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INSIDE

WORLD 8
SOUTH KOREAN ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY, POLICE DEBATE MEASURES TO DETAIN IMPEACHED PRESIDENT

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States dismiss HMPV scare, as cases rise



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst surge in the H1N1 virus in neighbouring China, India on Monday confirmed three cases of pathogen — two in Karnataka and one in Gujarat. However, the Government and health officials have assured that there is no need to panic as it is not a new pathogen, adding that regular flu shots or even the three Covid vaccine doses makes one immune to this infection.

In Bengaluru, a three-month-old baby, who has been discharged, and an eight-month-old, who is recovering at a hospital, were the two cases. A two-month-old was also found infected in Ahmedabad in Gujarat with respiratory symptoms and subsequently tested positive for HMPV. All the cases have been detected in children, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said,

adding that they were identified during routine surveillance for multiple respiratory viral pathogens. They had no international travel history, added the ICMR, ruling out exposure from other regions or countries.

Even as the number of reported cases climbed to three in the country, health experts and government officials have emphasised that there is no need for alarm, as HMPV has been circulating globally and in India for years where most of the population are immune to it. It recently gained attention after its outbreak was reported in China.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Monday said in a video message, that there is no need to panic as health experts have clarified that HMPV is not a new virus and it was first identified in 2001 and has been circulating in the entire world since many years.

Naxals blow up DRG vehicle, eight dead

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RAIPUR

In their biggest strike on security forces in Chhattisgarh in two years, Naxals blew up a vehicle using an improvised explosive device weighing 60 to 70kg, killing eight District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawans and their civilian driver in Bijapur district on Monday. Police suspect the powerful IED was planted long back along the route used by DRG, a state police unit involved in anti-insurgency operations.

The explosive device went off near Ambeli village under the Kutru police station area at around 2.15 pm when DRG

personnel from Dantewada district were returning in their Scorpio vehicle after an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said. Eight DRG jawans travelling in the SUV and the driver of the vehicle were killed on the spot, located around 70km from district headquarters Bijapur, the official added.

DRG draws its personnel mostly from local tribal population and ranks of surrendered Naxalites. Reinforcement was rushed to the spot and the bodies were being evacuated. A search operation was launched in the area by security forces to



Security personnel at the site following the death of eight jawans of District Reserve Guards (DRG) and a civilian driver after Naxals blew up their vehicle with an improvised explosive device, in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district

hunt down those responsible for the killings, the IPS officer informed. The DRG personnel targeted by Left-wing extremists were involved in an anti-Naxalite operation carried out for three days on the borders of

Narayanpur, Dantewada and Bijapur districts in the Bastar region by joint teams of security personnel, the IG said. Five Naxalites were killed in the three-day-long operation and one DRG head constable also lost his life, he said.

After the operation, DRG personnel from Dantewada were returning to their base in the vehicle when the attack occurred, Sundarraj added. "It seems the IED used in the attack weighed 60kg to 70kg. However, forensic experts are at the spot to gather exact details," Deputy Inspector General of Police (south Bastar) Kamlochan Kashyap said.

investigation suggests the IED was old and planted long ago as wires connected to it were buried deep in the ground and grass had grown on the layer of soil over the device, he said.

Kashyap admitted there were lapses which led to the tragic incident, but did not elaborate further. During an inspection of the blast site, around 150-metre-long wire connected to the trigger of the command IED was recovered, officials said. Visuals from the spot, around 400km from state capital Raipur, showed a huge crater, more than 10-feet deep, splitting the concrete road after the blast.

EC tightens scrutiny, as voter registration spikes in Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The announcement of the Mahila Samman Yojana by the ruling AAP doling out Rs 2100 to eligible women citizens has seen a 'sudden' spike in the electoral roll enrolment in the national Capital. The Election Commission (EC) has directed officials to scrutinize and verify each and every application for new voter registration to identify genuine people amid the ongoing war of words between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the manipulation of voters list. The EC said it has received an unprecedented number of 5.1 lakhs form-6 for new enrolment in the last 20 days. The EC mandates strict verification processes including field checks and personal hearings to ensure authenticity. Notably, the gender ratio also increased from 855 per 1000 to 859 to 1000, an increase of 4 percent.

According to a statement from the office of Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), over 5.1 lakh applications for new voter registration were received in the last 20 days, during the revision period from October 29 to November 28, 2024, 1,35,089 new voters were registered,



69,177 names were deleted, and 83,825 corrections were made to the voter list. The number of voters registered in the national capital has 1,55,24,858 as compared to 1,53,57,529 as on October 29, 2024, marking a net increase of 1.09 percent. Of them, 83.49 lakh of them male, 71.73 lakh female and 1261 transgender. The Delhi electoral roll has witnessed a rise of 8,06,739 voters since the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. On January 22, 2024, before the Lok Sabha polls, the total number of voters in Delhi was 1,47,18,119. "Unprecedented rush of form-6 for new voter registration has been noticed since 16th

December, 2024; as over 5.1 lakhs form-6 have been received in Delhi since this date. This is after adding 3.08 Lakhs new voters since draft publication date 29.10.2024. This trend of unprecedented increase of form-6 and that too after 20 days of last date of receiving claims and objections as scheduled in SSR-2025 (28.11.2024), is unexpected and needs greater scrutiny," the Delhi CEO said. The Delhi CEO office said directions have been issued to all electoral registration officers to scrutinize each and every form strictly as per ECI guidelines.

"100% field verification shall be done by EROs and AEROs to identify the genuine eligible persons. EROs are also conducting personal hearing in doubtful cases as per ECI guidelines. Till now, eight FIRs have been filed against 24 people for submission of false/tampered documents for obtaining voter ID. EROs have been directed to take stringent action against the persons, who are submitting false claims and fake documents to get enrolment in the electoral roll," the CEO's office said. The poll officials have denied the claims, saying that all due processes are followed for addition and deletion of voters.



Congress takes on AAP, promises ₹2,500 to women

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Countering the guarantee of Rs 2,100 Cunder 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana' by the AAP, the Congress on Monday announced 'Pyari Didi Yojana' for the women of Delhi, promising an assistance of Rs 2,500 if they win the Delhi assembly elections, with senior party leaders including Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar hitting out at the AAP for not fulfilling their poll promise made to the women in Punjab.

To announce the scheme in the Capital, the party brought in Shivakumar with the senior leaders boasting of the scheme rolled out in Karnataka by the Congress government.

Sensex slumps over 1,250 pts on earnings growth concerns

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty crashed 1.6 per cent on Monday due to an across-the-board selloff, as concerns over third-quarter earnings growth and the continued flight of foreign capital sapped risk appetite.

Besides, traders said that the new HMPV scare, depreciating rupee and weak trend in Asian markets further weighed on sentiment.

Extending loss for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 1,258.12 points or 1.59 per cent to close below the 78,000 level at 77,964.99. During the day, it plunged 1,441.49 points or



1.81 per cent to 77,781.62. As many as 3,474 stocks declined, 656 advanced and 114 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty slumped 388.70 points or 1.62 per cent to 23,616.05.

"Emerging markets are undergoing consolidation due to uncertainties surrounding new US economic policies, the Fed's hawkish stance on future rate cuts, potential upward revision for CY25 inflation, and a strong dollar, all of which are negatively impacting market sentiment. The primary catalyst for a sharp sell-off in the domestic market appears to be concerns over the human metapneumovirus (HMPV). "Additionally, the initial Q3 consensus earnings estimate suggests a potential gradual recovery in domestic corporate earnings, which could explain the domestic market's underperformance compared to global markets led by premium valuation," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.



IMD issues fog alert, cold wave hit Delhi, Gurgaon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Rain lashed several parts of the national capital and Gurgaon adding to the intense chill amid the cold wave conditions in the region. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday issued a yellow alert for fog for the next three consecutive days as the national capital continues to shiver under cold with a minimum temperature of 9.6 degrees Celsius.

The national capital experienced harsh weather and cold wave conditions early Monday morning, with dropping temperatures and biting winds. Moreover, several areas in the city received showers in the early morning hours following western disturbance, the IMD added.

Before the rains, several areas were under the grip of a moderate and shallow fog that reduced the visibility affecting rail, air and road traffic. The fog cover thinned out, improving morning visibility. Najafgarh recorded

WEATHER

| | |
|-----|--------------|
| AQI | 335 |
| MAX | 16.9°C(-2.1) |
| MIN | 9.6°C(+2.7) |

2.5 mm of rainfall, Pitampura 2 mm, Palam 1 mm and Pusa 0.5 mm between 5.30 am and 8.30 am. According to the IMD, the minimum visibility at Palam airport was recorded at 300 meters at 5:30 am. Despite the fog, flight operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport remained normal, with runway visibility between 1,000 and 2,000 meters. Low visibility procedures were in effect, as general visibility was recorded at 600 meters. Satellite imagery revealed fog over northwest and central India, with clouds forming over parts of Haryana, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh, indicating a possibility of rain.

TN Guv sulks, walks out of Assembly without addressing

KUMAR CHELLAPAN ■ CHENNAI



The face-off between the DMK Government and the Governor of the State, worsened on Monday as RN Ravi walked out of the Legislative Assembly without addressing the Budget Session 2025.

The Governor, a widely respected former Indian Police Service Officer, was upset over the non-playing of the national anthem at the beginning of the session. This is the fourth incident of such kind happening in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly since January 2022.

"The Constitution of Bharat and the National Anthem were once again insulted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly today. Respecting the National Anthem is the first Fundamental Duty as

enshrined in our Constitution. It is sung in all the State legislatures at the beginning and end of Governor's address. Today on arrival of the Governor to the House only Tamil Thaa Vaaazhthuwas sung. Governor respectfully reminded the House of its constitutional duty. He fervently appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister who is the Leader of the House and the Hon'ble Speaker for singing the National Anthem. However, they cursedly refused. It is a matter of grave concern. Not to be a party to such brazen disrespect to the Constitution and the National Anthem, Governor in deep anguish left the House," said the Raj Bhavan in its post on X. Members of the Congress (a partner of the DMK-led alliance) staged a walk out in protest against the Governor's action. Sources in Tamil Nadu Congress Committee said that the walk out by party MLAs followed a directive by the High Command in New Delhi.

The refusal of Tamil Nadu Government to play national anthem has become a recurring point of contention between the Raj Bhavan and the government led by the DMK. The Dravidian major has made it known many times in the past that the party was against the post of Governor.

Trudeau resigns, amid rise in economic, political chaos

PTI ■ TORONTO

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau plans to announce his resignation Monday, an official said, in the face of rising discontent over his leadership, and after the abrupt departure of his finance minister signalled growing turmoil within his government.

The official said that Trudeau will stay on as prime minister until a new leader of the Liberal Party is chosen. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak ahead of an official announcement later in the day.

A different official familiar with the matter said Parliament, which had been due to resume Jan 27, will be suspended until March 24. The timing will allow for a Liberal Party leadership race. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak about the matter publicly.

It was not clear when nationwide elections would be held to pick a permanent replacement.

Trudeau came to power in 2015 after 10 years of Conservative Party rule, and had initially been hailed for returning the country to its liberal past. But the 53-year-old scion of one of Canada's most famous prime ministers became deeply unpopular with voters in recent years over a range of issues, including the soaring cost of food and housing, and surging immigration. The political upheaval comes at a



difficult moment for Canada internationally. US President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods if the government does not stem what Trump calls a flow of migrants and drugs in the US - even though far fewer of each crosses into the US from Canada than from Mexico, which Trump has also threatened.

Canada is a major exporter of oil and natural gas to the US, which also relies on its northern neighbour for steel, aluminum and autos. Trudeau has kept publicly mum in recent weeks, despite intensifying pressure for him to step down. "His long silence following this political drama speaks volumes about the weakness of his current position," said Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal.

Police fight over jurisdiction as corpse lay on road for four hours

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

In a grim display of apathy, a 127-year-old accident victim's body lay on the road for over four hours as police from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh argued over jurisdiction. The tragic incident unfolded on the border between the two states, leaving grieving family members and angry locals demanding accountability.

Rahul Ahirwar, a resident of Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh, was en route to Delhi to seek work as a laborer when tragedy struck. Around 7 PM, while crossing the road, he was hit by an unidentified vehicle. Residents rushed to the spot

and informed Harpalpur police in Madhya Pradesh. The officers arrived but refused to take action, claiming the site fell under Mahobkanth police station in Uttar Pradesh's Mahoba district.

"When we called Harpalpur police, they came and said it was not their responsibility. They left, saying the area was under Uttar Pradesh police," said Ramdeen, a relative of the victim. "When we called Mahobkanth police, they also refused to help, saying it was Madhya Pradesh's jurisdiction. Meanwhile, my cousin's body lay on the road, and we were left crying and helpless."

Frustrated by the lack of action, villagers blocked the road in protest, leaving the body at the accident site. Visuals showed Ahirwar's grieving family members sitting by his body, weeping inconsolably. "Rahul had married just three months ago and was heading to Delhi for work. This is not just negligence; it is inhuman," said Ramdeen. As the hours passed and neither police department acted, the situation escalated. "We want the autopsy done quickly so we can perform the last rites. This delay has only added to our pain," another family member said.

Delhi tops English proficiency, India above global average

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Pearson Global English Proficiency Report 2024 released on Monday put the national capital in the top in the list of English speaking, followed by Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana and Karnataka. India ranks above global average in speaking English, according to the report. Delhi led with the highest English speaking score (63) followed by Rajasthan (60), Punjab (58), Haryana (57), Karnataka, (57), Maharashtra (57), West Bengal (57) and Uttar Pradesh (57), Telangana (56) and Tamil Nadu (52).

The report cited that while India's average English skills score (52) is lower than the global average English skills score (57), the country's average English speaking score (57) is higher (54). The report also said India's average English writing score (61) is equivalent to the global average writing score (61).

The report provides invaluable insights into global English proficiency levels and



spotlights regional trends in the Middle East, India, the Philippines, Japan, Egypt, Colombia, and Europe.

According to the report, the Indian market has experienced significant growth in English skills in recent years, which is predicted to continue, with an emphasis on voice-based testing.

"Indian Business leaders know that accurately testing English skills reduces the cost of mis-hires and protects credibility, particularly when hiring at scale. India's average writing score is 61, matching the global average, reflecting

steady improvements driven by increased digital communication and the necessity for written English in global business contexts," it said. In India, the finance and banking sector leads with the highest speaking score of 63, surpassing the global average of 56, it said.

"Conversely, Healthcare has the lowest score (45), influenced by its rapid expansion and the focus on increasing access to jobs... Other sectors like Tech, Consulting and BPO show strong performance, consistently aligning with or exceeding global benchmarks," the report said.

"With the rise in global English language testing over the last eight years and proficiency levels holding strong, it's clear that both employers and employees believe English skills are key to thriving in the global workspace. To drive growth, robust English testing has to remain firmly at the top of the recruitment and L&D agenda," according to the report.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I Virender Kumar s/o Sh. Ram swaroop r/o # 323, Pathana Mohalla, Chhachhrauli, Distt Yamunanagar state that my son Ashish Kumar & his wife Ranjana are out of my control. So, I disown both of them from my all moveable or immovable property. If anybody deals with them will be responsible himself.

I, Lata W/o Late Rajan Kumar R/o # 745, HUDA Plots Sector 19, Panchkula, Haryana declared that my Son Vivek is out of my control. So I disown him from my moveable/ Immoveable properties. Anybody deals with him at their own risk.

I, Krishna Rani W/o Late Sh. Guruditta Lal R/o H.No. 29, Shivaji Colony, Mama Bhanja Chowk, Sonipat has disowned my son Sunil Kumar & his wife Poonam from all my moveable-immovable property as they are out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Omkar S/o Sh. Raghuvir Chand R/o Village Rajipur BCW, Tehsil Kalka District Panchkula declare that my daughter Palak Devi is out of my control. So I disown her from all my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with her at their own risk and responsibility.

I, Nirmia Devi Widow Satish Kumar Vill.Chandlana Sub-Tehsil Hmad Distt.Kaithal My Son Sahil Sharma and his Wife Pooja 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, Suresh Kumar S/o Gumam Singh Vill.Saraswati Khera, Bhatt Majra, Pehowa, Kurukshetra My Son Sunil Kumar and his wife Saijya Ali is out of my control. I, disown them from all my moveable and immoveable properties. If Anybody deals with him at Their Own risk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bhajno Devi wife of sh. Gurdhian Singh and Mother of No. 2496803F Hav, lqbal Singh of 23 Punjab Regf, resident of vill. Kulu chand, P.O. Dagan Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb) 144221 declare that in my son's service documents my name and date of birth has been mentioned Bhajan Kaur and 01-07-1956, whereas my correct name and date of birth is Bhajno Devi 01-01-1963.

I, Smt. Anjani Tiwari legally spouse of No. 15732207M Rank Signm Name Rishap Kumar Tiwari Unit 14(I) ABCS C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Kotma, Gram Kotma Post Shahdol, Kotma, PO : Shahdol Distt. Shahdol, State Madhya Pradesh -484001 declare That I have changed my DOB from 18.07.1995 to 08.07.1995 vide affidavit dated 06.01.2025

I, Ansh S/o Sh. Surinder Kumar R/o Village Babil, Tehsil & Distt. Panipat, declare that in my school marksheet my name is AnshAhlawat, my father's name is SurenderAhlawat and mother's name is BabilAhlawat, which is wrong. But in my all documents my name is mentioned as Ansh, my father's name is Surender Kumar and my mother's name is Babil, which is correct. All concerned please note.

CHANGE OF NAME

It Is For General Information That I, Amit Ahuja S/O Kashmir Ahuja R/O 863/3, Near Prem Mandir, Pachranga Bazar, Panipat, Haryana-132103 Declare That Name Of Mine And My Father Have Been Wrongly Written As Amit Kumar And Kash Miri Lal In My 10th Class Educational Documents And Passport No. M1715178 And Name Of Mine And My Father Have Been Wrongly Written As Amit Kumar And Kashmir Lal In My Voter Id Card No. Hr/03/17/340082. The Actual Name Of Mine And My Father Are Amit Ahuja And Kashmir Ahuja Respectively Which May Be Amended Accordingly. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

I, Chakresh Kumar Jain S/o Tara Chand Jain R/o H.No. 247, Sector-14, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Chakresh Jain for all future purposes.

I, Jagmit Singh Brar S/o Gurdeep Singh Brar R/o H.No. 55, Village Haidarwala, Tehsil Tohana, Distt. Fatehabad (Haryana) declares that I have changed my son's name from Abhijot Singh Brar urf Avijot Singh Brar to Avijot Singh Brar for all future purposes. All concerned please note.

I, Jesica W/o Jagmit Singh Brar, resident of House No. 55, Village Haidarwala, Tehsil Tohana, District Fatehabad, Haryana, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jasica Brar to Jesica. All concerned please note.

I, Arvind Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Baidyanath Singh R/o House No 52, Second floor, Block B-2, Wave Estate, Sector 85, S.A.S. Nagar Mohali Punjab have changed my name from Arvind Singh to Arvind Kumar Singh.

I, Indra Devi W/o Arvind Kumar Singh R/o House No 52, Second floor, Block B-2, Wave Estate Sector 85, S.A.S. Nagar Mohali Punjab have changed my name from Indira Devi to Indra Devi.

I Manjeet S/o Hava Singh R/o Village Dinod, Tehsil and District Bhiwani Haryana have changed my name from Manjeet to Manjeet Kumar.

I Mukesh W/o Manjeet Kumar R/o Village Dinod, Tehsil and District Bhiwani Haryana have changed my name from Mukesh to Mukesh Kumar.

I Manjeet S/o Hava Singh R/o Village Dinod, Tehsil and District Bhiwani Haryana have changed my daughter name from Himanshi to Himanshi Samota.

I Mahindero Devi Mother of No 15582703A Hav Manjeet Singh Resident of Village Sandhir, Post office Sandhir, Tehsil Nilokheri, District Karnal Haryana Pin Code 132117, Unit 106 Engineer Regiment have changed my name from Mahindero to Mahindero Devi and also I have changed my date of birth from 21.03.1961 to 01.01.1955. My correct date of birth is 01.01.1955.

I Phool Singh Father of No 15582703A Hav Manjeet Singh Resident of Village Sandhir, Post office Sandhir, Tehsil Nilokheri, District Karnal Haryana Pin Code 132117, Unit 106 Engineer Regiment have changed my date of birth from 21.03.1957 to 01.01.1953. My correct date of birth is 01.01.1953.

I, Balvir S/o Mehnga Ram R/o VPO Ajnaha, Tehsil Garhsankar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Bavar to Balvir Singh. Concerned note.

I, Ranjit Kaur W/o No. JC-190324Y Sub H/LT Late Sewa Singh R/o VPO Fatehpur (Kothi) Tehsil Garhsankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Ranjit Kaur to Ranjeet Kaur and my date of birth 1959 years to 14-05-1953. Concerned note.

I, Kavita D/o Vinod Kumar and W/o Amit Gujral R/O D-44, 2nd Floor, Jai City, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar declare that after marriage, I have changed my name from Kavita to Manisha Gujral.

I, Rajesh Yadav S/o Jaikaran Yadav R/O H. No. 1258, Urban Estate-II, Hisar (Hry.) have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Yadav & My wife's name from Suman to Suman Yadav for all purposes in future.

I, Neelam W/o Pawan Kumar, R/O House No.2124, Balmiki Basti, Ram Nagar, Karnal have changed my name from Neelam to Rani. In future, I should be known as Rani.

I, Hitherto Known As Neena Kumari Alias Neena Dahiya W/O Arun Dahiya R/O 1359, Second Floor, Omaxe Swamprastha Floor, Sector-08, Block-A, Omaxe City, Sonipat, Haryana, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Neena Dahiya.

I, Rachapudi Parvathi Legally Mother Of No. 16129487Y Rank Spr Name R Pullaiah Of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Ferozepur Residing At D No.3/357, Parayapatti, Parayapatti, Dharmapuri State Tamil Nadu Pin-635305 Declare That My Name Vedyappan Wrongly Written In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is Vedyappan Kuppagouder.

I Tarsem Singh Marok Son Of Mohan Singh Resident Of Village Bhadru Tehsil And District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Tarsem Singh.

I Parvinder Kaur Wife Of Tarsem Singh Resident Of Village Bhadru Tehsil And District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Parvinder Kaur.

I, Simranjeet Singh Son Of S. Lakhwinder Singh Resident Of Basti Blochan Wali Street Ganga Mandir Ferozepur City, Tehsil & Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Name From Simranjeet Singh Swali To Simranjeet Singh.

I Rajinder Kumar S/O Balu Ram, R/O House No 25 Gate No 01 Sham Vihar Abohar, Fazilka Punjab -152116 Have Changed My Name And Shall After Be Known As Rajinder Parsad.

I, Kanika W/o Sachin Baveja R/O 1026/924, Model Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Kanika to Kanika Baveja.

I, Nayanika Bawreja D/o Sachin Baveja R/o 1026/924, Model Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Nayanika Bawreja to Nayanika Baveja.

I, Sachin S/o Satinder Pal Baveja R/O 1026/924, Model Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Sachin to Sachin Baveja.

I, Motia Rani w/o Raj Kumar R/o VPO Bal Chapper, Tehsi Jagadhri, Distt Yamunanagar state that Motia & Motia Rani both are one & same person.

I, Kiran W/o Virender R/o Swania Mohalla, W.No.11, Sadhaura, Tehsil Sadhaura, Distt Yamunanagar have Changed my name from Kiran (Old name) to Pushpa Rani (New Name)

I, Vipin Bajaj, S/o Sh. SubhashChander, R/O H.No.838, Sector-17, Huda, Distt. Panipat, declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Yukti to Yukti Bajaj, for all future purposes.

I, Vipin Bajaj, S/o Sh. SubhashChander, R/O H.No.838, Sector-17, Huda, Distt. Panipat, declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Dripti to Dripti Bajaj, for all future purposes.

I, No. 13748599H Sep Lakhvinder Singh (Retd.) S/o S. Darshan Singh R/o H.No. 878/10, Saraswati Colony, Thanesar, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra declare that in my service record my wife's name is wrongly written as Sukhwinder Kaur instead of Sukhwinder Kaur & D.O.B is 20 years instead of 12.03.1958.

I, Parminder Singh S/o Balwinder Singh R/o Village Verka, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Parminder Singh to Parminderjit Singh.

I, Sushil Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Hukam Chand, R/O House No. 1180, Sector-7, Urban Estate, District Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Sushil Kumar to Sushil Kumar Sharma for all future purposes.

I Ritesh Kumar S/o Ramdas Kansal R/O 593, Sector 13-17, Huda, Near Mahila Police station, Panipat have changed my name from Ritesh Kumar to Ritesh Kansal for all future purposes.

I Kali Charan S/o Subhash Grover R/O H.No- 480, Kaziwara Ambala City declare that I have changed my name from Kali Charan to Arvinder Grover. Kali Charan & Arvinder Grover both are one & the same Person.

We Davinder Kumar S/o Ashok Kumar & Smt Sunita Rani W/o Davinder Kumar R/O House no 989/6 Ahata Gauri Shankar, Near Novelty Cinema Ambala City have changed our minor Son name from Daksh to Rehman Singh.

I Harsh S/o Gyan Chand R/O 861, Ugala, Ambala Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Harsh to Harsh Kumar.

I, Sunita Rani W/o Satish Kumar R/O H. No. 76, Gali No. 12, Krishana Nagar, Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Sunita Rani to Sunita Kumari. Concerned note.

I Surinder Kumar S/o Khub Chand R/o #2187, Gandhi Colony near Khanpur panchayat Rajpura Patiala Punjab, have changed my name from Surinder Kumar to Surinder Kumar Sindhi.

I, Rohit Kumar, son of Rajkumar, permanent resident of House No. 257, Sector 18, HUDA, Kaithal, Haryana, 136027, hereby declare that I am changing the name of my minor son, whose name is Yanchit, to Yanchit Bhardwaj. From today onwards, my son will be known by the name Yanchit Bhardwaj. Concerned authorities are requested to take note.

I Gopi Chand S/O Budh Ram R/O Village Saran Sub Tehsil Saraswati Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri Distt Yamuna Nagar Declare That I Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Lucky To Lucky Kumar.

I, Reeti W/o sh. Amit Kaul R/o house no.301 sector 16 Panchkula Haryana have changed my name from Reeti to Reeti Berry.

I Dalwinder Kaur Sharma W/o Raj Kumar Sharma R/O Sahibjada Aijt Singh Nagar Street no 9, Sri Muktsar Sahib have Changed My name to Dalwinder Kaur.

I, Jitender Kumar, son of late Sh. Subash, resident of House No. 151, Sector-18, Panchkula, declared that in my and my wife's Passport, the name are mentioned as Jitender and Mrs. Vandana w/o Mr. Jitender, we have changed our names from Mr. Jitender to Mr. Jitender Kumar, son of late Sh.Subash and Mrs. Vandana to Mrs. Vandana Chadha wife of Mr. Jitender Kumar.

I, Poonam Yadav W/o NO.14660323A, Rank- HAV. V K Yadav presently residing at QTR No. 646, Sector C, Chandimandir Cantt, Panchkula, Haryana, 134109, declared that in my husband army record my name mentioned as Punam Yadav, whereas my correct name is Poonam Yadav.

I, Noor Mhoid S/o Khairdin R/O H.no 215, Village Budhanpur Panchkula, Tehsil & Distt Panchkula Haryana, have changed my minor daughter name from Baby one of Shaheen to Sara Khana.

I Jitender Kumar S/O Subash R/O #151 Sector 18 Panchkula Have Changed My Son Name From Aarav To Aarav Sonkar.

I, Shankutla Devi W/o Sh. Om Parkash R/O Bhairi Akbarpur Teh. Uklana Mandi Distt. Hisar (Haryana)-125113 have changed my name from Shankutla Devi to Mohra Devi for all future purposes.

I, Harwinder Singh S/o Ragbir Singh R/o VPO Kaler Kalan Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Harwinder Singh to Singh Harwinder. In future Singh is my surname and Harwinder is my given name. Concerned note.

I, Bhupinder Singh S/o Avtar Singh R/o Village Khokhar Rajpoutan PO Dorangla Distt Gurdaspur, (Punjab) have changed my name from Bhupinder Singh to Singh Bhupinder. In future Singh is my Surname and Bhupinder is my given name. Concerned note.

I, Ravinder Pal Munjal S/o Brahma Nam Munjal R/O H. No. 844, Sector 13, Hisar, Haryana, 125001 declare that in my documents my name is mentioned as Ravinder Pal Munjal but my son 10th and 12th class DMC my name is recorded as RP Munjal. The above both names Ravinder Pal Munjal and RP Munjal are mine and one person.

I, Shishpal Singh Malhan S/o Bhoop Singh Malhan R/O House No. 46-B, New Rishi Nagar Hisar, Haryana 125001 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shish Pal Singh Malhan to Shishpal Singh Malhan for all future purpose.

I, Abhishek Arora S/o Ravinder Arora R/O H. No 645, Sector 15 A, Hisar declare that I have changed the name of my minor Son from Daivik to Daivik Arora for future purpose.

I, Sourabh S/o Sandeep Kumar R/O Village Balsamand, Tehsil & Distt. Hisar (Haryana) 125001 have changed my name to Sourabh Khanna, and I shall be known as Sourabh khanna for all future purposes.

I, Shashi Kant Alias Shashi Kant Soni S/O Pritam Singh R/O House No.1454, Near Mini Bank, Satrod Khias(154), Hisar, Haryana-125044 have changed my name to Shashi Kant Soni.

I, Mohit Pratik Sharma S/O Satish Kumar Sharma R/O 14/1, Balдох (193), Sehari, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh-177108 have changed name of my minor daughter Savi Sharma aged 03 years to Viradhyia Sharma.

I, Sushila D/O Jagdeesh Chand R/O Village Shoula, Post Office Nankhari, Tehsil Rampur, Shola (45), Po: Nankhari, Dist: Shimla, Himachal Pradesh-172021 have changed my name to Bhavna.

I, Sangbu Rana S/O Kul Bhadur R/O Post Office Keylong Upper Keylong, Distt. Lahul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh-175132 have changed my name to Sambu Khadka.

I Rohan S/O Nanak Chand R/O #366, Sector-16, Hisar, Haryana-125001 have changed my name to Rohan Khanna.

I, Amitendr S/O Ashwani Kumar R/O House No. 114, Sector 6 P. Po Hansi, Hisar, Haryana-125033 have changed my name to Amitendr Chandlia.

I, Pinki D/O Ishwar Singh R/O House No.226, Sikanderpur, Bawani Khera, Bhiwani, Milkpur, Haryana-127032 have changed my name to Isha Singh.

I, Munshi Ram Alias Shabir Mohamed S/O Sultan R/O 4 Storey, Police Line, Ward 16, Rupnagar, Punjab-140001 have changed my name to Shabir Mohamed. I have changed only my name not my religion.

I, Surinder Kaur W/o Jagjit Singh Nagpal R/O 20, 2, C Rani Ka Bagh College Lane, District Amritsar have changed my name from Surinder Kaur to Surinder Kaur Nagpal

I, Jagjit Singh Nagpal S/o Vir Singh Nagpal R/O H.No.20 C, Rani Ka Bagh, Amritsar have declare that my father was know by two name's Vir Singh and Vir Singh Nagpal one and Same person.

I, Prabhat Singh father of No.13767047K Hav Rajeev Chand Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my son's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Prabhat Singh but my correct name is Prabhat Chand Vide affidavit No.IN-PB8447796522276W Dt.30.11.2024 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Tejinder Singh Son of Jasbir Singh R/o VPO. Tarsikka Tehsil Baba Bakala Distt. Amritsar Punjab, have changed my name to Tajinder Singh.

I, Sujata W/o. Ramesh Kumar R/O, 626, RB Estate, Loharka Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Sujata to Sujata Bhalla. All concerned noted.

I, Harkirat Singh S/o Kuldeep Singh R/o VPO Riall Kalan Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name from Harkirat Singh to Singh Harkirat. In future Singh is my surname and Harkirat is my given name. Concerned note.

I, Jasbir Singh Kamboi S/o Gurnej Singh R/O VPO Kalsana Tehsil Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Jasbir Singh Kamboj to Jasbir Singh.

I Karampal S/o Jai Parkash, R/O House No 283/18, Shiv Colony Jind Tehsil and District Jind Haryana have changed my name from Karampal to Karampal Jind.

I, Rohit Singh S/o Davinder Singh, R/o Village Abadgarh, PO Mirthal, Tehsil & District Pathankot, In My Passport No.5834310 Declare That My Surname is Singh, So Kindly Enter the Needful.

I, Sunil Kumar S/o Tarsem Chand, Vill. Algran, Tehsil Nangal (Rupnagar), have changed minor daughter's name from Aaradhyia to Aaradhyia Dhiman.

I, Isha W/o Sunil Kumar, Vill. Algran, Tehsil Nangal (Rupnagar) have changed my name from Isha to Isha Sharma.

I, Shantavva Jakati legally Mother of No. 16116559Y Rank Hav Name Mahantesh Jakati of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 Apo Ferozepur Residing at Jamkhandi, Chingundi, Chingundi, Bagalkot State Karnataka Pin-587301 Declare That my Name Shantavva and Date of Birth 01/07/1971 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Shantavva Jakati and Date of birth is 01.01.1974.

I Ishwarappa Jakati legally Father of No. 16116559Y Rank Hav Name Mahantesh Jakati of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 Apo Ferozepur Residing at Jamkhandi, Chingundi, Chingundi, Bagalkot State Karnataka Pin-587301 Declare That my Name Ishwarappa and Date of Birth 01/07/1967 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Ishwarappa Jakati and Date of birth is 01.06.1964.

I Gurubelli Vijayamma is legally Mother of No. 15330358Y Rank Hav Name Krishna Rao Gurubelli of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Residing at House No. 1-162, Kondi Veedhi, Karakavalsaa, (Village and Post), Jalumuru (Taluk) Srikuliam (District) Andhra Pradesh (State) Pin-532428 Declare That my Name Vijayalakshmi and Date of Birth 01.07.1951 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Gurubelli Vijayamma and Date of birth is 01.01.1961.

I Sundararasu is legally Father of No. 16135851H Rank SPR Name Anbu S of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Residing at House No. 86/06, Ammayappa Nagar, Mannachanallur, Vengandangi, Vengandangi, VTC. Pallividai No. 9. Pallividai District. Tiruchirappalli State Tamil Nadu Pin-621112 Declare That my Date of Birth 02.05.1981 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Date of birth is 05.02.1982.

I Army No. JC-248760K Rank Risaladar Name Sudesh Kumar of Unit 84 Armed Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Declare That My Son Name Anshul Wrongly Mentioned in my Army Service Records but My Son correct Name is Anshul Dogra.

I, Puvvula Sirisha is Legally Wife Of My No 17002139P Rank NK Name: Varanasi Jayadev Unit 1 Adsr (A) Gate No 47 Opposite Civil Aerodrome Patiala Cantt. Punjab Pin 147001 have changed my name from Puvvula Sirisha to my correct name Varanasi Shirsha

I, Pappireddy Lakshmi Prasanna is legally Wife of Service No. 16111673M Rank: Hav Name: N Pavan Kumar Reddy, Residing at Village Singanoddu Palli, Post Errakota Palie, Taluk Kalakada, Distt. Annamayya (State) Andhra Pradesh Pin- 517235, have changed my name from Lakshmi Prasanna Reddy to Pappireddy Lakshmi Prasanna.

I, Kailash Kumar S/o Sh. Raj Kumar Bansal R/O 257, New MC Market, Near LIC Building (Office) Sirsa (Haryana) have declare that Kumar is my surname and Kailash is my given name.

I, Kurishabe M Dange is legally Father of No. 15321019 Rank Hav Name Junned Saheb Dange of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Residing at Manfiya Manjeel, Abbobakar, Masjeed, VTC. Kudachi (Rural) Po. Kudchi Tehsil Raybag District Belgaum State Karnataka Pin-591311 Declare That My Date of Birth 01.07.1955 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Date of Birth 12.02.1961.

I, Mohammad Saheb Dange is legally Father of No. 15321019 Rank Hav Name Junned Saheb Dange of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Residing at Manfiya Manjeel, Abbobakar, Masjeed, VTC. Kudachi (Rural) Po. Kudchi Tehsil Raybag District Belgaum State Karnataka Pin-591311 Declare That My Date of Birth 01.07.1955 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Date of Birth 01.06.1959.

I, N. Achamma is legally Mother of No JC-441633W, Rank Sub, Name Neelam Nageswara Rao Unit of 28 Madra C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Cantt, Residing of Vill. Somaling Palam, Teh. Yellamanchilli Distt. Visakhapatnam. (AP) 531056, have changed the name Neelam Achiyamma & N. Achamma & date of birth from years 06/01/1959 to 06/01/1961.

I, Veena W/o Rajiv Kumar R/O # 45 Dalipgarh, Near Chungi N.13 Ambala Cantt that I have changed my name from Reena Alesi Veena TO Veena Concerned Note.

I, Ashkrit Kaur Paranjit Singh R/O Multani D/o Paranjit Singh R/O Ward No.4, Tibba Farm, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my name from Ashkrit Kaur

I, Ajay Kumar S/o Lakhvir Singh R/O Jhinerwerhi, Pehowa have changed my given name Ajay Sumame Kumar.

I hitherto known as Rattan Kumar S/o Madan Lal R/o H. No. 109, St. No. 2, Rattan Nagar- G, Tripuri Town, Patiala-147001, Punjab have Changed my Name to Shubhasmita Nayak TO Shubhasmita Mahakud Vide Affidavit Dated 06 January 2025 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Shubhasmita Nayak, Is Legally Wife Of 17029558W, Hmt, Ranjan Kumar Mahakud, Residing At At/Po Includi Tehsil Remuna, District Balasore, (Odisha) 756021 Have Changed My Name In My Husband Service Record Is From Shubhasmita Nayak To Shubhasmita Mahakud Vide Affidavit Dated 06 January 2025 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Santosh M/o JC-473150M Nb/Sub Jagdish, resident of Mokhra Khias Tehsil Meham District Rohtak, declare that In the army record of my son JC-473150M Nb/Sub Jagdish, my name is recorded as Santosh Devhi which is wrong. My name is Santosh in all my documents which is correct. In future I will be known as Santosh.

I, Ramchander S/o Munshi Ram R/o Vill Dhanaan, Teh & Distt Bhiwani, declare that Ramchander and Ram chander Both are same and one person. I should be known and identified by both the names.

I, Pardeep Goel s/o Sh. Subhash Chand Goel r/o H.No.134 Sec.11, HUDA, Panipat (Haryana)-132103 declare that i have changed the name of my daughter from Aradhyia to Aradhyia Goel. For all purposes.

I, hitherto known as Suman Alias Seema Kalra W/o Rakesh Kalra R/O H.No. 54 Ashok Nagar, Jalandhar-144002, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Seema Kalra.

I, Inderjit S/o Rashpal Chander R/o VPO, Kot Badal Khan, Teh. Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Inderjit to Inderjeet Kumar.

I, Baljeet Kaur Hora W/o Kulwant Singh R/O H.No. 314-C, Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar, Distt. Ludhiana-141002, Punjab have changed my name from Baljeet Kaur Hora to Bajjit Kumar.

I, Chander Prabha Surinder Mohan Kalyan W/o Surinder Mohan Kalhan R/O City Enclave Colony Near Top Khana School Arafwala (Kapurthala) have changed my name to Chander Prabha.

I, Mohit S/o Sham Lal R/O W.No.01 Balachaur Teh-Balachaur (SBS Nagar) have changed my name from Mohit to Mohit Kumar.

I, Akash S/o Palwinder Singh R/O W.No. 12 Balachaur Teh-Balachaur (SBS Nagar) have changed my name from Akash to Akashdeep Singh.

I Amarjit Kaur Sidhu W/o Mohinder Singh, R/O VPO Bhadaur Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala, Have changed my name Amarjit Kaur.

I, Jaspreet Kaur Cheema W/o Jashanpreet Singh R/o Vpo. Abuwal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Jaspreet Kaur.

I, Narinderpal Kaur Natt W/o Ravinder Singh Kaila R/O Vpo. Rajoana Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Narinderpal Kaur Kaila.

Dallewal's Hunger Strike Reaches 42nd day; SC Panel meets him

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Supreme Court-appointed high-powered committee met with Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) convenor Jagjit Singh Dallewal at the Khanauri border on Monday, after he agreed to hold talks with the panel. Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite hunger strike for 42 days, is protesting for legal guarantees on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops and other farmer-related demands. The panel, led by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Justice Nawab Singh, urged the protesting farmer leader to accept medical assistance as his health continues to deteriorate. The urgency of the meeting was underscored by an evening health bulletin issued regarding Dallewal's health, warning that even if the 70-year-old farmer leader ended his hunger strike immediately, his organs might not recover fully. His physical condition — marked by severe weakness,

inability to stand, and critical fluctuations in blood pressure — has become a focal point of the protest, symbolizing the farmers' unyielding resolve against perceived government apathy. The committee's visit followed weeks of growing tensions, media attention, and legal battles over the protests at Punjab's Shambhu and Khanauri borders, where thousands of farmers have gathered since February 2024. The meeting marked the culmination of months of attempts by the Supreme Court to mediate the ongoing stand-off.

The committee, established in September 2024, was tasked with building a bridge between the Central Government and the protesting farmers. Despite its repeated efforts, including an interim report submitted on December 10, farmers had so far refused to engage with the panel, accusing it of lacking real authority to negotiate on critical issues like MSP guarantees. Justice Nawab Singh, addressing the media after meeting Dallewal, said: "We

have prayed to Waheguru for Dallewal's recovery and have requested him to take medical aid. The committee's role is to facilitate dialogue, but we do not have the mandate to directly engage with the Central Government on behalf of the farmers."

"I came here today not to say that the agitation should end," he said, adding, "but to say 'your health should be good.'"

Dallewal's poignant response during the meeting reflected the depth of the crisis. He reportedly told the panel, "Farming comes first; my health comes later."

This unrelenting stance has become emblematic of the broader movement, which aims to push for long-overdue agricultural reforms.

Dallewal's Declining Health

Dallewal's health took a significant hit over the weekend when he suffered severe dizziness and vomiting following a nine-minute address at Kisan Mahapanchayat at Khanauri protest site on

Saturday. Following the episode, he stopped consuming water, further aggravating his condition. On Sunday, his vital signs — though relatively stable — showed alarming trends, with doctors emphasizing the irreversible risks posed by prolonged fasting.

His hunger strike began on November 26, 2024, and has drawn national and international attention, casting a harsh spotlight on the plight of farmers in India.

The medical team present at the protest site remains on high alert, with volunteers and supporters growing increasingly anxious. However, Dallewal's resolve to continue until meaningful dialogue with the Central Government is initiated has made the situation precarious.

Going into the background, the protest at Shambhu and Khanauri borders has been ongoing since February 2024, driven by farmers' demands for a legal framework guaranteeing MSP and resolving other agrarian issues.

In July 2024, the Punjab

and Haryana High Court directed the reopening of the Shambhu border within a week. Challenging the decision, Haryana Government appealed to the Supreme Court, which subsequently intervened.

SC, in August, instructed partial reopening for emergency services while forming a six-member mediation committee chaired by Justice Nawab Singh, comprising retired IPS officer BS Sandhu, agriculture expert Devinder Sharma, professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman, and an agricultural economist from Punjab Agricultural University Dr Sukhpal Singh.

In December, the committee reported that farmers had declined to engage in discussions, citing mistrust and lack of tangible outcomes. Following heightened tensions and legal submissions by the Punjab Government, the Supreme Court on Monday scheduled the next hearing for January 10, urging all stakeholders to consider humanitarian grounds.

President Murmu Declines Meeting with SKM Delegation, Cites Time Constraints

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

President Droupadi Murmu has declined a request from the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) for a meeting on the issues related to the farming community, citing a lack of time. The SKM, in a letter to the President, had sought her intervention on urgent agricultural issues, including farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's hunger strike, now in its 41st day. The SKM had described the situation as life-threatening and criticized the inaction of the government and judiciary. "The President, as the head of state, bears a constitutional responsibility to ensure that democratic institutions uphold their commitments to justice and fairness," the SKM remarked. The SKM's statement went beyond immediate concerns, condemning the government's recently introduced Draft National Policy Framework on Agriculture Marketing. Describing it as "an even greater threat than the now-repealed three farm laws," the SKM accused the government of enabling corporate intrusion

into agriculture. "This policy is a direct attack on farmers, agricultural workers, small traders, and state governments. It prioritizes agribusiness profits over the livelihoods of millions and undermines the federal structure of our democracy," the statement declared.

The SKM emphasized that the President's role extends beyond ceremonial duties, calling on her to champion the cause of farmers who are the backbone of the nation. "The survival of Indian agriculture is not just an issue of economic policy—it is a matter of national security, food sovereignty, and rural stability," the statement read. Despite the setback, the SKM reiterated its commitment to peaceful dialogue and democratic engagement. The pan-India farmers' body expressed hope that Rashtrapati Bhavan would reconsider its decision and open channels for a meaningful discussion with farmer representatives.

Capt Meets Amit Shah; Discusses Farmers' Agitation, Punjab Politics, and BJP Leadership

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab's former Chief Minister and senior Punjab BJP leader Capt Amarinder Singh, it seems, is looking for making a comeback to active political engagement after months of relative silence. Capt Amarinder, on Sunday evening, held a critical meeting with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi to discuss several pressing issues concerning Punjab, including the ongoing farmers' agitation, the state's political landscape, and BJP's leadership in the region. The meeting has drawn significant attention, as it comes at a crucial juncture for the BJP in Punjab, where the party has struggled to make significant inroads despite multiple electoral efforts. Capt Amarinder took to social media to announce the meeting, stating that a detailed discussion was held regarding key challenges facing Punjab. Among the key points on discussion table were farmers' agitation and Jagjit Singh Dallewal's hunger strike; leadership crisis in the state's BJP unit; BJP's declining performance in Punjab, among other issues. The ongoing farmers' protest, referred to as Kisan Andolan 2.0, has been gaining momentum once again, with its one-year mark approaching. A significant focus of the meeting was the deteriorating situation surrounding farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on a hunger strike for 42 days. Dallewal's health is reportedly critical, and the Government has faced mounting pressure to address farmers' demands. Capt Amarinder's role in mediating between the Central Government and the agitating farmers is being closely watched. Sources suggested

that the BJP leadership wants to avoid the protest spiraling into a nationwide movement, with support from farmers in other states, just like it did in 2020-21 when the Centre had to withdraw three controversial farm laws. With his vast political experience and connections in Punjab, Capt Amarinder could serve as a crucial intermediary to facilitate dialogue and resolution. Notably, during previous year-long agitation, Capt Amarinder was Punjab Chief Minister. Following Sunil Jakhar's resignation as Punjab BJP president after the Lok Sabha elections, the state BJP leadership is in flux. Jakhar not only stepped down but also distanced himself from active party activities. With only two years left for the Punjab Assembly elections, the BJP faces the dual challenge of rebuilding its leadership structure and strategizing for future electoral success. Reports indicated that the BJP is exploring options to appoint a dynamic leader who can rejuvenate the party's prospects in Punjab. Capt Amarinder's meeting with Shah also reportedly touched upon potential leadership choices and strategies for strengthening the BJP's organizational presence in the state.

At the same time, the BJP has faced consistent setbacks in Punjab, not just in Lok Sabha elections but also in municipal and panchayat polls. The party's vote share has been steadily declining, both in urban and rural areas. Capt Amarinder and Shah are believed to have deliberated on ways to address these challenges, especially with assembly elections drawing closer. This is not Capt Amarinder's first public intervention in recent months. On October 25, Capt Amarinder had made a surprise visit to

Khanna Mandi during the height of the paddy procurement crisis, where farmers had accused the BJP-led Central Government of negligence. His visit was seen as a damage control measure, reflecting his commitment to Punjab's issues despite his recent political alignment with the BJP. Additionally, Capt Amarinder's family remains politically active. His wife, former Union Minister Preet Kaur, and daughter Jai Inder Kaur have been visible in Punjab politics, with Jai Inder who is the state BJP Mahila Morcha head, playing a key role in BJP's Patiala municipal election campaign.

Can Capt Bridge the Gap Between Farmers and Govt?

As farmers' protests continue to grow, Capt Amarinder's role in bridging the gap between the BJP led Central Government and Punjab's agricultural community could prove pivotal. His meeting with Shah is being interpreted as a step toward resolving the impasse and de-escalating tensions. The BJP is aware of the need to prevent the agitation from escalating and garnering support from farmers in other states, as was seen during the 2020-2021 protests against the now-repealed farm laws. Capt Amarinder's credibility as a former Congress leader and his deep understanding of Punjab's socio-political fabric make him a valuable ally for the BJP in this regard. Captain Amarinder's re-emergence in active politics signaled his intent to play a prominent role in shaping Punjab's political future. For the BJP, leveraging Capt Amarinder's experience and political acumen could be a game-changer as it sought to overcome its challenges in the state.

Contractual Employees of Punjab Roadways, PRTC On 3-day strike, Commuters hassled

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Roadways and Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) employees initiated a three-day strike on Monday, causing significant disruptions in public transportation across the State. The protest, led by the Punjab Roadways PUNBUS and PRTC Contract Workers Union, has left approximately 2,800 buses grounded, stranding commuters at bus stands and affecting operations in all 27 depots statewide.

The strike stems from long-standing grievances, including the regularization of contractual employees, salary increments, and an overhaul of the transport department's policies. Union leaders accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led State Government of neglecting its promises and ignoring the plight of thousands of contractual workers.

The protesting employees include drivers, workshop mechanics, and clerical staff, many of whom have been serving on contractual or outsourced terms for years. Chandigarh Depot Contract Workers Union president Gurpreet Singh emphasized, "When AAP came to power, they promised regularization of all contractual employees within a month. It has been over a year, and nothing has been done."

Among the key demands of protesting employees are regularization of Contractual Workers, addition of new buses, and implementation of revised transport policy, among others.

Nearly 7,500 contractual and outsourced employees form the backbone of Punjab Roadways and PRTC operations. Protesters demanded that outsourced workers be

brought onto contracts and existing contractual staff be made permanent. Protesters argued that expanding the state-owned fleet is crucial to improving services and revenues, as opposed to relying on private operators through the Kilometer Scheme.

The Union representatives also called for adherence to the 1986 state transport policy, which mandates a 70:30 ratio of government to private buses. They claimed that this ratio has reversed in favour of private buses, reducing opportunities for government-run services.

P R T C - P U N B U S Contractual Employees Union president Resham Singh highlighted the revenue loss caused by underutilized government buses. "Over 400 buses have been decommissioned in the last three years, and no new buses have been added to the fleet. The Kilometer Scheme benefits private bus owners at the expense of the state," he said.

The strike has brought bus operations to a near standstill, leaving thousands of commuters stranded. Harkesh Kumar Vicky, a union leader from Patiala Depot, noted that over 250 routes have been disrupted in Patiala alone, while operations at other depots face similar challenges.

Passengers across Punjab are bearing the brunt, with limited transportation options. Regular staff have managed to operate only a handful of buses — 51 in total — on Monday. This disruption also translated to significant financial losses for the state. According to Union estimates, the daily receipts of PRTC and PUNBUS are Rs 2.64 crore and Rs 3.3 crore, respectively, amounting to massive revenue shortfalls.

Union leaders have warned of intensified protests if their

demands are not addressed. "If the government continues to ignore us, we will protest outside Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's residence in Chandigarh or Sangrur on Tuesday. If there is no resolution, we will take our agitation to AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal's doorstep in New Delhi," said a protesting employee.

Protesters also recalled a July 2024 meeting with Chief Minister Mann, which failed to yield tangible outcomes. "The government's indifference has forced us to block roads and halt bus operations. This is our last resort," they said.

The strike highlighted deeper structural issues within Punjab's transport system. The Kilometer Scheme, under which private bus operators are paid Rs 9.50 per kilometer, has come under fire for siphoning funds that could otherwise be used to strengthen the public fleet. Protesters argued that investing in new buses would be more sustainable and cost-effective in the long run.

Critics also pointed out the disparity in policy implementation, with private operators reaping benefits while contractual workers face job insecurity and stagnant wages.

"A new bus costs Rs 30 lakh and can serve for 15 years. Yet, under the current scheme, private operators earn Rs 1.25 crore over six years while the government bears their operational costs," said Resham Singh. As the strike enters its second day on Tuesday, pressure mounts on the AAP Government to find a resolution. Union leaders have called for immediate action to prevent further escalation.

The government, however, has yet to make a concrete statement on addressing these demands.

HP CM announces investment of Rs 2415 crore in tourism sector

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Reviewing projects of the Tourism Department on Monday, Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the tourism sector was the mainstay of economy of the State and the present State Government was prioritizing the early completion of ongoing projects to facilitate the tourists visiting the State. He said that the State Government will invest Rs. 2415 crore in the tourism sector to create and strengthen tourism infrastructure in the State in the coming times.

Sukhu said that development of Shiv Dham in Mandi district would be undertaken with an outlay of Rs. 150.27 crore while beautification of Baba Balak Nath Temple in Hamirpur district would be done at a cost of Rs. 51.70 crore, beautification of Nagrorra Bagwan and Palampur town in Kangra district would be done by spending Rs. 78.09 crore. He said that wellness centres would be developed at Nadaun in Hamirpur district, Nagrota Bagwan in Kangra district, Kullu and Manali in Kullu district with a total cost of Rs. 280.39 crore. He said that the State Government would allocate Rs. 8.64 crore for the conservation and restoration of Naggar Castle in Kullu district.

He said that the State government was also promoting adventure tourism in the State and rafting complex would be constructed at Nadaun while ice skating and roller skating rinks would be established in Manali, Dharamsala and Shimla with an estimated cost of Rs. 163.50 crore to benefit the tourists as well as people of the area.

Sukhu said that to offer better air connectivity, the State Government was also setting up helicopters in the State and directed to expedite the work on these projects. He also directed the tourism department to procure operational authorization from DGCA for hassle-free operations of the helicopter services in the existing heliports including, Sanjauli and Rampur of Shimla district, Kangani Dhar in Mandi district and Baddi heliport in Solan district. He further said that the State Government was also contemplating to set up drone stations in various parts of the state and instructed to ensure seven days flight on Dharamsala-Shimla route. He said that the tourism and power generation sector was the priority sector for the State Government and it would leave no stone unturned to tap the potential to yield maximum benefits. He said that due to the earnest efforts of the present State Government, the tourists influx has increased thereby contributing immensely in the economy of the State.

5-decade-old commercial building in Chd collapses

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A five-decade-old commercial building near the Deputy Commissioner's office in Chandigarh's Sector 17, which had been declared unsafe earlier, collapsed on Monday morning.

This triggered panic among the locals. There was no one inside the building when the incident occurred. Eyewitnesses said the building collapsed at around 7 am.

The adjoining building, which was once running the famed Mehfil restaurant, has also developed cracks and is partially damaged by the caving-in of the building.

Police and fire brigade teams have arrived at the spot. The local administration had earlier declared the building unsafe and sealed it. It is learnt that some construction was going on in the building before it was declared unsafe owing to cracks in its pillars and walls. The police had barricaded the area as a preventive step to prevent any mishap.

Chairman HPTDC Rughvir Singh Bali also gave suggestions for the improvement in tourism sector. Two-day MLA priority meetings on Feb 3-4

Chief Minister Sukhu will chair a meeting with Members of Legislative Assembly regarding their priority for development related schemes for the upcoming budget 2025-26. The two-day meeting will be held on 3 and 4 February at the conference hall in Armsdale Building Phase-3 of the HP Secretariat. The meeting would be held in two sessions, morning 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM and evening 2 PM to 5 PM. At the morning session on 3 February, the CM would listen to the suggestions and priorities of the MLAs from districts.

World-class Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial to be built soon in Lohgarh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Union Minister of Power, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday jointly chaired the meeting of the Lohgarh Project Development Committee. The committee was formed to oversee the development of the world-class Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial, which will be built at Lohgarh in Yamunanagar district. The Haryana Government has constituted the Lohgarh Project Development Committee to monitor the progress of the Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial at Lohgarh. Union Minister Khattar serves as the Chief Patron of the Committee, while Chief Minister Saini acts as its Chairman. During the meeting, Khattar directed the officials to accelerate the progress of establishing the world-class heritage memorial, ensuring that the project is completed and dedicated to the public at the earliest. He said that Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial



should primarily focus on the biography of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, which should reflect the heroic saga of his bravery and sacrifice. He also suggested that the memorial should also feature a museum dedicated to the battles fought by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and other Sikh Gurus against the Mughals across the country. The design of the memorial should aim to educate the public, especially the younger generation, about the history and valiant contributions of

Veer Baba Banda Singh Bahadur. Apart from this, he also suggested that the establishment of the memorial should also focus more on promoting the traditional Sikh martial arts that were practiced in the past. It was appraised in the meeting that the project would be completed in two phases. The first phase, which will cost approximately Rs 74 Crore, will focus on restoring and enhancing the fort, constructing the Quilnuma Wall, building an entrance gate,

Nanakshahi coin, landscaping the site, and building the memorial. In addition, a state-of-the-art museum will be constructed, combining Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's life story with modern technology to create an immersive experience for visitors.

The memorial at Lohgarh, the first capital of the 'Sikh Raj' established by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, would reignite the story of his extraordinary bravery, valor and sacrifice.

Later, while chairing a review meeting on the establishment of the Sikh Museum in Kurukshetra, Khattar said, "If there is any place in Haryana where the feet of the Gurus have touched the ground the most, it is the sacred land of Kurukshetra." He further said that the state government has decided to set up a grand museum dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of Sikh culture on three acres of land in Kurukshetra's Pipli. Inspired by the values and ideals of the Sikh Gurus, the museum would act as a "repository of inspiration" for future generations, he added.

Hry CM pays tribute at Nada Sahib Gurudwara on 358th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday extended his greetings to the people of the State on the occasion of 358th Prakash Utsav (birth anniversary) of Guru Gobind Singh. He expressed immense pride in the supreme sacrifice made by Guru Gobind Singh's Sahibzadas (sons), who gave their lives in service to society and religion. Saini visited Nada Sahib Gurudwara to pay tribute on the occasion of Guru Gobind Singh's 358th Prakash Utsav. He bowed in reverence before Guru Granth Sahib and participated in the Akhand Path. Subsequently, he also



paid his respects to the Nishan Sahib and prayed for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Haryana. Talking to reporters, the Chief Minister emphasized Guru Gobind Singh's monumental contributions in establishing the Khalsa Panth and his personal sacrifices for the welfare of society and the nation.

He said that the people of Haryana had again elected the BJP to power at both the state and central levels, and the government was committed to accelerating development in the state.

Punjab CM pays obeisance at Gurudwara Bhatha Sahib



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday renewed his pledge to serve the state with renewed vigor, passion, dedication and commitment while following

the footsteps of Dashmesh Pitaah Sri Guru Gobind Singh. The Chief Minister, who paid obeisance at Gurudwara Bhatha Sahib, greeted people on the sacred occasion of Parkash Purb of Tenth Sikh Master Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji. He said that the great Sikh guru had taught us to fight against tyranny, injustice and oppression. He said that on this sacred day all of us must should take pledge to discharge our duty with utmost sincerity, dedication and commitment to serve the people.

Nitish rules out quitting NDA



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday ruled out the possibility of quitting the NDA, pointing out that his ties with the BJP went back a long way. The JD(U) supremo, who termed as a "mistake" his two short-lived alliances with the RJD-Congress combine, fondly recalled the backing he had always received from former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. "It was respected Atal ji who made me a Union minister. He used to shower so much of affection on me. I never faced any difficulty in getting my proposals cleared," Kumar told reporters in Vaishali district, which he toured as part of the state-wide 'Pragati Yatra'. The longest-serving chief min-

ister of the state also recalled that it was Vajpayee's wish that "I become the CM" when the NDA first won assembly polls in Bihar in 2005. "So, why would I not stay (with the BJP)? A couple of times the people in my party committed a mistake (by pressing for an alliance with the Congress-RJD combine). I rectified it both times," said the JD(U) president. Kumar was responding to queries about speculations in the political circles, triggered by Union Home Minister Amit Shah's equivocal stance on his projection as chief ministerial candidate in the assembly polls due in less than a year. The speculations grew stronger after RJD president Lalu Prasad recently said he was keeping his "doors open" for arch-rival Kumar. Meanwhile, Kumar inaugurat-

ed and laid foundation stones for 344 developmental projects worth Rs 276.80 crore in Vaishali during his visit to the district on Monday. "He chaired a meeting to review the ongoing developmental schemes of the state government in the district... The CM was briefed about the ongoing schemes, including Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme, Chief Minister Nishchay Self Help Allowance Scheme, tap water to every house and their maintenance, Chief Minister Rural Solar Street Light Scheme, irrigation water to every farm, Chief Minister Agricultural Electricity Connection Scheme in the district...", a statement issued by the CMO said. Kumar also announced that four new power substations will be opened in four blocks of the district.

SC orders foreigners to stay in India for criminal proceedings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said a foreigner should not be allowed to leave India if required to answer a criminal charge. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said while granting bail to a foreign national, the court should issue a direction to the state or the prosecuting agency, to immediately inform about its order to the registration officer concerned under the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1992.

"When a foreigner's presence is required in India to answer a criminal charge, permission to leave India must be refused. Under the Order (1948 order), the civil authority can impose restrictions on the movements of a foreigner," the bench said. The bench said the registration officer should then communicate the bail order to all relevant agencies, including the civil authority. SC's order came in a case where it had decided two main issues concerning bail conditions imposed on a Nigerian national in a drugs case in July, 2024. The top court had held the bail conditions, which allowed an investigating agency to continuously track the movements of an accused, violated the right to privacy guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. In its order passed on Monday,

the bench referred to the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946, and said according to clause 5(1)(b) of the Foreigners Order, 1948, no foreigner should leave India without the leave of the civil authority having the relevant jurisdiction. Once a foreigner was released on bail, the top court said, they couldn't leave India without the permission of the civil authority under clause 5 of the 1948 order. It said if such information was furnished, it would enable the authorities under the Act, the rules and the order, to take appropriate legal steps. The bench directed a copy of its order to be forwarded to registrar generals of all the high courts, who in turn would forward it to all the criminal courts in the respective states.

The top court was dealing with the question whether it was necessary to implead a foreign registration officer appointed under rule 3 of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1992, in the bail application filed by a foreigner within the meaning of the 1946 Act. The bench said the authorities under the law and the 1948 order have no locus to oppose the bail application filed by a foreigner unless the bail was sought where the allegation was of the offence punishable under Section 14 of the Act. Section 14 deals with penalty for contravention of the law's provisions, etc.



Om Birla honours women at Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Monday underscored the transformative role of women leadership in strengthening Indian democracy. He said that the inclusion and empowerment of women, especially from rural and tribal communities, are pivotal for the socio-economic change. Highlighting the Government's commitment to fostering gender equality, Birla cited the Nari Shakti Vandan Act as a testament to India's progressive vision for women's leadership. Birla was speaking at the 'Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0'

programme in the historic Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, organized by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) of Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with National Commission for Women and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur and Chairperson, National Commission for Women Vijaya Rahatkar were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

The event, which saw the participation of more than 500 tribal women representatives from Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) from 22 states and Union Territories, served as a platform to reaffirm India's commitment to women led development and grassroots empowerment. Acknowledging the invaluable contributions of women in India's democratic and developmental journey, the Speaker paid heartfelt tributes to the 15 women members of the Constituent Assembly whose contributions continue to inspire the movement for women's empowerment in India.

Yemen court's sentence on nurse pending Presidential ratification



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The capital punishment handed to Indian nurse Nimisha Priya by a Yemeni court has not been ratified by President Rashad al-Alimi, the West Asian nation's embassy said on Monday. The embassy issued the clarification to a media outlet following its report on the case. The Yemeni government emphasises that the entire case has been handled by the Houthi militias, and therefore, Rashad Al-Alimi, Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, Yemen has not ratified this judgment, the mission said. Priya, hailing from Kollengode in Kerala's Palakkad district, has been found guilty of mur-

dering a Yemeni citizen in July, 2017. The 37-year-old nurse is presently lodged in a jail in Sana'a, the Yemeni capital city that is under the control of Iran-backed Houthis. According to reports, Priya was handed capital punishment by a trial court in 2020 while Yemen's Supreme Judicial Council upheld the verdict in November 2023. Last week, India said it is closely following the developments in the case. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government is extending "all possible" help in the matter. "We are closely following the developments around the sentencing of Nimisha Priya. The government is extending all possible help in the matter," he said on Friday.

Court to hear pardon plea in multi-crore DHFL loan scam case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court is likely to hear on January 13 applications moved by five accused in multi-crore bank loan scam case involving Dewan Housing Finance Ltd's former promoter Kapil Wadhawan, seeking pardon and turning approver in the case. Special Judge Ashwani Kumar Sarpal posted the applications filed by accused persons -- Vivek Jayesh Thar, Malav Mehta, Gopal Dalvi, Rajen Vasant Kumar Dhruv and Arvind Kayan -- seeking pardon and for becoming prosecution witness for the next date, while directing them to provide additional documents to substantiate their claims. "Put up this application on January 13, 2025 for further consideration," the judge said in an order passed on January 4. The judge said mere fact that the prosecution has given no objection itself was not sufficient to allow the applications. The judge further clarified that the statement given by the accused in support of their applications will not be used for any other purpose except for disposal of this pleas for the time being. In case the appli-

cation of the accused is allowed and he is granted pardon, the statement filed alongwith the application can be used during inquiry or trial, he added. The FIR in the case was based on a complaint made by the Union Bank of India. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged in the FIR that Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL), its then CMD Kapil Wadhawan, then director Dheeraj Wadhawan and other accused persons entered into a criminal conspiracy to cheat the consortium of 17 banks led by the Union Bank of India. The accused and others induced the consortium to sanction huge loans aggregating Rs 42,871.42 crore. Much of that amount was allegedly siphoned off and misappropriated by alleged falsification of the books of DHFL and dishonest default in repayment of the legitimate dues of the consortium banks, the CBI claimed. The complainant alleged that a wrongful loss of Rs 34,615 crore was caused to the consortium banks in as much as such was the quantification of the outstanding dues as on July 31, 2020. The CBI had in October 2022 filed a charge sheet against more than 70 accused people, including the Wadhawans.

CJI Sanjeev Khanna recuses from sports constitution cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjeev Khanna on Monday recused himself from hearing two separate pleas pertaining to finalisation of the constitutions of the Indian Olympic Association and the All India Football Federation, both framed by former apex court judge Justice L Nageswara Rao. The CJI, who was sitting on the bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, said he would not be part of the bench to hear these cases as he had earlier taken up one of the pleas in Delhi High Court. "Let the pleas come before another bench headed by Justice PS Narasimha on February 10. I remember hearing this in Delhi High Court," CJI Khanna said. The pleas were last taken up on March 19, 2024, by a bench headed by the then CJI DY Chandrachud. The bench had then permitted the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to file its objections to the draft constitution proposed by Justice Rao. "The amicus curiae will update the existing chart to reflect the objections of the AIFF," the bench had said. It had also said that it would decide the issues raised about the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the



AIFF constitutions on the next date of hearing. While dealing with the pleas on the AIFF's constitution, the bench had said the report submitted by Justice Rao would be circulated by Gopal Sankarnarayanan, the amicus curiae -- friend of court appointed to assist the court in the matter -- to all the parties wanting to secure soft copies. It had directed that the objections to the AIFF's draft constitution also be filed. Prior to this, the top court had extended the time for filing objections to the draft constitution of the IOA. It had

also made it clear that the pendency of pleas related to the IOA would not preclude high courts from continuing with hearings on pending petitions linked to other sports bodies. The IOA's draft constitution was adopted at the special general body meeting in Delhi. While the IOA adopted the draft constitution, framed under the supervision of the Supreme Court and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), several members said they were forced into adopting it after the apex court made it mandatory. The

top court had also urged Justice Rao to prepare a comprehensive report on finalising the AIFF constitution after taking note of the objections to a draft document by various stakeholders, including FIFA, the apex global body that governs football. It had said the voluminous objections to the draft constitution by various stakeholders could be taken care of by Justice Rao, who had finalised the IOA constitution on the top court's orders. The apex court had decided to hear the pleas related to the IOA and the AIFF together.

Setting up AFT benches in J&K, Shimla will reduce pendency: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday called for setting up Armed Forces Tribunal benches in Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh, to deal with the growing pendency of defence-related cases. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said at present AFT, Chandigarh, was burdened by a huge backlog from these states and setting up circuit benches at Jammu and Kashmir, Shimla and Dharamshala, would help in speedy disposal of cases. Refusing to blame the Centre alone for delay in filling of the vacancies in the AFTs, the bench told attorney general R Venkataramani to explore the possibilities of having circuit benches. "There are sitting judges of this court who head committees. Even I head some of the committees which look after the appointment of members of the tribunals. Sometimes the workload is so much that the process gets delayed. We have to devise a mechanism so that a process



for filling of the vacancies gets started six months before the prospective vacancy arises in a tribunal," said Justice Surya Kant. The top court asked the Centre to collate data of the total sanctioned strength of tribunals and vacancies in these quasi judicial bodies, and furnish suggestions on systematically filling these posts. The Centre was further directed to furnish the details of the ongoing processes for filling the posts in the tribunals within four weeks. The top court was hearing an application for a direction to the Centre to expeditiously appoint members of the AFT. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for an intervenor,

said one of the members was transferred from Chandigarh to Kolkata, and the position was lying vacant. Venkataramani said the chairman of AFT, Chandigarh, could decide on setting up of circuit benches and informed the process of filling posts in tribunals happened round the year. He said the vacancy in AFT, Chandigarh, would be filled soon. On the challenge to the Tribunal Reforms Act of 2021, senior advocate Arvind Datar said the provisions of 2017 Finance Act related to service conditions of members of tribunals which was struck down by this court and was reproduced in subsequent legislations.

SC quashes cheating case against Goa MLA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday quashed a cheating case against a Goa MLA accused of land grabbing and fraudulent sale of property. A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan allowed the appeal of MLA Jit Vinayak Arolkar challenging a March 2023 Bombay High Court verdict dismissing his plea to quash the FIR. The case involved allegations under Section 420 (cheating) of the IPC, registered on October 26, 2020, at the Pernem Police Station, and then transferred to the special investigation team of the economic offences wing. The FIR accused Arolkar of fraudulently selling a property in Dhargalim Village, Pernem, Goa, without the consent of all legal co-owners. The property -- "Capnivoril Guera" or "Kapni Varil Ghera" -- came under dispute after the complainant, who filed 12 civil suits in 2018, claimed ownership. The complainant alleged Arolkar sold portions of the land in his capacity as the



constituted attorney of two co-owners, Vidhya Natekar and Sanjay Natekar, without the consent of other stakeholders. The MLA's counsel argued the sales only transferred the ownership rights of the individuals he represented and did not encroach on the complainant's rights. The complainant however filed a police complaint alleging fraudulent sale without the consent of the co-owners, resulting in the FIR. Justice Oka, who authored the judgment, said the dispute was primarily civil in nature, and did not justify invoking criminal law. "The appeal succeeds. The

impugned judgment and the order dated March 1, 2023, is set aside, and FIR.....And proceedings based thereon are hereby quashed and set aside only as against the appellant," held the bench. The judgment clarified of not making any adjudication on the merits of the pending civil dispute between the parties. The complainant acknowledged the co-ownership of the vendors in the property and filed the civil suits two years before registering the FIR, the bench said, and found no evidence to prove Arolkar deceived the complainant or caused harm to his property or reputation.

Over 33 lakh users from 183 countries visit Maha Kumbh website: UP Govt

PNS ■ MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

People from 183 countries across the world are actively seeking information about the Maha Kumbh through various websites and portals, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Monday. The official website of Maha Kumbh, <https://kumbh.gov.in/>, has emerged as the primary source for reliable information, witnessing significant traffic from millions of users worldwide, it said in a statement. "According to the data of the website, as of January 4, over 33 lakh visitors from 183 countries accessed the portal to gather details about Maha Kumbh. This includes visitors from across continents, such as Europe, America, and Africa, showcasing the event's global appeal," it said. A representative from the technical team managing the website confirmed that, as of January 4, a total of 33,05,667 users have visited the official Maha Kumbh portal. These users belong to 183 countries, with visits recorded from as many as 6,206 cities worldwide, it added.

India remains the top country for website visits, followed closely by significant traffic from the United States, Britain, Canada, and Germany. Visitors have not only accessed the website but have also spent considerable time exploring its content, according to the statement. "The technical team noted a substantial surge in traffic since the website's launch, with the number of daily users now reaching millions as the event draws closer," it added. The Uttar Pradesh government is presenting the Maha Kumbh as a 'Digital Maha Kumbh'. Several digital platforms have been developed to ensure the convenience of devotees. Among these is the official website of Maha Kumbh, which was launched by CM Yogi Adityanath in Prayagraj on October 6, 2024. The website provides detailed information about the Maha Kumbh, ensuring devotees have easy access to details about the traditions associated with Kumbh, its spiritual significance, and the studies conducted on Kumbh.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

E-student visa initiative

Special visa categories for international students would make it easier for them to pursue their education in India

India has taken a significant step to attract international students by introducing two special visa categories: the e-student visa and the e-student-x visa. This initiative not only streamlines the process for students seeking education in India but also demonstrates the country's commitment to becoming a global hub for higher education. The e-student visa is designed specifically for foreign learners registered on the "Study in India" portal. This platform facilitates admissions for international students into a variety of Indian institutions offering long-term and short-term courses. The e-student-x visa, on the other hand, caters to dependents of these students, ensuring families can stay together during their academic journey. To apply for these visas, students need to secure admission to a partner institution listed on the 'Study in India' portal. Once the admission is confirmed, they can use their 'study in India' identification number to authenticate their identity and complete the visa application process at the official portal. These visas are valid for up to five years, depending on the duration of the chosen course.



By welcoming a diverse cohort of international students, Indian universities can elevate their global reputation, fostering cultural exchange and enhancing their academic standing on the world stage. Increased enrollment of international students contributes to revenue generation, which can be reinvested in research, infrastructure, and faculty development. The influx of students from different countries enriches the campus environment, promoting global perspectives and intercultural dialogue. With a range of courses across disciplines, international students can find programmes tailored to their interests and career aspirations. Studying in India provides an unparalleled opportunity to experience its rich cultural heritage, traditions and diversity. Globally, countries like the US and the UK have long-established student visa frameworks that have attracted millions of international learners. The US for example offers the F-1 visa for academic students and the M-1 visa for vocational or technical students. These visas allow students to work part-time on campus and participate in Optional Practical Training (OPT) programmes, enabling them to gain work experience in their field of study. The UK's Tier 4 student visa permits full-time study and part-time work during term time. Post-study work options, such as the Graduate Route, allow students to stay and work in the UK for two years after graduation. India's introduction of specialised student visa categories is a strategic move to position itself as a global education hub. By simplifying the visa process, the country is poised to attract a significant number of international students. With affordable fee structure, India can attract good number of students from across the world. However, a lot more needs to be done in terms of quality of education and infrastructure. University campuses that are foreign student friendly will go a long way in making India an international education hub.

PICTALK



Flocks of pelicans and cormorants congregate at Man Sagar Lake, in Jaipur

Gandhi's arrest: A turning point in the global fight for freedom



RAJDEEP PATHAK

His arrest, far from quelling resistance, galvanised the nation, showcasing the power of non-violence as a tool for liberation and freedom

On January 4, 1932, Mahatma Gandhi was arrested after the Congress Party had decided to resume a civil disobedience movement in the wake of emergency measures imposed by the British government. The arrest marked a pivotal juncture in India's struggle for independence and left an indelible impact on global movements for justice and equality. Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence and civil disobedience not only reshaped India's freedom struggle but also served as a blueprint for resistance movements worldwide.

The Civil Disobedience Movement, initiated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930, was a landmark moment in the Indian nationalist struggle. It was launched with the historic Salt March (Dandi Yatra) - where Gandhi defied British-imposed salt taxes, a symbol of colonial exploitation - foot-marching from Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat to the river Dandi, a journey of 241 miles. This movement aimed to undermine British authority through non-violent means such as boycotting British goods, refusing to pay taxes, and disobeying oppressive laws.

By the early 1930s, the movement had gained mass participation but faced severe repression from the British administration. Lord Willingdon, the Viceroy of India, adopted a policy of suppression, seeing Gandhi's leadership as a threat to the stability of British rule in India. On January 4, 1932, Gandhi was arrested under the 'Defence of India Act' for his role in perpetuating 'civil disobedience' - after it was decided by the Congress Party to resume a 'civil disobedience' movement in the wake of emergency measures imposed by the British government in the form of a series of Viceroy's ordinances. The arrest of Gandhi had immediate repercussions in India, sparking a wave of protests and acts of defiance. Historian Bipan Chandra in his book 'India's Struggle for Independence' (Penguin Books, 1989), writes that Gandhi's detention was a "turning point that revitalized the waning momentum of the movement". The arrest was perceived as an attack on



India's moral and political conscience, galvanising people from all walks of life to resist British rule. Women, in particular, stepped into leadership roles during this period. Kasturba Gandhi, Gandhi's wife and Sarojini Naidu led marches and protests, ensuring that the movement did not lose steam.

Acts of civil disobedience, such as the refusal to pay land revenue and the boycott of British institutions, intensified across the country. The arrest also amplified the moral and symbolic power of Gandhi's leadership. His willingness to endure imprisonment demonstrated his steadfast commitment to non-violence and truth. The Indian masses responded with unprecedented solidarity, reinforcing the idea that freedom could be achieved through peaceful resistance.

Gandhi's arrest in 1932 was widely reported in the global press, drawing attention to the Indian struggle for independence. In Britain, the arrest sparked wide debate. While the colonial government justified the move as a necessary measure to maintain law and order, prominent intellectuals like Bertrand Russell and George Orwell criticized the repression. Orwell in his book 'As I Please: Essays' (1943); Tribune Publishing remarked, "The



GANDHI'S ARREST BECAME A BEACON FOR OPPRESSED PEOPLES WORLDWIDE, INSPIRING MOVEMENTS FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. NELSON MANDELA, WHO WOULD LATER LEAD THE ANTI-APARTHEID STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AFRICA, CREDITED MAHATMA GANDHI AS THE PIONEER OF NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE

paradox of Gandhi's imprisonment lay in the fact that a man advocating peace was treated as a threat to the empire". The arrest also resonated with leaders of other anti-colonial and 'civil rights movements'. Years later, Martin Luther King Jr. would cite Gandhi's arrest as an example of how moral authority could triumph over systemic oppression. King said, "Gandhi's life and sacrifices teach us that non-violence is not only a method but a philosophy of life", adding, "The non-violent resistance of Gandhi was the guiding light of our struggle for justice in America".

Gandhi's arrest became a beacon for oppressed peoples worldwide, inspiring movements for freedom and justice. Nelson Mandela, who would later lead the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, credited Mahatma Gandhi as the pioneer of non-violent resistance. In his autobiography "Long Walk to Freedom", Mandela wrote, "The spirit of defiance Gandhi embodied in India was equally relevant in South Africa's fight against apartheid".

Historians and political theorists have studied Gandhi's detention in 1932 as a case study in the dynamics of resistance and power. British historian Judith M. Brown, in her seminal work "Gandhi: Prisoner of Hope" (1989) also

points out that Gandhi's imprisonment highlighted the moral contradictions of British colonialism. "By incarcerating Gandhi, the British sought to delegitimise him, but instead they exposed their own vulnerability to ethical critique". International British historian Erik Hobsbawm situates Gandhi's arrest within the broader context of anti-colonial movements. In "The Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, (1914-1991)", Hobsbawm notes that "The imprisonment of Gandhi was not merely an Indian event; it marked the erosion of imperial authority on a global scale".

Today, as the world grapples with challenges like systemic injustice, racial inequality, and climate change, Gandhi's principles of civil disobedience remain a guiding light. Some movements such as 'Extinction Rebellion' (a UK-founded global environmental movement and 'Black Lives Matter' draw on the strategies of non-violent protest that Gandhi exemplified. Mahatma Gandhi's example serves as a reminder that moral courage and non-violent resistance are humanity's most potent tools for building a just and equitable society.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RSS CHIEF ROOTS FOR UNITY

Madam — Apropos of the article 'Bhagwat champions unity as path to India's Vishwaguru vision' (Jan 6), the Mahakumbh at Prayag is the biggest manifestation of glamour, valour and cultural prosperity of the Sanatan with no discrimination of caste, sects, beliefs, regions and religions. What else is required to prove inclusivity, tolerance and omnipresence of the Sanatan? Sikhs are mainstream Hindus and calling them a minority is anti-thesis of both the religious faiths. Sikhs never claim any minority status and both Hindus with Sikh brethren visit temples and Gurdwaras with the strongest faith and devotion. The political conundrum and vote bank politics are hell-bent upon dividing Hindus on caste lines so much so that even a caste census is demanded in utter disregard to the Sanatan and Hindu beliefs.

The main problem of the explicit divide in Hindus, Muslims and Christians is propelled by the Hindu politicians always craving for power on caste and religious divisions and provoking the Muslim fundamentalist leaders to widen such divide. I bet if Hindu politicians adhere to the Sanatan values, there is absolutely no reason for confrontation in different religions and the fundamentalists of any religion will not dare to surge. The current controversies of the excavation of mosques built upon temple remnants and ruins are also the result of oppression of Hindus and discrimination even after seven decades of independence. RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's message is loud and clear and shows tolerance among hundreds of disputes. However, it is true that local Hindus are aggrieved by the loss of their temples during their lifetime and in the ages of their forefathers. How can they be pacified? It is a very difficult problem and looks unstoppable. The illegal occupation of temples was a deliberate act to humiliate the Hindus in a colonial mindset and such illegal occupations should be surrendered voluntarily.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

A Journey from poverty to prosperity



The SBI Research report unveils a transformative narrative of India's poverty eradication journey, with the poverty rate falling below 5 per cent in 2024. This milestone reflects not just economic progress but a holistic reconstruction of India's socio-economic fabric under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Rural poverty has significantly declined from 25.7 per cent

in 2012 to 4.86 per cent in 2024, showcasing the impact of government schemes.

Initiatives like MGNREGA provided consistent rural employment, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana ensured safe housing, and the Ujjwala Yojana improved women's health and energy efficiency through free LPG connections. Rural India, the nation's backbone, has played a pivotal role in this success. Urban poverty, too, witnessed a dramatic drop from 13.7 per cent in 2012 to 4.09 per cent in 2024. Revolutionary measures like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and Jan Dhan Yojana eliminated corruption, enhancing financial inclusion and enabling direct cash benefits for millions.

R K Jain | Barwani

JUSTICE FOR MUKESH CHANDRAKAR

Madam — It is sad that the new year began on a tragic note for India's media fraternity, as a young journalist Mukesh Chandrakar was found murdered, with his body seen lying in a septic tank in Bijapur. The journalist was allegedly killed for his ground reporting of the Maoist conflict in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region. It was reported that Mukesh, a seasoned journalist and the creator of the popular YouTube channel Bastar Junction, garnered millions of views for his investigative reports. The global toll of journalist fatalities reached 179 in 2024, spanning 25 countries. India reported four journalist killings last year, all from central India, a region fraught with challenges for the press. Mukesh Chandrakar's untimely death has once again spotlighted the perils faced by journalists in conflict zones and the urgent need for stronger protections for media professionals in India. But every attack on the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression only adds to the strength of the Fourth Estate in our country.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM NEEDS ATTENTION

Madam — Health services, once considered a noble and selfless profession, have now largely turned into a business, making the situation worse than before. Citizens, especially the poor, find themselves unable to access even basic services, including in government hospitals. The inexplicable anguish caused by long queues, deplorable conditions, and unprofessional behaviour of some practitioners leaves a lasting stigma on healthcare. While people place their hopes on free medicines to alleviate their suffering, hospitals often provide only cheaper medicine and for expensive medicines, patients are compelled to visit private pharmacies, forcing them to spend beyond their means. As a result, the poor are often left to endure prolonged illness and deteriorating health. This issue needs attention, as healthcare should be accessible and equitable for all, irrespective of financial status.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Resilience redefined: The art of bending without breaking

Far from avoiding pain, resilience teaches us to embrace it as a catalyst for self-discovery and renewal

Resilience is often misunderstood as an unshakable strength, but its true essence lies in flexibility and growth. It is not about avoiding pain or adversity but learning to navigate them with courage and purpose. Resilience is the whisper within us that says, "You can rebuild."

Take Priya (name changed), a 36-year-old software engineer whose life unravelled after an unexpected layoff. "I thought I had lost everything—my confidence, my identity," she admitted. Beneath her professional stress lay years of self-worth tied to external validation. Through journaling and cognitive reframing, Priya discovered her worth extended beyond achievements. The layoff became not an ending, but an opportunity to redefine herself.

Psychologist Ann Masten calls resilience "ordinary magic," highlighting that it is not an extraordinary trait but a skill we can all cultivate. In today's unpredictable world, resilience is no longer optional—it is essential. **The Building Blocks of Resilience**



Resilience is not about bouncing back but about moving forward, transformed by challenges. Its foundation rests on four key elements: 1. Self-Trust: Believing in your ability to navigate life's storms. 2. Emotional Agility: Acknowledging and processing emotions without being consumed by them. 3. Relational Anchors: Relying on meaningful connections for support and safety. 4. Hopeful Realism: Balancing acceptance of hardship with faith in better outcomes. Consider Rohan (name changed), a 50-year-old attorney overwhelmed by work stress. Grounding techniques like mindful breathing helped him regain

clarity. "It reminded me that even in chaos, I could find stillness," he shared. These elements are accessible to everyone. Resilience is not about extraordinary strength; it's about ordinary choices made consistently.

Practical Tools for Resilience Building Resilience starts with small, intentional actions. Journaling allows us to process emotions and uncover patterns. Prompts like "What does my fear want me to learn?" or "What would I tell my younger self about this moment?" can reframe challenges into opportunities for growth. Mindfulness anchors us in the present. Aditi (name changed), a single mother, found solace in a simple prac-

tice: placing her hands over her heart and repeating, "I am safe. I am enough."

Creative expression, like art or movement, helps release emotions that words cannot. Samaira (name changed), a 19-year-old dancer, choreographed a piece to process grief after losing a loved one. "It became a way for my body to tell the story I couldn't speak," she reflected.

The Gift of Resilience Resilience is deeply human. It is found in the small decisions to try again, the connections that remind us we are not alone, and the ability to see hope in uncertainty. As Viktor Frankl observed, "When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." Resilience is not about being unbreakable—it is about learning to bend without breaking and trusting that, no matter how many times we fall, we can rise again.

(The writer is a psychologist specialising in trauma and inner child healing. She writes and speaks extensively about mental health and resilience; views are personal)



KAVITA KABIR



FIRST COLUMN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF YOGA

Hatha Yoga emphasises holistic well-being, nurturing the body, mind and spirit in harmony



RAVI VALLURI

Hatha Yoga lays emphasis on the overall well-being of the body while nurturing the mind and spirit of the seeker. The bedrock of this yogic technique is strongly based on the traditional eight limbs of yoga as expounded by Patanjali in his Yoga Sutras. These are 10 quotes on yoga by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar which help one to appreciate the depth of yoga.

1. "Like a flower bud, human life has the potential to blossom fully. Blossoming of human potential to fullness is yoga." Yoga is a discipline that is both gentle and powerful for uniting body, breath and mind in awareness. It integrates elements from all the different paths of yoga where you get a glimpse of Raj Yoga, Ashtanga or Hatha Yoga, Karma Yoga, Bhakti Yoga as well Gnana Yoga making the yogic experience wholesome.
2. "Yoga brings knowledge, passion and action together." Yoga is not just doing some body-twisting postures – it is experiencing the union of the body, mind and breath.
3. "Yoga is a study of life, study of your body, breath, mind, intellect, memory and ego; study of your inner faculties." The practice of yoga has been known for centuries to produce benefits in the areas of health, mental clarity and spiritual connection.
4. "Withdraw your senses from the object to its source, then the union happens, then the yoga happens." One must learn the correct way of doing asanas and pranayama.
5. "Peace is our very nature, and yoga leads you to inner peace." Yoga teaches one how to pay attention to what one experiences inside and what is the state of mind. Declutter the mental chatter.



6. "The purpose of yoga is to stop suffering even before it arises." Yoga is a holistic way of energising and integrating mind, body and spirit.
7. "Yoga is not just weight-loss programme; it is a science to make one feel lighter. It helps to lose the mental stuff of anger, jealousy, hatred, greed, etc." During the Sri Sri Yoga basic programme that is taught in 10 to 12 hours at the Art of Living Retreat, certified teachers help to experience the real depth of yoga that brings benefits not just at the physical level but at the mental, emotional and spiritual level too.
8. "One of the rules of yoga is to cultivate the practice of being happy." Everybody ultimately wants to be happy. But what is real happiness? The wise say that shifting gears from the pursuit of happiness to being happy makes happiness a journey rather than the destination, which is the key.
9. "The wisdom of yoga transforms one from arrogance to self-confidence; meekness to humility; from dependence to a realisation of interdependence." One may wonder if yoga is a self-help programme. Taught at various levels, yoga programmes connect one with ancient wisdom and nourish one's inner beauty as a human being.
10. "The wisdom of yoga transforms one from craving freedom to recognition of the 'unboundedness', from limited ownership to oneness with the whole." Does it seem incredulous? But yes, this is indeed the real potential of yoga. Simple yogic postures, rejuvenating breathing techniques, and blissful meditations integrated with the invaluable ancient wisdom of yoga put one on the path of genuine life transformation. As a yoga explorer with over a decade and a half of experience, I can state that all fellow explorers can dive deeper and experience what it takes to be a real yogi (or yogini).

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

Turning Canada's crisis into India's opportunity



DINESH SOOD

India holds the potential to become a global talent powerhouse by addressing skill gaps and aligning training programs with international demands



For years, Canada has been a top destination for Indians, especially Punjabis, seeking quality education and better employment opportunities. However, as Canada grapples with various socio-economic challenges, the situation has created a ripple effect with unforeseen opportunities for India. While the crisis in Canada poses significant concerns, it also presents a moment for introspection and action for India's young workforce. India stands at a unique vantage point, with its burgeoning youth population and a growing demand for skilled workers across key sectors like IT, hospitality, transportation, beauty and wellness, and retail.

The current global workforce shortages highlight India's potential to bridge these gaps while empowering its workforce to meet domestic and international demands. With over 65 per cent of its population under 35, India boasts one of the world's youngest and most vibrant workforces. This demographic advantage positions the country as a potential global talent hub. However, the critical challenge lies in transforming this potential into a skilled, job-ready workforce. While India's youth are ambitious and eager, many lack access to industry-relevant skills and training. Bridging this skills gap is crucial for ensuring employability and driving economic growth. Canada's challenges serve as a wake-up call for India to accelerate its focus on skill development, especially in sectors that align with global demand.

Global Demand Beyond Canada
While Canada's crisis has brought attention to the workforce, opportunities extend far beyond North America. Countries in Europe, as well as South Asian nations like Taiwan and Vietnam, are also facing workforce gaps and require skilled, hardworking individuals. With its demographic advantage and growing focus on skill development, India is well-positioned to fill these gaps. By aligning training programs with the specific needs of these markets, India can



WHILE INDIA'S YOUTH ARE AMBITIOUS AND EAGER, MANY LACK ACCESS TO INDUSTRY-RELEVANT SKILLS AND TRAINING. BRIDGING THIS SKILLS GAP IS CRUCIAL FOR ENSURING EMPLOYABILITY AND DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

cement its reputation as a global supplier of talent. Bridging the Skills Gap with Policy Support India has already made strides in skill development through initiatives like Skill India, Digital India, and the National Skill Development Mission. However, these efforts must be scaled and aligned with global standards to capitalise on emerging opportunities, and the private sector truly should be able to design certification programmes that meet international benchmarks. Hands-on training, internships, and industry-specific curricula ensure that Indian workers are both employable and competitive globally. Equitable access to skill development programmes is critical. Government subsidies, partnerships with educational institutions, and digital learning platforms can make high-quality training accessible even in rural areas. Technology can be a game-changer in India's skill development journey. Online learning platforms, virtual reality simulations, and AI-driven personalised training modules can revolutionise how skills are imparted. These tools make training accessible to even the country's remotest corners, enabling millions to participate in the economic mainstream. Skill development should focus on employment and fostering entrepreneurship. For instance, a trained beauty and wellness professional could start a salon, or a logistics expert could launch a delivery service. With mentorship and financial support, such ventures can create jobs and spur regional economic growth.

Key Sectors with Growing Opportunities

1. Information Technology (IT): India's IT sector is already a global leader, but the rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and cyber secu-

rency require a highly skilled workforce. As digital transformation reshapes industries worldwide, there is a pressing need for talent proficient in emerging technologies. Training programmes should focus on data analytics, AI applications, and cyber security protocols to meet global standards.

2. Hospitality and Tourism: With increasing international and domestic travel, the hospitality and tourism sectors demand professionals with strong soft skills, cultural competence, and customer service excellence. Vocational training in these areas, coupled with language enhancement programs, can help Indian youth secure lucrative positions both at home and abroad.

3. Transportation and Logistics: The transportation industry is a vital economic pillar, requiring skilled personnel for logistics management, safety protocols, and infrastructure operations. By offering targeted training in these areas, India can create a workforce ready to address the growing demand in this sector.

4. Beauty and Wellness: Often overlooked, the beauty and wellness industry has witnessed exponential growth globally. This sector offers immense opportunities, from cosmetology to spa therapies and holistic wellness. By blending traditional Indian practices with modern techniques, India can produce skilled professionals catering to diverse cultural needs worldwide.

5. Retail: The rise of e-commerce and the evolution of traditional retail have created a demand for skilled workers in inventory management, customer relations, and digital marketing. Training programmes focused on these areas can help India's youth tap into this dynamic sector.

A Collaborative Effort Capitalising

on these opportunities requires a coordinated effort between the government, private sector, and educational institutions. Policies should focus on creating industry partnerships, providing financial incentives for skill development, and ensuring that training programs are aligned with market demands.

At the same time, private enterprises must invest in upskilling initiatives and collaborate with training institutes to design job-ready curricula. International partnerships can also be vital in providing Indian workers with exposure to global best practices.

Seizing the Moment India's youth stand at the cusp of a transformative moment. By equipping them with the right skills, the nation can address unemployment, meet global workforce demands, and drive economic growth. The current challenges faced by countries like Canada remind us of the interconnectedness of global economies and the opportunities that lie within crises. This is an opportunity for India to fill workforce shortages in other nations and elevate its standing as a global talent powerhouse. By focusing on skill development today, India can ensure a brighter, more prosperous tomorrow for its young generation and the nation.

As the world navigates economic uncertainties, it is not the crises that define us but how we respond to them. This is a moment for India to turn challenges into opportunities and empower its youth to shine within the country and on the global stage.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI. The views expressed are personal)

Cooperative entrepreneurship: A pathway to inclusive growth and social justice

By fostering self-reliance, financial inclusion and social equity, cooperatives have the potential to drive sustainable development

Cooperative entrepreneurship is emerging as a transformative mechanism to address social and economic challenges, especially for marginalised communities. By integrating economic activities with social objectives, it fosters self-reliance, financial inclusion, and social equity, making it a key pillar for sustainable development.



BINOD ANAND

where socio-economic disparities hinder development. By aligning member incentives with enterprise goals, cooperatives drive regional economic growth and nurture local entrepreneurship. Worker cooperatives and employee-owned businesses exemplify how collective ownership transforms workplaces. Through reinvesting profits locally and prioritising social

objectives over profit maximisation, cooperatives contribute to community development and social impact. Eastern India can draw inspiration from dairy cooperatives like Amul and the Amreli Model, which have uplifted rural communities by ensuring fair pricing, market access, and technological support.

The historical evolution of cooperatives highlights their relevance in modern economies. Grounded in principles of democratic governance, voluntary participation, and equitable resource distribution, cooperatives ensure equal decision-making power for all members, irrespective of socio-economic status. This inclusivity can significantly impact Eastern India by

bridging developmental gaps and fostering socio-economic resilience. Research underscores how cooperative structures promote innovation through shared ownership and long-term perspectives. Their resilience during economic downturns, supported by collective decision-making, creates an environment conducive to entrepreneurial activities. Innovations in worker cooperatives worldwide, such as those studied by Virginie Pérotin, offer replicable models for Eastern India to boost creativity and efficiency in community-driven enterprises. Cooperatives integrate economic, social, and environmental objectives, aligning closely with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By addressing socio-econom-



ic disparities and promoting equitable wealth distribution, cooperatives serve as engines of inclusive growth. Policy recommendations advocate for robust frameworks to amplify their impact on sustainable development. In Eastern India, cooperatives can tackle regional challenges like agricultural inefficiencies and lack of industrialisation, fostering local enterprises and generating jobs. A recent government decision to extend

PM Fasal Bima Yojana benefits to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) marks significant progress in financial inclusion and risk mitigation for marginalised groups. This initiative ensures access to crop insurance, protecting vulnerable farmers from losses due to unpredictable weather patterns. In Eastern India, where agriculture forms the backbone of rural livelihoods, this extension can stabilise incomes and encourage cooperative farming ventures. Historical evidence shows that regions with robust cooperative farming models have achieved significant socio-economic upliftment. Cooperatives enable collective bargaining for better input prices and market access, while

providing small and marginal farmers with resources to modernise agricultural practices. Eastern India can build on these successes by developing region-specific cooperative frameworks to address local agricultural challenges and enhance farming resilience. Amul Dairy Cooperative in Gujarat serves as an exemplary model, organising millions of dairy farmers to ensure fair prices and market access while uplifting rural communities. Another noteworthy example is the Lijjat Papad Cooperative, run by economically disadvantaged women, showcasing how small-scale production can evolve into a globally recognised enterprise. Cooperatives are crucial for fostering social justice in

Eastern India by addressing systemic inequities and promoting inclusive growth. They enhance financial inclusion by offering microfinance options, enabling marginalised groups to access entrepreneurial capital. By eliminating middlemen, cooperatives ensure fair pricing for products and services, advancing economic equity. Their governance structures also help members develop leadership skills, strengthening their role in community affairs. Women-centric cooperatives, in particular, provide financial independence, leadership opportunities, and platforms to address gender-specific challenges.

(The writer was the member of the MSP committee formed by the central government; views are personal)

S Korean anti-corruption agency, police debate measures to detain impeached president

PTI ■ SEOUL

South Korea's anti-corruption agency and police debated on Monday more forceful measures to detain impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol after their previous attempt was blocked by the presidential security service last week.

The discussions highlighted the obstacles facing the criminal investigation into Yoon's Dec. 3 martial law decree, which led to his impeachment on Dec. 14. The one-week detention warrant was set to expire at midnight, but the agency requested a new court warrant to extend the timeframe for taking Yoon into custody.

The Seoul Western District Court last week issued a warrant to detain Yoon and a separate warrant to search his residence after he defied authorities by refusing to appear for questioning over his brief power grab. Executing those warrants is complicated as long as Yoon remains in his official residence.

Yoon has described his power grab as a necessary act of governance against a liberal opposition bogging down his agenda with its legislative majority and has vowed to "fight to the end" against efforts to oust him. While martial law lasted only several hours, it set off turmoil that has shaken the country's politics, diplomacy and financial markets for weeks and exposed the fragility of South Korea's democracy while society is deeply polarized.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which leads a joint investigation with police and military investigators, revealed Monday it had asked police to take over efforts to detain Yoon, following its prominent role in Friday's failure.

However, the anti-corruption agency backtracked hours later after the police stated it could be legally problematic for them to be entirely responsible for

Yoon's detention, given that the warrants had been obtained by the agency.

The agency, which has faced questions about its competence after failing to detain Yoon, said the efforts to execute the warrants would be carried out under the authority of the joint investigation team but did not clarify whether its approach would change.

Police vow more forceful efforts to detain Yoon: Police

available options" were being reviewed. If investigators manage to detain Yoon, they will likely ask a court for permission to make a formal arrest. Otherwise, he will be released after 48 hours.

Meanwhile, the agency has urged the country's acting leader, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok, to instruct the presidential security service to comply with the execution of the detention warrant. Choi

Oh Dong-woon, and six other anti-corruption and police officers for orchestrating Friday's detention attempt, which they claim was illegal.

The lawyers also filed complaints against the country's acting national police chief, the acting defense minister and two Seoul police officials for ignoring the presidential security service's request to provide additional forces to block the detention attempt. The lawyers



Protesters demanding the arrest of impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol attend a rally near the presidential residence in Seoul on Monday. AP/PTI

say they plan to make a more aggressive effort to detain Yoon at the official residence, where members of the presidential security staff were seen installing barbed wire near the gate and along the hills leading up to the building.

A police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity per department rules, told reporters there were discussions with the anti-corruption agency on whether to arrest members of the presidential security staff if they forcefully obstruct efforts to detain Yoon. When asked about the possibility of deploying police special task forces, the official said "all

has yet to publicly comment on the issue. Yoon's lawyers argued the detention and search warrants against the president cannot be enforced at his residence due to a law that protects locations potentially linked to military secrets from search without the consent of the person in charge — which would be Yoon. They also argue the anti-corruption office lacks the legal authority to investigate rebellion charges and delegate police to detain Yoon.

Yoon's lawyers file complaints: Yoon's lawyers on Monday filed complaints with public prosecutors against the anti-corruption agency's chief prosecutor,

said they also plan to file complaints against some 150 anti-corruption and police investigators who were involved in Friday's detention attempt.

The anti-corruption agency has been weighing charges of rebellion after Yoon declared martial law and dispatched troops to surround the National Assembly. Lawmakers who managed to get past the blockade voted to lift martial law hours later.

His fate now lies with the Constitutional Court, which has begun deliberations on whether to formally remove Yoon from office or reinstate him.

S Korea's military says North Korea fired missile into eastern sea

PTI ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Monday fired a ballistic missile that flew 1,100 kilometers (685 miles) before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, South Korea's military said, extending its heightened weapons testing activities into 2025 weeks before Donald Trump returns as US president.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the midrange missile was fired from an area near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and that the launch preparations were detected in advance by the US and South Korean militaries. It denounced the launch as a provocation that poses a serious threat to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The joint chiefs said the military was strengthening its surveillance and defense posture in preparation for possible additional launches and sharing information on the missile with the United States and Japan.

Japan's Defence Ministry said the missile landed outside its exclusive economic zone and that there were no reports of



A TV screen shows a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul on Monday. AP/PTI

damage to vessels or aircraft.

The launch came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was visiting Seoul for talks with South Korean allies over the North Korean nuclear threat and other issues.

Blinken's visit comes amid political turmoil in South Korea following President Yoon Suk Yeol's short-lived martial law decree and subsequent impeachment by parliament last month, which experts say puts the country at a disadvantage in getting a steady footing with Trump ahead of his return to the White House.

In a news conference with South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul, Blinken said they condemn North Korea's latest launch, which violates UN Security Council resolutions against the North, and reiterated concerns about the growing alignment between Pyongyang and Moscow over Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine.

According to US, Ukrainian and South Korean assessments, North Korea has sent more than 10,000 troops and conventional weapons systems to support Moscow's war against Ukraine. There are concerns that Russia could transfer North Korea advanced weapons technology in return, which could potentially enhance the threat posed by leader Kim Jong Un's nuclear-armed military.

Blinken described the military cooperation between Russia and North Korea as a "two-way street," saying Russia has been providing military equipment and training to the North and "intends to share space and satellite technology."

Blinken and Cho both dismissed concerns about damage to the US-South Korea alliance in the aftermath of the political turmoil in Seoul.

Experts had warned that Yoon's martial law decree — which lasted only hours but has rattled politics, high-level diplomacy and financial markets for weeks — exposed the fragility of South Korea's democratic system in a divided society.

Oh Dong-woon, and six other anti-corruption and police officers for orchestrating Friday's detention attempt, which they claim was illegal.

The lawyers also filed complaints against the country's acting national police chief, the acting defense minister and two Seoul police officials for ignoring the presidential security service's request to provide additional forces to block the detention attempt. The lawyers

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal issues second arrest warrant against ex-PM Hasina

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) on Monday issued arrest warrants against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 11 others, including former military generals and an ex-police chief, for their alleged role in incidents of enforced disappearances.

This was the second arrest warrant by the ICT against Hasina, who fled to India after her Awami League regime's toppling following unprecedented anti-government protests in August last year. The tribunal has so far recorded three cases against her.

"Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mojumdar, chairman of the tribunal, issued the arrest warrant after hearing a prosecution plea," an ICT official said.

The Inspector General of Police was ordered to arrest the twelve people, including Hasina, and produce them before the tribunal on February 12 in the case filed over complaints of

enforced disappearances of several hundred people.

The deposed premier's then-defence adviser Major General (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and former IGP Benazir Ahmed are among those named in the case. While Siddique is currently under custody, Ahmed is believed to be on the run. ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam did not disclose the names of most of the accused "in the interest of investigations and their arrest."

"The next hearing for this case is also scheduled for February 12. The tribunal has instructed that the investigation report be submitted on that day if completed," Islam later told reporters. He, however, said if the investigation report could not be submitted by then, the law enforcement agencies would have to provide a progress report on the arrests.

Islam told the tribunal that the ousted regime had established a culture of enforced disappearances under state sponsorship.



The chief prosecutor alleged that those involved in carrying out these disappearances were rewarded. He added that agencies like the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), the police's Detective Branch (DB), the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) were most frequently used for the purpose. "Over the past 15 years,

a culture of fear was established in Bangladesh through enforced disappearances and crossfires. Thousands of people were abducted by various forces, either in plainclothes or in uniform. Most of them never returned," Islam told journalists.

Last month, Dhaka officially sought Hasina's extradition from India. While New Delhi acknowledged the receipt of the letter, it refrained from commenting on it.

The ICT issued the first arrest warrant against the ex-premier on October 17 on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the July-August protests and uprising.

After the fall of the Awami League government, at least 60 cases or complaints of enforced disappearances, killings, genocide, and crimes against humanity were lodged at the ICT, accusing Hasina, leaders of her party and its allies, and senior officials of different law enforcement agencies.

Trudeau likely to resign as Liberal Party leader this week: Report

PTI ■ OTTAWA

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is expected to resign as the leader of the Liberal Party this week amid internal party dissent and low public opinion ratings, according to a media report.

The Globe and Mail newspaper citing sources said it is unclear when exactly Trudeau, who has been Canada's prime minister since 2015, will step down, but a resignation is expected to come before a national caucus meeting on Wednesday.

One of the sources, who spoke recently to the Prime Minister, said Trudeau, 53, realises he needs to make a statement before he meets the Liberal caucus so it doesn't look like he was forced out by his own MPs. The sources said they are unsure about what the Liberal Party's national executive plans to do to replace Trudeau as leader. They said it remains unclear whether he will leave immediately or stay on as

Prime Minister until a new leader is selected.

The Liberal Party national executive, which decides on leadership issues, plans to meet this week, likely after the caucus session, the report said. On Friday, The Globe reported that Trudeau's advisers are looking at how he can remain Prime Minister while a new Liberal leader is selected.

A source said on Sunday they believed that Trudeau would stay in his position until a new leader was chosen.

The party has two options: appoint an interim leader on the recommendation of the national caucus or hold a shortened leadership contest. A leadership contest would require the Prime Minister to request that Governor-General Mary Simon prorogue Parliament, which constitutional experts say is not guaranteed, the paper said.

Another source said it makes sense for Trudeau to remain as Prime Minister until a leader is

chosen so he can deal with the incoming US administration of Donald Trump and his threat of 25-per-cent tariffs.

A Liberal Party source said a leadership race would take at least three months, although the party constitution requests at least four months.

The news of resignation comes as Trudeau's popularity continues to dwindle in Canada, which should hold an election by late October.

Public opinion polls show that his party will likely be swept out of power by Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives.

According to Canadian pollster Angus Reid, Trudeau has a disapproval rate of around 68 per cent as of December 24.

Trudeau faced a difficult few months in politics. His own party members are calling for his resignation. In September, he faced a no confidence vote in parliament that later failed, despite efforts from the Conservative Party to remove him from office.



On December 16, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland announced that she was stepping down from Trudeau's cabinet, dealing a significant blow to the prime minister.

Later in December, one of Trudeau's key allies, New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh, said that he planned to present a formal motion of no-confidence against him.

Biden, in 11th hour action, bans new offshore oil, gas drilling in most federal waters

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is moving to ban new offshore oil and gas drilling in most US coastal waters, a last-minute effort to block possible action by the incoming Trump administration to expand offshore drilling.

Biden, whose term expires in two weeks, said he is using authority under the federal Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to protect offshore areas along the East and West coasts, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and portions of Alaska's Northern Bering Sea from future oil and natural gas leasing.

"My decision reflects what coastal communities, businesses and beachgoers have known for a long time: that drilling off these coasts could cause irre-

versible damage to places we hold dear and is unnecessary to meet our nation's energy needs," Biden said in a statement.

"As the climate crisis continues to threaten communities across the country and we are transitioning to a clean energy economy, now is the time to protect these coasts for our children and grandchildren," he said.

Biden's orders would not affect large swaths of the Gulf of Mexico, where most US offshore drilling occurs, but it would protect coastlines along California, Florida and other states from future drilling.

Biden's actions, which protect more than 625 million acres of federal waters, could be difficult for President-elect Donald Trump to unwind, since they would likely require an act of

Congress to repeal. Trump himself has a complicated history on offshore drilling. He signed a memorandum in 2020 directing the Interior secretary to prohibit drilling in the waters off both Florida coasts, and off the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina until 2032.

The action came after Trump initially moved to vastly expand offshore drilling, before retreating amid widespread opposition in Florida and other coastal states. Trump has vowed to establish what he calls American "energy dominance" around the world as he seeks to boost U.S. oil and gas drilling and move away from Biden's focus on climate change.

Environmental advocates hailed Biden's action, saying new oil and gas drilling must be sharply curtailed to reduce greenhouse

gas emissions that contribute to global warming. 2024 was the hottest in recorded history. "This is an epic ocean victory!" said Joseph Gordon, campaign director for the environmental group Oceana.

Gordon thanked Biden "for listening to the voices from coastal communities" that oppose drilling and "contributing to the bipartisan tradition of protecting our coasts."

Biden's actions build on the legacy of Democratic and Republican presidents to protect coastal water from offshore drilling. Gordon said, adding that U.S. coastlines are home to tens of millions of Americans and support billions of dollars of economic activity that depend on a clean environment, abundant wildlife and thriving fisheries.

Pope Francis names first woman to head major Vatican office

PTI ■ ROME

Pope Francis on Monday named the first woman to head a major Vatican office, appointing an Italian nun, Sister Simona Brambilla, to become prefect of the department responsible for all the Catholic Church's religious orders.

The appointment marks a major step in Francis' aim to give women more leadership roles in governing the church. While women have been named to No. 2 spots in some Vatican offices, never before has a woman been named prefect of a dicastery or congregation of the Holy See Curia, the central governing organ of the Catholic Church.

The historic nature of Brambilla's appointment was confirmed by Vatican Media, which headlined its report "Sister Simona Brambilla is

the first woman prefect in the Vatican".

The office is one of the most important in the Vatican. Known officially as the Dicastery for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, it is responsible for every religious order, from the Jesuits and Franciscans to smaller newer movements.

In an indication of the novelty of the appointment, and the theological implications involved, Francis simultaneously named as a co-leader, or "pro-prefect," a cardinal: Angel Fernández Artime, a Salesian. But the appointment, announced in the Vatican daily bulletin, lists Brambilla first as "prefect" and Fernández second as her co-leader, which theologically is necessary since the prefect must be able to celebrate Mass and perform other sacramental functions that current-

ly can only be done by men.

Brambilla, 59, is a member of the Consolata Missionaries religious order and had served as the No. 2 in the religious orders department since last year. She takes over from the retiring Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, 77.

Francis made Brambilla's appointment possible with his 2022 reform of the Holy See's founding constitution, which allowed laypeople, including women, to head a dicastery and become prefects.

Brambilla, a nurse, worked as a missionary in Mozambique and led her Consolata order as superior from 2011-2023, when Francis made her secretary of the religious orders department.

Her appointment is the latest move by Francis to show by example how women can take leadership roles within the Catholic hierarchy, albeit with-



out allowing them to be ordained as priests.

Catholic women do much of the church's work in schools, hospitals and passing down the faith to future generations. But they have long complained of second-class status in an institution that reserves the priesthood for men.

Francis has upheld the ban on

female priests and tamped down hopes that women could be ordained as deacons.

But there has been a marked increase in the percentage of women working in the Vatican during his papacy, including in leadership positions, from 19.3% in 2013 to 23.4% today, according to statistics reported by Vatican News. In the Curia

alone, the percentage of women is 26%.

Among the women holding leadership positions are Sister Raffaella Petri, the first-ever female secretary general of the Vatican City State, responsible for the territory's health care system, police force and main source of revenue, the Vatican Museums, which are led by a laywoman, Barbara Jatta.

Another nun, Sister Alessandra Smerilli, is the No. 2 in the Vatican development office while several women have been appointed to under-secretary positions, including the French nun, Sister Nathalie Becquart, in the synod of bishops' office.

Pope wraps up busy Christmas season by calling for culture of welcome in Christian communities: Pope Francis wrapped up a busy Christmas season on Monday by calling for the faithful to promote a culture of welcome

and integration in their communities and reject discrimination.

Francis presided over Mass in St. Peter's Basilica to mark Epiphany.

According to the Bible, the feast marks the day that three wise men guided by a star came to visit the newborn Jesus. Francis said the star, in guiding humanity to God, doesn't discriminate among ethnic, linguistic or national groups and is there for all.

"We do well to meditate on this today, in a world in which individuals and nations are equipped with ever more powerful means of communication, and yet seem to have become less willing to understand, accept and encounter others in their diversity!" he said in his homily.

God, he said, calls on Christians to reject anything that discriminates or excludes

and discards people. He called instead for promoting "a strong culture of welcome, in which the narrow places of fear and denunciation are replaced by open spaces of encounter, integration and sharing of life; safe spaces where everyone can find warmth and shelter."

Francis has long preached the Gospel-mandated need to welcome the stranger, applying it to migrants in particular.

The Epiphany Mass marked the end of a particularly busy Christmas season for Francis that also coincided with the start of the 2025 Holy Year. The once-ever-quarter-celebration of Christianity is expected to bring more than 30 million pilgrims to Rome over the next 12 months.

The 88-year-old pope has a daunting schedule ahead greeting and ministering to them, alongside his other papal duties.

Starmer slams 'lies and misinformation' after attacks from Elon Musk

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday condemned "lies and misinformation" that he said are undermining UK democracy, in response to a barrage of attacks on his government from Elon Musk.

The billionaire Tesla CEO has taken an intense and erratic interest in British politics since the centre-left Labour Party was elected in July. Musk has used his social network, X, to call for a new election and demand Starmer be imprisoned. On Monday he posted an online poll for his 210 million followers on the proposition: "America should liberate the people of Britain from their tyrannical government."

Asked about Musk's comments during a question session at a hospital near London, Starmer criticised "those that are spreading lies and misinformation as far and as wide as possible," particularly opposition Conservative politicians in Britain who have echoed some of Musk's claims.

Musk often posts on X about the UK, retweeting criticism of Starmer and the hashtag TwoTierKeir -- shorthand for an unsubstantiated claim that Britain has "two-tier policing" with far-right protesters treated more harshly than pro-Palestinian or Black Lives Matter demonstrators. Recently Musk has focused on child sexual abuse, particularly a series of cases that rocked northern England towns in

which groups of men, largely from Pakistani backgrounds, were tried for grooming and abusing dozens of girls. The cases have been used by far-right activists to link child abuse to immigration, and to accuse politicians of covering up the "grooming gangs" out of a fear of appearing racist.

Musk has posted a demand for a public inquiry into the cases. An inquiry was held under the previous Conservative government, though many of the recommendations it made in 2022 have yet to be implemented.

Musk also has accused Starmer of failing to bring perpetrators to justice when he was England's director of public prosecutions between 2008 and 2013.

Answering questions after a

speech near London, Starmer defended his record as chief prosecutor, saying he had reopened closed cases and "changed the whole prosecution approach" to child sexual exploitation.

He also condemned language used by Musk about Jess Phillips, a government minister responsible for combating violence against women and girls. Musk called Phillips a "rape genocide apologist" and said she deserved to be in prison.

"When the poison of the far-right leads to serious threats to Jess Phillips and others, then in my book, a line has been crossed," Starmer said. "I enjoy the cut and thrust of politics, the robust debate that we must have, but that's got to be based

on facts and truth, not on lies." Musk has also called for the release of Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, a far-right activist who goes by the name Tommy Robinson and is serving a prison sentence for contempt of court.

Starmer said people "cheerleading Tommy Robinson... are trying to get some vicarious thrill from street violence that people like Tommy Robinson promote."

Starmer largely avoided mentioning Musk by name in his responses, likely wary of giving him more of a spotlight — or of angering Musk ally Donald Trump, who is due to be inaugurated as US president on Jan 20.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, another target of the X

owner's ire, has taken a similar approach. Scholz said he is staying "cool" over critical personal comments made by Musk, but finds it worrying that the US billionaire makes the effort to get involved in a general election by endorsing the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party.

Starmer said the main issue was not Musk's posts on X, but "what are politicians here doing to stand up for our democracy?"

He said he was concerned about Conservative politicians in Britain "so desperate for attention they are amplifying what the far right are saying."

"Once we lose the anchor that truth matters... then we are on a very slippery slope," he said. While some Conservatives,

including party leader Kemi Badenoch, have echoed Musk's points, the main UK beneficiary of his interest has been Reform UK, the hard-right party led by Nigel Farage that has just five seats in the 650-seat House of Commons but big expansion plans. Farage said last month that Musk was considering making a multi-million-dollar donation to the party.

But Farage is critical of Tommy Robinson, refusing to let him join Reform, and on Sunday Musk posted: "The Reform Party needs a new leader. Farage doesn't have what it takes."

Farage tweeted in response: "Well, this is a surprise! Elon is a remarkable individual but on this I am afraid I disagree."

Congo will execute over 170 people convicted of armed robbery

PTI ■ KINHSA (CONGO)

More than 170 inmates from Congo's capital to a high-security prison in the north where they will be executed, Congolese authorities said.

Seventy of the convicts were transported on Sunday, Congolese Minister of Justice Constant Mutamba said, adding to 102 other prisoners who have already been sent to Angenga prison in the northern Mongala province. The men have been convicted of armed robbery and are locally known as "Kulunas" or "urban bandits". They're aged between 18 and 35, Mutamba said in a statement. He did not say when the executions would take place.

Some have welcomed the measure as a means of restoring order and security in the cities, while others are concerned about the risks of abuse and human rights violations. "We welcome this decision because it will help put an end to urban crime. From 8 pm onwards, you can't move around freely because you're afraid of running into a Kuluna," said Fiston Kakule, a resident of the eastern city of Goma. Espoir Muhinuka, a human rights activist, warned of the possibility of extrajudicial executions and called for a strict respect for judicial procedures and fundamental guarantees. He fears that political pressure could lead to unjust convictions and arbitrary executions.

China protests US sanctions for its alleged role in hacking, complains of foreign hacker attacks

PTI ■ BANGKOK

China has slammed a decision by the US Treasury to sanction a Beijing-based cybersecurity company for its alleged role in multiple hacking incidents targeting critical US infrastructure, while the Chinese cyber security agency complained Monday of attacks on Chinese networks.

Asked about the sanctions against Beijing-based Integrity Technology Group, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said the country has cracked down on cyber attacks and that Washington was using the issue to "defame and smear China."

"For some time now, the US side has been playing up so-called Chinese cyber attacks and has even initiated illegal unilateral sanctions against China," Guo said. "China firmly opposes this and will take necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests."

Integrity Technology Group said the move by Washington had "no factual basis."

"The company firmly opposes the US Treasury Department's unwarranted accusations and illegal unilateral sanctions on the company," the company, also known as Yongxin

Zhicheng Technology Group, said in a statement Monday to the Shanghai Stock Exchange. The China National Cyber Security Information Center said it had discovered attacks from various malicious websites and foreign IP addresses, including some in California and Florida. It also reported attacks from the Netherlands, Singapore, Mexico, Turkey and Vietnam using Trojan programs, botnets, phishing, theft of intellectual property and violations of privacy.

"They pose a major threat to China's domestic networked units and internet users and some activities have been suspected of criminal offenses," the center said in a notice on its WeChat social media site.

On Friday, the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control hit Integrity Technology with sanctions that block access to US property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans. It cited alleged multiple hacks against US victims, including incidents attributed to Flax Typhoon, a Chinese state-sponsored campaign that targets US critical infrastructure.

The sanctions did not appear to be related to an incident in which the Treasury

Department reported that Chinese hackers had remotely accessed several of its workstations and unclassified documents in a major breach of cybersecurity.

The Treasury Department said it learned of that problem on Dec. 8, when a third-party software service provider, BeyondTrust, flagged that hackers had stolen a key "used by the vendor to secure a cloud-based service used to remotely provide technical support" to workers.

US officials are grappling with the fallout from a massive Chinese cyberespionage blitz known as Salt Typhoon that they say gave officials in Beijing access to private texts and phone conversations of an unknown number of Americans.

Late last month, officials said at least eight telecommunications companies, as well as dozens of nations, had been affected by Salt Typhoon.

Integrity Technology said the sanctions would not adversely affect its business since it does not operate in the US and has no assets there. It added that it abides by all laws and regulations and that it "has always adhered to the corporate vision and mission of bringing a sense of security to the world."

Austria far right gets mandate to try to lead govt for first time since World War II

PTI ■ VIENNA

The leader of Austria's Freedom Party received a mandate Monday to form a new government, which would be the first headed by the far right since World War II if he succeeds.

The Freedom Party, led by Herbert Kickl, won Austria's parliamentary election in September, taking 28.8% of the vote and beating outgoing Chancellor Karl Nehammer's conservative Austrian People's Party into second place.

But in October, President Alexander Van der Bellen gave Nehammer the first chance to form a new government after Nehammer's party said it wouldn't go into government with the Freedom Party under Kickl and others refused to work with the Freedom Party

at all. Those efforts to form a governing alliance without the far right collapsed in the first few days of the new year and Nehammer said Saturday that he would resign.

The People's Party then signaled that it might be open to working under Kickl. Van der Bellen said after meeting Kickl for about an hour at the presidential palace Monday that he had tasked the Freedom Party leader with holding talks with the People's Party to form a new government.

"I did not take this step lightly," the president told reporters. "I will continue to take care that the principles and rules of our constitution are correctly respected and adhered to."

The far right and the conservatives have governed together before, but on previous occasions with the Freedom Party

as the junior partner. Most recently, they ran Austria from 2017 to 2019 in a government in which Kickl — a 56-year-old with a taste for provocation — served as interior minister. It collapsed in a scandal surrounding the Freedom Party's leader at the time.

Coalition talks between the far right and conservatives aren't guaranteed to succeed, but there are no longer any other realistic options in the current parliament and polls suggest that a new election soon could strengthen the Freedom Party further.

In its election programme titled "Fortress Austria," the Freedom Party has called for the "remigration of uninvited foreigners," for achieving a more "homogeneous" nation by tightly controlling borders and suspending the right to asylum via an

emergency law.

The Freedom Party also calls for an end to sanctions against Russia, is highly critical of Western military aid to Ukraine and wants to bow out of the European Sky Shield Initiative, a missile defense project launched by Germany.

Kickl has criticised "elites" in Brussels and called for some powers to be brought back from the European Union to Austria.

Van der Bellen noted that the new government won't face an easy task.

"The economic environment is difficult. Austria is in a persistent recession, unemployment is rising; at the same time our state budget must be restructured," he said. "It's not likely that all the measures will be popular, but they will have to be implemented."

Russia claims it captured another town in Ukraine

PTI ■ KYIV

Russian troops in eastern Ukraine have captured the stronghold of Kurakhove after a month-long battle, Russia's Defence Ministry claimed Monday, adding the wrecked town to the Kremlin's list of conquests in the partially occupied Donetsk region during the almost three-year war.

The claim, which drew no response from Ukrainian authorities, came a day after the Russian Defense Ministry said Ukrainian forces had launched a new thrust in Russia's Kursk border region.

The inauguration in two weeks' time of US President-elect Donald Trump has brought a new element of uncertainty into the conflict and triggered an apparent effort by both sides to establish battlefield gains before any possible peace talks are held.

Trump hasn't detailed his plans for accomplishing his goal of ending the fighting, but his presence in the White House is likely to significantly affect how the war plays out.

Kurakhove is a key stronghold for the Ukrainian army on the

eastern front line. It has an industrial zone, a thermal power plant and a reservoir. It also sits on a highway running between eastern and southern Ukraine.

In November, The Associated Press reported from the town that some 7,000-10,000 people likely remained in Kurakhove. Its prewar population was about twice that. The town has been under relentless attacks from artillery, multiple rocket launchers, powerful guided bombs and drones that have shattered buildings.

Ukrainian officials usually comment on major battlefield defeats only days after Russia announces them.

Russia has this year been driving westward in a slow and costly effort to capture all of Donetsk. Ukraine is short of troops on the front lines and is straining to hold back the bigger Russian army.

Russian forces are trying to close in on nearby Pokrovsk, which is a key road junction and a rail distribution center, furnishing supplies to a broad span of the Ukrainian front line.

Trump's lawyers ask judge to halt sentencing in hush money case

PTI ■ NEW YORK

President-elect Donald Trump asked a judge Monday to halt this week's sentencing in his hush money case while they appeal his recent rulings upholding the verdict.

Trump's lawyers said they plan to ask a state appeals court to reverse Judge Juan M. Merchan's decision last week, which set the case for sentencing on Friday — little over a week before he's sworn in for his second term. In a pair of rulings in recent weeks, Merchan rejected Trump's bid to throw out the verdict and dismiss the indictment on presidential immunity grounds and because of his impending return to the White House.

In a decision last week, the judge signaled he is not likely to sentence Trump, a Republican, to any punishment for his historic conviction on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records.

Acknowledging the demands of the transition process, he had given Trump the option to attend in person or appear virtually by video.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Roop Narayan Garg S/O Shri Jagdish Prashad, R/O H. No. 316/1, Mohalla Purani Mandi, Narnaul, Haryana declare that I am the sole owner of Flat No. 9-0, Pocket 2, Kondli Gharoli, New Delhi. The original Demand letter of above property has been lost/misplaced somewhere in Delhi. An FIR has been lodged at Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No: 1214163/2023 on 08/12/2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of M/S MAXHEIGHTS TOWNSHIP & PROJECTS PVT. LTD having its registered office at 408, 4th floor, RG Trade Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034, the general public is hereby informed that on the basis of application/documents submitted by Sh. Atul Verma S/o. Late Sh. Khyali Ram Verma R/O. House No. 2023, Sector-46, Gurgaon-122003, the Developer M/s Maxheights Township & Projects Pvt. Ltd is Substituting, in place of late Sh. Khyali Ram Verma, the name of following Class I Legal heirs of Late Sh. Khyali Ram Verma, qua allotment of Flat No. I-023, 2nd Floor, Maxheights Metro View Apartments, Sector-35, Sonapat,

- Seema (Wife)
- Manju Verma (Daughter)
- Renu Verma (Daughter)
- Atul Verma (Son)

If any person has any objection/claim on the said property or against the said substitution, they may file his/her claim/objection within 15 days to the company, and thereafter no objection/claim will be entertained in this regard.

Kshitiy Sharda Advocate
Date: 06.01.2025 D/15/16/2008

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the matter of **Goldenbridge Global Trade Private Limited** having its registered office at 3rd Floor, Orchid Centre, Near Ilim Institute, DLF QE, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002, seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting / Extra ordinary general meeting held on **13/09/2024** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Haryana" to "State of Delhi", the Registered office at **Unit No. 302, 3rd Floor, Living Style Mall, Jasola, Sector-6, Kalindi Kunj Road, New Delhi-110025** within **Fourteen days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
MYAMMUHAMMAD OMADOV
DIRECTOR
DIN- 10563266

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-III Ext. (Phase-II)" situated at village- Dhuneta, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 3.35 Acres under License No. 130 of 2019 dated 07.12.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 06 of 2021 Dated 29.01.2021, Extn. No. 03 of 2024 Dated 13.05.2024.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Yes Bank Ltd. to SBM (India) Bank Ltd. in Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

| Particulars | Previous Bank Accounts | New Bank Accounts |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bank Name | Yes Bank Ltd. | SBM (India) Bank Ltd. |
| IFSC Code | YESB0001136 | STCB0000065 |
| Master Collection Account No. (100%) | 01367250000254 | 20052021001904 |
| RERA Account No. (70%) | 01367250000244 | 20052021001911 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 013681400002206 | 20052021001928 |

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 07/01/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Vandana Lakha & Mr. Brijesh Kumar Lakha are claiming to be the owners of Residential Plot bearing No. 058, area measuring 109.50 sq. mtrs., situated in Block-B, of Sector 49, Noida, District Gurgaon, Haryana. The said property is being mortgaged to the said property like Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Lease Deed dt. 04.01.2000 (Doc.No.32/24), Regd. G.P. dt. 04.01.2000, ATs dt. 04.01.2000, Regd. Will dt. 04.01.2000, Transfer Memorandum dt. 05.12.2003 and Transfer Deed dt. 05.12.2003 (Doc. No.13225) are lost & not traceable. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to mortgage the said property to our client. If anybody has any objections on the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/mortgage/transfer, etc. and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-15
Ph: 011-41112527-28, legal@kmalgaol.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Harjinder Kaur is the GPA Holder of Built-Up First Floor Front Side without roof right, with two bike parking space at ground floor. Built on Property bearing plot no. 2, area measuring 90 Sq. Yds. and Khasra No. 58/15, situated at village Hahnda, Delhi, Colony Shree Vinay in Block-B, Mohan Garden Ext, Uttar Nagar, New Delhi - 110059. She is in possession through Notarised GPA, ATs & Will dated 19.09.2024 Mrs. Priyanka Meena Alias Mrs. Pooja Meena, daughter of Mrs. Harjinder Kaur in respect of the said floor.

Mrs. Harjinder Kaur intends to transfer the ownership of aforementioned Property by way of Sale Deed to Mr. Atul Verma S/o. Late Sh. Khyali Ram Verma, the present proprietor of the said floor. In this regard, she has prepared and is in the process of registering the said property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.). Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of the 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.

For more information, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting **Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants)** at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-4/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Landline: 910120-3101653, e-mail: accounts@veritas.in

PROVISION OF TRACK MACHINE SIDING AT KATIAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg/56 of 2024 Dated: 30-12-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. 1. Brief Description of work: Kumedpur-Malda Town & Eklakhi-Balughat- Provision of track machine siding - 2 & 3 stations respectively. Tender Value: ₹6,56,32,288.73/-, Bid Security: ₹4,78,200/-**. **Tender No. 2. Brief Description of work: Hatwar-Kumedpur - Provision of track machine siding-5 stations. Tender Value: ₹6,21,65,317.01/-, Bid Security: ₹4,60,800/-**. **Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 29-01-2025 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 29-01-2025.** The complete information of the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 29-01-2025 in the website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (W), Katihar

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATURE BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70101DL2011PTC228275)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signature Builders Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global City 93" situated at village- Wazirpur, Sector-93, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 9.304 Acres under License No. 210 of 2022 dated 22.12.2022 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 26 of 2023 Dated 30.01.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from ICICI Bank Ltd to Standard Chartered Bank in Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

| Particulars | Previous Bank Accounts | New Bank Accounts |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bank Name | ICICI Bank Ltd. | Standard Chartered Bank |
| IFSC Code | ICIC0000314 | SCBL0036025 |
| Master Collection Account No. (100%) | 777705031419 | 53105108523 |
| RERA Account No. (70%) | 777705031420 | 53105108531 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 777705031421 | 53105108558 |

M/s Signature Builders Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 07/01/2025

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Bhagat Dass S/o Yawan Das Sahu R/o A 201-228/06, Forth Floor, New Panchwati Colony, Bhatia Mod GT Road, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001 have changed my name from Bhagat Dass to Bhagat Das Sahu. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Bhagat Das Sahu for all future purposes.

PD(1200)A

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kamlesh W/o Ajay Kumar R/o Flat -A-8, Block-C, Yadav Park, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 have changed my minor son's name from Kanishk to Kanishq for all future purposes.

PD(1201)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATURE INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2013PTC247676)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signature Infrabuild Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global City 92-II" situated at village- Mewka, Wazirpur, Sector-92, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 7.806 Acres under License No. 12 of 2021 dated 12.03.2021 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 39 of 2021 Dated 27.07.2021, Extn. No. 04 of 2024 Dated 13.05.2024.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to ICICI Bank Ltd. in Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

| Particulars | Previous Bank Accounts | New Bank Accounts |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Bank Name | Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. | ICICI Bank Ltd. |
| IFSC Code | KKBK0000261 | ICIC0000314 |
| Master Collection Account No. (100%) | 4346296127 | 777705031456 |
| RERA Account No. (70%) | 4346296134 | 777705031457 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 4346962411 | 777705031458 |

M/s Signature Infrabuild Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 07/01/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATURE INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2013PTC247676)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signature Infrabuild Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global City 92-II" situated at village- Mewka, Wazirpur, Sector-92, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 2.4950 Acres under License No. 12 of 2021 dated 12.03.2021 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 10 of 2023 Dated 13.01.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to ICICI Bank Ltd. in Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

| Particulars | Previous Bank Accounts | New Bank Accounts |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Bank Name | Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. | ICICI Bank Ltd. |
| IFSC Code | KKBK0000261 | ICIC0000314 |
| Master Collection Account No. (100%) | 4346296127 | 777705031456 |
| RERA Account No. (70%) | 4346296134 | 777705031457 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 4346962411 | 777705031458 |

M/s Signature Infrabuild Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 07/01/2025

OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD HATTA -DIST DAMOH (Fourth Call)
Notice Inviting e-Tenders Dated: 06-01-2025

NIT No. 1146
Online lumpsum bids for the following works under "sbm (u) -2.0" (estimated on uddr issr (w.e.f. -02.08.2021) are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling eligibility criteria

| Tender ID | Scope of the work | Probable amount of contract (Rs. in Lacs) | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs) | Cost of Bid Document (In Rs) | Time of Completion including rainy season |
|-------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 2025_UAD_393470_1 | 1. Design and build sewage treatment plant of installed capacity 3.60 MLD and all appurtenant structures and allied works; 2. Survey, review the designs, redesign where necessary, and diversion works of Nallahs with interception sewer of about 1.10 Km length including survey, design, construction of 2 No. of Pumping stations and all appurtenant structures and allied works; and 3. Operation & maintenance of the complete works of sewage treatment plant, intercepting sewer and/or interception & diversion works of Nallahs and pumping stations for a period of 05 years after completion of works, including defect liability period (DLP) of 5 years, starting from the date of commissioning of the project | 690.75 | 345373/- | 20000/- | 12 months |

1. Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website www.mptenders.gov.in and www.mpurban.gov.in
2. The Bid Document can be purchased only Online from 10:30 Hrs of 07-01-2025 to 17:30 Hrs. of 27-01-2025.
3. Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on web site only, and not in Newspaper.
4. GST shall be payable extra as per Govt. rules.

CHIEF MUNISPAL OFFICER
NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD HATTA
DIST DAMOH

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg: First Floor Front side without roof rights referred to as "said floor" of part of Property bearing No. 1-121, area measuring 82.7739 sq mtrs. i.e. 99 sq yds. out of 150 sq yds., falling in Khasra No. 16/16. Situated in the area of Village Mirzapur, Delhi State, Delhi Colony known as Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi. Hereinafter referred to as "said property".

Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Ghanashyam Mandal and Mrs. Saraswati Kuman (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said floor from Mrs. Kirti Jain and Mr. Manirajan Ramaswamy (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller have informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said property. The seller have further informed the purchaser that the said floor was owned by Mrs. Kirti Jain (60%) and Mrs. Aparna Ramaswamy (40%) vide Sale Deed executed by Mrs. Pushpa Rana in their favour. The said Deed is registered as Document No.963, Book No.1, Vol No. 10306, pages 88-93, on 07/02/2020 (SRO-X). Later on, Mrs. Aparna Ramaswamy expired and her share in the said property was inherited by her legal heirs viz., Mr. N Ramaswamy and Mr. Manirajan Ramaswamy. Subsequently, Mr. N Ramaswamy executed a Relinquished Deed in favour of Mr. Manirajan Ramaswamy in respect of his share in the said property. The said Deed is registered as Doc No.10918, Book No.1, Vol No. 11866, pages 72-76 on 17/09/2022 (SRO-XA). Thus, Mrs. Kirti Jain and Mr. Manirajan Ramaswamy became the joint owners of the said property. The seller have also informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATURE INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2013PTC247676)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

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And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to ICICI Bank Ltd. in Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

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| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 4346962411 | 777705031458 |

M/s Signature Infrabuild Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 07/01/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATURE INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2013PTC247676)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
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Whereas M/s Signature Infrabuild Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global City 92-II" situated

Market crash makes investors poorer by Rs 10.98 lakh cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth tumbled Rs 10.98 lakh crore on Monday as markets crashed due to across-the-board selloff amid concerns over third-quarter earnings growth and foreign fund exodus.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 1,258.12 points or 1.59 per cent to close below the 78,000 level at 77,964.99. During the day, it plunged 1,441.49 points or 1.81 per cent to 77,781.62.

The NSE Nifty slumped 388.70 points or 1.62 per cent to 23,616.05.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dived Rs 10,98,723.54 crore to Rs

4,38,79,406.58 crore (USD 5.11 trillion).

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Tata Steel, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Power Grid, Zomato, Adani Ports, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, ITC and Reliance Industries were among the biggest laggards.

Titan, HCL Tech and Sun Pharma were the gainers.

"The Indian equity markets are witnessing a sharp decline today, with both Nifty and Bank Nifty slipping below their 200-day moving averages (DMA). The sell-off can be attributed to a rise in Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) selling and concerns surrounding the upcoming Q3



earnings season.

"Additionally, fears related to the new HMPV have added to the bearish sentiment, triggering fresh rounds of selling after the recent counter-trend pullback rally," Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investment, said.

FIIs offloaded equities worth Rs 4,227.25 crore on Friday after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

The BSE smallcap gauge cracked 3.17 per cent and midcap index fell by 2.44 per cent.

"Indian equities faced intense selling pressure amid concerns regarding the outbreak of HMPV virus and sharp fall in banking stocks post lacklustre

quarterly updates," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

All BSE sectoral indices ended lower, with utilities tumbling 4.16 per cent, power (3.73 per cent), services (3.45 per cent), metal (3.15 per cent), oil & gas (3.15 per cent), energy (3.03 per cent), industrials (2.97 per cent) and commodities (2.74 per cent).

As many as 3,474 stocks declined while 656 advanced and 114 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"Emerging markets are undergoing consolidation due to uncertainties surrounding new US economic policies, the

Fed's hawkish stance on future rate cuts, potential upward revision for CY25 inflation, and a strong dollar, all of which are negatively impacting market sentiment. The primary catalyst for a sharp sell-off in the domestic market appears to be concerns over the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV).

"Additionally, the initial Q3 consensus earnings estimate suggests a potential gradual recovery in domestic corporate earnings, which could explain the domestic market's underperformance compared to global markets led by premium valuation," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

RBI adds eight tons gold to its reserves in Nov 2024: WGC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Central banks around the world collectively, in November 2024, added 53 tonnes of gold to their reserves, of which the Reserve Bank of India's addition was 8 tonnes, the World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report on Monday.

In 2024, central banks - mostly those from emerging markets - remained keen buyers of gold, driven by the need for a stable and secure asset amid global economic uncertainties.

"Assessing the final act of 2024, central banks around the world continued to play a leading role in the demand for gold. November represented another solid month of gold buying as central banks collectively added a net 53 tonnes to global official holdings," WGC said in a report - Central bank gold statistics November 2024. The gold price dip in November, following the US election, may have provided some central banks with added impetus to accumulate, WGC said.

WGC further noted that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) continued with its 2024 buying streak, adding a further 8 tonnes to its gold reserves in November.



This lifted the year-to-date buying to 73 tonnes and total gold holdings to 876 tonnes, maintaining its position as the second largest buyer in 2024, after Poland.

According to WGC, the National Bank of Poland (NBP) was a major buyer in November increasing its gold reserves by 21 tonnes in November, taking its total year-to-date purchase to 90 tonnes and the total holding to 448 tonnes.

The Central Bank of Uzbekistan's gold reserves rose

by 9 tonnes during the month - the first monthly addition since July. The bank's year-to-date net purchases amounted to 11 tonnes and total gold holdings amounted to 382 tonnes, said the report.

Meanwhile, the National Bank of Kazakhstan increased its gold reserves by 5 tonnes, the second successive month of buying as a result, the bank has flipped to being a net purchaser with a total gold holdings of 295 tonnes.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) had resumed gold purchases after a six-month hiatus, adding 5 tonnes of gold to its reserves, increasing its year-to-date net purchases to 34 tonnes and its total reported gold holdings to 2,264 tonnes (5 per cent of total reserves), the report said.

Data published by the Central Bank of Jordan showed its gold reserves rose by over 4 tonnes in November - the first monthly increase since July. The country's year-to-date net purchases now total nearly 2 tonnes, lifting gold holdings to 73 tonnes, it added.

The Central Bank of Turkey increased its gold reserves by 3 tonnes during November 2024, and also entered into reverse swap agreements (gold for lira) with domestic commercial banks to manage liquidity.

Gold reserves held by the Czech National Bank rose by almost 2 tonnes in November - the 21st consecutive month of buying, it said, adding the Czech National Bank's year-to-date net purchases now total almost 20 tonnes, lifting total gold holdings to just above 50 tonnes.

ICICI Securities pays Rs 40.2 lakh to settle case with SEBI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Brokerage firm ICICI Securities on Monday settled a case pertaining to the alleged violation of stock brokers rules with capital markets regulator Sebi, after paying Rs 40.2 lakh towards settlement charges.

The order came after ICICI Securities proposed to settle the matter without "admitting or denying the facts and conclusions of law", through a settlement order. "In view of the acceptance of the settlement terms... The adjudication proceedings initiated against applicant (ICICI Securities) vide show cause notice (SCN) dated May 17, 2024 is disposed of in terms of the settlement regulations," Sebi's adjudicating officer Amit Kapoor said.

The order came after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated adjudication proceedings against ICICI Securities for the alleged violation of Stock Brokers regulations.

Thereafter, a show cause notice was issued by the markets watchdog to the applicant on May 17, 2024 for the alleged violation.



The SCN alleged that applicant had failed to monitor its authorised person (AP), as trading terminals of five users, allocated to the AP were being operated from unknown places, which were not reported to the exchange.

Further, Sebi also observed that ICICI Securities allegedly did not have systems to monitor the trading practices of its authorised person, as the AP was using login credentials of the clients for online trading. Additionally, the SCN had

alleged that the applicant did not ensure that only the approved users operate the trading terminal allocated to them.

Pursuant to the receipt of the application, ICICI Securities filed revised settlement terms, which was approved by Sebi's High Powered Advisory Committee (HPAC).

Thereafter, ICICI Securities remitted the settlement amount of Rs 40.2 lakh which was confirmed by the regulator and the case was settled with Sebi.

India's services sector growth hits four-month high in Dec on new biz orders



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's services sector growth touched a four-month high in December, supported by new business inflows on strong demand conditions and easing inflationary pressures, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index, rose from 58.4 in November to 59.3 in December, highlighting the strongest rate of expansion in four months.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

According to the survey, demand buoyancy continued to drive new business inflows higher, which in turn supported output growth and prompted firms to recruit additional workers.

"India's services companies expressed strong optimism in December as business activity growth surged to a four-month high. Forward-looking indicators such as new business and future activity suggested that the strong performance will likely continue in the near future," Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC, said.

On the price front, there was a softer increase in cost burdens, though panellists continued to report greater outlays on food, labour and materials. Selling price inflation also eased in December.

ported business sentiment. Strength in the services PMI stands in contrast with the growing signs of a slowdown in the manufacturing industry," Lam noted.

India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a 12-month low in December, as new business orders and production expanded at softer rates.

Service providers remained confident that output would increase over the course of the coming 12 months. The overall level of positive sentiment fell from November's six-month high but remained above its long-run average.

The combination of new business growth, upbeat forecasts and rising capacity pressures created another round of job creation across the service economy.

"The rate of employment growth softened from November, but was sharp and among the strongest seen since data collection began in December 2005," the survey said.

Meanwhile, private sector companies in India posted a faster increase in output at the end of the calendar year. At 59.2 in December, up from 58.6 in November, the HSBC India Composite Output Index signalled the strongest rise for four months.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors, according to official GDP data.

Rupee falls 4 paise to close at new record low of 85.83 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined 4 paise to settle at a fresh record low of 85.83 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, amid a steep fall in domestic equity markets and unabated outflow of foreign capital.

Forex traders said the surging US bond yields and concern over HMPV virus outbreak triggered a US dollar chase due to its safe-haven appeal.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.77 and touched the lowest-ever level of 85.84 against the greenback in intraday trade. The unit finally settled at its record low closing level of 85.83 (provisional), registering a fall of 4 paise from its previ-



ous close. On Friday, the rupee depreciated 4 paise to close at 85.79 against the dollar.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset

Sharekhan, said the rupee touched a fresh record low amid weak tone in the domestic markets and persistent FII outflows, while rising US bond yields and worries over HMPV virus scare also weighed on the rupee.

"However, a soft US dollar and any further intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may take cues from services PMI and factory orders data from the US, Choudhary said and projected the USD-INR spot price "in a range of 85.65 to 86.10".

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.33 per cent lower at 108.44.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.31 per cent to USD 76.27 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex crashed 1,258.12 points, or 1.59 per cent, to settle at 77,964.99 points, while the Nifty tanked 388.70 points, or 1.62 per cent, to 23,616.05 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded Rs 4,227.25 crore in the capital markets on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

The country's forex reserves dropped by USD 4.112 billion to USD 640.279 billion during the week ended December 27, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

Government mulls mandatory hallmarking for silver jewellery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday asked the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to consider implementing mandatory hallmarking for silver and silver artifacts following consumer demands.

"There is a demand from consumers for mandatory hall-marking of silver. You (BIS) can deliberate and take a call," Joshi said at the 78th BIS Foundation Day event.

The work in this direction has already begun and the government will take a decision after completion of stakeholder consultations and feasibility assessment by BIS, the minister told reporters on the sidelines of the event.

"I have asked BIS to work out feasibility and take reactions from consumers and ornament dealers. We will consult all stakeholders and start the process," he added.

Silver hallmarking, which certifies the purity of the white metal, is currently voluntary. BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari told PTI that the Bureau could be ready to implement mandatory silver hallmarking within 3-6 months, adding that the stake-



holder discussions were underway.

"Several rounds of discussions were held with stakeholders and they are in favour of it. The discussion on printing a unique six-digit alphanumeric code is going on," Tiwari said.

The move follows successful implementation of mandatory gold hallmarking introduced in June 2021, which now covers 361 districts.

The existing system includes a unique six-digit alphanumeric code (HUID) certifying gold purity.

According to the minister, about 90 per cent of jewellery being purchased is now hall-

marked. More than 44.28 crore gold jewellery items have been hallmarked with unique IDs since the launch.

Stakeholders from Gujarat, Karnataka and other states have requested the extension of mandatory hallmarking to silver, the minister added.

BIS, established under the BIS Act in 1986, is an autonomous national body responsible for setting quality standards for products and services.

Listing out upcoming focus areas, the minister said the BIS is also developing standards for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and is at the forefront of shaping the future of innovation and technology.

Trade Unions demand hike in minimum EPFO pension to Rs 5K

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trade Unions on Monday pressed for increasing minimum EPFO pension 5 times to Rs 5,000 per month, immediate constitution of the 8th Pay Commission and higher taxes on super rich in the upcoming 2025-26 Budget.

In their customary pre-budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, trade union leaders also demanded an increase in income tax exemption limit to Rs 10 lakh per annum, social security scheme for gig workers, and restoration of old pension scheme (OPS) for government employees.

The Budget for 2025-26 will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

Talking to reporters after the meeting TUCC National General Secretary S P Tiwari said the government should stop all privatisation and corporatisation of PSUs and impose an additional 2 per cent tax on super rich to fund social security for informal workers.



Tiwari also demanded that agriculture workers be extended social security and their minimum wages should also be fixed.

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh Organising Secretary (Northern Zone) Pawan Kumar said that the minimum pension under EPS-95 should be increased from Rs 1,000 per month to Rs 5,000 monthly as a first step and subsequently linked to the VDA (Variable Dearness Allowance).

He also suggested that the threshold for Income Tax exemption be raised to Rs 10 lakh. Also, income from pension should be exempted from tax. Kumar also demanded that the 8th Pay Commission to revise salary structure of government employees be constituted immediately.

The Design Clinic Facility unveiled at the 71st Foundation Day of NRDC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Design Clinic Facility was unveiled at the 71st Foundation Day of the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) at its headquarters in New Delhi. Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary of DSIR and Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), presided over the event and inaugurated the Design Clinic Facility in partnership with the National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh.

This state-of-the-art center is designed to support startups, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and foster design innovation across industries. During the ceremony, CMD, Amit Rastogi (Retd.), of NRDC, shared the Corporation's rich legacy of fostering technological excellence and driving India's self-reliance by promoting innovation and supporting the start-up ecosystem.

Paris Saint-Germain beat Monaco 1-0 to win Champions Trophy

AP ■ PARIS
Ousmane Dembélé scored a stoppage-time winner as Paris Saint-Germain beat Monaco 1-0 to win the Champions Trophy. The France winger was unmarked at the back post to meet a low cross from the left by Fabian Ruiz in the second minute of added time on Sunday. PSG won the trophy, also known as the French Super Cup, for the third straight time and a record-extending 13th overall. PSG won the league and cup double last season, with Monaco finishing second in the league. "The result reflects our domination," PSG coach Luis Enrique said, while Monaco coach Adi Hütter conceded PSG played better. "A goal in the last minute always feels like a knife in the back," Hütter said. "PSG deserved to win if we're being honest, they had more chances." The match took place at Stadium

974 in Doha, Qatar, with PSG owned by Qatar-based QSI since 2011. Désiré Doué hit the crossbar early on for PSG and Monaco goalkeeper Philipp Köhn made several saves. Monaco improved after the break and hit the post through Eliesse Ben Seghir and Brazilian defender Vanderson. Although Köhn made a fine save to deny Achraf Hakimi in the 74th minute, he failed to properly read Ruiz's cross and Monaco missed out on winning the trophy for the first time since 2000. Marseille marches on Marseille strengthened its grip on second place in the French league, moving three points ahead of third-place Monaco after routing Le Havre 5-1 at home. Ghana's Andre Ayew was on the wing for Le Havre against his former club. He scored 60 goals in 209 games for Marseille from 2007-15 and won two League Cups. His brother, Jordan Ayew,



and his father — Abedi Pele — both played for the club. Marseille opened the scoring against 17th-place Le Havre in the 25th minute when midfielder Valentin Rongier drilled a low shot into the left corner from 20 meters out. Rongier's rare strike was followed by a first league goal for midfielder Bilal Nadir, who turned neatly before arrowing a shot in off the left post in the 39th. It was a special moment for Nadir, who ruptured his left ACL one year ago and was given a new contract by the club as a show of faith. Moments before halftime, striker Neal Maupay headed in from close range and Mason Greenwood broke down the right to set up substitute Elye Wahi midway through the second half. Ulisses Garcia added the fifth goal for coach Roberto De Zerbi's side. Home fans at Stade Velodrome chanted Ayew's name after he headed in a consolation goal in

the 85th. Ayew applauded the fans back when he went off moments later. PSG is seven points ahead of Marseille after 16 rounds. Toulouse climbed up to eighth place with a 1-0 win at seventh-place Lens, which leads Toulouse on goal difference. Striker Zakaria Aboukhhal scored a penalty in the 73rd. The goal came shortly after Lens midfielder David Pereira da Costa was shown a second yellow card following a video review and was sent off. Angers beat Brest 2-0, and Strasbourg rallied to win 3-1 at home to Auxerre and move into 10th spot. Esteban Lepaul scored early on for Angers and fellow striker Ibrahima Niane, who replaced Lepaul in the 75th, wrapped up the win in stoppage time. Strasbourg's goals came from captain Habib Diarra, Félix Lemarechal and forward Emanuel Emegha, after Hamed Traore gave Burgundy side Auxerre an early lead in Alsace.

Focus on Satwik-Chirag as Indians look for strong start at season-opening Malaysia Open

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR
India's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will aim for a strong result, Lakshya Sen will look to build on his recent form and HS Prannoy will hope to shake off rust after a lengthy break at the season-opening Malaysia Super 1000 tournament starting here on Tuesday. For Satwik and Chirag, seeded seventh, this USD 1.45 million event marks the start of a new season like it did in 2024. Last year, although they narrowly missed out on the title, the pairing went on to reach three more finals, winning two of them. The Asian Games gold medalists in exceptional form and will be hoping to replicate that success this year. Having reunited with Malaysian coach Kim Tan Her, the former world number ones are determined to go the



distance, but they face a tough challenge ahead. The high calibre of opponents in their draw will make the path to victory anything but easy. Satwik and Chirag, who reached the semifinals of the 2024 China Masters in their last event, will open their campaign against the pair of Ming Che Lu and Tang Kai Wei from Chinese Taipei. If they progress, they are likely to face a quarterfinal clash

he will aim to make a deep run in the Super 1000 event. Prannoy, on the other hand, will be returning to action after a five-month hiatus following his prequarterfinal exit at the Paris Olympics. The 32-year-old, who had to take a break due to chikungunya and to regain his fitness, will be hoping to shake off any rust. His first test will be against Canada's Brian Yang in the opening round. Priyanshu Rajawat, who has shown flashes of brilliance but has struggled with consistency, will face seventh-seeded Chinese player Li Shi Feng in his opening match. In men's singles, two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu will be missing from the tournament, having recently got married. In her absence, other Indian players -- Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, and Anupama Upadhyaya will look to make their mark.

Odisha government announces three-year sponsorship for Indian kho kho team

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha government on Monday announced a three-year sponsorship deal for the Indian national kho kho team, marking a significant step forward in promoting indigenous sports in the country. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said the state will invest Rs 5 crore annually from January 2025 to December 2027, with funding provided through the Odisha Mining Corporation. The total sponsorship package of Rs 15 crore demonstrates Odisha's continued commitment to sports development, following its successful partnership with Indian hockey. This initiative aims to elevate Kho Kho's status and provide essential support to the national team. "This is a watershed moment for Kho Kho in India. By supporting our indigenous



sports, we are not only preserving our cultural heritage but also creating new opportunities for our athletes," said Majhi. "Just as we transformed Indian hockey, we envision a similar renaissance for Kho Kho, positioning Odisha as a catalyst for sporting excellence." Sudhanshu Mittal, President of the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI), welcomed the announcement, as the country prepares to host the sport's

Kiran Jadhav wins air rifle gold in Lakshya Cup

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Kiran Jadhav of Navy Koutclassed fancied names in the fray to bag the 10m air-rifle gold in the 15th Lakshya Cup invitational tournament here. The 29-year-old Jadhav totalled 251.7 points to emerge victorious for the first time after consistently making the final every year since 2018. Jadhav pipped Gajanan Khandagale of Maharashtra, who tallied 250.9, to the second place while Mohit Gowda, also of Maharashtra, finished third with 229.3 points. Paris Olympics finalist Arjun Babuta of Railways was the favourite to win the title here but he ended up at fourth with 208.2 points. However, reigning men's and women's national air rifle champions, Shahu Mane and Ananya Naidu, failed to qualify for the finals.

Asian Games gold winner Bahadur Sagoo to succeed Sumariwalla as AFI chief

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH
Asian Games gold medallist shot putter Bahadur Singh Sagoo will be elected unopposed as the president of Athletics Federation of India (AFI) at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) here on Tuesday, succeeding the long-serving Adille Sumariwalla for the top post. The 51-year-old Sagoo won a shot put gold in the 2002 Busan Asian Games and also took part in 2000 and 2004 Olympics. He is a member of the outgoing executive council as an Athletes Commission representative. He is also a member of the senior selection committee. Sagoo is the lone candidate left in the fray after incumbent senior vice president Anju Bobby George opted out of the race for the top post. Anju will, however, remain as the senior vice president for a second term. The first agenda item of the two-day AGM is the appointment of the new AFI office bearers for the next four



years. Sagoo had won the men's shot put gold in the 2002 Asian Games with a throw of 19.03m. He has a lifetime best of 20.40m, and is also a Padma Shri recipient. There will also be no elections for the remaining posts, just like it happened during the last AGM in 2020. Delhi unit's top official Sandeep Mehta will be elected unopposed as the AFI secretary. He was the senior joint secretary in the outgoing executive council. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, who won 800m and 1500m gold in the

Indonesia fires head coach Shin Tae-yong

AP ■ JAKARTA
Indonesia has dismissed Shin Tae-yong as head coach of its national team, the country's federation announced on Monday. "This decision was made based on long and mature considerations and evaluations carried out by as a whole regarding the team's performance and the long-term goals that the Indonesian National Football Team wants to achieve" the Indonesian federation, known locally as PSSI, said in a statement. Appointed in 2020, the South Korean boss had led Indonesia to the third round of qualification for the 2026 World Cup for the first time. In November, the team defeated Saudi Arabia 2-0 to move into third place in the six-team group with four games remaining. At a press conference in Jakarta, PSSI chairman Erick Thohir, who handed Shin a contract extension to 2027 last June, explained the decision.



"The dynamics of the national team need special attention from us," Thohir said. "We see the need for a leader who can better implement strategies agreed upon by the players, good communication and better implementation." There was no announcement of a replacement, though there is speculation that the new boss could be European. The national team's recent success has been driven by the naturalization of players of Indonesian heritage, born and raised in Europe. Of the team that started November's victory over Saudi Arabia, only Marselino Ferdinan, who scored both goals, was born in the Southeast Asian nation.

Mandhana to lead India women in home ODIs against Ireland

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Prolific opener Smriti Mandhana was on Monday named captain of the Indian women's cricket team for this month's three-match home ODI series against Ireland after regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was rested. Also given a break was pacer Renuka Singh Thakur, the BCCI announced in a press release. The short series against Ireland will begin on January 10 at Rajkot and all three games will be played at the same venue. Harmanpreet had injured her knee during the home series against the West Indies last month, forcing her to sit out of the last two T20Is before returning to play three ODIs. Before that, the 35-year-old had sustained a neck injury during the match against Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup in October last year. Lead pacer Renuka was the



player of the series in the ODIs against the West Indies after taking 10 wickets from three matches. In the past, a stress fracture of the back had troubled her. The move to rest her for the series against Ireland could be to ease her workload. The Indian women's team will enter the games against Ireland on a high after recording its first home T20 International series triumph in five years by beating the West Indies 2-1 last month. It then went on to blank the travelling side 3-0 in the ODIs that followed. The 28-year-old Mandhana was in scintillating form during the assignment, notching up three consecutive half centuries in the T20 Internationals. She also scored two fifties during the ODIs. India squad: Smriti Mandhana (C), Deepti Sharma (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghuvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Sayali Satghare.

Diallo goal seals 2-2 draw for Manchester United against Liverpool

AP ■ LIVERPOOL
Amad Diallo came back to haunt Liverpool with a late equalizer that secured a 2-2 draw for Manchester United against Premier League leader Liverpool. The forward turned home Alejandro Garnacho's cross in the 80th minute at Anfield after Mohamed Salah's penalty had looking like giving Liverpool the win on Sunday. Diallo struck at the end of extra time as United beat Liverpool 4-3 in a dramatic FA Cup clash last season and hit a 90th-minute winner against Manchester City last month. His goal on Sunday was only worth a point on this occasion, but it halted United's four-game losing run

and prevented fierce rival Liverpool from opening up an eight-point lead at the top of the standings. United head coach Ruben Amorim, however, was still unhappy. "It's a point, a deserved point, but it's just one point, and we should get mad. Today we should be really disappointed," he said. United led through Lisandro Martinez's strike in the 52nd, but Cody Gakpo leveled seven minutes later. Salah fired Liverpool ahead from the spot in the 70th after Matthijs de Ligt handled in the box. The draw saw United move up to 13th in the standings. Liverpool missed the chance to open up an eight-point lead on second-place Arsenal, which drew 1-1 with Brighton

on Saturday. It is still six points clear at the top with a game in hand. "Over the whole game we created more chances than them; a point feels like it's something to take, but when I watch the game back I would hope for more," Liverpool head coach Arne Slot said. United is without a win at Anfield since 2016 — a run that spans nine games in all competitions. But it was a first point for Ruben Amorim's team since the 2-1 win against Manchester City on Dec. 15. It could have been better for United, with Harry Maguire firing over from close range deep into added time. Liverpool had its chances to win as well, with Virgil van Dijk firing a header straight at United goalkeeper Andre Onana late on.



With 39 top-flight titles between them, this was the latest meeting between English soccer's two greatest teams. Liverpool has the chance to equal United's record total of 20 league crowns this season

and could have taken a firmer hold on the title race with a win in front of its home fans. But United produced a performance that confounded its recent form, which has even had Amorim admitting his team could face a relegation fight. "We've been fairly criticized because the position in the table says it all," United captain Bruno Fernandes said. "I think it's a fair result, both teams played really good football. But we can't be satisfied. I'm really upset because if we can show this against Liverpool, why can't we do this every week?" Diallo and Rasmus Hojlund had chances in the first half before Martinez lashed a left-footed shot into the roof of the net from a narrow angle. Alexis Mac Allister had seen Liverpool's best effort in the first half saved by Onana, but the 'keeper could do nothing to stop Gakpo's powerful shot after cutting onto his right foot in the box. A VAR review led to referee

Michael Oliver awarding Liverpool a penalty after the ball struck De Ligt's arm and Salah fired low to score his 21st goal of the season. He has scored 13 goals against United — more than any other player in Premier League history. But it wasn't enough to earn Liverpool the win after substitute Garnacho cut the ball back for Diallo to convert. "The way we conceded the two goals was unacceptable, lazy and careless," Van Dijk said. "It shouldn't happen." Late drama Raul Jimenez scored a penalty in the first minute of second-half stoppage time to salvage a 2-2 draw for Fulham against Ipswich. It was Jimenez's second penalty of the match as

Fulham twice came from a goal down at Craven Cottage. Relegation-fighting Ipswich went ahead through Sam Szmodics in the 38th and Jimenez leveled from the spot in the 69th. Ipswich went in front again through Liam Delap's penalty in the 71st and looked like climbing out of the relegation zone. But when Jimenez was brought down by Leif Davis in the box, referee Darren Bond pointed to the spot again. Jimenez made no mistake and fired into the top corner to share the points. Fulham is ninth and six points off the top four, while Ipswich is 18th and below Wolverhampton on goal difference, having played a game more.

Harbhajan Singh urges BCCI to end 'superstar culture' in team

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh has urged the BCCI to end the "superstar culture" in the team and pick players for future assignments solely on the basis of performance and not on reputation.

Harbhajan's stinging remarks came after India's 1-3 Test series defeat to Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in a decade.

"There is a superstar culture which has developed. We don't need superstars, we need performers. If the team has them (performers), it will move forward. Whoever wants to become a superstar should stay at home and play cricket there," the spin great said on his YouTube channel.

"There is a tour of England coming up. Now everyone has started talking about what will happen in England, who will go, who will not go. For me, it is a simple matter. Only players who are performing should go. You can't keep picking players on their reputation.

"If you do that, then you should take Kapil Dev sir and Anil bhai also. Here, the BCCI and the selectors will have to be firm and act tough. I don't think that the superstar attitude is taking the team forward."

Captain Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli were woefully out of form during the just-concluded Test series against Australia. The series defeat resulted in the team losing out on qualifying for the World Test Championship final.

Kohli could manage only 190 runs in his nine innings in the series Down Under, repeatedly offering edges to the slip cordon or keeper. Harbhajan said the struggling players should play some form of cricket and prove themselves if they wish to be picked for the England Test tour.

"It should be based on performance only, whether it is Virat, Rohit or anyone. No player is bigger than the game, even if he



thinks in his mind that he is a big superstar. If we have to take Indian cricket forward, we have to ask tough questions.

"I am not saying that you should drop them but if you take them on tour, they (struggling players) should play some form of cricket whether county cricket or something before England tour.

"This will be a challenge for the selectors, but it's time for selectors to wake up and take some action.

"I don't say that any player be dropped, and unnecessarily start chopping and dropping but at least there should be a procedure as to who will get how many chances and for how long, because in India there is a long queue of talents."

He also spoke about Kohli's struggles in the past few years.

"Virat has played 11 Tests in 2024 and scored 440 runs. The average is 23.15, with one hundred and one fifty. Such an average may be unheard of because he is a very big name. This stat is obviously very low. When I saw it, it was a shocking stat for me too.

"If you give a youngster an opportunity, I feel he will also be able to do this much (match the stats of Kohli)."

Harbhajan said India would have lost the series 0-5 or 0-4 if Jasprit Bumrah was not part of the team.

"He was used like you squeezed juice from sugarcane. It was like 'Travis Head has come, give the ball to Bumrah, Marnus has come, give the ball to Bumrah, Steve Smith has come, give the ball to Bumrah'."

"How many overs will Bumrah bowl? He has been reduced to such a condition that he was not available at the end. If he was there, Australia may have won the fifth Test but they would have lost eight wickets, it would have been tough for them.

"You broke his back and the management should have decided on how many overs he should be given."

Harbhajan also criticised the team selection for the fifth Test in Sydney which India lost by six wickets.



Toughest SCG pitch, I got chainsawed: Smith on missing 10,000 Test runs milestone

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Veteran Australian batter Steve Smith has said he had never encountered a wicket like the one at the SCG, after falling one run short of reaching 10,000 career runs in the five-match Test series against India for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

In Australia's first innings of the fifth Test here, Smith edged a delivery to slip just five runs shy of the landmark. In the second innings, Prasidh Krishna's delivery rose sharply from short of a length and Smith advanced down the pitch, only to find it into the gully to be dismissed on 9999 Test runs.

"I got chainsawed didn't I! Pretty nasty delivery actually; back of a length, I thought 'oh, there's one to punch through point' and it just took off," the former Australian captain told 'Triple M' after their six-wicket win on Sunday that gave them the trophy after a decade.

"It was to be (reaching 10k Test runs), but that's alright we got the result we were after.

"Absolutely (toughest SCG pitch I've played on). By a mile. It was two-paced, up and down, seaming all over the place, swinging. I've never played on a wicket like that at the SCG before. It was incredibly difficult to bat. Smith made 33 in the first innings and 4 in the second, failing to sign off on a high after notching two

ICC, BCCI, CA, ECB explore possibility of two-tier Test system

PTI ■ SYDNEY/NEW DELHI

The ICC in collaboration with cricket boards of India, Australia and England is exploring the possibility of a two-tier Test system to facilitate more series between big three nations.

The Age reported that Jay Shah, the new ICC chairman, is set to meet Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird and his England counterpart Richard Thompson later this month to discuss the finer points.

"Any plan for a move to two divisions in Test cricket would kick in after the end of the current Future Tours Program in 2027," the Age reported quoting its sources.

The BCCI is currently gearing up for its Special General Meeting on January 12 in Mumbai where interim secretary Devajit Saikia is expected to get a full-time

role. Saikia was appointed in the interim role after Shah vacated his post last month to take over as ICC chairman. A BCCI official indicated that the discussion floated around the ICC corridors in 2016, the first-time when a two-tier Test system was seriously considered.

"We don't have any news of any such move as yet. Currently, preparations are being made for SGM and the recent tour to Australia too needs to be discussed.

"There was such a move

sometime back, but we haven't heard anything since," a BCCI source told PTI.

The BCCI and cricket bodies of Zimbabwe and Bangladesh opposed the move, citing the possibility of decreasing revenue.

They had also argued that smaller nations would miss out on the opportunity of playing against top teams if such a system comes into existence.

However, nine years down the road the modalities have changed and even some of the



reputed experts such as former Indian skipper Ravi Shastri are supporting the division.

"I've been a firm believer in that if you want Test cricket to survive and be alive and thriving, I think that's the way to go.

"The top teams play against each other more often, so there is a contest; you want contests," Shastri told SEN during the recent fifth Test between India and Australia.

Speechless: Beau Webster gushes after a 'dream debut' in Sydney against India

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian all-rounder Beau Webster is feeling "speechless" after his impressive debut against India during the fifth Test here, which the hosts won by six wickets to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after a decade.

Webster made 57 and unbeat-

en 37 in the two innings of the Sydney Test, important contributions in the match's context, besides taking the wicket of Shubman Gill in India's second innings.

"I'm a bit speechless, honestly. If you told me a week ago that all this would happen in the last few days, I wouldn't have believed you," Webster told cricket.Com.Au.

Australia's tactics to break down Rohit were successful, says Kerry O'Keefe

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma twitted under the traditional Australian tactic of mentally breaking down the opposition captains during the just-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy, said former spinner Kerry O'Keefe.

India lost the five-match series 1-3 and Rohit made just 31 runs from three Tests at an average of 6.20.

"They couldn't bring down (Jasprit) Bumrah. He was too good. But then the baton was passed to Rohit Sharma and they brought him down straight away, to the extent that he withdrew from the final Test," O'Keefe told Fox Sports.

"So that's a tactic they seem to want to do if they can, if they can break the skipper and make him anonymous, it empowers them," he added.

It may be recalled that former Australian pacer Glenn McGrath used to make pre-

second Test in Adelaide, but his personal form and the team's fortunes went south from that point.

Eventually, Rohit "opted out" of the fifth and final Test Sydney with Bumrah returning to guide the side.

The 75-year-old further validated his point saying the Aussies could not dominate Ajinkya Rahane during the 2021-22 series which India won.

"They couldn't get Ajinkya Rahane the last time and he won the series," he said.

O'Keefe, who played 24 Tests and two ODIs for Australia, said Australia had employed a similar strategy against captains of other visiting teams.

"But if you look at the captains they've brought down in recent times, Sharma. Tick. Shan Masood with Pakistan. It was three-nil. Kraigg Brathwaite, it was one-all, but they were on top of Kraigg.



India's bench strength: Plenty of batting options; bowling talent sparse

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The nightmarish batting performance is deservedly under the scanner after India's meek surrender in the Border-Gavaskar series but a closer look at the team's bench strength would reveal that bowling resources are a bigger concern for the side as it navigates a difficult transition.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's Test future hangs in balance after their poor returns with the bat but the national selection committee has the reserves to ensure that the order remains a solid one even if the two giants were to be phased out.

However, bowling, especially pace, is a different story.

The cupboard in the fast bowling department is bare and it will take some time to prepare another crack line-up that can match up to the aura of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ishant Sharma.

The available names are doing their best but is that enough for the team or for Bumrah, whose workload became a massive concern during the just-concluded series?

The spearhead was forced to watch from the dressing room during the last innings of the decisive fifth and

committee will not decide anything till the end of the Ranji Trophy season.

If the panel decides to move away from Rohit and Kohli or the two announce retirements, there are at least half a dozen name ready to stake a claim for the two slots that will open up.

One of the prime contenders could be B Sai Sudharsan of Tamil Nadu. The elegant left-hander impressed in his appearance for India A against Australia A in Mackay but then he had a sports hernia operation and is undergoing rehabilitation.

As and when Sudharsan is ready and if there are at least a couple of slots, he should be in contention provided he is in form and has the requisite fitness levels.

In the current set-up, there is Devdutt Padikkal, another stylish and sinewy left-hander, who has played a couple of Tests.

Abhimanyu Easwaran has been around the side for three years now but there is a belief in the Indian cricketing circle that he is not cut out for bigger challenges in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia).

A proof of it the recent series, where he travelled with the squad but wasn't

even remotely in contention for a playing XI slot in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

For Sarfaraz Khan, his technique against real quick bowling was always doubtful but the manner in which he got out in Pune and Mumbai in the home Tests against New Zealand has made the current team management wary.

In most of the venues, Sarfaraz didn't even come out to bat during the customary net sessions, an indication that he is quite low in the pecking order.

There is every chance that he might not make it to squad for the upcoming limited-overs series against England.

There are also three seasoned players who might get a second wind if the second half of Ranji Trophy goes well for them.

They are Chennai Super Kings skipper Rituraj Gaikwad, who is yet to make his debut, three-Test-old Rajat Patidar and Mumbai's very own Shreyas Iyer.

Iyer's problem has been the short ball, while Patidar flattered to deceive against England at home last year. Gaikwad failed in two India A games Down Under but his pedigree is unquestionable.



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| <p>UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules")</p> <p>The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as SMHFC) under the Act and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is / are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being effected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below :-</p> | | | |
| Sl. No. | Loan A/c. No. & Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrowers Property Holders as the case may be | Description Of Secured Assets / Mortgage Property | Date of Demand Notice U/s. 13 (2) & Total O/s. |
| 1. | LAN :- 610139211771568 1. Mr. Rahul Kumar Verma 2. Mrs. Anita Add. :- House No. 477, 3ST No. 00 Hargobind Nagar, Gurudwara Sahib Ludhiana-141 008. | Plot Area 1378 Sq. Yds., + Boundaries are Thus - North : Jasla Road Bakdar 73 Ft. 6 Inch.; South : Gali Bakdar 63 Ft. 3 Inch.; East : Neighbor Bakdar 59 Ft. 3 Inch.; West : Gali 160 Ft. 9 Inch., Ownership If The Above Plot Area 1378 Murba Yds. Details Are :- Area 1078 Murba Yds. (Area 1 Kanal 15-1/2 Marie) Out of Kharsa No. 13/9/2-11/9/2-19/2-12-13 Khata No. 249/261-249/262-250/265-251/264-252/265 Vide Area 300 Murba Yds. (Area 0 Kanal 10 Marie) Out of Kharsa No. 13/11/9/2-18/2, Khata No. 249/262-250/263, Jambhandi Year 2007-08, Village : Jasla Hadbast No. 101 Teshil & Dist. Ludhiana | 10.12.2024 ₹ 36,05,762/- (Rs. Thirty Six Lakh Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Two Only) as on 10.12.2024 NPA Date : 05.11.2024 |
| 2. | LAN :- 610139211514459 & 610139511514460 1. Ashish Jaiswal 2. Hema Jaiswal, Add. :- H. No. 876, ST. No. 2, Ishwar Colony, Dhandari Khurd, Ludhiana, Punjab-141 014. | All The Piece and Parcel of The Property One House Measuring 66.66 Sq. Yards, Comprised in Kharsa No. 15/13/11, 8/2, 9/2, 13/21, 13/2, 14/1, 18/3, Khata No. 98/104, 356/385, Jambhandi For The Year 2011-12, Situated At Durga Colony, Village : Dhandari Khurd, Sub-Tehsil : Sahnewal, District : Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No. 2021-22/1021/5800 Dated 14.12.2021 and Recorded In The Name of Hema Jaiswal Wo. Arjun Jaiswal, + Boundred as under - + East :- Ram Rattan; + West :- Jawahar Lal; + North :- Masjid; + South :- Street. | 24.12.2024 ₹ 21,90,310.04 (Rs. Twenty One Lacs Ninety Thousand Three Hundred Ten & Four Paise Only) as on 19.12.2024 NPA Date : 06.12.2024 |
| 3. | LAN :- 610139211258528 1. Baldev Raj 2. Usha Ranj 3. Vikram Vj Add. :- H. No. B-32, ST. No. 2, Green City, Vij Embroidery, Ka Kailash Nagar, Ludhiana-141 007. | All The Piece & Parcel of The Property Bearing House Cum Plot No. 34-35, Measuring 44 Sq. Yards., Comprised in Khawat (Khatuani No. 188/194, 189/195, 190/196, 193/199, 191/197, Kharsa No. 27/11, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, Jambhandi For The Year 2005-06, HB No. 80, Situated At Vill. Kakawal, Abadi New Shilma Colony (Amrit Vihar), Teh. & Dist. Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No. 2022-23/106/13594 Dated 23.01.2023 Recorded In The Name of Usha Ranj, Wo. Baldev Raj, + Boundred as under - + East :- Neighbour; + West :- Street; + North :- Road; + South :- Narinder Kumar. | 24.12.2024 ₹ 10,57,388.59 (Rs. Ten Lacs Fifty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Eight & Paise Fifty Nine Only) as on 19.12.2024 NPA Date : 06.12.2024 |
| 4. | LAN :- 610139511051789 1. Mohd. Khalil 2. Nasim Mohd. Khalil Add. :- 103, Mohalla Makbara, Ward No. 20 Inside Sarhindi Gate, Malerkotla (R) Sangrur-148 023. | All The Piece & Parcel of The Property Bearing MC. No. B-15/78, Measuring 174 Sq. Yards (116 Sq. Yards Through Transfer Deed & 58 Sq. Yards Through Inheritance), HB No. 58, Situated At Mohalla Makbara, Sirhandi Gate, Malerkotla As Per Transfer Deed Bearing Wasika No. 2021-22/131/3547 Dated 02.02.2022 For 116 Sq. Yards & 58 Sq. Yards Through Inheritance Recorded In The Name Of Mohd. Khalil, S/o. Haider Ali, + Boundred as under - + East : House of Mohd. Yamin & Abdul Satar (Common Wall); + West : House Mohd. Saleem (Common Wall); + North : Street; + South : Common Wall House Mohd. Ibrahim & Sadiq Mohd. | 24.12.2024 ₹ 15,39,612.19 (Rs. Fifteen Lacs Thirty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Twelve & Paise Nineteen Only) as on 19.12.2024 NPA Date : 06.12.2024 |
| 5. | LAN :- 610139211580594 1. Rajiv Kumar 2. Indu Devi, Add. :- H. No. 165, Ram Nagar, Bharnian Kalan, Ludhiana, Punjab-141 015. | All The Piece & Parcel of The Property Measuring 108 Sq. Yards, Comprised in Kharsa No. 3/15-3/16, Khawat No. 95/94, Khatuani No. 105, Jambhandi For The Year 2016-17, HB No. 240, Situated At Ganesh Nagar, Gall No. 5, Dashmesh Kalan, Nr. Happy Mobile Shop, Vill. Mundian Khurd, Teh. & Dist. Ludhiana As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No. 2023-24/1021/3471 Dated 09.02.2024 Recorded In The Name of Indu Devi/Wo. Rajiv Kumar, + Boundred as under - + East : Tward Brothers; + West : Street; + North : Street; + South : Neighbour. | 24.12.2024 ₹ 27,96,844.19 (Rs. Twenty Seven Lacs Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four and Paise Nineteen Only) as on 19.12.2024 NPA Date : 06.12.2024 |
| 6. | LAN :- 615339211703659 1. Rattan Lal, Through Legal Heirs 2. Neelam Panchu Ram, Add. :- Ward No. 3, Reli Ahata, Ferozpur, Punjab-152 002. | All The Piece & Parcel of The Property Bearing House No. Portion of Plot No. 226-227, Measuring 0 Kanal 2.20 Marles, Comprised in Kharsa Khawat No. 1633, Mustil No. 69, Killa No. 4/2(1-12), 6/3(1-14), 6/4(1-15), 7/1(1-12), 15(8-0), 16(8-0), 24(8-0), 25(1(1-0)), 26(0-3), Mustil No. 82, Killa No. 3/3(1-3), Total 34 Kanal 19 Marie & Khatuani No. 1634, Mustil No. 82, Killa No. 4 (8-0) & Khatuani No. 1635, Mustil No. 69, Killa No. 25/2(6-17), Total 49 Kanal 16 Maries Ka 20/8964 Hissa, HB No. 109, Jambhandi For The Year 2018-19, Situated At Jai Maa Saraswati Enclave, Teh. & Dist. : Ferozpur City As Per Sale Deed Bearing Wasika No. 2024-25/116/1648 Dtd. 13.05.2024 Recorded In The Name Of Neelam, Wo. Panchu Ram, + Boundred as under - + East : Jasvir; + West : Street; + North : Jyoti; + South : Street. | 24.12.2024 ₹ 16,50,828.41 (Rs. Sixteen Lacs Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Eight and Paise Forty One Only) as on 19.12.2024 NPA Date : 06.12.2024 |
| 7. | LAN :- 610239511681246 1. Shinderpal Singh 2. Hari Singh 3. Rajinder Kaur, Wo. Shinderpal Singh Add. :- Village : Dhur, Tehsil : Patran, Patiala, Punjab-147 105. | All The Piece & Parcel of The Property Measuring 0 Kanal 3-1/7 Marla (95.56 Sq Yards), Comprised in Khawat / Khatuani No. 131/197, Kharsa No. 70/7(8-0), 17(8-0), 18(7-9), 19(8-0), 20(1/1 Min(0-11), 22(8-0), 23(8-0) Kite 7 Total Area 48 Kanals 0 Marlas Ka 3-1/7/960 Hissa Bakdar 0 Kanal 3-1/7 Marlas, Jambhandi For The Year 2018-19, Situated At Village : Dhuhar, Tehsil : Patran, District : Patiala As Per Transfer Deed Bearing Wasika No. 2023-24/63/13575 Dated 19.03.2024 Recorded In The Name of Rajinder Kaur, Wo. Shinderpal Singh, + Boundred as under - + East : Street; + West : House Amrik Singh; + North : House Parmjit Singh; + South : House Jaswinder Singh. | 24.12.2024 ₹ 13,23,499.21 (Rs. Thirteen Lacs Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Nine & Paise Twenty One Only) as on 19.12.2024 NPA Date : 06.12.2024 |

The Borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that SMHFC is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, SMHFC shall be entitled to exercise all the rights under section 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured asset(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. SMHFC is also empowered to ATTACH AND / OR SEAL the secured asset(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured asset(s), SMHFC also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the SMHFC. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to SMHFC under any other law.

The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of SMHFC and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
SMFG INDIA HOME FINANCE CO. LTD.
(Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.)

Place: Ludhiana / Malerkotla / Ferozpur / Patiala, Punjab
Date : 10.12.2024 / 24.12.2024