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CHANDIGARH, SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹2

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

ORDNANCE FACTORY BLAST, EIGHT KILLED



Rescue operation underway after a blast at the ordnance factory, in Bhandara district, Maharashtra

PN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At least eight people were killed and seven others injured when a massive explosion rocked an ordnance factory in Jawahar Nagar taluka of Bhandara district in eastern Maharashtra on Friday morning. Of the injured, the condition of five was reported to be serious. While the cause of the mishap has not been established, rescue and relief operations were still underway at the vast complex housing the Ordnance Factory in Bhandara until late evening. A press release issued by the

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) earlier in the day stated that the incident took place at 10:30 am. "The incident resulted in a fire and a subsequent building collapse. Initially, 13 individuals were reported trapped at the site. The NDRF team was immediately deployed to the location and is working tirelessly to rescue those affected," the NDRF said. The Ordnance Factory, located in the Satpura Mountain ranges in Jawahar Nagar taluka of Bhandara, manufactures single-base propellant, double-base propellant (ballistite), double-base propellant (rocket), high explosives,

and their compounds. The explosion was so intense that its sound could be heard up to seven to ten kilometers away from the accident site. Objects from the exploded factory were flung several meters away, eyewitnesses said. The smoke from the explosion-hit factory continued to billow out for several hours and could be seen from a distance of two to three kilometers away. Confirming the deaths and injuries in the incident, Union Minister and MP from Nagpur Nitin Gadkari described the explosion as "unfortunate". He was speaking at an event in Nagpur.

MP enforces liquor ban in holy towns

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has announced the closure of liquor shops in 17 holy towns across the state to preserve the spiritual atmosphere of these religiously significant locations. These towns, home to sacred temples and attracting devotees from across the country, include Ujjain, Datia, Panna, Mandla, Multai, Mandasaur, Maihar, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Mandleshwar, Orchha, Chitrakoot, Amarkantak, Salkanpur, Barman Kala, Linga, Kundalpur, Bandakpur, and Barmankhurd. Chief Minister (CM) Mohan Yadav, who hails from the religious city of Ujjain, emphasized the importance of these towns in the state's religious and cultural landscape. He highlighted their association with revered deities such as Lord Krishna and Lord Ram. Addressing the media, Yadav explained that the decision was motivated by the harmful effects of alcohol consumption on individuals and families. He stated that alcohol addiction has caused significant distress within families and that the



initiative aims to promote better governance and improve the lives of women, children, and farmers. The CM further underscored the government's commitment to creating a better environment for the youth, stressing their role as the future of the country. By restricting

alcohol sales in areas with high religious significance, the government seeks to align these regions with their sacred identity while curbing alcohol abuse. Yadav expressed hope that the decision would contribute to improving the overall quality of life in the state. After the State Cabinet approved the ban of liquor in 17 religious places, the Excise department would start process of closing down the existing shops at these places. The announcement also drew attention to longstanding demands for prohibition in Madhya Pradesh. Former CM Uma Bharti and former Lok Sabha member Sadhvi Pragya Bharti have long advocated for total prohibition. During a previous government, Uma Bharti had staged protests against the sale of liquor, even pelting stones at a liquor shop. However, her agitation failed to gain momentum, leading her to revise her demand to controlled liquor sales in the state. The previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan government had approved a new excise policy in 2023, aimed at discouraging liquor consumption, but refrained from implementing

total prohibition. Following the recent announcement by CM Mohan Yadav to ban liquor sales in 17 religious towns, Uma Bharti welcomed the move, describing it as a significant step toward achieving total prohibition in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh Congress Media in-charge Mukesh Nayak has criticised the state government's decision to close liquor shops in 17 holy towns, alleging it could lead to illegal activities similar to those in Gujarat. Speaking to The Pioneer, Nayak claimed that in Gujarat, BJP leaders are allegedly involved in a liquor business worth Rs 10,000 crore despite the prohibition policy. He expressed concerns that a parallel network for the illegal sale of liquor might emerge in the 17 designated religious towns in Madhya Pradesh. Nayak further alleged that the ban could pave the way for clandestine operations, making liquor easily accessible through home delivery. "Currently, customers have to visit shops to buy liquor, but soon it might be delivered to their homes in these areas," he remarked, accusing the ruling party of exploiting the situation for profit.

Kejriwal accuses BJP of bribing voters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

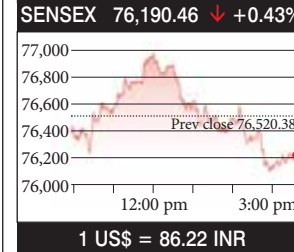
The political battle for the Delhi Assembly elections is heating up with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supreme Arvind Kejriwal on Friday accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to sway voters by distributing gold chains, sarees, shoes, and cash while urging voters to resist these attempts.

Dubbing BJP as 'Gali galoch party' and calling the individual who distribute money as a 'threat to the democracy', Kejriwal said, "Vote for whoever you want to, but the one who is trying to buy your vote and destroy this country, don't vote for him. The one who is distributing jackets, blankets and cash to you is a traitor of the country. Take all the money

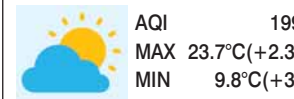


from him but swear to God, never vote for him," he said, urging citizens in a video message to prioritise democracy over material offerings. He reminded voters of the sacrifices made by B R Ambedkar to secure their right to vote. "Babasaheb Ambedkar fought with everyone and said that every person in this country, whether literate or illiterate, whether rich or poor, every person should have the right to vote," he said.

MARKETS



WEATHER



Waqf panel meet ends in protests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ten opposition members attending the Parliamentary panel meeting on the Waqf Amendment Bill were suspended for a day on Friday amid protests and accusations against Chairman Jagdambika Pal of steamrolling through the proceedings. While opposition members accused Pal of reducing the proceedings to a farce and alleged that he was acting on the government's directions, the chairman slammed their conduct aimed at disrupting the meeting. He accused Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee of hurling abuses at him and said he strove to bring the meeting to order, adjourning it twice but in vain. BJP member Nishikant Dubey moved the motion for suspending the opposition members which was adopted by the committee. The suspended members are Banerjee and Nadeem-ul

CBI uncovers ₹350 Crore crypto scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted search operations across seven locations after registering a case of a Rs 350 crore crypto-ponzi scam against seven individuals, officials said on Friday. The accused were allegedly running seven separate modules based in the cities of Delhi, Hazaribag, Bathinda, Ratlam, Valsad, Pudukkottai, and Chittoorgarh, collecting money from gullible investors by promising returns from cryptocurrency investments, they said. "These ponzi schemes were being promoted through multiple social media groups. An analysis of bank account transactions and cryptocurrency wallets has revealed that the illegal proceeds from these schemes were being converted into cryptocurrencies to obscure their origin," CBI's spokesperson said in a statement. It is alleged that the accused conducted transactions totaling over Rs 350 crore in these schemes, the officials said. On Thursday, the agency carried out operations in Delhi, Jharkhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat,



Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan. During the searches, the CBI seized digital virtual assets totaling approximately USD 38,414 in the cryptocurrency wallets of the accused, which have been digitally secured for investigation. "The searches resulted in the recovery of cash amounting to Rs 34.2 lakh (approx), along with significant digital evidence, including seven mobile phones, one laptop, one tablet, three hard disks, 10 pen drives, memory cards, SIM cards, ATM cards, debit cards, email accounts, and several incriminating documents," the statement said. The agency registered the case under Indian Penal Code Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy), Section 420

Prices for 1 litre Amul milk packs reduced by ₹1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, has reduced milk prices by Rs 1 per litre across India. However, the reduction in prices is only for one-litre packs. "We have reduced the prices of one-litre packs by Rs 1 per litre across India," GCMMF managing director Jayen Mehta told PTI. "This is to encourage consumers to buy larger packs of milk and get incentive for the same," he said. In Delhi, the rate of Amul Gold milk has been reduced to Rs 67 from Rs 68 per litre while price of Amul Taaza will now be Rs 55 from Rs 56 per litre earlier. GCMMF's turnover increased 8 per cent to Rs 59,445 crore in the 2023-24 financial year. Mehta had earlier said that the cooperative is expecting double-digit growth in revenue during this fiscal on strong demand. GCMMF handled 310 lakh litres of milk per day on average during the last fiscal. It has a total annual milk processing capacity of around 500 lakh litres.

Delhi: Man arrested for ₹15 Crore COVID-19 vaccine scam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has arrested a man who impersonated an officer from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and duped innocent people of over Rs 15 crore under the pretext of providing work orders for the transportation of COVID-19 vaccines during the pandemic. According to the police on Friday, he had been absconding for nearly three years in a Rs 15 crore-fraud case. "The accused has been identified as 48-year-old Prafulla Kumar Nayak, who played a key role in duping victims by promising work orders related to COVID-19 vaccine transportation during the pandemic," the EOW statement read. The fraudulent scheme came to light when a complaint was lodged by Sunil Kaushik, stating that he had been duped of Rs 4 crore. The fraudsters promised to arrange work orders from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the transportation of COVID-19 vaccines across various states in 2021. Four more victims came forward with similar complaints, all revealing the same modus operandi. The EOW registered a case under sections 420, 406, 467, 468, 471, 120B IPC, and Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. "Four additional complaints revealed a similar modus operandi, with the accused collectively duping victims of over Rs 15 crore," Additional Commissioner of Police (EOW) Amrutha Guguloth said in the statement. Investigations revealed that in May 2021, the accused contacted the victims and took them to Nirman Bhawan, the headquarters of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to gain



their trust. Forged work orders were issued, and trust was gained by leveraging illicit access to the government complex through a bribed ministry employee, the statement read. In exchange, the fraudsters collected Rs 15 crore from the victims. The key accused, including the kingpin Hermenn Sabherwal, were arrested in 2022. However, Prafulla Kumar Nayak had been evading arrest until he was apprehended on January 21. Nayak played a crucial role in facilitating the entry of victims and accomplices into Nirman Bhawan by bribing ministry employees. Three government employees, including a reception officer and two Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) members, were also arrested earlier for their involvement. "Previously, eight other accused, including the kingpin Hermenn Sabherwal, were arrested in 2022. Ministry employees, including a reception officer and two multi-tasking staff members, had already been apprehended for their involvement," the officer said in the statement. Nayak, a resident of Pandav Nagar in Delhi and originally from Odisha, facilitated the group's entry into Nirman Bhawan.

Jail in Assam turns into organic farming success story

PTI ■ BARPETA

It might appear to be just another normal prison at first glance, but as one steps inside the Barpeta District Jail complex in Assam, it is nothing less than an agricultural hub with vast fields of multiple crops. Located in lower Assam, the fields in the jail compound are filled with mustard, along with trees laden with fruits and vegetables, a mini bee farm, and even rare crops like nutritious apple berries. Spread over 127 bighas (almost 42 acres), the Barpeta jail has a capacity to house 413 inmates - 368 men and 45 women. It currently has 335 inmates, including 325 men and 10 women. "I, along with the jailer, got transferred to this prison around a year ago. At that

time, only paddy farming was done. We decided to go for multi-cropping to utilise the land throughout the year," Barpeta District Jail Superintendent Pranjal Kumar Sarma told PTI. Thanks to the new initiatives, the jail generated a revenue of over Rs 1 lakh for the government during the April-December period last year by selling agricultural produce alone, he said. "Apart from revenue generation, there was another reason for introducing year-long agriculture activities. The inmates are always mentally stressed due to their jail terms and for staying away from home. We tried to reduce their stress level by engaging them in productive work. They laugh and share jokes with each other while working in the fields," Sarma said.

He said all the produce is purely organic and no chemical or fertiliser is used during farming. What makes this transformation even more special is that the prisoners are engaged in all agrarian activities within the premises, which keeps them engaged and helps them learn a new skill for the life after release from jail. Jailer Nilotpal Kakati said multi-cropping started from April last year, after the authorities cleared the weeds from the unused barren lands and made them cultivable. "We could utilise only 35-40 bighas of land as there is shortage of manpower. Though we have over 300 inmates, we could engage only 20-25 of them serving rigorous imprisonment due to legal restrictions. The law does not



allow the rest to work in the fields," he said. Kakati, however, said the jail authorities are planning to expand the farming area this year by engaging a few more people, thereby increasing the produce. Asked about the marketing, he said, "So far, we have not marketed it outside Barpeta. Local vendors come and collect the vegetables from us.

The jail inmates also consumed around 1,000 kgs of vegetables last year, resulting in savings for us." The jailer said that with expansion of produce and introduction of some cash crops, the authorities will explore outside markets later this year. Vegetables like lady finger, mustard, ginger, brinjal, cabbage, reddish and several

cruciferous ones, including perennial Indian favourites cauliflower and cabbages, are grown in the jail premises. Additionally, the compound houses a small fishery for inhouse consumption. Another highlight is a small berry farm, housing around 200 trees producing several precious variants of the fruit - Apple Berry, Miss India and Thailand Berry. Kakati also claimed that berry farming is the first of its kind in an Indian jail. The jail authorities have recently started planting strawberries and varieties of flowers in an effort to uplift the mood of the inmates as well as employees. "The multi-cropping farming was done as a pilot project this time. We wanted to check if the land is cultivable. As we got satisfactory results, we will try

to do it in a more professional way in the next fiscal," he said. The Barpeta civil administration has taken note of the agricultural practices in the district jail and lauded the efforts of Sarma and Kakati. Barpeta Additional District Commissioner Jayanta Bora, who recently visited the facility, has stressed that being engaged with agriculture could inadvertently help the inmates step away from a life of crime and become honest citizens. "Apart from generating revenue for the government, agriculture in the jail will allow the prisoners to step out of their routine and motivate them to be more productive citizens," he said. Initially established as a makeshift jail in Barpeta town, it was relocated to its present location, just two kilometers outside the town, in 1970.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, left, the religious head of Kashmir, with Maulana Rehmatalullah of Bandipora waits to appear before the parliamentary panel on Waqf Amendment Bill

Haque (Trinamool Congress), Mohammad Jawed, Imran Masood and Syed Naseer Hussain (Congress), A Raja and Mohamed Abdullah (DMK), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM), Mohibullah (SP) and Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-UBT). The suspension of the opposition members came on a day when a delegation from Jammu and Kashmir led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the religious head of Kashmir, appeared before the Joint Committee on the Waqf Amendment Bill to share their concerns about the draft legislation.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Suman W/o Sushil Kumar R/o Sant Kabir nagar, Kalupur, Sonipat has disowned my son Naveen Kumar & his wife Preeti from my all movable-immovable property as they are out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with them, he/she will do at their own risk.

I, Balwan S/o Mahma Ram R/o Village- Khara, P/o Tigr, Tehsil Shahabad

Markanda, District-Kurukshetra declare that my son Loki is out of my control. So, I disown him from my all movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with him shall do their own risk in future.

I, Janeshwar S/o Toti Ram # 3242, Sector 25-D, Chandigarh, my son Amit Kumar and his wife Manju out of my control, I disown them from my all movable/immovable properties, anybody deal with them will them at their own risk.

I, Balram S/o Sh Ram Charan R/o House no 1972-A, Dhanas Complex, Dhanas Chandigarh inform that my son Arpit is out of my control. I disown him from my all movable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with him will do at their own risk.

I, Satbir Singh son of Sh. Aflatu Ram R/o House No. 1767, Kumhar Mohalla, Sector 45-B, Chandigarh, declare that I severed my relationship with my wife Nisha Rani, and disowned my son Navneet, and daughter Manvi, from my moveable - immovable properties, due to all are out of my control, anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, Rajesh S/o Late Sh. Mange Ram, R/o House No. 36, 2nd Floor, New Ganesh Vihar, Dhakoli, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab-140603, Declare that my Son GAURAV ARYA is out of my control. I Disown my Son From my All Movable and immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with him will do at his own risk and cost. I will have nothing to do with it.

I, Devdatt s/o **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Bhagwandass, village Khabra Kalan, tehsil and district Fatehabad, declare that my mother's name is recorded as Seema Devi in my 10th and 12th marksheets of Haryana School Education Board, Bhiwani, which is wrong. Whereas her correct name is Seema Rani, which is recorded in all her government documents. Now I want to get my mother's correct name Seema Rani recorded in the marksheets of both the said classes.

It, is for general information that I, SULTAN SINGH S/O RANDHIR SINGH residing at BIRBAL PATTI, BHANA, KAITHAL, HARYANA-136043 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as SULTAN in my minor son HARSHIT aged 17 years in his CBSE CLASS 10th EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS. The actual name of mine is SULTAN SINGH which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Harjit Kour W/o Jaswant Singh R/o VPO Dorangla Distt Gurdaspur declare that in school record of my daughter Khushpreet Kaur, my name has been wrongly written as Harjit Kaur. My correct name is Harjit Kour. Concerned note.

I, Sona Devi M/o Rank HAV Vikesh Kumar R/o Ward No.05, VPO Gondpur Banehra Tehsil Ghanari Distt Una, Himachal Pradesh-177213 declare that in my son's Army service documents, my name and DOB wrongly recorded as Swarn Lata and 01/07/1956. My correct name and DOB are Sona Devi and 18/02/1956. My affidavit No. HP3362039793029W Dated 18.12.2024 Before Executive Magistrate, Ghanari, Distt Una (H.P)

I, Sushila W/o Sh. Jaibhagwan R/o Village Lath, Teh. Gohana, Distt. Sonipat (Haryana) declare that my name Sushila Devi and my DOB 09.11.1974 are wrongly mentioned in my son Yogesh Army Service record. But my correct & actual name is Sushila and my Correct DOB is 01.01.1975 (As per my Aadhar Card, Pan Card and Voter Card).

I, Ahana Sharma, aged 23 years, d/o Sh Anjit Kumar permanent resident of Indora District Kangra HP do hereby state on oath that in my school records my mother's name is wrongly written as Anupama Jyoti instead of correct name Anupam Jyoti. Nobody shall have any objection if the same is corrected in my academic records accordingly. If my averment supra is ever proved incorrect I shall face it's civil and/or criminal liability.

I, Sarita Devi Spouse of No TJ-6355F Rank Sub Name Baldev Singh Presently residing Village & P.O. Narot Mehra Tehsil & District Pathankot, Punjab PIN CODE No. 145025 declare that I have changed my name from Sunita Rani to Sarita Devi. That Sunita Rani and Sarita Devi is one and the same person vide Affidavit dated 24-01-25 before Harmanjeet Bedi Notary Pathankot (PB)

I, Lakhveer Singh No. 4481131P Rank HAV serving in Unit 18 Sikh LI and home address is Village Phide, PO. Kot Karor Kalan, Tehsil & District Ferozepur, Punjab-142060 have declared that in my service record my minor son's name is mentioned as Anmolvir Singh, But his actual name is Anmolveer Singh. So I want in my service record my minor son's name should be mentioned as Anmolveer Singh vide affidavit dated 23/01/2025, e-Stamp Certificate No. is IN-PB99996404194195X, Talwani Bhaki Court.

I, Janaki mother of Rajilash A K R/o Arppamkunnath Koothali Kozhikode, Koothali, Kerala-673525 have declare that my DOB 22-03-1963 is wrongly entered in my son's service records. But my correct DOB is 01-01-1962 vide affidavit dated 24-01-25 by notary distt. Court Bathinda.

I, Priyanka spouse of No. 15421361M Rank Hav/AA Sudama Kumar R/o Vill: Gajra Chatar, Po. Chhota Jamura Sub Distt-Narhat, Distt-Nawada, State Bihar-805103 now at unit 2014 Field Hospital C/o 56 APO declared that I have changed my name Priyanka to Priyanka Kumari vide affidavit dated 24-01-25.

I, S Kotteswari is legally Mother of No. 16120709F Rank SPR Name Thirunavukkarasu S of Unit 22Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Residing at 6/37, Kollai Patti, Chennaiakkuppam Dist. Vellnore State Tamil Nadu Pin-632209 Declare That My Date of Birth 12/06/1963 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Date of Birth is 20/01/1965.

I, Indira T is legally Mother of No. 16115673K Rank Hav Name Aneesh SK of Unit 22 Engr Regt, C/o 56 APO, Pin-914022, Permanent address Narikunni, Madavoor PO, Madavoor, Kozhikode, Kerala Pin 673585 Declare That my date of birth 01/07/1965 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correctdate of birth 15/01/1961.

I, Andy S K is legally Father of No. 16115673K Rank Hav Name Aneesh SK of Unit 22 Engr Regt, C/o 56 APO, Pin-914022, Permanent address Narikunni, Madavoor PO, Madavoor, Kozhikode, Kerala Pin 673585 Declare That my date of birth 01/07/1962 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correctdate of birth 16/05/1959.

I, Harjit Kour W/o Jaswant Singh R/o VPO Dorangla Distt Gurdaspur declare that in school record of my son Gurnoor Singh, my name has been wrongly written as Harjit Kaur. My correct name is Harjit Kour. Concerned note.

I, Army No. 16120588L Rank Nk Name Subhas Ramu Singadi of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Father name from Ramu Singadi to Ramu Krishna Singadi & Date of birth 07.06.1952 to 01.01.1963.

I, Army No. 16120588L Rank Nk Name Subhas Ramu Singadi of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Mother name from Asabai R Singadi to Aisabai Ramu Singadi & Date of birth 09.03.1963 to 01.01.1965.

I, Rajeshwar Singh Father of No. 14677118P Rank HAV Name Upendra Kumar Singh, Unit of 22 Engr Regt, Residing at Vpo Karahiya Tehsil Zamaniya District Ghazipur (UP) Pin 232339 have changed my name from Rajeshwar Singh to Rajeshwar Singh & Date of birth 01/01/1960 to 20/01/1955.

I, Kalavati Mother of No. 17039125M Rank CFN Name Aghadate Sunil Babulal, Unit of 22 Engr Regt Residing at Post Ridhora Tehsil Balapur District Akola have changed my name from Kalavati to Kalavati Babulal Aghadate & Date of birth 01/07/1958 to 01/01/1958.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Navin Sachdeva S/o Sh. Madan Lal Sachdeva R/o C-8 116/A, Keshav Puram, North West Delhi, Delhi have changed my name to Naveen Sachdeva for all future purposes.

I, Ravi Saggi S/o Sh. Beas Dev R/o House No. 540, Vishranti City Zirakpur have changed my minor daughter's name from Kshemaya to Kshemaya Saggi. Concerned please note.

I, Deepak S/o Rajinder Singh R/o Post Khawara, Bheti, PO Khawara, District Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand have changed my name Deepak Singh.

I, Rajender Singh S/o Late Bachan Singh R/o 262, Village Bahadur Ke, Bhattian, Ludhiana, Punjab have changed my name to Rajinder Singh.

I, Brahmjit Kumar S/o Sukh Ram R/o 2347-2349, Sector 17, Huda, Near Civil Dispensary, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Brahmjit Kumar Saini to Brahmjit Kumar. In future, I shall be known as Brahmjit Kumar.

I, Amit Singla S/o Vijay Singla R/o 946, Shanti Colony, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Amit Singla to Amit Kumar.

I, Suman Singla W/o Amit Kumar R/o 946, Ward No -7, Shanti Colony, Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Suman Singla to Suman.

I, Vikrant Singh Chauhan S/o Bhagmal Chauhan R/o. House. No. LD-224 CHD City Sector-45, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Vikrant Singh Chauhan to Vikrant Singh Chauhan for all future purposes!, Vikrant Singh Chauhan S/o Bhagmal Chauhan R/o. House. No. LD-224 CHD City Sector-45, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Vikrant Singh Chauhan to Vikrant Singh Chauhan for all future purpose.

I, Manoj Goyal s/o Ramdhan Goyal r/o Desraj colony near asha building material supplier near DM school distt. panipat declare change my name From Manoj Goel to Manoj Goyal and in future my name is Manoj Goyal.

I, Anita Devi alias Anita Goyal alias Anita Rani w/o Satpal Goyal, R/o # 5, Sector 28-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Anita.

I, Rani Malhotra w/o Balwinder kumar R/o House No. 11, HIG Complex Sector 48-C Chandigarh have changed my name to Raj Rani.

I, Sumit Kumar S/o Shri Om Parkash, R/o Ward No. 8, Near Jambeshwar Mandir, Naya Gaon, Nawagaon (123), Bhaini Badshahpur, Sub-Tehsil Uklana, District Hisar (Haryana), declare that I have changed my minor daughter's name from Komal to Kanishka for future.

I, Rimpi W/o Ram Dhan R/o H. No. 123, Gali No. 8, Shivpuri-A, Kansapur, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana have changed my name from Rimpi to Rimpdy Devi.

I, Ram Dhan S/o Ram Saroop father of Shivam Battanwal R/o H. No. 123, Gali No. 8, Shivpuri-A, Kansapur, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana have changed my minor son's name from Shivam Battanwal to Shivam Battanwal.

I, Siristi Saru S/o Meka Bahadur Saru R/o # Flat No. 212, Sector 3, Chandigarh, New Sectriate, Chandigarh-160001, I Have Changed My Name From Siristri Saru to Shiristi Saru.

I, VIKAS KARAMVIR PANCHAL, Adhar Card No. 557185841673, S/o KARAMVIR, R/o H.No. 284, Gali no. 2, JanakPuri Colony, Kaithal, Tehsil and District Kaithal, Informs that, I have Changed my name from VIKAS to VIKAS KARAMVIR PANCHAL. Call me VIKAS KARAMVIR PANCHAL in future.

I, No. JC-173737 N/Sub Brahm Anand S/o Som Dutt. R/o VPO Sasoli Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my daughter from Simma Vasudev to Seema Rani and her date of birth from 03-06-1978 to 01-01-1978. Concerned note.

I, Smt. Jaswinder Kaur W/o No.3392152A Ex Hav Gurdeep Singh R/o Vill. Manghar PO Bhana, Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Jaswinder Kaur to Jagwinder Kaur.

I, Parmjit Kaur W/o Gian Chand R/o Vill. Mehtiana Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my daughter from Kristeena to Kristeena Singh. Concerned note.

I, Sakshi Goyal daughter of Shri Rajesh Kumar resident of H.No. 410, Gate No. 5, New Jagan Nath Vihar Panipat, Distt Panipat-132103, state that I have changed my name from Sakshi Goyal to Sakshi.

I, Pooran Singh S/o Shingara Singh R/o Village Dharmu Chak, PO Jalal Usman, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Pooran Singh to Puran Singh.

I, Majeet Kaur W/o Hardip Singh R/o H.No. L31060, New Jaspal Nagar, Santalwind Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Majeet Kaur to Manjit Kaur.

I, Bhupender Singh S/o Ajit Singh R/o Patti Malko Di, Sultaniwind, Amritsar, Punjab-143001 have changed my name from Bhupender Singh to Bhupinder Singh.

I, Akshara D/o Sh Shokat Ali R/o House no 11/12, Indra garden, Jagadhri, PO Yamunanagar Distt Yamunanagar Haryana have changed my religion from Muslim to Hindu.

I, hitherto known as INDU BALA W/O ULPHAT RAI residing at HNO: T3/361, RSD COLONY SHAHPURKANDI TOWNSHIP, JUGIAL-145029 TEHSIL AND DISTT: PATHANKOT PUNJAB have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BALA INDU.

I, Nisha goel w/o Manoj Goyal r/o Desraj colony near asha building material supplier near DM school distt. panipat declare change my name From Nisha Garg to Nisha Goel and in future my name is Nisha goel.

I, SAURABH S/O MR. KALU RAM SHARMA R/O H.NO. 2224, SECTOR 52D CHANDIGARH & SECTOR 47 CHANDIGARH DECLARE THAT MY RELEVANT DOCUMENTS MY NAME WRITTEN AS SAURABH SHARMA, THAT SAURABH AND SAURABH SHARMA IS ONE AND THE SAME PERSON.

I, Sarvesh S/o Sh Ram Sewak R/o House no 3095, Sector 28-D Chandigarh have changed my name from Sarvesh to Sarvesh Kumar Verma.

I, Bahadur Singh Sawant S/o Shri Laxman Singh R/o House no 222, Sector 11-A Chandigarh have changed my name from Bahadur Singh Sawant to Bahadur Singh.

I, Bala W/o Rajbir R/o #566, New Indira Colony Manimajra Chandigarh have changed my name to Raj Bala.

I, Ved Raj Singh alias Both Bahadur S/o Sh. Jungbahadur R/o House No. 1575, Rajiv Colony Sector 17, Panchkula Haryana have changed my name from Ved Raj Singh alias Both Bahadur to Both Raj Singh.

I, Lucky (Sen) S/o Sh. Virender Kumar R/o NDRI Campus, Karnal declare that in my 10th and 12th Marksheets my father's name wrongly written as Virender. Kindly Correct as Virender Kumar as per other documents.

I, Raman Dhiman S/o Ram Parkash R/o 516/B, Kurari Mohalla, Kalka, Distt.Panchkula (Haryana) declare that Raman Dhiman & Raman both are my Name.

I, Nitin Soni S/o Jai Narain R/o H. No. 228-B, Tilak Bazar, Hisar (Haryana) 125001 declare that I have changed the name of my minor daughter from Tiara to Tiara Soni for all future purpose.

I, Nitin S/o Jai Narain R/o H. No. 228-B, Tilak Bazar, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Nitin to Nitin Soni for all future purpose.

I, Salinder Kumar S/o Ramchander R/o Village Kheri Sikander, Distt. Kaithal have changed my minor son name from Nishant to Nishant (Name) Choudhary (Surname).

I, Namrata Vinodrao Gawande w/o Akshay Hanumant Dhotekar r/o C-2329 Refinery Township, Distt. Panipat (Haryana) have changed my name from Namrata to Namrata Vinodrao Gawande. In future I should be known as Namrata Vinodrao Gawande.

I, Tara Bhausaheb Chavan is legally mother of Chavan Nilesh Bhausaheb Resident of Village- Mauje Sukene, PO- Kasbe Sukene, Tehsil-Niphad, Dist-Nashik, State-Maharashtra, PinCode- 422302 have changed my name from Tarabai to Tara Bhausaheb Chavan and changed my DOB 16 April 1954 to 16 April 1956 due to wrong name and DOB recorded in my son's army service record vide affidavit no IN-PB00328446500707X DATE 24/01/2025

I, Bhausaheb Bhimrao Chavan is legally father of Chavan Nilesh Bhausaheb Resident of Village- Mauje Sukene, PO- Kasbe Sukene, Tehsil-Niphad, Dist-Nashik, State-Maharashtra, PinCode- 422302 have changed my name from Bhausaheb to Bhausaheb Bhimrao Chavan and changed my DOB 15 April 1954 to 16 April 1954 due to wrong name and DOB recorded in my son's army service record vide affidavit no IN-PB00329649953843X DATE 24/01/2025

I, Neetu Gautam W/o Kapil Arora R/o 2049 Vrindavan Garden Fatehgarh Churian Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Neetu Gautam to Neetu Arora.

I, Resham Singh S/O Balbir Singh R/O H.No 1623 Gali No 4 New Ishwar Nagar Tam Taran Road District Amritsar Have Declare That Resham is my Given name and Singh is my Surname.

I, Ratnamala Gangadhar Bhalerao is legally mother of Bhalerao Prashant Gangadhar Resident of Pankaj Niwas, Renuka Nagar Nanded Road, Datt Mandir, tq Gagnakhed, PO Gagnakhed Dist- Parbhani State-Maharashtra, PinCode-431514 have changed my name from Ratnamala to Ratnamala Gangadhar Bhalerao due to wrong name recorded in my son's army service record vide affidavit no IN-PB00330919945215X DATE 24/01/2025

I, Gangadhar Arjun Bhalerao is legally father of Bhalerao Prashant Gangadhar Resident of Pankaj Niwas, Renuka Nagar Nanded Road, Datt Mandir, tq Gagnakhed, PO Gagnakhed Dist- Parbhani State-Maharashtra, PinCode-431514 have changed my name from Gangadhar Bhalerao to Gangadhar Arjun Bhalerao due to wrong name recorded in my son's army service record vide affidavit no IN- PB00331883813533X DATE 24/01/2025

I, Ajay Mehra Wife of Bishan Dass residing at H.No.179, Ward No.22, Mohalla Model Town, Pathankot Tehsil and District Pathankot-145001 Punjab declare that my name has been wrongly written as Ajay Kumar in my minor daughter Sangeeta Aged 16 Years her School record. The actual name of mine is Ajay Mehra.

I, Nisha and Sneha Mahajan W/o Sanjiv Kumar Mahajan R/o H. No. 1514, Ghee Mandi, Godam, Amritsar have certified that above both name's are mine one and same person.

I, Kirpal Singh S/O Raghbir Singh R/o VPO Jasraur Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar have declare that Kirpal is my Given name and Singh is my Surname,

I, Varinderpal Singh S/O Gurmeet Singh R/o Village Naraingarh Distt Amritsar have declare that Singh is my surname Varinderpal is my given name.

I, Balraj Singh Riar S/O Surjit Singh R/o Village Riar Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar have changed my name from Balraj Singh Riar to Balraj Singh.

I, Gurjinder Singh Aulakh S/O Bakshshish Singh R/o Mahindra Avenue Amritsar Road Tam Taran have changed my name to Gurjinder Singh.

I, Mandeep Kaur Aulakh W/o Gurjinder Singh R/o Mahindra Avenue Amritsar Road Tam Taran have changed my name to Mandeep Kaur.

I, Kawaljit Kaur W/o Amarjit Singh R/o F-20/181, Gali No.01, 88 Fit Road, Neheru Colony, Majitha Road, Nizambad, Telagana-503212 now at 15 Mech Inf C/o 56Apo have changed my name from Laxmi to Pili Laxmi and Date of Birth from 14.03.1968 to 12.02.1966 Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB00482036964767X Dt.24.01.2025 before Notary Public Amritsar.

I, Laxmi mother of No.14938029Y L/Hav Pandari Goud Pili R/o 1-1/1, Dattapur, Mandal Nandipet, Dattapur, Nizambad, Telagana-503212 now at 15 Mech Inf C/o 56Apo have changed my name from Laxmi to Pili Laxmi and Date of Birth from 14.03.1968 to 12.02.1966 Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB00482036964767X Dt.24.01.2025 before Notary Public Amritsar.

I, JC 433883H Nb Sub Banarsi Dass S/o Chhotu Ram R/o Jogon (32) Joghon, Solan, Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh -174101 have changed my son's name from Satvir Singh to Satveer Singh Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB0037230454175X Dt.24.01.2025 before Notary Public Amritsar.

I, Neetu Gautam W/o Kapil Arora R/o 2049 Vrindavan Garden Fatehgarh Churian Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Neetu Gautam to Neetu Arora.

I, Resham Singh S/O Balbir Singh R/O H.No 1623 Gali No 4 New Ishwar Nagar Tam Taran Road District Amritsar Have Declare That Resham is my Given name and Singh is my Surname.

I, Gurmeet Kaur Warraich W/o Sarabjit Singh Warraich R/o Chhaba, District Amritsar have changed my name from Gurmeet Kaur Warraich to Gurmeet Kaur.

I, Manjit Singh S/o Dalip Singh Kambow R/o VPO Sarangra District Amritsar have changed my name from Manjit Singh to Manjit Singh Kambow.

I, Harish Changotra Son of M. L Changotra residing at H.No.451, Sarna Canal, Malikpur, Malakpur, District Pathankot-145025 Punjab have changed the name of my minor Son Ruder Aged 08 Years and he Shall hereafter be known as Rudra Harish Changotra.

I, Sukhdev Singh Father of No.13772837H Hav Avneet Singh Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my son's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Suk Dev but my correct name is Sukh Dev Vide affidavit No.IN-PB99384131289341X Dt.21.01.2025 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar.

I, Sukhmanpreet Singh S/o Jaswinder Singh R/o Nai Abadi Dhariwal (Gurdaspur) have changed my name to Singh Sukhmanpreet. Concerned note.

I, Harikesh S/o Krishan Lal R/o Village Patti Khot, Kaithal, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Harikesh to Harikesh Sandhu. In future, I will be known by the name of Harikesh Sandhu. All concerned please note.

I, Bittu S/o Naresh Kumar R/o Village Patti Khot, Kaithal, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Bittu to Bittu Sandhu. In future, I will be known by the name of Bittu Sandhu. All concerned please note.

I, Tanya Kansal W/o Lakshay Bansal, 303 Sector 5B, Street 2, New Shastri Nagar, Mandi Gobindgarh, Fatehgarh Sahib, have changed name to Tanya Bansal.

I, Rajni W/o Ajay Kumar Kashyap R/o.32 Gali Sunil Datti Ex-Meyor, Old Amritsar Shamsher Nagar Amritsar have Changed my name to Kirti Kashyap.

I, Jasvir S/O Paramjit R/O Khalwara Gate, Baba Gadhia, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name Feom Jasvir To Jasvir Singh.

I, Gurnam Singh S/O Ujagar Singh R/O Village Fatehgarh, P.O. Pandori, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name To Gurnam Singh Thepra.

I, Sarju Deen S/O Bashir Hamid R/O Vill. Gondpur P.O. Garhdiwala, District Hoshiarpur, Have Changed My Name To Saraju Deen.

I, Harsh Kumar S/O Surjit Pal R/O Vpo. Sahri, Hoshiarpur Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Harsh And My Surname As Kumar.

I, Kulwinder Kaur W/O Balwinder Singh Mann R/O Kishanpura Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Kulwinder Kaur Mann.

I, Balwinder Singh S/O Gurcharan Singh R/O Kishanpura Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Balwinder Singh Mann.

I, Paramjot Singh S/O Balwinder Singh Mann R/O Kishanpura Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Paramjot Singh Mann.

I, Satnam Singh S/O Balwinder Singh R/O Bhinder Kalan (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Satnam Singh Toor.

I Gurmeet Singh Alias Jasmal Singh S/O Sukhdev Singh R/O Landeki Distt. Moga Am One And The Same Person Of Above Both Names.

I, Swaranjit Kaur W/O Balwinder Singh, R/O Village Rauli, Tehsil & Distt. Moga, Have Changed My Name To Swarnjit Kaur.

I, Sukhdev Singh, S/o Hamam Singh, R/o Bhatta Colony, Mukerian, Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur, have changed my minor son, name from Rahul to Rahul Singh.

I, Jugraj Singh Sidhu Son of Gurbachan Singh Resident of Swaike Bhokhri Mamdot & Residing at Uk- 25 Hillview close, PURLEY SURREY,CR81AU have changed my name to Safir Mirza. Email id YUVISARPANCH5@GMAIL.COM

I, Karmjeet Kaur W/o Gurpreet Singh R/o VPO Dhaipai (Faridkot) have changed my name to Karamjit Kaur.

I, Maltee Deveen mother of alok Ranjan of vill. Munaubar Pur, PO . Maujam Nagar, teh-bihaur , distt-kanpur nagar (UP) have changed my name from Maltee Deveen to Malti vide. Affidavit dated 24.01.2025 before Panchkula court.

I, Barjinder Singh Dhalla S/o Tejinder Singh R/o Baba Farid Nagar, Faridkot Road, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Barjinder Singh.

I, Sundari legally mother of No.JC-313774A Rank SUB Name B Sasikumar Unit 4 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Mela Street, Meesal, Mudukulathur, Taluk, Pirabhakkalur, Distt. Ramanathapuram, State Tamil Nadu-623712 declare That I have changed my DOB from 28.10.1958 to 10.03.1953 vide affidavit dated 23.01.2025

I, Sannu legally Spouse of No.15699699N Rank HAV Name Sonu Unit 2 EW Bn C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Lohanji(803), Distt. Solan, State Himachal Pradesh-173229 declare That I have changed my name from Sannu to Sannu Devi vide affidavit dated 24.01.2025

Pb Govt to Tighten Surveillance in Tehsils: CCTVs Must Be Operational by Jan 31

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In the age of surveillance, where every movement is captured through lenses and monitored like a third eye, the Punjab Government has rolled out a move to enhance the functioning and accountability of its tehsils. Just as a camera lens zooms in to uncover details, the government has now set its sights on improving transparency and curbing corruption. But a recent inspection has revealed that only three out of the 180 CCTV cameras installed in Sub-Registrar and Joint Sub-Registrar offices across the state are currently operational. With an urgent deadline in place, the Punjab Government has now mandated that all cameras must be functional by January 31, 2025, or face action.

Third Eye on Punjab's Tehsils

- All CCTVs installed in Sub-Registrar and Joint Sub-Registrar offices to be made functional by Jan 31
- Each office must have four CCTVs — two inside, and two outside
- DCs directed to Regularly Monitor CCTV Feeds on computers or mobile devices
- DCs asked to conduct surprise inspections using live footage from CCTVs
- In case of non-operational cameras, contact installation company immediately for repairs or replacements
- DCs asked to conduct daily checks of CCTVs to ensure these are fully functional

transactions or other services face no undue hardships, and that their work is done properly, without any corruption or delay.

However, a recent surprise inspection has raised alarms. The results were far from satisfactory as only three of the 180 cameras across Punjab's tehsils were found to be working. This startling discovery has led to serious concerns about the effectiveness of the initiative.

In response, the Punjab Government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, has issued an official directive demanding that all CCTV cameras be made functional by January 31, 2025. Deputy Commissioners across the state have been instructed to ensure immediate action is taken to fix

or replace malfunctioning cameras.

The directive also outlined specific measures to hold accountable those responsible for maintaining these surveillance systems. Each Sub-Registrar and Joint Sub-Registrar office is required to have four cameras installed — two inside the office — where critical transactions such as ID verification take place; and two outside — where the public waits.

The cameras are intended to allow the Deputy Commissioners to monitor the efficiency of operations and ensure no difficulties are faced by the public, especially in the registration of wills and land transactions. By maintaining a continuous watch, the Government aimed at bringing

in more transparency, helping to root out irregularities and corruption.

Emphasizing the importance of monitoring these cameras regularly, the Government maintained that the CCTV system is IP-based, which allows officials to access live feeds on their computers or mobile devices, making it easier for them to monitor the work being carried out at any Sub-Registrar or Joint Sub-Registrar office at any given time.

Further instructions have been issued for the regular checking of these live feeds to ensure that there are no lapses in surveillance. Deputy Commissioners are also tasked with conducting surprise checks to ensure that the system is functioning properly, and that public is not facing any issues in availing themselves of services.

This crackdown on malfunctioning CCTV cameras is a part of a broader initiative by the Punjab Government to reduce corruption and ensure a more citizen-friendly administration. In addition to the installation of cameras, the Government has also launched an anti-corruption helpline, through which citizens can report any irregularities or issues faced during their dealings in the tehsils. With live footage serving as an additional layer of scrutiny, the authorities are hopeful that this initiative will not only curb corruption but also restore public trust in the system.

Himachal Cabinet Approves Pilot Study on Cannabis Cultivation

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday approved a pilot study on cannabis cultivation to be jointly undertaken by Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Krishna Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur, district Kangra and Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture, Nauni, district Solan. A statement said that the study will evaluate and recommend the future roadmap in this matter. Additionally, the Agriculture Department was designated as the nodal department for this initiative.

The Cabinet also decided to extend the special relief package introduced for disaster-affected families in 2023 to those impacted by the fire incident in Tandri village in Kullu district. Under the relief package, affected families will receive Rs 7 lakh for completely damaged houses, Rs 1,00,000 for partially damaged houses, and Rs 50,000 for the loss of cowsheds. Also, a monthly house rental assistance of Rs 5,000 will be provided to the affected families till June 30.

The Cabinet also approved the procurement of state-of-art machinery and equipment for robotic surgery at Atal Institute of Medical Super Specialties (AIMSS) in Chamiyana (Shimla), and Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College in Tanda in Kangra at

a cost of Rs 56 crore on an approval of AIIMS, New Delhi.

It approved an amendment to the previous order of the Forest Department, allowing the extraction of 'berberis roots' (kashmal) with a cut-off date of February 15.

Additionally, forest produce extracted from open spaces prior to January 4 will be permitted for transportation till February 15 in accordance with the provisions of the HP Forest Produce Transit (Land Routes) Rules, 2013.

It approved the establishment of a ropeway between the Kullu bus stand and the Peej paragliding point to provide tourists with a smooth and safe transportation facility.

The Cabinet decided to fill the nine posts of Block Development Officers in the Department of Rural Development.

Additionally, it decided to reorganise the PWD National Highway Circle in Shahpur by creating two new divisions at Nankhadi and Kholighat, as well as the Kharahan section.

The Cabinet sanctioned the procurement of 24 air-conditioned super luxury buses for state-run Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) to enhance its service.

It also approved 100 motorbikes to field offices of the State Taxes and Excise Department to ensure better enforcement and surprise checks.

2 lakh youth to be given Govt job in next five yrs: Hry CM



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Haryana Singh Sain on Friday said that the State government would provide government jobs to 2 lakh youth over five years. Sain also said that during the past ten years, the BJP government in Haryana has provided government jobs to 1.71 Lakh youth on merit.

Along with offering government jobs, the government has also implemented various schemes to help youth set up their businesses, Sain said, while speaking at the Golden Jubilee celebration function at the Indira Gandhi National (IGN) College, Ladwa, Kurukshetra.

He said that IGN College was established in 1974 to provide education to rural children and over its 50-year journey, the institution has played a crucial role in shaping thousands of students into skilled and responsible citizens. Colleges like IGN play a vital role in achieving the vision of developed Haryana. Educational institutions are the backbone of the state's and country's

progress, the CM said.

Sain said to promote higher education, the state government has opened 79 government colleges, 32 of which are exclusively for girls. Now, there is a government college within a 20-kilometer radius across the state. Besides this, 13 new universities have also been established in the state, he said. The chief minister said that 1.71 lakh youth have been provided government jobs on the basis of merit without any 'Parchi-Kharchi' (favouritism or bribe) and the government will provide 2 lakh more jobs in the next five years.

There is a lot of enthusiasm among the youth regarding the schemes being run by the government in their interest and the recruitments being done on the basis of 'Mission Merit', he said.

Sain further said under the New Education Policy, the government is committed to providing quality education and employment to the youth.

Haryana's youth have excelled not only in sports but also in various other fields, making the state proud on a global level, he said.

Power Outage During Surgery at Rajindra Hospital in Patiala; Minister says patient "safe"

PNS ■ PATIALA/CHANDIGARH

In a shocking turn of events at Rajindra Medical Hospital in Patiala — one of the region's premier health facilities, a routine surgery took a dangerous turn on Friday when a power outage caused critical medical equipment, including the patient's ventilator, to shut down. As the surgical team stood frozen in the operating room, the life of the patient — already battling cancer — hung in the balance. Doctors were forced to halt the procedure, with no immediate solution in sight. In response to the controversy, Punjab Health and family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh defended the hospital, stating that the power outage was brief, backup systems worked as intended, and the patient's well-being was not compromised. At the same time, he criticized the doctor for panicking and recording a video instead of addressing the issue.

was too late.

The unsettling video, recorded by the operating surgeon, quickly went viral, revealing the severity of the situation and sparking widespread concern. With the patient relying on a ventilator during surgery, the potential consequences of this electrical failure were dire. Despite being equipped with three backup power lines, Rajindra Hospital's inability to prevent such an outage has thrown a harsh spotlight on the hospital's infrastructure, leaving the medical team scrambling in a high-stakes situation where seconds mattered. The incident raised serious questions about the reliability of emergency systems in a hospital, where every moment is critical to saving lives.

In the video, the surgeon can be heard expressing concern about the tripping of the Hospital's power supply, noting that the ventilator had shut down as well. "The lights in the main emergency room of Rajindra Hospital have been going off and on for the past 15 minutes. The ventilator has also stopped. If something happens to the patient, who will be held responsible?" asked the doctor. According to the doctors, this was not the first time such an incident had occurred. They claimed that the hospital was not adequately connected to an emergency hotline, which

they argued could have prevented the power failure from impacting patient care during critical procedures.

Political Controversy
The video quickly gained traction on social media, sparking political debate ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections. BJP leader and Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu shared the video on his official social media account, criticizing the healthcare model of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Bittu raised questions over the state's preparedness and management of its healthcare infrastructure.

The incident has sparked fierce criticism from opposition parties, with the Punjab BJP calling it a "grave violation of human life". In a tweet from party's official 'X' handle, Punjab BJP questioned the reliability of the AAP government's healthcare model, highlighting the severe consequences of the power failure during an ongoing surgery. "Is this the 'Delhi health model' of @BhagwantMann and @ArvindKejriwal, where hospitals lack ventilators and electricity?" the post read.

The opposition has also pointed to the repeated power issues at the hospital, accusing the state government of mismanagement.

SAD leader Bikramjit Singh Majithia echoed similar sentiments, condemning the lack of proper facilities at the hospital and demanding accountability for the risk posed to patients' lives. "Under Bhagwant Mann's leadership, this is what the 'revolution' in health and education looks like," he remarked, criticizing the government's failure to address the issue despite months of inaction.

Minister Reacts
In response to the growing controversy, Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh defended the hospital's handling of the situation. He clarified that the power outage was brief and that the backup systems, including Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) and generators, had functioned as expected.

"The young junior doctor did panic, but the operation was carried out normally and the patient is now recovering," said Dr Balbir. Further downplaying the incident, the Minister asserted that it was not a cause for concern, as emergency systems were in place, and the patient's well-being was not compromised.

At the same time, the Minister criticized the surgeon's decision to film the incident instead of contacting the relevant personnel to address the power issue.

Punjab's Tableau Makes Return to R-Day Parade After 2 Yrs

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab — a land of timeless traditions, soulful music, and indomitable spirit — will take the centerstage at the Republic Day parade on New Delhi's Kartavya Path with a tableau that promises to be as vibrant and captivating as the State itself. Rooted in the cultural and spiritual heritage of this agrarian heartland, the tableau weaves together the soulful verses of Baba Sheikh Farid, the dazzling hues of phulkari embroidery, and the steadfast determination of its farming community.



Leading the procession is a pair of bullocks, a poignant symbol of Punjab's agricultural legacy, reflecting the resilience of its farmers who have long been the backbone of India's food security. Set against this moving backdrop, the tableau unfolds as a celebration of Punjab's rich cultural fabric, paying tribute to its artistry, spirituality, and the timeless contributions of its people.

The inclusion of Punjab's tableau in the Republic Day Parade marked a significant comeback after a two-year hiatus. In 2023 and 2024, Punjab's proposals were not accepted, leading to widespread disappointment. Raising objections over the rejections, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant

Mann had then lashed out at the BJP-led Central Government for deliberately not selecting tableaux of states with non-BJP Government.

In fact, Mann had then ensured that the rejected tableaux were showcased across villages and also in district level events in Punjab. This year, Punjab's perseverance has paid off, with the Defense Ministry approving its tableau, joining the line-up of 13 states and two Union Territories, including Chandigarh.

Meticulously crafted over 21 days, it has already mesmerized audiences

during rehearsals, drawing praise from politicians and the public alike. Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu, who witnessed the rehearsal on Friday, described it as "breath-taking" and shared his admiration across social media, remarking, "My heart beats for Punjab. This tableau is simply enchanting."

Punjab's tableau unfolds in four distinct segments, each representing a pillar of its identity — agriculture, its folk music, traditional hand-embroidery phulkari, and first poet of Punjabi literature Baba Sheikh Farid. At the forefront, a pair of bullocks

symbolizing Punjab's agrarian legacy leads the tableau — a depiction reminding the nation of Punjab's pivotal role in achieving self-sufficiency in food grain production. A farmer is shown plowing the fields with bullocks, a timeless scene that harks back to the state's deep-rooted connection with its soil.

In the second segment, Punjab's vibrant folk music is brought to life. Dressed in traditional attire, artists play ancient musical instruments like the dhol and tumbi, echoing the rhythm and energy of Punjabi life. This scene captures the joyous spirit

and indomitable energy of its people, showcasing how music is intertwined with every celebration in Punjab.

The third section highlights a young woman crafting a phulkari outside her home. This art form, rich in history and symbolism, epitomizes Punjab's cultural heritage. Alongside, intricately woven carpets and household crafts serve as a tribute to the industrious and creative spirit of Punjab's women.

The final segment is a tribute to Baba Farid, revered as the first poet of Punjabi literature. His spiritual teachings and profound poetry are visualized with a serene portrayal of the saint amidst an ethereal backdrop. This segment underlines Punjab's role as a spiritual and intellectual hub through centuries.

A senior Government official told The Pioneer that Chief Minister Mann played an active role in shaping this year's tableau, offering inputs to ensure it authentically represented Punjab's culture and legacy.

He also proposed that the verses of Baba Farid be recited during the presentation, adding a spiritual dimension to the visual feast.

The tableau not only celebrates Punjab's past but also reflects its enduring contributions to India's present. From feeding the nation to preserving its artistic traditions, Punjab's spirit is one of resilience, creativity, and spirituality.

As the tableau will roll down Kartavya Path on January 26, it will serve as a poignant reminder of the land of five rivers — a place where tradition meets progress and where heritage is a way of life.

BRIEFS

Two-minute silence to be observed in all Govt offices in memory of martyrs

Chandigarh: A two-minute silence will be observed in all Haryana government offices at 11 am on January 30 in memory of martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggle of the country. In a letter issued by the Chief Secretary's Office, all the Department Heads, Divisional Commissioners of Ambala, Hisar, Rohtak, Faridabad, Karnal and Gurugram, all Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil) have been instructed to make necessary arrangements in this regard.

Hry CS reviews 25 infrastructure projects of over Rs 100 crore each

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi on Friday reviewed 25 infrastructure projects, each with a cost exceeding Rs 100 crore with the officers in Chandigarh. With a total of over Rs 17,516 crore, these projects span over the Departments of Industries and Commerce, Medical Education and Research, Irrigation and Water Resources, and Public Health Engineering. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary instructed officials to establish a panel comprising officers from the irrigation, industry, PWD B&R, and Public Health departments. This panel will review project timelines and propose proactive, long-term solutions to ensure strict adherence to schedules and the timely completion of projects. Issuing strict instructions, the Chief Secretary also directed officials to take action against negligent contractors, including blacklisting them. He directed that all necessary clearances, including environmental and forest approvals, should be obtained prior to issuing tenders for projects, ensuring their completion within the stipulated timelines.

Cold weather prevails at many places in Pb, Hry

Chandigarh: Cold weather conditions prevailed in several places in Punjab and Haryana on Friday, with many parts recording temperatures below 10 degrees Celsius. In Punjab, Faridkot reeled under intense chill, recording a minimum temperature of 3.8 degrees Celsius, according to the Met department's weather report. Amritsar and Pathankot also experienced a cold night, recording 5.2 degrees and 5.7 degrees, respectively. Rupnagar, Ludhiana and Gurdaspur, too, experienced a cold night recording a minimum temperature of 7 degrees, 7.7 degrees and 7 degrees, respectively. Patiala recorded a low of 8.9 degrees Celsius. In Haryana, the minimum temperature of Karnal, Narnaul and Bhiwani was 6.4 degrees Celsius, 7.3 degrees Celsius and 7.2 degrees Celsius. Sirsa recorded a low of 8.6 degrees, Gurugram 10.4 degrees and Ambala 10 degrees Celsius.

Contractors' Association warns of agitation if demands are not met by Jan 31

Chandigarh: The Haryana PWD Contractors' Association has issued an ultimatum to the state government, giving them until January 31 to fulfill their pending demands. The contractors have warned that failure to meet their demands within this period will result in statewide protests and a complete halt of PWD projects across Haryana. In a press statement, office-bearers of the association revealed that nearly Rs 500 crore worth of contractors' bills have been stuck since December due to budget and fund shortages. Despite repeated appeals to the Haryana PWD Minister, the government has not released the funds, citing a budget crunch. Association President Jai Bhagwan said that releasing at least Rs 200 crore immediately would help clear pending bills for October, November, and December of the previous year. Secretary Manoj Chahal urged the government to release the withheld payments promptly to avoid forcing contractors to stop ongoing projects across the state.

Haryana approves State Water Action Plan-II worth Rs 6,713.13 crore under AMRUT 2.0

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi chaired the 4th State High Powered Steering Committee (SHPSC) Meeting for successful implementation of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) on Friday. During the meeting, it was informed that under the State Water Action Plan (SWAP-I) of AMRUT 2.0, 57 projects costing Rs 1727.36 crore have been approved, which includes 48 projects of water supply and 9 projects of sewerage spanning over 50 towns of the state. Out of these, in 53 projects, work has already been commenced & the remaining are under tendering process.

'Samman Sanjeevani' App launched in Hry on National Girl Child Day

Chandigarh: Haryana Women and Child Development Minister Shruti Choudhry on Friday launched the 'Samman Sanjeevani' app of 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana' on the occasion of National Girl Child Day 2025. Facilities being provided under the scheme will be tracked via the app so that the beneficiaries continue to get the benefits of the scheme timely. The Minister said that under the 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojna', sanitary napkins are distributed to BPL women and girls aged 10 to 45 years. These benefits are delivered through Anganwadi centers and schools. The app has been developed to ensure timely delivery of these services. It will collect data on all beneficiaries and update monthly benefits.

Himachal CM inspects Schools in Dharamshala

D h a r a m s h a l a : Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on the occasion of Balika Diwas, visited the Government Girls Senior Secondary School in Dharamshala at Kangra and addressed the girl students and announced a gift of Rs. 1000 each for all 351 girls enrolled at the school. He shared his personal experience of studying in a government school and acknowledged the lack of confidence among students of these schools. He assured that the state government was taking decisive steps to instil confidence among these children. It would help them in becoming responsible and capable citizens. During his visit, the Chief Minister interacted with the students in order to understand their needs and concerns in a better way. He also visited the Government Senior Secondary School (Boys) in Dharamshala and reviewed the facilities being provided to the students.



Ludhiana School Principal Suspended for Forcing Students to Work as Labourers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Taking strong note of a disturbing incident at the School of Eminence in Ludhiana, Punjab School Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains on Friday suspended the Principal after a video surfaced showing students being forced to carry sandbags as part of ongoing construction work at the school.

The incident has raised serious concerns about the treatment of students in government schools, particularly in light of the fact that this was allegedly the third or fourth consecutive day that students were made to engage in such labour, despite the critical academic period leading up to board exams.

The video, which quickly went viral, shows students carrying heavy sand-filled bags and performing other labour-intensive tasks, instead of attending their regular classes. The incident occurred at the Government Senior Secondary School (School of Eminence) for boys, located in the Jawahar Nagar area. It was revealed that the school's ongoing construction of new toilets was the reason behind the labour demands placed on the students, as authorities reportedly found it more convenient to have students assist with the work rather than hire additional labourers. Minister Harjot Singh Bains took immediate action after being made aware of the incident, expressing his outrage over the breach of student rights.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Bharat Bhushan Kathuria S/o Sh. Ram Lal R/O House No.1337, Sector-10 Panchkula Haryana, have changed my name from Bharat Bhushan Kathuria Bindal to Bharat Bhushan.

I, hitherto known as Tarsem Verma Son of Ram Murti resident of 180, Dada Colony, Jalandhar, Punjab 144004, have changed my name from Tarsem Verma to Rekha Verma. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, hitherto known as Rekha Verma wife of Tarsem Lal Verma resident of 180, Dada Colony, Jalandhar, Punjab 144004, have changed my name from Rekha Verma to Rekha Rani. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Jogendra Lal S/o Gyan Chand R/o # Flat No- 1285, Block No A1 40- Phase 04, Hmel Township Refinery Road, Ramsara, PO Raman, Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name From Jogender Lal to Jogendra Lal.

It is for general information that **I, SUKHARSHAN SINGH S/O SHAM SINGH R/O VPO BHOTNA, NEAR DERA PS SAINA DISTT SANGRUR PIN CODE 148100** declare that name of my WIFE has been wrongly written as RAMANDEEP KAUR in my passport No. G0263873. The actual name of my wife is RASHANDEEP KAUR which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Rajni W/o Avinash Chander Mahajan R/o H.No. 44, Gali No.19, New Pawan Nagar, Batala Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Rajni to Rajni Mahajan.

I, Mukesh Rani w/o Ramesh Kumar r/o Jajwan Teh. & Distt. Jind declare that I have changed my name from Mukesh Devi to Mukesh Rani for all future purposes.

I, Ram Kishan s/o Harnaath R/o Jajwan Teh. & Distt. Jind declare that I have changed my name from Ram Kishan Chahal to Ram Kishan for all future purposes.

I, Ramesh Kumar s/o Ram Kishan R/o Jajwan Teh. & Distt. Jind declare that I have changed my name from Ramesh Kumar Chahal to Ramesh Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Amarjit Kaur W/o Taranjit Singh Bhasin R/o Nasrauli (49), Ambala, Haryana have changed my name from Amarjit Kaur to Amarjit Kaur Bhasin

I, Jasmeet Kaur D/o Taranjit Singh Bhasin R/o #367, Tower-S4, 3rd floor, Savitry Towers, VIP Road, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar, Punjab-140603 have changed my name from Jasmeet Kaur to Jasmeet Kaur Bhasin.

I, Taranjit Singh S/o Santokh Singh Bhasin R/o Nasrauli (49), Ambala, Haryana have changed my name from Taranjit Singh to Taranjit Singh Bhasin.

I, Rajiv Solanki S/o Vasantlal Laljibhai Solanki R/O Flat No. C-602 Hamilton Mayfair Residency, 66 Feet Road, Near Jalandhar Heights-II, Po. Garha, Jalandhar, Punjab changed name of my minor son Shlok Rajiv Solanki alias Shlok aged 9 years to Shlok Solanki.

I, Deepak S/o Vijay Kumar R/o H.No.571/5, New Sant Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Deepak to Deepak Kumar.

I, hitherto Known as Rituu D/o Surinder Kumar R/O Village Khangura, Post Office Barn, Tehsil Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala-144403, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rituu Kauri.

I, Yogesh Tiwari S/o Inderjit Tiwari R/O H.No.73, Arjun Singh Nagar, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab have changed the name of my minor daughter Kriti Age 15 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Kriti Tiwari.

I, hitherto Known as Harbinder Kaur W/o Harbhajan Singh R/o Vill. Dhudianwala, Distt. Kapurthala-144620, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Harjinder Kaur.

I, Sonia W/o Raman Kumar R/o Ghagpur Patti, VPO. Jandhu Singha, Distt. Jalandhar-144025, Punjab have changed the name of my minor daughter Navneet Age 5 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Navneet Kaur.

I, Nisha W/o Vaibhav Bindal, H. No. 1417, Shree Krishna Block, Near Income Tax Office, Sector-14, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Nisha Kedia & Vanshika alias Nisha to Nisha for all purposes in future.

I, Brij Lal S/o Mata Badal R/o H.No.25, Street No.3, Sheed Udharn Singh Nagar, Jhill Road, Patiala (Punjab) declare that both names Brij Lal and Brij Lal Morya are mine and of one same person.

I, Padmini Yadav legally wedded wife of Army No.JC675542H, Rank: SUB-MT, Name: Ram Nageena Singh Yadav Unit: 665 COY ASC (TKTPTR) Type-C C/o 56 APO, Residing at Village Belsari, Nandganj, Distt. Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, Pin-233302, have changed my name from Padmini Devi to Padmini Yadav.

I, Padmini Yadav legally wedded wife of Army No.JC675542H, Rank: SUB-MT, Name: Ram Nageena Singh Yadav Unit: 665 COY ASC (TKTPTR) Type-C C/o 56 APO, Residing at Village Belsari, Nandganj, Distt. Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, Pin Code-233302, declare that in my husband's service record my Date of Birth is mentioned 01 July 1983, where as my correct Date of Birth is 11 July 1983.

I, Virender Singh S/O Bhuvneshwar Singh Jamwal R/O Vill Fagyahara PO Brikhmani Teh. Balh Distt. Mandi HP Pin 17527 declare that I have changed my name from Virender Singh to Virender Singh Jamwal.

I, Deepa w/o Army No. 14939336H Rank: Havildar Ganesh Ram Unit: 6 Mech. Infantry (First Garhwal Rifle) C/o 56 APO, permanent resident of Mayur Vihar, Dulehpuri, Post Office, Peerumudara Tehsil Ramnagar, District Nainital, Uttarakhand - 244715. In my husband's service record my name erroneously recorded as Deepa whereas my correct name is Deepa Devi.

I, Daljit Kaur wife of Navy No. 082046W Rank: Ex- LS Name: Gurdip Singh Sidhu resident of H.No.8, Teg Colony, Moh. Near New Officer Colony, PO Tehsil & Distt. Patiala Punjab- 147001 declare that in my husband's Service record my name is mentioned as Balvir Kaur but my correct name is Daljit Kaur

I, Sharandeep Kaur D/o Harjit Singh R/o Johal Nangal, Jaura Singha, Distt. Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Sarbjit Kaur to Sharandeep Kaur.

I, Ritika Kharbanda W/o Tarun Kharbanda R/o H.No. 73, New Officer Colony, Near Gurudwara Sahib, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Ritika Kharbanda to Ritika Kharbanda.

I, Naresh Mittal S/o Piara Lal Mittal R/O H.No. 506, SST Nagar, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Naresh Kumar to Naresh Mittal.

I, Pooja W/o Devender Kumar R/O H.No. 21, Gurmat Enclave, Sular Road, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Pooja Rani to Pooja.

I, Rishu (Adhar card 964928490028) D/o Rajesh Kumar R/O H.No.363, Near Atta Chakki Village Bindhroli, Sonipat have changed my name from Rishu to Rishu Dahiyaa for all future purposes.

It is for general information that **I, Sona Devi W/o Army No 3151370** Sepoy Late Dalipa R/o VPO - Pugthala, Teh. Ganaur, District - Sonipat (Haryana)- 131102 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Sona Day in my husband PPO No S/31229/79. The actual name of mine is Sona Devi which may be amended accordingly.

I, JC311435F Rank SUB MAJ/CLK (SD) Name Pazhanivel K of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Son name from P NAVREEN to Naveen P Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, JC311435F Rank SUB MAJ/CLK (SD) Name Pazhanivel K of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my name from S DEVI to Devi S Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, Army No. 16133276N Rank Spr Name Pardeep Kumar of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Mother name from SHARDA DEVI to Sharda Rani Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, JC311435F Rank SUB MAJ/CLK (SD) Name Pazhanivel K of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Daughter Name from P SINDHYA to Sindhiya P Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozepur.

I, LASHMINARAYANA is legally Mother of No. 2609503W, Rank Hav. Name Simhachalam Ambati Unit of 28 Madras C/O 56 APO Ferozepur Cantt. Residing at 2-39, Main Veedhi, Regulapadu, Kotabommali, Srikakulam, (AP) 532432 have changed my name from LASHMINARAYANA to AMBATI LAXMI NARAYANA Vide Affidavit Dated 23 January 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Gursewak Dass S/o Dhani Ram R/o #55, Village Dandao, Distt. Patiala change my name from Gursewak Dass to Gursewak Singh Dandao.

I, NARASIMHULU is legally Father of No. 2609503W, Rank Hav Name Simhachalam Ambati Unit of 28 Madras CO 56 APO Ferozepur Cantt. Residing at 2-39, Main Veedhi, Regulapadu, Kotabommali, Srikakulam, (AP) 532432 have changed my name from NARASIMHULU to AMBATI NARASIMHULU Vide Affidavit Dated 23 January 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, YASH PAL is legally Son of Army No. 14437376H, Rank HAV Name Ishawar Singh, Unit of 310 FD Regt., permanent address Masit(9) Rewari (Haryana) 123411 have changed my Name in all documents from YASH PAL to YASHPAL Vide Affidavit Dated 24 January 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Sujata Spouse of No. 2702008K, Hav, Thadela Siva Sankar, Unit of 16 Grenadiers Residing at Village Ari Post Burujuvada Tehsil Saravakota District Srikakulam Pin 532426 A.P have changed my name from Sujata to Thadela Sujatha Vide Affidavit Dated 24 January 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Geeta Garvi W/o Satish Kumar R/o Sarswati Colony, Kheri Markanda, Tehsil Thanesar District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Geeta Garvi to Geeta Devi.

I, Manisha W/o Sanjeev R/o Azad Nagar,Tehsil Thanesar, Kurukshetra have changed my name Manisha Rani.

I, Bala W/o Rajbir # 566, New Indira Colony, Manimajra, Chandigarh have changed my name to Raj Bala.

I, Rajan S/o Narinder Kumar R/O Village Chandpur Rurki Khurd, Chandpur Rurki, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar have changed my name from Rajan to Rajan Rayat. (Surname as Rayat).

I, interpreet Singh S/o Tejpal Singh R/o Namdar Khan Road ,Patiala Punjab have changed my name to interpreet Singh Sandhu.

I, C. Raja legally father of No. 16115155K Rank: Nk name Jayapandi C.R unit 440(i) Engr SQN C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of No. 229 Ayyavu Street, Kumanan Tholu Aandi Patti, Myladum Parai Varushanadu Andi Patti Theni Tamilnadu-625579 declare that i have changed my name from C.R.Raja to Raja Chinnasamy and DOB from 01-07-1965 to 01-01-1963 vide affidavit dated 23-01-2025 by notary distt. Court Bathinda.

I, R. Pandiyammal legally mother of No. 16115155K Rank: Nk name Jayapandi.C.R unit 440(i) Engr SQN C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt (Punjab) permanent resident of No. 229 Ayyavu Street, Kumanan Tholu, Aandi Patti, Myladum Parai Theni Tamilnadu-625579 declare that i have changed my name from R. Pandiyammal to Pandiyammal Raja and DOB from 01-07-1970 to 01-01-1968 vide affidavit dated 23-01-2025 by notary distt Court Bathinda.

I, Balkar Singh S/o Boota Singh R/O Vpo. Dosaanjh Kalan Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) have changed my name Balkar and now Singh is my surname.

I, Bikramjit Singh S/o Lakhwinder Singh R/O Village Balsarai, Distt. Amritsar, I have changed my name to Bikramjit Singh as given name and Singh as surname.

I, Satveet Singh S/O Balraj Singh, City Gurdaspur, Tehsil /Distt Gurdaspur Pb 143521

Have Changed My Name Satveet Singh to Satveet Singh Bhinder.

I, Pawanpreet Singh S/o Nishan Singh, Vill-Pandher Khurd, Teh/Dist Amritsar Pin-143001 have changed my name Pawanpreet Singh to Pawanpreet Singh Sekhon.

I, Chamkour Singh Randhawa S/O Joginder Singh Randhawa R/O Vpo. Dhunda Distt Tarn Taran. I Have Changed My Name As Chamkaur Singh Randhawa.

I, Jeevan Kumar S/o Gurjant Raj R/o Tallewal, Teh-Tapa Distt Barnala have changed my name Jeevan Singh.

I, Prem W/o Jagdev Singh, R/o VPO Tallewal, Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala, have changed my name Premjit Kaur.

I, Jasveer Kaur Bawa W/o Sukhwinder Singh Buttar R/o Vpo. Nathowal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Jasveer Kaur after marriage.

I, Harveen Randhawa D/o Gurinderjit Singh Randhawa R/o H No 50, Adarsh Nagar, Ram Tirath Road, Amritsar, Tehsil: & Distt Amritsar have changed my given name to Harveen Kaur and surname to Randhawa concerned note.

I, Jasima Singh D/o Kulwant Singh Bhatia R/o H.No.198 Phase-3A (SAS Nagar, Mohali) have changed my minor daughter name from Sia Bathla to Saa Singh.

I, Ramandeep Kaur D/o Sukhchain Singh R/o Vill; Virkan Wali Po. Lohgarh (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Ramandeep Kaur Sandhu.

I, Sunita W/o Manoj Kumar R/o H.No. 33, Chandan Nagar, Ward No.15, Kartarpur Distt. Jalandhar have changed my minor son name from Divanshu to Divanshu Paul.

I, Hardeep Singh S/O Sarabjit Singh R/O patti manga ki Goraya,distt.Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Hardeep Singh to Hardeep Singh Dhillon.

I, Hardeep Kaur W/O Hardeep Singh R/O patti manga ki Goraya,distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Hardeep kaur to Hardeep kaur Dhillon.

I, Raj Kumari alias Mamtta W/o Mukesh Kumar R/o Vill: Bodal Kotli Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my name to Mamtta.

I, Sarbjeet Kaur w/o Mehtab Singh vill. Raipur Baleem (Burj Rai ke) Patti Dist. Tamtaran Punjab. I have changed my name Sarbjeet and surname Kaur.

I, Mehtab Singh s/o Sukhchain Singh vill. Raipur Baleem (Burj Rai Ke) . Patti Dist Tamtaran Punjab. have changed my minor son's name Asraaj and surname Singh.

I, Mehtab Singh s/o Sukhchain Singh vill. Raipur Baleem (Burj Rai Ke). Patti Dist. Tamtaran Punjab. have changed my minor daughter's name Asees and surname Kaur.

I, Kulwant Singh Ghuman Son of Paragat Singh Resident of Near Society, Sadar Dinwala District Ferozepur have Changed my name to Kulwant Singh.

I, Jaswant Singh S/o Gurmel Singh R/O Village Panjarain Khurd, Tehsil Bagha purana District Moga have changed my name to Jaswant Singh Sran.

I, Nilkanth Father of No.14674007N NK Suruse Shivaji Nilkanth resident of Village- Bhalwani, Post-Bhalwani, Tehsil- Parner, District- Ahmednagar, State- Maharashtra, Pin-414103, have changed my Father name & DOB from Nilkanth to Nilkanth Maruti Suruse and date of birth from 01 July 1954 to 01 June 1955 vide affidavit No.IN-PB99152877373676X dated 21 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15814324K Hav Raju Singh Yadav of Unit 7003 EME BN (85 FD WKSP)/C/o 99APO have changed The My Father Paramhans yadav date of Birth, his Correct Date of Birth 01/01/1956 instead 05/10/1958.Vide affidavit No.IN-PBX dated 16 Jan 2024 before notary public Pathankot

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the General Public that the following person(s) have applied for the transfer of allotment of the below said Dwelling Unit under the Blood Relation Transfer Policy in his/her/their name under Regulation 16 of the Chandigarh Housing Board (Allotment, Management and Sale of Tenements) Regulations 1979.-

Sr No.	Name of the applicant (PROPOSED TRANSFERREE) Sh./Smt./Ms.	Name of the allottee/transferee (PROPOSED TRANSFEROR) Sh./Smt./Ms.	D.U. No.	Cat.	Sector Chandigarh
1	SH. VINAY KAUSHAL S/O SH. GIAN CHAND	SMT. MANJU BALA alias MANJU CHIKARSAL D/O SH. GIAN CHAND W/O SH. VARINDER KUMAR CHIKARSAL	3391	MIG-D	47-D CHANDIGARH

In case anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Dwelling Units, he/she may submit the objection, if any in writing within 21 days of the publication of this notice before the undersigned alongwith documentary evidence, if any.

SECRETARY, CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD, CHANDIGARH

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the General Public that the following person(s) have applied for the transfer of allotment of the below said Dwelling Unit under the Blood Relation Transfer Policy (FATHER TO SON) in their names under Regulation 16 of the Chandigarh Housing Board (Allotment, Management and Sale of Tenements) Regulations 1979:-

Sr No.	Name of the applicant (PROPOSED TRANSFEREE) Sh./Smt./Ms.	Name of the allottee/transferee (PROPOSED TRANSFEROR) Sh./Smt./Ms.	D.U. No.	Cat.	Sector Chandigarh
1	SH. GURINDER SINGH S/O SH. SUKHDEV SINGH	SH. SUKHDEV SINGH S/O SH CHATAR SINGH	2104-2	MIG	45-C CHANDIGARH

In case anybody has any objection in respect of transfer of the allotment of the above said Dwelling Units, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 21 days of the publication of this notice before the undersigned alongwith documentary evidence, if any.

SECRETARY, CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD, CHANDIGARH

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.
Subject: - Mutation /Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 2025 (Ground Floor) of Three Bed Room flat Category in Block No. B- 18 with parking in Block No. B-18-CSO-1002 in Sector 63, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SMT.SUNITA RANI W/O SH.VIJAY KUMARI from the name of allottee/transferee SH.INDERJIT SINGH S/O SH.KAKA SINGH.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 2025 (Ground Floor) of Three Bed Room flat Category in Block No. B-18 with parking in Block No. B-18-CSO-1002 in Sector - 63, Chandigarh stands in the name of SH.INDERJIT SINGH S/O SH.KAKA SINGH. Now, SH.INDERJIT SINGH S/O SH.KAKA SINGH has sold the above said dwelling unit to SMT.SUNITA RANI W/O SH.VIJAY KUMAR vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 09.01.2025. SMT.SUNITA RANI W/O SH.VIJAY KUMAR has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in her name on the basis of sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s)

Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.
Subject: - Mutation /Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 2956-1 (First Floor) of EWS Category in Sector- 49, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the names of (I)SH. ANIL SHARMA S/O SH. SHYAM SUNDER SHARMA AND (II) SMT. RAKESH RANI W/O SH. ANIL SHARMA, from the name of allottee/transferee SH. GURINDER SINGH S/O SH. INDERDEEP SINGH.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 2956-1 (First Floor) of EWS Category in Sector- 49, Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee SH. GURINDER SINGH S/O SH. INDERDEEP SINGH Now, SH. GURINDER SINGH S/O SH. INDERDEEP SINGH has sold the above said dwelling unit to (I)SH. ANIL SHARMA S/O SH. SHYAM SUNDER SHARMA AND (II) SMT. RAKESH RANI W/O SH. ANIL SHARMA vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 21/10/2024. (1)SH. ANIL SHARMA S/O SH. SHYAM SUNDER SHARMA AND (II) SMT. RAKESH RANI W/O SH. ANIL SHARMA have requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in their name on the basis of sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s)

Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

SH.PAWAN SHARMA S/O SH.SAIN DASS has approached to the Chandigarh Housing Board for the issuance of Duplicate copy of possession form of Dwelling Unit No. 2294-B Sector 63, Chandigarh due to loss of this document. He has also furnished application serial No.190131 LAR NO. 2025/002278 registered with CHANDIGARH Police on dated 21.01.2025 regarding the loss of above said document. Any person having any objection, against the issuance of Duplicate copy of possession Form in respect of the above said Dwelling Unit, he/she should file the objection before the undersigned in writing within 15 days from the publication of this notice, failing which the documents shall be issued. Further, in case original documents as mentioned above are found by anyone, the same should be submitted in the above noted Police Station or in the office of the undersigned. Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh

Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh



PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer/Mutation of Allotment/ Registration D.U. No. 3384/1 of MIG-II Category 40-D, Chandigarh in the names of (i) SMT. ANU SOOD D/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD & W/O SH. DEEPAK SOOD (II) SMT. SIMMI MOHINDRA D/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD & W/O SH. NEERAJ MOHINDRA (III) SMT. JYOTI SYAL D/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD & W/O SH. SHIV KUMAR, AND (IV) SMT. NISHA D/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD & W/O SH. RAKESH BHARDWAJ, on the intestate Demise of allottee/transferee SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD S/O SH. H. R. SOOD.

It is hereby notified for the information of the General Public and all concerned that SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD S/O SH. H. R. SOOD owner of Dwelling Unit No. 3384/1 of MIG-II Category 40-D, Chandigarh expired on 25/08/2024 at Chandigarh as informed by their legal heirs. (i) SMT. ANU SOOD D/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD & W/O SH. DEEPAK SOOD (II) SMT. SIMMI MOHINDRA D/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD & W/O SH. NEERAJ MOHINDRA (III) SMT. JYOTI SYAL D/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD & W/O SH. SHIV KUMAR, AND (IV) SMT. NISHA D/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD & W/O SH. RAKESH BHARDWAJ, have requested for transfer of ownership of Dwelling Unit No. 3384/1 of MIG-II Category 40-D, Chandigarh in their name on the basis of intestate demise of SH. SURESH CHANDER SOOD S/O SH. H. R. SOOD. They have further stated that no other legal heir has been left out.

In case anybody has any objection regarding the claim/right/ interest in the dwelling unit which is proposed to be transferred by the Chandigarh Housing Board in favour of (i) SMT. ANU SOOD (Daughter) (II) SMT. SIMMI MOHINDRA (Daughter) (III) SMT. JYOTI SYAL (Daughter), AND (IV) SMT. NISHA (Daughter) he/she may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of the above claimant's.

Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Chandigarh



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Rekindling historic ties

The President of Indonesia is the chief guest at the Republic Day, a fitting tribute to the friendship between two nations

India will celebrate its 76th Republic Day on January 26, 2025, marking a moment to reflect on the country's remarkable journey since its first Republic Day in 1950. This year's celebrations will have a special touch as Prabowo Subianto, President of Indonesia, will be the chief guest. His presence is a reminder of the deep historical and cultural ties between the two nations, which have seen their share of highs and lows but continue to thrive. Incidentally, the chief guest at the first Republic Day parade was President Sukarno of Indonesia, highlighting the camaraderie between two newly independent nations that had emerged from colonial rule. The relations between the two countries have come a full circle. The early years of India-Indonesia relations were marked by solidarity and mutual support. Biju Patnaik, a prominent Indian freedom fighter, played a key role in aiding Indonesia's struggle for independence, even flying its leaders to safety during critical moments. This partnership extended to global platforms like the Bandung

Conference of 1955, which laid the groundwork for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), co-sponsored by India and Indonesia.

India has come a long way since 1950. From grappling with post-independence challenges like poverty, illiteracy and infrastructural deficits, the nation has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. It boasts advancements in science, technology, space exploration and global diplomacy, while remaining rooted in its democratic ethos. Similarly, Indonesia has evolved into a vibrant democracy and a leading voice in Southeast Asia. Both nations share a legacy of anti-colonial struggles and have worked



together in various domains, including trade, culture and defence. The partnership between India and Indonesia has seen its ups and downs. In the 1950s, ties were warm and cooperative, but by the 1960s, geopolitical differences, particularly over relations with China and the 1965 India-Pakistan war, strained the relationship. Indonesia's support for Pakistan during that conflict and claims over parts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands led to significant diplomatic tensions. However, the 1970s marked a period of reconciliation, with agreements on maritime boundaries and a renewed focus on cooperation. Today, Indonesia is one of India's largest trading partners in Southeast Asia, with bilateral trade reaching nearly \$30 billion in 2023-24. The two nations have also strengthened defence ties, including a Defence Cooperation Agreement signed in 2018, signalling a strategic partnership in a region increasingly shaped by competition with China. Prabowo Subianto's visit as the chief guest at India's Republic Day parade holds symbolic and strategic importance. This visit underscores the growing warmth in India-Indonesia relations. The presence of the Indonesian president at this year's parade is a tribute to the enduring friendship between two nations that have weathered challenges and found common ground in their aspirations for peace, prosperity and global cooperation.

PICTALK



Children holding national flags in a mustard field ahead of Republic Day 2025, at a village near Balurghat

The complex terrain of relationships

Relationships, whether personal or professional, are a delicate balancing act of emotions, perspectives and communication



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Relationships are a tricky business. Two people who, at one stage of life, can agree so well that they cannot see or believe in having any difference in the point of view that they will hold. Different perspectives are an enigma; affection, agreement and endorsement are all rolled into one. Identification with each other is more important than identity any day. Very often, it is the bedrock of affection and togetherness in action. The same couple, as time passes and because of hormonal changes in their systems, can and do start having different points of view. What is initially a pleasant disagreement can soon become an assertion of identity. Personality conflicts follow.

These personality conflicts can be a logical derivation, and very often, it is difficult to find the origin of the derivation itself. Coherent dialogue in a spirit of give and take can often be substituted by the urge not only to protect one's turf but also to prove oneself more talented and resourceful. It can often become the source of further identity conflicts. The skill to handle such disagreements cannot be taught and is often taken over by other habits.

These habits may include being short-tempered, incoherent talking and having a high pitch in conversation, which is seen as an extension of good logic. The aberrations are far too many to be recounted, and the results are easy to identify. Instead of working together to resolve the differences, it becomes a battleground to show who can prevail. The rest, as they say, is history. In an era, that is full of talk about skills, it is important at this stage of dialogue to focus on life skills. Two people who cannot get together try to demonstrate who has the right of way in a marital relationship.

The life story moves from one end of the spectrum to an often incoherent hurtling down the slope of not only a difference of opinion but also a difference in personalities. The analysis can go only so far because then logic gives way to preferences and pas-



sion. This is at the root of many marital discords, and it is difficult to reverse the gears and change the pitch. Unfortunately, while there are numerous dissertations in psychology and elsewhere on relationships, practical-oriented thinking in handling relationships is few and at best, commonsensical.

One is merely indicating the value of focused research and showing how a structured approach to problem-solving, even in everyday life, can be very valuable. There is a need to see research as an enabling situation for problem-solving, and many use the phrase 'applied research' for it. In the present day and age, more of the fashion world is about skill, and it is being generously used because of its attractive value in situations that cannot be practically handled. Sometimes it works; sometimes it does not.

The important thing is to realise that research requires insights and the adoption of a structured methodology, even in commonsensical situations. It is this aspect of research that can lead to a better quality of life, which can be termed as enabling research and it has to do with life skills. Solving this situation, which afflicts many interpersonal relationships, is simultaneously easy and yet difficult. It is easy to control if one can limit one's communication and how



THE LIFE STORY MOVES FROM ONE END OF THE SPECTRUM TO AN OFTEN INCOHERENT HURLING DOWN THE SLOPE OF NOT ONLY A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BUT ALSO A DIFFERENCE IN PERSONALITIES

much one talks more wisely, keeping the number of words used in a conversation minimal. The truth is, that the more one seeks to talk and explain, the more complex it can become. Let simple things remain simple; it is a significant strategic choice.

This approach works because passion subsides, irritations sort itself out and the choice of words and pitch of the voice can be better controlled. One only has to look around to notice how talking less is such an asset in keeping relationships positive. Interpersonal relationships apart, work relationships, also get affected and the impression of losing an argument, even in work-spaces, is a personal defeat. This, by itself, is a self-defeating proposition. It is self-defeating because even if one wins the argument due to positional power or manipulative skills, the scars of a lost argument leave long-lasting damage to relationships. One can indeed often lose a battle to win the war. As indicated earlier, this applies to work situations as much as to real-life, non-work situations. Gentleness and soft words go far, especially when gentleness is received not as a proposition of the weaker person, but as a characteristic and indicator of mutual respect.

The best solution to many conflicts is when both come out as winners, and no one is

growing, smitten by the dangerous feeling of having 'lost one's face'. Be that as it may, it is necessary to reduce differences, not to personalities, but to find the best way forward. This best way forward must focus on protecting everyone's ego and be in the interest of the larger good. Much will depend on the personality elements of the players in the situation and indeed the time available to sort it out. Many times, a shortage of time necessitates two decisions that are suboptimal and more to 'get along with a job' than 'finding the best option'. Using tentative words and a hypothesis open to correction and improvement may be the best recipe for conflict resolution. In such situations, the personalities do not win or lose; it is the cause that is handled in a far-sighted way. Examples can be many, and one has to see what the issue at stake is how people perceive the result of the outcome and how they interpret it. In all cases, if there is a loser in an argument, it is best to make him feel that he has not 'lost' and that no personalities are involved. This can be a useful approach to handling institutional issues because every resolution of a conflict should be for the institutional good.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRUMP'S HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

Madam — The ultimatum from Trump to end the prolonging Ukraine-Russia war exposes his hypocrisy. He is aware that it is with the pumping of arms by his country and its allies in Europe that Ukraine is continuing the war. He is also aware that the sanction imposed on Russia had failed miserably, as the same EU partners are buying the same Russian oil from different sources like India. Pumping arms and funds into Ukraine on one hand and giving an ultimatum to end the war on the other is rightly understood by one and all as meaningless, non-serious, and merely publicity-orientated. The entire world knows that maximum wars are waged or promoted by his country. Even while addressing after assuming office, he had demonstrated his imperial thirst by expressing his policy to take over the Panama Canal and Greenland, besides arbitrarily changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico into the Gulf of America. His threat to wage a tariff war goes against the very basic principles of globalisation that promote the free movement of goods, labour, and capital. The world also knows the key role played by the production of arms and promotion of arms trade in the economy of America. Therefore, America needs a war between some countries or the other. Mr. Trump speaking with concern over the huge human loss in Ukraine and Russia due to war is another display of his hypocrisy. Because more devastating impacts are experienced due to climate change, and his actions are hostile to the global efforts to overcome this serious issue. Therefore, one need not attach so much importance to his utterances or Quixotic actions.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

LIQUOR BAN AT RELIGIOUS SITES

Madam—CM of Madhya Pradesh Mohan Yadav has formally announced in Narsinghpur district that a liquor ban

UNESCO honours Mahakumbh



To foster the honour and delight of every Indian, the 45-day-long Mahakumbh Festival was listed in the UNESCO list as the largest peaceful religious congregation of pilgrims on earth. To disperse the Hindu aesthetic religious and spiritualism at the next

level, Maha Kumbh is truly a festival of positivity and spiritualism in India. From Naga Sadhus to Aghoris to all the other pilgrims, Kumbh is an auspicious celebration of Hindu devotees to enchant spirituality for developing godly connection, inner peace, and spiritual harmony.

A dip in the Triveni Sangam of the three rivers of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati will be considered as the precursor of all devil deeds done during the lifetime. A congregation of 450 million, including people from local and global communities, is one of a kind incidence. It is welcoming that UNESCO added this one-of-a-kind religious festivity to its list. It is a moment of extreme celebration and glee for every Indian back at home. We all welcome the UNESCO listing favourably and positively with utmost joy in our hearts.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

will be implemented in 17 religious places in 11 districts of the state. It is believed that the government will send an order to the administration of the cities of the districts where the liquor ban is to be implemented, and the licensed liquor shops will be closed. He also said that liquor will not be allowed to be sold at any cost in the places where God Ram and Krishna set foot. These include Ujjain, Amarkantak, Maheshwar, Omkareshwar, Chitrakoot, Mandasaur, etc. In the Narsinghpur program, he also talked about the harm caused to the health of the family due to alcohol. I do not understand one thing: more or less all the politicians in India, in their speeches, there is a lot of mention of the ill effects & demerits of alcohol and the diseases caused by it. All those smart politicians are found appealing to the people that 'please stay away from consuming alcohol; it harms your health. Hey, when these leaders are so concerned about the health of the people, then why do they not declare a complete ban on the production and

marketing of alcohol?

Jang Bahadur Singh | jamshedpur

SCAMMERS TARGET JOB SEEKERS

Madam — The rise of job scams has become a significant problem, with scammers deceiving job seekers by creating fake job postings. These scammers often promise unsuspecting victims the opportunity to work from home and earn a high income, but only after paying for training or equipment. Research the company thoroughly to verify its legitimacy and reputation. Use reputable job boards and websites to search for job openings.

Report any suspicious activities or job postings to the relevant authorities. By being aware of these job scam tactics and taking the necessary precautions, job seekers can protect themselves from falling victim to these fraudulent schemes.

Khushi Uchenia | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Cooperative commodities exchange: A global vision for farmer empowerment

This initiative leverages technology, blockchain and India's PACS network to empower farmers with fair pricing, sustainability and direct market access

The agricultural sector is the backbone of many economies, particularly in India, where nearly 60 per cent of the population depends on farming for their livelihood. Yet, smallholder farmers often remain at the mercy of intermediaries, fluctuating market prices and unequal access to global markets.

To address these challenges and promote equity, sustainability and growth, a bold initiative is proposed: the establishment of a Global Farmer-Centric Cooperative Commodities Exchange (GFCCE). This platform, rooted in the cooperative model, aims to empower farmers by ensuring fair pricing, direct market access, and sustainable practices. This ambitious project resonates with the global agenda of the World Cooperation Economic Forum to foster inclusive economic growth and social equity. **Empowering Farmers Through Technology** APEX Integration at the heart of this initiative lies technology—a powerful enabler that can bridge the gap between farmers and markets. The



GFCCE will leverage the Government of India's support to develop a robust and accessible digital platform integrated with blockchain technology to ensure transparency and reduce pilferage in the supply chain. Blockchain will create a tamper-proof record of transactions, from production to storage and distribution, enhancing trust and accountability.

The project will adopt a PACS-to-APEX (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies to Apex-level organisations) approach, leveraging India's extensive network of over 95,000 PACS. These societies will act as the foundational nodes, aggregating produce from farmers at the village level. The commodities will then be funnelled through district and state-level federations, culminating

at the national apex organisation, which will oversee operations, ensure fair pricing and manage exports. To address storage issues, a network of modern warehouses will be constructed and integrated with blockchain systems. These warehouses, equipped with real-time inventory tracking, temperature controls and pest management systems, will be strategically located across key agricultural regions.

Blockchain connectivity across warehouses will enable seamless tracking of stored produce, ensuring reduced wastage and pilferage. Farmers will also receive warehouse receipts, which can be used as collateral for loans, providing them with immediate financial support.

This interconnected system will not only provide farmers with better access to markets but also ensure that the supply chain is efficient, transparent and secure. It will serve as the backbone for procurement planning and play a vital role in stabilising food prices. **Impact on Food Inflation** The GFCCE's blockchain-enabled supply chain and warehouse network will rev-

olutionise procurement planning and control food inflation. With real-time data on production, storage, and distribution, government agencies will have accurate insights into commodity availability and demand patterns.

This data-driven approach will enable timely procurement decisions, ensuring that food stocks are adequately replenished and distributed. By reducing post-harvest losses and pilferage, the initiative will improve the efficiency of the Public Distribution System (PDS), preventing artificial shortages that often lead to price spikes. Additionally, the transparent pricing mechanism of the exchange will curb hoarding and speculation.

This system will also facilitate targeted interventions during periods of surplus or deficit. For instance, in the case of bumper harvests, surplus stocks can be stored efficiently and exported strategically to global markets, preventing a price crash domestically.

(The writer was a member of the high level MSP committee, Ministry of Agriculture; views are personal)



BINOD ANAND



FIRST COLUMN

SEEKING TRUE SHELTER IN THE DIVINE

Amid the chaos of desires, ego and karmaphal, how do we find lasting peace



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We are small, ignorant, helpless and unsafe. There should not be any doubt about our smallness with eight billion of us on the earth's planet itself. How knowledgeable we are or can be? Knowledge is unlimited. How much can we learn in one lifetime? Helpless we are from the time we are born till the time comes to dispose of our bodies. Just count how many people we need daily to survive well. And unsafe all of us are, as the Covid-19 pandemic proved. Therefore, we instinctively seek shelter all the time. An infant needs his parents. As one grows, one takes shelter from education to maintain oneself. Education/training over, time comes to seek shelter in a job or a business.

The idea is to have the shelter of enough money to be able to survive decently. Sex overpowers thinking beginning from a young age. Some are drawn towards fame like a sportsperson, while others get into politics, etc. for power. The most fortunate seek the shelter of God. Shelter of God is crucial to exist well. Let us see the degree of difficulty for a quality life. Our nature ('svabhava') is a huge handicap. Something or other from lust, anger, greed, jealousy, ego, etc. predominates if not more than one.

What chance is there to have a quality life? Lust derails almost everyone. One assumes that sex is pleasure, and it has so many forms. The worst thing is it's possessing our minds. Ego is not far behind. Have you met anyone who does not feel his or her superiority vis-



à-vis others? Greed does not allow us to assess our needs sensibly. More is better is the desire and there is no satisfaction. Anger is always lurking near the surface. It surfaces at the drop of a hat, literally. Then, there are karmaphalas always ready to manifest. We know how bad ones hurt. What most people don't realise are the ill effects of good karmaphalas. This is when one gets the feeling of invincibility and makes big mistakes.

People look for rewards during success, and we know what these rewards do to us. The third big enemy is old age, when we become weak and are mostly written off. Are we stuck? Far from it. God would not have made such a sorry Creation. Guidance and help are available to all of us if we accept the role of God in our lives. Ignorance, false pride or laziness stops us from taking God's help, who is the owner, controller and everything. You seek guidance sincerely and see what happens. But we don't; we prefer to be in cyclic thinking short-circuiting our own lives. We condemn ourselves by our obstinate attitude. God is prepared to help all of us at any time, but there is a rider.

We must deserve such help. How to determine who should get or who shouldn't? Therefore, the question everyone should be asking is: how do we become deserving of God's 'kripa' (favour)? Simply, you recognise yourself as a soul – part of God. Then, all spiritual activities will make sense.

Shouldn't parts take shelter from God? Shouldn't we be very respectful to God and pay obeisance to Him? What about the 'dhyani' (meditation) of the entity, who is everything? How about thanking God for all that He does for everyone like providing air, water and sunlight free. In short, we should stop taking shelter of anyone or anything except God, and remain there.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

Winter's tale in Northern India: A season of discontent

Northern India's winter is more than just a fleeting season; it is a relentless narrative of marrow-freezing cold, breath-choking pollution and a grim forecast for years to come



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR



Of freezing marrows and choking breaths William Shakespeare, emperor of narratives, master of metaphors, celebrated craftsman of sentences and acclaimed presenter of deep insights into human nature, had a way of coming up with expressions surviving the passage of time. One of them is "winter of our discontent." Richard, Duke of Gloucester, says in Richard III, "Now is the winter of our discontent/ Made glorious summer by this sun of York;/ And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house/ In the deep bosom of the ocean buried." The expression, which adorns one of John Steinbeck's most famous novels as its title, should resonate particularly strongly with people in northern India still in the grip of a winter that is cold, damp and utterly polluted. The chances of things improving in the next few years, are, to put it mildly, bleak.

As the chilling flipside of global warming, the cold months will continue to be increasingly marrow-freezing, since, with Donald Trump taking over as the United States' president, the chances of a deceleration in the pace of climate change, have diminished significantly. This is not to look wistfully back over one's shoulder to a mythical place like the island valley of Avilion, where, pace Alfred Tennyson in a very different context, "falls not hail, or rain, or any snow, / Nor ever wind blows loudly." Climates and the weather have been notoriously fickle cousins throughout history. If any part of the past seems golden, it is because of the distance in time which lends it enchantment.

It had, when it was the present, its warts, some of them rather large and ugly. Floods and droughts took very heavy tolls when meteorological devices and skills for predicting their advent and coping with their aftermath, were far less advanced. In the absence of electrical heating devices, which we have, life could not have been terribly pleasant during the last ice age which had covered



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about 30 per cent of the earth's surface and ended 15, 000 to 20,000 years ago. On a more specific note, slavery was legal in most parts of the world—including the chest-thumping democracies of the West—as late as the second half of the 19th century. The weather, doubtless, has an impact on life and its moods, which influence thought, speech and feeling which, in turn, trigger action.

All of these, at a certain elevated level, power the wheels of history. These also affect inter-personal relations, causing friction and hostility arising from anger and discontent, or cordiality and warmth caused by harmony. The sum total of the interaction among these factors determines the quality of a community's social existence in terms of tensions between collective bodies like class and caste, and stress caused by individual actions like crime, which is often caused by alienation resulting from marginalisation, poverty and anonymity in impersonal societies. A crime can be a perverse act of self-assertion, a sub-conscious statement like, "I kill, therefore I exist"—a variant of Rene Descartes much-quoted assertion, "Cogito ergo sum (literally, "I think, therefore, I am")."

Another form of self-assertion can be participation—to say nothing of playing a leading role—in a mass movement. Eric Hoffer writes in The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements, "There is in us a tendency to locate the shaping forces of our existence outside ourselves. Success and failure are unavoidably related in our minds with the state of things around us. Hence it is that people with a sense of fulfilment think it a good

world and would like to conserve it as it is, while the frustrated favour radical change. The tendency to look for all causes outside ourselves persists even when it is clear that our state of being is the product of personal qualities such as ability, character, appearance, health and so on." What is the result? Hoffer quotes Thoreau as saying, "If anything ail a man, so that he does not perform his functions, if he has a pain in his bowels even ... he forthwith sets about reforming—the world." (Italics by Hoffer; Thoreau has used the plurals "ail" and "have" as it was done by many in his time in such contexts).

Attempts to reform the world invariably lead to struggles with status quoists. Besides, social tensions and conflicts will increase following rising ocean levels, caused by global warming, submerging coastal areas. Inward migration of people from these regions would trigger clashes over land and resources in the interior areas. The same factors will also be in operation in other areas to which people may escape from regions made uninhabitable by temperatures rising too high to support life.

One can, of course, argue that people would be kind to global warming refugees, realising that they may have to leave their homes someday for the same reason. But then, kindness is not what a person encounters frequently in life; it is the same with gratitude, the lack of which weighed heavily on the Bard of Avon. "Ingratitude," he lamented in King Lear, "thou marble-hearted fiend..." He bewailed in As You Like It, "Blow, blow, thou winter wind, / Thou art not so unkind/As man's ingratitude."

And he says in Twelfth Night, "I hate ingratitude more in a man/ Than lying, vainness, babbling, drunkenness,/ Or any taint of vice whose strong corruption/ Inhabits our frail blood." Character attributes like openness towards gratitude are rooted deep inside one's DNA and are modified by the environment as one grows up. Seasonal changes can impact their intensity, as discomfort caused by extreme heat or cold can put one's temper on a short leash.

On the other hand, as Anton Chekhov put it, "People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy." This brings us back to our starting point—northern India's butt-freezing, breath-choking winter. Can one be happy in its midst? The answer will be in the affirmative, as the news of a progeny scaling new heights at work or being gifted with a baby, will warm the cockles of one's heart. This, however, is most likely to be a passing phase, overwhelmed, sooner than later, by the many worries and sadnesses that quotidian existence brings and that, again, are ephemeral.

The more relevant question will be whether one can survive northern India's winter and for how long. The transition to the hereafter caused by pollution stalks one silently but lethally. The final truth in life is mortality. All this has been said before, and will be said again, as one will hear the much-quoted proverb, "What can't be cured must be endured." It has joined the ranks of venerable clichés blessed with eternal life.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Cultural heritage tourism: A path to sustainable growth and mutual understanding

Respecting the balance between tourism and heritage enables a mutually beneficial relationship that supports communities, preserves cultural identity and promotes global harmony

Cultural tourism, as defined in the 22nd session of the UN Tourism General Assembly in 2017, is an activity where a visitor's primary motivation is to learn, discover, experience, and engage with the tangible and intangible cultural attractions and products of a destination. These motivations shape the agendas of both the visitor and the tour guide at cultural heritage destinations, bridging the gap between the historical and the contemporary.

The Evolution of Cultural Heritage and Tourism

Cultural heritage has undergone a significant shift in perception, moving from an archaeological focus to the concept of "living heritage" and its reuse. Similarly, tourism has evolved from being largely

centered on pilgrimage to a multifaceted industry encompassing learning, entertainment, experiences, and relaxation. This transformation has elevated tourism as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth and job creation across diverse sectors, such as hospitality, transportation, and entertainment. The industry's ripple effect benefits individuals and communities alike, engaging local businesses, transport operators, craftspeople, tourist guides, and the hospitality industry in a symbiotic relationship.

For these benefits to be fully realised, collaboration among stakeholders is essential. They must work collectively to offer authentic and meaningful experiences that resonate with travelers while preserving the



SUKHDEV SINGH

Cultural Heritage as a Driver of Tourism

A rapidly growing segment within the tourism industry is cultural heritage, which encompasses natural and architectural sites, traditional crafts, cultural events, performances, and intangible knowledge. Recognised as both a commodity and an experience, cultural heritage attracts mar-

ket players, planners, and governments aiming to expand the scope of tourism. It promotes inclusive growth, intercultural exchange and mutual understanding.

The relationship between tourism and cultural heritage is built on mutuality. While cultural heritage serves as a key attraction for tourism, the latter provides the financial and structural support required for its preservation and promotion.

Navigating Contradictions

Tourism operates on the principle of profit and economic growth, while cultural heritage centers on identity and inheritance. These differing foundations can create contradictions. For the tourism industry, cultural heritage is often commodified, whereas for her-



itage conservation, tourism acts as a feeder for sustainability. While these sectors can support one another to an extent, unchecked tourism practices can lead to significant challenges, including overcrowding, environmental and degradation.

To mitigate these issues, regulated practices in cultural heritage tourism must prioritise the symbiotic relationship

between factors influencing tourist experiences and those fostering cultural understanding. Tour operators and tourists must respect the sanctity and protocols of cultural heritage sites. Travelers should be encouraged to appreciate local customs without overstepping boundaries, ensuring a balance between immersion and respect. Sustainable cultural heritage tourism, thus, becomes a pathway to fostering "culture for peace."

Economic and Cultural Benefits of Heritage Tourism

Cultural heritage tourism creates opportunities for income generation and employment. This is achieved by maintaining and showcasing heritage structures, sites, and products. Preservation and management efforts, such as cata-

logging and storytelling, directly benefit from tourism revenue. Simultaneously, the broader economic ecosystem, including hospitality, transportation, and entertainment, flourishes through increased visitor engagement.

However, cultural heritage is far more than a revenue-generating commodity. It serves as a repository of customs, values, and artifacts, connecting communities to their past and reinforcing their identities. Tourism, when responsibly managed, can amplify the significance of heritage sites by fostering research, introducing new narratives, and raising awareness. Reinvestment of economic returns into preservation ensures the longevity and authenticity of cultural heritage.

Challenges of Cultural Heritage Tourism

While tourism can elevate the value of cultural heritage, it also introduces challenges. Overcrowding, environmental degradation, and disruptions to the local population's way of life are common issues.

Sustainable and Responsible Tourism

To maintain a harmonious balance between tourism and cultural heritage, sustainable practices are essential. These include regulating visitor numbers, promoting eco-friendly initiatives, and ensuring that tourism revenue is reinvested into preservation efforts.

(The writer is retired professor of Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar and Vice-Chairman, INTACH; views are personal)

'Putin should negotiate with Ukraine, Zelenskyy ready for talks'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin "should make a deal" with Ukraine, US President Donald Trump has said and asserted that they would meet as soon as they can.

Earlier, he warned his Russian counterpart to end the 'ridiculous war' in Ukraine or face high tariffs and further sanctions. Trump, who was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, said this on Truth Social on Wednesday, a social media platform owned by him.

Talking to reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday, the president said, "I think he (Putin) should make a deal." When asked if he thinks that sanctions on Russia will force Putin to negotiate, he said, "I don't know."

"Russia should want to make a deal. Maybe they want to make a deal. I think, from what I hear, Putin would like to see me. And we'll meet as soon as we can. I'd meet immediately. Soldiers are being killed on the battlefield," he said.

"That battlefield is like no battlefield since World War II... and I have pictures that you don't want to see. Soldiers are being killed on a daily basis at numbers that we haven't seen in decades. It would be nice to end that war. It's a ridiculous war," the US president said.

In response to another question, Trump said Ukraine is ready to make a deal. "He's (Volodymyr Zelenskyy) ready to negotiate a deal. He'd like to stop. He's somebody that lost a lot of soldiers. So did Russia. Russia lost more soldiers, they lost 8,00,000 soldiers," Trump added. Called out Russian President Putin by name in the social media post on Wednesday, Trump argued that he always had a good relationship with the leader, but that it was time to settle "this ridiculous war!"

He also warned that if there was not a ceasefire deal soon, he would "have no other choice" but to impose tariffs, taxes and sanctions on "anything being sold by Russia to the United States, and various other participating countries."

KREMLIN SCOFFS AT TRUMP'S CLAIM

The Kremlin insisted Friday that a settlement in Ukraine couldn't be facilitated by a drop in global oil prices as US President Donald Trump has suggested. Speaking by video from the White House to the annual World

Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Trump said on Thursday that the OPEC+ alliance of oil exporting countries shares responsibility for the nearly three-year conflict in Ukraine because it has kept oil prices too high. "If the price came down, the Russia-Ukraine war would end immediately," Trump said. Energy sales form a large part of Russia's earnings. Asked about Trump's comments, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov affirmed Moscow's view that the Ukrainian conflict was triggered by the West's refusal to take into account Russian security interests.

"The conflict doesn't depend on oil prices," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters. "The conflict is ongoing because of the threat to Russia's national security, the threat to Russians living on those territories and the refusal by the Americans and the Europeans to listen to Russia's security concerns. It's not linked to oil prices."

He said Russian President Vladimir Putin remains ready for contacts with Trump. Peskov's comments echoed Putin's statements that he had to send troops into Ukraine in February 2022 to fend off a threat to Russia's security resulting from plans for Ukraine to join NATO and to protect Russian speakers living there. Ukraine and the West have denounced Moscow's action as an unprovoked act of aggression.

Asked to comment on Trump's claim that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is ready for a peace deal, Peskov pointed out the Ukrainian leader's earlier decision to rule out any talks with Moscow. "Zelenskyy can't be ready for a deal," Peskov told reporters, adding that "in order to reach a settlement it's necessary to conduct talks, and Zelenskyy forbade himself to hold talks by his own decree."

On Wednesday, Trump threatened to impose stiff taxes, tariffs and sanctions on Russia if an agreement isn't reached to end the war in Ukraine. Peskov said that the Kremlin was closely following Trump's statements and noted that he imposed a slew of sanctions during his first term.

He said Moscow "remains ready for an equal dialogue, for a mutually respectful dialogue." "This dialogue took place between the two presidents during Trump's first presidency. And we are waiting for signals that we have not received yet," Peskov said.

UK to convince US Prez Trump not to impose trade tariffs

PTI ■ LONDON

The British government on Friday said it has an argument in favour of convincing US President Donald Trump not to impose tariffs on its trade with the UK. Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds told the BBC that the United States did not have a trade deficit with the UK on manufactured goods, which would make tariffs unnecessary.

"We've obviously got a services-based economy. The US does not have that deficit with us so that's the logic of that position, I think we've got an argument to engage with," said Reynolds.

Tariffs are a key part of Trump's economic agenda as he assumed office for a second term earlier this week. He not only sees them as a way of growing the US economy, protecting jobs and raising tax revenue but also as leverage to pursue other policies targeted at certain countries.

He has indicated a tax on imports from China and has also threatened tariffs on Canada and Mexico. Tariffs, or higher taxes on imports to the US, would make it more expensive for companies to sell goods in the world's largest economy. However, Trump has since indicated that he "would rather not" impose tariffs, suggesting trade deals are on the table.

The US President told global executives at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos this week that they could either produce their goods in the US or face widespread tariffs worth hundreds of billions or even trillions of dollars.

Reynolds, among the ministers who were in Davos to "spotlight UK's investment offer to global business leaders", met European Union Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic at the summit and went on to thank him for "incredibly positive" comments on a possible new post-Brexit agreement between Britain and the 27-member economic bloc. "We can improve the terms of trade with the EU in a way which doesn't revisit customs unions or single markets or the arguments of Brexit, and we can do that whilst pursuing closer trade links around the world," Reynolds said.

The Labour Party had contested last July's general election with a manifesto pledge to lower Brexit-related barriers and red tape for the export of food and farm products to the EU. "Britain is back in business under this government, and our Plan for Change is already delivering for working people. The UK is the most connected market on earth, and we will continue to be the home for innovative businesses looking to face outwards to the world," added Reynolds.

His Cabinet colleague, Chancellor Rachel Reeves, was also in Davos to make the case for Britain as one of the "most exciting places in the world" for investments at a time when the domestic economy is navigating a sluggish phase.

"I will not rest until the UK economy is growing and this government is delivering on its Plan for Change, so we can put more money in people's pockets. The time to invest in Britain is now," she said.



President Donald Trump signs an executive order as he attends an indoor Presidential Inauguration parade event at Capital One Arena, Monday in Washington, as White House staff secretary Will Scharf watches.

Donald Trump signs executive order to declassify JFK assassination files

Washington (PTI): US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order seeking to declassify files on the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Asserting that the victims' families and the American people deserve to know the truth about these assassinations, the executive order directs the Director of National Intelligence to present a plan within 15 days for the "full and complete release" of all John F. Kennedy assassination records. It also directs the Director of National Intelligence to immediately review the records on the Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. assassinations and present a plan for their full and complete release within 45 days.

"That's a big one. A lot of people are waiting for years, for decades. And everything will be revealed," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office wherein he signed the executive order.

This executive order stated that continued withholding of the John F. Kennedy records is long overdue and not in the public interest.

"Although no Act of Congress directs the release of information pertaining to the assassinations of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the Reverend Dr. Martin

Japan's leader says he's preparing for tough negotiations with US President

Tokyo (PTI): Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, struggling to stabilise his minority government, said Friday he will seek to maintain regional security and prepare for tough negotiations with US President Donald Trump to maintain a strong American presence in the Asia-Pacific.

Ishiba has been seeking to meet with Trump since his election victory in

November and is arranging a trip to Washington in the coming weeks. With a minority government following a significant election loss in October due to voter anger over his party's financial scandals, Ishiba is struggling to stay in power at least until the next major elections this summer.

"With the balance of power in the region making a historic change, we must further deepen

Japan-US cooperation and ensure the US commitment to the region to prevent any power vacuum from destabilizing it," Ishiba said in a policy speech to parliament. Japan's concern about a US retreat from the region comes as China's military is becoming increasingly assertive and North Korea has repeatedly test-fired ballistic missiles as it advances its nuclear and missile programs.

Luther King, Jr, I have determined that the release of all records in the Federal Government's possession pertaining to each of those assassinations is also in the public interest," Trump said in the order. Making President John F. Kennedy assassination files public was part of Trump's poll campaign promises. He had on multiple occasions pledged to release the JFK files, specifically stating in June 2024 that he would do so "early on." "When I return to the White House, I will declassify and unseal all JFK assassination-related documents. It's been 60 years, time for the American people to know the TRUTH!" Trump had said.

Israelis await next four hostages' names in ceasefire deal

PTI ■ TEL AVIV

Relatives of hostages still being held by militants in Gaza called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Friday to ensure all remaining captives are freed, while also appealing to US President Donald Trump to continue pressing for their release.

As a fragile six-week ceasefire between Israel and Hamas entered its sixth day, Israelis waited anxiously for the names of the next four hostages who will be released from among the more than 90 still held in Gaza. In the Palestinian enclave, civilians in the central and southern part of the Gaza Strip hoping to return to the remnants of their home in the battered north faced an agonizing wait. Israel believes about a third, or possibly as many as half, of the more than 90 hostages still in Gaza have died. Hamas has not released definitive information on how many captives are still alive or the names of those who have died. Dear President Trump,

first of all we want to say thank you for the happy moments we felt this week. But we want to tell you we still have 94 hostages, we need them all at home," said Ayelet Samerano, whose son Yonatan Samerano is among those still being held. "Please do not stop. Please continue to press and do everything so that all the 94 hostages will come home immediately." In the first phase of the ceasefire deal, 33 hostages are expected to be released gradually in return for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

The first three Israeli hostages were freed in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners on Sunday, the first day of the ceasefire that has halted the 15-month war that has devastated Gaza. More than 47,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and wide swaths of the territory have been destroyed. According to the deal, on Friday Hamas is to announce the names of the next four hostages to be released on Saturday, after which Israel

will also release a list of which Palestinian prisoners will be freed.

The hostages were among about 250 men, women and children captured by militants who burst across the border into Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people in an attack that sparked the war in Gaza. About 100 were released during a brief ceasefire in November that year, while the bodies of around three dozen hostages have been recovered in Gaza and eight hostages have been rescued by the army. "I call from here to the Prime Minister and negotiating team — you're doing excellent work — do whatever is necessary to bring everyone back, to the last hostage," Samerano said. "We ask you to ensure phase two of the deal is agreed upon before finishing the current phase. We cannot continue living in uncertainty. All hostages must return, and none of them has time left."

The 33 to be released in the first phase will include women,

children, sick people and those over 50 — almost all civilians, though the deal also commits Hamas to freeing all living female soldiers in Phase 1. Hamas will release living hostages first, but could release some bodies if they don't have enough living hostages in this category. Male soldiers are not expected to be released in the first phase. "This week we were moved to watch images of mothers embracing their daughters, but our hearts break thinking that my son Nimrod and other men remain behind, and each day they're there poses a real danger to their lives," said Vicky Cohen, whose son Nimrod Cohen is among the hostages.

"The worry that the deal won't be fully implemented gnaws at us all. All senior officials openly say that stopping the deal means a death sentence for those left behind." Under the terms of the deal, Palestinians in Gaza will have more freedom of movement from the north to the south of the enclave.

US Prez targets California water policy as he prepares to tour LA fire damage

Washington (PTI): As President Donald Trump prepares to tour wildfire damage in California, he's zeroing in on one of his frequent targets for criticism: State water policy. Since the fires broke out Jan 7, Trump has used social media and interviews to accuse the state of sending too much water to the Pacific Ocean instead of south toward Los Angeles and highlighted how some hydrants ran dry in the early hours of the firefight in Pacific Palisades.

In the first hours of his second term, Trump called on federal officials to draft plans to route more water to the crop-rich Central Valley and densely populated cities in the southern part of the state. Two days later he threatened to withhold federal disaster aid unless California leaders change the state's approach on water.

Here's a look at the facts behind Trump's comments and what power the president has to influence California water: In general, most of the state's

water is in the north, while most of its people are in the drier south.

Los Angeles, the nation's second largest city, depends on drawing water from elsewhere. Meanwhile the relatively dry Central Valley is home to fertile land where much of the nation's fruits and vegetables are grown.

Two complex systems of dams and canals channel rain and snowmelt from the mountains in the north and route it south. One is managed by the federal government and known as the Central Valley Project, while the other is operated by the state of California and known as the State Water Project.

Both transport water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, an estuary that provides critical habitat to fish and wildlife including salmon and the delta smelt, one of Trump's fascinations.

Southern California gets about half its water from local supplies such as groundwater,

according to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a regional water wholesaler. Metropolitan provides the rest of the water from state supplies and the federally managed Colorado River system.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power also manages its own aqueducts that draw water from the eastern Sierra Nevada.

Federal officials guide how much is routed to the delta to protect threatened species and how much goes to Central Valley Project users, mostly farms. That project does not supply water to Los Angeles. State officials are expected to follow the same environmental guidelines, said Caitlin Peterson, a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Centre.

Federal and state officials typically coordinate how they operate those systems. The delta connects inland waterways to the Pacific, and

keeping a certain amount of water flowing through helps support fish populations and the waterway itself.

But Trump and others say the state lets too much water go to the ocean rather than cities and farms. His prior administration allowed more water to be directed to the Central Valley and out of the delta. Environmental groups opposed that, saying it would harm endangered species.

Gov Gavin Newsom filed a lawsuit saying the rules would drive endangered fish populations to extinction. There were concerns about the tiny delta smelt, which is seen as an indicator of the waterway's health, as well as chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which return annually from the Pacific to spawn in freshwater rivers. Then-President Joe Biden's administration issued its own rules in December that environmental groups said provided modest improvements over those of the first Trump administration.



Caretakers release panda cubs at a playground to make public debut ahead of Chinese Lunar New Year at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Chengdu in southwestern China's Sichuan Province on Thursday.

UK MP flays 'Emergency' film screening disruption by 'Khalistani terrorists'

London (PTI): An Opposition Conservative Party Member of Parliament has urged the UK Home Secretary to intervene after his constituents in north-west London were threatened by "masked Khalistani terrorists" who burst into a screening of Kangana Ranaut's film 'Emergency'. Bob Blackman told the House of Commons that similar disruption of the screenings of the "very controversial" film took place in Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Slough, Staines and Manchester. It has resulted in the Vue and Cineworld cinema chains deciding to pull the film from many theatres in the UK. "On Sunday, many of my constituents gathered and paid for a screening of the film 'Emergency' in the Harrow

Vue cinema. At about 30 or 40 minutes into the screening of the film, masked Khalistani terrorists burst in, threatened members of the audience and forced the screening to end," Blackman said in Parliament on Thursday.

The film is very controversial, and I am not commenting on its quality or content, but I defend the right of my constituents and other members' constituents to be able to view it and make a decision on it. It covers the period when Indira Gandhi was the prime minister of India," he said. The MP noted that there are certain views in the UK that it is an "anti-Sikh film" but asserted that his constituents should be able to judge for themselves

and not be "threatened by thugs who want to disrupt democratic opportunities to see public films."

"May we have a statement from the Home Secretary (Yvette Cooper) next week on what will be done to ensure that people who want to see such films, which have been passed by censors, can do so in peace and harmony? I absolutely defend the right of people to demonstrate outside cinemas, but not to disrupt viewings," he added.

Leader of the Commons Lucy Powell responded on behalf of the Labour Party government by saying that Blackman had raised a "very important matter about the relationship between free speech and the right to protest peacefully."

US arrests 538 illegal immigrant criminals

Washington (PTI): The US has arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals, including a suspected terrorist, and several illegals convicted of sex crimes against minors, the White House has said.

In a series of posts on X on Thursday, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the Trump administration also deported hundreds of illegal immigrant criminals via military aircraft. "The largest massive deportation operation in history is well underway. Promises made. Promises kept," she said. Leavitt said, "The Trump Administration arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals including a suspected terrorist, four members of the Tren de Aragua gang, and several illegals convicted of sex crimes against minors."

Underlining that deportation flights have begun, she asserted that President Donald Trump is "sending a strong and clear message to the entire world: if you illegally enter the United States of America, you will face severe consequences."

The Republican-led House on Wednesday gave final approval to a bill requiring the detention of unauthorised immigrants accused of theft and violent crimes. This marks the first legislation for President Trump to sign, aligning with his plans to crack down on illegal immigration, which has received some bipartisan support. Trump on Wednesday also issued executive orders aimed at sealing the US-Mexico border and deporting millions of immigrants without permanent legal status.

Taliban reject arrest order for officials persecuting Af women

PTI ■ KABUL The Taliban Friday rejected a court move to arrest two of their top officials for persecuting women, accusing the court of baseless accusations and misbehaviour.



against humanity committed by foreign forces and their allies. "This misbehaviour further destroys the weak credibility of the said structure (ICC) and makes its status and position at the international level completely meaningless," the statement said.

Awareness celebrated the ICC decision and called it a "great historical achievement." "We consider this achievement a symbol of the strength and will of Afghan women and believe this step will start a new chapter of accountability and justice in the country," the group said.

ful they have provoked the collective opposition of global powers," Mohammad Halim Fidai said on the X platform. Fidai was a governor of four provinces before the Taliban takeover in August 2021 and now lives outside Afghanistan.

Af refugees urge Pak to ease visa rules after US resettlement pause

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Afghan refugees on Friday appealed to Pakistan's premier to ease a visa regime on humanitarian grounds after President Donald Trump paused the US refugee programmes.

in the country were supposed to be relocated by September 2025. The refugee programme was set up to help Afghans at risk under the Taliban because of their work with the US government, media, aid agencies and rights groups.

to Pakistan from Afghanistan when the Taliban seized power, said Friday he had been expecting to receive a call confirming his travel plans, but the suspension of the refugee program by Trump changed everything.

Philippines launches comic book to counter China's SCS 'disinformation'

PTI ■ MANILA The Philippines launched a comic book on Friday to counter what the country says is China's disinformation campaign to push its expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea.

our is outrageous." "Chinese officials, along with state-sponsored media and individuals, continue to spread distorted and twisted narratives to malign our efforts and justify their unilateral claims," national security adviser Eduardo Ano said in a speech at the book launching in Manila. The 40-page comic book, titled "The Stories of Teacher Jun," was unveiled by Philippine officials. It contains colorful caricatures of a Filipino teacher and his young students discussing the complex territorial disputes in simple terms and highlights the Philippine position.

Philippines will do everything to "fight misinformation, disinformation and false narratives to put forward the truth," Ano told reporters. The Philippines has faced a lopsided battle against the militarily superior China in the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

PUBLIC NOTICE: General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Ramrati W/o M. Ramchandra is the owner of House No. 755, area measuring 125.54 sq. mtrs. out of Khalsa No. 4025/2082, situated at Ashok Vihar, Gurugram, within limits of Municipal Corporation, Tehsil and District Gurugram, Haryana by virtue of Sale Deed dated 06.12.2010 regd. at Doc. No. 2498.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to all concerned and the general public is hereby informed that the Environmental Clearance bearing File No. SEA/HR/2024/057 & EC Identification No. EC24C3801HR580685N dated 27/05/2024 has been granted to Central Public Works Department at Proposed Residential Complex for Income Tax department in Sector- 53, Gurugram, Haryana.

PUBLIC NOTICE: My client Smt. Prem Lata w/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Owner of House No. 411, Ground Floor and First Floor, area measuring 41.80 sq. meter, Regn. No. 874, Khalsa No. 10/2/1, situated at Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi-110020. Have applied for conversion of the aforesaid property from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original Possession Letter, Demand Letter, Site Possession Slip and a few other documents of the above plot have been lost.

PUBLIC NOTICE: A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Vinal William S/o Mr. William Varughese R/o E-103, Pavitra Apartments 12, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096 and Ms. Abhilasha Shabnam Kotwal D/o Mrs. Shabnam Maitra R/o 2122, Overseas Apartments, Sector-50, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 14-02-2025 in the office of the undersigned.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS: I, Saumya Tiwari D/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar R/o Rohini Hostel, Room No-311, International Management Institute, Qutab Inst. Area New Delhi have lost my B.Sc certificate year 2016-19, Roll No-504126, Allahabad University. If found contact saumya.p23@imi.edu

CHANGE OF NAME: I, hitherto known as Aditi D/o Roor Tanwar, R/o- RZ - 18/2, Street No. 1, Main Sagar Pur, Delhi - 110046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aditi Tanwar for all purposes.

I, Nishanti T W/o- N. 1700595X NK Thomas Rajan J, R/o- Vill- Nellimarathupatti, PO- Kelavalli, Tal- Harur, Dist- Dharmapuri, Tamilnadu- 635202, have changed my name from Nishanti T to Nishanthi D, vide affidavit dated 24/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

I, Beer Singh Tomar, Father of No.16022540F Hav Dheeraj Singh Tomar, R/o- Sunawali, Morena, Senthara, Ahir, M.P.- 476115, have changed my name from Beer Singh Tomar to Veer Singh & my correct DOB is 01/01/1970, vide affidavit dated 24/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Reg: Entire Third Floor with roof terrace rights "said floor" built up on Property Bearing Plot No. 22, area measuring 232 sq. yds (193.98 sq. mtrs) out of Khalsa No. 4343, situated in the abadi of Krishan Nagar Extension, in the area of Village Ghondoli, Ilaqa Shahdara, New Delhi- 110051. Hereinafter referred to as "said property"

PUBLIC NOTICE: General public is hereby informed that I Amit Banerjee son of late Shri Birendra Kumar Banerjee an filing application in L&DO for substitution of the property No. C-541, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 in the name of Amit Banerjee on the grounds of Will Probate Order. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at ldo@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of the notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE: General public is hereby informed that We (1) Sudha Bala Prabhakar wife of late Shri Vinod Kumar Prabhakar, (2) Reena Prabhakar daughter of late Shri Vinod Kumar Prabhakar are filing application in L&DO for substitution of the property No. A-285, Shivalki Colony, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 in the name of (1) Sudha Bala Prabhakar, (2) Reena Prabhakar on the grounds of Legal Heirs. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at ldo@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot: Online applications are invited w.e.f. 28/01/2025 to 17/02/2025 from eligible candidates through University website i.e. www.bfuhss.gsmch.org for the recruitment to the posts of Professor-(Nursing)- 1 (SC) on regular basis at constituent colleges/institutions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. i.e. Regional Institute of Nursing & Para Medical Sciences, Badli, University College of Nursing, Faridkot, Institute of Nursing, University Regional Centre, Sri Goidwal Sahib, University Institute of Nursing, Jalalabad.

Can Fin Homes Ltd: WANTED OFFICE PREMISES: Can Fin Homes Ltd. a Housing Finance Company requires space of 800-1000 sq. ft. in Ground / First/ Second Floor in a good locality on lease for 5 to 10 years at the following location:

HARYANA SHEHRIVIKAS PRADHIKARAN: HSPV invites Online Applications from the land owners whose land has been acquired for Sector-15, Sonapat. The outsteees should apply online on HSPV website i.e. www.hsvphry.org.in. The outsteees are requested to apply alongwith application money Rs. 50000/- The claims of the outsteees shall be decided in terms of policy dated 04.12.2015, 11.08.2016 and 08.05.2018. The scheme will start w.e.f. 14.01.2025 and close on 14.03.2025 at 5:00 P.M. The allotment shall be made on current reserve price and in case finalization of allotment takes time for any reason in that eventuality bank rate of interest will be charged till the date of allotment on the rate mentioned in the advertisement. For detailed terms and conditions, current reserve price, terms of payment, policy guidelines and sector wise & category wise details of the plots are available on the HSPV website i.e. www.hsvphry.org.in.

Declaration about Criminal Cases: (As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court of WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Drs. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

SOBHA LIMITED (CIN No. L45201KA1995PLC018475) Registered Office: Sarjapur, Marathahalli, Outer Ring Road (ORR), Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur Post, Bangalore-560 103 Regional Office:- 5th Floor, Rider House, Plot No-136P, Sector-44, Gurugram-122 003, Haryana Email:- haryana.rera@sobha.com • Phone:- 0124-4855-555

Office of Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur Distt. Dhar (M.P.): Notice Inviting Tender: Online Item Rate bids are invited from registered contractors/firms of repute for Sewerage Project of Pithampur town under AMRUT 2.0 NIT No: 2025_UAD_397964_1 date: 23.01.2025 Probable amount Rs. 16504.05 Lacs, EMD Rs. 8252024/- Cost of bid document Rs. 50000/- Last date and time of submission of bid: 24.02.2025 & time: 17:30 Hrs. All other details are published on website www.mptender.gov.in further information or clarification (if any) shall be published on website only, and not in Newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all concerned that my client Ashok Chandra Son of Late Sh. Ashish Chandra and Meena Chandra wife of Ashok Chandra both residing at Aanya 9-A, Plumaria Lane, East Circular Road, Dera Mandi Greens, Mustaf No. 45, Killa No. DS52, Min ETC, Village Dera Mandi, Dera Soth Delhi-110074, do hereby hold the following 283 securities under Folio No. 2341700 in LINDA INDIA LIMITED in our name as jointholder:

CALIBRATION OF 923 NOS. TOOLS & GAUGES IN NEW BONGAIGAON: Tender No.- IMF-115-165-Call-2024-25, Dated: 21-01-2025. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of Work: Calibration of 923 (Nine Hundred Twenty Three) Nos. Tools & Gauges of INSP, CPS, MWS, RBS, MS, TR, WRS, BSS, CN, CLS, CTRB, CBS, WTS, BRB, DEMU, WELD, CMT and STC of C&W Workshop and STC, New Bongaigaon, N. F. Railway for the year 2025-26 from Outside agency" on Open Tender basis. Approximate cost of the work: ₹3,90,290.94/-; Earnest Money: ₹7,800/-; Date & time of closing of above tender at 15:00 hrs on 11-02-2025. For details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in

E-AUCTION NOTICE: APPROX. 8.907 KG OF TRANSIT DAMAGED ALUMINIUM FOIL: Interested Buyers are invited to participate in the e-Auction for the disposal of "Approx. 8.907 Kg of Transit Damaged Aluminium Foil" on "Per Kg" Basis. The subject salvage will be sold on "As is Where is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Complaint" Basis and belongs to M/s. Alutech Packaging Pvt. Ltd. The subject materials can be inspected at Dekhara Road, Rohad, Bahadurgarh, Haryana, Between 25-01-25 to 03-02-25 between 10 AM to 5 PM on working days only. Kindly contact Mr. Lalit Shanker Sharma at 8800939277 for inspection.

ASSOCIATE SIGNALING WORK FOR REMOVAL OF LC GATES: E-Tender No. SNT-46-LMG-2024-25 Dated: 22-01-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Associate Signaling work for Removal of LC Gates in connection with construction of ROB/RUB at LC Gates No. ST-20, ST-22, ST-27, ST-33, ST-35, ST-38, ST-40, ST-41, ST-42, ST-44, ST-45 and ST-50 between Lumding and Guwahati Station of Lumding Division. Tender Value: ₹3,31,53,107.60/-; Earnest Money: ₹3,15,800/-; Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 14-02-2025 & will be opened at 15.30 hrs. of 14-02-2025. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Office of Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur Distt. Dhar (M.P.): Notice Inviting Tender: Online Item Rate bids are invited from registered contractors/firms of repute for Sewerage Project of Pithampur town under AMRUT 2.0 NIT No: 2025_UAD_397964_1 date: 23.01.2025 Probable amount Rs. 16504.05 Lacs, EMD Rs. 8252024/- Cost of bid document Rs. 50000/- Last date and time of submission of bid: 24.02.2025 & time: 17:30 Hrs. All other details are published on website www.mptender.gov.in further information or clarification (if any) shall be published on website only, and not in Newspaper.

Office of the Chief Construction Engineer RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE: "e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work: Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge NCB No. 21 of 2024-25 Letter No. 213 AWE Date. 20.01.25

Office of the Chief Construction Engineer RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE: Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge NCB No. 21 of 2024-25 Letter No. 213 AWE Date. 20.01.25

Office of the Chief Construction Engineer RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE: Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge NCB No. 21 of 2024-25 Letter No. 213 AWE Date. 20.01.25

Office of the Chief Construction Engineer RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE: Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge NCB No. 21 of 2024-25 Letter No. 213 AWE Date. 20.01.25

Government approves ₹500 Crore capital infusion in IFCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic financial institution IFCI on Friday said the government has approved ₹500 crore capital infusion in the company through the preferential issue of shares. The Department of Financial Services has conveyed sanction of the President of India to release funds of ₹500 crore to IFCI Ltd towards subscription to the share capital during FY 2024-25, the state-owned entity said in a regulatory filing. Following this, the meeting of the board of directors of the company is called on January 29, 2025, to consider the Preferential Issue of equity shares to the central government, subject to the approval of shareholders, stock exchanges and such other regulatory authorities



As may be required. With the infusion, the government's holding in the company is expected to further increase from the existing 71.72 per cent as of September 2024. The capital infusion plan for IFCI was approved through the passage of the first Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2024-25 in the

Lok Sabha in December. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India was set up by the government on July 1, 1948, as the first development financial institution in the country. The Finance Ministry, in November 2024, in principle approved the 'Consolidation of IFCI Group', which entails the merger/amalgamation of

IFCI Limited and Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited and other group companies. As per the proposal, Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd, IFCI Factors Ltd, IFCI Infrastructure Development Ltd and IIDL Realtors Ltd will merge with IFCI Ltd. Further, Stock Holding Services Ltd, IFCI Financial Services Ltd, IFIN Commodities Ltd and IFIN Credit Ltd will be merged into a single entity, which will be a direct subsidiary of the consolidated listed entity. Additionally, Stock Holding Management Services Ltd, Stock Holding Securities IFSC Ltd, IFIN Securities Finance Ltd, IFCI Venture Capital Funds Ltd and MPCON Ltd shall be direct subsidiaries of the consolidated listed entity that is IFCI.

FM Sitharaman takes part in customary halwa ceremony

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday participated in a traditional 'halwa' ceremony, marking the final stage for the preparation of Union Budget 2025-26 to be unveiled on February 1 in the Lok Sabha. The ceremony is a customary ritual in which traditional dessert 'halwa' is prepared and served to officials and staff members of the finance ministry who are involved in the preparation of the budget. It is organised in the basement of North Block, which houses the ministry in the national capital and is attended by the finance minister and other high-ranking officials. According to sources, the Finance Minister participated in the ceremony and also took a round of the Budget Press and reviewed the preparations besides extending her best wishes to



the officials concerned. Sitharaman is going to present Budget 2025-26, the eighth straight budget in a row, on the backdrop of GDP growth moderating to 6.4 per cent in the financial year as against 8.2 per cent recorded in the previous fiscal. Like the previous four full Union Budgets and one Interim, the full Union Budget 2025-26 will also be delivered in paperless form. All the Union Budget documents, including the Annual Financial Statement

(commonly known as Budget), Demand for Grants (DG), Finance Bill etc. As prescribed by the Constitution, will be available on the 'Union Budget Mobile App' for hassle-free access to Budget. Besides Sitharaman, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and other senior officials, including Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth and other senior officials were present at the ceremony.



RBI penalises J and K Bank, Bank of India, Canara Bank

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it has penalised Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Bank of India, and Canara Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. Jammu and Kashmir Bank has been penalised Rs 3.31 crore for contravention of certain norms related to financial inclusion - access to banking Services - Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA), 'Know Your Customer' and 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions'. In another release, the RBI said Rs 1 crore penalty has been imposed on the Bank of India for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. A penalty of Rs 1.63 crore has been imposed on public sector Canara Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on priority sector lending, the interest rate on deposits and financial inclusion - access to banking services - BSBDA, the RBI said. Also, a penalty of Rs 1 lakh has been imposed on Datson Exports, West Bengal for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by NBFCs'. In each case, the RBI said penalties were based on deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance and were not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.

Insurers expect tax benefits, concessions for healthcare sector in Union Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Insurers are hopeful of a host of tax benefits, including concessions for the insurance and healthcare sectors, from the Union Budget 2025-26 to be unveiled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

SBI General Insurance MD and CEO Naveen Chandra Jha said that as India advances toward financial inclusivity and universal healthcare, the upcoming Budget is expected to further strengthen the health insurance sector. Initiatives like Bima Sugam, designed to achieve the goal of 'Insurance for All' by 2047, are expected to receive regulatory and fiscal support to address the protection gap, he noted. "Additionally, the budget is likely to focus on expanding access in underserved regions through government-private partnerships, targeted subsidies, and advancements in digital infrastructure," Jha added.

Bajaj Allianz Life MD and CEO Tarun Chugh said India's economic growth presents immense opportunities for the insurance sector to enhance financial resilience. "Aligning tax deduction of life insurance annuity products with the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and addressing the issue of tax on principal component on annuity products can evolve retirement needs effectively," he added.

Chugh also made a case for the introduction of a separate tax deduction for term insurance and extending the tax deduction on life insurance premiums under the new tax regime. According to the Annual Report of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), the country's insurance penetration in 2023-24 was 3.7 per cent compared to 4 per cent in 2022-23.

The penetration for life insurance industry marginally declined from 3 per cent during 2022-23 to 2.8 per cent during 2023-24. The penetration with respect



to the non-life insurance industry remained the same at 1 per cent during 2023-24. Subrata Mondal, MD and CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance said the Union Budget provides an essential opportunity for the government to implement reforms that can address industry challenges and encourage the broader adoption of insurance products. One key expectation is the enhancement of tax incentives for policyholders to promote wider uptake of insurance, he added.

Another priority is increasing budgetary support for government-backed insurance schemes, such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Ayushman Bharat, he added. "They would significantly improve access to insurance for underserved populations, particularly in rural and economically weaker regions," Mondal said.

Sameer Bansal, MD & CEO, PNB MetLife, said that while India is a fast-growing economy fuelled by its rising middle-class population of 25-45-year-olds, the proportion of people above the age of 60 is equally increasing at a rapid pace. Financial stability is a cornerstone of a secure future. One of our hopes for the upcoming budget is to see support for pension and annuity plans, which are key financial instruments for the retirement planning needed to create that stability, he added. "Tax support for pension plans offered by life insurers on par with the National

Pension Scheme will provide both greater choice and allow diversification of assets into multiple pension plans," he said. Bansal also urged the government to consider removing GST on premiums for annuity plans to support pensioners and make annuities more affordable and accessible. Universal Sompo General Insurance Managing Director and CEO Sharad Mathur opined that strengthening the insurance sector is essential for driving financial resilience, economic stability, and inclusive growth.

With targeted reforms and incentives like the reduction of GST on Health insurance, we can unlock the true potential of insurance, ensuring wider coverage, encouraging innovation, and building a secure future for every individual and business, Mathur said. Srikanth Kandikonda, Chief Financial Officer, ManipalCigna Health Insurance, said that given the rising healthcare costs and the need for higher sum insured cover, the government should reduce the tax burden by increasing the limits under Section 80D of income tax for premiums paid for health insurance to Rs 50,000 for all and Rs 1 lakh for senior citizens. "This is crucial for achieving the government's vision 'Insurance for all by 2047' and would substantially reduce the financial burden on families investing in their health and financial wellbeing," Kandikonda added.

During 2023-24, the non-life

Rupee rises 22 paise to close at 86.22 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rupee appreciated 22 paise to close at 86.22 against the US dollar on Friday, as a decline in the US dollar index supported investor sentiments. Forex traders said weak crude oil prices also boosted the local unit, while sustained foreign fund outflows weighed on the local unit.

Traders further noted that the upcoming Union Budget will play a crucial role in shaping market sentiment and the rupee's trajectory. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a strong note at 86.31 against the greenback. During the day, the local unit touched an intraday high of 86.16 and a low of 86.36. It finally closed at 86.22, rising 22 paise against the US dollar from previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee declined 9 paise to settle at 86.44 against the US dollar. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said the rupee strengthened this week as the dollar index saw a



significant decline. He said the drop in the dollar came after US President Donald Trump's oath taking on January 20, while concerns over heavy tariffs on China were alleviated after no such drastic measures were announced. This brought relief to global markets and supported emerging market currencies like the rupee. "Adding to the rupee's strength was a softer trend in crude prices, which reduced import pressure and supported the domestic currency. The rupee is likely to remain in a range of 85.80-86.50, with further movement depending on global cues, crude price trends,

and any fresh policy signals from the Indian government," Trivedi said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading down 0.56 per cent to 107.44. The Dollar Index has recently surged, reaching a high of 110, fuelled by escalating uncertainty surrounding the "Trump factor". However, this rally in the Dollar Index is unlikely to be sustained as global uncertainties subside and Trump-related risks diminish, CR Forex Advisors - MD Amit Pabari said. Moreover, at the World Economic Forum in Davos,

Switzerland, US President Donald Trump called for an immediate interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve, a move that will generate a negative sentiment for the DXY, Pabari added.

Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.47 per cent to USD 78.66 per barrel in futures trade. Brent oil was trading at USD 78.03 per barrel as Trump asked Saudi to lower prices so that he could make Russia stop the war. He has also threatened sanctions against Russia if they do not get out of the war, Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 329.92 points, or 0.43 per cent, to settle at 76,190.46 points, while the Nifty declined 113.15 points, or 0.49 per cent, to 23,092.20 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets on Friday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,758.49 crore, according to exchange data.

Government restricts import of herbicide Glufosinate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday imposed restrictions on imports of herbicide Glufosinate priced below ₹ 1,289 per kg, with a view to discourage inbound shipments of the chemical. However, if the prices are above this value, imports are allowed without any restriction. "Import of Glufosinate and its salts (purity - minimum 95 per cent) is restricted for CIF value below ₹ 1,289 per kg. However, import of Glufosinate and its salts is free if CIF value is ₹ 1,289 per kg and above," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification. CIF value (cost, insurance, and freight) is a trade term used in international commerce to determine the



total value of goods being imported. Products under the restricted category need a licence from the government. The import of the herbicide stood at USD 177 million during April-November this fiscal. It was USD 238.13 million in 2023-24. During the first eight months of this fiscal, India imported Glufosinate mainly from China (USD 58.72 million), US (USD 46 million) and Israel (USD 30.50 million).

Used-car sales in India to cross one crore annual mark by 2030: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian used-car market is expected to cross 1 crore sales mark annually by 2030 with offtakes increasing across both urban and smaller towns, according to a report by CARS24.

As per the 'Gear of Growth: The 2024 Indian Used-Car Market Report', Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are driving the country's used-car boom. "The market is projected to grow from 4.6 million sales in CY23 to a whopping 10.8 million by CY30, cruising ahead with an impressive CAGR of 13 per cent," CARS24 Co-Founder Gajendra Jangid said. As the customer preferences change for more affordable and dependable options, the



used-car market is witnessing an uptick vis-a-vis the new car market, he added. As per the report, SUVs continue to dominate the used car market with a share of 16.7 per cent in 2024. Their spacious design, versatility, and premium appeal make them a favourite across both urban and rural markets, it noted. The report highlighted that the post-COVID era has seen a significant shift in consumer preferences, with 12 per cent

of car buyers prioritising personal mobility for convenience and safety over shared transportation.

Maruti Suzuki Swift has become the most sought-after model across both metro and non-metro cities, the report said. Additionally, models like the Hyundai Santro, Tata Tiago NRG, and Maruti Wagon R have consistently delivered exceptional resale value, solidifying their popularity among budget-conscious and value-driven buyers, the report said. As per the report, financing for new cars has seen significant growth, climbing from 60 per cent in 2010 to 84 per cent in 2024, highlighting the increasing consumer reliance on loans for vehicle ownership.

CBIC notifies rules for entities to get TIN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Entities that are not required to get a GST registration but are required to make a tax payment under the GST Act provision can now obtain a Temporary Identification Number (TIN). The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified an amendment to GST rules to issue TIN to entities that are not required to register under the GST Act but need to make payments under some specific provision.

Under Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules, registration is mandatory for businesses with an annual turnover of ₹40 lakh and ₹20 lakh in the manufacturing and services sectors, respectively. "Where a person is not liable to registration under the Act



but is required to make any payment under the provision of the Act, the proper officer may grant the said person a temporary identification number," CBIC said while introducing Rule 16A in Central GST Rules. The decision to issue TIN to entities that are otherwise not required a GST registration was taken by the GST council in its meeting last month. This would ensure smooth tax payments while reducing the compliance burden on those who do not regularly engage in taxable activities.

AIMTC urges government to address challenges faced by transport sector

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) national president Harish Sabharwal on Friday asked the government to address issues like exorbitant increase in toll tax rates and misuse of the e-challan system. The charge handover and oath taking ceremony of the newly elected officer bearers of AIMTC was held on Friday, where Amritlal Madan, the outgoing President of AIMTC, officially passed on his responsibilities to the newly elected president Sabharwal and his team. AIMTC in a statement said some of the key issues that will be high on Sabharwal's agenda include abolition of border checkpoints in the states especially in



Maharashtra, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh. The truckers body said exorbitant increase in toll tax rates, checking misuse of E-challan system and impractical ban on 10-year old diesel vehicles in Delhi-NCR are also on

agenda of the newly-elected president of AIMTC. AIMTC also demanded that the government should constitute 'Drivers Samajik Suraksha Welfare Board' with representatives from AIMTC. It also demanded that drivers

should be covered in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Ayushman Bharat Yojana. According to the statement, the transportation sector is a key contributor to India's economy, accounting for approximately 7.7 per cent of India's GDP (PPP adjusted). AIMTC also announced that every year the 24th Day of January will be celebrated as 'National Drivers Day'. In 1936, AIMTC was established as a non-political, not-for-profit apex body representing India's road transport sector in both cargo and passenger segments. It encompasses over 95 lakh truckers, 50 lakh passenger vehicle operators, and 3,500 associations nationwide, impacting over 20 crore people directly or indirectly.

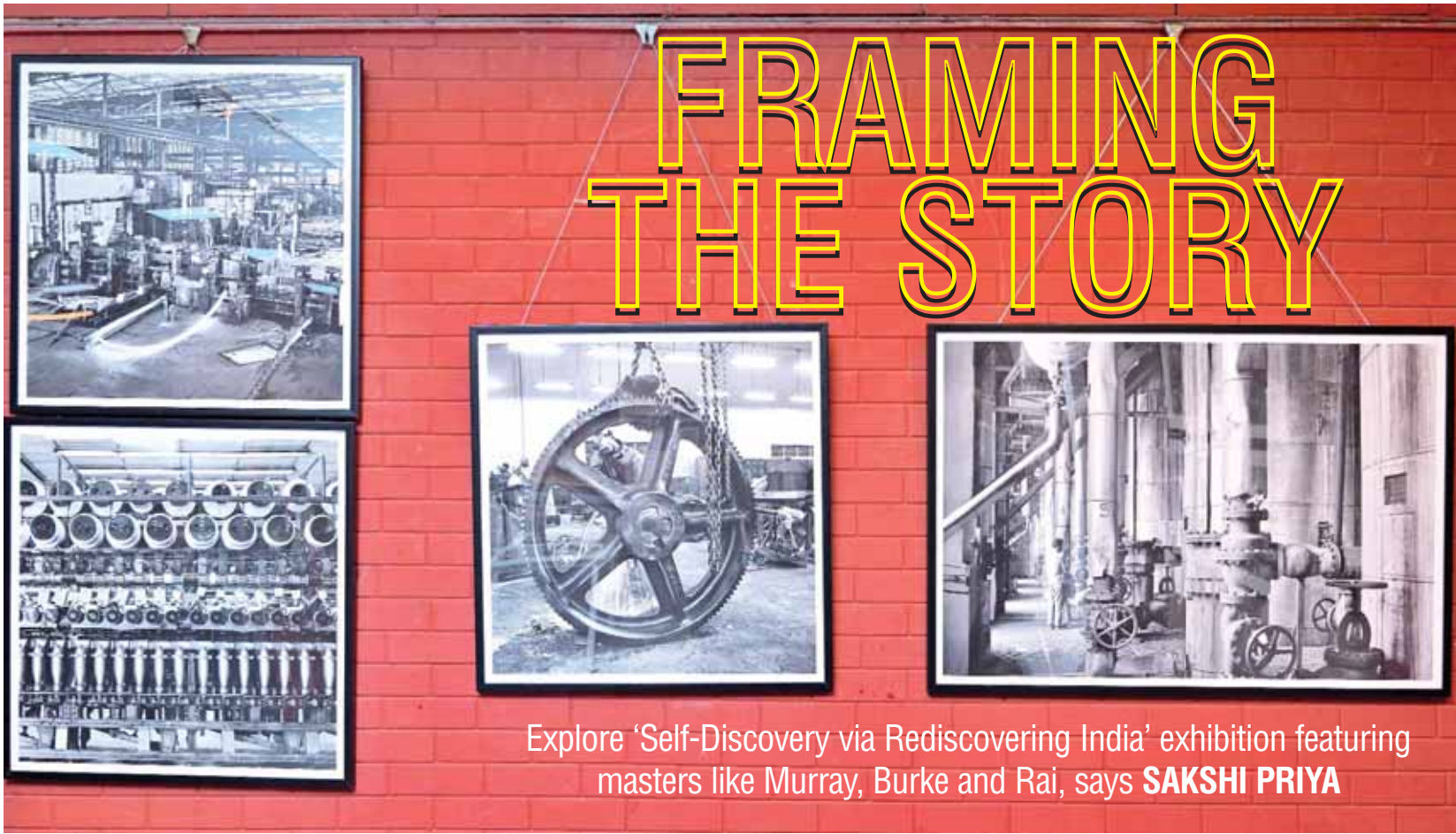
INBRIEF

AMPHENOL LAUNCHES TWO MADE-IN-INDIA TECH SOLUTIONS

Amphenol, a world leader in interconnect solutions for Communications, Mobile Consumer Products, RF, Optical, Broadband and Commercial electronics markets, today ushered into the next era of sustainable technology solutions with the launch of DuraSwap Concentric Connectors and Type 6 Charging Gun solution designed and manufactured in India at the country's premier battery technology showcase, the Bharat Battery Show 2025 organised under the aegis of Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

WORKSHOP ON BEAUTY FOR BETTER LIFE

AMRITSAR: Directorate of Placement and Career Enhancement of Guru Nanak Dev University in coordination Life Long Learning Department organised a workshop on the topic of "Beauty for Better Life" under the CSR of Loreal implemented by Naandi Foundation - Mahindra Pride classroom. Workshop offered 40 hours of free training for Cosmetology and Beauty culture to the students of Life Long Learning Department. The students were trained on the said domain and life skills. More than 50 students have undergone the skill training from an Industry expert.



Explore 'Self-Discovery via Rediscovering India' exhibition featuring masters like Murray, Burke and Rai, says SAKSHI PRIYA

becomes evident how photography has documented India's evolution. Early works by pioneers like *Linnaeus Tripe* and *Samuel Bourne* provide a visual history of India's landscape and architecture. Their photographs are windows into a bygone era, evoking a sense of nostalgia for a time that is both familiar and distant. The collection doesn't just stop at capturing landscapes or monuments, it explores the lives of people, the complex relationships between humans, animals and nature and the political shifts that have shaped the country. Works by contemporary masters like *Raghu Rai* and *Jyoti Bhatt* add a modern perspective, demonstrating how photography has continued to evolve as an art form while remaining true to its roots as a medium for storytelling. The exhibition's focus on India's cinematic and political history further enhances its significance. Photographs from the sets of iconic films, as well as snapshots from key political



moments, provide an intimate look into the country's cultural and social landscape. These images not only reflect history but also shape the way we remember it. With access to an extensive digital archive containing over 22,000 photographs, the exhibition offers a deeper dive into India's history, allowing visitors to explore beyond the gallery walls. This combination of physical and digital resources provides a comprehensive view of India's rich visual heritage. The *Self-Discovery via Rediscovering India Part III* exhibition is a reflection of India itself. It is an invitation to reconnect with the nation's history, to see it through the eyes of those who have captured its most defining moments. For anyone interested in understanding the soul of India, this exhibition is a rare and valuable opportunity to experience the country's past, present and future through the lens of some of the greatest photographers.

PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR

Photography has a way of preserving moments, not just in images but in emotions, in stories and in history. Stepping into the *Self-Discovery via Rediscovering India* exhibition, curated by *Neville Tuli*, feels like embarking on a personal journey through time. Hosted by the *Tuli Research Centre for India Studies (T.R.I.S.)*, the collection showcases photographs that capture the essence of India, spanning over a century. This third installment of the series presents a stunning collection of photographs that bring together India's rich cultural heritage, its landscapes, and the people who have shaped its story. The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to experience not only the visual beauty of India but the depth of its historical and emotional connections. The collection highlights some of the earliest photographs from the mid-1800s, including *Dr. John Murray's Bishessur Nath Temple, Benares (1858)*. The albumen print, preserved in its pristine form, speaks to the timeless spirituality of Varanasi. Similarly, *Colin Roderick Murray's Jagmandar Water-Palace at Udaypur (1873)* captures the reflective beauty of Rajasthan, where the delicate interplay of water and architecture tells its own story. As one moves through the exhibition, it

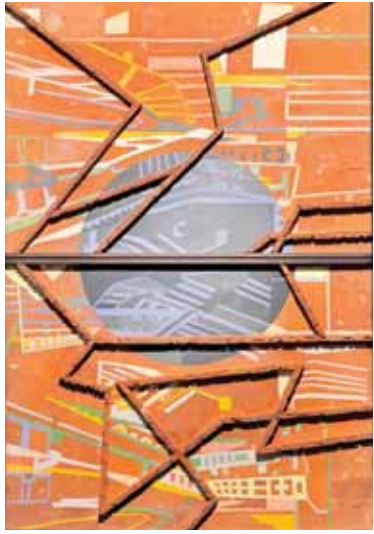


ART BEYOND THE CITY

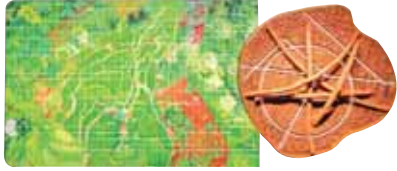


By SAKSHI PRIYA

In *Terraform*, *M. Pravat* invites us to walk through a world that feels both familiar and unsettlingly fragmented. This solo exhibition, hosted at STIR Gallery, Delhi, is an ambitious exploration of how our built environments intersect, clash and coexist with nature. By using materials like bricks, pigment, dust and LED lights, *Pravat* creates pieces that feel like echoes of urban landscapes, half-built, half-ruined and wholly captivating. Walking into the gallery feels like stepping into a suspended reality. The sculptures and installations seem to hold secrets, each fragment whispering stories of cities in transition. *Pravat's* work doesn't just replicate the urban environment; it deconstructs it, laying bare the tensions between construction and destruction, between human ambition and nature's quiet defiance. As I moved through the space, I found myself reflecting on my own relationship with the city, its noise, its chaos and its beauty.



What struck me most was how each piece felt alive, as if caught mid-metamorphosis. There's a raw, unpolished energy to the work that mirrors the constant flux of modern life. *Pravat* has a remarkable ability to take the ordinary, bricks, stone, dust



land elevate it into something profound. The interplay of light and shadow adds another layer, creating moments that feel almost cinematic, as though you're watching the city breathe. But beneath the aesthetic appeal lies a deeper message. *Terraform* is a powerful commentary on the relentless pace of urbanisation and its cost to the natural world. *Pravat's* art is not preachy; instead, it nudges you gently, encouraging introspection. It's a reminder that we are living in a delicate balance, one that we often take for granted. For me, the most thought-provoking aspect of the exhibition was its sense of incompleteness. These aren't polished, finished works, they're intentionally raw, mirroring the way cities are always in a state of becoming. It's both unsettling and oddly hopeful, a

expression to human resilience and the possibility of change. *Pravat's* ability to turn complex themes into visceral experiences is what makes this exhibition so memorable. *Pravat's Terraform* goes beyond being a traditional art exhibition. It's an immersive experience that urges us to pause and reflect on the way we shape and inhabit the world around us. It encourages a deeper look at the delicate balance between creation and destruction, challenging us to rethink our relationship with the spaces we build and the nature we often overlook. As the artist explained, "This landscape is actually magical lands, a digital landscape. I'm inspired by the digital format and I started rendering a digital feeling. When you see it from a distance, it looks consciously faded, like it's mathematically exercised in certain ways, cutting your land and developing your shape. The challenge is how I mixed everything together, where contrast exists between the elements, and people should think about why this context has changed."



Steps of Serenity

By TEAM VIVA

In moments where words cannot express the depth of emotion, dance becomes a powerful form of communication. *Samaya Chauhan's Rangapravesham* performance in New Delhi was a beautiful example of this truth. At just sixteen, *Samaya's* talent shone brightly, captivating the audience and bringing to life the rich tradition of Kuchipudi. The evening marked her transition from a student to a full-fledged performer, celebrating her growth as an artist. The recital opened with the graceful *Ganpati Vandana*, a prayer to Lord Ganesha, followed by *Dashavtar*, in which *Samaya* depicted the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu. Through her precise footwork and expressive movements, she brought each avatar's story to life. A particularly emotional part of the performance was *Saanson Ki Maala pe Simrun Main Pii Ka Naam*, choreographed by *Padma Bhushan Shri Raja Reddy*, where *Samaya* beautifully expressed the spiritual

connection between two souls. The performance concluded with *Tarangam*, in which *Samaya* danced on the rim of a brass plate, telling stories of *Lord Krishna's* childhood. The complexity of the rhythmic patterns and *Samaya's* graceful footwork demonstrated her technical skill and deep understanding of the dance form. *Dr. Aseem Chauhan*, Chancellor of Amity University, presented a Vote of Thanks, saying, "The essence of today's incredible performance by my daughter *Samaya* is the notion of Guru Shishya Parampara, the sacred bond between the Guru and his disciple." This connection was evident in the performance, with *Samaya* drawing on the teachings and guidance of her esteemed gurus, *Padma Bhushan Shri Raja Reddy, Smt. Radha Reddy* and *Smt. Kaushalya Reddy*. The evening was a celebration of culture, tradition and the bond between mentor and disciple. *Samaya's* performance highlighted the beauty of Kuchipudi, reminding the audience of the timeless connection between dance, history and emotion.



BRM 2025: UNITING CULTURES THROUGH THEATRE



By TEAM VIVA

The *National School of Drama (NSD)* is set to host the 25th edition of *Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM)* from 28 January to 16 February 2025, marking a significant milestone in its history as the world's largest theatre festival. For the first time, the festival will expand beyond India, with performances in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Kathmandu, Nepal, alongside 11 Indian cities including Bengaluru, Jaipur and Ranchi. Themed *One Expression, Supreme Creation*, BRM 2025 will feature over 200 productions from nine countries, including Russia, Germany and Taiwan, creating a

global platform for collaboration and cultural exchange. Renowned actor and NSD alumnus *Rajpal Yadav* has been named the *Rang Doot* (Festival Ambassador) of this year's event. The festival will also emphasise inclusivity by featuring productions involving marginalised communities such as *Santhal tribes, sex workers, transgender persons and children*. Virtual performances under the initiative *Vishwa Jan Rang* will include NRIs and youth from all seven continents. NSD Director *Shri Chittaranjan Tripathy* said, "Bharat Rang Mahotsav has evolved into a global celebration of theatre, providing a platform to share and celebrate

diverse creative expressions. With its expanded reach, this year's festival sets a new benchmark." BRM 2025 will also include director-audience dialogues, masterclasses, seminar and cultural experiences like folk and traditional performances, Rang Haat exhibitions and a vibrant food bazaar. The Opening Ceremony at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi, will feature Rang Sangeet, a musical performance by the NSD Repertory Company, as part of celebrations marking NSD's 65th anniversary and the Repertory's 60th year. With its unique blend of global outreach, inclusivity, and cultural immersion, BRM 2025 promises to be a landmark event in the world of theatre.

Bumrah, Jadeja and Jaiswal named in ICC Test Team of the Year

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal deservedly found a place in the ICC's Test Team of the Year 2024 that featured four Englishmen with Australian Pat Cummins as its captain. The team also had two New Zealanders, including the redoubtable Kane Williamson. Cummins was the lone Australian to make the all-star XI. Bumrah was nothing short of magical in 2024, dominating every team and every batter he bowled to. He became the first bowler to average under 20 with a minimum of 200 wickets in Test cricket, solidifying his place in history. In total, Bumrah took 71 wickets in 2024 at an astonishing average of 14.92, finishing as the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket for the year. Thirty two of these scalps came in the

recent Border-Gavaskar series against Australia, which India lost 1-3. He began the year with a stellar performance against England, taking 19 wickets in four matches, including a remarkable nine-wicket haul in Visakhapatnam. At home against Bangladesh, he further extended his tally with 11 wickets in just two games. Although his outing against New Zealand was subdued, where he picked up three wickets, it was against Australia that Bumrah truly cemented his legacy as one of the greatest bowlers of all time. Jadeja, meanwhile, scored 527 runs in 2024 at an average of 29.27 and picked up 48 wickets at an impressive average of 24.29. Jaiswal established himself as a premier Test opener and a standout figure in Indian batting during 2024. After a challenging series in South Africa, he made an impressive comeback in the home series against England,



amassing a staggering 712 runs. This included two double centuries and three fifties, showcasing his dominance. The 23-year-old left-handed batter continued his fine form with three half-centuries in four innings as India thrashed Bangladesh at home. He was also one of the few bright spots in an otherwise disappointing series for India, as New Zealand achieved a historic whitewash on Indian soil. In the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Jaiswal demonstrated his class with a magnificent 161 in the second innings at Perth, bouncing back strongly after a first-innings duck. He finished as India's top scorer in the series, accumulating 391 runs. Over the calendar year, Jaiswal scored a remarkable 1,478 runs at an impressive average of 54.74, a tally second only to England's Joe Root (1,556 runs in 2024 at an average of 55.57), who was also named in the ICC

all-star team. Williamson was also one of the stand-out performers in 2024 as he accumulated 1,013 runs in 2024 at an outstanding average of 59.58, making him the sixth-highest run-scorer of the year. Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis also figured in the team after his 1,049 runs in 2024 at an extraordinary average of 74.92. Cummins led his team to series victories against the West Indies, New Zealand, and most notably India. He took 37 wickets in 2024 at an average of 24.02 and scored 306 runs, averaging 23.53. ICC Test Team of the Year 2024: Pat Cummins (c) (Australia), Yashasvi Jaiswal (India), Ben Duckett (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Joe Root (England), Harry Brook (England), Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka), Jamie Smith (wk) (England), Ravindra Jadeja (India), Matt Henry (New Zealand), Jasprit Bumrah (India).

Zverev in Australian Open final as injured Djokovic left

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Spectators booed an injured Novak Djokovic as he left the court in Rod Laver Arena after quitting one set into his Australian Open semifinal against Alexander Zverev on Friday. Dealing with a what he said was a torn muscle, Djokovic lost the opener 7-6 (5) when he put a forehand volley into the net, then began shaking his head and immediately walked over to shake Zverev's hand. The 37-year-old Djokovic packed up his equipment and walked off toward the locker room, pausing to respond to the jeers by giving two thumbs-up. At his news conference, Djokovic said the pain in his taped left leg was "getting worse and worse." He hurt it during his quarterfinal victory over Carlos Alcaraz on Tuesday night. "I knew," Djokovic said, "even if I won the first set, it was going to be a huge uphill battle for me." He was bidding for an 11th



championship at the Australian Open and record 25th Grand Slam title overall. But this is the second time in the past four major tournaments he was unable to finish because of an injury: He withdrew from last year's French Open before the quarterfinals because he tore the meniscus in his right knee during a match. Djokovic underwent surgery in Paris and, less than two months later, reached the final at Wimbledon, then won a gold medal for Serbia at the Paris Olympics. The number two-seeded

Zverev reached his first title match at Melbourne Park and on Sunday will face the winner of Friday's second semifinal between number one Jannik Sinner of Italy, the defending champion, and number 21 Ben Shelton of the United States. Zverev, a 27-year-old German, is a two-time runner-up at other major tournaments, losing finals in five sets at the 2020 U.S. Open and 2024 French Open. "My goal is still to compete with the big guys and to compete for these kind of tournaments and try to win them," Zverev said.

"For that, I need to get better. I need to improve on the court. I need to improve physically." During his on-court interview, Zverev pleaded with the fans not to give Djokovic a hard time. "I know that everybody paid for tickets and everybody wants to see hopefully a great five-set match," he said. "But you've got to understand - Novak Djokovic is somebody that has given this sport, for the past 20 years, absolutely everything of his life." The only set of Djokovic vs. Zverev lasted one hour, 21 minutes and included 19 points that lasted nine strokes or more apiece. The first four games alone lasted 31 minutes, slowed both by the lengthy baseline exchanges and Djokovic's deliberate pacing between points, taking the 25-second serve clock down to - and occasionally slightly beyond - the full allotment. The match was grueling - and would have been even without dealing with a leg problem that initially became an issue late in the first set against Alcaraz.

Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma in ICC women's ODI Team of the Year



PTI ■ DUBAI

Star batter Smriti Mandhana and all-rounder Deepti Sharma were on Friday named in the ICC women's ODI Team of the Year 2024 but none of their male counterparts found a place in the men's side that was dominated by Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The women's all-star team

has three players from England, two Australians, two South Africans and one each from Sri Lanka and West Indies, besides the two Indians. South African batter Laura Wolvaardt, who scored 697 runs in 12 matches in 2024, was named captain of the ICC team. The men were, however, absent from the ICC XI and that can be attributed to lack

of ODI engagements for the country last year. India played only three ODIs -- an away series against Sri Lanka --, losing two of them while the third one ended in a tie. The 28-year-old Mandhana accumulated 747 runs in 13 matches to be the highest run-scorer in women's ODIs in 2024. She is also in the running for the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award. In the home series against South Africa, Mandhana was in sublime form, beginning with back-to-back centuries in the first two ODIs. She narrowly missed a third consecutive ton, falling for 90, though her remarkable tally of 343 runs in the series earned her the Player-of-the-Series award. Mandhana had a shaky start in the first two ODIs against New Zealand in October, but ended the series on a high note with a brilliant century in the final match. With this

hundred, Mandhana became the most prolific century-maker for India in the Women's 50-over format. Deepti scored 186 runs and took 24 wickets in 13 matches in a fine all-round show in 2024. Sub-continent shines in Men's all-star line-up The men's all-star ODI team announced by the ICC features four players from Sri Lanka, three each from Pakistan and Afghanistan and one from the West Indies. Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka was named skipper of the ICC team as well for his stupendous batting through the year. In his 16 ODI appearances in 2024, Asalanka scored 605 runs at an average of 50.2 including a century and four fifties. Sri Lanka played 18 ODIs in the year gone by, the highest among all teams, and won 12 of them.

Rohit Sharma shows some spark but falls for 28 on Ranji Trophy return

PTI ■ MUMBAI

He pulled Umar Nazir for a trademark six, effortlessly lofted Aaqib Nabi and Yuvraj Singh for a couple of more hits over the ropes to give a glimpse of his absolute best. But eventually, a fifty on Ranji comeback was not meant to be for India captain Rohit Sharma who fell for 28 here on Friday. Playing his first game for Mumbai in domestic red-ball cricket in nearly a decade, Rohit's first day on the field was a disaster with the 37-year-old falling for a 19-ball 3 in the opening hour of the Ranji Trophy clash against Jammu Kashmir. But on Friday, Rohit gave a far better account of himself to notch up a fluent 28, his best in first-class cricket since a 52 in the second innings of the

Bengaluru Test against New Zealand last year. It indeed has been that long for Rohit, who has since scored 0, 8, 18, 11, 3, 6, 3 and 9 in subsequent outings against New Zealand and Australia. Back then in mid-October, India were cemented on top of the World Test Championship points table and the house was in complete order for the national side. But it all came crumbling down following defeats to New Zealand and Australia which forced Indian superstars to play domestic cricket. On Friday, he looked for a big one but it wasn't to happen. Rohit's knock of 28 was mixed with hits and misses in the initial stages, which all began with a tough dropped chance by Nazir in the fourth over

when he could not grab a return catch on his follow through. Rohit immediately responded with a pull shot for a six over the square leg. A thick outside edge then flew between the fielder at gully and second slip, and on the final ball Rohit flashed hard and wide to put the ball away for another four on the off-side. Dropped on one, Rohit had raced to 21 off 11 balls at one stage but he remained cautious mostly, even though there were a few times he was beaten. With comparatively no moisture on the second day wicket here at the BKC, J&K bowlers also had to work hard to keep it tight but could not stop Rohit from freeing up his arms for a total of three sixes and two fours.



Indian GM P Inian wins title in Malaysia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Grandmaster P Inian clinched the ninth Johor International Open chess tournament title in Malaysia with a dominating performance. The 22-year-old from Erode in Tamil Nadu accumulated 8.5 points in nine games. He finished 1.5 points ahead of his nearest rival, winning against four International Masters and one Grandmaster. The nine-round tournament, which ended on Thursday, had 84 participants from eight countries, out of which 24 were titled players. In fact, at the end of the penultimate round where he beat Indonesian IM Nayaka Budhidharma, Inian had already secured the title as he was 1.5 points ahead in the points table. Inian beat Vietnamese GM Nguyen Van Huy in the final round in an impressive performance. Indian IM VS Raahul and Chinese IM Li Bo finished second and third respectively. Inian, who had won the Chennai Open earlier in January, secured 15 rating points from the title win.

India keeps eye on Shami's fitness, looks to extend lead against England

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Unruffled by the lingering fitness concerns surrounding Mohammed Shami, the well-oiled machine that is India's T20 team will be eyeing an encore of its opening game performance against a stunned England in the second game of a five-match

series, here on Saturday. India lead the rubber 1-0 after a facile seven-wicket victory at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. The hosts would certainly want to see Shami in action but his inclusion in the eleven, as things stand now, will depend on further evaluation of his fitness. The 34-year-old was expected to feature in the first game

and he was actively involved in the nets too, but his comeback was postponed possibly because the management wanted to take a deeper look at his readiness. However, India did not miss Shami much in Kolkata where pacer Arshdeep Singh, with the new ball, and spinner Varun Chakravarty, in the middle phase, wrecked

England, producing impressive spells. THE CHEPAUK SPIN The Eden pitch had enough help for both quicks and their slower colleagues but the corresponding 22-yard trampoline here could offer more assistance to the spinners, as it often has been the case in the past.

U-19 Women's T20 World Cup: Pakistan, Nepal win fourth place play-off matches

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Pakistan and Nepal were hardly tested on way to winning their fourth-place play-off matches in the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup here on Friday. Pakistan, riding on young pacer Haniah Ahmer's four-wicket haul, crushed Samoa by 52 runs while Nepal got the better of Malaysia by seven wickets in a low-scoring match. Put into bat, Pakistan scored 136/8 with Maham Anees and Fatima Khan scoring 28 and 25 respectively. Norah Salima was the most successful Samoa bowler taking three wickets for 20 runs. Right-arm pacer Haniah then unsettled the Samoan batters, returning with excellent figures of 4/20, while Quratulain Ahsen (2/13) and Fatima Khan (2/19) were the other wicket-takers as Samoa



were all out for 84 in 18.5 overs. Malaysia were off to an inauspicious start with Nepal striking off the very first ball to dismiss Nur Aliya Binti Mohd Hairun for a duck. The team could not recover from the early loss and folded up for 45 runs with skipper

Puja Mahato (4/9) and Rachana Chaudhary (3/5) emerging as the most successful bowlers. In reply Nepal reached 47/3 in 11 overs to complete a seven-wicket victory with Mahato scoring 23 runs. Left-arm spinner Suabika Manivannan took all three wickets.

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED			
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)			
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911R1996PLC011381)			
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 on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:			
Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagee/Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(A/c No.) L9001060125083336 & L9001060831201842 Mahender Napkin Paper (Borrower), Mahender Kumar (Co-Borrower), Mehar Chand (Co-Borrower)	11-Oct-24 Rs. 1020745/- Rs. Ten Lac Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Five Only & Rs. 1263654/- Rs. Twelve Lac Sixty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Four Only 10-Oct-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khawat No 368Min And 370 Khatouni No 461 And 463 Mustail No 71 Killa No 22/4/2/3 0-19, Tehsil & Dist- Mahendergarh, Haryana Admeasuring 248 Sq Yds	22-Jan-25
(A/c No.) L9001060127310779 R K Attire Fashion Point (Borrower), Rajender Kumar (Co-Borrower), Nitin Sharma (Co-Borrower)	17-Sep-24 Rs. 946224/- Rs. Nine Lac Forty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Four Only 16-Sep-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khawat No.15 Khatouni No 25 And 26 Mustail Killa No 9 23 8-0, Mahendergarh, Attil Road, Dist- Mahendergarh, Haryana. Admeasuring 211.75 Sq.Ft	22-Jan-25
(A/c No.) L9001060114187193 Virender Bhardwaj (Borrower), Surender (Co-Borrower), Smt. Anil Devi Bhardwaj, (Co-Borrower)	1-Oct-24 Rs. 2451671/- Rs. Twenty-Four Lac Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-One Only 1-Oct-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Survey Number 10 11 2 2 3 21 19 1 1, Plot Number 126, 127, Waka Mauja Nangla Gujran, Th & Dist- Faridabad, Haryana Admeasuring 53 Square Yard Property Situated At- Survey Number 10 11 2 1 1 1 1 2 2 2, Khawat No. 719/630, Khatouni No. 1026, Mu No. 10 Waka Admeasuring 106 Square Yard/ Mauja Nagla Gujran, Th & Dist- Faridabad, Haryana	22-Jan-25
(A/c No.) L9001060122038075 & L9001060825734148 Mahender Event & Catering (Borrower), Mahender Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt. Laxmi Devi (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 273538/- Rs. Two Lac Seventy-Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Eight Only & Rs. 291759/- Rs. Two Lac Ninety-One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Nine Only 10-Oct-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khasra No 3906, Property Tax No 328, Ward No 17, Lal Dora Mohalla, Piraga, Narnaul, Dist- Mahendergarh, Haryana. Admeasuring 91 Sqyds.	23-Jan-25
(A/c No.) L9001060124015489 Rahul Kumar (Borrower), Jitender Kumar (Co-Borrower), Surender Kumar (Co-Borrower), Rajender Kumar (Co-Borrower)	11-Oct-24 Rs. 905412/- Rs. Nine Lac Five Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Only 10-Oct-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- House No-104, Khawat No-09, Khatouni No- 22, Khasra No- 1441(1-4) Baselwa Colony, Tehsil & Dist- Faridabad, Haryana., Bounded As East - Road, West - P. No- 104, North - Part Of P.No- 104, South - Plot No- 105 Admeasuring 50 Sqyds	22-Jan-25
(A/c No.) L9001060124015459 Sanjay Dairy & Bistar House (Borrower), Sanjay Singh (Co-Borrower), Smt. Rajbala G (Co-Borrower)	14-Aug-24 Rs. 1232517/- Rs. Twelve Lac Thirty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventeen Only 13-Aug-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Gram Panchayat Khw 49 Knt 52 Badkoda Narnaul, Dist- Mahendergarh ,Haryana Admeasuring 614 Sqyds	23-Jan-25
(A/c No.) L9001060127194675 Santosh Kumar Singh (Borrower), Smt. Rekha Devi (Co-Borrower)	17-Sep-24 Rs. 948645/- Rs. Nine Lac Forty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Five Only 16-Sep-24	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khawat No 05 Khatouni No 06 Mu No 18 Killa No 10 6-12 Mu No 19 Killa No 6/1 3-7 6/2 4-13 Khawat No 85Min/79 Khatouni No 201 Mu No 16 Killa No 10 4 8-0 15 7-4 16 8-0 17 8-0 24 8-0 25-0 27 0-16 Mu No 17 Killa No 11 5-8 20 7-18 21 7-16 22 0-14 Mu No 20 Killa No 10/3 1-10 Mu No 25 Killa No 1/1 3-13, Near Marry School, Dist- Faridabad, Haryana. Admeasuring 50 Sq.Yds	22-Jan-25
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said (Act-2002) read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. 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. The borrower 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 the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.			
Place: HARYANA		Date: 24 JAN 2025	
		Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited	