "Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Rekha Gupta ji on being elected the leader of the Delhi BJP Legislative Party. We have full faith that the state will progress under your leadership," read a rough translation of their Hindi post. After appointed as the Leader of the House of the BJP's legislative party, Chief Minister designate Gupta along with six ministers went to Raj Niwas to stake claim to form the government. She was accompanied by state BJP observers Ravi Shankar Prasad and OP Dhankar along with city BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, and Delhi MPs including Bansuri Swaraj, Praveen Khandelwal and Kamaljeet Sehrawat. BJP national vice-president Baijayant Jay Panda was also present at the Raj Niwas. Wishes poured in from across the political spectrum for the 50-year-old advocate, with Union ministers and

political rivals extending their regards. Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated Gupta, backing the BJP government under her leadership to "work day and night to fulfill the hopes and expectations with which the mothers and sisters of Delhi have blessed the BJP". The senior BJP leader also reposed full faith that she will "work with dedication in the direction of the resolution taken by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji to make Delhi one of the top capitals of the world". Soon after the announcement, Gupta thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said she would work with full honesty, integrity and dedication for the welfare, empowerment and overall development of every citizen of Delhi. "I am fully committed to this important opportunity to take Delhi to new heights," Gupta said in a post on X. "I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the top leadership for trusting me and entrusting me with the responsibility of the post of chief minister. This trust and support of yours has given me new energy and inspiration."

Trump bellows at India



President Donald Trump speaks at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla. PTI

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that he made it clear to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India will not be spared from Washington's reciprocal tariffs, emphasising that "nobody can argue with me" on tariff structure. Trump made these remarks during an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity recently. Fox News aired a joint television interview with President Trump and billionaire Elon Musk on Tuesday night. On February 13, hours before Prime Minister Modi's bilateral meeting with Trump in the White House, the US President announced reciprocal tariffs. Under the plan, the Trump administration "will work strenuously to counter non-reciprocal trading arrangements with trading partners by determining the equivalent of a reciprocal tariff with respect to each foreign trading partner." During the interview with Hannity,

Trump reiterated his stance on existing tariff structures between the US and its partners, including India. "I told Prime Minister Modi yesterday - he was here - I said, 'Here's what we're going to do: reciprocal. Whatever you charge, I'm charging,'" President Trump said. "He (Modi) goes, 'No, no, I don't like that.' 'No, no, whatever you charge, I'm going to charge.' I'm doing that with every country." India has very strong tariffs on certain imports from the US. Like in the automobile sector, India charges 100 per cent. Musk said, "It's 100 per cent - auto imports are 100 per cent." "Yeah, that's peanuts. So, much higher. And - and others too. I said, 'Here's what we're going to do: reciprocal. Whatever you charge, I'm charging,'" Trump said. Under the reciprocal tariff system, the US would impose the same level of tariffs on Indian imports as India does on American goods.

"Nobody can argue with me," President Trump insisted. "If I said 25 per cent, they'd say, 'Oh, that's terrible.' I don't say that anymore... Because I say, 'Whatever they charge, we'll charge.' And you know what? They stop." During Modi's visit to the US, while responding to a question on reciprocal tariffs on India, Trump said, "India has been, to us, just about the highest tariffed nation anywhere in the world. They've been very strong on tariffs, and I don't blame them, necessarily, but it's a different way of doing business. It's very hard to sell to India because they have trade barriers and very strong tariffs." "We are right now a reciprocal nation. We are going to - if it's India or if it's somebody else with low tariffs, we're going to have the same. We're going to have whatever India charges, we're charging them. Whatever another country charges, we're charging them. So, it's called reciprocal, which I think is a very fair way. We didn't have that. During his first term as the US president, Trump described India as a "tariff king" and in May 2019, terminated India's preferential market access - Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) - to the US, alleging India has not given the United States "equitable and reasonable access to its markets." Also, during the interview, Musk claimed that two NASA astronauts, including Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams, currently stuck in space, had been left there by the Biden administration "for political purposes." SpaceX, also founded and owned by Musk, has been contracted to bring Williams and Butch Wilmore home. Musk said the rescue attempts would be being made in less than a month. "They were left up there for political reasons, which is not good," he said. "Okay, it's not good...Well, we don't want to be complacent, but we have brought astronauts back from the space station many times before, and always with success." Trump chimed in "They didn't have the go-ahead with Biden. He was going to leave them in space."

Yogi counters pollution board claims of Ganga water unsafe

BISWAJEET BANERJEE/PNS ■ LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

Amid claims by Central Government pollution body that the present condition of Ganga water in ensuing Maha Kumbh may contain high levels of faecal bacteria, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday countered by assuring the Sangam water in Prayagraj is safe for bathing and other rituals. A sort of controversy erupted over the claims by Central government pollution body which reported the Ganga water at Triveni Sangam, where lakhs of people are taking a holy dip every day during the ongoing Maha Kumbh, is currently unsafe for bathing. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data informed the National Green Tribunal that Sangam water at Maha Kumbh exceeds the prescribed limit for biological oxygen demand (BOD), a key parameter to determine water quality. BOD refers to the amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to break down organic material in a water body. A higher BOD level indicates more organic content in the water. River water is considered fit for bathing if the BOD level is less than 3 milligrams per litre. In a report submitted to the NGT the CPCB said the river water quality did not meet bathing standards during monitoring on January 12-13 at most locations in Prayagraj. According to Uttar Pradesh government officials, 10,000 to 11,000 cusecs of water is being released into the Ganga to



Puja material and other waste being collected at the Sangam for their disposal, during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj. PTI

ensure it meets bathing standards. Mahakumbh Nagar is the world's largest temporary city, accommodating 50 lakh to 1 crore devotees at any given time. These pilgrims generate at least 16 million litres of faecal waste and 240 million litres of greywater daily from activities like cooking, washing, and bathing. Yogi during the Budget Session in UP assembly countered and said water at the Sangam is fit for both bathing and ritual drinking (aachman) as confirmed by some recent reports. He informed the Uttar Pradesh Control Board and the CPCB are continuously monitoring the water quality at the Sangam. He also trained his guns at Opposition Samajwadi Party, saying the condition of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers was so poor

while it was in power that the Prime Minister of Mauritius refused to take a dip during the 2013 Kumbh. "This time, 81 drains have been tapped, treating 261 MLD (million liters per day) of sewage. In January and February, fecal coliform levels at the Sangam nose were found to be within the acceptable range, below 2,500 MPN per 100 ml, according to the UP Pollution (Control) Board," he said, according to an official statement. "The Central Pollution (Control) Board has also confirmed this in its report. The UP and Central Pollution Control Boards are continuously monitoring water quality, and recent reports confirm that the water at the Sangam is now fit for both bathing and ritual use," Adityanath told the state Assembly.

CBI arrests five rail officers in job bribery case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested five railway officers, including two of the Indian Railway Personnel Service posted at the Vadodra Division, for alleged bribery in favouring candidates in departmental examination, officials said Wednesday. The federal probe agency seized 650 grams of gold and Rs 5 lakh cash during its searches at 11 locations, including in Gujarat's Vadodra, a CBI spokesperson said. The CBI has arrested 2008-batch IRPS officer Sunil Bishnoi posted as a senior divisional personnel officer in Vadodra, 2018-batch IRPS officer Ankush Wasan, posted as divisional personnel officer there, Deputy Chief Commercial Manager Sanjay Kumar Tiwari posted at Mumbai's Churchgate, Deputy Station Superintendent Dinesh Kumar posted at Divisional Railway Hospital in Ahmedabad, officials said. The agency has also arrested Mukesh Meena in the case, they said. The CBI swung into action after registering an FIR on Tuesday against Wasan, Tiwari, Sinha and Meena on allegations that these officials in conspiracy with a private person.

HC slams railways over ticket sales

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Questioning the rationale of selling excess tickets, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the response of Indian Railways on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking safety measures to prevent stampedes similar to the one which happened recently at New Delhi Railway Station. During the hearing of the PIL, the Bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela questioned the Railways for selling tickets in excess of the number of passengers that can be accommodated in a coach. "If you fix the number of passengers to be accommodated in a coach then why do you sell, why the number of tickets sold exceed that number? That is a problem," the Court said. The judges also referred to Section 57 of the Railways Act which mandates that the administration shall fix the maximum number of passengers which may be carried in a compartment. "If you implement a simple thing in a positive manner in letter and spirit, such situation can be avoided. On rush days you may increase that number to accommodate the rush depending on exigencies which keep on arriving from time to time. But not fixing the strength to be accommodated in a coach, this provision appears to have been neglected all along," observed the Court. The Court was hearing a petition moved by Arth Vidhi, an organisation of a group of lawyers, entrepreneurs and others professionals, in the backdrop of



Passengers at ticket counters of the New Delhi Railway Station. PTI

the recent stampede which resulted into death of at least 18 people at New Delhi Railway Station, overcrowded due to the ongoing rush of people to take part in the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. The PIL filed through advocate Aditya Trivedi said that various legal provisions and rules under the Railways Act should be implemented properly to prevent such incidents in future. "This petition highlights gross negligence and complete failure of administration that caused the stampede that occurred on February 15 at New Delhi Railway Station," the counsel told the Court. Justice Gedela pointed out that measures have been taken subsequently. "Are you aware of how many lakhs of people were at the station that day? Infrastructurally it may not be possible to control that kind of crowd. The subsequent measures were taken. It is not something like a railway accident to claim negligence." The petitioner's counsel insisted on the seriousness of the issue and highlighted the failures of Railways. "We highlight Section 57 and 157 of Railways Act. Airports have mechanisms to know how many people are there. Indian Railways has no such mechanism. There is no notification or circular for unreserved class. If Railways is not following its own rules, then how can we expect security," he said. "If we go to station right now, we will see a lot of crowd without platform ticket and train ticket. We don't see any compliance with the Railways Circular requiring platform ticket. If Railways had complied with its own rules, a lot of things could have been prevented. We have come in larger public interest. I am not commenting on infrastructure or any policy," he argued.

Maha economic Sangam at Kumbh raises UP's revenue

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Maha Kumbh festival in the holy city of Prayagraj is estimated to have generated over Rs 3 Lakh Crore (\$360 Billion) in business through goods and services, making it one of India's largest economic events. According to the Uttar Pradesh government, more than 53 Crore devotees have already taken a holy dip in the sacred waters, with millions continuing to visit daily. It is projected that nearly 60 Crore people will participate in the ritual by February 26. The Mahakumbh, which occurs once every 144 years, is being held in

Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, attracting millions of devotees over the six-week period. According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Secretary General and Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal, the Mahakumbh is boosting local trade with a surge in demand for Maha Kumbh-themed products such as diaries, calendars, jute bags, and stationery. "Due to the unprecedented enthusiasm across the country, it is now expected that nearly 60 Crore people will participate in the Maha Kumbh by February 26, leading to a massive business turnover

exceeding Rs 3 Lakh Crore. Sales are reported to have increased due to meticulous branding. It also proves that India's sanatana economy has deep-rooted strength, playing a significant role in the country's overall economic framework," Khandelwal added. This has provided a significant boost to Uttar Pradesh's economy and created new business opportunities. Before the commencement of the Maha Kumbh, initial estimates was projected the arrival of 40 Crore people and business transactions worth around Rs 2 Lakh Crore. According to the Uttar Pradesh government, over 53 Crore



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaks during the Budget session of the state Legislative Assembly, in Lucknow. PTI

devotees have already taken a holy dip in the sacred waters, with millions continuing to visit daily. Highlighting the economic impact of the Mahakumbh, Khandelwal noted that several business sectors have witnessed large-scale economic activities, including hospitality and accommodation; food and beverage sector; transport and logistics; religious attire; puja samagri, and handicrafts, textiles, apparel and other consumer goods; healthcare and wellness services; media, advertising and entertainment; civic services; telecom, mobile, AI-based technology, CCTV cameras, and

other equipment. Khandelwal further pointed out that the economic benefits of Mahakumbh are not limited to Prayagraj. Cities and towns within a 150 km radius have also experienced a significant business surge, strengthening local economies. Additionally, Ayodhya, Varanasi, and other religious destinations have seen an increase in pilgrim visits, as devotees travel for the darshan and worship of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, Lord Shiva in Varanasi, and others in the nearby districts. This has further fueled massive economic activities in these areas.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Karnail Singh S/o Sh Jiya Ram R/o House no 196 Village, Kaimbwa Chandigarh inform that my son Gurnam and his wife Naveena are out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with them will do at their own risk.

I Balinder Kaur wife of Late Sh. Daljinder Singh Resident of House No. 47, Sector 11-A, Chandigarh inform that my Grandson Sidharath Singh Son of Late Sh. Satinder Singh Resident of House No 281, Sector 10 A, Chandigarh is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable and Immoveable Properties. Anybody deal with him will do at their own Risk.

I, Sunita Taneja W/o Shyam Sundar R/o #28, Laxmi Vihar Colony, Tehsil & District-Hisar (Haryana) declare that my son Jijwal is out of my control. So, I disown him from my all moveable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with him shall do their own risk in future.

I Ved Parkash Taneja S/O Jila Ram Taneja R/O House No.158, Ward No.05, Nand Colony No.2 Pehowa, Tehsil Pehowa Distt Kurukshetra Declare That My Son Arun Taneja And His Wife Suresh Rani Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Both Of Them From All My Movable And Immoveable Properties. Both Of Them Will Be Responsible For Their Good And Bad Deeds In Future If Both Of Them Do Any Illegal Work. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

I, Jaspal Singh S/o Raghbir Singh, R/o House No. 198, Near Mouli Road, Sohana, Sector 78, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab declare that my daughter Sital is out of my control. I disown her from all my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with her will do so at their own risk.

I, Angrejo Devi W/o Ramesh Kumar R/o Gumthala Garhu, Pehowa, Kurukshetra My Daughter Mukesh Rani is Out Of My Control. I, Disown Them From All My Moveable And Immoveable Properties. If Anybody Deals With Him At Their Own Risk.

I, Shashi Batra W/o Late Sh. D.R. Batra R/o House No: 794A, Sector-7, Panchkula declare that my son Ritu Raj Batra and his wife Mrs. Poonam are out of my control. I disown my Son and his wife from my movable and immovable property. Anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risk and will be responsible. I and my Family shall not be responsible for the same.

I, Geeta S/o Surinder Verma R/o H No. 1769, B-2, Vishvakarma Colony, Kalka, Panchkula declare that my son Deepak is out of my control. I, disown him from my movable & immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Menka Kaushik Spouse of Shri Bhagwan R/o #659-A, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh have changed my name from Menka Kaushik to Menka vide Affidavit No - IN-CH54699540963742X Dated 15-02-2025 before Notary, Distt. Court at Chandigarh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Army No.10467854X Rank NK (RETD) Name: Viki Raja S/o Sh. Lal Chand R/o VPO: Sadhaura Tehsil: Sadhaura, Distt. Yamunanagar, Haryana, in my army record my mother's Name & DOB Wrongly written as Name: Giani Devi & DOB: 01-07-1963 Correct Name: is: Gyan Devi & DOB: 01-01-1958.

I Army No.10467854X Rank NK (RETD) Name: Viki Raja S/o Sh. Lal Chand R/o VPO: Sadhaura Tehsil: Sadhaura, Distt. Yamunanagar, Haryana, in my army record my father's Written as 01-07-1959 Correct DOB is 01-01-1956

I, Lakhwinder Kaur W/o Late: Hardeep Singh R/o Burj Sidhwan Teh-Malout (Sri Muktsar Sahib) Pb, declare that Hardeep Singh and Hardip Singh both are my husband's name.

I Ex No.4483737X Ex Sep Jagwinder Singh S/O Chand Raj R/O H.No. 41-B, Ward No.4, Sunder Nagar ,Near Gagan Chowk, Vpo Rajpura, Tehsil Rajpura, Distt Patiala Declare In My Army Record My Father's Dob Is Wrongly Mentioned As 1.11.1961. His Correct Dob Is 12.05.1953.

I, Neeraj Aggarwal S/o Bhagirwal Aggarwal R/o #3163 Sector 46-C (Chandigarh) declare that in my Aadhar Card my name mentioned as Neeraj Aggarwal and my Passport No. L5550837 my name mentioned as Neeraj. I, have known by both names one and the same person.

I Vanita Babarao Chavan W/O of No.17012110A Rank. NK Chavan Babarao kashinath Unit 2ARMD WKSP (601EME BN) C/o 56 APO Address- Sawargaon Mundhe, Teh-Lonar, Dist-Buldhana (Maharashtra) in my Husband service Record my name is wrongly entered as Vanita. But my actual name is Vanita Babarao Chavan. Both name Vanita & Vanita Babarao Chavan are of same person.

I, Army No. 16112963W Rank L/HAV Name Kumara Swamy Duvvada of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 have changed my mother name from Vanajaxy to Duvvada Vanajakshi & Date of birth 01.07.1964 to 01.01.1961.

I, Army No- 3391803Y, Havidar Malket Singh (Retd) (UIDAI No-727279277142) resident at Patti- Bhangu, VPO- Kot Bhai, Teh- Gidderbaha, Distt-Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab-152101, declared that. In my army service records name of my mother is erroneously recorded as Kurdev Kaur whereas her correct name is Sukhdev Kaur and her date of birth is erroneously recorded as 01 Feb 1947 whereas her correct date of birth is 01 Jan 1948. Further date of birth of my father Sh Jagraj Singh is also wrongly written as 03 Sep 1925 whereas his correct date of birth is 01 Jan 1946. All concerned please note.

I, Pawan Kumar S/o Jagroop Chand Sharma R/o #11859, Street No. 3, Sanguana Basti, Bathinda. That in my passport my father's name is wrongly entered i.e. Jagroop Singh but my father's correct name is Jagroop Chand Sharma. That I want to change my father's name in my passport from Jagroop Singh to Jagroop Chand Sharma.

I, Amit Kumar (Aadhaar Number: 565096894082), son of Shri Hans Raj, resident of House No. 459, Sector 11, Panchkula, Haryana - 134109, hereby declare that in some of my documents, my name is recorded as Amit, in others as Amit Dhiman, and I wish to officially change my name to Amit Kumar. Henceforth, I shall be known as Amit Kumar for all legal, official, and future purposes.

I, Mohd Ibrahim S/o Nazir Ahmed R/o House no 3102, Sector 19-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Mohd Ibrahim to Mohammed Ebrahim and my correct date of birth is 22.08.1946.

I, Lavina W/o Vivek Taneja R/o 27/865, Dev Nagar, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Lavina Taneja for all future purposes.

I, Sachehidanand Tiwari Father of 784249-S SGT Ravi Kumar R/o VPO Kulharia Distt. Khagaria (Bihar) Pin 851216 have changed my name from Sachehidanand Tiwari to Sachchidanand Tiwari vide affidavit dated 10 Feb 2025 before court of Patna City.

I, Mohit S/o Shyam Lal Sharma R/o 102-A, Gali No-3, Rajiv Puram, Distt. Karnal (Haryana) I Have Changed My Name From Mohit To Mohit Sharma.

I, Akashdip Singh S/o No. 14421261L Hav Balbir Singh (Retd) resident of Village Pandore, PO Lamin, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed my name from Akashdip Singh to Akashdeep Singh. Concerned note.

I, Amrit Paul Singh S/o Bhupinder Singh R/o Vill.Bassi Mudda PO. Baghpur Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb) India have changed the spellings of my name from Amrit Paul Singh to Amrit Pal Singh. All concerned note please.

I, Gurwinder Singh S/o Avtar Singh R/o VPO Meghawal Doaba Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Gurwinder Singh to Gurvinder Singh. Concerned note.

I, Anjali D/o Shingara Singh R/o Vill. Halluwal PO Rampur Jhanjowal Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Anjali Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Rajesh Kumar Anand S/o Chet Ram Anand R/o H. No. 243, Rampura Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar Anand to Rajesh Kumar.

I, Tarana Banu W/o Akash R/o # 892-B, Small Flats Dhanas, Chandigarh have changed my name to Khushi.

I, EX Sepoy SKT Number 14541235-A Sukhdarshan /Sukhdarshan Singh s/o Late Sh Rup Singh resident of House No. 2066/2 Sector 45-C Chandigarh U.T. Pin Code 160047 have changed my name from Sukhdarshan/Sukhdarshan Singh to Sukhdarshan Saini vide Affidavit dated 19.02.25 before Notery Chandigarh.

I Hitherto Known As Neeru Chhabra Alias Neera Chhabra W/O Parvesh Chhabra Residing At House No-2827, Sector-21, Panchkula, Haryana- 134112 Have Changed My Name And I Shall Hereafter Be Known As Neera Chhabra. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

I, Harjinder Kaur Dandiwal wife of Sh. Sandeep Singh Mann Resident of Village Ghurkani, Post office Jhunir, District Mansa Punjab have changed my name from Harjinder Kaur Dandiwal to Harjinder Kaur.

I, Karma Wali Obroi W/o Shadi Lal R/o 515 B Block, Shiv Shakti School, Chopra Garden, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Karma Wali Obroi to Karma Wali.

I, Shadi Lal Obroi S/o Mangal Sain R/o 515 B Block, Shiv Shakti School, Chopra Garden, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Shadi Lal Obroi to Shadi Lal.

I, Sumanidip Kaur W/o Sarabpreet Singh R/o 167, Sun Sahib Road, Near Gurudwara Chhehartara Sahib, Baba Deep Singh Colony, Amritsar, Punjab-143105 have changed my name from Sumanidip Kaur to Sumandeep Kaur.

I, Amritpal Singh S/o Rasal Singh R/o H.No.7, Mahindra Colony, Sultanwind Pind, Amritsar, Punjab-143001 have changed my name from Amritpal Singh to Singh is my surname and Amritpal is my given name.

I, Ikrar Ahmad S/O Mukta Ahmed R/O #1878, New Indira Colony, Manimajra Chandigarh. I Have Changed My Name From Ikrar Ahmad To Ikrar Ahmed

I, Ikrar S/O Mukta Ahmed R/O #1878, New Indira Colony, Manimajra Chandigarh. I Have Changed My Name From Ikrar To Ikrar Ahmed.

I, Avnander Singh S/o Rattan Singh Pannu R/o Panchkula - Haryana. Declare that Inayat is my real daughter, In my daughter's School record kindly change her name Inayat to Inayat Pannu, mother name Nisha Pannu to Nisha and father name Avnander Pannu to Avnander Singh for all purpose.

I, Tarun Preet Singh S/o Sh. Surjeet Singh R/o 1045, Sector 12, Huda, Panipat, declares that I have changed my name from Tarunpreet to TarunPreet Singh, for all future purposes.

I, Preeti Singla W/o Sh. Rohit Kumar Singla R/o H.No. 65/5, Badi Pahadi, Main Bazaar, Panipat, declare that I have changed my name from Preeti W/o Sh. Rohit Kumar to Preeti Singla W/o Sh. Rohit Kumar Singla. For all future purposes.

I, Sheetal w/o Mukesh Kumar Resident Jagdish Nagar Colony, Hansi, Hisar, declare that Sheetal & Sheetal Madan both names are same and one person.

I Kulbir Singh S/o Pathan Singh R/o VPO Chanot, Teh. Hansi Distt. Hisar declare that I want to correct my name in my son Mayank Duhans's Documents from Kulbir to Kulbir Singh.

I, Satpal Singh S/o Bahadur Singh, R/o Village Chiraud, Tehsil and District Hisar (Haryana) declare that my name is written as Satpal in my minor son's (Rakshit Gadowal) 10th class documents. I want to correct it as my actual name Satpal Singh.

I, Reshma W/o Yashpal Hasija R/o # 272, PLA, Tehsil & District-Hisar declare that Reshma & Reshma Hasija both are my name.

I, Pawan Kumar alias Pawan Sharma S/o Om Parkash R/o B-9/991, Vishnu Nagar, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Pawan Kumar alias Pawan Sharma to Pawan Kumar Sharma.

I, Sharda Kumari W/o Satish Kumar R/o Gadramba Plot, Kalsa, Distt Kurukshetra 136128, Haryana have changed my name from Sharda Kumari to Sharda.

I, Ram Kumar S/o Barkha Ram R/o Village Laliana, Ram dass Mohalla , PO Mardon Sahib Tehsil & Distt Ambala have changed my minor Son name from Nitán Kumar to Nitán Kumar.

I, Jeet Ram S/o Jagat Ram Aggarwal R/o House No 364 Sector 8, Ambala City 134003, Haryana have changed my name from jeet Ram to Jeet Ram Aggarwal.

I, Kamaljit Kaur W/o No. 1253804W GNR Baldev Singh (Retd) resident of Village Loh Garh, PO Tanda Ram Sahai, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed my name from Kamaljit Kaur to Kamaljeet Kaur. My correct date of birth is 01.04.1955. Concerned note.

I, Jatinder Singh S/o Avtar Singh R/o VPO Meghawal Doaba Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Jatinder Singh to Jatinder Jit Singh. Concerned note.

I, Smt. Manjit Kaur W/o JC-261819X Ex Sub Swaran Singh R/o VPO Talwandi Dadian Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my date of birth from 05-06-1964 to 09-10-1960.

I, No. 14336153K Ex Hav Jaswinder Singh S/o Shri Hem Singh R/o VPO Miani Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my date of birth from 16-03-1961 to 16-03-1962.

I Sukhdarshan / Sukhdarshan Singh s/o Late Sh Rup Singh resident of House No. 2066/2 Sector 45-C Chandigarh U.T. Pin Code 160047 have changed my name from Sukhdarshan/Sukhdarshan Singh to Sukhdarshan Saini.

I, Rashmi W/o Ajay Pal Dhir R/o House No.147, Sector - 6, Urban Estate, District-Karnal have changed my name from Rashmi to Rashmi Dhir for all future purposes.

I, Navkaran Singh S/o Gurdeep Singh R/o VPO Riali Kalan Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur have chanded my name to Singh is my Surname and Navkaran is my given name.

I, Partap Singh S/O S. Balkar Singh VPO Bhanai Mian Khan, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Partap Singh to Pratap Singh. Please Concerned note.

I, Om Parkash Sharma S/o Rulia Ram # 82-A, Bhainsa Tibba, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Om Parkash Sharma to Om Parkash.

I, Valaidan S/o Kathan # 6095, Maloya Colony, Chandigarh have changed my name to Velayutham.

I, Amita Devi W/O No14440734N ExHav Prithvi Raj S/o Sh Ram Dayal R/o Vill. Bhangari, PO Chokar, Tehsil Nohradhar, Distt Sirmour (HP) in my name is Amita Devi wrongly mentioned by my husband army record. My correct name is Amita Kumari.

I, Rajiv Chopra S/o Som Nath R/o 582, Tejli Gate, Near Police Chowki, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar declare that both my Son Name Kush and Kunal is one and the same person.

I, Aman Kumar S/o Ashok Kumar Jha R/o H.No. 247, Shakti Nagar, Kabri Road, Panipat, inform that my father's name is wrongly mentioned as Ashok Jha in my matric class marksheet. While his actual name is Ashok Kumar Jha.

I, Daya Ram Juglayan S/O Santu Ram R/o H.No. 1054, Urban Estate, Sector 3, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Daya Ram Juglayan to Daya Ram Juglan.

I, hitherto Known as Brij Rani Wife of Subash Puri residing at Ward No.4, Ganda Singh, Dharwal Tehsil and District Gurdaspur-143519 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Shakuntla Devi.

I, hitherto known as Rashpal Kaur Wife of Satnam Singh residing at Near Railway Station Mohalla Nanaksar, Verka, Amritsar-143501 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Rachpal Kaur

I, hitherto Known as Bachatar Singh son Harbhajan Singh residing at Village Varnal PO Harsha Chhina Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar-143101 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Bachitar Singh.

I, hitherto Known as Dalip Singh Son of Raj Kumar residing at H.No.3077, Gali No.13, Mehta Road, Maqbool Pura, District Amritsar-43001 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Deepak Kumar

I, Harbhajan Kaur W/o Late Dr. Gian Singh Shergill R/o H.No.-B, Gali No.2, Gopral Nagar, Majitha Road, Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name from Harbhajan Kaur to Harbhajan Kaur Shergill

I, Parmjit Singh S/o Bahal Singh R/o Loharka Kalan Amritsar have changed my name from Parmjit Singh to Paramjit Singh

I, Simranjit Kaur W/o Surinderpal Singh R/o Village Pallah, PO Gagger Bhana Tehsil Baba Bakala District Amritsar have changed my name from Simranjit Kaur to Simarjit Kaur

I, Gurmeet Kaur W/o Ranjit Singh R/o Village Hadaipur, PO Bhiwal Tehsil and District Amritsar have changed my name from Jagdeep Singh Narula to Jagdeep Singh Narula.

I, Gurneet Singh S/o Iqbal Singh R/o K-3/1193, East Gobind Nagar, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar have declare that Gurneet is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

I, Amit Khanna Son of Muni Lal Khanna Resident of 12, White Avenue, Amritsar have changed my minor daughter's name from Aarika to Aarika Khanna concerned may please be Noted.

I, Archana M Spouse of No.2502335L Hav Malagouda Bhatamare R/o Keruru Tq/Chikodi, Kerur Balegavi Karnataka-59213 have changed my name from Archana M to Archana Malagouda Bhatamare Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB08324605906399X Dt.18.02.2025 before Notary Public Amritsar

I, No.13773876N Nk Rajender Kumar S/o Amar Singh Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my army service record my daughter's name has been wrongly entered as Sanjena Thakur but my daughter's correct name is Sanjna Kumai Vide affidavit No.IN-PB08650914455371X Dt.19.02.2025 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Gurbaj Singh S/o Harjinder Singh R/o H.No.222, Khapar Kheri, PO Khaper Kheri, District Amritsar have declare that Gurbaj is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

I, Hardesh Kaur W/o Amritpal Singh R/o Village Hamza PO Majitha District Amritsar have changed my name from Hardesh Kaur to Hardish Kaur

I, Daljit Kaur W/o Jagjitpal Singh R/o H.No.53, G.T Road, Byepass, Garden Estate, Khankot Amritsar have changed my name from Daljit Kaur to Daljeet Kaur

I, Anmol Suri D/o Jagjit Pal Singh R/o H.No.53, G.T Road, Bye Pass Garden Estate, Khan Kot Garden Colony Amritsar have changed my name from Anmol Suri to Anmol Kaur

I, Jagjitpal Singh Rajput S/o Rashpal Singh R/o H.No.53, Garden Estate, Khan Kot Amritsar have changed my name from Jagjitpal Singh Rajput to Jagjitpal Singh

I, Babu Lal is father of No. 14937466M Rank NK Name Vinod resident of VPO Baghiana, Tehsil Hatod, District Indore, MP-453111 now at 15 Mech Inf C/o 56 Apo, have changed my name from Babu Lal to Babulal and date of birth from 01 Jul 1959 to 01 Jan 1960 vide affidavit no. IN-PB08869343738990X dated 19-02-2025, before Notary Public, Amritsar

I, Iyathurai Vincy is wife of No. 14935469F NK Berlin Mony Y resident of Village Kappiyrai, PO Kuzhichodu, Tehsil Kalkulam, District Kanya Kumari, Tamil Nadu-629167 now at 15 Mech Inf C/o 56 Apo, have changed my name from Iyathurai Vincy to Vincy I vide affidavit no. IN-PB0870657443671X dated 19-02-2025, before Notary Public, Amritsar

I, Manju is legally wedded spouse of No. 14684800P NK Gajendra resident of Meghwalon Ka Bas, Palri Siddha, Jodhpur, Rajasthan-342606 now at 615 EME BN C/o 56 Apo, have changed my name from Manju to Manju Bhati vide affidavit no. IN-PB08869098026877X dated 19-02-2025, before Notary Public, Amritsar

I, Gurkirat Kaur daughter of Davinder Singh Chug presently residing at House No. 4, Tungbala, Aman Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar-143001, have changed my name from Gurkirat Kaur to Gurkirath Kaur vide affidavit no. IN-PB08869771579228X dated 19-02-2025, before Notary Public, Amritsar

I, Simerpreet Chawla W/o Hargun Narula R/o 1586, Chamrang Road, Ravindra International, East Mohan Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Simerpreet Chawla to Simerpreet Narula

I, Jagdip Singh Narula S/o Kharinder Singh Narula R/o 1586, Chamrang Road, Ravindra International, East Mohan Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Jagdip Singh Narula to Jagdeep Singh Narula.

I Ankita Sharma W/o Sh. Vinay Sharma R/o House No. 1861, Sector 9, Urban Estate, Near DAV School, Karnal (Haryana). I declare that I have changed my Name from Ankita to Ankita Sharma for all future purposes.

I, hitherto known as Anu Sharma D/O BP Bali W/O Ajay Kumar, Residing at H.no 584, Vpo Dakoha, Distt Jalandhar Punjab 144023, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kiran.

I, Dilbag Singh S/o Sh. Moji Ram R/o H.No. 1175, Madina Korshan, Teh. Mehem Distt. Rohtak declare that Dilbag Singh & Dilbag Singh both are same and one person. Now I have changed my name in my Passport Dilbagh Singh to Dilbag Singh.

I, Siri Ram Father of JC542624W Sub Mahesh Kumar R/o VPO BodikaKamal Pur Teh. Rewari, Distt. Rewari (HR) have changed my name from Siri Ram to Shri Ram vide Affidavit dated 19.02.2025 before Panchkula court.

I Preeti Sethi Alias Preeti Bakshi D/O Ascharaj Lal Sethi And W/O Nature Bakshi, R/O H.No. 1130/1, Opposite E.S.I. Hospital, Guru Arjun Nagar, Jagadhri, Yamunanagar, Hr – 135003; Have Changed My Name To Preeti Bakshi.

I, Pampaniya Revaben Arjanbhai W/O Ravaliya Anilkumar Laxmanbhai R/O 101, Ravaliya Sheri, Ronaj, Gir Sonnath (Gujarat) 362720, Have Changed My Name to Ravaliya Revaben Anilkumar.

I Rohit Kumar S/O Som Nath Chopra Vpo Rayya Baba Bakala Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Rohit Kumar To Rohit Chopra

I Rajiv Kumar S/O Battan Singh R/O Village& post office Pirthipur Nichla Teh Ghanari Una H.P, have changed my minor daughter name from Isha to Isha Dadhwal for all father purposes.

I Gurbinder Singh S/O Gurdarshan Singh, R/O Village Nandgarh, Dist- Sri Muktsar Sahib, Have changed my name to Gurdarshan Singh.

I Tanu Sharma D/o Tilak Raj R/o H.no. 74-A, Durga Nagar, Rajpura, Distt. Patiala, have changed my name from Tanu Sharma to Tania.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Mulkh Raj R/o House No. 1843 sector-15 Panchkula have changed my name to Anil Kumar Verma.

I, Krishan Lal S/O Hari Ram R/O House no.72 Huda G-1 ward no.6 Cheeka Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Krishan Kumar to Krishan Lal.

I Goonjan D/o Jarnail Singh W/O Vikramjit Singh R/O V.P.O Dhakansu Kalan, Tehsil Rajpura, Distt. Patiala, have changed my name from Goonjan to Goonjan Kaur.

I, Gursewak Singh S/o Sukhdev Singh R/o village Singhpura, Tehsil Kalanwali, District Sirsa, declares that I have changed my name from Sewak Singh to Gursewak Singh. In future I should be known as Gursewak Singh.

I Balwinder Singh S/O Parkash Singh R/O Village Himmatpur, Po Dhanoa, Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Balwinder Singh To Singh Balwinder

I, Pooja Sethi W/o Sanjay Sahni R/o Flat No. 1, Shresth Housing Complex 2, Balaji 2, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar, have changed my name from Pooa Sethi to Pooja Sahni.

I, Boota Singh S/o Jagroop Singh, Near Bus Stand, Village Atla Khurd, Mansa, have changed name to Kulvir Singh

I, Kulbir Kaur W/o Buta Singh, Near Bus Stand, Village Atla Khurd, Mansa, have changed name to Kulvir Kaur.

I, Malkeet Singh S/o Harpinder Singh VPO Gohlani, Tehsil Nangal (Rupnagar) have changed my name from Malkeet Singh to Malkiat Singh.

I, Parmjeet Kaur W/o Malkiat Singh, VPO Gohlani, Tehsil Nangal (Rupnagar) have changed my name from Parmjeet Kaur to Parmanjit Kaur.

I, Narinder Garg son of Dal Chand, House No.3847, Aggarwal Street, Fazilka 152123 Pb, have changed name from Narinder Kumar Garg to Narinder Garg.

I Sadhu Ram s/o Shri Banwari Lal Saini resident of house number 138, sector 27, Panchkula, Haryana 134116 has changed my name from sadhu ram to Sadhu Ram Saini. concerned note.

I, German Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh R/o.1068, Sector 03, housing board colony Ranjit Avenue Amritsar delare that German Singh and Jarman Singh both names are of one and Same Person

I, Amanot Kaur C/o German Singh R/o.1068, Sector 03, housing board colony Ranjit Avenue Amritsar delare that in my birth certificate my father name is mentioned as German Singh but in my class X and XII Certificate my father name as Jarman Singh both names are of one and Same Person.

I, Hemlata, Legally Wedded Wife of Army No. 14933576K Rank: Hav Name: Shrish Jadli, Unit: 6 Mech C/o 56 APO, R/o Ward No 00, Near Lalpur School, Dhruv Pur, Padampur Sukhro District- Pauri Garhwal, State Uttarakhand, Pin-246149, have changed my name from Hemlata to Hemlata Jadli.

I, Maneshwari, Mother of Army No. 14932801F Rank: Hav Name: Gajpal Singh Unit: 6 Mech C/o 56 APO, R/O Dhumakot, PO. Adali, District- Pauri Garhwal, State Uttarakhand, Pin- 246277, have changed my name from Maneshwari to Maneshwari Devi.

Punjab Govt's Anti-Corruption Crackdown Intensifies: 52 Cops Dismissed

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The purge is underway in Punjab's police force as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) - led State Government tightened its grip on corruption. In a bold and unprecedented move, 52 police officials, including inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs), head constables, and constables, have been dismissed over the past ten days for their involvement in corrupt practices, malpractices, criminal activities or prolonged absenteeism.

The crackdown, ordered directly by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, signaled a zero-tolerance stance against corruption, setting the stage for a larger clean-up in the state's law enforcement and administrative machinery.

Declaring an all-out war against corruption, the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday announced the decision stating that these dismissals were recommended by the Commissioners of Police and Senior Superintendents of Police (CPS/SSPs) in all districts after thorough investigations.

DGP Yadav, addressing the media, made it clear that "black sheep" within the Punjab Police will not be tolerated. At the same time, he warned that more action would follow. "This is just the beginning," said DGP Yadav while emphasizing that Punjab Police is committed to restoring integrity and accountability.

The ousted officials include one Inspector, five ASIs, four Head Constables, and 42 constables across various districts.

"The Commissioners of Police and the SSPs, in their respective districts and commissionerates, are undertaking the exercise to identify instances where police officers have been wanted in FIRs, facing serious allegations or indulged in corrupt practices. Officers concerned have been thoroughly examining the evidence and following due procedure in each case to initiate action," he said.



The crackdown against corruption came within a fortnight after the Chief Minister had addressed corruption within law enforcement during his meeting with police top brass, instructing the senior officials to identify and remove corrupt officers. Mann had also flagged that he had received complaints about fake FIRs registered by cops to extort money or to harass someone.

At the same time, Mann had stressed that integrity in policing is crucial to maintaining public trust and ensuring effective crime control. "We will not allow a few corrupt officers to tarnish the reputation of Punjab Police. Those who misuse their positions will face strict action," he had warned.

The timing of the sweeping action also assumes significance as it comes just weeks after AAP's shocking defeat in the Delhi Assembly bypolls, where the party faced mounting criticism over governance failures.

The electoral setback prompted an urgent feedback meeting between AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab legislators on February 8 in New Delhi. During this closed-door session, multiple legislators raised red flags about several issues, including rampant corruption in Punjab Police, wrongful FIRs, lack of accountability, among other things.

Determined to salvage its credibility, AAP's top leadership swiftly decided to crack

down on errant officials — starting with the police force. The decision translated into action by removing Special DGP Varinder Kumar as the head of the Punjab Vigilance Bureau for his inaction on several high-profile cases.

That was not all! The government had also removed Sri Muktsar Sahib Deputy Commissioner (DC), also placing his services under suspension.

After the Chief Minister had voiced his concerns over police corruption, revealing that he had personally received complaints about fake FIRs being registered by officers to extort money or harass individuals, SSPs launched a comprehensive review, resulting in the dismissal of officials with serious allegations against them.

A high-profile case that further catalyzed the crackdown involved a Station House Officer (SHO) in Sadiq, Faridkot, who, along with two constables, was caught extorting money from innocent civilians. Their arrest sent shockwaves across the police department, signaling that no officer, regardless of rank, would be spared if found guilty of corruption.

DGP Yadav emphasized that Punjab Police will continue identifying and removing "black sheep" from the force. "Corruption will not be tolerated. Any official caught indulging in unethical practices will face strict legal action," he

said firmly.

Sources has also indicated that Punjab is likely to witness a major reshuffle within the police department also. The removal of Vigilance Bureau chief Varinder Kumar is just the beginning, as sources indicated that several district police chiefs are under scrutiny for inefficiency and alleged involvement in corrupt activities.

According to insiders, multiple key transfers and dismissals can be expected in the coming weeks, as the government aims to restore credibility in police operations. AAP MLAs have reportedly complained about certain SSPs and SHOs who, despite being under the party's administration, continue to function with impunity, ignoring directives and misusing their positions for personal gains.

Punjab Police to Introduce e-FIR System in Vehicle Theft Cases

As part of its larger police reforms initiative, Punjab Police is all set to introduce an e-FIR system for motor vehicle theft cases. DGP Yadav said that this digital initiative will be rolled out within a month, allowing citizens to file FIRs online through SAANJH Kendras or dedicated e-police stations.

"Punjab Police is actively working to expand its online services from 43 to nearly 60, ensuring citizens can avail police-related services with minimal physical interaction. The aim is to reduce public-police interface in routine matters, thereby limiting opportunities for corruption and bureaucratic delays," he said.

To further enhance transparency, Punjab Police has partnered with the Indian Police Foundation for a pilot project on internal police reforms in Mohali, Rupnagar, and Fatehgarh Sahib. This initiative will focus on improving complaint registration, response time, and officer behaviour, paving the way for a more accountable policing system, he said.

Ensure timely implementation of Central & State Govt welfare schemes: Hry CM asks officers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To ensure that the common people receive the due benefits, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday instructed the officers concerned to timely implement public welfare schemes and policies of both the Central and State Governments at the ground level.

Chairing the State Level DISHA Committee meeting via video conferencing with Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners, he said that it is the government's responsibility to make citizens' lives easier and more prosperous. To achieve this, all officers must prioritize addressing the problems and complaints of the public.

While reviewing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural), Saini issued strict instructions to the Deputy Commissioners to complete the geo-tagging of applications from about 77,000 beneficiaries pending under the scheme within the next 15 days. This will ensure the timely release of installments for house construction to these beneficiaries. Additionally, the Chief Minister directed that the survey work be expedited to prepare a new list under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural).

While reviewing the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao campaign, the Chief Minister directed that strict action be taken against those who conduct or facilitate fetal sex determination. Reviewing the Samagra



Shiksha initiative, he emphasized the importance of tracking children between the ages of 6 and 18 to curb school dropouts, ensuring that no child is deprived of education. He stated that it is the government's responsibility to ensure every child receives quality education. Therefore, both school infrastructure and other essential facilities must be prioritized. Regarding civil works in schools, officers informed that 9,400 out of 13,000 works have been completed, with the remaining works in various stages of progress.

The Chief Minister, while reviewing irrigation schemes, emphasized the need for special efforts to promote micro-irrigation and also directed that broken or incomplete watercourses across the state be cemented in a phased manner.

Procurement of mustard to begin from March 15

In another meeting, the Chief Minister directed officials that this time, in view of the early arrival of the mustard crop in the mandi, government procurement should be started from March 15 instead of March 28. Reviewing the preparations for the purchase

of mustard, he said the state government always gives priority to the interests of farmers and works for their welfare. Haryana is the first state where all crops are being purchased on Minimum Support Price (MSP). While giving instructions to officials, he

said farmers should not face any inconvenience in selling their crops. Around 108 mandis have been fixed for the purchase of mustard. He directed the procurement agencies, Mandi Board and related departments to purchase mustard smoothly.

BRIEFS

53RD ROSE FESTIVAL IN CHANDIGARH FROM FEB 21 TO 23

Chandigarh: The 53rd Rose Festival in Chandigarh will commence from February 21 and will continue consecutively for three days upto February 23. For this, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh has teamed up for making all out preparations to adorn the beautiful Rose Garden as a Zero Budget festival. Amit Kumar, Commissioner, said that the most awaited Rose Festival will get a colourful boost on Friday, where in the Governor, Punjab and Administrator, UT, Chandigarh Gulab Chand Kataria will inaugurate the festival at the Zakir Rose Garden. The ceremony will commence with the beating of drums, playing of bands, folk dance performances displayed by different states, showcasing of regional art forms and flower arrangements.

GOVT SHOULD ARRANGE FOR REHABILITATION OF YOUTH WHO FELL VICTIM TO FAKE TRAVEL AGENTS: SELJA

Chandigarh: Senior Congress leader and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja on Wednesday said that despite the establishment of a Foreign Cooperation Department in Haryana, young people are still falling prey to fake travel agents in the lure of employment and high earnings abroad. The government should first investigate how many youths have travelled illegally to different countries and then take responsibility for bringing them back with dignity and ensuring their proper rehabilitation. Selja has said that in November 2019, the state government formed the Foreign Cooperation Department to protect aspiring youth from falling into the trap of fake travel agents. Selja criticized the government for neglecting this department after its formation. If the government had remained committed, it would have facilitated safe overseas employment for youth, preventing them from becoming victims of fake travel agents and ensuring their security abroad, she added.

THREE IAS OFFICERS DEPUTED AS GENERAL OBSERVERS IN MC ELECTIONS IN PB

Chandigarh: The State Election Commission, Punjab on Wednesday informed that 61 nominations have been received for the election of Municipal Council Tarn Taran (District Tarn Taran), two nominations have been received for Municipal Council Talwara (District Hoshiarpur) and no nomination has been received for Municipal Council Dera Baba Nanak (District Gurdaspur) so far. The last date of filing nominations is February 20. State Election Commissioner Raj Kamal Chaudhuri said that three senior IAS officers of State Government have been deputed as General Observers in these Municipal Elections. Baldeep Kaur has been deputed as general observer for the Election of Municipal Council, Tarn Taran, Senu Duggal has been deputed as general observer for the Election of Municipal Council Dera Baba Nanak and Arvind Pal Singh Sandhu has been deputed as general observer for the Election of Municipal Council Talwara.

SAD DELEGATION MEETS DHAMI AND APPEALS TO HIM TO CONTINUE SERVING AS SGPC PRESIDENT

Chandigarh/Hoshiarpur: A delegation of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday met Harjinder Singh Dhami and appealed to him to continue serving as President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC). Senior leader Daljit Singh Cheema said the delegation met him to understand the circumstances under which he had tendered his resignation as SGPC president. It is clear that Dhami chose to resign due to mental agony. He has taken a few things to heart due to which he resigned all of a sudden. We have on our part assured him that the party is with him and that the Panth needs his leadership at this crucial juncture, Cheema said. Asserting that the SAD was keen to resolve the entire issue pertaining to Dhami's resignation, Cheema said "we will continue to engage with him and arrive at a resolution to all issues".

ALL POLICE STATIONS IN HIMACHAL TO BE DIVIDED IN SIX CATEGORIES TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY

Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to categorise all 135 police stations in the state into six categories on the directive of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, a spokesperson of the state government said. This classification is based on factors such as population, geographical area, major crimes, VIP movement, traffic volume, inter-state borders and tourist inflow and the objective is to enhance service delivery, improve law enforcement efficiency and strengthen public safety. The police stations have been classified into six categories from A+ to E, "based on the number of annual crime registrations. Stations recording over 250 cases per year fall under the A+ category and 15 such stations have been identified. Additionally, there are five stations in category A, 25 in B, 47 in C, 28 in D and 15 in E. The categorisation also determines the allocation of police personnel. A+ category stations will have a minimum of 70 personnel, A category will have 65, B category 48, C category 37, D category 25, and E category 19. The number of investigating officers in each station will be assigned based on the frequency of FIR registrations, the statement added. The chief minister has directed the Police Department to ensure postings align with this new categorisation.

HIMACHAL DEPUTY CM PLEADS FOR SPECIAL WATER POLICY FOR HILL STATES

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri has stressed the need for evolving a special water policy for hill states and emphasised that new options must be explored to preserve depleting water sources. Speaking at the All India Conference of State Water Ministers in Udaipur, Agnihotri said that innovation-based solutions are required to address the effects of climate change and make water management more sustainable, a statement issued here said. Citing scientific studies, Agnihotri said that due to untimely rains and reduced snowfall, the levels of water sources were continuously decreasing. He also highlighted that Himalayan glaciers are melting rapidly and receding, which is escalating the uncertainty in the flow of rivers and discharge of water, deepening the water crisis. "This phenomenon is seriously impacting drinking water, irrigation, and hydropower generation," he said, calling for an emphasis on climate-tolerant policies and advanced scientific interventions. Stressing the need to encourage rainwater harvesting and the recharging of water source structures, the deputy CM said there is a need to adopt a long-term and scientific approach to water security, evolve a special policy for hill states, and rethink strategies by considering modern technologies, innovations, and alternatives, alongside the conservation of traditional water sources.

Haryana signs MoU with University of Birmingham to establish Centre of Excellence in crop post-harvest management

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To enhance horticultural practices, the Haryana Government on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Birmingham to establish Haryana-UK Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Crop Post-Harvest Management and Cold Chain for horticulture crops. The state-of-the-art centre, located in Panchkula is aimed to significantly reduce post-harvest losses while maintaining the quality and freshness of horticultural produce from farm to consumer.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana. On behalf of the Haryana Government, the MoU was signed by Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department Raja Shekhar Vundru, while Prof Robin Mason, Pro-Vice Chancellor (International), University of Birmingham, signed on behalf of the university.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Saini said that Haryana, being the food bowl of India, is rapidly diversifying into fresh fruits and vegetables. This expansion calls for the effective management of the cold chain to minimize post-harvest losses in the sector. He further said that the Centre of Excellence will play a crucial role in ensuring quality, reducing wastage, and supporting the agricultural community in Haryana.

The Centre of Excellence will serve as a comprehensive research and testing hub under one roof, dedicated to improving the post-harvest management of fruits and vegetables. It will also provide vital research and testing services for students and researchers from CCS Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU), Hisar and Maharana Pratap Horticulture University, Karnal allowing them to undertake studies and experiments in the fields of post-harvest management and cold chain technology.

The Haryana Government has allocated 15 acres of land adjoining the Directorate of Horticulture, Sector 21, Panchkula, for the develop-

ment of the CoE-SPMCC. The Centre will feature a training centre, technology demonstration area, testing centre, and technology incubation centre.

With this collaboration, Haryana is poised to set a benchmark in sustainable crop post-harvest management and cold chain practices, contributing significantly to reducing food waste and enhancing the profitability and sustainability of horticultural farming.

Experts from the University of Birmingham are leading a consortium of UK and international universities to provide technical assistance in developing the Centre in Panchkula. The consortium includes Heriot-Watt University, Cranfield University, London South Bank University, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This collaborative effort has driven the design and establishment of the Centre, with the University of Birmingham taking the lead on resilient systems approaches to energy and cooling, energy transitions and storage, and understanding the social impacts of these technologies.

CM Mann hands over appointment letter to 497 youth

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday handed over appointment letters for government jobs to 497 youth which brings the total to 50,892 who were given jobs in the last around three years after assuming the charge of office.

Mann handed over letters to youth in the Water supply and Sanitation department, School Education department, Higher Education and Languages, Rural Development and Science, Technology and Environment.

Addressing the gathering at the Municipal Bhawan, the Chief Minister said that it is a momentous occasion when these youth are becoming the part of the family of Punjab government. He expressed hope that these youth will become an active partner in the socio-economic development of the state by joining these respective departments. He said that for the first time in the history of the state, any government has given a record number of 50,892 jobs to the youth in 35 months of coming into power.

Tiger Cubs Abhay and Aryan Find a Home at Chhatbir Zoo

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Chhatbir Zoo on Wednesday witnessed a moment of pride as two tiger cubs — Abhay and Aryan — stepped into their semi-open habitat, marking the beginning of their new life outside Intensive Care. The cubs, born to white tigress Gauri and yellow tiger Arjun on October 31, 2024, midnight during Diwali celebrations, are now healthy and thriving.

Punjab's Forest and Wildlife Preservation Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak, who officiated the release, emphasized Punjab's commitment to wildlife care and conservation. "These cubs represent our success in conservation efforts and the importance of responsible breeding programs," he said.

The cubs are currently under veterinary supervision and will be available for public viewing after their final vaccine dose. Their transition to the semi-open enclosure is



a significant milestone in their growth and adaptation.

Alongside the cubs' release, the Minister inaugurated a newly renovated veterinary hospital with improved treatment facilities, research laboratories, and a dispensary. "A well-equipped veterinary unit is essential to ensuring top-tier healthcare for our animals," he noted.

Other key developments include an 800-meter visitor pathway for enhanced public access, two night shelters for watchmen, and a dedicated service path for uninterrupted animal feeding. Additionally, a new parking facility for safari buses and a visitor shelter near the lion safari canteen were introduced.

Exercise to choose new Haryana Chief Secretary begins

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

With the joining of Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi as Election Commissioner on Wednesday, there is suspense in the bureaucratic circles about who will succeed him. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is believed to have started the process of selecting a suitable officer for the top post.

The new chief secretary is likely to be chosen from among five 1990-batch IAS officers — Sudhir Rajpal, Sumita Misra, Anurag Rastogi, Anand Mohan Sharan, and Raja Sekhar

Vundru. The Haryana government had referred the issue of seniority to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for resolution. However, the DoPT put the ball right back in the state government's court and asked it to resolve the matter. Sources said that Rastogi is likely to be picked even though he is set to retire on June 30.

Rastogi was given charge of the Chief Secretary on TVSN Prasad's superannuation and before Joshi joined his home cadre from central deputation. Rastogi was later posted as Financial Commissioner,

Revenue, a position occupied by the senior-most officer. This has fuelled speculation of him being elevated as CS after the vacancy at the top.

Currently, all five officers are posted as additional chief secretaries, with Rajpal in charge of Health, Misra of Home, Rastogi of Finance, Sharan of Environment, and Vundru of Agriculture. Rajpal is the senior-most officer in the group, followed by Misra. While Rajpal is due to retire on November 30, 2026, Misra will retire on January 30, 2027, Sharan on August 31 this year, and Vundru on July 31, 2026.

The officers have been

involved in a seniority dispute for several months. Three officers of the 1990 batch, Rastogi, Vundru and Ankur Gupta had challenged the gradation list, claiming that Rajpal and Misra, who were placed above them, should be lower in the pecking order as they were 'outsiders' and not originally from the Haryana cadre.

While Rajpal came from Himachal Pradesh, Misra was transferred from Jammu and Kashmir. A clear picture is expected to emerge soon, with Rastogi — currently Financial Commissioner, Revenue and Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Finance — being the leading contender.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Towards strategic partnership

Qatar, India sign historic agreements to strengthen cooperation in trade, energy, investments, technology and culture

Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, recent two-day official visit to India marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between the two nations. During this visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Emir Al-Thani agreed to elevate their ties to a 'strategic partnership,' focusing on key areas such as trade, energy, investments, technology, food security, culture and people-to-people connections. India and Qatar have maintained a robust relationship for decades, characterised by strong economic, cultural and diplomatic ties. The Indian expatriate community in Qatar, is 830,000 strong and plays a pivotal role in the country's development and serves as a vital bridge between the two nations. A primary outcome of the Emir's visit is the ambitious goal to double bilateral trade to \$28 billion within the next five years. Both countries are exploring the possibility of signing a free trade agreement to facilitate this growth. Energy cooperation



remains a cornerstone of the India-Qatar relationship. The discussions during the visit emphasised broadening energy ties, which could involve increased supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar to India, thereby enhancing India's energy security.

The visit underscored the importance of cultural exchange and strengthening people-to-people connections. Initiatives in this area are expected to foster mutual understanding and goodwill between the populations of both countries. But the biggest takeaway from this visit is the security cooperation. By elevating their relationship to a strategic

partnership, India and Qatar have committed to a more structured and comprehensive engagement, addressing regional and global issues of mutual interest. This strategic alignment is anticipated to enhance their collaborative efforts on various fronts. Besides, both countries have agreed to take their trade to next level. The targeted increase in trade volume and potential free trade agreement are expected to stimulate economic growth, create job opportunities and attract investments in both nations. For India, securing a stable and diversified energy supply from Qatar is crucial for its growing energy needs. For Qatar, strengthening ties with a major economy like India offers new markets and investment opportunities. Enhanced cultural exchanges will promote mutual respect and understanding, enriching the social fabric of both societies. A closer partnership between India and Qatar can contribute to regional stability, with both countries collaborating on security and diplomatic initiatives. The Emir of Qatar's visit to India has set the stage for a deeper and more multifaceted partnership between the two nations. By focusing on strategic areas India and Qatar are poised to reap significant benefits, reinforcing their longstanding ties and contributing to regional and global stability.

PICTALK



A black-naped oriole bird perches on a bloomed cotton tree, in Birbhum

Confronting the escalating migration and refugee crises



SUDHIR HINDWAN

The refugee crisis is a perplexing issue for governments, requiring a delicate balance between maintaining national security and extending compassion to those in need

The paradoxes of rapid global changes are proving to be a contemporary reality, one that sheds light on the philosophical aphorism proposed by Samuel P. Huntington, that of "Political Decay." This concept is becoming increasingly evident in highly developed societies, particularly in the face of numerous challenges concerning security. The issue of illegal migration, human trafficking, and the plight of refugees has become a significant concern, with its implications stretching across borders, creating tension among nations, and fueling rising anxieties about national security.

A few years ago, the discovery of fifty refugees dead near eastern Austria, along the Slovakia-Hungarian border, prompted widespread discussion on the issue of illegal migration and related crimes. This tragic event highlighted a larger issue facing European countries—illegal migration and the security risks that come with it. Many individuals from underdeveloped regions, in their search for survival and opportunities, attempt to migrate to European countries, often taking illegal routes. The tragic drowning of more than 80 illegal migrants in a boat off the coast of Libya is just one example of the deadly risks faced by those desperate for a better life. In light of these challenges, it is imperative that European nations develop more sophisticated mechanisms to address this issue, one that has already caused significant tension between countries.

The broader problem of migration and refugees, particularly in regions such as Afghanistan and Central Asia, has created a complicated and often violent dynamic. As refugees flee war and persecution, they find themselves subject to not only economic exploitation but also social discrimination. According to reports, over 70 per cent of the 26 million refugees worldwide are women and children. These individuals are uprooted and displaced due to wars, ethnic conflicts, political instability and religious persecution. Since the mid-20th century, the number of



refugees has dramatically increased, driven by factors such as civil wars, regional conflicts, and natural disasters. The refugee crises have been particularly severe in regions like Africa, Southeast Asia and the West Asia, with countries such as Afghanistan, Rwanda, Vietnam, Bosnia and Iraq seeing millions displaced. These refugees often seek shelter in neighbouring countries, adding pressure to already fragile systems.

While refugees are often subjected to exploitation and abuse, the refugee crisis has also attracted the attention of illegal and anti-social actors who exploit the vulnerability of displaced populations. The rise of global connectivity and the post-modernisation phase calls for new frameworks and models of governance to address these challenges.

The world is increasingly interconnected, and young generations must be equipped with the tools and understanding to overcome divisive and biased perceptions that arise from ignorance. It is essential that global societies shift their focus to new models that emphasise reforms in democracy, the environment, globalisation, and governance. These reforms should prioritise finding solutions that reduce manipulation and nepotism, addressing the core needs of vulnerable populations. The refugee problem is a com-



THE TRAGIC DROWNING OF MORE THAN 80 ILLEGAL MIGRANTS IN A BOAT OFF THE COAST OF LIBYA IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE DEADLY RISKS FACED BY THOSE DESPERATE FOR A BETTER LIFE

plex and multifaceted issue, and efforts have been made to create legal definitions and frameworks for addressing the crisis. The United Nations has provided a general consensus on defining refugees as individuals who are forced to leave their country due to war, foreign invasion, or other forms of aggression. However, individual nations often adapt this definition to suit their national interests, leading to inconsistencies in refugee treatment. For instance, Uganda's President Idi Amin's expulsion of foreign nationals in 1972 resulted in the displacement of over 38,000 people, highlighting the role of political instability in driving refugee crises. Several key factors contribute to the refugee crisis, including atrocities, civil wars, and regional conflicts. Over time, efforts have been made to improve the situation, with various organisations and countries attempting to address the economic and social needs of refugees.

To address the refugee crisis, it is crucial to develop local infrastructure that promotes refugees' self-sufficiency and to involve NGOs more extensively in the solution. Comprehensive training for staff involved in rescue operations and coordination between local governments and the UNHCR will enhance effectiveness. Increased financial support is needed to

implement new programmes for refugees. Challenges persist in addressing the refugee crisis, particularly due to inadequate infrastructure and logistical support in host countries. A global burden-sharing approach is needed to prevent undue strain on any single nation. Refugees often face detention based on illegal immigration suspicions, and camps are sometimes attacked, increasing their vulnerability. Governments, NGOs, and international bodies must ensure refugee protection, especially for women and children, while fostering long-term solutions like job creation and education. Though eliminating illegal migration entirely may not be possible, nations must manage migration while safeguarding refugees' rights. The rise in human trafficking and exploitation adds complexity, requiring swift action from governments.

In regions like South Asia, the Rohingya refugee crisis has intensified security and humanitarian concerns, with policies often facing international criticism. A coordinated, inclusive approach is vital to meeting the needs of displaced populations without compromising national interests.

(The author, a recipient of Bharat Gaurav award is a professor and an expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAM PITRODA SPARKS CONTROVERSY

Madam — The latest controversial statement of Indian Overseas President Sam Pitroda negating Chinese threats to India has stoked a fierce controversy. Though Congress has distanced himself, very obviously his statement is in tune with the Congress line on China and statements of Rahul Gandhi praising and advocating China. His statement may be seen in the light of the recent successful visit of PM Modi to the US, causing heartburn and discomfort in Congress leadership. His timing of the pro-China statement is very conspicuous and contradicts the foreign policy of India. The security threats from China need no elaboration. Sam Pitroda is no stranger to controversies. Sam Pitroda had ignited a firestorm while speaking on the diversity of India, referring to how people in the South "look like Africans and those in the East look like Chinese and those in the East look like Arabs."

In June 2023, amid anticipation for the grand opening of the Ram Mandir, Sam Pitroda sparked controversy by asserting that temples wouldn't address India's pressing issues such as unemployment, inflation, education, and health. In May 2019, Sam Pitroda drew ire by dismissively remarking, 'hua to hua, so what,' when questioned about the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. During the aftermath of the Pulwama attack in February 2019, Sam Pitroda ignited controversy by questioning the efficacy of retaliatory airstrikes conducted by the Indian Air Force on Balakot. His remarks stirred debate on India's response to terrorist incidents and the appropriate diplomatic approach to such crises. Despite all controversies, he continued to be Indian Overseas President. Congress is experimenting through Sam Pitroda but his controversies are maligning the country.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY FAILS

Madam — Refers to the article 'Bangladesh wipes out history, shuns India at its own peril.' India's neighbour first policy is a

Gyanesh Kumar is new CEC



This refers to the main page headline "Gyanesh Kumar is the 26th CEC." Notwithstanding a dissenting note from the LoP Rahul Gandhi, Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed as the CEC by a three-member panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, comprising Home Minister Amit Shah and LoP

Rahul Gandhi. The reason behind Gandhi's dissent was that the matter is still pending before the court, raising the question of why the appointment was rushed.

Previously, the Chief Justice of India was part of the selection panel; however, this changed after the NDA government passed the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act, 2023. Keeping this in mind, the Vice President recently voiced his support for excluding the CJI from the selection process. It appears that the power to choose the next CEC and other election commissioners is now tilted entirely in favour of the central government.

Aarohi Gupta | Ujjain

MAMATA SLAMS KUMBH MANAGEMENT

Madam — West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has asserted that the Maha Kumbh has turned into a "Mrityu Kumbh" due to incidents of stampede, claiming that the actual toll at the mega religious gathering was suppressed by authorities. At least 30 people died and 60 were injured in a stampede in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, while 18 people lost their lives in a recent stampede at an overcrowded New Delhi railway station. More than 54 crore people had so far taken a dip at the Sangam. During Maha Shivratri, a further surge of crowd is expected. More than half the total population of India, by that time, should have taken a dip. The discipline of the people, coupled with poor crowd management, led to the stampede. But her comment that it is a 'mirthy Kumbh' is unwanted and uncalled for. It is an attack on sanatana dharma and people's belief and faith. It is an attack on Hindus.

N R Ramchandran | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Faith's double-edged sword: Reflections on the Mahakumbh



ASHA IYER KUMAR

The Mahakumbh presents a profound paradox: can a moment of divine immersion truly cleanse years of sin, or have we reduced the quest for spiritual evolution to mere ritual

In the predawn darkness, millions of pilgrims converge at the sacred confluence of the Ganges, their faith burning brighter than the stars above. The Mahakumbh, humanity's largest gathering of spiritual seekers, presents a profound paradox of our times — the sublime beauty of collective devotion juxtaposed against the perils of unquestioning faith. What compels ordinary men and women to undertake arduous journeys, risking life and limb in pursuit of divine grace?

The answer lies perhaps in our eternal quest for transformation — that deep-seated belief that a single moment of sacred communion can wash away the accumulated weight of our transgressions. The Mahakumbh's promise is alluring in its simplicity: A holy dip in the Ganges during this auspicious period can cleanse one's soul of sin. Yet, as tragedy strikes in the form of stampedes and accidents, we must pause to examine whether blind faith has led us astray from spirituality's true essence. These incidents are not merely statistical casualties; they



are poignant reminders of how religious fervour, when unchecked by reason, can transform the path to salvation into a road to suffering. There is something deeply moving about the unwavering conviction that draws millions to these sacred waters. Yet, as I watch the faithful immerse themselves in the river's embrace, I cannot help but wonder: Can the complex tableau of human actions, choices, and consequences truly be undone by a moment's submersion? Does spiritual transformation work in such absolute terms, where years of misconduct can be erased in an instant? The Ganges itself presents another layer of this spiritual paradox. In our rush to cleanse our souls, have we forgotten our duty to preserve the very source of that purification?

The question that haunts me is not whether faith has value — it undoubtedly does — but whether we have reduced the profound journey of spiritual evolution to mere ritual. True transformation, I believe, lies not in momentary acts of devotion but in the sustained practice of compassion, integrity and mindful living. The real pilgrimage is not to a geographical location but to the depths of our consciousness, where we confront our shadows and choose, day after day, to act with kindness and purpose. What if the purest form of spiritual practice is simply this: to live each day with such awareness and empathy that we leave every person and place better than we found them? To cultivate a heart so clear that no wily thought finds root there, to build relationships so genuine that they become temples of mutual growth?

Perhaps this daily practice of goodness is the true holy dip of our souls need. None of this is to diminish the power of faith or the beauty of religious tradition. The Mahakumbh remains a remarkable proof of human spirituality, a mirror reflecting our deepest yearning

for connection with the divine. But perhaps its greatest lesson lies not in the promise of instant release but in showing us how collective faith can move millions to action. Imagine if this same power could be channelled into sustained ethical living, into creating communities of care and consciousness.

As the sun sets over the Mahakumbh, casting long shadows over the devoted masses, I am reminded that faith, like the Ganges itself, must flow between the banks of reason and compassion. When it overflows these boundaries, it risks becoming a force of destruction rather than salvation. The challenge before us is not to abandon faith but to evolve it — to transform it from a series of external rituals into an internal compass that guides us toward genuine goodness. The true miracle, perhaps, is not in the holy dip but in the daily choice to live with such purity that our very existence becomes a prayer, our actions a continuous act of worship. (The author is a Dubai-based columnist and children's writing coach. Views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

True forgiveness requires honesty, self-awareness, and the willingness to release resentment



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

People across the globe, from all cultures and traditions, embrace love and forgiveness in daily life. These values are universally viewed as central to the fabric of humanity. But is it as easy to forgive as it sounds to be? Forgiveness, like so many other things in life, is easier said than done. We all seek forgiveness when we do something wrong right? But our stance is quite different when someone seeks forgiveness from us. We find it hard to let go of what's happened to us. The ability to forgive others depends on how honest we are with ourselves. We must remember that forgiveness can only occur because we have been given the gift of the ability to make choices. Hence, if we want to forgive someone, no one can stop us, no matter how poorly they may act, because ultimately, it's our choice to forgive or not to forgive. This ability to forgive is a manifestation of the personal control we have over our lives. Hence each one of us should ask this question to ourselves: Have we journeyed through life pure, perfect, and clean, with never a wrong thought, a wrong word, or action? If we look at ourselves honestly, then how can we not forgive another? Most of us regret many



things that we have said or done in the past. It's a fact that we all have acted wrongly, either because of not knowing what is right, or out of fear or misunderstanding. However, with time and knowledge, we realize what is right and begin to make amends. Just by having this desire to change ourselves, we begin the process of forgiving ourselves, which in turn helps us to forgive others. If this process is to progress, we have to forgive others. We just cannot condemn others and excuse ourselves. This is cheating, and the universally applicable Law of Karma will not allow it. Remember! If we do not learn to forgive, resentment will poison us, and we will end up carrying a double burden: both the resentful thoughts of others' injustice and the hidden reality of our injustice. The power to forgive comes from compassion, which means we should compassionately and peacefully move forward with what is good, towards what is better. Forgiveness dissolves the compulsive need to prove ourselves right. It removes the indignation we feel at imagined injustice. It melts the hardness of another's heart. Our forgiveness, at first, may puzzle them. To forgive and forget is love in action. But we must first learn to forgive ourselves, as well as others, otherwise, the process of releasing this burden neither begins nor progresses.

Forgiving ourselves means letting go of the past. But it also means not making the same mistakes again and again; not inventing convenient ways to excuse ourselves. Remember! A person who has hardened his own heart against others cannot feel even God's forgiveness and compassion. Hence, if we want to be forgiven, then we must be willing to forgive first because the one who forgives first not only proves his justice but especially proves his love. That is why it is said that 'A life well lived is your best revenge.' So, instead of focusing on your wounded feelings, and thereby giving the person who caused you pain the power over you, learn to look for the love, beauty, and kindness around you. This will make the world a better place to live in.

A tribute to my Guru Dr Nalini Didi

With profound grief, I share that Rajyogini Brahmakumari Dr Nalini Didi, a Senior Functionary of the Brahma Kumaris and my revered teacher, passed away in Mumbai on February 9, 2025. A renowned columnist and spiritual mentor, she dedicated 66 years to the service of humanity, spreading spiritual wisdom to millions. Her journey began at 16 after a transformative lecture by Prajapita Brahma, inspiring her lifelong mission of world transformation through Rajyoga education. A gifted speaker, writer and artist, she tirelessly promoted social harmony and earned numerous accolades, including an honorary D.Litt. Her guidance profoundly shaped my spiritual path.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and columnist, views are personal)

Lord Dannatt's Chagos proposal: A testament to imperial arrogance



NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

In a stunning display of imperial indifference, a former British Army chief has urged Keir Starmer to abandon plans to return the Chagos Islands to Mauritius and instead hand them over to the US



The call made by Lord Dannatt, former British Army chief, as reported by The Independent (UK), urging Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer to abandon plans to cede control of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius and instead consider handing the islands to the United States under the leadership of Donald Trump, is a moment of brutal clarity in the ongoing saga of colonial legacy, imperial arrogance and military hegemony. It is, perhaps, the most unambiguous and openly cynical articulation of an attitude that has plagued British foreign policy for decades: indifference to justice when the imperial or military agenda is at stake. In this shocking proposal, Lord Dannatt not only trivialises the long-standing historical injustice suffered by the Chagossian people but also reveals a chilling truth about the global order — one in which the rights of dispossessed peoples are inconsequential when the might of military power is involved.

The Chagos Islands, particularly Diego Garcia, remain a crucial outpost for both British and American military operations in the Indian Ocean, a key region for global military and economic dominance. The brutal truth is that the displacement of the Chagossians, the abduction of their homes, their lands, and their futures, was merely a strategic calculation by the British government, sanctioned and enabled by the United States.

These islands have been stripped of their rightful inhabitants, and instead of facing international condemnation, they remain a linchpin in the projection of military power. Lord Dannatt's proposal that the UK should relinquish control of the islands not to Mauritius, but directly to the US, serves as a blunt reminder that this military realpolitik is not just a policy but an ideology — one that continues to shape decisions about sovereignty, justice and human lives in ways that are both morally



THE TRUTH IS THIS: THE CHAGOS ISLANDS ARE NOT JUST A STRETCH OF LAND — THEY SYMBOLISE EVERYTHING THAT IS CORRUPT IN THE GLOBAL ORDER. A SYSTEM WHERE POWER ECLIPSES JUSTICE, AND HUMAN LIVES ARE SACRIFICED FOR THE SAKE OF GEOPOLITICAL DOMINANCE

bankrupt and legally indefensible. The truth is that the Chagossians were forcibly displaced, their families scattered across the world, and their right to return systematically denied. These are not mere footnotes in a distant history; this is an ongoing systematic injustice that has been buried beneath the murky layers of military necessity and imperial prerogative.

The United Nations and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have ruled unequivocally that the separation of the Chagos Islands from Mauritius is illegal, that the Chagossians' forced expulsion violated fundamental human rights and that their right to return to their homeland must be respected. These rulings are binding principles of international law, upheld by the court of global conscience. Yet the British government, in collusion with the United States, has continued to flout these legal rulings, with a callousness that is matched only by the complicity of global institutions that have failed to hold them to account.

The UK and its allies continue to demonstrate a dissonance between the legal obligation to return the islands to Mauritius and the military significance of Diego Garcia. The £18 billion (approximately \$22.52 billion USD) leaseback deal designed to ensure that the UK retains control of the islands is a financial burden, a sum that could instead be better spent on bolstering Britain's own defence capacity. But here's the crux: the Chagos Islands, specifically Diego Garcia, are not just a military base. They are a symbol of the power dynamics that have defined the post-war world order — a world where military interests, not

human dignity or sovereignty, govern the actions of nations. It is worth noting that Lord Dannatt's rhetoric is not an anomaly.

He is merely the latest in a long line of British military and political figures who have justified colonial dispossession in the name of military expediency. Diego Garcia, a military outpost of unparalleled strategic importance, is where American bombers take off for strikes in the West Asia, where naval forces project power across the Indian Ocean, and where the surveillance apparatus of the global superpowers monitors and controls vast swathes of the world. In short, Diego Garcia is a symbol of global military dominance — a fortress built upon the foundation of historical dispossession, suffering, and legal nullification. The fact that the Chagossians' right to return to their homeland is still not respected is a contemptuous affront to international law. The UK government's refusal to comply with ICJ rulings, while continuing to enjoy a special relationship with the US, sends a clear message to the world: law and justice are subordinate to power and strategy.

The international legal community can issue as many judgments as it likes, but it is all for naught when the major powers choose to ignore or bypass those rulings in favour of military interests. The declassified documents from the 1960s and 1970s reveal the collusion between the US and the UK to create a military enclave on Diego Garcia, with the forcible removal of the Chagossians merely an administrative detail to be swept under the carpet. In those documents, we see the foundations of a dirty deal that placed

geopolitical strategy above the basic human rights of a people. It is colonialism dressed as military necessity, and those who challenge this narrative are dismissed as idealists, outliers, or irrelevant. This is not just a matter of the Chagossians' rights; it is a fundamental crisis of the global legal and moral order.

It is a scandal that has gone largely ignored, an injustice that has been swept under the rug of strategic necessity, and an entire people's history erased in the name of military convenience. How can anyone with even a hint of conscience ignore these flagrant breaches of international law, perpetrated by those who claim to champion human rights while posing as defenders of democracy? Our complicity, fuelled by willful indifference, contributes to the erosion of international law and the degradation of fundamental human dignity.

The truth is this: the Chagos Islands are not just a stretch of land — they symbolise everything that is corrupt in the global order. A system where power eclipses justice, and human lives are sacrificed for the sake of geopolitical dominance. The silence that surrounds this injustice is as damning as the apathy that sustains it.

The Chagossians have been denied their homeland for over half a century. It is high time that the world demands the return of their land, not just out of legal obligation, but out of a moral imperative to right the wrongs of the past and give these forgotten people the future they have been denied for so long.

(The writer is a journalist and policy analyst. Views expressed are personal)

Empowering India's workforce: The crucial role of upskilling and inclusive hiring

With evolving industry demands and a rising need for skilled labour, organisations must bridge skill gaps and create sustainable employment opportunities

In today's rapidly changing job market, skill development and inclusive hiring are more critical than ever, particularly for the blue-collar workforce. As industries evolve and the demand for skilled labour increases, organisations must focus on bridging skill gaps and creating pathways to meaningful employment.

By prioritising upskilling and inclusive hiring practices, companies can empower individuals, enhance service quality, and contribute to the overall growth of the economy.

Investing in Skill Development Continuous learning is essential for the blue-collar workforce, where technological advancements and changing industry standards require a skilled and adaptable labour



DHIRAJ SINGH

pool. According to a report by the Global Labor Market Conference (GLMC), 55 per cent of professionals fear their skills may become partially or fully obsolete within the next five years, prompting many to consider reskilling. Organisations are increasingly offering a variety of skill

development programmes tailored specifically for their blue-collar employees. These programs encompass technical training, crisis management, digital security and leadership development, equipping workers with the expertise necessary for career advancement. In recent years, many companies have implemented structured upskilling initiatives that have led to significant improvements in service quality, efficiency and employee satisfaction.

Empowering the Grassroots Workforce Blue-collar workers, who make up over 80 per cent of India's non-agricultural workforce, are essential to the country's economic growth across various sectors. According to McKinsey and Company, by 2030, 70 per cent of the 90 mil-

lion new jobs expected in India will be blue-collar positions. These roles account for about 80 per cent of jobs in both the organised and unorganised sectors, acting as the primary engine of the economy. Their fulfilment is crucial for the growth of key sectors such as manufacturing and logistics. Recognising the unique challenges faced by grassroots workers, many organisations have developed targeted skilling initiatives that address the specific needs of this demographic.

These programs are designed to empower individuals at the community level, providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in their roles. Through hands-on training and mentorship, companies are fostering a cul-



ture of skill enhancement that encourages employees to take ownership of their career paths.

Success Stories: Behind every blue-collar worker is a story of ambition and determination. Many individuals have experienced transformative career journeys through upskilling initiatives. For instance, frontline workers have advanced to supervisory

roles after completing leadership training, while others have gained expertise in emerging technologies, securing higher-paying positions. However, a report by WorkIndia reveals that more than 40 per cent of blue-collar workers are employed but actively seeking new job opportunities. The drive for better salaries, career growth, and personal motivations are leading factors. Concerns over layoffs and financial instability also prompt job searches.

Expanding Opportunities: Inclusive Hiring Practices Organisations are not merely filling positions; they are creating futures. With a commitment to inclusive hiring, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities where job opportunities can be limited, companies are

working to ensure that more individuals, regardless of gender or background, can build stable and rewarding careers. With an increasing focus on safety and a surge in residential technology-driven training and fostering a culture of continuous learning, companies aim to set new standards in workforce development.

Women in the Workforce: Breaking Barriers Empowering women in the workforce is a crucial aspect of inclusive hiring. More women are stepping into roles as individual contributors, frontline managers, and even executive leadership positions, demonstrating that gender is no barrier to success.

These initiatives foster a workplace culture where women can not only succeed but thrive.

The Road Ahead: Looking ahead, organizations are set to expand their upskilling programs to cater to India's growing middle class and evolving job market needs. By integrating technology-driven training and fostering a culture of continuous learning, companies aim to set new standards in workforce development.

With strategic hiring approaches and robust skill enhancement initiatives, organisations are not just providing jobs; they are building careers and transforming lives. Investing in upskilling and creating employment opportunities at the grassroots level is not just a matter of social responsibility; it is also a key economic imperative.

(The writer is CEO SIS Ltd; views are personal)

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vishal Budha Magar S/O Karan Budha Magar R/O Vill. Seri, P.O. Galang, Tank Road Teh. & Distt. Solan (HP) Have Changed My Name From Vishal Budha Magar To Dambhar Bahadur Budha.

I Sanehru Devi W/O Sh Satya Nand R/O Vill Chagaon Po Hiner Teh Kandaghat Distt Solan HP, Have Changed My Name From Sanehru Devi To Sunehru Devi.

I Tara Devi W/O Sh Prem Chand R/O Vill Thor Kolan , Po Thorniwar Teh Rajgarh Distt Sirmaur HP Have Changed My Name From Tara Devi To Pariksha Devi.

I Om Bahadur Rana S/O Sh Dhani Ram R/O Vill Pahlog PO Makrog Teh Chopal Distt Shimla Has Changed His Minor Son Name From Sury Ansh To Suryansh.

I Dulanmbi Devi W/O Sh Khushi Ram R/O Vill Karganoo, Po Karganoo, Teh Rajgarh Distt Sirmaur HP. Have Changed My Name From Dulanmbi Devi To Dalumbi Devi.

I Jubair Khan S/O Asgar Khan R/O H.No. 306, Phase 1, Mohali, declared that I have changed my religion Muslim to Sikh.

I, Gurpreet Kaur W/O Reghbir Singh R/O Village Kalsa, Pehowa, Kurukshetra, Haryana Changed Name Gurprit Kaur.

I, Rahul Kumar S/O Dalbir Singh R/O Them Malbora, Pehowa have changed my given name Rahul Surname Kumar

I, Mangaljit Singh Jhal R/O Vill. Chohak Kalan, Po. Ladhewali, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Mangaljit Singh Jhal to Mangaljit Singh.

I, Saraswati Devi w/o Hav Mahendra Kumar, serving in 52 Engineer Regiment C/o 56 APO have change my name from Saraswattee Kumari to Saraswati Devi.

I, Abda Devi m/o Hav Suraj Singh, serving in 52 Engineer Regiment C/o 56 APO have change my name from Avada Devi to Abda Devi.

I, Suvedha Varma m/o Nk Prabhat Kumar Patel, serving in 52 Engineer Regiment C/o 56 APO have change my name from Suvedta to Suvedha Varma.

I, Shrawan Kumar Singh f/o Hav Rahul Pratap Singh, serving in 4 Guards (1 Rajput) C/o 56 APO have change my name from Shrawan Kumar Singh to Shrawan Kumar Singh.

I, Prabhjit Kaur W/O Hartej Singh Dogra R/O Vill.Khanke Fatehgarh, Po.Mustfapur, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Prabhjit Kaur to Prabhjit Kaur Dogra, After Marriage.

I, Kulwinder Singh s/o Gurdial Singh r/o Street No.6, Mohalla Shiv Puri Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala have changed my minor daughter's name from Muskan to Muskan Kaur.

I, hitherto Known as Sabrina Mahi W/o Nirmal Singh R/O H.No. 47-B, Gali No. 14, Near Regent Park Hotel, Dayal Nagar, Jalandhar-144003, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Harvinder Kaur.

I, Sukhvir Kaur W/O Baldev Singh R/O VPO. Sidhwan Station, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Sukhviri Kaur to Kaur Sukhviri (Surname as Kaur).

I, Jaskaran S/o Kamaljit R/O VPO. Budhiana, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Jaskaran to Jaskaran Kumar.

I, Gurdip Singh S/O Nasele Singh R/O VPO. Sandhu Chatha, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab have changed the spelling of my name from Gurdip Singh to Jaswinder Singh.

I, Jasvinder Singh S/O Gurdip Singh R/O Vill. Paragpur, Po. Jalandhar Cantt., Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed the spelling of my name from Jasvinder Singh to Jaswinder Singh.

I, hitherto Known as Yog Raj S/O Sangat Ram R/O VPO. Bika, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar-144509, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Joga Singh.

I, Amitendr S/O Ashwani Kumar R/o H. No. 114, Sector 6 P Hansi Post Office, Hansi, Distt. Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Amitendr to Amitendr Chandilla for all purposes. In future I will be known as Amitendr Chandilla.

I, Farhan Manderna S/O Amar Jeet R/O Village Bohal Tehsil Bawani Khera, Distt. Bhiwani (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Farhan to Farhan Manderna for all future purposes.

I, Khushni Rani Daughter of No.-4197200L Rank L/HAV Name Darshan Kumar R/O VPO Jamawari, Teh. Hansi, Distt. Hisar, Haryana-125033 have changed my name in army record from Khushni Rani to Khushi Rani vide affidavit dated 18-02-2025 before Session Court Hisar.

I Hitherto Known As Paramjeet Son Of Sh. Hans Raj, R/O Village Hatli, Post Office Suliali, Teh Nurpur, Distt Kangra, Himachal Pradesh 176211, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Paramjeet Kumar.It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

I Jaswinder Kaur Marwaha W/O Kulwinder Singh R/O H.No.71/64- J, B.R.S Nagar Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Jaswinder Kaur.

I Bhajan Lal S/O Hans Raj R/O House No.116 Street No.7/2 Beant Nagar, Moga Have Changed My Name To Bhajan Lal Popli.

I Neelam Rani W/O Bhajan Lal Popli R/O House No. 116, Street No.7/2, Beant Nagar, Moga Have Changed My Name To Neelam Rani Popli.

I, Gurdeep Singh Sidhu S/O Nachhattar Singh R/O Vpo. Bukanwala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Gurdeep Singh.

I Harpal Kaur Alias Karmjit Kaur W/O Khajan Singh R/O Vpo. Sekha Kalan Distt. Moga Am One And Same Person Of Above Both Names.

I Rajneet Kaur D/O Jarnail Singh Bagha R/O Gali No.-13 Bazigar Basti Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Rajneet Kaur Bagha.

I Rajinder Kumar S/O Piara Lal R/O Vpo. Mauli, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Manika To Manika Toora.

I Sanjiv Kumar S/O Manohar Lal Sharma R/O Street No.14, Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar, B/S JCT Mill, Phagwara District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name To Sanjeev Kumar.

I Baljot S/O Paramjit Singh R/O Vill. Dharamkot Randhawa, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Baljot And Surname As Singh.

I Sanjeev Kumar S/O Surinder Pal R/O Village Herian, P.O. Pandori Kad Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab My Minor Daughter's Name From Lovedeep To Lovedeep Kaur.

I Amandeep Kaur Thiara W/O Narinder Singh R/O Vpo. Bhungarni District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Amandeep Kaur.

I, Manjinder Singh S/O Partap Singh Resident Of Village- Bhangwan, Po-Dalelpur, Tehsil- Kalanaur, Distt- Gurdaspur, State-Punjab, India, Pin Code 143512. I Have Changed My Name From Manjinder Singh To Singh Manjinder, Surname As Singh And Given Name As Manjinder.

I, Vishal S/O Sh. Malket Ram R/O Village Behlohi, Korwa Khurd (52), Korwa Khurd, Ambala (Haryana) 134202 declare that I have changed my name from Vishal to Vishal Kumar

I, Madhu Sharma Wife of Sh. Ashwani R/O Samaspur P.O- Samaspur, Distt- Charkhi Dabri, Haryana-127306 have changed my name from Madhu Sharma to Madhu.

I Bimala Devi (existing name) W/o No. 14385069N Ex NK Sita Ram R/O VPO Gandhra, District Rohtak (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name in my husband Army Records / Disch. Book from Bimala Devi (existing name) to Bimla Devi (new name) My correct /actual DOB is 01.01.1967 instead of 01.04.1966 as per my Aadhaar / Pan Card for all work purposes My son Manoj Kumar actual/correct DOB is 03.12.1994 instead of 03.12.1993. Vide Affidavit dated 19 February 2025 before 1st Class Magistrate Sampla (Rohtak)

I, Lucky (previous name) D/o Jitender resident of H.No. 1588/31, Sree Ram Nagar, Colony, Rohtak (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Lucky Budhwar (new name) My surname is Budhwar . Lucky and Lucky Budhwar pertain to one and the same person. In future I may be known as Lucky Budhwar for all work purposes. All concerned please note. Vide Affidavit dated 19 February 2025 before Notary Public (Rohtak)

I, Shanker Lal s/o Sh. Mohan Lal Bansal R/O 15/749, Bansal Colony, Sirsa have changed my name to Shankar Lal Bansal. Concerned Note.

I, Jotsna Ganesh Mankar wife of No.15820201N L/NK Mankar Ganesh Shankar resident of Village- Sutala BK, Post-Khangaon, District-Buldana, State-Maharashtra, Pin-444303, have changed my name from Dange Jotsna Shankrishna to Jotsna Ganesh Mankar Vide affidavit No.IN-AS37967916137653X dated 30 Jan 2025 before notary public Tinsukia (Assam)

I, Aryan S/O Jai Kumar Rana R/O Village Uncha Samana, Karnal,Haryana-132001 have changed my name from Aryan to Aryan Rana for all future purposes

I, Usha W/O Jai Bhagwan R/O Village Khark Ram Ji Tehsil And Distt Jind Have Changed My Name From Usha To Usha Rani.

I, Karanpreet Dhunna S/O Shinder Pal Verma R/O Ward No.6, Ramnagar Khanna (141401) Ludhiana have changed my name to Karanpreet Verma.

I, Parkash Kaur W/o Kulwant Singh R/O Vpo. Mansoorpur Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Prakash Kaur to Parkash Kaur.

I, Ranbir Singh S/o Bachan Singh alias Badhan Singh R/O Village Khatra, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Balbir Singh.

I, Mewa Singh Gill S/O Bant Singh R/o VPO Sehaura, Tehsil Payal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Mewa Singh.

I, Manjit Kaur Gill W/o Mewa Singh R/o VPO Sehaura, Tehsil Payal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Manjit Kaur.

I, Lakhwinder Singh Sandhu S/O Thakur Singh R/O Noorpur Mashiwara (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Lakhwinder Singh.

I Ritu W/o Raj Kumar Chawla R/O 2770, Durga Mandir, Rajpura Patiala Town,Rajpura, Patiala Changed My Name to Ritu Chawla.

I Raj Kumar S/o Sham Lal R/O 2770, Durga Mandir, Rajpura Town,Rajpura Distt.Patiala Changed my Name to Raj Kumar Chawla.

I Pawandeep Kaur Chhatwa W/O Angrej Singh R/O Vill Chak Khurd Gobindpura Teh Rajpura Distt Patiala changed name as Pawandeep Kaur.

I, Amarjit Singh S/O Sh. Jethu Ram R/O H.No.-09, Ward No.-03, Sanour Tehsil and Distt. Patiala have changed my name to Amarjeet Singh.

I, Nirmal Kaur urf Bimla Devi W/o Amarjeet Singh R/O H.No.-09, Ward No.-03, Sanour Tehsil and Distt. Patiala have changed my name to Nirmla Rani.

I Taranjeet Singh Chawla S/O Sh Dalip Singh R/O H.No 129 Urban Estate Sector 13 Karnal I Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Taranjeet Singh To Taranjeet Singh Chawla.

I Suresh Chander S/O Kundan Lal R/O H.No. 26-A/ New 411, Ranjit Nagar, Bhadson Road, Patiala 147001 Punjab have changed my name to Suresh Chander Makkar.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Madan Lal R/O F-97, 1st Floor, Suncity, Golf Course Road, Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011, have changed my minor daughter's name from Meher aged 14 years to Meher Garg forever.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Madan Lal R/O F-97, 1st Floor, Suncity, Golf Course Road, Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011, have changed my minor son's name from Krishiv aged 11 years to Krishiv Garg forever.

I, Muskan W/o Krish Sahni R/O W.No. 2 Vpo. Miani (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my name to Muskan Sahni.

I, No. 2615177P, Rank Hav, Name Ravidas Ramkaran Motilal Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozpur Cantt, Residing at Mahakali Colley, Pramari School, Near Canteen, Chandrapur, (Maharashtra), Pin 442401 dohave changed my daughter name from Sanvi to Sanvi Ramkaran Ravidas Vide Affidavit Dated 19 February 2025 before at Notary Ferozpur.

I, Rayana Kusuma Kumari wife of Name -Rayana Gopaiiah residing 1-168 Gudavalli Guntur Andhra Pradesh pin 522259 Declare That by my Name Rayana Kusuma Kumari which is existing in his service documents is not correct and correct name Alapati Kusuma Kumari, have changed my name From Rayana Kusuma Kumari to Alapati Kusuma Kumari hence this affidavit dated 28-10-2024 before District Court Faridkot.

I, Army No. 778638F Rank NK Name Shiv Shankar Singh of Unit 17 Corps Provost Unit c/o 99 APO, PIN-908517 have changed my wife name from Sunita Singh to Sunita Kumari Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, Army No. 16112963W Rank L/HAV Name Kumara Swamy Duvvada of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/O 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Son name from Duvvada Praeeth Sai to Duvvada Praneeth Sai Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, Suresh Chander S/O Kundan Lal R/O H.No. 26-A/ New 411, Ranjit Nagar, Bhadson Road, Patiala 147001 Punjab have changed my name to Suresh Chander Makkar.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Madan Lal R/O F-97, 1st Floor, Suncity, Golf Course Road, Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011, have changed my minor daughter's name from Meher aged 14 years to Meher Garg forever.

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I, Muskan W/o Krish Sahni R/O W.No. 2 Vpo. Miani (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my name to Muskan Sahni.

I, No. 2615177P, Rank Hav, Name Ravidas Ramkaran Motilal Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozpur Cantt, Residing at Mahakali Colley, Pramari School, Near Canteen, Chandrapur, (Maharashtra), Pin 442401 dohave changed my daughter name from Sanvi to Sanvi Ramkaran Ravidas Vide Affidavit Dated 19 February 2025 before at Notary Ferozpur.

I, Rayana Kusuma Kumari wife of Name -Rayana Gopaiiah residing 1-168 Gudavalli Guntur Andhra Pradesh pin 522259 Declare That by my Name Rayana Kusuma Kumari which is existing in his service documents is not correct and correct name Alapati Kusuma Kumari, have changed my name From Rayana Kusuma Kumari to Alapati Kusuma Kumari hence this affidavit dated 28-10-2024 before District Court Faridkot.

I, Army No. 778638F Rank NK Name Shiv Shankar Singh of Unit 17 Corps Provost Unit c/o 99 APO, PIN-908517 have changed my wife name from Sunita Singh to Sunita Kumari Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, Army No. 16112963W Rank L/HAV Name Kumara Swamy Duvvada of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/O 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Son name from Duvvada Praeeth Sai to Duvvada Praneeth Sai Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, Suresh Chander S/O Kundan Lal R/O H.No. 26-A/ New 411, Ranjit Nagar, Bhadson Road, Patiala 147001 Punjab have changed my name to Suresh Chander Makkar.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Madan Lal R/O F-97, 1st Floor, Suncity, Golf Course Road, Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011, have changed my minor daughter's name from Meher aged 14 years to Meher Garg forever.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Madan Lal R/O F-97, 1st Floor, Suncity, Golf Course Road, Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011, have changed my minor son's name from Krishiv aged 11 years to Krishiv Garg forever.

I, Muskan W/o Krish Sahni R/O W.No. 2 Vpo. Miani (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my name to Muskan Sahni.

I, No. 2615177P, Rank Hav, Name Ravidas Ramkaran Motilal Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozpur Cantt, Residing at Mahakali Colley, Pramari School, Near Canteen, Chandrapur, (Maharashtra), Pin 442401 dohave changed my daughter name from Sanvi to Sanvi Ramkaran Ravidas Vide Affidavit Dated 19 February 2025 before at Notary Ferozpur.

I, Rayana Kusuma Kumari wife of Name -Rayana Gopaiiah residing 1-168 Gudavalli Guntur Andhra Pradesh pin 522259 Declare That by my Name Rayana Kusuma Kumari which is existing in his service documents is not correct and correct name Alapati Kusuma Kumari, have changed my name From Rayana Kusuma Kumari to Alapati Kusuma Kumari hence this affidavit dated 28-10-2024 before District Court Faridkot.

I, Army No. 778638F Rank NK Name Shiv Shankar Singh of Unit 17 Corps Provost Unit c/o 99 APO, PIN-908517 have changed my wife name from Sunita Singh to Sunita Kumari Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, Army No. 16112963W Rank L/HAV Name Kumara Swamy Duvvada of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/O 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Son name from Duvvada Praeeth Sai to Duvvada Praneeth Sai Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

COURT NOTICE
Form No. 55
CRIMINAL COURTS JALANDHAR
IN THE COURT OF
Ms. Renuka Kalra
Judicial Magistrate First Class-18, Jalandhar
Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and judgments as well as other case information is available on <http://courts.gov.in>
PREFECT BELT S PVT LTD
V/S
ABC POLYMERS
Case No.:NACT/925/2023
PBJL03-008344-2023
POLICE STATION/FIR NO. BASTI BAWA KHEL/
NEXT DATE- 29-03-2025
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
Detail of offence:-
NOTICE TO: 1 M/S ABC POLYMERS, PLOT NO.16, BLOCK NO.1074, TIRATH INDUSTRIAL AREA ASHLAI, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT-382425, THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR SH. ANKIT PATEL, 2 SH.ANKIT PETAL, PROPRIETOR M/S ABC POLYMERS, PLOT NO.16, BLOCK NO.1074, TIRATH INDUSTRIAL AREA ASHLAI, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT-382425 WHEREAS complaint/case has been made before me that SH. ANKIT PATEL- R/O PROP M/S ABC POLYMERS PLOT NO.16, BLOCK NO.1074 TIRATH INDUSTRIAL AREA ASHLAI, AHMEDABAD GUJARAT-382425 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section of and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said SH. ANKIT PATEL cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said SH. ANKIT PATEL has absconded (or is concealing himself/herself) to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said SH. ANKIT PATEL is required to appear before this Court (or before me) on 29-03-2025 to answer the said complaint/case.
Dated, this day of 19-02-2025.
Judicial Magistrate
First Class-18, Jalandhar

COURT NOTICE
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CRIMINAL COURTS JALANDHAR
IN THE COURT OF
Ms. Renuka Kalra
Judicial Magistrate First Class-18, Jalandhar
Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and judgments as well as other case information is available on <http://courts.gov.in>
VMA IMPEX LLP
Vs
UNIMET ALLOYS
Case No.:NACT/373/2023
PBJL03-038596-2023
POLICE STATION/FIR NO. DIVISION 8/02/2022
NEXT DATE- 20-02-2025
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
Detail of offence:-
NOTICE TO:- 1. UNIMET ALLOYS, PLOT TALA-142/B, UNIMET ALLOYS, MOTI TALAV ROAD, KUMBHARAVADA, BHAYNAGAR, BHAYNAGAR-364006, GUJARAT, THROUGH ITS PARTNER ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA 2. ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER OF UNIMET ALLOYS, PLOT NO. 142/B, UNIMET ALLOYS, MOTI TALAV ROAD, KUMBHARAVADA, BHAYNAGAR, BHAYNAGAR-364006, GUJARAT. WHEREAS complaint/case has been made before me that ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER- R/O UNIMET ALLOYS PLOT NO. 142/B UNIMET ALLOYS MOTI TALAV ROAD KUMBHARAVADA BHAYNAGAR GUJARAT has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section of and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER is concealing himself/herself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER is required to appear before this Court (or before me) on 20-02-2025 to answer the said complaint/case.
Dated, this day of 19-02-2025
Judicial Magistrate
First Class-18, Jalandhar

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VMA IMPEX LLP
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Dated, this day of 19-02-2025
Judicial Magistrate
First Class-18, Jalandhar

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Dated, this day of 19-02-2025
Judicial Magistrate
First Class-18, Jalandhar

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Dated, this day of 19-02-2025
Judicial Magistrate
First Class-18, Jalandhar

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
Detail of offence:-
NOTICE TO:- 1. UNIMET ALLOYS, PLOT TALA-142/B, UNIMET ALLOYS, MOTI TALAV ROAD, KUMBHARAVADA, BHAYNAGAR, BHAYNAGAR-364006, GUJARAT, THROUGH ITS PARTNER ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA 2. ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER OF UNIMET ALLOYS, PLOT NO. 142/B, UNIMET ALLOYS, MOTI TALAV ROAD, KUMBHARAVADA, BHAYNAGAR, BHAYNAGAR-364006, GUJARAT. WHEREAS complaint/case has been made before me that ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER- R/O UNIMET ALLOYS PLOT NO. 142/B UNIMET ALLOYS MOTI TALAV ROAD KUMBHARAVADA BHAYNAGAR GUJARAT has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section of and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER is concealing himself/herself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said ASHAD MAHAMADASHFAK KALVA PARTNER is required to appear before this Court (or before me) on 20-02-2025 to answer the said complaint/case.
Dated, this day of 19-02-2025
Judicial Magistrate
First Class-18, Jalandhar

COURT NOTICE
Form No.55
CRIMINAL COURTS JALANDHAR
IN THE COURT OF
Ms. Renuka Kalra
Judicial Magistrate First Class-18, Jalandhar
Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and judgments as well as other case information is available on <http://courts.gov.in>
VMA IMPEX LLP
Vs
UNIMET ALLOYS
Case No.:NACT/373/2023
PBJL03-038596-2023
POLICE STATION/FIR NO. DIVISION 8/02/2022
NEXT DATE- 20-02-2025
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
Detail of offence:-
NOTICE TO:- 1. UNIMET ALLOYS, PLOT TALA-142/B, UNIMET ALLOYS, MOTI TALAV ROAD, KUMBHARAVADA, BHAYNAG

Imran offered deal to overturn disqualification, claims ally

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD A key ally of Imran Khan has said that an offer was being made to the jailed former prime minister for the nullification of his disqualification, amid reports of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf seeking backdoor talks with the establishment. Sahibzada Hamid Raza, the chief of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), made the claim during Geo News' programme "Capital Talk" on Tuesday, according to The News. "The PTI founder did not demand the release of any [party] leader during the talks [with the government]. But in fact, an offer is being made to set aside his disqualification within three months," Raza said. The politician's remarks came after a well-placed source told The News that the PTI was once again seeking backchannel talks with the establishment, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur reportedly playing a key role in the effort. The source insisted that PTI was eager to restart the

process and views Gandapur as the central figure who could make it happen. So far, there is no indication that the other side is willing to engage. It is pertinent to know that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disqualified Khan in August 2023 or five years from holding any public office following a trial court's verdict in the first Toshakhana case. The electoral body had said that the former premier was guilty of corrupt practices under Section 167 of the Elections Act, 2017. The PTI founder was again disqualified for 10 years in July 2024 after an accountability court sentenced him to 14 years in the New Toshakhana case — which is not to be mixed with the previous case. The SIC chief's remarks about a deal aren't the first time such claims have come to the fore relating to a deal offered to the incarcerated former prime minister. Gandapur, earlier this month, claimed that a proposal was made to transfer Khan Bani Gala, Nathia Gali, or the CM



House but no progress was made due to his insistence on the release of all detained workers before his transfer. Meanwhile, reports suggesting backdoor talks came after the weeks-long negotiations between the PTI and the ruling coalition were stalled last month following the former's refusal to continue with the parleys citing the government's failure to form a judicial commission to probe the May 9 riots and November 2024 protests in Islamabad. With the PTI warning of agitation and once again returning to the streets and holding

a power show in Swabi on February 8, party founder Khan — who has been in jail since August 2023 — has written multiple letters to the country's military top brass, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir to be precise, calling for inter alia, change of policies. The letters covered a wide array of issues ranging from the alleged rigging in the 2024 general election to cases of terrorism charges, raids, and the use of force against PTI workers as well as matters related to the economy. However, the army chief has denied receiving any such letter further saying that even if he did, he would not read it and instead forward it to PM Shehbaz. Speaking to Geo News, senior PTI leader and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser ruled out any backdoor talks being held with anyone. He maintained that no backdoor channel was being used for parleys and underscored that the former ruling party was not holding any dialogue with the federal government, according to The News report.

Migrant groups say racist attacks increase in German city

PTI ■ MAGDEBURG (GERMANY) When Haben Gebregergish first immigrated to the German city of Magdeburg seven years ago, the Eritrean immigrant was walking to the supermarket with her child when an intoxicated woman approached her on the street. At the time, Gebregergish did not speak German well enough to comprehend what the woman was saying. But Gebregergish says that when the woman threw a beer bottle at her head, she immediately understood. It was one of her first encounters with racism, but certainly not the last. In the aftermath of a deadly attack at a Christmas market in Magdeburg late last year, Gebregergish and other migrants who have settled in the city say they have experienced a sharp increase in racism and anti-immigration

sentiments. "We are the same as you," Gebregergish said earlier this month. "We are not different. Just like you, we have feelings. Sometimes we are sad, sometimes we are happy, just like everyone else." The Christmas market violence was one of five high-profile attacks committed by immigrants in the past nine months that have made migration a key issue as the country heads toward an early election on Sunday. The suspect, a Saudi doctor, drove into the holiday market teeming with shoppers and left five women and a 9-year-old boy dead and 200 people injured. The suspect arrived in Germany in 2006 and had received permanent residency, and authorities say the suspect does not fit the usual profile of perpetrators of extremist attacks. He is being held in cus-

tomly as authorities investigate him. Just one day after December 20 violence, there was a large right-wing demonstration in Magdeburg, and verbal and physical attacks on people with a migrant background have increased significantly in the city since then, according to the German-Syrian Cultural Association in Magdeburg. "The migrant community and the advice centers report that attacks have increased by more than 70 per cent here in the city," said Saeed Saeed, who came to Germany from Syria seven years ago and is a member of the association. "Racism already exists here and everywhere. But it has increased enormously since the attack." Ketevan Asatiani-Hermann, newly elected chair of the board of the Advisory Council for Integration and Migration in Magdeburg, said victims of

racist attacks in the city often do not feel support from politicians or police. "The hatred has always been there, people just didn't dare to say it so clearly before," said Asatiani-Hermann, who came to Magdeburg in 2011 from Georgia. Officers sometimes target or search the victims first before the perpetrator, she alleged, and they also worry reporting an attack could have a negative impact on their residence status. The Magdeburg Police Department did not respond to multiple requests for comment. Mayor Simone Borris, in a statement, said: "Cohesion and community are fundamental values of a city that are invaluable." The mayor also referred media to online services for migrants, and said the city's Cooperation with the Advisory Council for Integration and Migration will be expanded.

Seven passengers killed in Pakistan's Balochistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD Unidentified gunmen killed at least seven passengers of a bus on Wednesday after checking their identity cards in Pakistan's troubled Balochistan province, officials said. The gunmen targeted the passenger bus in the Barkhan area of the province when it was moving from the provincial capital, Quetta, to Punjab province. Police said that the assailants stopped the bus on a national highway by setting up a blockade. The attackers boarded the bus, checked the passengers' identity cards, and forcibly took seven individuals to a nearby mountain. Shortly after, gunshots were heard. Barkhan Deputy Commissioner Waqar Khurshid Alam confirmed the incident and the death toll. "All seven who were travelling in the coach belonged to Punjab, and were on their way to Lahore," he said.

The bodies have been transported to a nearby hospital in Rakni, according to the Levies force. Quoting one passenger, Geo News reported that the assailants took his brother away after checking his identity card. The gunmen numbered between 10 and 12, he said, adding that all were armed with Kalashnikovs. Security forces rushed to the area and launched a manhunt to arrest the killers. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but ethnic Baloch terrorist groups regularly attack the people from neighbouring Punjab. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the brutal killings and vowed that the culprits would be brought to justice. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in separate messages condemned the terrorist attack. "The killing of innocent peo-

ple is a coward and heinous act. The terrorists are the enemies of peace and humanity. They want to mar the peace in Balochistan," the president said. Shehbaz said: "The sacrifices of innocent citizens will not go in vain. The government and security forces are actively working to eliminate terrorism from the country completely."

PUBLIC NOTICE
We SH ANIL KUMAR S/O MAKHAN LAL & SHARDA AGGARWAL W/O ANIL KUMAR R/o H.No. 1770, Nai Basti Rewari Haryana declare that we disown our son BRJESH and his wife ISHITA from all our movable or immovable properties due to their misbehaviour, in future anybody deals with them so at his own responsibility we will not be responsible for any act done by them.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Sunil Saxena S/o Late Prem Prakash Saxena Flat No.-42-D, J/C LIG Flats, G-8, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110064 have lost my Original Power of Attorney, Receipt of Payment made to DDA by me, Affidavit given by me while purchasing this flat, Registration cum Allotment letter issued by DDA, Will and Deed issued by Seller, Possession Slip, Possession Letter, Electricity and Water NOC issued by DDA against LIG Flat No.-42-D, J/C LIG Flats, G-8, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110064 against Title No. F-2/228/83/HB/NP/LIG An NCR to this effect has been lodged in the police station Delhi (LR No.-1162837/2023 Dated : 23.11.2023) Any person claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact me/us at the above address/phone : 999451865 within 15 days from the publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Director (LAB) (IIG) or Director (H-1), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt Roopali, W/o No.15782240A Hav (OPR) Ganapati Chavhan, R/o-Siddewadi, Teh- Athani, Dist-Belagavi, Karnataka- 591232, have changed my name from Smt Roopali to Roopali Chavhan, vide affidavit dated 19/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1541)C I, Indumati, Mother of No.15782240A Hav (OPR) Ganapati Chavhan, R/o-Siddewadi, Teh- Athani, Dist-Belagavi, Karnataka- 591232, have changed my name from Indumati to Indumati Chavhan, vide affidavit dated 19/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1542)C I, No.15782240A Hav (OPR) Ganapati Chavhan, R/o-Siddewadi, Teh- Athani, Dist-Belagavi, Karnataka- 591232, have changed my name from Indumati to Indumati Chavhan, vide affidavit dated 19/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1543)C I, No.15782240A Hav (OPR) Ganapati Chavhan, R/o-Siddewadi, Teh- Athani, Dist-Belagavi, Karnataka- 591232, have changed my name from Indumati to Indumati Chavhan, vide affidavit dated 19/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1544)C I, Mahadev, Father of No.15782240A Hav (OPR) Ganapati Chavhan, R/o-Siddewadi, Teh- Athani, Dist-Belagavi, Karnataka- 591232, have changed my name from Mahadev to Mahadeva Appasab Chavhan, vide affidavit dated 19/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1545)C

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
Ph: 01639-256232-256236
ADVT. No. BFU-25/07
Vacancies
Online applications are invited w.e.f. 21-02-2025 to 27-02-2025 from eligible candidates through University website i.e www.bfuhsc.ac.in for the recruitment to the posts of **AC System Operator-07, Electrician-11** on regular basis under of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. For Application form, fee, specialty wise detail of posts, category wise distribution and other terms & condition, visit University website: www.bfuhsc.ac.in
0012/368/2023/41781 Dated CHD - 2/19/2025

BEFORE MS. GLADYS DANIEL, ADVOCATE SOLE ARBITRATOR
Under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996
Arb. O. P (Comm. Div.) No. 06 of 2023
M/s. Hi Tech Engineering Solution, Claimant
-Vs-
M/s. Digital Smart Solutions, Respondent
To: M/s. Digital Smart Solutions
Head Office: B-16 1st Floor Room No.2, Kiran Garden, Matialal road, Nawada, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi
And also, at B-16, 1st Floor, Kiran Garden, Matialal Road Uttam Nagar Near Nawada Metro Station, Landmark Metro Pillar, No. 722 & Rajput Diary New Delhi 110059
The above case filed against the Respondent came up for hearing before the Learned Sole Arbitrator on 28.01.2025. The Arbitrator was pleased to order the service of the notice through paper publication as substituted service to you, returnable by 26.02.2025. Kindly make yourself convenient to be present before the Learned Sole Arbitrator at 3rd Floor, YMCA Building, 223, NSC Bose Road, Chennai- 600001, on 26.02.2025 at 02.00 p.m. either in person or through your advocate duly instructed, failing which the matter would be heard and decided in your absence.
B.M. Subash
Counsel for the Claimant

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concern that Mr. Mehar Chand S/o Late Sh. Chatar Singh R/o 13/12, Schedule-8, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi who is the original allottee of property No. EWS Flat No. 175F, Block-D-20, Sector-71, Noida (Scheme Code: 1999-2000(H) (01) Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) had said the said property on General Power of Attorney basis to the following person(s).
General Power of Attorney was executed on behalf of Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh. R.P. Sharma R/o M-9, LIC Colony, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110042 which is registered and the Agreement to Sell was not registered. Because the Agreement to Sell is not registered or not Agreement to sell executed, so it is informed to all concern that the said Property No. EWS Flat No. 175F, Block-D-20, Sector-71, Noida (Scheme Code: 1999-2000(H) (01) Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) going to be transferred in favour of Mrs. Suchi Sharma W/o Sh. Raj Bahadur Sharma R/o 7/19, Shiv Shakti Apartment, Sector-71, Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.). If anyone has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Name of the transferee Mrs. Suchi Sharma
R/o D-7/19, Shiv Shakti Apartment, Sector-71, Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.)

FORM NO. 1 (PAPER PUBLICATION) HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW
(Area of jurisdiction and part of Uttar Pradesh), 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007.
DRC No. 1043/2023
(NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ACT, 1993)
ICICI BANK LTD
Versus
Mr. Vinod Kumar & Others.
1) Smt. Surendra W/o Shri. Bani Singh, Resident Of H-1105, Steller Jeevan, Co. Noida Extension, Surajpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.)-201306.
ALSO- Villa No 7 Ground Floor, Mahogun Meadows Block, Yorkshire, Plot No. SC-01/A-03, Sector-150, Tower Lancashire Street Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.)- 201301.
2) Ms/Lg Hejtsches Pvt. Ltd., Reg Office, The Corinthum Tower, Office No. B-44, Plot No. A-41, Sector- 62, Noida (U.P.)- 201309.
1. Whereas a Recovery Certificate, in Original Application No. 223 of 2022 dated 17/01/2023 has been issued for recovery of the sum Rs.3,04,20,943.00 (Rupees Three Crore, Four Lacs Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Three Only) together with pendente lite and future interest @9% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing of the Original Application i.e. 22/02/2022 along with costs jointly and severally till full realization is made from the defendants.
2. You are hereby directed to pay the same within 15 days of the receipt of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with Recovery of the Debts Due To Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993.
3. You are hereby ordered to decline all other proceedings of assets on or before 11/03/2025.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on at 10.30 A.M. 11/03/2025.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay the following costs:
DETAILS OF THE COST:
Amount of Application Fee Rs.1,50,000.00/-
1. Advocate Fee Rs. Not Claimed
2. Publication Charges Rs. Not Claimed
3. Misc. Expenses Rs. Not Claimed
4. Clerage Rs. Not Claimed
Total Rs. 1,50,000.00/-
Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow on this 14th day of February, 2025.
Recovery Officer-I
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
LUCKNOW

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)
// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //
भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी आई.ई. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (स्था - संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स श्री राधे शक्ति स्पेज एण्ड पॉवर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम-चापा एवं कोटा, तहसील-तिरुदा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में प्रस्तावित ग्रीनफील्ड परियोजना के तहत DRI based Steel plant to produce Sponge Iron - 2,45,000 TPA (350 TPD x 2 Nos.), Mild Steel Billets - 2,74,400 TPA, Rolled Steel Products - 2,66,168 TPA (through Hot Charging- 2,01,684 and thru BRF (based on Coal Gasifier) - 64,484 TPA, SAF-9 MVA x 2 No to produce SiMn-34,000 TPA and/or FeMn - 43,000 TPA and/or FeSi - 19,000 TPA and/or Pig Iron - 68,000 TPA), Captive Power of - 25 MW (16 MW through WHRB and 9 MW through FBC) and Fly Ash Bricks - 39,800 TPA के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृत बावत लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 21/02/2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से स्थल- ग्राम चापा, तहसील तिरुदा, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.) स्थित परियोजना स्थल के प्रस्तावित रिक्त भूमि खपरा क्रमांक 429/1 में नियत की गई थी, जिसे कालविय कवरेज एवं जिला वण्डाधिकारी, रायपुर (छ.ग.) के ज्ञापन क्रमांक 120/अ.जि.व./एस.डब्ल्यू/ 2025 रायपुर, दिनांक 18/02/2025 के अनुसार परियोजना प्रस्तावक के आवेदन तथा त्रिस्तरीय पंचायत स्तरीय को दृष्टिगत रखते हुये पूर्व नियत लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 21.02.2025 को स्थगित किया जाता है।
सदस्य सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ESAF
REGD. OFFICE: ESAF Bhavan, Mannuthy, Thrissur- 680 651, Kerala.
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches, are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below:
DATE OF AUCTION: 10-03-2025
AUCTION VENUE: THROUGH E-AUCTION
AUCTION ADDRESS: https://gold.matenex.org/ Contact Number: 9500173386/9962979770
To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site.
BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS
FARIDABAD: 7524000160854
Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction.
Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction.
Thiruv: 20-02-2025
Authorized Signatory

PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amit Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639. Website: www.piramalfinance.com
Branch Address : Dhira Baurg, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agara Road, Hiranagar Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) - 400 602.
DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the "Act") in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed as detailed in the Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date	Property address
(LC No. 1190000230 of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Thath Singh (Borrower)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 2929161 / (R Twenty Nine lakh Twenty Nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty One Only) NPA (05-06-2015)	Flat No : 303,3rd Floor Block -02 Panchsheel Primrose Hapur Road Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201011
(LC No. 1290000395 of Faridabad Branch) Raj Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Sunita Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 1079593 / (R Ten lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Three Only) NPA (31-08-2021)	Plot -77, Block -P, G, E, Sector-8 Era Green World Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121002
(LC No. 1190000924 of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Awesh Dahiya (Borrower) Dajeet Singh (Co Borrower 1) Spiktel Technologies Pvt Ltd (Co Borrower 2)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 65617051 / (R Six Crore Fifty Six lakh Seventeen Thousand Fifty One Only) NPA (10-03-2018)	Flat No.317/ A Seventeenth Floor, Block A Tower No 2 Sector 1, Pockett D Sushant Golf City Lucknow U.P. Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226001
(LC No. 19500041664 of Gurugram - MG Road Branch) Rajeev Bajaj (Borrower) Rashmi Bajaj (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 3504487 / (R Thirty Five lakh Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Seven Only) NPA (04-08-2019)	Flat No S 309 3rd Floor Block Life Suite Gatrash Life Plot 1 F Sec 16 Greater Noida West Greater Noida Gautamabudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201302
(LC No. 20000042267 of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Ajay Kumar Pandey (Borrower) Gunja Pandey (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 2531929 / (R Twenty Five lakh Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Nine Only) NPA (08-01-2025)	Flat No-n-312, Mercury Tower,3rd Floor The Allen Court, Gh/1, Sec-c3 Tronica City, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No. 24900001820 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Sachin Kumar Dubey (Borrower) Baby Lovely (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 2228366 / (R Twenty Two lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Six Only) NPA (08-01-2025)	Plot No.27, upper Ground Floor, Kh.No-63, Akashvni Colony, Village-Sadullabad, Pargana-Loni, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201102
(LC No. 2000ND32720 of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Dinesh Kumar Tiwari (Borrower) Upasana Tiwari (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 902223.51 / (R Ninety lakh Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Three Only and Fifty One Paise) NPA (10-07-2015)	FLAT No 506, B-BLOCK JAIPURIA APARTMENT GHAZIABAD Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No. 1950001739 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Shishupal Singh Rawat (Borrower)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 14761530 / (R One Crore Forty Seven lakh Sixty One Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Nine Only) NPA (10-07-2015)	FLAT No. 603, BLOCK D SECTOR MARVEL, NIHI SCOTTISH GARDEN INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No. 1960EL3076 of Gurugram - MG Road Branch) Kamal Sharma (Borrower) Dajeet Singh (Co Borrower 1) Prem Chand Sharma (Co Borrower 2)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 3081911 / (R Thirty lakh Eighty One Thousand Nine Hundred Eleven Only) NPA (04-12-2019)	H/Flat No.01 0902, FLOOR No. 9TH, PLOT No.109 TOWER C1, COSMOS CITY 3, SECTOR. 103, VILLAG E, GURU ADON GURGAON Gurgaon Haryana - 122103
(LC No. HLSA0000442 of Gurgaon Branch) Chamam Lal (Borrower) Seema Rani (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 1312638.98 / (R Thirteen lakh Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Eight Only and Ninety Eight Paise) NPA (03-01-2025)	Property Bearing No.B-38, Third Floor With Roof Right, B-Block, Out of Kharsa No.67/12, Situated At Revenue Estate of Village Hastal Vihar, Abadi Colony Known As B-Block, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi - 110059
(LC No. HLSA0000442TU of Gurgaon Branch) Chamam Lal (Borrower) Seema Rani (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 425558 / (R Four lakh Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight Only) NPA (03-01-2025)	Property Bearing No.B-38, Third Floor With Roof Right, B-Block, Out of Kharsa No.67/12, Situated At Revenue Estate of Village Hastal Vihar, Abadi Colony Known As B-Block, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi - 110059
(LC No. BLSA0002640 of Delhi Branch) Jitendra Pathak (Borrower) RAJAVATI. (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 984621 / (R Nine lakh Eighty Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty One Only) NPA (03-01-2025)	Kharsa No. 664 Mohalla Pinahat Dehat, Pargana Bah, Near Sarvodaya Inter College Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India 283123
(LC No. 2820000391 of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Deepak Kumar (Borrower) Shilpi (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 1430572.72 / (R Fourteen lakh Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Two Only and Seventy Two Paise) NPA (08-01-2025)	Plot No-9/123-second Floor/vih-chand -rawali, Abadi Old Tejab Mili, Bhoala Nath Nagar, Illaga Shashdara, Delhi Nr-vishno Devi Mandir New Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 26600001606 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Kapish Infolinks Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Manju Gupta (Co Borrower 1) Beena Gupta (Co Borrower 2) Vineet Gupta (Co Borrower 4)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 1312638.98 / (R Four Crore Seventeen lakh Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Eight Only) NPA (08-01-2025)	Property Nr-rf-659/6, Kharsa No-608 Gali No-24 Village Nasipur, Sad Nagar-I, Palam Colony New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045
(LC No. 25500002174 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Dinesh Kumar (Borrower) Manju Gupta (Co Borrower 1) Dajeet Singh (Co Borrower 1) Spiktel Technologies Pvt Ltd (Co Borrower 2)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 53016367 / (R Five Crore Thirty Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Five Only) NPA (09-07-2021)	Plot No 591 C, Entire Property Block B-1 Janak Puri Delhi New Delhi - 110058
(LC No. 2540000693 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Ravi Kumar (Borrower) Krishna Kumar Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2025 / ₹ 6587347.19 / (R Sixty Five lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven Only) NPA (08-01-2025)	Plot No B-177, FF with Roof Rights Block B, Sector-8 Dwarka Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110077

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes the above provisions of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.
Date : 20-02-2025 Place: Delhi
Sd/- (Authorized Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

Google to settle tax probe in Italy

PTI ■ MILAN Italian prosecutors said Wednesday they will seek to drop a tax evasion investigation against Google after the tech giant agreed to pay a 326 million Euro (USD 340 million) settlement. Milan prosecutors had opened an investigation against Google for failure to pay taxes on earnings in Italy from 2015-2019.

The investigation focused on revenues from the sale of advertising, and cited the presence of servers and other infrastructure in Italy. Google acknowledged the settlement in statement, saying it resolves "a tax audit ... without litigation." Tech giant Google previously paid over USD 1 billion to French authorities to settle a yearlong dispute over allegations of tax fraud.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका निगम, (यात्रिक विभाग) भोपाल
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
क्रमांक.190/यां.वि./2025 भोपाल, दिनांक 19.02.2025
निम्न कार्य हेतु म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत विवरण Website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर है।

क्रमांक	निविदा क्रमांक	कार्य का संक्षिप्त विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. में)	निविदा क्रय करने का अंतिम समय
1	2025 UAD_403639_1	CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING, BOUNDARY WALL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT WORKS FOR KALKHEDA GOVT SCHOOL WARD 26 ZONE 21	4,23,44,974/-	24-MAR-2025 05:30 PM

नोट:- संशोधन वेबसाइट पर ही देखे जा सकेंगे समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं होंगे।
अधीक्षक यंत्र (सिविल) नगर निगम भोपाल
नि.क्र. 1334/024/025
कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दमोह (म.प्र.)
क्रं./लो.नि.शा./न.चा./2025/7030 दमोह दिनांक 18.02.2025
:- निविदा सूचना :-
निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	टेण्डर नं.	कार्य का नाम एवं विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	अमानत राशि	समवाधि 06 माह	निविदा की अंतिम तिथि
1	2025 UAD_403679_1	CM URBAN AREA INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION WORK GROUP-5	100.75 लाख	12500	50400	06 माह	24.03.2025
2	2025 UAD_403681_1	ROAD AND DRAIN WORK UNDER KAYAKALP 2.0 CM MONIT SCHEME.	151.76 लाख	12500	75900	12 माह	24.03.2025

नोट :- 1. इच्छुक निविदादाता विस्तृत निविदा एवं अन्य समस्त जानकारी ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर Key-Date अनुसार देखी जाकर निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। 2. निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन होता है तो केवल ऑनलाईन प्रकाशित किया जावेगा समाचार पत्र में नहीं। 3. समस्त करों की कटौतियों शासन निमानानुसार की जायेगी।
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी नगर पालिका परिषद दमोह PD(1545)C

Mysuru layoffs: Infosys denies force, intimidation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT services company Infosys on Wednesday said it did not use force or intimidation tactics when it laid off trainees at Mysuru campus over performance-related issues, and that it was explaining the circumstances to the labour department authorities. Shaji Mathew, Chief Human Resources Officer at Infosys, however, conceded that assessment failure percentages this time around have been "slightly higher" than in the past but dismissed charges that the tests had been designed for failure. On whether the layoffs would severely dent Infosys' brand as the company goes out to campuses for FY26 hiring, he said that plans to hire 20,000 freshers for next fiscal are on track and they should have nothing to worry about as they will get one of the best corporate training. Responding to allegations that testing parameters, assessment criteria and syllabus were altered and intimidation tactics

were resorted leading to the 300 plus terminations at Mysuru campus recently, Mathew said that given that the company invests money and effort to select and put trainees through the training program "it is in the interest of Infosys to see that all these people are successful, and that is when we are able to put them into our projects". "There is training investment that goes in and we also pay them salary during the training. It is not in the interest of the company to let any of these people go...It is a loss to them of course, it is a loss to us as well," he said adding that the particular batch of trainees had not cleared internal assessments after three attempts. On the Labour Ministry's direction to Karnataka state labour department to take action, and reports that the Labour Department officials had followed up with visits to Infosys campuses in Bengaluru and Mysuru, Mathew said the Labour Department is in touch with the company and Infosys

is cooperating with the authorities. "Yes, the Labour Department has been in touch with us, they wanted to understand our training process and the assessment etc and we have taken (them) through the entire training process, the assessment, and how this is a critical part of developing the future talent, not just for Infosys, but even for the entire IT industry. "They have been quite supportive, and I think they understand the entire process that we have been going through in terms of training and assessment, all of that. So we have cooperated with them so far. And there has been no further ask from their side," Mathew said. Asked if Infosys will consider taking the trainees back and reinstating them, he added "There has been no further ask in terms of taking them back". Earlier this month, India's second largest IT services company faced a backlash after it laid off over 300 freshers who underwent foundational

training at its Mysuru campus but could not clear internal assessments. The trainees after a two-year wait had been onboarded just a few months ago in October 2024. IT employee union NITES had sought urgent intervention of Ministry of Labour and Employment urging authorities to take strict action against the company. Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) had, in fact, alleged that employees were summoned to meeting rooms at Infosys' Mysuru campus, and asked to sign "mutual separation" letters. Mathew countered allegations claiming that at no point were 'bouncers' brought in, nor were intimidation tactics used. This is not what Infosys stands for, he emphasised. "I can't even imagine us thinking about 'bouncers' and so on so forth. These are our trainees, and we don't need to bring in bouncers. So that is absolutely not correct. There was also concern that we did

not allow people to stay on the campus. Again, there are people who wanted to stay on the campus, and we allowed them to stay on the campus," he said. Infosys has now postponed, by a week, internal assessments scheduled for another set of trainees, reportedly 800 of them are slated to take their tests. The company has, however, asserted that the deferment is aimed at giving them additional time for preparation. "It is in our interest to see how we can help these set of trainees to get through the training program, and that they come out successful at the end of the training so we can continue with them as employees in the company. We have seen the failure rate, and therefore we wanted to give them an additional opportunity and time to prepare," he said. The additional time will help them in the doubt-clearing, and subject matter experts will be made available so they can actually work with trainees to prepare them well.

US tariffs on India to have limited impact

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will be less impacted by the proposed United States (US) reciprocal tariff as the country's economy is mainly driven by domestic demand, and has substantial services exports, which is not going to be targeted by the Trump Administration, S and P Global Ratings said on Wednesday. US President Donald Trump has announced he will impose reciprocal tariffs on its trading partners, including India. S&P Global Ratings, Economist Asia-Pacific, Vishrut Rana said the reciprocal tariff will hurt countries like Vietnam, South Korea, Taiwan more as they have high trade surplus with the US. The Indian economy has two mitigating factors - greater reliance on domestic economy and larger services trade with

the US, which is not likely to be tarified. In Japan also, there are similar mitigating factors - greater reliance on services trade, and domestically-driven economy. "Which means (US) trade measures might be less impactful there (India and Japan)," Rana said at the S&P Asia-Pacific Credit Focus webinar. He also said that reciprocal tariffs may fuel inflationary expectations, thus leading to higher interest rates globally. S and P Global Ratings, Director, Sovereigns (Asia-Pacific) YeeFarn Phua also said India's economy is largely still domestic-oriented and the nature of the exports to the US is more on the services side, which is less prone to tariffs. "India's dependence on exports for growth is not that great. So, therefore, I think the impact (of US tariffs) will be more or less limited," he said, adding on the goods side the

sectors which could be exposed to higher tariffs are jewellery, pharmaceutical, textiles and chemicals. Phua said the US may not impose higher tariffs on pharmaceuticals, which are basically generic drugs, from India as it would drive up healthcare costs in its own country. However, textiles and to some extent chemicals are most at risk of higher tariffs. "If we were to reimagine that scenario for the first Trump administration to unfold again, I think overall, the impact on India should be quite minimal," Phua added. Earlier in 2018 under the Presidency of Donald Trump, Washington had imposed an additional 25 per cent import duty on steel products and 10 per cent on certain aluminium products. In retaliation, India in June 2019, imposed additional customs duties on 28 American products.

Efforts to serve complaint on Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani ongoing: SEC

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The United States (US) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has told a federal judge here that its efforts to serve its complaint on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani in the alleged bribery scheme are "ongoing", including through a request for assistance to the Indian authorities. The SEC submitted a status update Tuesday to Judge Nicholas Garaufis at the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York regarding its efforts to serve its complaint on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani. The SEC said that both Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani "are located in India, and the SEC's efforts to serve them there are ongoing, including through a request for assistance to the Indian authorities to effect service under the Hague Service Convention for Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters." The SEC said that its complaint dated November 20 last year

alleges that Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani violated the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws by "knowingly or recklessly making false and misleading representations concerning Adani Green Energy Ltd in connection with a September 2021 debt offering by Adani Green. It said that because the "defendants are located in a foreign country, Rule 4(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (FRCP) governs service of the Summons and Complaint. FRCP 4(f) contains no set time limit for service, and the SEC may serve Defendants 'by any internationally agreed means of service that is reasonably calculated to give notice', such as the Hague Service Convention." The SEC update, submitted by its Counsel Christopher Colorado, cited a case which notes that service via the Hague Service Convention is one permissible means of serving defendants located in India. "Since the filing of its Complaint, SEC staff has been

working to serve Defendants in accordance with FRCP 4(f). SEC staff has contacted Defendants or their counsel (to the extent SEC staff is aware of such counsel) and has sent them Notices of Lawsuit and Requests for Waiver of Service of Summons, including copies of the Complaint. "Additionally, under Article 5(a) of the Hague Service Convention, the SEC has requested assistance from India's Ministry of Law and Justice, the Central Authority for India under the Hague Service Convention." "That process is ongoing, and the SEC will continue its efforts to serve Defendants in India by the methods prescribed by FRCP 4(f)-including under the Hague Service Convention-and will keep the Court apprised of its progress," the SEC said. In November last year, the Securities and Exchange Commission had charged Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and Cyril Cabanes, an executive of Azure Power Global Ltd., for conduct arising out of a massive bribery scheme.

Australia's Federation University acquires Employability.life

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Federation University Australia on Wednesday announced its expansion in India with the strategic acquisition of Employability.life, reaching 10 Million students in higher education to make them work-ready. Federation University, which dates back to 1870 when the School of Mines in Ballarat was established, has evolved into Victoria's leading regional university, and established local and global partnerships, and produced over 123,000 graduates. The university is ranked number 175 in the Times Higher Education World's Young Universities. It is ranked number one in Victoria and number two in Australia for full-time postgraduate employment. New Delhi headquartered Employability.life, a workplace readiness company, has partnerships with several colleges and universities across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi,

and Punjab. Through this acquisition, Employability.life will be integrated into Federation University's ecosystem, helping to bridge the gap between academic learning and workplace readiness. Commenting on the acquisition, Professor Duncan Bentley, Vice Chancellor, Federation University Australia said, "Federation University Australia is thrilled to announce the acquisition of Employability.life as part of our mission to deliver a world-class education that combines academic excellence with practical, real-world experience. Federation University's mission is to transform lives and enhancing communities, and the acquisition of Employability.life will help us deliver on that commitment on a global scale. It will also expand our presence in India where our expertise in supporting regional communities has helped us forge many valuable partnerships in education and research."

Coal ministry plans to offer extra incentives in mine auctions

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Coal Ministry is planning additional incentives to boost underground (UG) commercial coal block auctions in India, a senior government official said on Wednesday. The push for UG mining aligns with India's drive for sustainable coal production. The proposed incentives are in an advanced stage of discussions and are expected to be announced soon, Coal Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt said at a roadshow for commercial coal mine auctions in the city. Additional Secretary and nominated authority Rupinder Brar clarified that any new incentives and policy relaxations are expected to be applicable prospectively. The coal ministry's policy evolution has involved multiple stakeholders, including industry players. "We have consistently refined the auction framework based

on industry feedback, ensuring an investor-friendly environment," Dutt said. The ministry was discussing demands for reclassification, as underground mining faces inherent challenges. Of the 113 commercial mines successfully auctioned, 37 are underground, officials said. The ministry is also working to secure environmental concessions with the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. The ministry believes the next two-three years are crucial for commercial mines to rapidly begin production. Currently, production from auctioned commercial mines is 20 million tonnes, but combined with captive production, it totals 157 Million Tonnes and is expected to reach 170 Million Tonnes by the end of the fiscal year, an official said. In 2025-26, this production is projected to rise to 210 Million Tonnes.

MREI facilitates cultural exchange for UK students

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Manav Rachna Educational Institutions (MREI) facilitated an enriching sport, cultural and academic exchange for over 50 students and faculty members from Havant and South Downs College (HSDC) and Park Community School (PCS) under the UK Government's Turing Scheme, a prestigious international mobility grants programme initiated by the UK government. The exchange featured a thoughtfully designed academic schedule incorporating interactive sessions, hands-on projects, and industry-relevant learning experiences. Participants engaged in discussions with subject matter experts, attended specialised workshops, and explored innovative solutions in these fields, ensuring a well-rounded and immersive educational experience. The program focused on providing domain-specific insights into sports, sustainability, environmental science, and culinary arts and a deeper appreciation of diverse cultural perspectives. "Such initiatives play a vital role in expanding students' academic horizons and preparing them for a globally connected world. Through this journey, we hope to broaden their perspectives, enhance their skills, and build lasting friendships," said Dr. Amit Bhalla, Vice President, MREI. "At Manav Rachna, we are committed to creating transformative learning experiences that empower students with knowledge beyond textbooks," he added. Julio Carrillo, Turing Coordinator and Team Leader, HSDC said, "I am delighted to be a part of this enriching exchange program between MREI and our institution in the UK. The opportunity for our students and faculty to engage with the vibrant academic and cultural landscape of India is truly invaluable."

India-Qatar trade agreement must be approached with caution: GTRI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India should tread cautiously on a potential free trade agreement (FTA) with Qatar, particularly in the petrochemical sector as both countries are strong in this segment, economic think tank GTRI said on Wednesday. The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) added that India should ensure that tariff concessions on petrochemicals and energy-related imports do not undermine domestic industries. According to a joint statement issued after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of entering into a bilateral comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with an aim to double bilateral trade to \$28 Billion by 2030. Normally in a CEPA, a kind of free trade agreement (FTA), two trading partners either eliminate or significantly reduce customs duties on the maximum number of goods (90-95 per cent) traded between them. Besides, they ease norms to promote trade in services and boost investments. Given the trade structure between the two nations, a trade agreement "must be approached with caution," the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said. India has a well-developed domestic petrochemical industry that could face challenges if tariff reductions lead to an influx of cheaper Qatari imports, he said, adding that India already has a significant trade deficit with Qatar, which could widen further post-trade pact if market access benefits are

not balanced. "A careful evaluation of sectoral impacts, particularly in energy and manufacturing, will be essential before proceeding with such an agreement," he said. India's trade with Qatar is marked by a significant imbalance. In 2023-24, the country's imports from Qatar stood at \$12.34 Billion, while its exports were only \$1.7 Billion. A large portion (85 per cent) of India's imports from Qatar comprises LNG (\$6.3 Billion), butane, propane mostly for LPG production (\$3.1 Billion), and petroleum crude (\$1.1 Billion). Meanwhile, India's primary exports to Qatar include Basmati rice (\$124 Million), articles of iron and steel (\$200 Million), and machinery (\$106 Million). According to the GTRI, as of 2024, Qatar has a gross domestic product (GDP) of \$221.4 Billion, and a population of about 3.1 Million. India has a GDP of \$4 Trillion and a population of 1400 Million. The bilateral trade has declined to \$14 Billion in 2023-24 from \$18.77 Billion in 2022-23. India received \$1.5 Billion of foreign direct investments from that country between April 2000 and September 2024. Qatar's key exports to India include LNG, LPG, chemicals and petrochemicals, plastics, and aluminium articles, while India's key exports include cereals, copper articles, iron and steel articles, vegetables, fruits, spices, processed food products, electrical and other machinery, plastic products, construction material, textiles and garments, chemicals, precious stones and rubber.

Markets end marginally lower in volatile trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower in a volatile trade on Wednesday dragged by blue-chip IT stocks. The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex dipped 28.21 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 75,939.18. Intraday, it hit a high of 76,338.58 and a low of 75,581.38, gyrating 757.2 points. The NSE Nifty skidded 12.40 points or 0.05 per cent to 22,932.90. From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys fell over 2 per cent each. Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Tech Mahindra were also among the laggards. Among the gainers, Zomato jumped nearly 5 per cent. Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank

and Kotak Mahindra Bank were also among the gainers. "The national benchmarks exhibited a range-bound performance with a slight downward bias, though selective buying in the broader market was evident, driven by bargain hunting in beaten-down stocks. "A reversal in FII flows also influenced market dynamics; however, the durability of this trend remains uncertain. Despite concerns over potential US tariff impositions and delays in anticipated interest rate cuts, market sentiment remains optimistic about a rebound in India's Q3 GDP growth," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. In Asian markets, Seoul and Shanghai settled in the positive territory while Tokyo and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading mostly lower.

US markets ended in positive territory on Tuesday. "While markets ended flat with a slightly negative bias due to selling in IT stocks, broader markets witnessed a lot of optimism as mid and smallcap stocks rallied after the recent sell-off. "Despite the uncertainty over rising FII selling, falling rupee, and the ongoing tariff war, the recently beaten sectoral stocks from banking, automobile, telecom, metals attracted significant buying interest," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Tuesday after unabated selling. They bought equities worth ₹4,786.56 Crore, according to exchange data. The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 2.41 per cent and midcap index climbed 1.30 per cent.

Ola Electric renegotiates registration agency contracts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ola Electric on Wednesday said it is renegotiating contracts with its vehicle registration agencies, which will temporarily affect registrations on government's VAHAN portal but not the actual sales, while adding that consumer rights protection authority CCPA has sought additional documents related to over 10,000 consumer complaints against the company. In a stock exchange filing, Ola said it is discussing revising existing agreements with Rosmerta Digital Services Private Ltd and Shimmit India Private Ltd as part of a sales overhaul. This will "temporarily affect" registration numbers reflecting on the VAHAN portal in February. "We are renegotiating the terms of agreement with our agencies,

namely Rosmerta Digital Services Private Ltd and Shimmit India Private Ltd, to reduce cost and enhance registration process efficiencies. Due to ongoing negotiations and optimisation of the registration process, our registration numbers for the month of February 2025 (on VAHAN portal) will be temporarily impacted. Our sales continue to be strong through February 2025 and the dip in registration will be streamlined in the next few weeks," it said. According to the company's exchange filing, the negotiations aim to reduce costs and modify the registration process. Ola Electric works with the registration agencies as it does not operate through automobile dealerships but only through company-owned stores as part of a direct-to-consumer strategy.

How Tesla's investment will strengthen economy



BINOD ANAND ■ NEW DELHI

As India embraces sustainability and innovation, a cooperative economic framework becomes essential to address G-local challenges through responsible Business. This ensures shared growth by fostering collaboration between multinational corporations, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and government bodies.

Establishing a Cooperative Economic Zone (CEZ) for green manufacturing will create an ecosystem where industries like Tesla thrive while benefiting local businesses and workers in India's transition to a net-zero emissions economy. A CEZ dedicated to electric vehicles (EVs) and clean energy will integrate research, development, and production under a single umbrella, facilitating knowledge sharing and resource optimization. With streamlined policies, incentives, and sustainable infrastructure, India can accelerate its ambitions to become a global hub for EV manufacturing, battery technology, and renewable energy solutions. For years, Indian consumers have awaited a future where

advanced technology, affordability, and sustainability coexist. The dream of cleaner air, reduced fuel dependency, and premium EV accessibility seemed distant-untill now. With Tesla coming to India and in future can be explored as investing in India under the 'Make in India' initiative, the nation may undergo a transformative shift. This is not merely a business expansion; it is a revolution redefining mobility, generating employment, and positioning India as a global leader in EV manufacturing. A major advantage for Indian buyers will be cost-effective Tesla vehicles. High import duties have kept EV prices elevated, making them inaccessible to many. Local manufacturing eliminates these costs, allowing Tesla to offer

premium EVs at competitive prices, promoting mass adoption. Additionally, Tesla's advancements in battery technology will reduce operational costs for consumers. The expansion of Tesla's energy storage solutions in India could also lead to more affordable home and business energy solutions, reducing reliance on conventional power sources and promoting sustainability. Eastern India presents a unique opportunity for Tesla to establish a world-class manufacturing hub like those in Germany. With Elon Musk's capability to invest through a cooperative economic framework, this region, rich in natural resources and labor availability, can provide Tesla with economies of scale.

IN BRIEF

RECPDCL HANDOVERS TWO NUMBER OF SPVS OF TRANSMISSION PROJECTS TO PGCIL



NEW DELHI: REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) handed over two number of project specific Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) of ISTS Transmission Projects to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

CLW TURNED OUT 581 ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES OF THE FY 2024-25

NEW DELHI : Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) turned out the 581st Electric Locomotive for the financial year 2024-25, surpassing its highest ever production of 580 locomotives achieved in the financial year 2023-24. This is the highest ever production in any financial year.



Feyenoord knocks AC Milan out of Champions League

PTI ■ MILAN
Seldom has a player's sending off had such an influence on a game. AC Milan was left rue Theo Hernandez's second yellow card — for diving — as Feyenoord advanced to the Champions League last 16 at the former European champion's expense with a 1-1 draw in the second leg of their playoff on Tuesday, giving the Dutch team a 2-1 win on aggregate.

Hernandez was sent off for a dive in the 51st when Milan was dominating after Giménez's opener had leveled the tie. Feyenoord had won the first leg of the playoff 1-0 last week. But Milan's defense looked anything but assured after referee Szymon Marciniak showed Hernandez another yellow card for his dive. The France defender had earned his first before the break for lashing out at a Feyenoord player after a foul on teammate João Félix. Hugo Bueno crossed for Julián Carranza to head Feyenoord level on the night in the 73rd, enough to put the Dutch team into the next phase. "We're very disappointed. We started well and scored straight away. It seemed like Feyenoord couldn't hurt us," Giménez said of the game's pivotal moment. "Today it happened to Theo but it can



happen to anyone, this is soccer. We have the utmost respect for Theo. We will give him all our support." Feyenoord's Givairo Read was shown a red card following another melee after the final whistle. Feyenoord will play either Inter Milan or Arsenal in the round of 16. **Davies to Bayern's rescue** Alphonso Davies scored in the fourth minute of stoppage time for Bayern to reach the last 16 with a 1-1 draw against Celtic. Davies, a substitute, bundled the ball over the line after Leon Goretzka's effort was kept out, saving Bayern the ordeal of extra time after German player Nicolas Kühn had scored against his former club to draw Celtic level on aggregate. Davies' goal gave Bayern a 3-2 win over two legs. Next for the Bavarian powerhouse is either Bundesliga rival Bayer

Leverkusen or Atlético Madrid. **Atalanta's efforts in vain** Club Brugge eliminated Atalanta with a 3-1 win in Bergamo for a 5-2 win on aggregate. The 19-year-old forward Chemsidine Talbi scored twice as the visitors gave Gian Piero Gasperini's team a lesson in efficiency. Atalanta had 29 efforts at goal, compared to seven from the visitors, and tried 89 attacks compared to 16 from Brugge. Halftime substitute Ademola Lookman scored seconds after the restart to unleash hopes of a miracle — Atalanta just needed three more goals to level the tie — but Simon Mignolet saved Lookman's penalty in the 61st as those hopes gradually faded. Benfica reached the last 16 with a 3-3 draw against Monaco in Lisbon, giving the Portuguese team a 4-3 win on aggregate.

Indian women's football team begins Pink Ladies Cup campaign

PTI ■ SHARJAH
A new-look Indian senior women's football team will be eager to take on Jordan in the opening match of the Pink Ladies Cup, in its first game under new head coach Crispin Chettri, here on Thursday. The tournament, which is being held during the FIFA International window, also has Russia and Korea Republic as other teams. Notably, the Indian team does not have senior players Ashalata Devi and Bala Devi, while a few young players have been pencilled in. India are ranked 13th in Asia (69th in the world), while Jordan are 14th in the world. The two sides have played three matches against each other, having won one each, and drawing one. Chettri, who was appointed as head coach earlier this month, feels it is imperative for India to win matches in order to progress as a team at the continental level. "Jordan have progressed in a



good way over the last few years, but I think these are matches that we have to win if we want to progress," said Chettri. "We have a good mix of young and experienced players, so it will be a competitive game," said the 50-year-old who has played for the Indian youth team. The Blue Tigresses had a 10-day camp in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, before travelling to Sharjah, where they will have two training sessions, before their first match. Chettri brushed aside talks of

Gujarat's Priyank plays solid knock against Kerala Ranji Trophy semifinal

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD
Gujarat's seasoned batter GPriyank Panchal played a solid knock, remaining unbeaten on 117, as the former champions reached 222 for 1 at stumps on Day 3 of their Ranji Trophy semifinal against Kerala, here on Wednesday. Trailing by just 235 runs with two full days remaining, Gujarat's batting unit showed resilience and intent on a placid Motera surface, where it seemed Kerala found themselves 100 runs short, having scored at snail's pace. Resuming their first innings at 418/7, Kerala added 39 more runs before being bowled out for 457 just 10 overs into the morning session. Mohammed Azharuddeen remained stranded on a magnificent 177 off 341 balls, his career-best knock featuring 20 fours and a solitary six. His innings provided the backbone to Kerala's total as wickets tumbled around him. Gujarat skipper Chintan Gaja provided the first breakthrough of the day, dismissing Aditya Sarwate with a delivery that



straightened from middle stump to clip the off-stump. Sarwate managed just one run before becoming Gaja's 200th first-class victim in his 59th match. Sensing the urgency to add quick runs, Azharuddeen took Kerala past 450 with a boundary off Arzan Nagwaswalla. However, with wickets falling at the other end, the Kerala wicketkeeper-batter was left stranded as Nidheesh MD (run out) and Nedumankuzhy Basil (bowled by Gaja) perished in quick succession. In response, Gujarat began their innings with a positive intent as openers Panchal and Aarya

Desai put together a solid 131-run stand in 36.4 overs. Desai, aggressive yet composed, scored 73 off 118 balls, striking 11 boundaries and one six. He looked assured before losing control and dragged a wide delivery from Basil onto his stumps. Despite that breakthrough, Kerala's bowlers struggled to make further inroads. Panchal, a veteran of the domestic circuit, anchored the innings with a mix of caution and aggression. Panchal reached his 29th first-class century — his second of the season — off just 155 balls, bringing up the milestone in style with a six over long-on against Sarwate. The 34-year-old, once on the fringes of the Indian team after Gujarat's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph in 2016-17, has had an ordinary season with only one century (against Rajasthan) and a half-century (against Vidarbha) prior to this match. However, he delivered when his team needed him the most. Hingraja provided solid support at the other end with a patient, unbeaten 30 off 108 balls, hitting three boundaries. For Kerala, veteran spinner Jalaj posed some questions and induced a few edges, but the lack of support from the field meant Gujarat kept consolidating. **Brief Scores:** Kerala 457; 187 overs (Mohammed Azharuddeen 177 not out, Sachin Baby 69, Salman Nizar 52; Arzan Nagwaswalla 3/81, Chintan Gaja 2/75). Gujarat 222/1; 71 overs (Priyank Panchal 117 batting, Aarya Desai 73, Manan Hingraja 30 batting; Nedumankuzhy Basil 1/40). Gujarat trail by 235 runs.

Gopi T, Ashwini return to Apollo Tyres New Delhi Marathon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Defending men's and women's champions Gopi Thonakal and Ashwini Madan Jadhav will headline in the 10th edition of Apollo Tyres New Delhi Marathon scheduled to take place here on February 23. Recognised by Athletics Federation of India (AFI) as a national event, the marathon will also see participation from the country's top runners including Anish Thapa, Belliyappa, Man Singh, Akshay Saini and Vikram Bangriya the men's section. The likes of Laxmi KM, Nirmaben Thakor Bharatjee and Disket Dolma will feature in the women's field. The event, which is also recognised by World Athletics, is a qualifying race for International Amateur races. Runners will compete across four categories — full marathon, half marathon, 10k and 5k. Former Indian cricket team captain Ajinkya Rahane and head badminton coach Pullela Gopichand will flag off the marathon. "The Apollo Tyres New Delhi Marathon is not just a race; it's a celebration of human spirit, perseverance, and unity. As the organisers, we are thrilled to see the incredible participation from athletes across the world, and we are proud to continue fostering an inclusive, inspiring event," said Nagaraj Adiga, Race Director and CMD - NEB Sports. "Our goal is to create a platform where every runner, from elite athletes to first-timers, can push their limits and be part of something much larger than themselves," he added. The event is supported by Delhi Metro, offering free rides to and from JLN Stadium for participants with bibs.

Jamshedpur FC look to cut down gap with FC Goa

PTI ■ KOLKATA
Jamshedpur FC will get a chance to cut down the gap with FC Goa for the second spot if they beat bottom-placed Mohammedan Sporting in their Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Thursday. Jamshedpur are third in the table with 34 points from 20 matches. However, they have ended up losing thrice in their previous five encounters. Their away form has been concerning, having faced six defeats on the road, but Mohammedan Sporting have not really optimised their home advantage either. In fact, the Kolkata-based side is presently on a four-game-long losing streak and have garnered just 11 points from their 20 games until now, with both of their wins coming



away from home. In the reverse fixture, the Khalid Jamil-coached Red Miners had clinched a convincing 3-1 win, and they will have to iron out their offensive concerns, having gone scoreless in their previous two outings, to repeat that feat. Mohammedan, on the other hand, will eye their first win in

11 attempts at home -- having drawn thrice and lost seven times in their backyard this season. Jamshedpur are realistically chasing a second-placed finish, but they trail FC Goa (39) by five points. Ending up in the second spot will see them qualify directly for the semifinals and not participate in the one-legged knockout, but they cannot afford to drop any more points hereon for that. Jamshedpur FC have won the only game played between these two teams this season. Jamshedpur head coach Khalid Jamil assured that his team is committed to registering a win from this away game. "It's an away game. We need to get a positive result. Everyone is working hard and the team needs to continue doing that moving forward," he said. Mohammedan SC's Indian assistant coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo praised Jamshedpur FC and the season they had had so far. "We know Jamshedpur FC have performed well this season. It's not going to be an easy game for us, but we are going to try our best to put our best foot forward," he said.

Fonseca loses in first round in Rio Open

PTI ■ RIO DE JANEIRO
Teenage tennis sensation João Fonseca frustrated his home fans at the Rio Open in a first-round loss, two days after winning his first ATP title. Fonseca lost 6-1, 7-6 (4) to No. 60-ranked Alexandre Muller of France, making 34 unforced errors and appearing to be exhausted during the match. The 18-year-old Brazilian won his career first title at the elite level with victory in the Argentina Open final on Sunday. Muller will meet Argentina's Tomás Martín Etcheverry in the next round. "It was tough to play against such a great player and perhaps 5,000 (fans), but I'm very happy to get the victory today," Muller said. "I was



feeling calm in half of the match. I didn't take my chances to take the break in the second set and then he was playing better and better. I played a great tiebreak to finish." On the weekend, Fonseca became the first man born in 2006 or later to win a top-level ATP singles title, the

10th youngest champion in ATP Tour history and the youngest South American player to win a title in the ATP Tour era (since 1990). Last year, the rising star reached the quarterfinals of the tournament in Rio, an ATP 500, and finished off 2024 by winning the Next Gen ATP Finals in December.

Athletes deserve a future beyond 'saluting bureaucrats', says Gopichand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
India's chief badminton coach Pullela Gopichand on Wednesday called for respect for sportspersons after retirement, saying athletes deserve more than "saluting bureaucrats" after dedicating everything to the country during their playing days. The 51-year-old from Hyderabad also emphasised the need for better post-career opportunities, stressing that financial stability is crucial for athletes to transition into meaningful roles after calling time on their careers. While sport is now seen as a viable career path in India, Gopichand highlighted a pressing issue: What happens to athletes who dedicate their lives to sports but don't reach the top? "Many years ago, this question wouldn't have come up because sport was not big enough. The mass of people

taking up sport as a profession was not significant. But today, we have players who are completely dedicated to sport, who do not pursue education. "My challenge is, how do I put them in meaningful roles that offer respect and financial stability, like every other profession?" Gopichand said. Gopichand said that while elite athletes who achieve national and international glory are well taken care of, the concern lies with those who fall just short. "If you make it to the top, the government takes care of you very well. They give jobs, land, money. Fantastic, no complaints," he acknowledged. "Say, for example, you continue playing the sport and reach age 24 or 25, but haven't made it to the Indian team. You're next to Manu Bhaker, Nikhat Zareen, or Aman Sehrawat — you're



second, third, or fourth in the field. What happens to them? There are many of them. Their life is gone because they have nothing else." Even for those who win Olympic medals, their careers after sport are often frustratingly limited. "You take Sakshi Malik, Aman Sehrawat, or Vijay Kumar. They have won an Olympic medal, the pinnacle of sport, but will go to his office every day and salute a junior-level IRS officer... Why should I still salute you?" Gopichand questioned. The former All England champion said that athletes must be given the opportunity to transition into meaningful roles. "Send us to Mussoorie Institute, teach us administration. Send us to ISB, teach us business. And if we fail, that's different. But you didn't even try. We have given our whole life to sport, to the country, and then we get nothing," Gopichand said.

He also stressed that society must change its perspective on athletes and their post-sport careers. "Sportspersons need respect. We don't want to just salute bureaucrats for 30 years. We have given our all to the sport and the country, and we deserve better opportunities." Gopichand acknowledged cricket is an exception where money flows easily, but for most sports, even making it to the top doesn't guarantee a financially secure life. He pointed to global models where universities integrate sport and education seamlessly. "If you get 25 medals in Stanford, 17 medals in Loughborough, sport is so big in those universities that they are studying and competing. Eighty percent of Fortune 500 companies have professional sportspersons in leadership roles," said the Dronacharya awardee. "Education is important for sport, and sport is important

for education. This doesn't happen by doing it separately." Despite initiatives like Khelo India and private sponsorships, the system remains incomplete, he said. "You're giving them (athletes) a turbo scholarship to swim in the sea. You turbo-charge them for 2 km, then they look back and there's no one, and if they go ahead, there's nothing," Gopichand explained. Highlighting the issue of affordability, Gopichand said: "If you are middle-class and earning, say, two lakhs a month, you would want your child to earn more. But if there's so much uncertainty in sports, why would a parent push their child into it? "If you are very rich, no problem. But for the others, it's an issue." According to Gopichand, middle-class families need to recognize that not every young athlete will become a Sachin Tendulkar or a PV Sindhu.



Murray to continue as Djokovic's coach

PTI ■ DOHA
Andy Murray looks set to remain as Novak Djokovic's coach likely through the French Open. The 24-time Grand Slam champion told the ATP Tour's in-house media channel on Tuesday that Murray has agreed to stay on as coach. Djokovic and Murray joined forces ahead of the Australian Open in what initially was seen as an unlikely pairing.

After Murray retired last year, Djokovic reached out with the coaching proposition. The 37-year-old Serb reached the semifinals at Melbourne Park but retired from the last-four match against Alexander Zverev because of a hamstring injury. "I expressed my desire to continue the collaboration with him, so I am really glad he did accept," said Djokovic, who was facing Matteo Berrettini in the opening round of the Qatar Open later Tuesday.

Shubman Gill becomes No 1 ODI batsman

PTI ■ DUBAI
India vice-captain Shubman Gill on Wednesday dethroned Babar Azam of Pakistan from the Number one spot in the ICC ODI Rankings for batters on the back of his strong show against England in the recent home series. The ICC issued the latest rankings just ahead of the start of the eight-team Champions Trophy (CT) in Karachi with the match between Pakistan and New Zealand. "India right-hander Shubman Gill overtakes former Pakistan captain Babar Azam to become the top ranked ODI batter in the world," the ICC said. Gill, who scored two fifties and a century in the recent three-match ODI series against England at home which India won 3-0, jumped one place to the No. 1 spot. He now has 796 rating points compared to Babar's 773. India skipper Rohit Sharma is placed at the third spot with 761 points followed by South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen and New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell at fourth and fifth respectively. "It's a major shake-up at the top of the rankings just prior to the start of the Champions Trophy and leaves an interesting sub-plot to what will transpire over the coming



weeks during the eight-team tournament in Pakistan and Dubai," the ICC said. "This is the second time Gill has held the No.1 ranking in ODI cricket, with the India batter having also gone past Babar to claim top spot midway through the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023. "Gill has been in excellent form of late, with his century against England in Ahmedabad during the third ODI of the recently concluded series enough to catapult the 25-year-old to the top of the rankings," the global governing body added. Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana, meanwhile, has taken the first position in the ODI rankings for bowlers as he replaced Afghanistan

captain Rashid Khan. "While Sri Lanka won't be featuring at the Champions Trophy, Theekshana earned the top spot following his exploits against the Aussies that included an excellent four-wicket haul in the opening match of that series in Colombo," the ICC said. Sri Lanka had recently handed a 2-0 whitewash to Australia with Theekshana taking four wickets. The Sri Lankan spinner has 680 rating points, followed by Rashid at second, Namibia's Bernard Scholtz at third, India's Kuldeep Yadav at fourth and Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi at fifth. "Meanwhile, Afghan spin wizard Rashid drops to second and will be keen to regain the No.1 spot as he trails his Sri Lankan counterpart by just 11 rating points," the ICC said. "While a trio of spinners in India's squad Kuldeep Yadav (up one place to fourth), South Africa's Keshav Maharaj (re-enters the rankings in sixth) and New Zealand's Mitchell Santner (up four rungs to seventh) are all inside the top 10 after making ground this week." Afghanistan veteran Mohammad Nabi remains the top ranked all-rounder in ODIs, followed by Sikandar Raza, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Rashid.



Ex-Mumbai captain, selector Milind Rege passes away at 76

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Former Mumbai captain and selector Milind Rege, a highly respected figure in domestic cricket, died after suffering a heart attack on Wednesday, just days after turning 76. Rege, who turned 76 last Sunday, was admitted in the intensive care unit of the Breach Candy Hospital here and passed away around 6am on Wednesday morning. He survived by his wife and two sons. The all-rounder had suffered a heart attack at the age of 26 but returned to the cricket field and even captained Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy. He played 52 First-Class matches between 1966-67 and 1977-78, taking 126 wickets with his right-arm off-break bowling. He also contributed with the bat, scoring 1,532 runs at an average of 23.56. Legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar recalled Rege's contribution in the early days of his career. "Sad to hear about Milind Rege Sir's passing. He was a true Mumbai cricketer with immense contributions to the city's cricket. He and other CCI members saw potential in me and asked me to play for CCI, which, as I look back now, was a landmark moment in my career," Tendulkar wrote on 'X' in a tribute. "He could pick out a talented player from a sea of hardworking hopefuls. He had a special sixth sense to pick talent at all levels, but especially at junior levels. "He leaves behind a void, one that's tough to fill. He may not be around, but his imprint on people's lives will always live on. He made a difference to so many lives and definitely made a difference to mine. Thank you, Sir, for everything. Heartfelt condolences to his friends and family," Tendulkar added. The Indian cricket board also conveyed its condolence message. "The BCCI mourns the passing of Milind Rege, former Mumbai captain and selector. A pillar of Mumbai cricket, he played a key role in its growth and legacy. His keen eye for talent and contributions as a commentator earned admiration across the cricketing fraternity," it said. "The Board extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the @MumbaiCricAssoc," the BCCI added. Former India all-rounder and coach Ravi Shastri described Rege as a "true champion." "Really sad to hear about the demise of a dear friend Milind Rege. A true Champion in his contribution to Mumbai and Tata's cricket all-round. A Mentor Par Excellence. Heartfelt condolences to Raj and family. God bless his soul," he said. A childhood friend of former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, Rege attended the same school and college as Gavaskar and played alongside him at the Dadar Union Sporting Club. As one of the most revered figures in Mumbai as well as domestic cricket, Rege held several roles through his career and was also associated with the Mumbai Cricket Association as a cricket advisor.



Raducanu loses to Muchova in Dubai Championships

PTI ■ DUBAI
Emma Raducanu lost to Karolina Muchova after an emotional first set in which a spectator was ejected at the Dubai Championships. The 2021 US Open champion appeared to be in tears as she went to the umpire's chair after the second game Tuesday and her second-round match was briefly paused on Court 2. After speaking to the umpire, who immediately called tournament organizers, Raducanu stood in a small space between the official's chair and court-side screening before Muchova moved over to console her. Raducanu then picked up a towel, wiped her face, nodded and continued the match. The British player rallied from 4-0 down to force a tiebreaker but eventually lost 7-6 (6), 6-4 to Muchova. Organizers of the women's tour issued a statement later saying Raducanu was approached in a public space Monday "by a man who exhibited fixated behavior" and "this same individual was identified in the first few rows during Emma's match on Tuesday... And subsequently ejected." "He will be banned from all WTA events pending a threat assessment. The WTA said it was working with Raducanu and her team "to ensure her well-being and provide any necessary support." A man who stalked Raducanu while she was still a teenager was sentenced to an 18-month community service order and given a five-year restraining order after appearing in a British court in 2022. Amrit Magar, a former delivery driver from London, went to Raducanu's home on three separate dates, loitered outside, left unwanted gifts and cards, and stole property. Raducanu rose to fame in 2021 by winning the US Open as a qualifier, one of the most unlikely achievements in tennis. She hasn't been past the third round at a major since then and has spent long stints recovering from injuries. The 14th-seeded Muchova advanced to a meeting against No. 53-ranked McCartney Kessler, who upset 2023 U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff 6-4, 7-5. Third-ranked Gauff hadn't fallen to an opponent ranked outside the top 50 since a loss to Sofia Kenin (128th) at Wimbledon in 2023. Earlier, second-seeded Iga Swiatek beat Victoria Azarenka 6-0, 6-2 and will next face Dayana Yastremska for a spot into the quarterfinals. Top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka eliminated Veronika Kudermetova 6-3, 6-4, and defending champion Jasmine Paolini defeated Eva Lys 6-2, 7-5.

Ranji Trophy semifinal: Vidarbha lead by 260 runs against Mumbai

PTI ■ NAGPUR
Yash Rathod and Akshay Wadkar shared an unbroken 91-run partnership as Vidarbha recovered from a mini collapse to lead by 260 runs against Mumbai at stumps on day three of their Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Wednesday. After Vidarbha dismissed Mumbai for 270 to take a first-innings lead of 113 runs, the hosts found themselves in trouble after being reduced to 56 for four, thanks to Shams Mulani's (2/50) two-wicket burst. However, Rathod (59) and Wadkar (31) steadied the ship, guiding Vidarbha to 147 for four in 53 overs. At stumps, the duo, who train at the same academy in Nagpur, remained at the crease, but with Mulani and the spinners making the ball talk, Vidarbha are aware that the job is far from over, with two full days of play remaining. With a 113-run first innings lead in hand, the hosts had a solid foundation, but Mumbai all-rounder Shardul Thakur (1/14) gave them a glimmer of hope with an early breakthrough in the second over. Thakur, who is set to join Essex for the County Championship, removed Atharva Taide for a duck, trapping him in front with an inswinger. Danish Malewar (29), who scored a vital 79 in the first innings, looked in good touch, hitting five boundaries before Mulani dismissed him off his own bowling with a sharp caught-and-bowl effort, leaving Vidarbha at 40 for two. Karun Nair (6), in scintillating form, joined opener Dhruv Shorey (13) at the crease, but Tanush Kotian (1/33) made an impact, dismissing Shorey LBW after he missed a classic off-break delivery. Much was expected of Nair, but he too fell, sent back by Mulani, as Vidarbha slumped to 56 for four. Nair was rapped on the pads while trying to defend and although he challenged the on-field umpire's decision, he lost the appeal. Wadkar and Rathod then regrouped, building a steady partnership to bring Vidarbha back on track. Earlier, Akash Anand completed his second first-class century and shared a 69-run stand with Tanush Kotian (33) to lead Mumbai's recovery after they ended the second day at 188 for seven. Anand, who resumed his innings on 67, played a gritty knock, facing 256 balls and hitting 11 fours. His partnership with Kotian took Mumbai close to the 250-mark before left-arm spinner Parth Rekha broke the stand, removing Kotian with a delivery that drifted in from around the stumps to bowl him out.



Always liked Champions Trophy as tournament: Virat

PTI ■ DUBAI
Indian superstar Virat Kohli has always liked the format of Champions Trophy (CT) as it demands the eight participating teams to be at their best from the get go. The Champions Trophy is taking place for the first time since 2017 when India lost the final to Pakistan. India open their campaign against Bangladesh here on Thursday. "The tournament is happening after a long time. I have always liked this tournament. It represents consistency as you have to be in the top 8 of the rankings (to qualify). The level of competition is always good," Kohli told Star Sports. Kohli, who has played three editions of the 50-over event in 2009, 2013 (when India won) and 2017, likened the tournament to the fast-paced T20 World Cup. "In ODI format, it creates the pressure of a T20 World Cup. There also you have three or four games in the league stage. If you don't start well, you are under pressure. The pressure is from the first game itself and that is why I like it, you have to be at your best from game one," said the former India captain. India will play their remaining league games against Pakistan on February 23 and New Zealand on March 2. While the tournament host is Pakistan, India will be playing all the games in Dubai as part of the event's hybrid model. Kohli will be aiming for a bagful of runs in the tournament after a tough Test tour of Australia. He was back amongst the runs in the preceding ODI series against England, scoring a half-century in the final game in Ahmedabad.



Bangladesh can beat any team in Champions Trophy: Shanto

PTI ■ DUBAI
Heading into their Champions Trophy (CT) opener against formidable neighbours India, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto was filled with optimism. He was particularly emboldened by the rise of pace sensation Nahid Rana, who has added a new dimension to their bowling attack. The 22-year-old Rana holds the record for the fastest ball (152kph) bowled by a Bangladesh cricketer, hits 150kph on occasion, and averages 145kph for most of his spells. Besides the presence of Rana and experienced pace colleague like Taskin Ahmed, the team also has few useful all-rounders and spinners, and some good batters. "Obviously, all-rounders always balance the team and we have got some good all-rounders. I hope they will perform tomorrow," Shanto said in the pre-match press conference here on Wednesday. "If you look in this format, our team is quite balanced and we believe we can beat any team in this tournament. All teams are capable of winning this trophy but I am someone who is not thinking about the opponents much. If we execute our plan properly we can beat any team in any day," Shanto said. After years of struggle, Bangladesh are now in a position to boast a good pace-bowling attack, feels Shanto. "Yes, obviously, I think we always struggle with our seam attack, but last couple of years we have got some quality fast bowlers. Now we have got Nahid Rana, Taskin the way they are bowling. I think it helps a lot. "As a captain, we love to see them bowling fast. So, I'm really happy that we have got a good fast bowling unit and under lights the ball might swing. So, if they bowl in the good areas, it will help our team." Rana has done well in his nascent career, having taken 20 wickets in six Tests and four scalps in three ODIs. Bangladesh are in a group in



which the spotlight is on traditional rivals India and Pakistan, and Shanto was asked if this is a favourable position to be in before a big tournament. "Yeah, obviously, I think if you look at all eight teams - they are quality teams. And against India, Pakistan, New Zealand, we have good memories. We won a couple of matches in recent times. "Last year, when we played India in Bangladesh, we have some good memories from then. But that is past, I think if we play well tomorrow and execute our plan, we will have a good match tomorrow," he said. Shanto refused to read much into the absence of India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and

Bangladesh's star all-rounder Shakib al Hasan. The conditions in the UAE are familiar to both the teams but for Bangladesh to have any chance against India, Shanto knows that they will have to have one of the best days in all departments. "We have to play well in all departments - batting, bowling, fielding - because I think the way we played the last few years in this format, I think we have a good side and as you mentioned the conditions are quite similar. I'm really confident that we will prepare ourselves well." When asked about Rana, Shanto said he was looking to leading the pace attack on Thursday and that his emergence has motivated the whole bowling unit. "I think last few matches he bowled really well and bowled fast. And when we see in the ground bowling like this, it helps our whole bowling unit. And it's motivated us. "He needs to be fit and he can continue his bowling form. We

have got another two-three fast bowlers as well," he said. After their opener in Dubai, Bangladesh will be playing their last two group games in Pakistan, and the conditions there are going to be different. "Yes, here I think we need to adjust, because if you look at this wicket, probably it's not that high scoring if you compare to Pakistan. So, we have to adjust.



The 171st meeting of State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), Punjab, was held on Wednesday 19th February, 2025 at Chandigarh under the Chairmanship of Sh. Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Executive Director, Punjab National Bank. The meeting was attended by Sh. Ajoy Sinha, IAS Principal Secretary Finance, Government of Punjab, Sh. Vivek Srivastava, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh, Shri Raghunath B, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Chandigarh and Sh. Sanjeev Kapoor, Dy. Zonal Manager, PNB. Besides all, Heads of all Banks in the State of Punjab, various Heads of Departments and all lead district Managers in the State of Punjab also attended the meeting. Sh. Sanjeev Kapoor, Dy. Zonal Manager Punjab National Bank welcomed the Dignitaries present to review the progress of Banks for the period ended Dec, 2024 besides the policy, financial & other issues related to development of state of Punjab. He informed that CD ratio of the Punjab state is 64.95% which is above the National goal of 60%. The Agenda of the meeting was presented by Sh. R. K. Meena, Deputy General Manager, SLBC Punjab. Dr Ajoy Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary Finance appreciated the role of Banks in effective implementation of the policy decisions for the overall development of the state. He added that there is an ample potential for the growth of MSME & Agriculture in the state and the implementation of national and state policies in right earnest would lead to the growth of this sector. He also added that banks should cover all remaining account holders under social security schemes PMSBY, PMJJBY & Atal Pension Yojana.



Dear All, We are glad to inform you that Harco Bank in collaboration with Red Cross Society is organizing a blood donation camp on 20th February 2025 at SCO 78-80, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh. We request you to participate in this noble cause and contribute towards saving someone's life by donating blood. Blood Donation Camp Timings: 10 AM to 4 PM Venue: SCO 78-80, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh Let us move together towards a better society.

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