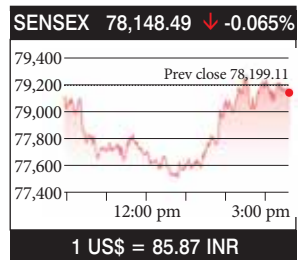
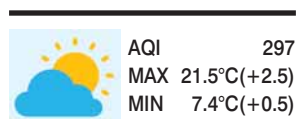




MARKETS



WEATHER



DU's LSR, 14 others get bomb hoax threat calls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

More than 15 educational institutions including Lady Shri Ram College across the national Capital received bomb threats, which later turned out to be hoaxes. Since May last year, more than 100 schools have been receiving bomb threats through mails. According to the police on Wednesday, more than 15 schools including Bal Bharati Public School in Ganga Ram, Laxman Public School in Hauz Khas, Fr. Agnel School in Gurgaon, Spring Bell Nursery School in Kailash, Modern School in Vasant Vihar, Amity School in Saket, Salwan Public School in Mayur Vihar, G D Goenka school, Spring Bell Nursery School in West Patel Nagar, Tagore International in Amar Colony and Delhi Public School in East of Kailash among others.

According to police sources, the mail was received from an e-mail id 'troisims@gmail.com'. The content of the mail mentioned that since exams are going on in the schools, this will be the best time to strike and create maximum damage.

The mail was received around 10:15 am, a senior police officer said, adding that after thorough checking it turned out to be hoax.

"We received two different bomb threat calls from Lady Shri Ram College at 11.40 am. Another bomb threat call was received from Tagore International School in the East of Kailash area at 11.17 am," an official said.

He said teams were immediately rushed to the site, but nothing suspicious was found. A dog squad and bomb disposal squad were part of the teams rushed to the spot, a police officer said.

Since May last year, over 50 bomb threat emails have targeted not only schools but also hospitals, airports and airline companies in Delhi, but the police have yet to make any breakthroughs in these cases.

The Delhi Police has been unable to crack the cases due to VPNs (Virtual Private Network) and proxy servers which acted as key barriers in solving cases and legal frameworks for obtaining information from these services are inadequate, leading to delays in investigations.



Nagpur: Preparations underway at Meditirina Hospital for patients of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), a day after two suspected cases of the virus were reported from the city, in Nagpur, Maharashtra

No panic over HMPV, but vigilance increased

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases continue to rise, bringing the total to 11 so far amid growing concerns linked to a potential resurgence of respiratory illnesses from China, States are intensifying efforts to manage the outbreak, which is primarily affecting infants and young children. On Wednesday, a six-month-old baby tested positive for HMPV at Hiranandani Hospital in Mumbai's Powai. Out of the total cases reported so far, two were reported in Bengaluru, one in Gujarat, two in Chennai, three in Kolkata, and now three in Maharashtra. While the Centre has reassured the public that there is no need to panic-emphasising that HMPV is not a new pathogen and not causing a widespread outbreak-health departments in several states are taking no

chance. The Jammu and Kashmir health department has established a specialized ICU ward in Jammu to handle potential cases, while Uttarakhand has issued guidelines for the prevention of respiratory diseases like HMPV. Sunita Tamta, Director of Uttarakhand Medical Health and Family Welfare, described the HMPV as being similar to the flu virus. She urged citizens not to panic, emphasizing the importance of increased precautions. "If you experience flu-like symptoms, maintain distance and use a handkerchief or tissue while sneezing or coughing," she advised. Echoing similar concerns, Dr. Hamid Zargar, Medical Superintendent of Gandhinagar Government Hospital said, "we are not taking any chances and have prepared a special ICU ward to handle any eventuality. God forbid if a pandemic occurs, we are ready."

INDIA BLOC FALLS IN DELHI



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Head of the Delhi Assembly elections, Opposition parties INDIA Bloc's rift widened as Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Wednesday announced its support for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). This comes after Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) and Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party (SP) too announced to support the AAP in the upcoming assembly polls in Delhi has sparked speculation of a significant rift within the alliance, particularly concerning the Congress party, which is running alone in the Delhi polls and finds itself isolated despite claiming leadership in the alliance.

AAP Supremo and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said he is "personally grateful" to TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the support.

Responding to this, Kejriwal thanked the TMC chief. Kejriwal took said TMC extended support to AAP in the assembly polls, adding that he is personally grateful to Mamata. TMC and SP had thrown their weight behind the AAP in the 2020 Delhi assembly elections as well. Earlier on Tuesday, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh had said that Delhi residents will defeat the saffron party in the upcoming assembly elections.

All the four parties - AAP, Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party and Congress - are partners in the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and had jointly fought the Lok Sabha elections last year. With major INDIA bloc allies supporting AAP, the Congress has found itself cornered in the three-way battle against the AAP and the BJP. The current situation fuels existing speculation about leadership within the INDIA Bloc.

Mamata Banerjee has openly expressed her desire to lead the coalition, a move that has reportedly put pressure on the Congress party, who are seen by many as facing a leadership crisis. The support from both the SP and TMC appears to be a direct challenge to Congress's position.

The support for AAP is particularly noteworthy since it appears to directly undermine Congress's election strategy. Sharad Pawar of the NCP and Lalu Prasad Yadav of the RJD have also publicly backed Banerjee's leadership ambitions, further intensifying pressure on Congress.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav declared his support for the AAP in the upcoming Delhi assembly elections, signaling a significant crack in the opposition's INDIA alliance. Kejriwal extended his gratitude to the former Uttar Pradesh CM.

AAP, BJP workers crossfire over PM home, CM's mahal



Police and security personnel stand guard outside Prime Minister's official residence at Lok Kalyan Marg, in New Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After the announcement of Assembly polls, a high voltage political drama unfolded in Delhi as the showdown between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the "Sheesh Mahal" controversy. A group of AAP workers led by Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj tried to reach the Prime Minister's official residence on Lok Kalyan Marg, but were stopped by police en route. This was followed by an attempt to conduct a media tour of the Chief Minister's residence at 6 Flag Staff Road, Civil Lines which was also thwarted by the police.

In its turn, the BJP also took media to the AB 17 Mathura Road bungalow allotted to Chief Minister Atishi to show that she already had a government residence and sought to know why she was asking for a separate bungalow. Sachdeva charged, "The AAP leaders are doing drama and trying to divert attention from the Sheesh corruption and irregularities

committed in the construction of Sheesh Mahal (6, Flagstaff Road, occupied by Arvind Kejriwal as chief minister). Why did they not think of showing the Sheesh Mahal earlier and now insist on a visit when the administration is bound by a model code of conduct?" In a veiled attack on AAP leaders, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi, addressing a press conference, said their conduct was also an example of "political etiquette and ethics" being demolished. This shows the writing on the wall is clear to them that the AAP is losing the Delhi assembly polls, he said. Earlier, outside the Chief Minister's house, the AAP leaders engaged in a heated argument with the police and staged a dharna outside the 6 Flag Staff Road bungalow after being denied entry, which they had invited the media to tour with them in a bid to counter the BJP's "Sheesh Mahal" jibes. Police set up barricades and deployed personnel in front of the bungalow, preventing the AAP leaders from entering the premises.

Google holes up Assam cops as criminals in Nagaland

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GUWAHATI

A 16-member team of the Assam Police inadvertently strayed into Nagaland's Mokokchung district during a raid while they were following directions on Google Maps, and was attacked by locals and held captive overnight.

According to a senior official of Assam Police, the incident occurred on Tuesday night when a team of the Jorhat District Police was carrying out a raid to apprehend an accused. "It was a tea garden area, which was shown in Assam on Google Maps. However, it was actually inside Nagaland. The team went inside Nagaland in pursuit of the criminal due to confusion and misleading guidance on GPS," he said.

The locals thought the Assam Police team to be some miscreants carrying sophisticated arms and detained them, he said. "Of the 16 personnel, only three were in uniform and the rest were in civil dress. This also led to confusion among the locals. They also attacked the team and one of our personnel was injured," he added.



Upon receiving the information of the hostile situation in Nagaland, the Jorhat Police immediately contacted Mokokchung Superintendent of Police, who sent a team to the spot to rescue the Assam Police personnel. "The locals then realised that it was a genuine police team from Assam and released five members, including the injured person. "They, however, held the remaining 11 persons as captives overnight. They were released in the morning and reached Jorhat later," the official said. In recent times several untoward incidents leading to even casualties have been reported related to following the google maps.

One Election, complex views



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

First meeting of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) meeting on one Nation one poll bills on Wednesday witnessed exchange of opinions between the Opposition and ruling party MPs. Opposition MPs criticised the bills as an attack on the basic fabric of the Constitution and federalism and BJP MPs hailing it as reflective of popular opinion. All MPs were given a trolley carrying over 18,000 pages, including one volume of the Kovind committee report each in Hindi and English, and 21 volumes of annexure, besides a soft copy as well.

The MPs attending the meeting of the 39-member JPC expressed their views and asked questions following a presentation by the Ministry of Law and Justice on the provisions of the bills and the

rationale guiding them. Opposition MPs, including Congress' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, questioned the claim that simultaneous polls will reduce expenditure. They asked if any estimate was made following the 2004 Lok Sabha elections when EVMs were used for the first time in all 543 seats and are believed to have brought down the cost incurred. BJP MPs, the sources added, countered the charge that the 'one nation one election' proposal flouted constitutional values by requiring an early dissolution of several state assemblies and locking their term with the Lok Sabha's. Noting that Seven State Assemblies were dissolved early in 1957 to ensure all state elections are held alongside the national elections, Sanjay Jaiswal asked if the likes of then president Rajendra Prasad, who was also the chairman of Constituent Assembly, and

other eminent lawmakers, including those in the Nehru government, acted in violation of the Constitution. Another BJP MP, V D Sharma, said the idea of simultaneous elections was reflective of the popular will. He also noted that the high-level committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind had consulted over 25,000 members of the public, with an overwhelming majority supporting the idea. The BJP MPs reiterated that a continuous cycle of elections hampers development, the country's growth and is a drain on the exchequer. One nation one election will be a boost to growth and development, they added.

Shiv Sena, which was represented by Shrikant Shinde, cited the case of Maharashtra where Lok Sabha, assembly, and local body polls are held back to back within few months, stressing that this derails development work as the entire state machinery is busy in the conduct of elections. Several opposition MPs, including those from the Congress, DMK and the Trinamool Congress, echoed their parties' stated views that the proposed laws run contrary to the Constitution and are attack on its basic fabric as well as federalism.

Allahabad HC stays civil court case on Sambhal Jama Masjid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday stayed further proceedings before a civil court hearing the dispute over Jama Masjid in UP's Sambhal. Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal passed the direction on a revision plea filed by the mosque's management committee. The plea was filed after a Supreme Court order related to the matter and challenges the proceedings aside from the maintainability of the suit filed over the dispute in the Sambhal district court. The plea alleged the suit was filed on the afternoon of November 19, 2024, and within hours, the judge appointed a court commissioner, and directed him to carry out an initial survey at the mosque site. The survey, it said, was carried out the same day, and again on November 24. The court, the plea said, directed for the survey report to be filed by November 29. After hearing counsel for parties, the high court ordered the respondents to file their reply within four weeks and posted the matter on February 25. The suit before the Sambhal



district court was filed by Hari Shanker. The court fixed February 25 for further hearing of the matter. The order of the court came within days of submission of the survey report in the district court by a court commissioner. The commissioner had conducted a survey in the masjid in November at Sambhal, which had witnessed large scale violence in which had witnessed large scale violence in which four persons were killed and scores others injured. According to the sources, the survey report contained video footage and photographs taken during the survey inside the mosque in two phases on November 19 and 24 respectively. The lawyer for the Mosque Committee sought quashing of the district order saying that the survey order was issued by the civil court on the day the petition seeking the same was filed by the Hindu petitioners.

Waterbird census records changes in Yamuna's birds

T K ROY ■ NEW DELHI

Ravaged river Yamuna, flowing for nearly 22 kms through Delhi, has seen a mixed bag on its wetlands as regards arrival of water birds this year. While some species of migratory water birds in lesser number arrived, the wetlands managed to attract maximum number of Gulls.

Gulls continuously cannot stay longer on the most degraded, polluted riverine habitat and keep moving in search of food, roosting and attracted to the banks of Yamuna where public throws food to them for feeding, according to Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) Delhi state coordinator and ecologist T K Roy said here on Thursday.

He said Wetlands International's annual Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) part of the global International Waterbird Census is carried out in the month of January in 27 countries together in Asia and Australasia. Indian volunteers participate in it under coordination of the AWC State Coordinators as per the confirmed annual



dates by National Coordinator. AWC supports the conservation and management of wetlands and water birds globally.

Barrage to Nizamuddin Bridge), he said. AWC supports conservation of wetland and water birds globally and it is an important tool generates the data for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt of India's "National Action Plan for

conservation of Migratory Birds & their habitats along the Central Asian Flyway". He said due to global climate change impact, delayed monsoon and winter migratory winter water birds arrival delayed lesser species in lesser number on several wetlands includes River Yamuna

in Delhi. Still some species of migratory water birds in lesser number arrived and maximum number of Gulls. During AWC 2025 recorded partially increased water bird species diversity i.e. 25 species of total population 2,123 includes 16 resident species and 09 migratory species in comparison to AWC 2024 i.e. 22 species of total population 2,037 includes 08 resident species and 14 migratory species.

In 2025, among 09 migratory species include largely Black-headed Gulls 1,636 and among 16 resident species largely Black-winged Stilts 110, Little Cormorant 104, Indian Cormorants 53 in comparison to last year (2024) 14 migratory species largely Black-headed Gulls 1,646, Great Cormorant 81 and among 08 resident species largely Black-winged Stilt 198. Among the migratory duck species recorded only Ruddy Shelduck 06 instead of 16 Common Teal last year, Pallas's Gull 09 instead of 01 last year and resident birds Grey Heron 59 than 24 last year and IUCN Red-listed Near Threatened (NT) resident species River Lapwing 09

recorded in 2025 than last year 03 and Painted Stork 14 this year than no record last year.

On River Yamuna last four years, AWC recorded variable species diversity in numbers. Among these resident species either decreased or increased in number recorded as follows:

- ❑ Black-winged Stilt decreased, Red-wattled lapwing increased
- ❑ Grey Heron increased, Indian Spot-billed Duck decreased
- ❑ Little Cormorant increased, River Lapwing increased
- ❑ Among the winter migratory species, Great Cormorant from East and Southeast Asia increased. Brown-headed Gull migrating from Central Asia decreased,
- ❑ Black-headed Gull migrates from Central Asia and Siberia increased and Pallas's Gull migrates from Central Asia partially increased.

— Writer is an Ecologist, Ornithologist and State Coordinator at AWC Delhi State Coordinator; Wetlands International (South Asia)

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

I, Kuljeet Singh Rai S/o Kehar Singh Rai R/o Vill: Gahoon Teh-Balachaur (SBS Nagar) declare that my matriculation certificate session year 2012-2013, ICSE Board Index No. T/5478/006 March-April 2013 has been lost in my home. If found then contact at my above address.

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Prem Parkash Ahuja S/O Sh. Kishan Chand H No. 938 A Sector 25 Panchkula Haryana Declare That My Elder Son Bharat Ahuja And His Wife Shivani Ahuja Are Out Of My Control We Disowned Them From My Moveable / Immoveable Properties Any Body Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk.

I, Islam S/o Nura R/o H.No. 758, Gali No. 2, Pragati Nagar, Area-Ward-31, Sonipat has disowned my son Shahid from my all moveable-immovable property as he is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with him, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Ramdiy Singh, S/o Ujagar Singh, R/o # 125, Village Malaudh Rorian, Ward No. 7, Malaudh, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana, Punjab, declare that my daughter Manpreet Kaur (Divorced) is out of my control. Therefore, I disown my daughter from my moveable / immovable property. If my daughter takes any wrong step, I and no one from my family will be responsible for it.

I Dalbir Singh S/o Ram Snahi R/o House No 1752, Aman Colony, Chandigarh inform that my son's namely (1) Lekh Raj and his Wife Ankansha (2) Desh Raj and his wife Ranjana (3) Deepak Pal and his wife Poonam are out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and Immoveable Properties. Anybody deal with them will do at their own Risk.

We Vinod Kumar S/o Sh Ram Gopal & Geeta Devi W/o Vinod Kumar R/o House no 173/1, Maloya colony Chandigarh inform that our son Himanshu is out of our control. We disown him from our moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with will do at their own risk.

We, Baldev Krishan S/o Ramji Dass & Raj Rani W/o Baldev Krishan R/o Ramdev Dukan Gali, Near Deepak Vihar, Shahabad Markanda District Kurukshetra, have evicted our son Pankaj, his wife Sonia from all our moveable immovable properties, as they are out of our control.

I, Balwinder Kaur W/o Lt. Jaswinder Singh R/o Street No. 1, Hargobind Nagar Nurpur Dhogri Road, Jalandhar, Punjab declare that my son Baljinder Singh & his wife Komaldeep Kaur are out of my control Therefore I disinherit/disown them from all my moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with them will do so own risk & responsibility.

I, Maharaj Singh s/o Sh. Kumarlal R/o House No. 220, Near Highway Bridge, Labour Colony, Rampur Seuri, Distt: Panchkula, Haryana declare that my son Satender and his wife Smt. Neetu are out of my control. I disown my Son and his wife from my moveable and immovable property. Anybody dealing with them will do so at their own risk and will be responsible. I and my Family shall not be responsible for the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sukhwinder Kaur Dhillon spouse of service No. 639160-H Ex-JWO Parabhujot Singh Dhillon R/o H.No. 1002/4 4th Floor, Amarya Green Phase-2 Kharar (SAS Nagar) Punjab, have changed my name from Sukhwinder Kaur to Sukhwinder Kaur Dhillon vide affidavit dated 08 Jan 2025 at Kharar (Punjab).

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ankeeta D/o Babi kumar R/o 978, ward no 7, shanti colony, Jagadhari, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Ankita rani to Ankeeta.

I, Mosam 5/5 PSI S/o Sh. Sube Singh R/o EF-2, 1st Floor, TDI Espania, Near Jurasik Park, Sonipat, Haryana declares that Mosam & Mosam Khatri both are my names. In future, I shall be known as Mosam.

I, Suman Lathar W/o Sh. Yjunder Singh Kadian, R/o H.No. 4873, Sector 11, Extn., Jind (Haryana) have changed my name from Suman Lathar to Suman Lata.

I, Anupam Dubey S/o Shiv Shankar Dubey R/o House no 421/1, vishal nagar, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor son's name from Ruhansh Dubey to Aman Dubey.

I, Sanjay kumar S/o Vishwanath prasad R/o House no 1729 Vishnu garden, chotti line Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor son's name from Kislay kumar to Sharvil kumar.

I, Saurabh Gupta S/o Vijay Gupta R/o 1041/2, Anand Colony, Gobindpuri, Near Gaba Hospital, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor daughter's name from Sarah Gupta to Sara Gupta.

I, Chhavi Uboweja D/o Smt. Nisha Rani and Sh. Anil Mendiratta R/o House No. 1078, Sector 18 C, Chandigarh have changed my name from Chhavi to Chhavi Uboweja. Concerned please note.

I, Sabitree Behera mother of Army No. 14846734X Hav/Sht Abhimanyu Behera R/o Vill Kapagadia PO Padmapur, Distt. Bhadrak (Odisha)-756124 have changed my name from Sabitree Behera to Sabitri Behera & date of birth from 01.07.1964 to 01.02.1964 vide affidavit dated 08.01.2025 before Distt. Session Court, Hisar.

I, Dushasan Behera father of Army No. 14846734X Hav/Sht Abhimanyu Behera R/o Vill Kapagadia PO Padmapur, Distt. Bhadrak (Odisha)-756124 have changed my date of birth from 01.07.1962 to 26.04.1959 vide affidavit dated 08.01.2025 before Distt. Session Court, Hisar.

I, Bhushan Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Ji Lal R/o H.No. F-152, Ward No. 25, New Model Town Extension, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Bhushan to Bhushan Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Chanchal W/o Sudhir Kumar R/o #3418, Sector 31-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Chanchal to Chanchal Goriwal.

I, Sudhir Kumar Goriwal S/o Jaipal Singh R/o #3418, Sector 31-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Sudhir Kumar Goriwal to Sudhir Kumar.

I, Ravinder Singh S/o Harjit Singh R/o Village Balsua P.O. Jhakholari, Pathankot declare that in my 10th certificate and passport my and my father's name wrongly mentioned as Rawinder Singh S/o Harjeet Singh instead of Ravinder Singh S/o Harjit Singh.

I, Jitender Kumar S/o Surender Kumar R/o Ward No. 11, Gali No. 11, Old Police Chowki, Shiv Nagar, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Jitender Singh to Jitender Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Amit Yadav S/o No. GS-167092Y Rank CH/MECH Vijay Kumar R/o Village Ateli PO Gokalpur Tehsil Ateli Distt. M/Garh (Har) 123021, declare that in my father service record my name wrongly mentioned as Amit Kumar instead of Amit Yadav.

I, Krishna Kumar S/o Sh Dharam Chand R/o Chhapar Teh. and Distt. Charkhi Dadri 127306 declare that My son Amit Kumar service No is 17001373Y and in my son service record my name written as Krishan Kumar and my DOB is 11.4.1965 which is wrong. My Correct Name is Krishna Kumar and Correct DOB is 25.7.1964.

I, Sumitra W/o Krishna Kumar R/o Chhapar Teh, and Distt. Charkhi Dadri 127306 declare that My son Amit Kumar service No is 17001373Y and in my son service record my name written as Sumitra Devi and my DOB is 5.8.1967 which is wrong, my Correct Name is Sumitra and Correct DOB is 7.4.1966

I, Manvinder Singh Wadhawan S/o Jaswant Singh R/o # 2115, Sec-17, Huda, Jagadhri, Distt Yamunanagar have Changed my name from Manvinder Singh to Manvinder Singh Wadhawan.

I, Sudarshan Kumar S/o Ram Chander R/o 1942, Sector 2 Part, Rohtak declare that Sudarshan Kumar S/o Ram Chander and Sudrashan Kumar Dahiya S/o Ram Chander Dahiya both are the name of one and same person.

I, Amrit Kaur W/o Satvinder Pal Singh Multani R/o Q-242, Army Flats, Sector-4, Mansa Devi Complex, Panchkula-134114 (Haryana) have changed my name to Amrit Multani.

I, Rohit S/o Victor Kumar R/o VPO Sahri Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Rohit to Rohit Kumar.

I, No. 13755440A Ex Hav Santosh Kumar S/o Rulia Ram R/o Vill. Rally, PO Daggan Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my daughter from Minakshi Thakur to Meenakshi.

I Abhinav S/o Sh. Aagam Parkash R/o House No.442 Sector-30 Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, Haryana, have changed my name to Abhinav Kaushik.

I Sohanveer S/o Girwar Singh R/o House No 49 Gali No 4, Shiv Colony, Palla No.1, Amarnagar Distt Faridabad, Haryana 121003 Have changed my name from Sohanveer to Sohanbir. All concerned please note

I, Rakesh Kumar Sachdeva S/o Sh. Harish Kumar Sachdeva R/o H. no-763, Sector-7, Near ITI, Ambala City, Distt Ambala have changed my minor son's name from Arnav Kumar alias Arnav Sachdeva to Arnav Sachdeva. All concerned note.

I, Anushka D/O Sh Roop Lal R/O Village Ladsa Tehsil Rampur Bushahr District Shimla, HP 172001 declare that I have changed my name Anushka to Anushka Bhardwaj. All concerned please note. Anushka Bhardwaj and Anushka is one and same person.

I, Promila W/o Hitesh Kumar R/o H. No. 1036, Sector-14, Hisar, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Promila to Promila Chutani for future purpose.

I, Hitesh S/o Shanti Saroop R/o H. No. 1036, Sector-14, Hisar, Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Hitesh to Hitesh Kumar for future purpose.

I, Amratanshu Kumar, S/o Sh. Rajnish Kumar, R/o H.No.1978, Housing Board Colony, Sector 13-17, Panipat, declares that I have changed my name from Amratanshu to Amratanshu Kumar, for all future purposes.

I, Irfan Ahmed S/O Nissar Ahmed R/O Mohalla Chor Mara, Kamal Cinema Road, Malerkotla, Punjab-148023 have changed my name to Mohammad Irfan.

I, Neeraj Sharma w/o Sunil Dutt Kaushik R/O 174/18,Pethe wali Gali, Near Tara Nagar, Sonipat have changed my minor daughter's name from Vanshika Kaushik to Vanshika for all future purposes.

I, Shobhit S/o Sh. Manoj Jain R/O 502 Ground Floor Omaxe City Sector 26 Rohtak declare That I have changed my name from Shobhit to Shobhit Jain in future I will be called by the name Shobhit Jain for all purposes.

I Hitherto Known As Shivank Son Of Sh. Dinesh Kumar, R/O Village Phulra, Post Office Nangal, Teh & Distt Pathankot, Punjab, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sharma Shivank. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Akul Mahajan Alias Divanshu Mahajan S/o Late.Anil Mahajan, R/o Golden Avenue Saili Road Pathankot Have Changed My Name From Akul Mahajan Alias Divanshu Mahajan to Divanshu Mahajan, For All Purpose.

I, Mukul S/o Hardip Singh, R/o Village Ranipur Upperla, PO Shahpurkandi, Tehsil & District Pathankot (Punjab), Declare That My Name is Mukul and Surname is Thakur, Now in Future I Shall Use My Name Mukul Thakur, Kindly Note.

I, Kamal Dev S/o Bal Krishan Sharma # 90, Sector 49-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Kamal Dev Sharma.

I, Rajesh S/o Krishan Chand # M.D.A.V. School, Sector 22-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Rajesh Mehra.

I, hitherto known as Ram Surat Son of Ram Sanehi residing at H.No.26, Bhakhri Nidura, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh-227806 have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Ram Surat Gautam

I, hitherto known as Uma daughter of Ram Gopal wife of Girish Ahuja residing at H.No.655, Basant Avenue, Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Uma Ahuja.

I, Satnam Singh S/o Heera Singh R/o Village Wan Tara Singh Tehsil Patti Post Office Khaira District Tarn Taran have declare that Satnam is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

I, Paramjit Singh S/o Suba Singh R/o Village Gilpan PO Khaira Mandi District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Paramjit Singh to Paramjeet Singh.

I, Sushma W/o Sh. Rajneesh Kumar Chopra R/o House No.18, Prem Nagar, Karnal have changed my name from Sushma to Sushma Devi.

I Karam Vir Singh S/o Sh. Shish Ram R/o House No.37, Sector -8, Part-2, Urban Estate, Karnal have changed my name from Karam Vir to Karam Vir Singh.

I, Veer Singh S/o Brij Lal R/o Raogarh, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Veer Singh to Veeru.

I, Arun Kumar Mehta S/O Yash pal Mehta R/o 226, ward No.13, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Jail road, Gurdaspur declare that Arun Kumar is my given name and Mehta is surname.

I, Surinder Kumar S/o Tarsem Raj R/o Village Maan Kaur Singh Distt Gurdaspur have changed my minor son's name from Aarush to Aarush Shirraj to Concerned note.

I, Surinder Kumar S/o Tarsem Raj R/o Village Maan Kaur Singh Distt Gurdaspur have changed my minor son's name from Aadaan to Aadaan Shirraj to Concerned note.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Kewal Krishan R/o Ward No.6, Fatehgarh Churian Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my minor son's name from Rudrakash Verma to Rudraksh Verma. Concerned note.

I, Dayawanti W/o Pawan Kumar R/o Vill. Budhsali, Tehsil Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani declare that I have changed my name from Dayawanti to Daya for all future purposes.

I, No. 15394800A Ex HAV Mahender Singh S/O Sh. Santlal R/O 4th Mile Beer Sector 2 Hisar Teh. & Distt. Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed the name of my son from Suchn Kumar to Sachin Kumar. In future my son name called Sachin. The correct date of birth of my son Sachin is 14.09.1995.

I Pammil Narang W/o Sh. Devraj Narang R/o House No.1680, Sector -6, Urban Estate, Karnal have changed my name from Pammil Narang to Parmeshvari. In future, I should be known as Parmeshvari

I, Gurmukh Singh S/o Kulwant Singh R/o Vill. Udhoke Kalan, Uchoke Kalan, PO. Mattewal, Distt Amritsar-1473119 Punjab have Changed my daughter name from Asispreet Kaur To Aseespreet Kaur

I, Chandrawati is Mother of No. 15573627X Rank HAV Name Jitendra Kumar Singh, Unit 104 ENGR REGT and Permanent resident of Deen Dayal Pur Budhansi, Burhasi, Aligarh, Koil, Uttar Pradesh 202125, have changed my Name from Chandrawati To Chandrawati, and changed my Date of Birth from 10-06-1947 TO 01-01-1954, Vide Affidavit No. IN-PB95668798647158X, Dated 08-01-2025, Before Distt. Court, Amritsar.

I, Gunjan D/o Sh. Sandeep Goyal R/o H.No. 409 B, Gali Nathu Thanedard Wali, Subhash Chowk, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Gunjan to Gunjan Goyal, in future my name is to be called as Gunjan Goyal.

I, Nand Kishore Singh is legally Father of No. 15728843H Rank NK Name Vishal Kumar Shandilya of Unit 7 Inf Div Sig Regt C/o 56 APO Residing at Ward No. 6, Dharamraj Tola, Barahiya, Lakhisarai, State Bihar Pin-811302 Declare That my Name Nandkishore Prasad Singh and Date of Birth 10.03.1960 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Nand Kishore Singh and Date of Birth is 01.01.1954.

I Pramila Devi is legally Mother of No. 15728843H Rank NK Name Vishal Kumar Shandilya of Unit 7 Inf Div Sig Regt C/o 56 APO Residing at Ward No. 6, Dharamraj Tola, Barahiya, Lakhisarai, State Bihar Pin-811302 Declare That my Name Parmila Devi and Date of Birth 15.04.1972 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Pramila Devi and Date of Birth is 01.01.1960.

I, Vannubayi is legally Mother of No. 16115229N Rank Hav Name Laxman of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Permanent address Renjith Bhavanam, Kallielibhagom P.O. Karunagappaly, Kallielibhagom, Kollam State Kerala Pin-690519 Declare That my Name Vannubai and Date of Birth 14.04.1967 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Vannubayi and correct Date of Birth 01.01.1974.

I Narbeer Gulab Singh Tomar is legally Father of No. 15748381H Rank Sigm N Name Tomar Rahul Singh of Unit 7 Inf Div Sig Regt C/o 56 APO Residing at Village Sikandarpur, Patara, Mainpuri, State Uttar Pradesh Pin-205268 Declare That my Name Tomar Narveersingh and Date of Birth 01.06.1966 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Narbeer Gulab Singh Tomar and Date of Birth is 01.01.1964.

I Bebbey is legally Mother of No. 15748381H Rank Sigm Name Tomar Rahul Singh of Unit 7 Inf Div Sig Regt C/o 56 APO Residing at Village Sikandarpur, Patara, Mainpuri, State Uttar Pradesh Pin-205268 Declare That my Name Tomar Baby Devi and Date of Birth 03.02.1966 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Bebbey and Date of Birth is 03.02.1970.

I, Army No. 15329545L Rank HAV Name Harikrishna Barri of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, today camping at Ferozepur, have changed my Father name from Ananda Rao to Barri Anand Rao & Date of birth 01.07.1958 to 01.07.1951.

I, Aprajita Gautam W/o Sh. Gautam Kumar (Aadhaar Number 586783342921) R/O OMQ No. 1306, Sector 31-B, Chandigarh 160030, have changed my name from Aprajita Gautam to Aprajita

I, Pushpanjli W/o Parwinder Singh R/o # 2155/A. Sector 66. S.A.S. Nagar Mohali. Punjab, declare that the three names Pushpanjli and Pushpanjli Kalra and Pushpanjli Kukreja all the three names belong to the same person.

I, Harvinder S/o Vijender Singh R/o 408 Supermax Society, Near Huda Stadium, Sec-33, Sonipat have changed my name to Harvinder Rathee for all future purposes.

I, No.-6495144K Rank HAV Name Badgujar Gulab Bhagwan R/o Vill. & PO Devlali Camp, Teh. Devlali Camp, Distt. Nashik, Maharashtra-422401 have changed the name of my son in army record from Rohit to Rohit Gulab Badgujar vide affidavit dated 08-01-2025 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Durga Wife of No.-6495144K Rank HAV Name Badgujar Gulab Bhagwan R/o Vill. & PO Devlali Camp, Teh. Devlali Camp, Distt. Nashik, Maharashtra-422401 have changed my name in army record from Durga to Durga Gulab Badgujar vide affidavit dated 08-01-2025 before Session Court Hisar.

I, 14653158X Rank HAV Name Kumar Chhetri R/o Vill. Moktan Goan (Ward No 14), PO Kalimpong, Teh. Kalimpong, Distt. Darjeeling, West Bengal-734301 have changed the name of my daughter in army record from Nikisha to Nikisha Chhetri vide affidavit dated 08-01-2025 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Nanak Ram Dass S/o Avtar Singh R/o Vill. Balra, Tehsil Dasuya, Punjab, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Avtar Ram Dass to Avtar Singh.

I, hitherto Known as Rajveet Kaur D/o Pal Singh R/o VPO. Madhopur Jallowal, Distt. Kapurthala-144623, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kaur Rajveet.

I Mahesh Kumar S/o Subhash Chand R/o H.no. 56, Durga Nagar, Rajpura, Town, Distt Patiala, have changed my minor son's name from Dhruv to Dhruv Taneja.

I Gurdev kaur gill W/o Harchand singh,W/O Dhandansu, Distt. Ludhiana, Punjab have changed my name to Gurdev kaur

I Anju D/o Mohan Singh w/o Rajbir Singh R/o ward no 1 Haweli Bassi Banur sub Tehsil Banur Disst SAS Nagar (Punjab) have changed my name to Anju Chauhan. Please concerned note.

I, Gurmit Singh son of Late Shri Pritam Singh, resident of House No. 417/1, Sector 41-A, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Gurmit Singh to Gurmeet Singh.

I, Gulfam Ali son of Mohamad Islam, resident of House No. 1791, Sector 45, Burail, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Gulfam Ali to Mohamad Gulfam.

I, Bindu D/o Sh. Devi Dayal R/o House no.134 Village Raily sector 12A, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Bindu to Vandana.

I Manjot Sinh S/O Satnam Singh r/o village Nahra Tehsil Barara (Ambala) Haryana have changed my name manjot Sinh to manjot Singh.

I Satpal Son Of Frangi Lal R/O H. No. 2133 St. No.04 Guru Angad Dev Nagar Kot Kapura Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name Satpal Baghla.

I Parveen Kumar S/o Sh. Tirath Ram Resident of H.No.1946/B2, Gurudwara Road, Pinjore Tehsil Kalka, Distt. Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name from Parveen Kumar to Parveen Kumar Piplani.

I Saroj Wife Of Satpal Baghla R/O H. No. 2133- St. No.04 Guru Angad Dev Nagar Kot Kapura Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name Saroj Rani Baghla.

I, Manpreet Kaur D/o Pritam Singh Vill.Harigarh Bhorakh, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my given name Manpreet Surname Kaur

I, Golu S/O Purshotam R/O HNO 56 Near peer baab Vill Gorsian Distt Ambala have changed my name to Dilpreet Singh.

I, Sangeeta alias Shakuntla W/O Sunil Kumar R/O 286 Sundar Nagar Mandour Ambala city Distt Ambala have changed my name to Shakuntla

I, Rajesh S/O Dev Singh R/O 304 Vill Baknour Distt Ambala have changed my name from Govindarajan to Govindarajan B M Vide affidavit No.IN-PB95484765851078X dated 08 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Rajesh Kumar S/O Dev Singh R/O 304 Vill Baknour Distt Ambala have changed my name to Rajesh.

I, Gopal Krishan S/O Shyam Sunder R/o Ward No.10, Khede Wali Gali, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my name Gopal Kreshan.

I, Sarbjit Kaur W/o Kushbir Singh R/o Village Hardo Sangha, Po. Kot Badal Khan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar-144039, Punjab have delete the surname of my minor daughter Jasnoor Kaur Chandi to Jasnoor Kaur.

I, Nanak Ram Dass S/o Avtar Singh R/o Vill. Balra, Tehsil Dasuya, Punjab, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Nanak Ram Dass to Nanak Singh.

I, Avtar Ram Dass S/o Binda Singh R/o Vill. Balra, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Avtar Ram Dass to Avtar Singh.

I, hitherto Known as Anurag Raj S/o Santosh Kumar Shrivastav, R/o House No. 358/2, Ward No. 29, Near Gurudwara, Purana Hamida, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar - 135001, Haryana, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as my religion.

I Pawan Kumari W/o Munish Gaur R/O H.No.-8106 St.No.-4 Near Janta Nagar Ranjit Nagar Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sonia Gaur After Marriage.

I Ravinder Kaur Jassal W/O Prabhjot Singh Jassal R/O H.No.-1717/42 Mohalla Guru Teg Bahadur Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Ravinder Kaur.

I Bhushan Kumar Goel S/O Mukh Raj R/O H.No.-1757/16BD St.No.-7R Heera Bagh Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Bhushan Dev.

I Sant Singh Brar Alias Bant Singh S/O Lal Singh R/O Village Rajiana Tehsil Baghapurana District Moga N/A At Present E-83 Shreenathji Park Opp. Novino Battery Makarpura Vadodara Gujarat Pin-390010 India Am Known By Above Both Names.

I Lovepreet Singh S/O Jasvir Singh R/O Vill. Badala Pukhta, P.O. Khanpur, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Declare That My Given Name As Lovepreet And My Surname As Singh.

I Gurpreet Singh S/O Nirmal Singh R/O Vpo. Kotli Khas Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur Punjab, Declare That My Given Name As Gurpreet And My Surname As Singh.

I, No.15618477F Hav Govind Singh resident of Village-Bathi, Post-Nachani, Tehsil- Munsyari, District-Pithoragarh, State-Utrakhand, Pin- 262553, have changed my Father name from Bhim Singh to Bheem Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB95488328979654X dated 08 Jan 2025 before Notary Public Pathankot

I, No.15618477F Hav Govind Singh resident of Village-Bathi, Post-Nachani, Tehsil- Munsyari, District-Pithoragarh, State-Utrakhand, Pin-262553, have changed my mother name from Bhageerathi Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB95482250433540X dated 08 Jan 2025 before Notary Public Pathankot

I, No.15618477F Hav Govind Singh resident of Village-Bathi, Post-Nachani, Tehsil- Munsyari, District-Pithoragarh, State-Utrakhand, Pin-262553, have changed my daughter name from Ronika Ben to Thakor Ronikaben Sanjayji Vide affidavit No.IN-PB94382463674589X dated 03 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Thakor Sanjayji resident of Village-Gothava, Post- Gothava, Tehsil- Visnagar, District-Mahesana, State- Gujarat, Pin-384315, have changed my Daughter name from Riyaben to Thakor Riyaben Sanjayji Vide affidavit No.IN-PB94382987139282X dated 03 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Thakor Sanjayji resident of Village-Gothava, Post- Gothava, Tehsil- Visnagar, District-Mahesana, State- Gujarat, Pin-384315, have changed my Daughter name from Ronika Ben to Thakor Ronikaben Sanjayji Vide affidavit No.IN-PB94382463674589X dated 03 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Govindarajan Father of No.17016629N CFN Vishnudas G resident of Village- Elappully, Post-Pallatheri, Tehsil- Palakkad, District

Punjab Political parties lash out at Centre for Redesignating UT Adviser's Post as Chief Secretary

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Cutting across ideological lines, political parties of Punjab on Wednesday joined hands in condemning the decision of the Centre to redesignate UT Adviser's post to Chief Secretary, terming it as trampling of Punjab's right over Chandigarh.

A day before, the Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) abolished the post of the adviser to the UT administrator, replacing it with Chief Secretary. The charge of adviser to the UT administrator is traditionally given to a senior IAS officer from the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre and presently Rajeev Verma, a 1992-batch IAS officer of the same cadre, has been holding the charge since January 2024.

Ruling Aam Aadmi Party, Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal in separate statements termed the move as "anti-Punjab" and sought its reversal, saying it will adversely affect the interests of Punjab.

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan strongly condemned the decision and said that this move is seen as a blatant disregard for the sensitive issue of Chandigarh's status, which has

been a long-standing point of contention between Punjab and the Union government. He emphasized that the redesignation is not only an administrative anomaly but also an attempt to undermine Punjab's legitimate claims over Chandigarh. "We urge the central government to reconsider this decision and respect the rights of the people of Punjab," Sandhwan added.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab strongly opposed the central government's decision and stated that this decision once again exposes the anti-Punjab attitude of the central government. It is an attempt to weaken Punjab's claim over Chandigarh.

During a press conference, senior AAP leader and spokesperson Neel Garg said that the appointment of a Chief Secretary is meant for a state. Chandigarh is not a state, nor does it have a Chief Minister. Then why was there a need for the appointment of a Chief Secretary? He said that the people of Punjab will never tolerate this decision. The central government should reconsider and withdraw the decision.

The AAP spokesperson said that Chandigarh belongs to Punjab. It was clearly stated during the division of Punjab and Haryana in 1966 that until

Haryana builds its new capital, Chandigarh will remain a Union Territory, after which it will be handed over to Punjab. In 1970, ₹10 crore was also given to Haryana to build its capital. Several states in India have been divided, and they all established their respective capitals, but Punjab continues to face discrimination.

He added that historically, politically, and socially, Chandigarh belongs to Punjab. Chandigarh was built by uprooting 27 villages of Punjab. Therefore, the central government should not make any major decisions without consulting the Punjab government.

BAJWA CONDEMNS THE MOVE

Partap Singh Bajwa, Leader of Opposition also denounced the recent decision to redesignate the Chandigarh Administrator's Adviser as Chief Secretary, calling it a direct attack on Punjab's legitimate claim over the city. Bajwa criticized this move as a deliberate attempt to weaken Punjab's position and marginalize the Punjabi community, which he believes is part of a broader agenda to undermine the state. He emphasized that this is not merely an administrative change, but a strategic

move by the Centre to further dilute Punjab's rights.

"Chandigarh, which was carved from Punjab's villages, has always been a part of Punjab's rightful claim. This move is an assault on Punjab's dignity and a violation of the principles of federalism," said Bajwa. He also highlighted the earlier move by the Centre to raise a separate cadre for the Union Territory of Chandigarh, further weakening the 60:40 officer posting ratio between Punjab and Haryana.

"The Centre's creation of a separate cadre for Chandigarh was another step in diluting Punjab's stake in the city. This decision undermines the long-standing practice that ensured equal representation for both Punjab and Haryana in the administration of Chandigarh," Bajwa noted. He pointed out that the Centre's decision to abolish the Advisor post and replace it with the title of Chief Secretary, following the example of Delhi, signals a broader effort to permanently convert Chandigarh into a Union Territory. "Chandigarh's position was always meant to be temporary—until it was transferred to Punjab," Bajwa said.

WITHDRAW MOVE ON CHIEF SECRETARY FOR CHANDIGARH: SUKHBIR

BADAL

Senior Akali leader Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday warned the Union Government against going ahead with the reported decision to re-designate the post of "Advisor to Punjab Governorcum-UT Administrator" as "Chief Secretary, UT Chandigarh". In a statement, he said that the latest decision comes with the active collusion of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab and its chief minister Bhagwant Mann. "Mann had formally acknowledged Haryana's right over Chandigarh by agreeing to the setting up of Haryana Legislative Assembly here. He had the same anti-Punjab stand on Punjab University and the PGI," alleged Badal.

The Akali leader said that the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab is a settled issue, committed by two Prime Ministers of the country and endorsed by the Union Cabinet as well as by both Houses of the Parliament following the Memorandum of Settlement on Punjab in July 1985. "Even the issue of the Hindi speaking areas to be transferred to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh stands settled beyond any possible dispute or doubt. Two separate Commissions set up by the Union Government had cate-

gorically ruled in favour of Punjab, saying that there was no Hindi speaking area in the state that could be transferred to Haryana," said Badal.

"So, the only unfinished agenda of the 1966 re-organisation of Punjab was to restore to us our constitutional rights on the river waters as a riparian state, the transfer of Chandigarh and other Punjabi-speaking areas to Punjab left out of the state and restoration of the state's control over institutions and authorities like the BBMB, educational and cultural institutions etc. Punjab demands nothing more than its due rights as guaranteed under the Constitution of India." But, the Akali leader said, instead of addressing the unconstitutional discrimination against the people of Punjab on these issues, successive governments in New Delhi have continued to institutionalize this step motherly treatment against our state through "politics of deceit and discrimination against the patriotic people of Punjab who have always borne the brunt of national security as a border state. We have never flinched from our duty to the country. But anti-Punjab decisions of Union governments have been bleeding the nation's strong arm and granary. This must stop," said the Akali leader.

BRIEFS

LOCAL HOLIDAY IN SRI MUKTSAR SAHIB ON MELA MAGHI

Chandigarh: The Punjab Government has declared a local holiday on the occasion of Mela Maghi on January 14 (Tuesday) in government offices, boards, corporations and educational institutions of district Sri Muktsar Sahib. An official spokesperson of the government said, a notification in this regard has been issued.

HARYANA BANS TRANSFER OF OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN MC ELECTORAL ROLL PREPARATION

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government has ordered a ban on posting or transfer of officers/officials involved in the preparation of electoral rolls of Municipal Corporations/Councils of Karnal, Yamunanagar and Sohna (Gurugram). In an order issued by the Chief Secretary's Office to all Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments and MDs/CAs of Boards/Corporations in Haryana, it is stated that the draft electoral rolls were published on January 7 and the claims and objections shall be received by the revising authority concerned by January 13 and the final publication of electoral rolls shall be done on January 28, 2025. The order states that the officers/officials involved in the preparation of electoral rolls of these municipal corporations/councils may not be transferred till the final publication of electoral rolls. However, in cases where it is considered absolutely necessary to transfer any officers/officials connected with the above duties, prior written approval of the State Election Commission must be obtained.

KAPURTHALA MLA QUESTIONS NATIONAL POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

Chandigarh: Congress MLA from Kapurthala, Rana Gurjeet Singh has questioned the 'National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing' by the Government of India terming it re-introduction of repealed three farm laws through a backdoor. In a statement, he said the draft policy framework on agricultural marketing bypasses the guarantee of making MSP a legal right. The states specific demands particularly that of Punjab predominantly an agrarian economy, such as debt waiver have been ignored and the draft policy is plot to dislocate the well-oiled procurement machinery in the state.

ANIL VIJ MEETS UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI

Chandigarh: Haryana Energy, Transport, and Labour Minister, Anil Vij, met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Mr. Nitin Gadkari, in New Delhi on Wednesday and discussed a range of issues concerning the transport sector. Vij raised several significant concerns regarding transport infrastructure in Haryana and sought guidance from the Union Minister.

CITY TO HOST FIRST EXHIBITION OF LE CORBUSIER MODELS FROM JAN 15

Chandigarh: City Beautiful would be hosting an exhibition of models of the buildings designed by Le Corbusier from January 15 till February 15. Another major attraction would be an exhibition of works of Architect SD Sharma, who had worked closely with Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret. The event, being held at Government Museum and Art Gallery in Sector 10, would be attended by Brigitte Bouvier, Director, Foundation Le Corbusier, Paris who will be coming especially to inaugurate Architect SD Sharma's exhibition. His career of six decades will be presented in almost 50 panels. Architect Rene Tan from Singapore, besides other prominent architects, including 94 year old S.D. Sharma himself are attending the event. Tan, who is the author of the models will also be there all the way from Singapore to be a part of this. He will also talk on the process and need to catalogue these important works of Corbusier.

Punjab Cabinet Sub-Committee Holds Meetings with Employee Unions to address issues

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A Cabinet Sub-Committee, comprising Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, formed to address the legitimate demands and issues of Punjab government employees, held a series of meetings on Wednesday with representatives from the Meritorious Teachers Union, 3704 Adhyapak Union, Democratic Teachers Front, Purani Pension Prapti Morcha, Khetibari Vidhyarthi Association, and Anganwari Mulazam Union.

During the meeting, representatives of the Meritorious Teachers Union highlighted the achievements of Meritorious Schools in creating a bright future for students and presented their demands and issues. Cheema, on behalf of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, directed the Education Department to consider regularizing the services of these teachers through the officers committee constituted for this purpose. He also instructed that a report on the financial demands of the union be prepared and sent to the Finance Department. The Finance Minister assured the union that the Punjab government is paying special attention to the demands and issues of employees who are delivering exceptional services.

In the meeting with the Democratic Teachers Front, the Cabinet Sub-Committee directed the Education Department to seek legal opinion from the Advocate

General's Office on the issues raised by the front that are currently in court or may face legal hurdles. Regarding the financial issues raised by the front, Cheema assured that these matters are being taken seriously by the Finance Department. For the issues raised by the '3704 Adhyapak Union', the Cabinet Sub-Committee asked the Education Department to hold a meeting with the union and submit a report.

The Khetibari Vidhyarthi Association demanded that agriculture be made a compulsory subject in schools. The Cabinet Sub-Committee, during discussions with the Education Department, asked the department to refer this matter to the Subject Expert Committee. Additionally, the Cabinet Sub-Committee directed the Education Department to consider including agriculture in vocational courses.

The Purani Pension Prapti Morcha raised the issue of resuming the old pension scheme for state government employees. The committee informed the Morcha that the officers committee constituted by the Punjab Government is holding regular meetings to make appropriate decisions in this regard. Finance Department officials apprised the Cabinet Sub-Committee that any further decisions will be taken after receiving detailed guidelines on the new pension scheme, the 'Unified Pension Scheme', presented by the Union Government.

Regarding the issue of gratuity raised by the Anganwari

Mulazam Union, the Cabinet Sub-Committee directed the Social Security, Women and Child Development Department to seek legal advice and then send the matter to the Finance Department. For the demands related to the Union government, the Cabinet Sub-Committee directed the department to write to the Union government to resolve these issues. Concerning the difficulties arising from the inclusion of some Anganwadi centers in primary schools, the Cabinet Sub-Committee asked the departments to hold a meeting with Education department to resolve these issues.

Tewari asks Union Govt to set up Int'l Financial Centre in Chandigarh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh MP and former Union Minister Manish Tewari on Wednesday appealed to the Union Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitaraman to establish the International Financial Centre (IFC) in Chandigarh, modelled on the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

In a letter to the Union Finance Minister, Tewari said that this project would bolster the region's economy and elevate India's position as a global financial powerhouse. Making a strong case for Chandigarh as an ideal choice, he said, the city has a strategic location and accessibility given its exceptional geographic positioning as the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana, coupled with its proximity to Himachal Pradesh, which places it at the heart of North India's economic matrix.

He pointed out that the city boasts outstanding connectivity through road, rail, and air, including an international airport facilitating seamless domestic and global access—a critical prerequisite for an IFC. Referring to unmatched social and physical infrastructure, he noted that Chandigarh exemplifies the confluence of modernity and meticulous urban planning, offering unparalleled infrastructure and a superior quality of life. Besides, Tewari added, Chandigarh is known for its heritage, modern infrastructure, organised layout, and high quality of life.

39,220 persons provided jobs during last two years: Himachal CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday directed the Labour and Employment Department to focus on digitization of the data and adopt modern technology to streamline the operations of the department. While reviewing the functioning of the department, he said that all the operations of the department must be digitized and data of skilled persons in various fields must be available online. He directed the department to implement this initiative immediately as this will be helpful in offering employment and self-employment opportunities to the interested persons.

Sukhu said that, during the last two years of the present State Government, 39,220 employment jobs were provided to the youth out of

which 13,704 jobs were given in the government sector alone. He said that recruitment process was also going on to fill up the vacant posts in various departments. The present State Government has rolled down Rajiv Gandhi Swarojgar Start-Up Yojna to offer self-employment to the youth of the State and so far 121 candidates have been recommended by the Transport Department to grant subsidy for the purchase of e-taxis. He said that these e-taxis would be attached with the government departments and assured income would be provided to the e-taxi owners.

He said that the State Government was also considering providing 200 e-taxi permits in the first phase and a comprehensive scheme would be launched shortly. These initiatives were aimed at conserving the environment of the State and reducing carbon footprints, align-

ing with the State's goal of sustainable development. He said that tourism was the mainstay in the economy of the State and environment conservation was vital to promote tourism in the State as people from all over the world pay visits to Himachal Pradesh to explore the stunning landscapes and natural beauty.

Sukhu said that the State Government was also mulling to offer overseas employment opportunities to the skilled manpower. To enhance job placements, the State Government was taking steps to improve the skills of the youth so that they could get job opportunities in foreign countries. The State Government has signed a MoU with Dubai-based company EFS Facility Service and five youths of the State have been provided with employment opportunities in Saudi Arabia.

Hry CM asks officials to fulfil their roles in public welfare initiatives with impartiality

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday asked the Government employees to focus on adopting a citizen-centric approach and fulfil their roles in public welfare initiatives with impartiality.

After inaugurating the two-day capacity building workshop for officers/employees of Haryana Vidhan Sabha at Mahatma Gandhi State Public Administration Institute in Chandigarh, Saini said that the Vidhan Sabha serves as the temple of democracy with its employees being the fundamental pillars that support this institution. Employees are the cornerstone of any organization, and the strength of an institution is reflected in the competence of its workforce, he added.

He said, "Each one of us



has an important role in running this important institution (Vidhan Sabha) smoothly. The loyalty, dedication of all of you is the basis of the strength and credibility of this institution. Therefore, each one of you should focus on continuously enhancing their skills to contribute more effectively to the institution's growth. We are living in the digital age, where lakhs of people watch the proceedings of the Vidhan Sabha live through virtual platforms. Those watching these proceedings should witness the proficiency of our work and the

efficiency with which we operate," he added.

Saini said, "This training programme is not only aimed at personal development but also at equipping us with the skills to work in the best interest of the state. We must fulfil our roles in public welfare initiatives with impartiality. It is our collective responsibility to ensure transparency in the functioning of the Assembly."

The Chief Minister said that everyone should adopt a citizen-centric approach. This workshop will prove to be effective in making everyone proficient in the task of taking every complex process to the people in a simple way. "Just as we strive to improve every system in our home, similarly, whenever we identify a deficiency at our workplace, we must take steps to correct it," Saini added.



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday released the diary and calendar of the Punjab Government for the year 2025, conceptualized and prepared by the Information & Public Relations Department and printed by the Controller Printing & Stationery Punjab. Chief Secretary KAP Sinha, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav, Secretary Information and Public Relations Malwinder Singh Jaggi were present.

Pioneer Photo

PUNJAB STATE DEAR LOHRI MAKAR SANKRANTI BUMPER 2025

GUARANTEED

1st Prize Amount for Winner

DRAW DATE
18.01.2025
DRAW TIME
8 PM onwards

₹ 10 Crores

1st TIME IN PUNJAB LOTTERY
MEGA 1st PRIZE FOR ₹ 500 TICKET

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLER : ₹ 25 LAKHS
PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKIST : ₹ 5 LAKHS
TOTAL PRIZE AMOUNT ₹ 10.30 CRORES

2nd Prize Amount for Winner

₹ 1 Crore

(Seller ₹ 10 Lakhs + Sub Stockist ₹ 2 Lakhs
Total Prize Amount - ₹ 1.12 Cr)

3rd Prize Amount for Winner

₹ 50 Lakhs

(Seller ₹ 5 Lakhs + Sub Stockist ₹ 50 Thousand
Total Prize Amount - ₹ 35.50 Lakhs)

1st PRIZE WILL BE DRAWN OUT OF SOLD TICKETS ONLY

Prize	No. of Tickets	Prize Amount	Prize Amount	Prize Amount
1st	1	10,00,00,000	25,00,00,000	5,00,00,000
2nd	1	1,00,00,00,000	10,00,00,000	2,00,00,000
3rd	1	50,00,00,000	5,00,00,000	50,000
4th	1	10,00,00,000	1,00,00,000	50,000
5th	1	5,00,00,000	50,000	10,000
6th	1,000	1,000	800	100
7th	1,000	5,000	300	100
8th	1,000	3,000	300	50
9th	64,000	100	100	10

LIVE WIN MANY OTHER ATTRACTIVE PRIZES

Contact Stockists for Tickets: ARE YOU THE NEXT CROREPATI? TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL LOTTERY COUNTERS

♦ Amritsar : Golden Lottery Agency Ph : 78883 28003 ; Narang Agency Ph : 99155 68568 ; P.N.Sharma Lottery Agency Ph : 98142 60060 ; Sahil Agency Ph : 98768 11664 ♦ Batala : Sanjay Lottery Agency Ph : 82888 18536 ♦ Bhatinda : Bhagwati Enterprises Ph : 98728 70805 ; Rattan Lottery Agency Ph : 91507 91506 ♦ Ferozepur City : N.K. Agency Ph : 98553 99777 ; M.S. & Company Ph : 94176 73400 ♦ Gurdaspur : Prem Lottery Agency Ph : 62800 40689 ♦ Hoshiarpur : Alka Lottery Agency Ph : 95014 20125 ♦ Jalandhar : Brahmala Lottery Agency Ph : 98144 32770 ; Lucky Enterprises (TTS show room) Ph : 70092 15251 ; Luthra Lottery Agency Ph : 98140 60575 ; Shree Ganesh Agency Ph : 98726 36794 ♦ Killianwalli : City Lottery Agency Ph : 94668 77311 ♦ Ludhiana : Bhanot Enterprises Ph : 78887 27176 ; Chander Parkash Trehan Lottery Agency Ph : 98150 25323 ; Ekomkar Lottery Ph : 98883 49494 ; Gandhi Brothers Lott Ph : 70090 43433 ; Pooja Lottery Agency Ph : 98887 22222 ; R.P. Agency Ph : 98151 42727 ; Sanjay Agency Ph : 98143 05724 ; 0161-4662976 ; Som Agency Ph : 92169 03031 ; S.S. Lottery Agency Ph : 98728 16044 ; Sunny Associates Ph : 95010 01114 ; Vikranth Enterprises Ph : 62394 18793 ♦ Mansa : Sumit Enterprises, Sardulgarh. Ph : 90562 31764 ♦ Moga : Hansika Lottery Agency Ph : 90410 01791 ; Shivam Agency Ph : 98885 01636 ♦ Mohali : Baweja Lottery Agency Ph : 98151 67722 ♦ Morinda : Mehta Lottery Agencies Ph : 99148 50498 ♦ Muktsar : Rajesh Lottery Agency Ph : 81465 00943 ♦ Nabha : Pawan Kumar Lottery Ph : 96532 21518 ♦ Pathankot : Billa Lottery Agency Ph : 98143 05724 ♦ Patiala : J.M.D. Agency Ph : 88378 90286 ; Punjab Trading Co. Ph : 98143 21975 ♦ Rajpura : Sandeep Lottery Ph : 99884 66584 ♦ Romar : J.P. Enterprises Ph : 94638 20992 ♦ Zirakpur : Anshu Lottery Agency Ph : 99150 83333 ; Lokesh Lottery Agency Ph : 98157 88878 ; Rattan Lottery Ph : 98557 33571

FOR TICKETS & TO START LOTTERY BUSINESS CONTACT US

VISHESH DISTRIBUTORS, LUDHIANA. Ph : 1800 88 97976 (Toll Free)

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No.2804882X Hav Bhingole Bharat Dnyanoba resident of Village- Ambika Rohina, Post- Ambika Rohina, Tehsil- Chakur, District- Latur, State Maharashtra, Pin- 413513, have changed my Father name from Dnyanoba to Dnyanoba Devrao Bhingole vide affidavit No.IN-PB95479012678066X dated 08 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.2804882X Hav Bhingole Bharat Dnyanoba resident of Village- Ambika Rohina, Post- Ambika Rohina, Tehsil- Chakur, District- Latur, State Maharashtra, Pin- 413513, have changed my Father Dnyanoba Devrao Bhingole DOB from 01/July 1953 to 01 Jan 1956 vide affidavit No.IN-PB95480069314531X dated 08 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Palwinder Kaur is Mother of Army No-14946259F Rank-Sep Name-Lovepreet Singh Presently Posted at Unit: 4 mech ist Sikh Regt Permanent Address: 197, Khairteya, Khერი, Kuaudiyala Ghat, Uttar Pradesh, 262906 declare that I have changed my name from Palwinder Kaur to Palvinder Kaur. Vide Affidavit No: 52AA 913225, Dated: 08/01/2025

I, Palvinder Kaur is Mother of Army No-14946259F Rank-Sep Name-Lovepreet Singh Presently Posted at Unit: 4 mech ist Sikh Regt Permanent Address: 197, Khairteya, Khერი, Kuaudiyala Ghat, Uttar Pradesh, 262906 declare that I have Correct my Date of birth from 10/10/1970 to 01/01/1963. Vide Affidavit No: 52AA 913226, Dated: 08/01/2025

I, Satnam Singh is Father of Army No-14946259F Rank-Sep Name-Lovepreet Singh Presently Posted at Unit: 4 mech ist Sikh Regt Permanent Address: 197, Khairteya, Khერი, Kuaudiyala Ghat, Uttar Pradesh, 262906 declare that I have Correct My Date of birth from 15/03/1968 to 01/01/1968. Vide Affidavit No: 52AA 913481, Dated: 08/01/2025

I, Rupali Bhaskar Paithankar is legally Wedded Spouse of Army No-15779067W Rank-Hav Name-Bhaskar Vishawas Paithankar Presently Posted At Unit: 142 AD Regt (SP) C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: 393b, Lasgaon, Jalgaon, Maharashtra-425115 declare that I have Correct My Date of birth from 06/06/1988 to 06/06/1990. Vide Affidavit No: 48AA 901333, Dated: 08/01/2025

I, Smt Roopali Bhaskar P is legally Wedded Spouse of Army No-15779067W Rank-Hav Name-Bhaskar Vishawas Paithankar Presently Posted At Unit: 142 AD Regt (SP) C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: 393b, Lasgaon, Jalgaon, Maharashtra-425115 declare that I have changed My Name from Smt Roopali Bhaskar P to Rupali Bhaskar Paithankar. Vide Affidavit No: 48AA 901332, Dated: 08/01/2025

I, Swbhagya is Mother of Army No: 16118335X Rank: Nk Name- Deepak Kumar HB Presently residing at 161 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS), Chandimandir Cantt Panchkula, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Swbhagya to Sowbhagya and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/07/1969 to 18/04/1965. Vide Affidavit No: 52AA 913222, Dated: 08/01/2025

I, Basave Gowda is Father of Army No: 16118335X Rank: Nk Name- Deepak Kumar HB Presently residing at 161 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS), Chandimandir Cantt Panchkula, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Basave Gowda to Basavegowda and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/07/1959 to 29/08/1958. Vide Affidavit No: 52AA 913223, Dated: 08/01/2025

I, Malooq Singh is Father of Army No:18011762H Rank: NK Name- Baljinder Singh Presently Posted at Unit: 57 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Ward Number 5, Village/Post:Dera Baba Nanak, Tehsil: Dera Baba Nanak Dist:Gurdaspur, State: Punjab-143604 declare that I have changed my name from Malooq Singh to Malook Singh. Vide Affidavit No: 48AA 901037, Dated: 08/01/2025

I, Sukhwinder Kaur Mother Of No 18002697m, Rank - Spr Name Kuldeep Singh Resident Of Vill - Namdar Pur, Post & Telegram Office - Mustafabad, Tehsil - Jagadhri, District - Yamuna Nagar, State - Haryana, Have Changed My Date Of Birth From 26/12/1965 And 10/05/1963 Vide Affidavit Dated 08 Jan 2025 Sworn Before Notary Public Satpal, Pathakot. Please Correct It.

I, No 18002697m, Rank - Spr Name Kuldeep Singh Resident Of Vill - Namdar Pur, Post & Telegram Office - Mustafabad, Tehsil - Jagadhri, District - Yamuna Nagar, State - Haryana, Have Changed The Name Of My Daughter From Ashben Kaur To Aishween Kaur Vide Affidavit Dated 08 Jan 2025 Sworn Before Notary Public Satpal, Pathakot. Please Correct It.

I, No--10363278m Hav Balbir Singh. Unit-126 Inf Bn (Ta) (Jak Rif) C/O 56 Apo. Resident Of Village - Nora. Po- Tehsil And District Kathuya(J&K) Declare That In My Service Record My Mother Name And Date Of Birth Is Wrongly Mentioned As Bishno Devi And 01/06/1950 But Her Correct Name Is Vishno Devi And Date Of Birth Is 05/09/1960 As Per Her Adhaar Card And Pancard.

I, No-Tj-6527L Sub Sewa Singh Unit- 126 Inf Bn Ta Jak Rif C/O 56 Apo Resident Of Village Katli. Tehsil-Dinga Amb District- Kathua (J&K) Pin No. - 184144 Declare That In My Service Records My Mother Name And Date Of Birth Wrongly Mentioned As Vidiya Devi And 01/06/1941 But Her Correct Name Is Vidhya Devi And Date Of Birth Is 16/07/1933 Vide Affidavit Before Notary Satpal Pathankot. Punjab

I, Gurmit Singh s/o Gian Singh, R/o Village Gandhon Kalan, P.O. Ranglipur, Tehsil and District Rupnagar have changed my name to Gurmeet Singh.

I, Charanjeet Kaur wife of Bhupinder Singh R/o Village Majri Jattan, District Rupnagar have changed my name to Charanjit Kaur.

I, Riddhima kataria w/o Sh Amandeep r/o # 7, Phase 2, SAS Nagar (Mohali) have changed my son name Yaniish Patpatia to Yaniish A Patpatia.

I, Ranjit Kour W/O Sulakhan Singh R/O Vpo-Gahlari, Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab. Have Changed My Name From Ranjit Kour To Ranjeet Kaur.

I, Sulkhian Singh S/O Teja Singh R/O Vpo- Gahlari, Distt- Gurdaspur. Punjab. Have Changed My Name From Sulkhian Singh To Sulakhan Singh.

I, Ashok Kumar S/O Vijay Kumar R/O Vpo- Bhaini Mian Khan Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur, State- Punjab- 143517, India. Have Changed My Name From Ashok Kumar To Ashokjit Singh.

Sant Ram Angral S/O Jumu Ram R/O 206/8 Improvement Trust Colony No.5 Jail Road Gurdaspur. (Punjab). Have Changed My Name From Sant Ram Angral To Sant Ram.

I, Karnail Singh S/O Kartar Singh R/O Village- Bhaini Paswal, Po- Jagowal Bet, Distt- Gurdaspur, Pin Code-143528, Punjab, India. Have Changed My Name From Kartar Singh To Karnail Singh.

I, No. 4001853H Ex MACP Hav Suresh Singh resident of VPO - Baknaur Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab) have changed name of my mother from Bindu Siaria To Bindu Salaria vide Affidavit No. IN-PB95422805444701X Dated 08 Jan 2025 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, Rupali is legally wedded spouse of No 15776625F Rank Hav (Opr) Name Mote Yuvraj Kashinath presently residing at Village - Pathurdi, Tehsil - Karmala, Distt - Solapur, State - Maharashtra, have changed my name from Bindu Siaria To Bindu Salaria vide Affidavit No. IN-PB95422805444701X Dated 08 Jan 2025 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Maharashtra).

I, Manjeet Singh S/O Malkiat Singh R/O House No. 153, Sector-118, Mohali, Have Changed My Name To Manjeet Singh Kalsi.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank ...the name you can BANK upon!

POSSESSION NOTICE Notice for Immovable Properties of more than one borrower by the same Authorized Officer (For Immovable property) Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice(s) on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower(s) to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s).

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Branch, Description of property, Date of Demand Notice, Date of Possession Notice, Balance Outstanding. Includes details for Branch: PNB, CAB, Panipat and Borrower: Sh. Surjeet Kumar S/o Sh. Ramphal Singh.

I, Harsarup Sharma S/o Om Parkash R/o Gurdwara Road Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Harsarup to Harsarup Sharma.

I, Prabal Sharma S/o Anil Kumar R/o Vpo. Sango Katrala Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) Punjab-144211, have changed my name from Prabal to Prabal Sharma.

I, Karamjit Kaur W/O Gurmit Singh R/O H. No. 8, Near Akali Tractor Workshop, Sanori Adda, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Karamjeet Kaur.

I, Hanwant Singh s/o Baljinder Singh H.No.439, W.No.8 Keharwali dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name Hanwant Singh to Manjinder Singh.

I, Sarbjit Kaur Sandhi W/O Palwinder Singh R/O Village Pandori, Tehsil & Distt. Barnala, Have Changed My Name To Sarbjit Kaur.

I, Vishal S/o Bodh Raj R/o W.No. 9 Balmik Mohalla Tonda Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my name to Vishal Hans.

I, Balkaran Singh Khosa S/o Baltej Singh R/O Khosa Dal Singh Wala (Ferozpur) have changed my name to Balkaran Singh.

I, Neelam W/o Sarbjit R/o Kanshi Nagar, Kot Sadiq, Near Guru Ravidass Gurudwara, P.o.Basti Guzen, Jalandhar, 144002, Punjab, India have changed my name from Neelam Rani & Neelam is one & same Person.

I, Rajvee Bansal S/o Raj Kumar Bansal R/O H.No. 427-B, Sector 3-C, Mandi Gobindgarh (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Rajiv Bansal.

I, Balvir Singh Grewal S/o Ujagar Singh R/O Village Behla (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Balvir Singh.

I, Gurwinder Kaur Grewal W/o Balvir Singh R/O Village Behla (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Gurwinder Kaur.

I, Sanju Devi Spouse Of No. 2706355A Rank Nk Name Chandra Prakash, Unit Of 2 Grenadiers C/O 56 Apo Pin 910802 Residing At Village Dhakali Post Nabipura Tehsil Fatehpur District Sikar State Rajasthan Pin 332303 Have Changed My Name From Sanju Devi To Sanju Dhabai Vide Affidavit Dated 08 January 2025 Before At Notary Ferozpur.

I, Army No. 15161666W, Hav, Parmar Ashvin Hardas, Unit Of 197 Fd Regt Residing At Village & Post Divasa Tehsil Mangrol District Junagadh Pin 362240 State Gujarat Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Krupa Ben Ashvin Bhai Vide Affidavit Dated 08 January 2025 Before At Notary Ferozpur.

I, Varsha Vasant Kamble Is Legally Mother Of No. 15724704F Rank Nk Name Kamble Vishal Vasant Of Unit 7 Inf Div Sig Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing At Near Sai Mandir, At Ghotewadi, P.O. Borwadi Ta, Mangaon, Raigarh State Maharashtra Pin-402120 Declare That My Name Kamble Varsha Vasant Wrongly Mentioned In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is Varsha Vasant Kamble.

I, Vasant Tukaram Kamble Is Legally Father Of No. 15724704F Rank Nk Name Kamble Vishal Vasant Of Unit 7 Inf Div Sig Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing At Near Sai Mandir, Ghotewadi, P.O. Borwadi Ta, Mangaon, Raigarh State Maharashtra Pin-402120 Declare That My Name Kamble Vasant Tukaram Wrongly Mentioned In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is Vasant Tukaram Kamble.

I, Manju Is Legally Wife Of Army No. 2707812P Rank Nk Name Shrawan Ram Jat Of Unit 2 Gamders Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing At Kuri, Kudi, Jodhpur State Rajasthan Pin-342606 Declare That My Name Manju Devi Wrongly Mentioned In My Husband Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is Manju.

I, Army No. 15333468Y Rank Hav Name Jayavant Ravindra Patil Of Unit 22 Engr Regt, C/O 56 Apo Ferozpur Declare That My Name Patil Jayavant R Kumar Wrongly Mentioned In My Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is Jayavant Ravindra Patil.

I, No. 3002879N, Rank Hav, Name Dhruv Kumar Unit Of 17 Rajput C/O 56 Apo, Resident At Amby Nagar Colony, Opp Talspur Gate, Ramghat Road, Aligarh, (Up) Pin-202001 Have Changed My Daughter Name From Kumari Pratah To Pratha Vide Affidavit Dated 08 January 2025 Before At Executive Magistrate Ferozpur.

I, Bateri Devi Is Legally Mother Of Name Joginder Kumar Resident: Vpo. Adiyana, Teh. Madlauda, District Panipat, (Haryana) Pin 132113, Have Changed My Name From Bateri Devi To Bhateri Vide Affidavit Dated 08 January 2025 Before At Notary Ferozpur.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank ...the name you can BANK upon! POSSESSION NOTICE Notice for Immovable Properties of more than one borrower by the same Authorized Officer (For Immovable property) Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice(s) on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower(s) to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s).

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Branch, Description of property, Date of Demand Notice, Date of Possession Notice, Balance Outstanding. Includes details for Branch: PNB, CAB, Panipat and Borrower: Sh. Surjeet Kumar S/o Sh. Ramphal Singh.

I, Harsarup Sharma S/o Om Parkash R/o Gurdwara Road Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Harsarup to Harsarup Sharma.

I, Prabal Sharma S/o Anil Kumar R/o Vpo. Sango Katrala Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) Punjab-144211, have changed my name from Prabal to Prabal Sharma.

I, Karamjit Kaur W/O Gurmit Singh R/O H. No. 8, Near Akali Tractor Workshop, Sanori Adda, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Karamjeet Kaur.

I, Hanwant Singh s/o Baljinder Singh H.No.439, W.No.8 Keharwali dasuya (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name Hanwant Singh to Manjinder Singh.

I, Sarbjit Kaur Sandhi W/O Palwinder Singh R/O Village Pandori, Tehsil & Distt. Barnala, Have Changed My Name To Sarbjit Kaur.

I, Vishal S/o Bodh Raj R/o W.No. 9 Balmik Mohalla Tonda Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my name to Vishal Hans.

I, Balkaran Singh Khosa S/o Baltej Singh R/O Khosa Dal Singh Wala (Ferozpur) have changed my name to Balkaran Singh.

I, Neelam W/o Sarbjit R/o Kanshi Nagar, Kot Sadiq, Near Guru Ravidass Gurudwara, P.o.Basti Guzen, Jalandhar, 144002, Punjab, India have changed my name from Neelam Rani & Neelam is one & same Person.

I, Rajvee Bansal S/o Raj Kumar Bansal R/O H.No. 427-B, Sector 3-C, Mandi Gobindgarh (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Rajiv Bansal.

I, Balvir Singh Grewal S/o Ujagar Singh R/O Village Behla (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Balvir Singh.

I, Gurwinder Kaur Grewal W/o Balvir Singh R/O Village Behla (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Gurwinder Kaur.

I, Sanju Devi Spouse Of No. 2706355A Rank Nk Name Chandra Prakash, Unit Of 2 Grenadiers C/O 56 Apo Pin 910802 Residing At Village Dhakali Post Nabipura Tehsil Fatehpur District Sikar State Rajasthan Pin 332303 Have Changed My Name From Sanju Devi To Sanju Dhabai Vide Affidavit Dated 08 January 2025 Before At Notary Ferozpur.

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I, Varsha Vasant Kamble Is Legally Mother Of No. 15724704F Rank Nk Name Kamble Vishal Vasant Of Unit 7 Inf Div Sig Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing At Near Sai Mandir, At Ghotewadi, P.O. Borwadi Ta, Mangaon, Raigarh State Maharashtra Pin-402120 Declare That My Name Kamble Varsha Vasant Wrongly Mentioned In My Son Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is Varsha Vasant Kamble.

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I, No. 3002879N, Rank Hav, Name Dhruv Kumar Unit Of 17 Rajput C/O 56 Apo, Resident At Amby Nagar Colony, Opp Talspur Gate, Ramghat Road, Aligarh, (Up) Pin-202001 Have Changed My Daughter Name From Kumari Pratah To Pratha Vide Affidavit Dated 08 January 2025 Before At Executive Magistrate Ferozpur.

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

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession, Date of Demand Notice (Rs), Name of Branch. Includes details for S/o Sajna Bansal/Vijay Kumar/ TBAMT00006467008 & TBAMT00006508269.

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

Date: January 09, 2025 Place: Amritsar Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED (A State Govt. Undertaking) DETAILED TENDER NOTICE Online tender is invited for the execution of following works, on the prescribed form (Tender Document). The detailed tender notice can also be downloaded from website https://hptenders.gov.in

Table with 3 columns: Sr. No., Tender No., Name of work. Includes details for MED/R-89/2024-25 and MED/S-90/2024-25.

Key Dates:- 1. Initial date for sale of tender 10.01.2025 11:00 AM 2. Last date for sale of tender 16/01/2025 11:00 AM 3. Opening of tender 17.01.2025 11:00 AM

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank ...the name you can BANK upon!

BO: BABYAL, AMBALA CANTT Notice under section 13 (4) of Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Securitization and Enforcement of Security Interest (second) Ordinance, 2002 read with Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules) 2002

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule 8 (1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank, BO: Babyal, Ambala Cantt, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) (Now Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Act no. 54 of 2002 dated 17.12.2002), and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 (substituted for "Rule 9" vide GSR 1046 (E), dated 03.11.2016, w.e.f. 04.11.2016) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 29.02.2024, calling upon the borrower M/ Ram Saw Mill Prop, Ram Kumar S/o Sh. Tej Ram Regd. Office at Plot No. 16 Village Hamidpur, Behind Gillz Hotel, Sub-Tehsil Mulana, Distt. Ambala, Haryana-134203, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 9,82,682.76 (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Two and Seventy-Six Paise Only) outstanding as on 26.12.2023 (Date of NPA) with further Interest and costs/charges less recovery if any, within 60 days from the date of notice/ date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors/mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 07th day of January of the year 2025.

The borrowers, guarantors/mortgagers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for an amount of Rs. 9,82,682.76 (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Two and Seventy-Six Paise Only) outstanding as on 26.12.2023 with further Interest and costs/charges less recovery if any.

[The borrower's/guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets]. Description of immovable Property Property situated at land measuring 0 Kanal 16 Marla, comprised in KH/KH 272/250/308, khasra no. 141/10/6 (0-16), situated at Village Hamidpur, Hadabst No. 137, Sub-tehsil Mullana, Tehsil Baran, Distt. Ambala, Haryana owned and possessed by Sh. Ram Kumar S/o Sh. Tej Ram as per sale deed 35/1 dated 17.04.2006 register with sub registrar, Sub-tehsil Mullana.

(Sudhir Verma), Authorised Officer Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor DATE: 07.01.2025 + PLACE: Ambala

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD Sangrah, District Simaur, H.P. on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rates bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of Contractors registered with HPSPWD for the works detailed in the table.

Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Starting Date for Downloading Bid, Earnest Money (Rs.), Deadline for Submission of Bid. Includes details for Metalling & Tarring on Devna Thanga road km 0/00 to 3/130 (SH: - ROFD from km. 2/060 to 2/090, 2/370 to 2/400 on d 2/540, C/O Wing walls for RCC HPC at RD. 1/045, 1/270, 2/140 and 2/585, Essential parapets in km. 1/425 to 1/725 and C/O PCC R/Wall at RD. 1/705 to 1/715) Under MNP.

Bidders are advised to submit their bids as per instructions issued by the Engineer-in-Chief, HPPWD Shimla vide his office letter No. PW/CTR/32-20/Cent. Instruct. CPWD/2020-1911-210 dated 25.10.2021 and e-mail file letter No. 3796-33095 dated 13.03.2023 in compliance of the Principal Secretary (PW) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh guidelines dated 07.01.2021 in continuation to notification issued by the Additional Chief Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of HP vide notification No. PBW(BJ/31)/2020 dated 22.7.2020. Tenders are called on percentage rates as per directions of the Chief Engineer (S2), HPPWD Shimla conveyed vide letter No. PW-CTR-29-Misc/2023-36299-329 dated 16.02.2023. The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in .

Executive Engineer, HPPWD (B & R) Division Sangrah, Tel/Fax: 01702-248207 E-mail: ee-sanhp@nic.in RO NO. 44/16/2024-2025 Dt. 08-01-2025 On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

LOST & FOUND
It is hereby informed to the General Public that I, Pran Nath Sharma S/o Sh. Moti Ram Sharma R/o H.No.283 Sector-09 HUDA Ambala City, Haryana have lost the Original Provisional Allotment Letter for Customer ID No. 3519989, Sale Order no.30861, Original Payment Receipt no.230070648 dt.25.02.12 issued by Jaiprakash Associates Limited in respect of Unit bearing no. GD/0224902, in WISH Town Project - Situated at Jaypee Greens Noida City on dated 18 Dec 24. Any one finding the said documents, is requested to kindly return the same to me or to my S/o.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Maninder Kaur w/o Gurinder Singh R/o H.No.8-A, Ganda Singh Colony, Tarnatar Road, Amritsar declare that I am owner of the property, i.e. Built up House upon the Plot Private No. 10, min, total area measuring 51.33 sq. yards, bearing khasra no.68/17 min, situated at abadi Guru Har Gobind Nagar, Rakha Kala Ghanpur Sub Urban Amritsar on the basis of the sale deed dated 27-03-2014 vide document no. 2023-24/93/11413, Bhai no.1, but I have lost my previous sale deed dated 29-Nov-2018 vide document no.2018-19/93/114438

PUBLIC NOTICE
Form No. INC-26
[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NORTHERN REGION, NEW DELHI
Application No.: of 2025
IN THE MATTER OF
SECTION 13(4) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND RULE 30 OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014 AND
IN THE MATTER OF
PT WORKS PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U15400CH2019PTCO42807)
Regd. Office: H No 127, Sector 28-A, Chandigarh-160027

LOST & FOUND
I, Rekha Rani w/o Naresh Kumar r/o village Prem Kheda, District Karnal inform that the sale deed number 20183 dated 18.01.2012 of my Plot No. 7, Akash Nagar, Kurukshetra, which has been lost near Birla Mandir, Kurukshetra. Whoever finds it, please inform at the above address.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of clause 2 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of Special Resolution passed by the company at its Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 7th day of January, 2025 to enable the Company to change its Registered Office from "the Union Territory of Chandigarh" to "the State of Punjab".

THE AJANTA CO-OP. HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD.
PLOT NO 6, SECTOR 51-D, CHANDIGARH 941786-8285
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Transfer of Share/Flat in the name of Purchaser.
It is hereby notified for the General Public that the following persons propose to Purchase the undermoted Flat Share have applied for transfer of the same in their names as per policy for transfer of flats in the Cooperative Societies vide The Chandigarh Administration Finance Dept. (ESTATE BRANCH) notification dated 14/11/2018.

THE SOUTH INDIAN BANK LTD
Regional Office - Delhi, 3rd Floor, Plot No.21, 21/1, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi -110005, Phone - 011 4233 1664 / 011 4512 8661 Email - r1000@sib.co.in
Date: 08-01-2025
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Ms. Rinky Agnihotri
Civil Judge (Junior Division), Ludhiana
CANARA BANK
Vs.
M/S MANKINDER FABRICS AND FASHION BOUTIQUE
CS/2797/2024
CNR No.:PBLD02-005927-2024
Next Date:-30-01-2025
PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:-
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HOUSING BOARD HARYANA
PLOT NO. C-15, AWAS BHAWAN, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA
E-mail: cropmhbn22@gmail.com Telephone No. 0172-2585852
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Sub: Transfer of Final Registration No. 91/Prvn. Regn. No. 91/KNL-9832/SBG/HJC, Sector 9832, Karnal under EWS Scheme on the basis of death of successful applicant.

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COURT NOTICE
(Complaint - 138 Negotiable Instrument Act)
IN THE COURT OF
Ms. JASLEEN NARANG
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Ludhiana
M/S HDFC BANK LTD.
V/S
RAJDEEP SINGH
CNR No.:PBLD03-030930-2023
COMA/6157/2023
NEXT DATE: 06-03-2025
1) RAJDEEP SINGH ADDRESS- R/O VPO WARA DARAKA FARIDKOT NEAR GURDWARA SAHIB FARIDKOT.

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HOUSING BOARD HARYANA
PLOT NO. C-15, AWAS BHAWAN, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA
E-mail: cropmhbn22@gmail.com Telephone No. 0172-2585852
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Sub: Transfer of Final Registration No. 91/Prvn. Regn. No. 91/KNL-9832/SBG/HJC, Sector 9832, Karnal under EWS Scheme on the basis of death of successful applicant.

LOST & FOUND
I, Rekha Rani w/o Naresh Kumar r/o village Prem Kheda, District Karnal inform that the sale deed number 20183 dated 18.01.2012 of my Plot No. 7, Akash Nagar, Kurukshetra, which has been lost near Birla Mandir, Kurukshetra. Whoever finds it, please inform at the above address.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Brace up for battle royal

With polling scheduled for February 5, Delhi is poised for a fiercely contested three-way battle

As the Election Commission officially announced the schedule for Delhi's upcoming assembly elections, the stage is set for what promises to be a hard-fought, three-cornered contest. Polling for the 70 assembly seats in Delhi will take place on February 5, with the results to be declared on February 8. This election is poised to be a high-stakes battle between the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, each bringing its own strategies, narratives and issues to the forefront. Under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal, AAP is looking to secure a third consecutive term in Delhi. The party, which has enjoyed overwhelming success in the last two elections, is fiercely campaigning for a 'hat-trick.' Kejriwal, whose party has transformed the political landscape of Delhi since its formation in 2012, is betting on his track record of governance and what he calls the 'politics of work.' AAP's focus remains on welfare programmes such as free electricity, water and healthcare, while the party claims its tenure has been marked by development and transparency. With the slogan "Phir layenge Kejriwal," AAP has launched a campaign centred around a positive vision for the future, contrasting its achievements with the BJP's focus on divisive politics. However, AAP's victory is far from assured. Despite its dominance in the previous two elections, the party now faces mounting challenges. AAP has been dogged by corruption allegations, a point of attack that the BJP has effectively capitalised on.



For the BJP, this election is a do-or-die contest. The party, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has mounted an aggressive campaign aimed at ousting Kejriwal and the AAP from power. The BJP's central theme revolves around anti-incumbency, accusing AAP of corruption and failing to address the capital's development needs. Prime Minister Modi, at the forefront of the BJP's attack, has called the AAP government an 'AAP-da' (disaster) and criticised its inability to offer a vision for Delhi's growth. Modi's rhetoric positions the BJP as the party of national progress, while framing Kejriwal's leadership as an obstacle to Delhi's future. The BJP's strategy is twofold: discredit the AAP's governance while appealing to voters' desire for change. The Congress, once the dominant force in Delhi, is now a distant third. After losing power in the capital in 2013, the party has been trying to rebuild its political base, which has been severely eroded by both AAP and BJP. However, this time the party is determined to make its presence felt in the elections. Given the deepening polarisation, high stakes and aggressive strategies on all sides, the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections are shaping up to be a politically charged, hard-fought, and closely contested battle. Voters will have to choose between a legacy of governance under AAP, a vision for change from the BJP, and the prospect of stability from the Congress, making this election one of the most bitterly fought yet interesting to the core.

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PICTALK



A man and children perform for alms at Sagar Island on a foggy winter morning, in South 24 Parganas

PTI

Influencer marketing is making a big impact on India's small towns

Influencer marketing, once seen as an urban phenomenon, is now making waves in India's small towns and rural areas

Influencer marketing is no longer just a big-city thing in India. It has taken even the country's small towns and rural areas. The sole reason behind this shift is the recent surge in regional content creators, who connect deeply with local audiences by speaking their language, both literally and culturally.

The rise in regional content
A regional revolution is on the cards for India's digital landscape. The share of regional language consumption on OTT platforms alone is estimated to go beyond 50-50 per cent by 2025, leaving Hindi content behind. This is to say, India's appetite for content in native languages is growing aggressively, laying down a strong foundation for regional influencers to thrive.

Brands tapping into 'Bharat'
Brands seem to acknowledge this shift and have begun increasingly collaborating with regional influencers to penetrate non-metro markets. There's no argument over how crucial influencer marketing has become for



brands, with 75 per cent of brands considering it a part of their marketing strategy. Partnering with local creators gives an edge to brands in delivering messages that resonate with regional audiences and build engagement and trust.

Enter micro & nano influencers
Brands are going big on micro and nano influencers, given their unmatched effectiveness in these markets. Their content is more relatable and trustworthy to local audiences. Notably, 47 per cent of brands prefer collaborating with micro and nano influencers for cost-effective campaigns and better engagement.

Economic opportunities for regional creators
The creator economy is ris-

ing rapidly. The market size is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 22 per cent from 2023 to 2030.

This growth rate is proof of the plethora of opportunities that lie for regional creators, enabling them to monetise their content while contributing to the local economy. Despite the promising growth, challenges remain. Many creators in smaller towns may need more access to high-quality production resources or brand partnerships. However, as the digital infrastructure improves and brands continue to recognise the value of regional influencers, these hurdles are likely to go away. The rise of regional content creators is reshaping India's influencer

marketing ecosystem. By tapping into local languages and cultures, these influencers are not only taking brand messages to their target audience but also democratising content creation across the nation. The rise of regional content creators is transforming India's influencer marketing landscape. By connecting with local audiences in their native languages and cultures, these influencers are expanding the reach of brands to non-metro markets. As regional content consumption grows, brands are increasingly partnering with micro and nano influencers to achieve cost-effective, relatable, and trustworthy engagement.

The growing creator economy offers significant economic opportunities, despite challenges like limited access to production resources. As digital infrastructure improves, regional influencers will continue to thrive, reshaping content creation and broadening its reach across the nation.

(The writer is Founder and CEO iCubesWire; views expressed are personal)



SAHIL CHOPRA

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Donald Trump's H-1B dilemma

As President-elect Donald Trump prepares for his second term, the debate over H-1B visas for skilled foreign workers is heating up

As the US President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office on January 20, he faces a unique challenge. The issue of immigration and the H-1B visa has become a contentious point among the two key groups. He is trying to satisfy the conflicting interests of the billionaire tech community, who heavily fund his campaigns, and his 'America First' base.

Trump's recent favourable statements on H-1B visas for foreign skilled workers have sparked renewed discussions on the future of this critical programme. The New York Post quoted Trump, "I've always liked the visas, I have always been in favour of the visas."

That's why we have them." He added: "I have many H-1B visas on my properties. I've been a believer in H-1B visas. I have used it many times. It's a great program."

Trump admitted, Trump has backed Elon Musk and his other wealthy funders from Silicon Valley (South Africa-born Musk had an H1B visa himself). While tech leaders want a liberal H-1B visa regime, 'America First' hardliners wish for stricter restrictions on immigration at all levels.

In his first term, Trump prioritised protecting American citizens' interests, which had significant implications on the H-1B visas. 'America First' advocates argue that H-1B visas take jobs away from American workers. The looming question is, will the Trump's second term may prioritise American workers' jobs, or it could revert to the traditional Republican belief that immigration primarily benefits employers. Debates arose over H-1B visas following Trump's appointment of India-born Sriram Krishnan as his advisor on artificial intelligence. It caused divisions within Trump's team—opponents of the H-1B visa claim that the immigrants take away American jobs. The intriguing question is whether a second Trump term will prioritise jobs for American workers or revert to the traditional Republican stance that immigration is pri-



marily beneficial for employers. Influential supporters like Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy argue that H-1B visas are crucial for addressing the US engineers shortage. Musk, who built his empire, and Vivek Ramaswamy have strongly supported the program. Musk expressed his readiness to go to war over it. They highlight a significant skills gap in the US labour market, particularly in STEM fields.

What is an H-1B visa, and why is there such controversy surrounding it? Would India suffer if H-1B visas were eliminated? The visa system for skilled workers from other countries was introduced in 1990 by President Bush to work legally in the US. The visa is for three years. Applicants must have a job lined up with a US-based sponsoring company or institution. Since 2004, the United States has limited the number of new H-1B visas to 85,000 yearly.

This cap includes 20,000 visas for international students with advanced degrees from US universities. In the fiscal year 2023, the US approved just over 386,000 H-1B applications. For the fiscal year 2024, there were 758,994 eligible registrations, an increase from 474,421 in 2023. Most approved applicants work in

MAJOR US COMPANIES, INCLUDING TECH GIANTS LIKE AMAZON AND GOOGLE, ARE SIGNIFICANTLY SCALING BACK THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF H-1B VISAS. INDIAN IT FIRMS, INCLUDING INFOSYS AND TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (TCS), ALSO RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS

science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The issue is more than just an economic concern; new developments in artificial intelligence and advanced computing technology make it vital for US defence and national security. India receives approximately 72 per cent of H-1B visas, while Chinese citizens account for around 12 per cent.

Eliminating country-specific caps could increase job opportunities for Indians in the United States. It is a significant concern for many prospective applicants. Major employers in the tech industry, including Indian companies like Infosys, TCS, HCL, and Wipro, represent 35 per cent of the top 10 beneficiaries of H-1B visas. Beginning with FY 2025, USCIS changed from an employer-based to a beneficiary-centric registration system, following the agency's "serious concerns" noted after the FY 2024 registration period. Amazon, the largest H-1B sponsor, saw a steep decline in approvals, dropping from over 11,000 in 2023 to just above 9,000 in 2024. Major US companies, including tech giants like Amazon and Google, are significantly scaling back their sponsorship of H-1B visas. Indian IT firms, including Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS),

also recorded substantial reductions. Not everyone wants to get rid of the visa system.

According to the American Enterprise Institute and the Partnership for a New American Economy, increasing the H-1B visa cap could generate 1.3 million new jobs. It would contribute approximately \$158 billion to the US GDP by 2045. H-1B visa holders often add to the workforce instead of taking jobs from US workers. Trump's recent statement about H-1B visas has given hope to many visa seekers, especially Indians. He stated that the US needs skilled and intelligent people and promised more job opportunities. It provides a positive outlook for H-1B visas. H-1B visa holders often complement, rather than compete with, US workers. Now many H-1B visa seekers are hopeful after Trump has sided with Musk. He claimed that there was a need for skilled and intelligent workers. His promise of unprecedented job opportunities offers a positive outlook for those seeking H-1B visas. The Indian government closely monitors any backlash against Indian H-1B visa holders in the US.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUPERSTAR CULTURE HURTS TEAM INDIA

Madam — No kudos is enough for Harbhajan Singh for boldly opposing the 'superstar culture' revolving around the 'holy cows' of Indian cricket. Irfan Pathan has also done the same and also questioned the place of Virat Kohli in the team. Not only has Kohli aggregated merely 190 runs in his nine innings in the just-concluded Indo-Australia Test series, but he has averaged less than 30 over the last five years! Yet Kohli gets not only allowed to dominate in the team; a deluge of silly excuses gets bizarrely served on the lines of 'Form Temporary Class Permanent,' 'A century just an innings away,' and "Stop criticising; runs will come!"

And to render a damn lie to 'ultimate truth' through constant repetition, some former stars have started shouting, "Kohli has still 4-5 years of glorious cricket in him!" But if one is not any 'superstar,' we get Wriddhiman Saha! So even after saving India from an imminent defeat in the Kanpur Test against New Zealand, that too by overcoming the unbearable pain of a stiff neck, Saha (then reigning as the world's best wicketkeeper) was clearly conveyed publicly, even when the Test was still on, that he is not in the team's 'scheme of things!' So in this biased, prejudiced setup, it is highly natural that this 'gallant show' of failures is sure to go on unless the 'superstar' culture is made to see its immediate end!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

JUSTIN TRUDEAU QUITS

Madam — The editorial 'Trudeau steps down' (Jan 8) highlights the domestic political reasons, economic failure and discontent in his own Liberal party for his resignation. In fact, Justin Trudeau scripted his own exit. His diplomatic blunders are also potential reasons for his resignation. He unnecessarily antagonised India for gaining Sikh support in elections without realising that the Khalistani movement is a secessionist and a hostile agitation that has the least support in India. He admittedly had no proof of the involvement of

Cashless treatment for road accident victims



As per the report titled "National Strategy for Prevention of Unintentional Injury," there were 430,504 deaths from unintentional injuries and 170,924 deaths due to intentional injuries in India. Despite efforts to improve road safety, India continues to grapple with a high number of fatalities due to road traffic injuries. It is unfortunate. The government of India, in line with its commitment to reduce fatalities, launched a pilot programme in Chandigarh in March 2024 to provide cashless treatment to the victims of road accidents caused by the use of motor vehi-

cles. The aim of this scheme was to establish an ecosystem for providing timely medical care to the victims of road accidents, including during the golden hour.

As per the scheme, the victims will be entitled to cashless treatment up to a maximum of 1.5 lakh rupees per accident per person for a maximum of 7 days from the date of the accident. It is applicable to all road accidents caused by the use of a motor vehicle on any category of road. Claims raised by hospitals for providing treatment to be remembered from the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund. The pilot programme was later expanded to six states. The scheme is going to be implemented nationwide from March 2025, as announced by Nitin Gadkari, Central Minister for Road Transport. It is really a welcome move. Certainly, lives of more accident victims will be saved.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

Indian agencies, yet he continued to blame India for the Nijjar murder case and promote and protect the extremist Pannu. His open support for Khalistani extremist elements eroded his credibility worldwide, as the Indian diaspora, including Sikh brethren, are peacefully living on all the continents, and only a few in Canada support Khalistan.

Trudeau gambled in vain. India observed utmost diplomatic restraint against Trudeau's anti-India statements on Khalistani extremists. It is true that no extremist or terrorist group dares to surge without government support, as it needs media, judiciary, police, and diplomatic support and funding for its secessionist, hatred, divisive, and violent activities. Canada provided all these facilities to the Khalistani extremists. Now the Trudeau tenure is over, the Khalistani extremists may not have a favourable time in Canada, and all false allegations against India in the Nijjar murder case will meet a logical end, and hardcore elements like Pannu will not be supported by the state. The Trudeau exit should be a lesson to

those foreign leaders who are inciting and supporting anti-national organisations in India.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

SALARY INCREMENTS DELAYED

Madam — Economic instability and the tendency of customers to reduce expenses have compelled major IT companies to postpone salary increments. This step by reputed firms like Infosys and LTI Mindtree is an effort to maintain financial balance, but its long-term impact could be severe. A blow to employees' morale may lead to a decline in their creativity and efficiency. Additionally, measures like layoffs and reduction in workdays could create insecurity among the workforce. It is essential for companies to take balanced decisions that ensure financial stability while considering the human aspect, paving the way for holistic growth.

R K Jain | Barwani

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

STOP BLAMING, START AIMING

Blame is an easy escape when life doesn't go as planned, but it's also a barrier to personal growth



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Every man is the architect of his own life; hence one can easily say that we all try to make our lives just the way we want them to be, however, when something goes wrong, we immediately start looking out for someone or something to blame instead of changing ourselves to better the situation. It's a fact that we all spend too much of our time and energy in finding people to blame for all the problems in our life. But why do we need to blame someone?

Because we want to redeem ourselves of the guilt of doing something wrong by justifying it, therefore internally we pass on the responsibility of our behaviour to a person, situation or an external factor. Doesn't that sound very normal? Well!!! It may be to the majority of us, but while playing this game of blaming, we forget that as per the Law of Karma, the one who changes himself first is the one who gets the gift of happiness. Hence if we are seekers of peace and happiness, then we have to change ourselves and not wait for others to do so. Blaming others happens due to a lack of vision to recognise and accept our faults and laziness in making amendments.



Gradually it becomes a habit of lethargy in a royal disguise. Usually, we blame others for our misery because we feel that things could have been better if the other person behaved properly with us, but we fail to understand the very fact that every action has an opposite and equal reaction, hence instead of looking at self, we always struggle to set the opposite person right.

When we are unable to find someone to blame, we end up blaming the situation. However, while doing so, we forget the fact that all the situations in our life are our creations, hence according to Karma Philosophy whatever we are experiencing currently is the result of an action, word or thought manifested sometime earlier. And now when it is time for us to repay, we should readily do it with courage & settle our karmic account to experience a burden-free state of mind. Right?

When the above two factors i.e. blaming someone or something don't work, the despaired human soul goes to the extent of blaming the Almighty because he feels that since everything in the world happens by the will of the Supreme, his plight is also an outcome of God's desire. Quite funny, isn't it? But we all indulge in such pastime activity daily. Remember! We all are actors who fall under the law of karma & perform actions to derive fruit out of it. Almighty never gets a share out of it.

As our teacher & guide, HE can teach, and make us understand, but HE cannot appear in the exam for us. Hence, we have to take all the tests of life by ourselves with full confidence. For a spiritual aspirant, unpleasant situations are examinations of life that are necessary to elevate one's spiritual stage & help in leaping forward in self-progress. Hence, we must not miss the opportunity to snap the web that we have all created with rationalization. Whether we fail or pass in these examinations doesn't matter much, what counts is the courage & vigour with which we face these examinations. For spiritual evolution, the habit of blaming is one of the major obstacles simply because the first rule of spirituality is observing one's self and not the others.

Hence it is very important to take responsibility for the experiences we undergo & make a conscious effort to do the right and be honest and accountable to ourselves because deceiving ourselves will only take us further away from spiritual liberation. So!! Stop blaming and start aiming because when you blame others, you give up your power to change.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

India's forests: Gains, gaps and the way forward



B K SINGH

The report underscores the need for robust monitoring, effective execution of plantation drives and third-party certification of carbon stock to meet India's climate commitments



Forest Survey of India has been releasing biannual reports on the status of Indian forests. The last report was released on December 31, 2021, and the current report which was due in December 2023, has been released after a year's delay. The highlight of the report is that total forest cover has been increased from 7,15,187 square km (2021 assessment) to 7,15,343 square km (current assessment), which is now 21.76 per cent of the total geographical area of the country. Also, the tree cover, which comprises trees along the linear infrastructures and also in agricultural fields up to one hectare is increased by 1289 square km, which is 3.41 per cent of the total geographical area of the country. The net increase of forest cover and tree cover is 1445 square km in two years period till 2023.

The increase in forest cover is a meager 156 square km. Among the states that have gained maximum increase in forest cover are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. A maximum decrease in forest cover has been noticed in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Ladakh and Nagaland. Recorded Forest / Green Wash areas (RFA/GW) are the forests in control of the forest department. While Mizoram, Odisha, Karnataka, West Bengal and Jharkhand have added in RFA/GW areas and the forest cover has increased, Tripura, Telangana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat have lost. It indicates that states are losing their recorded forests. Villages on the fringes of the forests have been burning tree growth and occupying forest land with the support of local leaders and to claim it under the Forest Rights Act, of 2006. Improper implementation of the Forest Rights Act, of 2006 can be attributed to the reason for the loss of forests for agriculture. All the states have been taking up ambitious plantation programmes to increase forest cover and tree cover. The degraded forest areas are being planted regularly.

Taking a conservative estimate, a minimum of 18,000 square km area is being planted annually in the country; should



THE NET INCREASE OF FOREST COVER AND TREE COVER IS 1445 SQUARE KM IN TWO YEARS PERIOD TILL 2023. THE INCREASE IN FOREST COVER IS A MEAGER 156 SQUARE KM. AMONG THE STATES THAT HAVE GAINED MAXIMUM INCREASE IN FOREST COVER ARE UTTAR PRADESH, RAJASTHAN, CHHATTISGARH AND ODISHA

it not be reflected in this report? How can we justify a 7 square km increase in two years in RFA? It only indicates that deforestation and degradation are taking place at the same pace, we are planting the areas. Such an important report should contain an assessment of the success of plantations across the states. Forest cover outside RFA has increased in Gujarat, Bihar, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Assam, while it has been lost in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Loss of cover outside RFA is on account of the failure of the administration of the Revenue department of the state. States should put greater vigil on such forests.

These are the carbon sinks and in the era of a warming world, we cannot afford to plunder tree growth even outside RFA. The bright spot in the report is the success of the agroforestry programme. Most states have lost forest cover, but have gained in tree cover. This means that tree planting programmes on private lands/community lands have been largely successful. Trees on government lands can be cut and destroyed, but the same cannot be done on private lands. In this period of two years, very dense forests increased by 3465.12 square km, while moderately dense forests and open forests have decreased by 1043.23 square km and 2480.11 square km respectively. Forest departments' efforts in taking up plantations in open and degraded areas appear to have shown some success. A large chunk of open and degraded areas has been re-stocked, which has pushed it into the very dense forest category.

But a simple arithmetic indicates that 58 square km of forests have been lost. Most probably, several small plots taken from forests on the fringes of the villages must

have been encroached on for agriculture and eventually community members had an intention to claim rights over it. Decadal changes in forest cover in Western Ghats eco-sensitive areas have also been brought out in the report. It is found that 58.22 square km of cover is lost in ten years. How can we forget the 30th July tragedy that struck Wayanad, Kerala? Nearly 500 humans were buried under landslide debris when they were asleep.

It also damaged roads, bridges, buildings and human houses. Landslides in portions of Karnataka and Maharashtra across the Western Ghats have disrupted lives and livelihoods. Losing 58 square km in ten years means losing nearly 6 square km annually. We need to mend our ways and cannot afford to lose any tree growth in such eco-sensitive areas. Mangroves in the country along the coastline protect against tsunamis, cyclones and Sea surges of any kind. The report indicates that out of 4991 square km of mangroves 7.5 square km is lost in two years. While Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra together have added 25 square km of mangroves, Gujarat has lost 36 square km. On the western coast Gujarat is the most vulnerable state against frequent and destructive cyclones, how can it afford to lose such a big chunk of mangrove forests?

Other coastal states are reportedly expanding their mangroves by taking up large-scale planting, but the report does not show any increase. There has to be an enquiry as to why mangrove plantation programs are failing. Another highlight of the report is that the growing stock of carbon in the forests is 7285 Mt, and comparing it with the 2021 report there is an increase of 81.5 Mt in two years. Thus our forests are adding 40.75 Mt of carbon annually,

which is like 149 Mt of CO2 equivalent annually. Comparing it with the report of 2005, the growth in forests has created a carbon sink of 2.29 billion tons of CO2 equivalent compared to the 2005 level. To contain the average global rise in temperature within 1.50 Celsius, we have committed in our nationally determined contribution to achieve a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tons of CO2 equivalent by 2030 in response to the Paris Climate Accord of 2015. We are on course to achieve the target well before 2030. I suppose we need a third-party assessment for carbon stock in our forests. Carbon credit has been quite a contentious issue and in several annual climate conferences, UNFCCC has failed to find a resolution. However, for the first time at Baku CoP 29, a resolution has been achieved. It has allowed countries to trade carbon credits - certified reductions of carbon emissions at prices determined as a consequence of emission caps imposed.

It has also been agreed that the operations of the carbon market would be supervised by the UN body. Strict UN control is needed, as a project proponent in the developed nation can pay for an afforestation project to absorb 1000 tons of CO2 in a developing nation where trees fail to put in desired growth and are unable to sequester the entire quantity of carbon credited. Therefore, the carbon sink created by us through our interventions in forest growth needs certification from the UN body. The report in future should take into account the plantation programs each state is implementing and measure the change in the cover concerning the success/ failure of plantations.

(The writer is retired Principal chief conservator of forests, head of Forest Force, Karnataka. Views expressed are personal)

Mahakumbh 2025: A spiritual confluence of faith, wisdom and Sahaj Smriti Yog

The Mahakumbh invites millions to experience a celestial confluence of rivers, spirituality and wisdom

The Mahakumbh at Prayagraj, commencing on January 13, 2025, promises a celestial confluence of rivers, minds, and spirituality. This ancient gathering is a tribute to India's cultural and spiritual heritage, drawing millions of pilgrims and seekers worldwide. This year, the Mahakumbh assumes greater significance as it hosts a 'Samagami' (gathering) of seers and spiritual leaders to discuss Guru Nand Kishore's book, Sahaj Smriti Yog (An Impactful Form of Yoga and Meditation) and his teachings on Sanatan Dharma, spirituality and meditation.



B K JHA

Sahaj Smriti Yog, founded by Guru Nand Kishore of the Darpan Foundation, transcends being a meditation technique; it is a journey to self-realisation. It guides individuals to transition from clear thinking to transcending thought, unveiling inner peace and clarity. Gururji emphasises that rediscovering one's true self involves uncovering innate purity and harmony. In Sahaj Smriti Yog, Gururji delves into the alignment of

this practice with the eternal principles of Sanatan Dharma, which sees truth as timeless and unchanging. The Mahakumbh's spiritual energy provides an ideal setting for this exploration. Guru Nand Kishore's interpretation of Sanatan Dharma underscores timeless wisdom, essential for spiritual pursuits. He highlights Guru Parampara (the lineage of spiritual masters) as vital for spiritual evolution, stating, "Sanatan Dharma offers solutions before problems arise—a clarity achievable through meditation or Samadhi." This wisdom, he explains, allowed ancient seers to provide fearless counsel to rulers.

Central to Sahaj Smriti Yog is the Guru's role as a mirror reflecting the seeker's inner

self. Guru Nand Kishore asserts that true Gurus cannot self-proclaim; they are identified by seekers who trust their guidance. He warns against false spiritual leaders, emphasising that genuine Gurus help dissolve ego, a prerequisite for enlightenment. Trust, he stresses, forms the foundation of the Guru-disciple relationship—a value modern society must urgently rediscover.

The philosophy of Sahaj Smriti Yog is rooted in simplicity and universality, making it accessible to all. Unlike practices advocating detachment, it encourages embracing life's responsibilities fully. Transformation arises not by escaping reality but by engaging with it deeply and meaningfully. This approach fosters



spiritual growth while remaining grounded in daily life. The practice is built on three principles: understanding, experiencing, and feeling. Understanding cultivates self-awareness through intelligence and emotions. Experiencing transforms life's events into opportunities for growth. Feeling connects prac-

tioners with ultimate reality, transcending superficial existence to access profound essence.

What sets Sahaj Smriti Yog apart is its non-coercive nature. It doesn't demand rigorous discipline or thought suppression but gently guides the mind to a state of deep peace and harmony. Practitioners effortlessly rediscover inner stillness and clarity.

Guru Nand Kishore's vision extends to societal harmony. The Darpan Foundation and its ashram in Noorundumalai, Tamil Nadu, embody this philosophy. The ashram is a sanctuary for exploring Sahaj Smriti Yog principles, emphasising sustainability and holistic living. Gururji advocates conscious choices, such as

supporting locally sourced food, to nourish both individuals and the planet.

The Mahakumbh provides an unparalleled platform for spiritual exchange. The 'Samagami' on Sahaj Smriti Yog will explore trust, humility, and spiritual growth.

Guru Nand Kishore's teachings offer a roadmap for resolving global conflicts by fostering trust and reducing ego-driven blindness. He believes peace begins with personal transformation, replacing arrogance with clarity and humility.

As humanity faces division and mistrust, Gururji's Sahaj Smriti Yog serves as a beacon of hope, offering paths to personal enlightenment and collective harmony. The Mahakumbh amplifies this

message, inviting individuals from all walks of life on a transformative journey.

Through the lens of Sahaj Smriti Yog, the Mahakumbh celebrates eternal spirituality, where ancient wisdom meets contemporary relevance. It calls humanity to embrace simplicity, sustainability, and spiritual clarity. As millions gather at Prayagraj to witness the confluence of rivers, Sahaj Smriti Yog reminds us that true peace begins within. Gururji's words, 'Clarity gives you power,' encapsulate the transformative potential of this timeless practice. Let Mahakumbh 2025 be a milestone in redefining spirituality for a harmonious world.

(The writer is a senior journalist. Views expressed are personal)

'All hell will break out if hostages in Gaza are not freed': Trump warns Hamas

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump has warned that "all hell will break out in the Middle East" if the hostages being held by Hamas are not released by Inauguration Day. Trump did not elaborate on what actions he might take if the captives are not released by the time he takes office. Officials say about 100 hostages, including some Americans, who were seized on October 7, 2023, remain captive in Gaza, though they believe many of them may have died in captivity. "All hell will break out. If those hostages aren't back, I don't want to hurt your negotiation, if they're not back by the time I get into office, all hell will break out in the Middle East," Trump told reporters at a news conference in Mar-a-Lago, Florida.

Trump will be sworn in on January 20 as the 47th President of the United States. He was responding to a question on the status of negotiations with Hamas on the release of American hostages. His Special Envoy to the Middle East Steven Charles Witkoff, who has just returned from the region, told reporters that they are on the verge of it. "I believe we've been on the verge of it. I don't want to discuss sort of what's delayed it, no point in being negative in any way. But I think it's the president, his stature, what he's said he expects, the red lines he's put out there, that's driving this negotiation," Witkoff said. Noting that they are making a lot of progress, he said: "I don't want to say too much because I think they're doing a really good job back in Doha. I'm leaving tomorrow to go back to Doha. But I think that we've had

some really great progress and I'm really hopeful that by the inauguration we'll have some good things to announce on behalf of the president." Negotiations between Hamas and Israel are ongoing in Qatar, with Hamas this week naming 34 hostages in Gaza — including two dual US citizens — it would be willing to release in a ceasefire deal, the National Public Radio reported. Trump, in response to a question, warned Hamas to release all the hostages by January 20. "It will not be good for Hamas and it will not be good frankly for anyone. All hell will break out. I don't have to say anymore, but that's what it is. They should have given them back a long time ago — they should have never taken them. There should have never been the attack of October 7th. People forget that, but there was and many people were killed," he said.



The flag-draped casket of former President Jimmy Carter lies in state during a ceremony in the Capitol on Tuesday in Washington. Carter died on Dec. 29 at the age of 100. AP/PTI

Jimmy Carter eulogised by Kamala Harris, congressional leaders

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Nearly 44 years after Jimmy Carter left the nation's capital in humbling defeat, the 39th president returned to Washington for three days of state funeral rites starting Tuesday. Carter's remains, which had been lying in repose at the Carter Presidential Centre since Saturday, left the Atlanta campus Tuesday morning, accompanied by his children and extended family. Special Air Mission 39 departed Dobbins Air Reserve Base north of Atlanta and arrived at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. A motorcade carried the casket into Washington for a final journey to the Capitol, where members of Congress will pay their respects. In Georgia, eight military pallbearers held Carter's casket as cannons fired on the tarmac nearby. They carried it to a vehicle that lifted it to the passenger compartment of

the aircraft, the iconic blue and white Boeing 747 variant that is known as Air Force One when the sitting president is on board. Carter never travelled as president on the jet, which first flew as Air Force One in 1990 with President George HW Bush. The scene repeated outside Washington. The former president's casket was removed from the plane, cannons fired and a military band played. A hearse emblazoned with the seal of the president joined a motorcade that steered toward Washington. A bipartisan delegation of members of Congress were led into the Capitol Rotunda by Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, Democrats who represent Carter's home state. Vice President Kamala Harris, members of President Joe Biden's cabinet and three of the nine US Supreme Court justices — John Roberts, Brett Kavanaugh and Elena Kagan — also were present. The US Army Band Brass

Quintet played as people awaited the casket. The room fell silent as three knocks on the rotunda door marked Carter's arrival. The casket was placed in the middle of the room on the Lincoln catafalque, a platform built in 1865 to hold slain president Abraham Lincoln's casket in the same place. Harris, Senate Majority Leader John Thune and House Speaker Mike Johnson delivered eulogies celebrating Carter's faith, military service and devotion to service, including his hands-on contributions to building homes for those in need through Habitat for Humanity. "Jimmy Carter was that all too rare example of a gifted man who also walks with humility, modesty and grace," Harris said, recalling his unpretentious approach to campaigning. He slept in the homes of his supporters to "share a meal with them at their table and listen to what was on their minds," she said.

The US Naval Academy Glee Club performed the patriotic hymn "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" before bipartisan congressional leaders and Harris, accompanied by her husband Doug Emhoff, placed wreaths beside the casket. Members of Carter's family, including some of his grandchildren, wiped tears. Carter, who died December 29 at the age of 100, will lie in state Tuesday night and again Wednesday. He receives a state funeral Thursday at Washington National Cathedral. Biden will deliver a eulogy. There are the familiar rituals that follow a president's death — the Air Force ride back to the Beltway, a military honor guard carrying a flag-draped casket up the Capitol steps, the Lincoln catafalque in the rotunda. There also will be symbolism unique to Carter. As he was carried from his presidential centre, a military band played hymns — "Amazing Grace"

and "Blessed Assurance" for the outspoken Baptist evangelical who called himself a "born-again Christian" when he sought and won the presidency in 1976. In Washington, his hearse stopped at the US Navy Memorial, where his remains were transferred to a horse-drawn caisson for the rest of his trip to the Capitol. The location nods to Carter's place as the lone US Naval Academy graduate to become commander in chief. All of the pomp carries some irony for the Democrat who went from his family peanut warehouse to the Governor's Mansion and eventually the White House. Carter won the presidency as the smiling Southerner and technocratic engineer who promised to change the ways of Washington — and eschewed many of those unwritten rules when he got there. From 1977 to 1981, Carter was Washington's highest-ranking resident. But he never mastered it.

Trump doesn't rule out using military to get Panama Canal, Greenland

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday did not rule out the use of the military to bring Panama Canal and Greenland under American control, which he argued is of great economic and strategic significance to the United States. "I'm not going to commit to that. Now it might be that you'll have to do something," Trump told reporters at Mar-a-Lago in Florida. He was asked if he would use the military to gain control of both the Panama Canal and Greenland. "Look, the Panama Canal is vital to our country, it's being operated by China, China. And we gave the Panama Canal to Panama, we didn't give it to China," Trump said. Giving the Panama Canal to Panama in just one dollar by the former president Jimmy Carter, he argued, was a very

big mistake. "Giving the Panama Canal to Panama was a very big mistake. We lost 38,000 people. It cost us the equivalent of USD 1 trillion, maybe more than that, probably the most expensive structure, if we call it a structure, which I guess you can ever build. Giving that away was a horrible thing," he said. Trump said the US needs Greenland for national security purposes. "I've been told that for a long time, long before I even ran. I mean people have been talking about it for a long time. You have approximately 45,000 people there. People really don't even know if Denmark has any legal right to it, but if they do, they should give it up because we need it for national security," Trump asserted. "That's for the free world. I'm talking about protecting the free world. You don't even need binoculars, you look out-

side, you have China ships all over the place. You have Russian ships all over the place. We're not letting that happen. We're not letting it happen. If Denmark wants to get to a conclusion — but nobody knows if they even have any right title or interest," he said. "The people are going to probably vote for independence or to come into the United States. But if they do that, then I would tariff Denmark at a very high level," he said. Trump said he has not drawn up a plan for acquisition of Greenland yet. Hawaii was the last territorial acquisition of the United States. It was admitted as the 50th State on August 21, 1959. Alaska, the largest US State, was admitted as the 49th State on January 3, 1959. On New Year's eve, Greenland's Prime Minister Mute Egede has expressed his desire to obtain independence from Denmark.

Tents arrive for survivors of quake that killed 126 in freezing Tibet

PTI ■ BEIJING

Rescuers in the freezing, high-altitude Tibet region in western China searched a second day for any remaining victims of a deadly earthquake that struck near a holy city for Tibetan Buddhists, before shifting their focus to resettling the survivors. More tents, quilts, stoves and other relief items were being delivered Wednesday to people whose homes were uninhabitable or unsafe. Temperatures fall well below freezing overnight in an

area with an average altitude of about 13,800 feet. In video aired by state broadcaster CCTV, workers could be seen erecting rows of tents with metal frames and stakes after nightfall Tuesday. Meant as temporary shelter, they were lined with quilted padding to keep out the cold. The workers distributed packaged food items to the shelter occupants, donning blue winter jackets over their orange uniforms. The confirmed death toll stood at 126 with another 188 injured

as of Tuesday evening, and no further updates were issued during the day on Wednesday. Hong Li, the director of Tibet's Emergency Management Department, told a late afternoon news conference that the work had shifted from search and rescue to resettlement and reconstruction. The earthquake struck an outlying county in the city of Shigatse, the traditional seat of the Panchen Lama, the second-highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism. It was not immedi-

ately known whether he was in his Tashi Lhunpo Monastery at the time or how much damage Tibet's second largest city sustained. The epicenter was about 25 kilometers from the main part of the city, which is called Xigaze in Chinese and sprawls across a high altitude plain. More than 500 aftershocks were recorded after the earthquake, which the US Geological Survey said measured magnitude 7.1. China's earthquake center recorded a magnitude of 6.8. The quake

was also about 75 kilometers from Mount Everest at the border with Nepal, where the shaking sent people running out of their homes in the capital. A candlelight vigil was planned on Wednesday night in Dharamsala, India, home to the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's highest figure, and a large Tibetan population. An announcement on the Dalai Lama's website said he would lead a prayer ceremony in memory of the victims on Thursday. The Dalai Lama is

viewed by the Chinese government as bent on making Tibet independent of China. Asked about the prayer ceremony, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said, "We are very clear about the separatist nature and political schemes of the Dalai Lama and remain highly vigilant." Guo expressed confidence that the people in the earthquake zone will be able to rebuild under "the strong leadership" of China's ruling Communist Party.

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Sl. No.	Job no/Work name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	03/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o Green belt & RSP along with Express Highways 15.00 to 20.00 Km RHS Service Road, 02 year maintenance.	99.07
2.	17/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o RSP and Green belt along with Express Highway 10.00 Km to 15.00 Km RHS Service Road, two year maintenance.	98.73
3.	25/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o Green belt & RSP, 02 Year maintenance along Express Highway 15.00 Km to 20.00 Km Service Road & Green Belt LHS.	83.23
4.	28/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o Park & RSP Sector-110 Central Verge & Both Side 02 Year maintenance.	61.02
5.	36/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o Park (Annual maintenance of footpath, boundary wall, grill, gate and other civil work in different parks of sector-21 and 25) Noida.	46.17
6.	51/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-24, M/o RSP (Vertical Garden) in sector-14, Shahdara Drain Bridge both side and sector-59, 61, 62 and sector-63 metro pillars with two year maintenance, Noida.	91.46
7.	68/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o Green belt & RSP, 02 year maintenance Express Highway 5.00 to 10.00 Km Service Road & Green Belt LHS.	79.37
8.	73/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o Park in front of metro station in sector-137 DOG park with Two year maintenance.	30.64

Which can be uploaded by date **15.01.2025 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date **16.01.2025 at 11.00 AM**.

Sl. No.	Job no/Work name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	48/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o Park/Wetland (Beautification of Foot over bridge and other civil maintenance work in wetland park sector-54), Noida	60.26
2.	50/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o Park/Green Belt (civil maintenance work in YRF Under Horticulture Division-I area for One Year) Noida.	74.91
3.	69/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o Park (Annual M/o Boundary wall footpath, gate, grill, toilet and painting work at Children Park, shivalik Park and green belt in front of Shivalik park sector-33A) Noida.	53.72
4.	71/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o Park/Green Belt (civil maintenance work in Sector-44 Under Horticulture Division-I area for One Year) Noida.	63.04
5.	78/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o RSP (Beautification and construction of roundabout situated in sector-153) Noida in Victorian style canopy, dome and sculpture with raised platform and bollard lighting etc.	93.50

Which can be uploaded by date **22.01.2025 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date **23.01.2025 at 11.00 AM**. Director (Hort.), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 (Rules)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3, issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/guarantors listed hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "said Borrowers"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the Notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of Notice, as per details given below. The said Notices have been returned undelivered by the postal authorities / have not been duly acknowledged by the borrowers. Hence the Company by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice (as per the provisions of Rule 3 (1)). The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrowers, as per the said Act. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to the Company by the respective parties as detailed below.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers/ Guarantors with address	Date of N.P.A	Amount claimed as per Demand Notice	Schedule Of The Mortgaged Property
1	1. Mrs. Seema Singh W/o Jasveer Singh Rana Address 1 - House No. 276, I Block, Govindpuram Ghaziabad 201002 Address 2 - House No. 138, Narayanpur Vaska, Dhaulana, Distt Hapur-245301 Address 3 - Flat No. S-3, Second Floor, Without Roof Right, Build On Plot No. - 109,110, Khasra No. 572, Vishnu Enclave, Hadbast Village - Dasna, Pargana - Dasna, Tehsil - Ghaziabad, District - Ghaziabad 201013 Address 4 - Chw Forge Pvt Ltd, Near Hapur Road Flyover Malliwara, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 2010012. Mr. Jasveer Singh Rana S/o Mahender Singh Address 1 - House No. 276, I Block, Govindpuram Ghaziabad 201002 Address 2 - House No. 138, Narayanpur Vaska, Dhaulana, Distt Hapur-245301 Address 3 - Flat No. S-3, Second Floor, Without Roof Right, Build On Plot No. - 109,110, Khasra No. 572, Vishnu Enclave, Hadbast Village - Dasna, Pargana - Dasna, Tehsil - Ghaziabad, District - Ghaziabad 201013	29-12-2024	Rs. 17,08,781/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One Only) As On 02.01.2025	Flat No. S-3, Second Floor, Without Roof Right, Build On Plot No. - 109,110, Khasra No. 572, Vishnu Enclave, Hadbast Village - Dasna, Pargana - Dasna, Tehsil - Ghaziabad, District - Ghaziabad/Boundaries Of Plot No. 109: East: Plot No. 110 West : Plot No. 108 North: Digar Malik Land South: 20 Ft Wide Road/Boundaries Of Plot No.110: East: Plot No. 111 West : Plot No. 109 North: Digar Malik Land South: 20 Ft Wide Road
2	1. Mrs. Rakhi W/o Ombir Address 1 - Plot A-1/215, Entire Ground Floor, DLF Dilshad Ext - II, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201005 Address 2 - D - 255, Old Seemapuri, East Delhi - 110095 Address 3 - Bank Of India, Ram Vihar, Delhi 110092 2. Mr. Ombir S/o Lakhmi Address 1 - Plot A-1/215, Entire Ground Floor, DLF Dilshad Ext - II, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201005 Address 2 - M.c.d. Sahadara Zone, Near Shyam Lal College, Shahdara, New Delhi, 110032	29-12-2024	Rs. 14,19,333/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Nineteen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Only) As On 02.01.2025	Residential Entire Ground Floor, Build On Plot No. A-1/215, Dlf Dilshad Ex. Second Hadbast Village - Brahmapur Urf Bhopura, Pargana - Loni, Tehsil And District - Ghaziabad Boundaries:East: 25 Ft Wide Road West: Plot Digar North: Plot.No.A-1/216 South: Plot.No.A-1/214

Payable with further interest & contractual rates as agreed from the date mentioned above till dated payment.

You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest thereon within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers/guarantors is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets

Date: 08-01-2025 Place: Noida Sd/- Authorized Officer Can Fin Homes Ltd

Second wind-whipped wildfire burning out of control in LA

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

A fast-moving wildfire broke out Tuesday in the inland foothills northeast of Los Angeles hours after another blaze tore through the city's Pacific Palisades neighbourhood along the coast, destroying many homes and prompting evacuation orders for tens of thousands. The Eaton fire in Altadena started near a nature preserve just before 6:30 p.m. The flames spread so rapidly that staff at a senior care centre had to push dozens of residents in wheelchairs and hospital beds down the street to a parking lot where they waited in their bedclothes for ambulances and other vehicles to take them to safety. To the west, the Pacific Palisades fire that started Tuesday morning burned out of control into the night. The Los Angeles Fire Department put out a plea for off-duty firefighters to help fight the flames that were being pushed by winds topping 60 mph (97 kph) in some places and creating chaotic scenes as residents fled. It was too windy for firefighting aircraft to fly, hampering the fight. The Pacific Palisades fire swept through a Los Angeles hillside dotted with celebrity residences Tuesday, burning homes and prompting evacuation orders. In the frantic haste to get to safety, roadways were clogged and scores of people abandoned their vehicles and fled on foot, some toting suitcases.



The traffic jam on Palisades Drive prevented emergency vehicles from getting through and a bulldozer was brought in to push the abandoned cars to the side and create a path, according to the LA Fire Department. California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who was in Southern California to attend the naming of a national monument by President Joe Biden, made a detour to the canyon to see "firsthand the impact of these swirling winds and the embers," and he said he found "not a few — many structures already destroyed." Officials did not give an exact number of structures damaged or destroyed in the Pacific Palisades wildfire, but they said about 30,000 residents were under evacuation orders and more than 13,000 structures were under threat. And the worst could be yet to come. The blaze began around

10:30 a.m., shortly after the start of a Santa Ana windstorm that the National Weather Service warned could be "life threatening" and the strongest to hit Southern California in more than a decade. The exact cause of the fire was unknown and no injuries had been reported, officials said. Only about 25 miles (about 40 kilometers) northeast in Altadena, the Eaton fire was burning. The winds were expected to increase overnight and continue for days, producing isolated gusts that could top 100 mph (160 kph) in mountains and foothills — including in areas that haven't seen substantial rain in months. "By no stretch of the imagination are we out of the woods," Newsom warned residents, saying the worst of the winds are expected between 10 p.m. Tuesday and 5 a.m. Wednesday. He declared a state of emergency on Tuesday.

GDP growth likely to be 6.3 per cent in FY25, says SBI report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The GDP growth is expected to be about 6.3 per cent in the current fiscal year, a tad lower than the government's estimates of 6.4 per cent, owing to several factors such as weak demand, SBI research report said on Wednesday.

According to the first advance estimates (FAE) of National Income for 2024-25 released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), released on Tuesday, India's economic growth rate is estimated to slip to a four-year low of 6.4 per cent in 2024-25, because of poor showing by the manufacturing and subdued investments.

Historically, the difference between the estimates of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the NSO is always in the range of 20-30 bps and hence the 6.4 per cent estimate for the 2024-25 fiscal year is along expected and reasonable lines, the SBI's research report 'Ecowrap' said.

"We, however, believe that



GDP (gross domestic product) growth for FY25 could be around 6.3 per cent, with downward bias," it said.

The report authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India (SBI), also said as per capita nominal GDP is expected to increase significantly in the current fiscal ending March 2025, by Rs 35,000 more than 2022-23, despite a slowdown in real GDP growth and nominal GDP growth remaining almost stagnant.

the capital formation nominal growth declined 270 bps to 7.2 per cent.

"...Overall picture is that demand remains weak and sequential slowdown in FY25 at 6.4 per cent is an outer limit while the actual growth is definitely below the estimated figure," it said.

The report further said that the fiscal deficit at the end of November 2024 stood at Rs 8.5 lakh crore, or 52.5 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE). However, taking into account the revised GDP figures, if tax receipts grew by the BE, government expenditure lowered due to low CAPEX then fiscal deficit will be 4.9 per cent of the GDP in 2024-25, SBI's research said.

While, if government sticks to the fiscal deficit of Rs 16.1 lakh crore, then with the revised GDP numbers, the deficit as per cent of GDP would be at 5 per cent in 2024-25, the report said.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of the GDP in the current financial year.

Budget should focus on tax simplification, reduction in personal I-T: EY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Budget is expected to focus on boosting private capex, tax simplification and reduction in personal income tax, particularly for the lower-income groups, to stimulate demand, EY India said.

The Union Budget for 2025-26 is scheduled to be presented in Parliament on February 1.

EY India, in its Budget expectation note, said with over Rs 31 lakh crore stuck in income tax disputes as of 2023-24, there is an urgent need to clear Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) backlog and bolster alternate dispute resolution mechanisms like advance pricing agreements and safe harbours.

"While a full comprehensive review of the direct tax code may take time, we might see some initial steps towards its implementation in this Budget. I also hope for a reduction in personal income tax, particularly for the lower-income groups, to provide relief and stimulate demand," said Sameer Gupta, National Tax Leader, EY India.

EY said the expectations from Budget are focused on a set of strategic reforms that can



propel the economy forward. With an emphasis on fiscal consolidation, tax system simplification, and investment-driven growth, the Budget is expected to lay a solid foundation for sustained economic development.

EY anticipates significant reforms to simplify the tax system and improve taxpayer services, reduce litigation, and enhance tax compliance.

The government is already working on simplifying the Income Tax laws. It should follow a consultative approach and invite public comments on the draft proposals, EY said.

"Key areas of focus are likely to include enhancing public spending, reducing the fiscal

deficit, incentivising private sector investment, and introducing targeted tax reforms that foster business innovation," EY said.

In the last Budget, government had rationalised the capital gains structure in terms of holding period of assets and tax rates. The government may further address some of the unintended anomalies to make the rationalisation of capital gains more complete, EY said.

For instance, the holding period for capital assets, such as business undertakings in slump sales may be reduced from 36 months to 24 months and unlisted shares in IPO offer for sale (OFS) from 2 years to 1 year, aligning them

with listed securities.

Gupta further said for businesses, particularly SMEs, reducing the complexity of tax compliance is critical.

To achieve sustainable growth in FY26, the government must prioritise reducing the fiscal deficit to 4.5 per cent of GDP in FY26 while reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio, which stands at 54.4 per cent, well above the fiscal responsibility and budget management (FRBM) target of 40 per cent.

A medium-term real GDP growth target of 6.5 per cent or higher will require boosting the aggregate investment rate (GFCF) measured at constant prices to 34 per cent.

This can be achieved by increasing the government's capital expenditure, improving capital efficiency and encouraging states to enhance their investment spending.

To stimulate private sector investment, a progressive reduction in interest rates should be considered. Additionally, targeted employment schemes should be fast-tracked to uplift urban demand and support economic momentum in FY26, EY said.

Govt revises gold import data from April; cuts Nov figures by USD 5 Billion to USD 9.84 Billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The government has revised gold import data, bringing down numbers for November by USD 5 billion to USD 9.84 billion, possibly to rectify double accounting of inbound shipments.

According to revised data of the commerce ministry arm Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIIS), gold import numbers have been slashed since April 2024, revealing excess imports of about USD 11.7 billion during the first eight months of 2024-25.

The revision was prompted by an unusual surge in imports of the precious metal in November 2024, leading to record import of USD 69.95 billion and the highest ever trade deficit of USD 37.84 billion.

Noticing the jump, the commerce ministry started examining if there were any calculation or accounting mistakes in the compilation of the gold imports data.

Kolkata-based DGCIIS is an organisation for the collection, compilation and dissemination of India's trade statistics and commercial information.

The revised data published on the DGCIIS website showed a difference of about USD 11.7 billion for April-November 2024-25.

The cumulative gold import during April-November 2024-25 worked out to be USD 37.38 billion as against the earlier estimates of USD 49.08 billion.

According to the revised DGCIIS data, the inbound shipments in April, May, June, July, August, September and October 2024 were USD 2.95



billion (as against earlier estimate of USD 3.11 billion), USD 2.91 billion (USD 3.33 billion), USD 2.47 billion (USD 3.06 billion), USD 2.57 billion (USD 3.13 billion), USD 8.64 billion (USD 10.06 billion), USD 3.3 billion (USD 4.39 billion), and USD 4.67 billion (USD 7.12 billion), respectively.

After the revision, the trade deficit -- difference between imports and exports -- for November is expected to be revised downwards to USD 32.84 billion. Similarly, there will be a revision in imports as well as trade deficit numbers for the last eight months of the current fiscal year.

During April-November 2023-24, gold imports stood at USD 32.92 billion.

A query sent to the commerce ministry on the issue remained unanswered.

Prices of the yellow metal have increased 17 per cent so far this fiscal year to Rs 80,000 per 10 gm in the national capital.

In the Budget, the government slashed the duty from 15 per cent to 6 per cent.

India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), surged 30 per cent to USD 45.54 billion in 2023-24.

India imports the largest

India must speed up hybrid technology adoption in pulses, oilseeds to reduce imports: P K Mishra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
India needs to accelerate adoption of hybrid technology in pulses and oilseeds to address production deficits, while acknowledging the challenges faced by farmers in implementing these advanced farm practices, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister P K Mishra said on Wednesday.

Mishra highlighted that despite showing promising results, hybrid varieties, particularly in crops like pigeon pea ('toor dal'), have not achieved widespread adoption among farmers.

"These two crops need our attention much more than what we did so far," he said while inaugurating the national symposium organised by Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) here.

While some hybrid mustard seeds are available in the market, their performance compared to open-pollinated varieties requires further investigation, he said.

Addressing the limitation of annual seed purchases - a requirement for hybrid crops - Mishra mentioned ongoing global research efforts to develop technologies allowing farmers to save and reuse hybrid seeds. "This will help saving on the cost of seeds."

Highlighting challenges faced in adoption of hybrid seeds, Mishra said India's pioneering work in hybrid technology, which revolutionized crops like maize and cotton, faces uneven adoption across different crops despite its proven potential to boost productivity and climate resilience.



The country's early achievements in hybrid technology, starting with the first cotton hybrid in 1970, demonstrated significant success in cross-pollinated crops. However, adoption rates remain surprisingly low in key staples like rice, where hybrid varieties cover only 8 per cent of the total cultivated area despite 35 years of technology introduction.

"Hybrid technology has shown remarkable superiority in many cross-pollinated, low-volume and high-value field and horticultural crops," he said. "However, in field crops except maize, pearl millet and cotton, hybrids have not occupied larger areas."

India's vegetable production success story underscores hybrid technology's potential, reaching 213 million tonne in 2022-23 with an average productivity of 19 tonne per hectare. The official attributed this achievement largely to hybrid variety adoption.

The country's hybrid rice programme, launched in 1989 with the support of UNDP and FAO following China's success, has yielded several varieties from public sector

stress resistance while remaining economically viable for farmers.

The government has introduced guidelines for gene editing technology, which could potentially accelerate crop improvement. These advanced tools, including marker-assisted selection, are expected to enhance breeding precision and expedite hybrid development with targeted traits.

Mishra emphasized the need for robust public-private partnerships (PPP) to overcome implementation challenges. Key areas requiring attention include strengthening intellectual property rights, protecting plant varieties, and developing efficient seed production systems.

Despite inherent complexities in hybrid breeding programmes, including inbreeding depression and infrastructure requirements, Mishra expressed optimism about recent advancements in genomics and biotechnology offering solutions to these challenges.

The focus remains on making scientific research relevant to farmers' needs while working towards reducing India's dependence on pulse imports, the official added.

TAAS Chairman R S Paroda called for a clear policy on genetically-modified crops and incentives like tax exemption for seed industry.

ICAR Director General Himanshu Pathak, Federation of Seed Industry of India Chairman Ajai Rana, ICRISAT Director General Stanford Blade were among others present at the three-day event ending January 10.

Cybersecurity firm Rubrik announces its expansion plans in India

PNS ■ BENGALURU
Cybersecurity firm Rubrik announced its expansion plans in India with the opening of a new office space in Bengaluru.

The new facility, which intends to replace the operations of the company's existing two offices in the city over a period of time, is expected to open by mid of 2025.

"The new facility will combine product development, product management, customer support, and global recovery operations under one roof," a company statement said.

Company co-founder and CEO Bipul Sinha also announced plans to hire talent from India for the expansion.

"By investing in top engineering talent, we believe we will continue to create innovative solutions that enhance Rubrik's portfolio and support our global growth," he added.

"India is in the midst of a massive digital transformation, and we believe there is a huge opportunity for Rubrik to help secure its digital future. There is a large pool of talent here.

India is an economy with an extremely fast growth rate. Outside the US, India is one of the largest locations for the company in terms of headcount," he said, adding that the company expects to invest "hundreds of million dollars" in the country.

Rupee plunges 13 paise to settle at new record low of 85.87 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The rupee extended its slide for the second straight session and declined 13 paise to hit a fresh record low of 85.87 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid higher crude oil prices and stronger American currency.

Lacklustre sentiment in domestic equity markets and sustained outflow of foreign funds also played spoilsport even as investors stayed cautious over lower economic growth projection by the government, forex analysts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.82 and touched the lowest-ever level of 85.89 against the greenback during intra-day. The unit settled at 85.87 (provisional) against the dollar, 13 paise lower than its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee settled with a loss of 6 paise at 85.74 against the dollar.



Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.35 per cent higher at 108.76.

The 10-year US bond yields also remained elevated at 4.67 per cent amid expectations of delayed interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, climbed 0.90 per cent to USD 77.74 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex skid 50.62 points, or 0.06 per cent, to settle at 78,148.49 points, while the Nifty fell 18.95 points, or 0.08 per cent, to 23,688.95 points.

Expect RBI to cut interest rates next month; Budget must focus on job creation: CII president

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Industry body CII expects the RBI to cut the benchmark interest rates next month to support sagging growth, its President Sanjiv Puri said on Wednesday and stressed the need to boost job creation through targeted interventions for labour-intensive sectors in the upcoming Budget.

In an interview with PTI, Puri flagged "sticky" food inflation, highlighting the need to build agricultural resilience and de-linking it from the interest rates under the inflation targeting framework, arguing that it is on account of climate change and not really influenced by the monetary policy.

Puri is also the Chairman and Managing Director of ITC.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is slated to present the Budget in Parliament on February 1.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) chief also expressed optimism that much-needed labour reforms will be taken up by the BJP-led NDA government in the third term, stressing that it would benefit the economy and create more jobs.

Puri also raised the issue of dumping excess stock by China globally, including India, and urged the government to look



at an "accelerated way of implementing minimum import price and anti-dumping duty" for specified sectors like steel, paperboard, chemicals and polymers.

Responding to a question on the potential impact on India after the Donald Trump-led administration assumes office in the US this month, the CII President said we should focus on the areas where there is opportunity and where we can really play on our strengths.

"...Now, what Trump will do, etc. What the US will do? I think at this point of time, it would be very speculative when it happens, that we will address," Puri said.

He informed that public spending is picking up and consumption should also gain momentum, pointing out that CII expects a rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

"In fact, we are also suggesting that in the inflation targeting framework, I think food inflation should be de-linked from interest rates, from the monetary policy. Food inflation is on account of climate change and not really influenced by monetary policy," Puri said.

CII recommends setting up some kind of an institutional mechanism to look at labour reforms across a number of sectors, he added.

Puri called for introducing targeted interventions in labour-intensive sectors like apparel, footwear, furniture, tourism and real estate, asserting that tourism could benefit from "infrastructure status" whereas garments can benefit from a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) 2.0 scheme.

CII, in its Budget suggestions for 2025-26, has recommended lowering the excise duty on fuel to boost consumption, especially at the lower income level, arguing that fuel prices significantly drive inflation.

The Budget could also consider reducing marginal tax rates for personal income up to Rs 20 lakh per annum.

INBRIEF

HINDUSTAN ZINC UPLIFTS OVER 1,700 STUDENTS THROUGH SHIKSHA SAMBAL WINTER CAMP

UDAIPUR: Hindustan Zinc Limited (NSE: HINDZINC), India's largest and the world's second-largest integrated zinc producer, successfully concluded its education focussed Shiksha Sambal winter camp, supporting nearly 1,700 students from underprivileged rural hinterland.

BSES AND AIIMS UNITE FOR ECO FRIENDLY MOBILITY'S'24

BSES and AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) have joined hands for promoting eco friendly mobility. In a landmark initiative to promote green mobility and better accessibility within the sprawling 213-acre AIIMS campus, BSES is providing 27 zero-pollution electric buses to the premier health facility under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program for the hospital's Free in-Campus Shuttle Service.

PROTECTING OUR BIRDS, PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

AMRITSAR: Webinar on "National Bird Day 2025" with "Theme Protecting Our Birds, Protecting Our Future" was organized by Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences, Guru Nanak Dev University to create awareness regarding bird diversity and related issues.

Isak strikes again as Newcastle beats Arsenal 2-0 in League Cup semifinal

PTI ■ LONDON

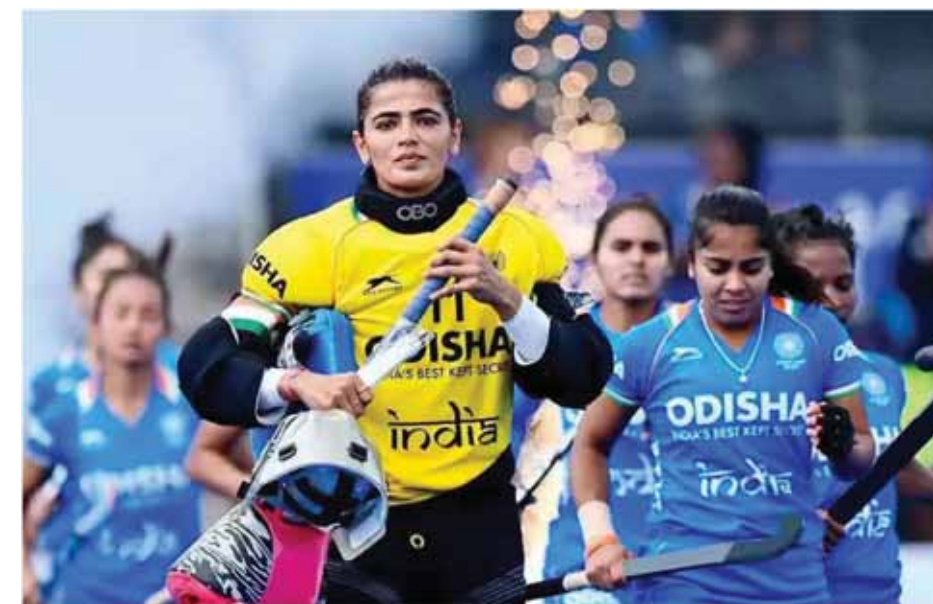
Newcastle moved a step closer to a first major domestic trophy since 1955 with a 2-0 victory over Arsenal in the first leg of the English League Cup semifinals. Goals from Alexander Isak and Anthony Gordon at the Emirates Stadium put Newcastle within reach of the final at Wembley Stadium in March. The second leg is at St James' Park on Feb. 5. "It's a great result. It's only the first half. If we don't go through then this has no meaning, but we can't hide from the fact that this is a massive win," Isak said. It was Newcastle's first win at the Emirates since 2010 and Arsenal's first home defeat since April.

Isak struck in the 37th minute to continue his outstanding scoring run with his 14th goal in 15 games. The Sweden international was involved in Newcastle's second in the 51st, when his shot was saved by Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya and the rebound was converted by Gordon. Despite being bought by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund in 2021, Newcastle hasn't won a major domestic trophy since lifting the FA Cup almost 70 years ago. But it is close to second League Cup final in three years after losing to Manchester United in 2023. Newcastle is also pushing for a return to the Champions League after missing out last season — sitting fifth in the Premier League standings and one point outside of the



qualifying places for European club soccer's elite tournament. Victory against Arsenal was a seventh straight win in all competitions for Eddie Howe's team, which has been inspired by Isak's brilliant goal-scoring form. He fired in off the underside of the crossbar from close range after a long free kick was played into his path by Jacob Murphy. It was Isak's seventh goal in his last five games. Despite in-stadium referee announcements being trialed for the match, an apparent push in the buildup to his goal did not result in referee Craig Pawson reviewing the sideline monitor. It was Isak's sharpness that led to Newcastle's second. His effort from inside the box six minutes into the

second half was parried by Raya, but Gordon was the quickest to react at the far post to fire home. Arsenal was unbeaten in 13 games in all competitions and is second in the Premier League standings. It had the chance to take the lead when Gabriel Martinelli burst through in the 29th and fired against the post. Kai Havertz wasted a golden opportunity to pull a goal back when his attempted header from directly in front of goal came off his shoulder and went wide. "We rode our luck a little bit at times, but (I'm) really pleased with the result," Howe said. Tottenham plays Liverpool in the other semifinal, with the first leg being staged at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Wednesday.



Women's Hockey India League will provide financial stability to junior players: Savita Punia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hoping to continue playing until the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, India's seasoned goalkeeper Savita Punia feels the introduction of Women's Hockey India League will provide financial stability, especially to junior players and attract more youngsters to the sport. The inaugural edition of the league will be held from January 12-26. "Every player wants financial stability, can buy good equipments, make their family stress free, help their family when they need. We are in the national team for long and whenever we win medals the government gives us awards and rewards," Savita told PTI during an interview. "But when a junior player gets such a good amount, she doesn't have to take that financial tension. She just needs to play and we as seniors only tell them this. But you can't deviate from your goal, the sport. First priority is preference whether it's hockey or any sport," she said. "Parents can now at least relax that there is future in hockey, we can involve our wards in hockey," the former India captain added. The veteran of nearly 300 internationals is 34 now but she has no plans to retire and wants to continue until the end of the LA Games in 2028, provided she remains fit and enjoys playing the game. "Definitely (I want to play in 2028), but being a girl I always felt that there will be pressure from my parents, but I always feel proud that my parents always respected my

decisions. "After I got married, I must have done something good that I got so supportive in-laws and husband who always backed my dream. I am blessed in that sense," Savita said. Savita, who has three Asian Games medals including one silver and two bronze under her belt besides a Commonwealth Games gold, was a member of the Indian team that finished a creditable fourth in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. "The focus is on 2026 World Cup and Asian Games and both the families told me if you want to play LA Olympics we are there for you. I don't have any hesitation about telling my age or anything, my goal is if I am fit and enjoy hockey, I will continue playing. "I started to enjoy playing hockey from the last five-seven years," she said. Savita will be representing Soorma Hockey Club in the upcoming women's HIL starting in Ranchi, in which she will lead the team alongside current national team skipper Salima Tete. Savita said the first-ever HIL will be a game changer for women's hockey not only in India but across the world. "It will be beneficial for all of us. We senior players have played with international stars and have that experience but for young players who are new into the system it is a big platform. "If you simply talk about our team Soorma, that are good international players from Holland, Germany, Belgium, England. We get to learn from their training regime and intensity and discuss among

ourselves. "When we look at their attitude and energy on the ground, we realise that we also have to do like them. The mindset is changing and it is a very good platform for young players. "They share their process of training with us and we do the same and it is beneficial for both. The league will inspire the youth to take up hockey after watching the intense matches. It's a big opportunity for junior players," she added. By her own admission, Savita doesn't miss the national team captaincy as she feels she already has immense responsibility as a senior player. "I always take responsibility being a senior goalkeeper or senior player. "When I was made the captain, definitely there was pressure on me but I took it in my stride. I never felt extra pressure. I always respected the decision of the coaches. As a goalkeeper I had my own responsibilities," she said. She was full of praise for new women's hockey team coach Harendra Singh, under whose guidance India defended the Asian Champions Trophy title in Rajgir, Bihar recently. "A new coach needs time to deliver and understand the system. Every coach wants to teach the best and when Harendra sir came, there was not much difficulty because he coached us in 2017 as well," she said. "In Pro League he took 24 players and tried everyone, he tried a few players in new positions. He told us not to take tension about results, 'I will look into it, you just play your hockey.'"

France coach Didier Deschamps says he will leave after 2026 World Cup

PTI ■ PARIS

Didier Deschamps announced Wednesday that he won't continue as France coach after the next World Cup, bringing an end to an era in which he became the nation's most successful manager over more than a decade. The 56-year-old Deschamps said in an interview with broadcaster TF1 that he will leave when his contract expires in the summer of 2026. "I've been here since 2012, I'm scheduled to be here until 2026, the next World Cup, but that's where it's going to end because it has to end at some point," Deschamps said in excerpts of the interview to be aired later Wednesday. "I did my time, with the same desire and the same passion to keep the France team at the highest level, but 2026 is all very well." Deschamps started in his role as a successor to Laurent Blanc. After a period marred by the 2010 World Cup debacle — where the players went on strike in protest against then-coach Raymond Domenech — and off-the-pitch controversies, Deschamps led France to victory at the 2018 World Cup, also reaching the final in 2022 and at the 2016 European Championship. At the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, France lost an epic title match to Argentina. "I'm not here for the records," said Deschamps, who also won the 2021



Nations League with France. "The most important thing is that the France team remains at the top as it has been for many years." Deschamps is one of only three people in soccer history to have won the World Cup as both a player and a coach, along with Mario Zagallo (Brazil) and Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany). He has the highest number of wins (105) of any France coach, ahead of Michel Hidalgo and Domenech (tied on 41). Deschamps found himself in a difficult position after the Euros last year, where France lost 2-1 to Spain in the semifinals without impressing. France was widely criticized for its pragmatic and dull style of play at Euro 2024, with Randal Kolo Muani's header against Spain the team's first and only goal from open play by a France player all tournament.

But he has kept the confidence of French federation president Philippe Diallo. "He's still just as motivated and ready to wear the colors of the French team," Diallo told L'Equipe newspaper, adding that he did not believe Deschamps is tired of the job. "Didier Deschamps' career has been exceptional, marked by the most prestigious titles," he said. "At the Euros, it was another semifinal in a major tournament. He was not affected by fatigue or criticism. After the competition, I asked him the question. His clear answer was that he was fully committed and energized to continue his mission. And that's exactly what he's doing, as we finished top of our group for the Nations League. He is still the greatest coach the French team has ever had."

As a player, Deschamps captained France to victory at the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European Championship. He also won the Champions League with Marseille in 1993 and Juventus in 1996. Before taking charge of France's national team, he coached Monaco to the 2003-04 Champions League final and guided Juventus back to Serie A. Deschamps also achieved success at Marseille, winning the Ligue 1 title in 2010. Europe will send 16 teams to the first 48-team World Cup, being co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico in the summer of 2026. Deschamps did not elaborate on his future beyond the tournament. "There is a life afterwards," he said. "I don't know what it will be." His planned departure will leave plenty of time for Diallo to find the right successor to Deschamps, with former France great Zinedine Zidane the overwhelming favorite if he is still interested in the job. Zidane, who helped to lead Les Bleus as a player to their first World Cup title in 1998 and starred again when they won the European Championship in 2000, scored in two World Cup finals and was on the losing side once when he headbutted Italy's Marco Materazzi in the 2006 final on his final match as a player. As a coach, Zidane led Real Madrid to three consecutive Champions League titles.

BFI adopts World Boxing's new weight classes

PTI ■ BAREILLY

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) is conducting the men's national championships here in 10 weight categories, in line with the classification introduced by the breakaway World Boxing. The ongoing event is being held under World Boxing's Technical and Competition Rules, which has 10 instead of the 13 weight categories that feature in the suspended International Boxing Association's (IBA) roster. The new weight classes are 50kg (Flyweight), 55kg (Bantamweight), 60kg (Lightweight), 65kg (Welterweight), 70kg (Light Middleweight), 75kg (Middleweight), 80kg (Light Heavyweight), 85kg (Cruiserweight), 90kg (Heavyweight) and +90kg (Super Heavyweight). Out of these, six categories -- 55kg, 60kg, 65, 70kg, 80kg, and 90kg -- are marked as potential Olympics weight categories.



The new categories for women are 48kg (Light Flyweight) is the first division followed by 51kg (Flyweight), 54kg (Bantamweight), 57kg (Featherweight), 60kg (Lightweight), 65kg (Welterweight), 70kg (Light Middleweight), 75kg (Light Heavyweight), 80kg (Light Heavyweight), +81kg (Heavyweight). World Boxing is a breakaway international body aiming to secure recognition from the

International Olympic Committee and ensure that boxing remains on the Olympic roster. Formed in April last year after the International Boxing Association was stripped of its status, WB has managed to pull in requisite 60 members and the IOC is expected to take a call on its recognition early next year. India joined WB a few weeks ago. Govind Sahani kicks off Nationals with win

Meanwhile, Strandja Memorial silver-medallist Govind Sahani started his Nationals campaign with a commanding win over Mohammad Aarif of Jammu and Kashmir on the opening day on Tuesday. Devendra Solanki of Rajasthan kicked off the tournament in style, defeating Donald Winston Janumala in the flyweight (47-50kg) category on Tuesday. In the bantamweight (50-55kg) division, Badal of Himachal Pradesh emerged victorious against Mizoram's Lalhrauitluanga. The lightweight category saw Goa's Nitesh Chawan outclass Kerala's Mohamed Athif with a dominant 5-0 win, while Arunachal's Ito Ado secured a hard-fought victory over Himanshu Singh. Bhanu Prakash defeated Ashish in the welterweight (60-65kg) category, while the (70-75kg) weight class featured impressive wins by Nikhil Dubey and Arshpreet Singh Bhatti.

Bhambri makes quarters in Auckland

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a mixed bag for India on the ATP Tour on Wednesday, Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti advanced to quarterfinals of the ASB Classic in Auckland but N Sriram Balaji exited the Adelaide International with pre-quarterfinal defeat alongside Miguel Reyes-Varela. Bhambri and Olivetti edged past the pair of Sander Arends and Luke Johnson 6-4 6-4 in the round of 16, winning in 71 minutes. They will next take on the winners of the match between Julian Cash/Llyod Glasspool and Ajeet Rai/Kiranpal Pannu. Balaji and his Mexican partner made a tremendous start by taking the first set from Harri Heliouvaara and Henry Patten but eventually lost 6-3 3-6 13-11 to the fourth seeds in a gruelling contest that lasted one hour and 23 minutes.

Anju Bobby George named chairperson of AFI's athletes commission

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Long-jump great Anju Bobby George was on Wednesday named chairperson of the Athletics Federation of India's nine-strong athletes commission that features six women with javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra being its most prominent male member. The other women in the new panel are runner Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, discus thrower Krishna Poonia, hurdler MD Valsamma, steeplechaser Sudha Singh and runner Sunita Rani. George, a 2003 world championships bronze-winner, is also a senior vice president in the AFI. All of them are retired and their induction is a noteworthy milestone in the AFI's quest for

gender parity in its set-up. The previous commission featured four women. The commission was unveiled on Wednesday after the elections held in October last year. Two-time Olympic medal-winning Neeraj Chopra is one of the four nominated members after consultations by the AFI's executive council. The other two male members of the commission are 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable and newly-elected AFI president Bahadur Singh Sagoo, a shot put gold medal winner at 2002 Asian Games. Sagoo was the chairman of the previous commission. Outgoing AFI treasurer Madhu Kant Pathak, who was the returning officer for the elections, said the polls were held after



following due process. "Election notification was issued and other rules and regulations

were followed. Five members were elected. "Later, after consultation with the

executive council, four members including Neeraj and Sable were added as Athletes Commission member. Both Neeraj and Sable initially said that they will not be able to give much time as they are active athletes but they accepted," said Pathak. Sumariwalla made ex-officio member. Outgoing AFI President Adille Sumariwalla will continue to be a part of the executive council as an ex-officio member as he is a part of the World Athletics Council. The 67-year-old Sumariwalla, who served as AFI president for three consecutive terms from 2012, is currently an executive board member of World Athletics -- the international governing body of the sport. "We amended the AFI

constitution last year to the effect that any person who is in the World Athletics council will be an ex-officio member of the AFI executive council," AFI Planning Commission Chairman Lalit Bhanot announced on the concluding day of the Annual General Body Meeting here. On Tuesday, Sumariwalla had insisted that he is not going anywhere and will be around to guide the new office-bearers of the AFI and act as the body's spokesperson too. On Wednesday, Sagoo announced that Sumariwalla will also be the chairman of the committee which will liaise with the government as well as international bodies. In addition, he will be a member of the Ethics Commission of the AFI.

Domestic schedule In another decision, Indian athletics' first major national senior championships of the season -- the Federation Cup -- will be held in Kozhikode, Kerala, from April 21-24. Haryana's Panchkula was to host the event but expressed its inability to do so as it had conducted the National Inter-State Championships in June last year. This year's National Inter-State Senior Championships will be held from August 20 to 24 in Chennai, as proposed in the tentative calendar. National Open Championships, earlier proposed to be held in Pune or Bengaluru, will now be staged in Ranchi from September 27 to 30.

Bumrah continues to remain No. 1 in Test rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI
India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continued to reign supreme at the top of the bowlers' chart with a career-best rating of 908 in the latest ICC Test Rankings, released on Wednesday. Bumrah, who made history ahead of the fifth and final Test against Australia by recording the highest-ever ICC Rankings rating for an Indian bowler at 907 points, improved that tally by one point after taking two wickets in the first innings at the SCG. However, a back spasm ruled him out of bowling in the second innings, restricting his role to just batting. Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who climbed a spot to be joint-ninth, is the other Indian giving Bumrah company in the top-10. He shares the ninth spot with Australian pacer Scott Boland, who has made a remarkable leap of 29 places to break into the top 10. Boland's stellar performance in the Sydney Test, where he



claimed a 10-wicket haul (4/31 and 6/45), proved too much for the Indian batters on a lively pitch. His efforts were instrumental in Australia's triumph, ending a decade-long wait to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Australia skipper Pat Cummins also made gains in the rankings, climbing to number two after picking up five wickets in the final match. South Africa's Kagiso Rabada rose a spot to occupy the third place while injured Josh Hazlewood moved down two places to be fourth. Rishabh Pant's blistering 33-ball 61 in the second innings earned him a three-spot rise in the batting rankings, moving him to number nine while India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal retained his fourth spot. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma extended his rich vein of form, scoring a vital century in the first innings to climb three spots to number six, also achieving a career-best rating of 769.



Sam Konstas regrets stand-off with Jasprit

PTI ■ SYDNEY
Australia's teenage batting sensation Sam Konstas regrets his involvement in the stand-off with Jasprit Bumrah during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, admitting he was only trying to waste time but ultimately, the Indian pace spearhead had the "last laugh". Konstas made an impact in the final two Tests of the series with his audacious strokeplay, but also found himself at the center of a couple of fiery exchanges with Indian stars Bumrah and Virat Kohli. One such incident occurred on the opening day of the fifth Test, when Konstas had a heated run-in with Bumrah. "I love being in the contest and always try to put my best foot forward," Konstas told CODE Sports. Near the end of the day's play, Bumrah, looking to get in one more over, was met with resistance from the Australian players, who were trying to waste time. This led to a fiery exchange of words between Konstas and the Indian pacer. Two deliveries later, Bumrah, who was leading the side in the absence of an off-colour Rohit Sharma, took the wicket of Usman Khawaja off the last ball. After dismissing Khawaja, Bumrah walked in Konstas' direction and stared him down. Reflecting on the incident, Konstas admitted, "I feel like it's probably a good learning for me. I was trying to waste a little bit of time there so they didn't get another over. But he (Bumrah) had the last laugh. "Obviously he is world class and he took, what, 32 wickets in the series." Konstas seems to have learned his lesson about not provoking the peerless pacer. "If that happened again, maybe I wouldn't have said anything," he said. The teenager was also involved in an on-field exchange with Kohli, who shoulder-charged Konstas, followed by a heated verbal exchange between the two. However, Konstas revealed that despite the incident, he later went to speak with his childhood hero Kohli. "I had a little chat after the game telling him that I idolise him, and it's obviously a huge honour playing against him," Konstas said. "When I did verse him, I was like, 'wow, Virat Kohli is batting.' He just had that presence about him, all the Indian crowd getting amongst it. Chanting his name. It was quite surreal." Konstas added that "He was very down to earth. A lovely person and just wishing me all the best saying hopefully I go well on the tour of Sri Lanka he said if I'm in. "My whole family loves Virat. I've idolised him from a young age and he's a legend of the game."



Prasidh Krishna, Devdutt, Washington available for Vijay Hazare knockouts

PTI ■ BENGALURU
Karnataka's Prasidh Krishna, Devdutt Padikkal and Tamil Nadu all-rounder Washington Sundar will be available for the Vijay Hazare Trophy knockout matches, starting in Vadodara from Thursday, after featuring in the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against Australia. However, KL Rahul, who played all the five Test matches against the Aussies, has requested for a break and will skip the Hazare knockouts. Rahul's availability for the second phase of the Ranji Trophy, beginning on January 23, will be decided at a later date. India head coach Gautam Gambhir had recently expressed his desire to see frontline Indian players making themselves available for the remainder of the premier domestic red-ball tournament. Washington, though, could link up with Tamil Nadu only if the team progresses to the semifinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He played three matches and made 114 runs with a fifty but bowled just 37 overs across those Tests as pacers were preferred because of the conditions. The off-spinner took just three wickets. Prasidh will be high on confidence after making a good impression in the fifth

Virat Kohli is always super motivated, he will know what to do: Faf du Plessis

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN
Virat Kohli will be "super motivated" to put a struggling phase behind him and the premier India batter is capable of returning to his run-making ways, said former South African captain Faf du Plessis here on Wednesday. Kohli had a torrid time in Australia during the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy, amassing a mere 190 runs at an average of 23.75 across five Tests despite starting off with an unbeaten hundred in the first Test at Perth. Du Plessis backed Kohli, his one-time teammate at Royal Challengers Bangalore, to come back stronger from the struggles, and said retirement is a "very personal" choice. "That is very, very personal. No one can speak to you about when that time is (up) as a player, you'll know," du Plessis told PTI on the sidelines of the SA20 Season 3's Captain's Day. "I know someone like him is super super motivated, he's gone through it all before, so he knows exactly what to do,"



said Du Plessis. The 40-year-old then went back to the day when he felt his time was up as a Test cricketer. "It is different for every player. Every player needs to answer that question. I remember when that time was for me," he said. "I just knew that certainly from the Test cricket perspective for me. I didn't have that same hunger and drive anymore and I felt that that stage certainly for me was a good time to let new guys come in and also step into the T20 world. "I wanted to do that at the stage where I still felt like I was on top of my game," he added. Du Plessis was not pleased with ICC reportedly exploring the possibility of a two-tier Test system. "No, I think we need the game to be healthy," Du Plessis said. "We saw over the last few years the value that was put on Test cricket by Australia, England and India making sure that there were 4-5 Test series. "When you look at the other teams, there are two Test

matches here and there and playing six Test matches a season. I do not think that is healthy for the game," he offered. "As long as we can look at Test cricket as (being) important, you just look at all the Test matches that took place over the last few weeks, some incredible matches have been played," Du Plessis noted. "SA deserve to raise WTC trophy" South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj rated the consistency of his side in Test cricket "phenomenal" and said they deserve to "raise a prestigious title." The Proteas will face Australia in the final of the World Test Championship in June at the Lord's. South Africa advanced to the title clash of the 2023-25 cycle with a 2-0 win over Pakistan at home, while India's string of losses against New Zealand at home and against Australia ended their hopes of a third consecutive WTC final appearance.

BGT: SCG track deemed 'satisfactory', other pitches rated 'very good' by ICC

PTI ■ SYDNEY
Four out of five pitches used in the recent Border-Gavaskar Test series between India and Australia have been rated 'very good' by the ICC, which found the track for the fifth and final game in Sydney to be 'satisfactory'. The marquee five-match series ended 3-1 in favour of the hosts, who regained the Border Gavaskar Trophy after a decade and also qualified for the World Test Championship final in June against South Africa. "The pitches at Perth Stadium, Adelaide Oval, Gabba and Melbourne Cricket Ground - the venues for the first four Tests - were rated as 'very good'," the ICC said in a statement. "Meanwhile, the surface for the final Test in Sydney received a 'satisfactory', the second-highest rating on ICC's scale," it added.

The traditionally batting-friendly pitch at the Sydney Cricket Ground favoured bowlers this time. Batters from both the teams struggled for the majority of the Test which ended in two and half days. "We encourage pitches that bring out the unique characteristics of that venue and this has long been a feature of Australian cricket," Cricket Australia's Head of Cricket Operations Peter Roach said in a media release while reacting to the ICC's ratings. "We don't look to prepare wickets that favour the home side or suit our situation in a series. What we seek is a good contest between bat and ball and pitches that are likely to produce a result. "Weather obviously plays a significant part in preparation and we know that even our most skilled curators are challenged at times by adverse weather," he added.



The Sydney track had a green top with variable bounce on offer and as many as 26 wickets fell on the first two days while four Indians and as many Australians were dismissed on day three as

bowlers largely dominated the proceedings. "The SCG has been striving to bring out their unique characteristics of early pace and bounce before the pitch wears and spins," Roach said. "This year was a step in the right direction to achieving this which provided an exciting finish to the Border Gavaskar Trophy series and

bodes well for the Ashes summer in 2025-26," he added. There was some debate around the SCG track after a few former players, including Indian great Sunil Gavaskar, called it "not ideal". However, India head coach Gautam Gambhir had termed it as "spicy" but overall good for Test cricket. "The series also emphasised the benefits of playing first-class cricket at major venues,"

Roach said. "It allows our curators to become more familiar with the different challenges that go into preparing wickets in different weather conditions, and also allows players to enter the Test team familiar with the conditions they will confront," he added. In 2023, the ICC revamped its pitch rating system, reducing it from six categories to four - very good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory and unfit.

Shastri wants Rohit and Kohli to play domestic cricket; Ponting proposes time off for Kohli

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Former India head coach Ravi Shastri wants the struggling Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to get back to playing Ranji Trophy and feels the Test future of the two superstars is dependent on the hunger to maintain their excellence in the game. The repeated failures of the star Indian duo in the Border-Gavaskar trophy contributed to the visitors' series loss. India head coach Gautam Gambhir underlined the importance of domestic cricket following the loss and Shastri too feels Rohit and Kohli should return to playing Ranji Trophy even though the next series is in June. "If there's a gap for them, they should go back and play some domestic cricket and see how it is. Because when

you play Test match cricket for that length of time, it's important to play domestic cricket for two reasons," Shastri said during a conversation alongside Australian great Ricky Ponting on ICC Review. "One you are abreast with the current generation (and) you can contribute to that younger generation with your experience. And more importantly, you get to play spin more than you will ever play. "If you see, India's record in India on turning tracks is not the greatest. If you have quality spinners in the opposition, they can trouble you. And they have troubled India," he added. Asked specifically on their Test future, Shastri added: "I would leave that on them and would be closely tracking how they fare in the upcoming games (ODIs

against England, Champions Trophy). "The hunger and desire as well is very important. One is 36 the other is 38 they would know how hungry they are. They will walk away if they think they have had enough," added Shastri. Kohli will be better served by a break: Ponting Former Australian captain Ponting has no shame in admitting that he carried on playing at the highest level longer than he should have. Back in 2022, Kohli had taken a month off from the game and that worked well for him. Ponting feels time has come for Kohli to get away from the game following his constant troubles outside the off-stump over the course of the five Test series Down Under. "...The challenge is, and I can see it with Virat now, you can see how much he wants it.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Menka Rani W/o Jaibir Singh R/o V. P O Dhaur Dhor(110) Jhajjar Haryana-124201 have changed my minor son name AYUSH aged 14 years to AAYUSH MEHRA PD(1208)A

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)
Regd. Office :- 19-A, Dhuleswar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, (CIN : L36911RJ1996PLC011381)
APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I) POSSESSION NOTICE]
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)) and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 17-Aug-24 Calling upon the Borrower Atul Fashion Classic (Borrower), Navin Mohan Tiwari (Co-Borrower), Smt. Kiran Tiwari (Co-Borrower), Daya Shankar Tiwari (Co-Borrower) (Loan Account No. L9001060131053678) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being for Rs. 888340/- (Rs. Eight Lac Eighty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower/ mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 03 Day of Jan of the Year 2025.
The borrower/ mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for an amount of for Rs. 888340/- (Rs. Eight Lac Eighty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty Only) as on 13-Aug-24 and interest and expenses thereon until full payment.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Property No B-1/495, Mohalla-Baas, Tehsil & Dist- Mahendergarh, Haryana Admeasuring 134.22 Sq. Yrd owned by Navin Mohan Tiwari -Sd-
Date : 03-Jan-25 Place : HARYANA Authorized Officer Au Small Finance Bank Limited

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED
(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur, 302020
Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002
As the Loan Account Became NPA therefore The Authorised Officer (AO) Under section 13 (2) of Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 had issued 60 day demand notice to the borrower as given in the table. According to the Notice if the Borrower does not deposit the Amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from Auction of the security as given below. As the demand Notice sent to the borrower/guarantor has not been served, copy of demand notice has also been affixed on the secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrower is informed to deposit the loan amount along with future interest and recovery expenses within 60 days, otherwise under the provisions of section 13 (4) and 14 of the said Act, the AO is free to take possession of the Security as given below.

Name of the Borrower (A/C NO.)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of Mortgage property
UDAY SINGH, SAROJ DEVI (A/C NO.) LNREW0290-210175340	7 JAN 25 Rs. 349943/- 3 JAN 25	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY COMPRISED IN KHEWAT NO. 344/2, KHATAUNI NO. 394/1, MUSTAIL NO. 100, KILLA NO. 1/1 (4-12), 10 (2-00), MUSTAIL NO. 101, KILLA NO. 5/2 (4-8), 6/1 (1-19), MAUJA- MANETHI, TEHSIL- MANETHI, DIST-REWARI, HARYANA ADMEASURING 100 SQ. YDS.
CHANDER KALLAN, SURESH KUMAR (A/C NO.) LNBHT02919-200127708	7 JAN 25 Rs. 2499138/- 3 JAN 25	PROPERTY SITUATED AT Gali No 4, Durga Mandir, DURGA COLONY, BHIWANI, VILL. BADNA, DISTT. BHIWANI HARYANA ADMEASURING 18 MARLA
SAROJ SAROJ, ROHTASH ROHASH (A/C NO.) LNRRK0290-210173581	7 JAN 25 Rs. 726923/- 3 JAN 25	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SITUATED AT KHEWAT NO. 190/171 MIN, KHATONI NO. 238, RECT.NO. 204, KHASRA NO. 1/2 (3-7), 10 (8-0), 11/2/1 (5-6), KITTA-3, SITUATED AT VILL. BATA, TEH. KALAWAT, DISTT. KATHAL, HARYANA ADMEASURING 96 SQ. YDS.
SHAMSHER SINGH, SUNITA ARYA GUARANTOR : BHUGADI DEVI, SUBHASH SUBHASH (A/C NO.) LNRRK08821-220194644	7 JAN 25 Rs. 336758/- 3 JAN 25	PROPERTY SITUATED AT KHEWAT NO. 392/369, KHATONI NO. 508/487, RECT.NO. 40, KHASRA NO. 18, VILLAGE KARSIA DOD, SUB TEHSIL NIGDI, DISTT. KARNAL, HARYANA, ADMEASURING 90.66 SQ. YDS.
KAVITA RANI, BABU RAM (A/C NO.) LNFVM02222-230276450	7 JAN 25 Rs. 417075/- 3 JAN 25	PLOTS/HOUSE, BEARING U.I.D. NO. 58207 NB252000 ROOSELO, SITUATED IN LAL DORA OF VILLAGE RAMKHERI, TEHSIL CHHAGHCHRAULI, DISTRICT & YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA ADMEASURING 73.770 SQ. MTRS
SANTOSH SANTOSH, GURUCHARAN GURUCHARAN, AVTAR SINGH GUARANTOR : GURMEL SINGH (A/C NO.) LNRRH17923-240291321 & LNRRHT17523-240291932	7 JAN 25 Rs. 1032313/- & Rs. 521063/- 3 JAN 25	PROPERTY SITUATED AT HOUSE ON PLOT NO. 104/1 BEARING PROPERTY ID NO. 1HY6T78 AND OLD PROPERTY NO. 5C33297 AT SCHEME NO. 14 INDIRA COLONY, NEAR CHOICE BEAUTY PARLOUR, ROHTAK, HARYANA PIN-124001 ADMEASURING 127 SQ. YDS.
RAM SWARUP, DEVENDER DEVENDER, RUKMANI RUKMANI (A/C NO.) LNHS17623-240308078	7 JAN 25 Rs. 971571/- 3 JAN 25	COMPRISED IN KHASRA NO. 597(0-15), KHATONI NO. 647, KHEWAT NO.579 SITUATED AT KHARIYA SUB-REGISTRAR BALSAMAND DISTRICT HISAR, HARYANA ADMEASURING 225 SQ. YARDS
BUJENDER B, MAMTESH DEVI (A/C NO.) LNSNP17723-240311213	7 JAN 25 Rs. 339106/- 3 JAN 25	KHEWAT NO.1508/1424, KHATA NO.2149, KHASRA NO.4884/1359/1/2= 7-4, HOUSE NO. 160/2 HANUMAN NAGAR COLONY GROUND FLOOR NULL SONIPAT HARYANA SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF PATTI JATIAN, HANUMAN NAGAR, WITHIN M.C. LIMIT SONIPAT-131001 HARYANA ADMEASURING 34 SQ YARDS
BALRAM BALRAM, USHA RANI, RATAN SINGH (A/C NO.) LNKLN17723-240333753	7 JAN 25 Rs. 1956040/- 3 JAN 25	VILLAGE HASANPUR, TEHSIL GHARAUNDA AND DISTRICT KARNAL WIDE TRANSFER DEED BEARING WASKA NO 3167/1 REGISTERED IN THE OFFICE OF SUB-REGISTRAR GHARAUNDA, KARNAL, HARYANA, 132114 ADMEASURING 338.09 SQ. YARDS

Place : Jaipur Date : 09.01.2025 Authorized Officer Aavas Financiers Limited