

## MAHAKUMBH DECLARED NO VEHICLE ZONE



A panoramic view of vehicles stuck in a traffic jam at Jhosi Road during the ongoing 'Maha Kumbh Mela' festival, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh PTI

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE** MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

Following the tragic stampede at the Sangam during the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, which led to multiple casualties, the administration has taken strict measures to prevent such incidents in the future. As part of these efforts, the entire Kumbh Mela area has been declared a no-vehicle zone, barring all types of vehicles from entering the premises and has canceled all VIP passes till February 4. One of the most significant decisions includes the complete restriction on vehicle movement within the fairgrounds. No private or public transport will be allowed inside, ensuring a safer and more organized movement of pilgrims. Additionally, VVIP passes, which previously allowed certain vehicles access, have been revoked. No special passes will grant exemptions, making the rules uniform for

everyone. To facilitate smooth movement and prevent overcrowding, all major routes within the Kumbh area have been converted into one-way paths. This measure aims to streamline the flow of devotees and reduce the chances of congestion. Furthermore, vehicles coming from neighboring districts are being stopped at the district borders, preventing an influx of additional traffic into the city. The strictest measures will remain in place until February 4, with a complete ban on four-wheelers in Prayagraj. The administration has urged devotees to adhere to these guidelines to ensure a smooth experience at the Maha Kumbh. Authorities have also called for public cooperation in maintaining order and avoiding any further mishaps. Lakhs of devotees heading to Prayagraj for the Mahakumbh Mela are stranded in massive traffic jams but remain

resolute in their quest for a holy dip at the Sangam. Despite extreme congestion, freezing nights, and lack of basic amenities, their faith remains unshaken. The traffic congestion has reached alarming levels, with over 2.5 lakh vehicles stuck at multiple entry points, including Chitrakoot, Varanasi, and Rewa-Prayagraj routes. Traffic jams extend up to 25 kilometers in some areas, bringing vehicular movement to a near standstill. Many devotees, like Atmaram Patil from Maharashtra, have spent days in transit, only to be told to turn back. Others, unwilling to abandon their pilgrimage, have resorted to walking long distances to reach their sacred destination. The situation has been particularly grim along the Varanasi-Prayagraj stretch, where a 20-kilometer-long jam has left hundreds of buses stranded. Vehicles have been halted at key points such as Bhadohi, Gopiganj, and Aurai, with passengers left without

basic facilities. Many travelers, including Vasudev Bhalladwar from Chhattisgarh, have been forced to endure the bitter cold with no access to food, water, or toilets. The lack of arrangements for the stranded pilgrims has led to growing frustration, yet their devotion remains unwavering. Those approaching Prayagraj from Mirzapur and Bhadohi face similar hardships. Roadway buses have been turned back, and thousands of people are stranded at various points with little assistance. In some areas, local residents have stepped in to provide food and water, but the scale of the crisis has left many without relief. Some devotees have voiced their anger, alleging that VIP vehicles are being given priority while common pilgrims are left to fend for themselves. Despite these challenges, most remain firm in their resolve to reach the Sangam, refusing to consider alternate bathing sites offered to them along the way.

Train travel has also been severely affected, with several passenger trains, including the Allahabad-Prayagraj Passenger and Jaunpur-Bareilly Passenger, being canceled. The rerouting of other trains, such as the LTT Express via Varanasi, has further disrupted travel plans. At Prapatgarh and other key railway junctions, thousands of devotees are stranded, waiting desperately for alternate transportation. Meanwhile, along the Rewa-Prayagraj route, nearly 50,000 vehicles have been halted at the Uttar Pradesh-Madhya Pradesh border, with authorities struggling to manage the situation. Despite the severe hardships, the spirit of the pilgrims remains unbroken. Braving hunger, cold, and exhaustion, they continue their journey with unwavering faith, determined to take their sacred dip in the Ganga. For them, no hardship is too great in pursuit of this once-in-a-lifetime spiritual experience.



Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, JP Nadda, and Kiren Rijiju with MoS L. Murugan and Arjun Ram Meghwal during an all-party meeting, convened by the government, ahead of the Budget session of Parliament PTI

## Modi 3.0 Budget session begins; Kumbh tragedy, Waqf on agenda

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI

Opposition parties at the all-party meeting on Thursday called for a discussion in Parliament on the Maha Kumbh tragedy and the UP government's alleged focus on VIPs rather than the common pilgrims, as Union minister Kiren Rijiju asserted that the Business Advisory Committee will decide on the agenda of the Budget Session starting from January 31. The session will commence with President Droupadi Murmu addressing the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The Union Budget will be presented on February 1. The first part of the session will conclude on February 13 and the second part will start on March 10. The session will conclude on April 4. The session's legislative agenda has 16 bills, including the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Immigration and Foreigners Bill. In the same all-party meeting, NDA Janata Dal (United) sought an extension in the tenure of the Joint Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the bills proposing simultaneous elections, while its another partner, LJP (Ram Vilas), demanded a "special industrial package"

for Bihar. Rijiju described the meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as constructive and sought cooperation from opposition parties, adding that the customary discussions on the President's address to parliamentarians and the Union Budget are the main priorities in the Budget Session. "Rising" unemployment and farmers' "plight" will also be raised during the Session, several opposition leaders said. At the all-party meeting, sources said, JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha called for an extension in the tenure of the JPC, which was asked to submit its report by the first day of the last week of the Budget Session. Jha is a member of the 39-member committee formed to discuss what is often referred to as a One-Nation, One-Election (ONOE) proposal. The panel headed by BJP MP P P Chaudhary is scheduled to hold its second meeting on Friday. Jha also wanted Parliament to discuss India's current position in Artificial Intelligence as he pointed out the waves that the Chinese upstart DeepSeek has created in the field, so far dominated by US firms.



Police personnel outside Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's Kapurthala House residence, in New Delhi PTI

## EC raids Punjab CM Delhi home

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday conducted a search at the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's Kapurthala House residence in the national Capital regarding a complaint about 'cash' being distributed from there. "The team was awaiting permission to conduct the search," he added. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) New Delhi Divesh Mahla said, "Regarding the raid being conducted at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's Kapurthala House residence, it is being done on complaint by the Returning Officer (RO) and Flying Squad Team (FST). Police presence is on requisition and requirement for safety of FST." Meanwhile, the AAP hit out at the BJP for conducting a raid at an elected Chief Minister's house, while not taking any action against BJP for openly distributing money.

An official outside Kapurthala House told the media that a complaint was received regarding 'cash' being distributed from there. "The team was awaiting permission to conduct the search," he added. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) New Delhi Divesh Mahla said, "Regarding the raid being conducted at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's Kapurthala House residence, it is being done on complaint by the Returning Officer (RO) and Flying Squad Team (FST). Police presence is on requisition and requirement for safety of FST." Meanwhile, the AAP hit out at the BJP for conducting a raid at an elected Chief Minister's house, while not taking any action against BJP for openly distributing money.

## EC ask Kejriwal to name Yamuna poison; AAP says CEC securing retirement job

**RAJESH KUMAR** NEW DELHI

Dissatisfied with AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal's reply on mixing poison in the Yamuna, the Election Commission on Thursday sought another detailed response from him, saying his remarks prima facie appeared to promote disharmony and enmity between different groups. The Commission has said Kejriwal's responses have been "completely silent" in substantiating his claim of Haryana "poisoning" the Yamuna river. The EC asked Kejriwal what kind of poison was mixed by Haryana, what was the supporting evidence about the quantity, nature and manner of detecting poison and the location where detection of the poison. In a sharp response to EC's directives for seeking factual evidence by 11 am on Friday to substantiate his claim of the Yamuna water being "poisoned" by the Haryana government, AAP chief said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar is acting as the BJP stooge. Accusing him of seeking a post-retirement job, Kejriwal said he would send three bottles of Yamuna water



AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal with SP President Akhilesh Yadav during a roadshow in support of AAP candidate Anil Jha. Photo: Ranjan Dimri

to Kumar and his Election Commissioners and challenged him to drink the water. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal alleged that Kumar had "destroyed" the credibility of the Election Commission (EC) and was eyeing a post-retirement position. "The language he has used is not the Election Commission's job. He should contest the election from any seat in Delhi. We will send three bottles to Rajiv Kumar as well. I know they will arrest me in three days, let them do so, I am not afraid," he said. Kejriwal's remarks came hours after the Election Commission shot off another letter to the AAP chief, in which it has stated that

Kejriwal's responses have been "completely silent" in substantiating his claim of Haryana "poisoning" the Yamuna river. The poll body has sought "pointed replies" to five questions, failing which it will take an appropriate decision without further reference to him. The Commission posed five questions, asking: "What kind of poison was mixed by the state government of Haryana in Yamuna? Supporting evidence about the quantity, nature, and manner of detecting the poison, the location where it was detected, which DJB engineers detected it, and how and where?"



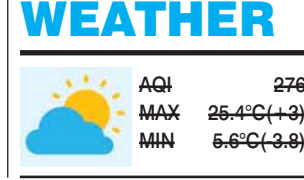
The Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw announcing various projects under INDIAai Mission PTI

## India prepares to take on ChatGPT, Deepseek

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI

India on Thursday outlined global AI ambitions with plans to build its own 'foundational model' that could take on the might of ChatGPT, Deepseek R1 and others, as it lined up "most affordable" common compute facility powered by 18,693 GPUs to be used by startups and researchers. India's bold move comes at a time when Chinese company DeepSeek has turned heads after its AI model overtook ChatGPT as the top-ranked free app on Apple's appstore, challenging the AI dominance concentrated so far with the US firms, particularly Silicon Valley frontrunner Open AI. IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw exuded confidence that India will build a foundational

model that is world-class, and that it will be able to compete with best models across the globe. The government announced the next steps in its AI blueprint, among them, 18,693 Graphics Processing Unit or GPUs on offer by the empanelled bidders (a list that includes Jio Platforms, CMS Computers, Tata Communications, E2E Networks, Yotta Data Services, and others), and start of AI safety institution, with 8 projects approved under it. The government is also calling for proposals to develop India's own foundational models that would be aligned to Indian context, Indian languages, culture, basically where datasets are "for our country, of our country and for our citizens" and "biases are removed".



## NEWS BRIEFS

**BJP defeats AAP in Chandigarh Mayor poll**

**CHANDIGARH:** The BJP on Thursday won the post of Mayor while AAP-backed Congress candidates registered victory in the poll for the senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor posts in the high-stakes Chandigarh mayoral elections that took place here. The contest for the mayoral polls was between the BJP and the AAP-Congress combine. AAP was fighting for the post of mayor while the Congress was contesting for the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor. In a jolt to the AAP-Congress combine, BJP's Harpreet Kaur Babla was elected as the new mayor of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation after she defeated AAP nominee Prem Lata.

## Passenger jet collides with Army helicopter in US

**ARLINGTON:** An American Airlines jet carrying 60 passengers and four crew members collided with an Army helicopter while landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, prompting a large search-and-rescue operation in the nearby Potomac River. There were multiple fatalities, according to a person familiar with the matter, but the precise number of victims was unclear as rescue crews hunted for any survivors. Three soldiers were onboard the helicopter, an Army official said.

## Virat Kohli fans goes frenzy in Capital



Virat Kohli fans celebrating at the stadium. STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Scores of former Indian skipper Virat Kohli fans on Thursday thronged Arun Jaitley Stadium here to catch a glimpse of their hero leading to chaos for a brief while outside the stadium. He returned to play for the first time the Ranji Trophy after 12 years. The first day Delhi-Railways match saw fans lining outside the stadium from early morning. There was a brief rush and jostling outside the stadium as spectators tried to make their way inside. No one was injured in the incident, police said. Initially, only one gate was open for entry and people started pushing each other to get inside

the stadium, a Delhi Police statement said. "Additional gates were soon opened, easing the situation. No injuries were reported, and the situation is now under control," it said. The 'Gautam Gambhir Stand' was already packed and it hardly took time to fill the lower tier of the 'Bishan Bedi Stand', taking the crowd count well past 12,000 at toss. The deafening roars of "Kohli, Kohli" could be heard from a distance as the former India captain took the field with the rest of the Delhi teammates. Outside Gate 16, the crowd was involved in pushing each other, which led to a couple of fans falling near the entry gate and getting injured. A police bike was damaged and several left behind their shoes. At least three people got injured in the chaos, reports said. The injured fans were treated by the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) security and police near the gate. One of the fans also needed a bandage on the leg. A security guard was also injured while trying to get the situation under control.

## Woman pleads DNA for missing 'monk' husband

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE** MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The Kumbh Mela, often associated with stories of lost families, has taken an unusual turn. A Jharkhand family believes they have found their long-lost relative, but there's a twist—the man they claim is Ganasagar Yadav, who went missing 27 years ago, now lives as an Aghori monk and refuses to recognize them. Ganasagar disappeared in 1998 after a trip to Patna, leaving behind his wife, Dhanwa Devi, and their two young sons. Over the years, the family had given up hope of ever finding him. But fate intervened when a relative attending the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj spotted a sadhu



resembling Ganasagar and sent a photograph home. Murli Yadav, Ganasagar's younger brother, along with Dhanwa Devi and her sons, rushed to Prayagraj to confront the monk—now known as Baba Rajkumar. However, he denied any connection to his past life. The monk, accompanied by a

Sadhvi, claimed he was from Varanasi and dismissed the family's claims. The family, however, remains firm. They pointed out his distinct long teeth, a forehead injury, and a scar on his knee as proof of his identity. Determined to get answers, they have sought police intervention and demanded a DNA test. "It is generally said, Kumbh mein bichhde kabhi nahi milte (those who get lost at the Kumbh never reunite), but here the case is different. Kumbh has united the family, but the problem is, the monk is yet to recognize his family," said Murli Yadav. The family has decided to wait until the end of the Kumbh Mela. If necessary, they will insist on a DNA test. "If the results prove we are wrong, we will apologize," Murli added. For now, some family members have returned home, while others continue to watch over Baba Rajkumar and his companion, hoping for a moment of recognition—or a scientific resolution—to finally bring closure to a decades-old mystery.

# Jolt to AAP-Cong Alliance as BJP's Harpreet Babla wins Chandigarh Mayoral Poll

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

In a major jolt to the Congress-AAP alliance, BJP's Harpreet Babla on Thursday won the high-stake Chandigarh Mayoral polls against AAP candidate Prem Lata. The result is a severe political setback for the AAP-Congress alliance, which had 20 councillors before the election. This time the seat, with a tenure of a year, was reserved for women.



The Chandigarh Mayoral election for the posts of mayor, senior deputy mayor, and deputy mayor were held in the Election Commission of India. The voting through secret ballot began at 11 am under the supervision of Justice Jaishree Thakur, retired judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court, who was appointed by the Supreme Court to oversee the elections. No mobile phones, cameras, weapons, electronic gadgets, pens and pencils were allowed during the election process.

In the 35-member House, the AAP-Congress alliance has 19 councillors -- 13 votes of AAP and six of the Congress, while the BJP has 16 votes. The year-old alliance also banked on one vote of ex-officio member and its MP Manish Tewari, taking its total votes to 20. There was a direct contest between the AAP's Prem Lata and the BJP's Harpreet Kaur Babla. In the run-up to the polls, the Congress' senior woman councillor Gurbax Rawat had switched loyalties and joined the BJP. Earlier, amid reports of bickering, the AAP a day earlier released a photo of all councillors being kept in a hotel in Punjab's Ropar town to prevent "poaching". The photo comprised three councillors who are reportedly "upset" with the party. The BJP was relying on cross-voting or defections to achieve the 19-vote mark for a majority.

Hours before the mayoral polling, Chandigarh Police on Wednesday night booked Mayor Kuldeep Kumar of the AAP and his brother-in-law Rahul on charges of cheating and corruption. The case was registered on the complaint of a resident of Ram Darbar, who alleged that he paid Rs 75,000 to Rahul, who had promised him a sanitation worker job. Despite making payments, he alleged he did not receive the job. Just 30 minutes before the voting began, Kuldeep Kumar got interim bail in the case.

As many as 36 votes, including that of Member of Parliament Manish Tewari, were polled during the elections which were recorded on camera. Due to 'cross-voting' by three councillors, BJP's Harpreet Kaur Babla was elected new Mayor of Chandigarh. While Harpreet Babla got 19 votes, Prem Lata got 17 votes. Babla, the second time councillor, is the daughter of a retired Army Colonel and is married to former councillor Devinder Singh Babla, who was previously with the Congress. Talking to Reporters, she said that she would focus on enhancing urban development and addressing key civic issues to improve the quality of life for residents.

However, Congress candidate Jasbir Singh Bunt secured the post of Senior Deputy Mayor. He got 19 votes, while his nearest rival and BJP candidate Bimla Dubey secured 17 votes. Congress candidate Taruna Mehta has been elected Deputy mayor. She defeated BJP candidate Lakhbir Singh

Chandigarh. It's a decisive win over the unholy alliance that was trying to portray themselves as the city's leaders.

## Deeply saddened by Loss of the Mayoral seat: Congress

Meanwhile, Congress leaders expressed their disappointment over the loss, with Chandigarh Congress President Harmohinder Singh Lucky questioning the integrity of the process. "Someone tried to play a game. It's becoming clearer now," Lucky said. "While we are pleased with Jasbir Singh Bunt's win as Senior Deputy Mayor, we are deeply saddened by the loss of the mayoral seat. We will assess the situation and find the 'black sheep'. Whoever played this game, we will expose them," Lucky said.

## AAP blames Congress for cross-voting

After Congress and AAP faced a humiliating defeat for the Chandigarh mayor's post despite a majority, the latter accused its partner of indulging in cross-voting. Senior AAP leader and spokesperson Neel Garg said Congress councillors indulged in cross-voting, leading to the election of the BJP candidate. Garg further said that the Congress councillors have betrayed them. "The Congress and the BJP are secretly in collusion. This incident has made it completely clear. Both are two sides of the same coin," he told the media. He said that the public should not trust Congress either because if people vote for it, their councillors would later support the BJP. He claimed the Congress would do the same in Delhi as well. "There too, they will end up supporting the BJP. Hence, voting for the Congress is equivalent to wasting one's vote," he said. Garg said the councillors from the Aam Aadmi Party supported the Congress. Their Deputy Mayor and Senior Deputy Mayor were elected with our votes. "But they have betrayed us," he added.

Responding to the INDIA bloc's defeat, BJP leader Sanjay Tandon said, "Where was their (INDIA bloc) majority? I don't think they ever had one... They chose BJP for the betterment of Chandigarh." Chandigarh BJP President Jatinder Pal Malhotra expressed his elation, stating, "This victory is for every BJP worker and every citizen of

# Punjab CM Slams EC Raid at Kapurthala House, Calls It an 'Insult to Punjabis'

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The political battleground of Delhi has now spilled over into Punjab, as the Election Commission (EC) and Delhi Police attempted to search Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's official residence — Kapurthala House — in the national capital. The move, which followed the controversial seizure of a vehicle, bearing "Punjab Government" sticker, allegedly carrying cash and liquor near Punjab Bhawan, has been met with sharp resistance from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), with Mann calling it an "insult to Punjabis" and a "politically motivated act at the behest of the BJP".

Shortly after EC officials and Delhi Police personnel reached Kapurthala House, Mann took to social media to condemn the move, accusing the authorities of deliberately targeting him while ignoring alleged election violations by the BJP.

"Today, a team from the Election Commission along with Delhi Police reached my official residence in Delhi to conduct a raid. In Delhi, BJP leaders are openly distributing money, but the Election Commission and Delhi Police see nothing. No action is being taken against them. This is a direct attempt to defame Punjabis at BJP's behest," Mann posted on X (formerly Twitter).

AAP leaders have strongly condemned the move, calling it an act of "political revenge". The party's Punjab unit president and Cabinet Minister Aman Arora alleged that the BJP, fear-

ing electoral defeat, was using central agencies and law enforcement to intimidate AAP leaders.

"The BJP is terrified of losing in Delhi and is resorting to dirty tricks. They planted a fake vehicle to frame AAP, and now they are raiding the Punjab CM's residence. Why hasn't the Election Commission taken action against BJP leaders like Pravesh Verma and Kailash Gahlot, who have been openly distributing money?" Arora questioned.

According to the EC officials, the raid was prompted by a complaint filed through the cVIGIL app, which allows citizens to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The complaint alleged that cash was being distributed from Kapurthala House, leading to the immediate deployment of a Flying Squad Team (FST) under standard election monitoring protocols.

An EC official, talking with the media, stated, "We received a complaint regarding cash distribution from Kapurthala House, which falls under the New Delhi Assembly constituency. As per protocol, a team was dispatched for verification. However, our officials were denied entry, and the matter is being reviewed."

AAP leaders, however, see this as part of a broader strategy to discredit the party. "If the EC is truly impartial, why is it only targeting AAP? BJP's open cash distribution is visible to everyone, yet no action is taken against them. This is an orchestrated attempt to mislead voters and divert attention," said Punjab Finance Minister Harpal

Singh Cheema.

The raid on Punjab CM's official residence comes just a day after Delhi Police seized a vehicle bearing a "Punjab Government" sticker near Punjab Bhawan. The car, which reportedly contained Rs 10 lakh in cash, liquor bottles, and AAP campaign material, sparked a political storm, with BJP accusing AAP of election malpractice.

However, Punjab's Transport Department quickly countered the allegations, revealing that the vehicle's number plate was fake and did not belong to the Punjab government.

Mann has since alleged that the entire episode was a "political conspiracy" orchestrated by the BJP to malign AAP and Punjabis.

## Clamour Reaches Punjab: 'An Attack on Punjab's Dignity'

The developments in Delhi have not gone unnoticed in Punjab. The ruling AAP in Punjab sees this as an "attack on Punjab's dignity", with the party leaders asserting that the BJP is trying to undermine the state's leadership on a national stage. AAP MLA Jeevan Jyot Kaur slammed the EC, asking, "Will the Election Commission dare to raid Pravesh Verma's residence? Why are they only targeting AAP? This selective targeting is proof that the EC is working as BJP's puppet." The issue has now turned into a Punjab versus Delhi battle, with AAP leaders positioning the raids as an attack on the people of Punjab. Political analysts believed that this controversy could have ramifications

beyond Delhi elections, potentially impacting AAP's standing in Punjab as well. With Delhi elections fast approaching, this controversy is set to escalate further. AAP has vowed to take up the issue at the national level, demanding accountability from the Election Commission and the BJP-led central government.

## Union Minister Bittu Urges EC to Inspect Punjab Leaders' Vehicles

Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Thursday called on the Election Commission (EC) to inspect all official vehicles of Punjab MLAs, Ministers, and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann traveling to and from Kapurthala House in New Delhi. Bittu alleged that cash is being transported from Punjab in these vehicles for distribution ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections. His remarks come amid a political storm following the seizure of a vehicle near Punjab Bhawan that allegedly carried cash and liquor, fueling accusations against AAP.

The demand for inspections intensifies the AAP-BJP face-off, with the ruling party in Punjab calling these allegations "politically motivated". Meanwhile, opposition parties, including the BJP, have called for a deeper investigation into AAP's alleged misuse of government resources in Delhi. "If AAP has nothing to hide, why is it resisting an Election Commission search? This is not about Punjabis; this is about election malpractice," said BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

# Punjab Govt Denies Link to Seized Car in Delhi, Calls It a 'Political Gimmick'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Punjab Government has strongly refuted allegations linking it to a car seized by Delhi

Police near Punjab Bhawan, calling the controversy a "deliberate political gimmick" ahead of the Delhi elections. The vehicle, which reportedly bore a "Punjab Sarkar" (Punjab Government)

sticker in Punjabi, was found with Rs 10 lakh in unaccounted cash, liquor bottles, and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) campaign material on late Wednesday night. However, Punjab's Transport Department categorically denied any connection, asserting that the "number plate was forged" and that the car in question is "not registered with the State Government".

"This is a clear case of fraud. The vehicle seized by Delhi Police does not belong to the Punjab Government in any capacity. The number plate used is fake, and our records confirm that the registration belongs to a different car — an entirely different make and model, owned by a Maharashtra resident. It is evident that someone deliberately attempted to malign our Government by using a forged plate and sticker," said an official spokesperson from Punjab's Transport Department in a statement issued late Wednesday night.

Delhi Police released a video late Wednesday night showing the seized Hyundai Creta with a Punjab Government sticker, fueling speculation of a potential election code violation. The police alleged that the vehicle was being used for illicit activities, triggering a political storm. However, Punjab officials were quick to counter the nar-

rative, providing evidence that the registration number PB35AE1342 actually belongs to a Ford EcoSport (2018 model), owned by Major Anubhav Shivpuri, a permanent resident of Khadki, Maharashtra, who was posted at Army Dental College, Pathankot, three years ago. Officials further pointed out that the seized Hyundai Creta's registration plate lacked the mandatory High-Security Registration Plate (HSRP) features, making it easier to forge.

"This confirms that the number plate is fraudulent. A detailed search of Punjab Government records shows that no such vehicle is owned, hired, or associated with us. This is an orchestrated attempt to spread misinformation and mislead the public," added the government's statement.

With elections in Delhi fast approaching, the controversy has taken a political turn. While AAP leaders dismissed the allegations as a BJP-led conspiracy, opposition parties demanded a high-level probe. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann hit back at political opponents, stating, "This is a desperate attempt to tarnish our government's image. The truth is out — this vehicle has no link to us. Those resorting to such dirty tricks are only proving their fear of losing," he said.

# Punjab's Fiscal Wishlist from Union Budget: Special Funds for Farmers, Power Sector Relief, Police Reforms

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

With just days left before the Union Budget is presented on February 1, Punjab has made its case for a comprehensive financial package to address the state's most pressing needs. In a detailed letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema has outlined a bold wishlist aimed at transforming agriculture, bolstering infrastructure, promoting industrial growth, and financial sustainability. From a special budget to support crop diversification to incentives for farmers tackling the stubble burning crisis, from reimbursement of pending dues to industrial incentives for reviving its econ-

omy, Punjab's demands are designed to secure both immediate relief and long-term sustainability. At the heart of the state's priorities is the urgent need for financial support to diversify Punjab's agriculture, which has long been reliant on paddy cultivation. The government believed that a shift to alternative crops could unlock substantial savings for the Centre while addressing critical environmental concerns. Punjab is also calling for Rs 2,000 per acre to incentivize farmers to manage crop residue responsibly, along with the release of Rs 8,000 crore in pending Rural Development Funds (RDF), which would significantly enhance the state's rural infrastructure.

As the Union Budget

approaches, Punjab has made a strong case for financial assistance, policy support, and structural reforms that align with the state's economic realities. With issues ranging from agricultural distress and rural infrastructure to industrial revival and security concerns, Punjab hopes that the upcoming budget will address its long-pending requests. The response from the Union Government will be crucial in shaping the state's fiscal roadmap for 2024-25.

## Crop Diversification

A major component of Punjab's demand revolved around shifting away from excessive paddy cultivation to more sustainable cropping patterns. The government estimated that diversifying 10 lakh

hectares from paddy to alternative crops could help the Centre save approximately Rs 28,000 crore annually by reducing rice procurement costs, fertilizer subsidies, and power subsidies. Cheema has urged the Centre to allocate a "dedicated diversification budget", which could be matched by the Punjab Government using the savings generated from the shift. The state is also seeking reimbursement of procurement-related expenses to ensure financial stability for its procurement agencies.

## Incentive for Farmers Who Avoid Stubble Burning

To tackle the issue of air pollution caused by stubble burning, Punjab has sought an Rs 2,000 per acre incentive for

farmers adopting crop residue management (CRM) practices. Of the total estimated cost of Rs 2,000 crore, the state has proposed that Rs 1,600 crore be borne by the Centre, while Punjab will contribute the remaining Rs 400 crore. The State Government claimed that it has already provided 1.45 lakh CRM machines but believed that the direct financial support to farmers is crucial to cover additional costs like tractor rental, fuel, and labour.

## Power Sector Relief

Punjab has reiterated its request for an additional 0.5 percent borrowing allowance to support power sector reforms, as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. However, the Centre has ruled out carrying forward the unutilized borrowing limit from previous financial years. Cheema has urged the Union Government to reconsider, arguing that Punjab remains eligible for this borrowing from the financial year 2021-22 to 2024-25, and needs additional resources to strengthen its power infrastructure.

## Reimbursement of Rs 8,000-cro RDF

A long-standing demand of Punjab is the release of the Rural Development Fund (RDF) — a levy on grain procurement meant to finance rural infrastructure projects like roads and market facilities. Cheema pointed out that the Centre withheld Rs 8,000 crore in RDF payments over the past three years, severely impacting Punjab's rural development.

## Border Security, Policing Infrastructure

With a 553-km-long border with Pakistan, Punjab has highlighted the need for stronger policing and security measures. The state has sought Rs 1,000 crore to upgrade police infrastructure in border districts; procure high-end vehicles and surveillance equipment; construct 30 new police stations and six police lines; and to build housing and hostel facilities for police personnel.

## Higher Housing Grants under PM Awas Yojana

Punjab has proposed increasing the Rs 1.2 lakh grant per house under PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) to Rs 2.5 lakh, citing rising construction costs. The state argued that the current grant is insufficient to construct even a 25-square-meter house.

## Special Industrial Incentives for in Border Districts

To boost industrialization in Punjab, Cheema has demanded special incentives for MSMEs in six border districts — Amritsar, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Fazilka,

# CM Saini holds pre-budget consultation meeting with stakeholders

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Presiding over a pre-budget consultation meeting with representatives of the textile industry in Panipat for the 2025-26 budget, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said that the suggestions received from the textile industry would be considered for inclusion in the upcoming budget to ensure that industries fully benefit from the state government's policies and generate maximum employment opportunities.

Saini encouraged entrepreneurs to submit their suggestions either through the government's dedicated portal or in writing. These suggestions will help formulate new policies in the budget to strengthen the state's social and economic infrastructure, he said.

He said that the state government has formulated a policy to make the textile sector self-reliant. Continuous efforts are being made to promote small industries. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, both the Central and Haryana govern-



ments are working towards promoting self-employment. The government's objective is to ensure a significant contribution from the industrial sector in the nation's development, he said.

The CM said that to realize the vision of an inclusive budget, the state government is inviting suggestions from various sections of society so that the best ideas can be incorporated into the state budget. He said that, for the first time, the state government has introduced a system allowing any citizen to submit budget-related suggestions online from the comfort of their home. A dedicated portal has been developed for this purpose. So far,

9,000 suggestions have been received through pre-budget consultations held with representatives from various sectors across the state, Saini added. He said that the objective of holding pre-budget consultation meetings is to formulate policies that ensure the welfare and economic upliftment of every section of society and expressed confidence that the suggestions provided by various entrepreneurs would play a crucial role in strengthening and empowering the state through the upcoming budget.

## Policies will be simplified to encourage industry & investment

Chairing another meeting

of the pre-budget consultation with stakeholders related to the manufacturing sector in Faridabad, Saini said that new initiatives are being taken to encourage industrial institutions and promote investment for the economic progress of the state. Policies will be simplified on the basis of suggestions received in the pre-budget consultation meetings and he himself will review the issues related to the Haryana Enterprise Promotion Centre (HEPC) every three months.

He listened to the suggestions of the representatives who arrived in the pre-budget consultation meeting and also assured to consider the necessary issues in the Budget. He said, "In the Budget, meaningful efforts will be made to meet the current needs as well as long-term goals. The upcoming Budget is a reflection of our collective ambitions and priorities. For the preparations of the Budget, it is necessary that we communicate with all sections of society so that necessary positive efforts can be made to fulfill the needs and dreams of every citizen of Haryana."

## BRIEFS

### CM SAINI LAUNCHES REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR FARIDABAD HALF MARATHON-2.0

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday launched the registration process for Half Marathon-2.0, scheduled to be held on March 9 in Faridabad. To kick off the event, he personally registered online and encouraged residents of the district to participate enthusiastically in this event. Saini said that under the Haryana Uday Outreach Program, the message of a Drug-Free Haryana is being spread to the people of the state through marathons held across Haryana. To inspire the youth to move forward with renewed energy and a positive attitude, the Haryana Government is encouraging people to stay away from social evils by organizing awareness campaigns through initiatives like Rahgiri and marathons. He called on the citizens of the state to actively participate in this noble cause and contribute to realizing the vision of a Drug-Free, Healthy, and Prosperous Haryana.

### FEELING SNUBBED BY GOVT OFFICIALS, ANIL VIJ THREATENS HUNGER STRIKE

Ambala: Haryana Cabinet Minister Anil Vij on Thursday expressed his dissatisfaction with the functioning of officials, stating that they fail to follow his directions. As a result, he has stopped holding weekly Janata Darbars, which were intended to address public grievances in Ambala Cantonment. Moreover, Vij threatened to start an agitation and even consider a fast unto death to ensure that public works are completed. He said, "The officials don't follow orders. I have stopped holding weekly Janata Darbars, and may also stop attending the grievances committee meetings. People of Ambala Cantonment have elected me seven times, and if need be, will sit on fast unto death like Jagjit Singh Dallewal to get their work done."



# 100 DAYS NON-STOP EFFORTS TOP RESULTS



## डबल इंजन हरियाणा सरकार तिगुनी रफ्तार

### 1,85,000 Lakhpati Didis

Over 1.85 lakh women from self-help groups became Lakhpati Didis, with a target of 5 lakh Lakhpati Didis.

### Domestic Gas Cylinders for just ₹500

13+ lakh families benefited across the State till date.

### LIC Bima Sakhi Yojana

Women will get a monthly salary of ₹7,000 in the 1st year, ₹6,000 in the 2nd year and ₹5,000 in the 3rd year, along with insurance commission and a monthly incentive of ₹2,100.

### 100 Drone Didis

5,000 women in the State will be made Drone Didis. Free drones worth up to ₹8 lakh with training.

“माताओं-बहनों का जीवन आसान बनाने के लिए हमारी सरकार पूरी तरह प्रतिबद्ध है। हमारी सरकार, बेटियों के लिए हर सेक्टर खोल रही है, जहां कभी उन पर पाबंदियां थी।” - नरेन्द्र मोदी



# Classifieds

## BEDKHALI NOTICE

**I Pramod Kumar** S/o Makrand Lal R/o House No 39 Babu Dham Colony, Sector 26, Phase II Chandigarh inform that my daughter Renu is out of my control. I Disown her from my all moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with her will do at their own risk

**I, Balbir** S/o Sh. Banwari R/o 1583/31, Gali No. 26, Mayur Vihar, Sonipat has disowned my daughter Jyoti from my all movable-immovable property as she is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with her, he/she will do at their own risk.

**I Salochana Devi** W/o Subhash Chand R/o # 678, Sector 16-D, Chandigarh, My daughter Kusum is out of my control. I disown her from movable/immovable properties. Anybody deals her in future any type, shall be self responsible.

ਮੇਂ ਸ਼ਹਿਦਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਤਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਚੌਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਂਗੋ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਾੜੀ ਠਾਂਡਾ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਬਟਾਲਾ ਜਿਲਾ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਆਪਣੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਮਨਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਜਾਨੀ ਪਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅੱਚਲ ਸਾਰਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਖਰਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਉਹ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਹਨ। ਮੇਰਾ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਬਾਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਅੱਜ ਤੋਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਸਿੱਝਾ ਨਾਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਤੁਲਕ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ। ਜਿਵੇਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਚੰਗੇ ਮਾੜੇ ਕੰਮ ਦਾ ਮੈਂ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹਾਂ।

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**I, Rambeti** legally mother of No.15725384K Rank NK Name Pandey Pankaj Rajlalan Unit 2 EW Bn C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of H.No.269/B/278, Near Hanuman Mandir, Surendragarh, VIII/City-Nagpur, Distt. Nagpur, State-Maharashtra-440013 declare that I have changed my name from Rambeti to Rambeti Rajlalan Pandey and that by DOB is 05.04.1978 vide affidavit dated 30.01.2025

**I, Kasthuri** legally mother of No.16127382W Rank NK Name Chandra Prakash I Unit 440(I) Engr Sqn C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of 6B Singam Pidari Koiil Street, Malavathy-anathapuram, Madurai North, Thathaner Distt. Madurai North Madurai, State Tamil Nadu-625018 declare that I have changed my name from I Kasthuri to Kasthuri Iruappan and DOB from 01.07.1968 to 26.05.1972 vide affidavit dated 27.01.2025

It Is For General Information That I, Mukesh Kumar S/O Umed Singh R/O Village Bhainswan Kalan, Bhainswal, Haryana-131409 Declare That Name Of My Minor Son Has Been Wrongly Written As Dikshit In My Minor Son Namely Dikshit Malik Aged 16 Year In His 10th Class Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of My Minor Son Is Dikshit Malik Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

**I, Nirmala** legally spouse of No.16111543K Rank HAV Name Dangari Ningappa Unit 440(I) Engr Sqn C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of #2024, 958 Block 4th, Near Sai Baba Temple, Ward No. 29, VTC : Gadag, PO : Gadag, Distt. Gadag, State Karnataka-582101 declare that I have changed my name from Nirmala to Nirmala Ningappa Dangari and DOB 21.02.1992 to 05.07.1991 vide affidavit dated 17.01.2025

**I, No.3193908X** Rank HAV Name Santosh Kumar Unit 22 JAT C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Khanpur, Bajna Dehat, Distt. Mathura, State Uttar Pradesh-281201 declare that I have changed my daughter name from Paryanshi to Priyanshi and her DOB is 10.10.2005 vide affidavit dated 29.01.2025

**I, Kanwaljit Singh** S/o Gurdial Singh R/o Vill: Chutala Teh and Distt. Tarn Taran Punjab, Pin-143401 declare that in my Passport No. M 4916818 my father name wrongly entered Gurdial Singh. But my father correct name is Gurdial Singh. So amended my father name from Gurdial Singh to Gurdial Singh in my Passport.

I certified that my name is erroneously mentioned as Sikander Singh in electricity bill of my wife but as per documents my name is Balwinder Singh s/o Sh Dari VPO Chakoki Tehsil Dhillwan Distt Kapurthala (Punjab) Pin 144624 all relatives and public known me as Balwinder Singh.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Maya Pati** Spouse of No 3171923M Rank TS Naik Mahavir Singh R/O Village Maharra District Jind Haryana have changed my name from Maya Pati and Date of birth 01.02.1963 to Maya Devi and date of birth 01.01.1965.

**I Aashima** W/O Vipin Kalra R/O House No.512, Babarpur Mandi District Panipat Haryana Have Changed My Name From Aashima Rajpal To Aashima For All Future Purposes.

**I, Rakesh Kumar** Sharma S/o Bhaura Lal Sharma R/o 149, Krishna Nagar, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Rakesh Kumar Sharma to Rakesh Sharma.

**I, Ashok Kumar** S/o Tilak Raj Dhanjal R/O House No. 2246/2, Sector 37-C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Dhanjal.

**I, Hitherto** Known As Sharanjeet Chadha D/O Rajinder Singh Chadha Residing At 992, Sector 12-A, Panchkula, Haryana-134112 Have Changed My Name And I Shall Hereafter Be Known As Reena Chadha. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

**I Chander Mohan** S/o Sh. Amar Singh R/O Village Kamlar Post office Kangta Failag, Tehsil Dadahu, District Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh have changed my minor son name from Bhupendr thakur to Bhavik Thakur.

**I, Monika** W/o Sh. AtulKharana, R/o H.No.87, Sector 16-D, Chandigarh, My daughter Kusum is out of my control. I disown her from movable/immovable properties. Anybody deals her in future any type, shall be self responsible.

**I, Reena Devi** W/o Sh. Anil Kumar, R/O Village Jattal, Tehsil & Distt. Panipat, declare that I have changed my name from Rena to Reena Devi, for all future purposes.

**I, Gurdip Singh** S/o Baldev Singh R/o VPO Ajnoha Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Gurdip Singh to Gurdeep Singh. Concerned note.

**I, Neha Garg** W/o Sh. Yamank Garg R/o H.No.1423, Near Days Hotel, Huda, Part-2, Sector-25, Panipat 132103, Haryana declare that I have change my name from Neha Bansal to Neha Garg for all future purposes.

**I, Dharmendar Mani** Pandey R/O Late Rav Prapat Pandey R/O # 3235 Sector 47-D, Chandigarh have changed my name to Dharmendra Mani Pandey.

**I, Reena W/o** Sh. Kuldeep Kumar R/O House No. 1457/20, Sector 29B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Reena Rani to Reena.

**I, Jatinder Pal** S/o Ram Chand R/o # 1306, Chopra Gali, Saharanpur Road, Old hamida, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my minor daughter's name from Khushi to Khushi Randhawa.

**I, Surender Kumar** S/o Chanchal Pandit R/o #1618, Tibbi Mohalla, Kalka, Tehsil-Kalka, Distt.Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my minor son name from Suman Kumar to Subham Kumar

**I, Lovepreet Singh** S/o Harjeet Singh R/O Village Saido Lehal, PO Akalgarh In My Minor Son Namely Dikshit Malik Aged 16 Year In His 10th Class Educational Documents. The Actual Name Of My Minor Son Is Dikshit Malik Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

**I, Surinder Arora** W/o Raj Kumar Narula R/O Gali Gaggrian Wali, Ward No. 12, Tarn Taran, Punjab-143401 have changed my name after marriage from Surinder Arora to Surinder Narula.

**I, Parmod Kumar** S/o Sh. Kapil Dev Kalia R/o H.No.4951, Street No.1, Mohan Nagar, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Parmod Kumar to Parmod Kalia. All Concerned Note Please.

**I, Ramesh Sharma** S/o Rishi Ram Sharma R/o H.No. 1356/1, 3, Husianpura East, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Ramesh Sharma to Ramesh Kumar.

**I, Jatin Kumar** Panwar, S/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh R/O Village Kaimla, Tehsil Gharanda, District Karnal, declare that my date of birth in my 10th and 12th class school mark sheet is 21/01/2004 and my name is written as Jatin, which is wrong, whereas in my birth certificate my name is Jatin Kumar Panwar and my mother's name is Kusum Devi and my date of birth is 21/10/2004.

**I, Susma** W/o Gulshan Katyal R/O H.No.887/13 Gali No.3 Sharifpura Amritsar have changed my name to Shshma Katyal.

**I, Tanu Chatrath** W/o Davinder Katyal R/O H.No.887/13 Gali No.3 Sharifpura Amritsar have changed my name to Tanu Katyal.

**I, Tanu** W/o Davinder Katyal R/O H.No.887/13 Gali No.3 Sharifpura Amritsar have changed my name to Tanu Katyal.

**I, Rajeev Jindal** S/o Sh. Mangat Rai Jindal R/O H.No.73, Devi Murti Colony, Panipat declares that I have changed my name from Rajiv Jindal to Rajeev Jindal for all future purposes.

**I, Sangeeta Kumari** w/o Suresh Kumar Rana, R/O # 4, Phase-II, Ramdarbar, Chandigarh have changed my name to Sangeeta Rana.

**I, Mahaban Singh** Rathor Father Of Service No 15688924x Rank LH/Av Name Mohan Singh Rathor Of Unit 2 Csr(A) C/O 56 APO, R/O Hvo 93, Ward No 12, Tehsil- Agar, Ahr Mohalla, Tanodiya, Shajapur, M.P., Pin-465441, I Have Changed My Name From Mahaban Singh Rathor To Mehraban Singh And Date Of Birth From 01-07-1964 To 01-01-1961 Vide Affidavit Dated 21-01-2025 Before Ambala Cantt

**I Pooja Singh** Spouse of R K Singh resident of Race Course, Air Force Station, Ambala Cantt have changed my name from Pooja Singh to Pooja Kumari vide Affidavit dated 25/01/2025 before SDM Court, Ambala Cantt.

**I, Suresh Kumar** S/o Yog Raj Nayyar R/O House No. 1579 Ward No. 5, Grain Market Nakodar, Jalandhar, Punjab-144004 have changed my name to Suresh Kumar Nayyar.

**I, Dipti Hans** D/o Sudhakar Hans R/o 1516, Phase 5, Sector-59 SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab-160059 have changed my name to Deepika Hans.

**I, Neha Sardana** Alias Neha D/o Kamaljeet R/O House No. 4525, First Floor, Hibiscus Lane, DLF Phase 4, Galleria DLF-IV, Farukhnagar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122009 have changed my name to Neha Sardana.

**I, Ishika D/o** Pankaj Kakkar R/O House No-31/4, Krishna Colony Mal Godam Road, Bhiwani, Haryana-127021, hereby undertake that I, Ishika want to change my name to Ashu Kakkar & Gender as Male. I, Ishika henceforth be known as Ashu Kakkar S/o Pankaj Kakkar.

**I, Devinder Kumar** S/o Ved Parkash R/o 32, Shiv Puri-B, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar Haryana-135001 hereby undertake that I, Devinder Kumar want to change my name to Devi Vaishnavi and gender as Female. I, Devinder Kumar henceforth be known as Devi Vaishnavi D/o Ved Parkash.

**I, Sunil Gupta** S/o Palchand Singla R/O H. No. 37 Near Vikas Nagar, Baltana, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab-140604 have changed my name to Sunil Singla.

**I, Roshni** D/o Sh Manmohan Rahul Resident of House No. 5124/1, MHC, Manimajra, Chandigarh Have changed my name from Roshni to Roshni Rahul.

**I, hitherto** Known as Sulinder Jeet Singh Son of Kartar Singh residing at Village Nanowal Jinder Tehsil and Distt Gurdaspur-143517 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Sulinderjit Singh

**I, hitherto** Known as Surinder Kaur wife of Hardip Singh residing at VPO Thakarpara Tehsil Pattl District Tam Taran-143416 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Savinder Kaur

**I, hitherto** Known as Jaspal Kaur wife of Gurcharan Singh residing at Patti Road, VPO Bhikhiwind Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran-143301 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Jaswant Kaur

**I, Avireet Singh** Dhingra and Avireet Singh S/o Gurinder Singh R/O H.No.339, Shastri Nagar, Lawrence Road, Amritsar declare that above both names are mine one and same person

**I, Seema Joshi** D/o Babu Ram Joshi W/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Village Takhu Chak PO Tarn Taran District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Seema Joshi to Parmeat Kaur after Marriage

**I, No.14856363N** NK/Mt Sandip Pawar S/O Tanaji Dnyanu Pawar R/O Village and Post office Ranjani, Tehsil Kavathe Mahankal District Sangli State Maharashtra-416411 have changed my father's name from Tanaja Pawar to Tanaji Dnyanu Pawar Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB83623008739933W DT.28.11.2024 before Notary Public Amritsar

**I, Kuldip Singh** S/o Satwant Singh R/O VPO Bal Kalan District Amritsar have changed my name from Kuldip Singh to Kuldeep Singh

**I, Gurwinder Singh** S/o Surjit Singh R/O Village Bhal Dhai Wala PO Fatehabad Tehsil Khadoor Sahib District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Gurwinder Singh to Gurminder Singh

**I, Susma** W/o Gulshan Katyal R/O H.No.887/13 Gali No.3 Sharifpura Amritsar have changed my name to Shshma Katyal.

**I, Bhumi Narang** D/O Hansraj Narang # 283 A, Yamuna Enclave, Panipat Changed My Name Bhavna Narang To Bhumi Narang For All Future Purposes.

**I, Saloni Arora** D/o Jatinder Arora W/O Ashish Sehgal R/O Plot No.3, Backside Rajmahal, Milap Chowk, Jalandhar have changed my name from Saloni Arora to Saloni Sehgal after marriage.

**I, Sadhana S** Legally Wedded Wife of Army No. 14661460L Rank: Hav/ Auto Tech 'B' Unit. Name: Silambarasan V Veni. 115 Armed Wksp 56 APO, Resident of 1/90 B, Pillaiyar Kovil Street, Anaicut Taluk, Vannanthangal, Vellore, Tamil Nadu Pin 632103, have changed my name from Sadhana to Sadhana S.

**I, Mahender Sachdeva** S/o Sh. Ramditta R/O H. No. 662/12, Opp. Anandpur Kutia, Jagdish Colony, Hansi, Hisar declare that in Educational documents my name is Mahender, in Driving License Mahender Kumar, in Aadhar Card Mahender Sachdeva. In future I will be known as Mahender Sachdeva.

**I, Nisha Kapoor** W/o Gulshan Kumar R/O VPO Gaibipur, Distt. Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Nisha Kapoor to Sanjana Cantt for all future purposes.

**I, Hari Chand** Munjal S/O Ram Kishan R/O H.No. 696/6, Shastri Nagar, Amin Road, Kurukshetra, declares that I am known by two names: Hari Chand Munjal and Hari Chand.

**I, Ravinder Kumar** Gulati S/O Ram Saran R/O H.No. 2609, 7-B, Krishna Nagar Gamri, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Ravinder Kumar Gulati to Ravinder Gulati.

**I, hitherto** known as Chamanlal S/O Sohan Lal R/O VTC: Dig (118), PO: Deeg, Tehsil: Thanesar, District: Kurukshetra, State: Haryana, Pin Code: 136135, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rahul Kashyap.

**I, Priyanshu** S/o Kushal Pal R/O Near Sai Mandir, Mor Thikari, Post Office, Mubarakpur, distt SAS Nagar, Punjab, declare that I have changed my name from Priyanshu to Priyanshu Rajput.

**I, Kushal** S/O Om Parkash R/o # 206, Behlana, Chandigarh, declare that I have changed my name from Kushal to Kushal Pal.

**I, Karambir** S/o Tek Ram R/O Village Farsh Majra, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Karambir to Karamveer. In future, I will be known by the name of Karamveer. All concerned please note.

**I, Kiran Devi** W/o Ramesh R/O Village Kheri Raiwali, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Kiran Devi to Kiran Lata. In future, I will be known by the name of Kiran Lata.

**I, Rajesh Kakkar** s/o Ram Chand Kakkar r/o #871-A, Gali No. 4, Azad Nagar, Thanesar, Kurukshetra had changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Kakkar. In future I should be known as Rajesh Kakkar.

**I, Meenakshi** w/o Rajesh Kumar Sharma r/o Village Amin, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Meenakshi to Meenakshi Sharma.

**I, Baso Devi** w/o Army No. 3175656N, LNK Dev Singh r/o Village Bahri, Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana-136118 have changed my name from Baso Devi to Parkasho Devi.

**I, Dev** S/O Ramakant Sharma # 568, Near Shiv Mandir, Sector 45-B, Burali, Chandigarh have changed my name to Dev Sharma.

**I, Hajoor Singh** S/o Chatter Singh R/O Village Niwan Dhakala Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Hajoor Singh to Hazoor Singh. Concerned note.

**I, Bakramjit** Singh S/o Ajab Singh R/O Village Baroye Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Bakramjit Singh to Bikramjit Singh. Concerned note.

**I, Soma Devi** W/o Gurmej Singh R/O Village Rasulpur Taprian, Fatehgarh Churian Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Soma Devi to Soma. Concerned note.

**I, Bhinderjit Kaur** W/O No. 4479988K Hav Kamal Singh R/O VPO Paniar Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab)-143531 Have changed my name from Bhinderjeet Kaur to Bhinderjit Kaur and date of birth from 07 Nov 1981 to 25 Aug 1984 due to wrongly written in my husband's Army service record. Concerned note.

**I, Mukesh Kumar** S/o Mukh Raj R/o vill Chhani Tola, Po Jangal tehsil & distt Pathankot declare that Mukesh is my Given name & Kumar is Surname

**I, Satwant Singh** S/o Dharam Singh R/O Village Jagatpur Khurd PO Purana Shalla Distt Gurdaspur (Punjab) have changed my name from Satwant Singh to Singh Satwant. In future Singh is my Surname and Satwant is my given name. concerned note.

**I, Muskan** w/o Kabir Singh Sachdeva r/o #271-L, Model Town, Kamal (Haryana) have changed my name from Muskan to Muskan Kaur Sachdeva. In future I should be known as Muskan Kaur Sachdeva.

**I, Bhumi Narang** D/O Hansraj Narang # 283 A, Yamuna Enclave, Panipat Changed My Name Bhavna Narang To Bhumi Narang For All Future Purposes.

**I, Saloni Arora** D/o Jatinder Arora W/O Ashish Sehgal R/O Plot No.3, Backside Rajmahal, Milap Chowk, Jalandhar have changed my name from Saloni Arora to Saloni Sehgal after marriage.

**I, Sadhana S** Legally Wedded Wife of Army No. 14661460L Rank: Hav/ Auto Tech 'B' Unit. Name: Silambarasan V Veni. 115 Armed Wksp 56 APO, Resident of 1/90 B, Pillaiyar Kovil Street, Anaicut Taluk, Vannanthangal, Vellore, Tamil Nadu Pin 632103, have changed my name from Sadhana to Sadhana S.

**I, Khushboo Gumber** W/o Sh. Gaurav Gumber R/O Plot No. 9A, Industrial Area 3rd, ITI Road, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Khushboo Gumber to Khushboo Mehta , in future my name is to be called as Khushboo Mehta.

**I, Saloni** D/o Sh. Sukhdev Singh R/O Village Musahibwala, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Saloni to Saloni Kaur. My name is recorded as Saloni Kaur in all my documents. In future my name is to be called as Saloni Kaur.

**I, Prabhot Singh** S/o Hardeep Singh R/O Village Bhundewal P.O. Saidowal kalan, Tehsil & District, Gurdaspur, Punjab, Declare that my name is Prabhot Singh. Singh is my surname and my given name is Prabhot.

**I, Manpreet Singh** S/o Harnam Singh R/O Village katowal P.O. Pandori Bainsan, Tehsil & District Gurdaspur, Punjab declare that my name is Manpreet Singh. Singh is my surname and my given name is Manpreet.

**I, Kumar Ashok** Rai f/o Hav Manish Kumar r/o Olipur, Jamalpur, Munger Bihar have changed my name from Ashok Rai to Kumar Ashok Rai.

**I, Sodhi** Alias Banarsi Dass S/o Khusia Ram R/O VPO. Behram Sarishta, Distt. Jalandhar-144201, Punjab have changed my name from Sodhi Alias Banarsi Dass to Banarasi Lal.

**I, Manjit** W/o Deepa Ram R/O H.No. 1307/1, Near Bawa Ji Mandir, Lamba Pind, Po. Chogitti, Distt. Jalandhar (144009) have changed my name to Manjit Kaur (Surname as Kaur)

**I, Rama Rani** W/o Raj Kumar R/o H.No.169, Kala Singha Road, Doil Palace. AS Villa, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Rama Rani to Rama.

**I, Saranjit Kaur** W/o Mandeep Singh Chana R/O Ucha, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Saranjit Kaur to Saranjit Kaur Chana.

**I, Jaswinder Kaur** W/o Jagtar Singh R/O VPO. Nagar, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Saranjit Kaur to Saranjit Kaur Chana.

**I, hitherto** Known as Binder W/o Satnam Singh R/O H.No. 30, Navi Abadi Jattpura, Kapurthala-146401, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Balwinder Kaur.

**I, hitherto** known as Narinder Kumar alias Narinder Bansal alias Narinder Kumar Bansal S/o Sulekh Chand Bansal R/O 1020, Sector 17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar-135001, Haryana, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Narinder Kumar Bansal.

**I, hitherto** known as Balbir Kaur Gill W/O Sukhvinder Singh R/O Ward No.10 House No. 7/86 - 124 Shakti Nagar Bhogpur District Jalandhar, Punjab 144201, have removed my surname Gill from my name and now my name is Balbir Kaur. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**I, Meena** W/o Surender Kumar R/O Bishanpura Teh. & Distt. Jind (Haryana) I have declared that my name changed From Meena To Meena Kumari

**I, Parveen Rani** W/o Late. Sh. Surinder Pal R/O House No-LIG-48, Narotlam Nagar, Khanna, District Ludhiana, Punjab-141401, have changed my name from Parveen Rani to Parveen Sharma

**I, Indra** Mother of No. 4207949X Hav. CIK (SD) Jitendra R/O Village Satdev, PO. Dholpur, Tehsil Nasrullaganj, Distt. Sehore (MP) have changed my name from Indra to, Indra Bai vide Affidavit dated 25 november 2024

**I, Manisha Devi** Spouse of No 4201405A Hav. Sachin Yadav, R/O Village Gandala, post Gandala Teh. Behror, Distt. Alwar (RJ) have changed my name from Manisha Devi to Manisha. Affidavit dated 30.01.2025 before Panchkula count

**I, Narinder Singh** Bhullar S/o Gurmeet Singh r/o vpo Rupana Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed my name to Nariender Singh

**I, Simerjeet Kaur** W/o Narinder Singh r/o vpo Rupana Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed my name to Simerjeet kaur

**I, Priya Kim** W/o Rahul Jakhar R/O House No. 336 B, Ram Gopal Colony, Rohtak-124001, Haryana declare that previously I was known as Priya Jakhar and now I have changed my name from Priya Jakhar to Priya Kim. Priya Jakhar and Priya Kim are the name of same and one person. In future I will be known as Priya Kim for all purposes.

**I, Monty** D/o Sh. Sube Singh R/O V.P.O. Saimpal, Distt. Rohtak declared that I want to change of my name from Monty to Monty Elina. Monty and Monty Elina both name are one and same person. In future I will be known as Monty Elina.

**I, Komal Yadav** D/o Sitaram Yadav, Resident of H.No. 1142, street no. 8, Bhagat Singh Nagar, Derabassi SAS Nagar, Punjab, declare that I have changed my name from Km. Komal Yadav to Komal Yadav. All concerned please may note.

**I, Vishal** S/o Surinder Kumar R/o Nangal Nikku, Rupnagar, Punjab, have changed my name from Vishal to Vishal Chandel.

**I Harpreet Singh** Kamboj S/O Parmjeet Singh R/O Village Madanpur Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Have Changed My Name To Harpreet Singh

**I Sukhwinder Singh** Tiwana son of Shri Gurnam Singh, resident of House No. 534, Sector 52. Kajheri, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Sukhwinder Singh Tiwana to Sukhwinder Singh.

**I Surjit kaur** W/o Sukhwinder Singh Village Chhaja Distt Rupnagar have changed my minor son Satvir Singh to Satveer Singh.

**I, Somvir** resident of Village- Chandeni, Post-Chandeni, Tehsil- Charkhi Dabri, District-Bhiwani, State-Haryana, Pin-127310, have changed my Daughter name from Vandna to Vandana Vide affidavit No.IN-PB02086674562449X dated 29 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Kadam Kamal** Dharmaji Mother of No.17008080W NK Kadam Atul Dharmaji resident of Village- Malgaon, Post- Malgaon, Tehsil- Satara, District- Satara, State- Maharashtra, Pin-415011, have changed my name from Kadam Kamal Dharmaji to Kamal Dharmaji Kadam Vide affidavit No.IN- PB01136064853743X dated 27 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Kadam Dharmaji** Shamrao Father of No.17008080W NK Kadam Atul Dharmaji resident of Village- Malgaon, Post- Malgaon, Tehsil- Satara, District- Satara, State- Maharashtra, Pin-415011, have changed my name from Kadam Kamal Dharmaji to Kamal Dharmaji Kadam Vide affidavit No.IN- PB01136064853743X dated 27 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Divya** spouse of No.2811642H Sep Sarve Mahesh Narad resident of Village- Rajejgaon, Post- Gadegaon, Tehsil- Bhandara, District- Bhandara, State- Maharashtra, Pin-441804, have changed my name from Divya to Divya Mahesh Sarve Vide affidavit No.IN-PB01664401107729X dated 28 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.2811642H** Sep Sarve Mahesh Narad resident of Village- Rajejgaon, Post- Gadegaon, Tehsil- Bhandara, District- Bhandara, State- Maharashtra, Pin-441804, have changed my Mother name from Sunita Bai to Sunita Narad Sarve Vide affidavit No.IN-PB01665103036437X dated 28 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.15787718W** Hav Gohil Sahdevsinh Bhimdevsinh resident of Plot No. 47, Shivam Bungalows, Nandan Park 1, Near K.P. Shah Vadi, Rameshwar Nagar, District- Jamnagar, State- Gujarat, Pin-361008, have changed my son name from Parthrajsinh to Gohil Parthrajsinh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB99156113205572X dated 21 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot

**I, No.15787718W** Hav Gohil Sahdevsinh Bhimdevsinh resident of Plot No. 47, Shivam Bungalows, Nandan Park 1, Near K.P. Shah Vadi, Rameshwar Nagar, District- Jamnagar, State- Gujarat, Pin-361008, have changed my son name from Parthrajsinh to Gohil Parthrajsinh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB99156113205572X dated 21 Jan 2025 before notary public Pathankot





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Greenland gambit

Trump's attempt to acquire Greenland carries serious risks, threatening stability and undermining peace in the region

After assuming office, President Donald Trump has taken an aggressive approach, disrupting the global order—first economically and now through forceful tactics. His push to acquire the Danish island of Greenland by any means signals a potential standoff between the US and Denmark, and possibly even Europe. The push by the US President Donald Trump to acquire Greenland has led to tension between the United States and Denmark. While the idea was initially dismissed as implausible, Trump's administration has intensified efforts to assert influence over the resource-rich Arctic territory under Denmark though autonomous. Denmark has reacted with caution but with significant military reinforcements to protect its territory from any US misadventure. Greenland, the world's largest island, holds immense strategic value. With its rich reserves of rare earth minerals, vital for modern technology and defence systems, Greenland has become a focal point in the global competition. China dominates the rare-earth market, and the US sees Greenland as a potential alternative source to reduce its dependency on Chinese supplies.



Besides, Greenland's location provides a strategic foothold in the Arctic to dominate region. With climate change melting the Arctic ice and opening new shipping routes and exposing untapped resources, global powers, including the US, Russia, and China, have shown heightened interest in securing influence. The island is also home to the Thule Air Base, a key US military installation that plays a pivotal role in missile defence and early warning systems. Denmark has firmly rejected Trump's ambitions, reinforcing its commitment to Greenland's autonomy. In response to the escalating pressure, Denmark has announced a significant military expansion, allocating an additional 14.6 billion Danish crowns (\$2.05 billion) to enhance security in the region. The new military strategy includes the acquisition of three Arctic naval vessels, two long-range drones, and satellite surveillance systems. These enhancements aim to address the limited military presence in Greenland so far. While Greenland remains a semi-autonomous territory under Danish sovereignty, its growing geopolitical relevance has placed it at the center of international power struggles. The implications of US bid to take control over Greenland would be profound. Such a move would dramatically shift Arctic geopolitics, altering the balance of power and potentially heightening tensions between the US, Denmark, Russia, and China. The European Union has also expressed concerns over any potential shift in Greenland's status, as it would affect security dynamics in the region. It remains to be seen whether Trump's push to acquire Greenland will gain momentum or fade into history. Greenland has now become a pivotal battleground, and the Arctic, a once peaceful region, could soon become a new flashpoint the world can ill afford.

its commitment to Greenland's autonomy. In response to the escalating pressure, Denmark has announced a significant military expansion, allocating an additional 14.6 billion Danish crowns (\$2.05 billion) to enhance security in the region. The new military strategy includes the acquisition of three Arctic naval vessels, two long-range drones, and satellite surveillance systems. These enhancements aim to address the limited military presence in Greenland so far. While Greenland remains a semi-autonomous territory under Danish sovereignty, its growing geopolitical relevance has placed it at the center of international power struggles. The implications of US bid to take control over Greenland would be profound. Such a move would dramatically shift Arctic geopolitics, altering the balance of power and potentially heightening tensions between the US, Denmark, Russia, and China. The European Union has also expressed concerns over any potential shift in Greenland's status, as it would affect security dynamics in the region. It remains to be seen whether Trump's push to acquire Greenland will gain momentum or fade into history. Greenland has now become a pivotal battleground, and the Arctic, a once peaceful region, could soon become a new flashpoint the world can ill afford.

## PICTALK



Students witness the launch of ISRO's GSLV-F15, marking ISRO's 100th mission, in Sriharikota

PTI

## Challenging menstrual taboos in rural India

Cultural taboos and lack of awareness often confine girls and women to their homes, keeping them away from school, kitchens and religious spaces

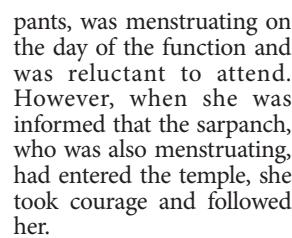
In India, approximately 335 million women experience menstruation but the majority of them are uncomfortable about speaking about it or discussing their menstrual hygiene problems. Parents, especially in rural areas are often ignorant and unprepared to discuss this subject with their adolescent daughters. However, an ongoing campaign called 'Red Achcha Hai' (Red is Good) running in three states is breaking the silence around menstruation and debunking taboos and restrictions that confine girls and women to their homes and bar them from attending school, entering the kitchen and participating in cultural and religious events.

First started in 2018 as a programme to make women and adolescents in rural areas in Gujarat aware of body literacy, fertility and menstrual hygiene by CHETNA, a not-for-profit working on nutrition, health and women's empowerment, it acquired a new urgency in 2020 when newspapers headlined the shocking story of how girls in a college hostel, supported by a religious trust, were asked to



strip by the college authorities for breaking the hostel's rules for menstruating girls. This made CHETNA realise that they needed to accelerate and escalate their efforts. Thus, the Red Achcha Hai campaign. Started with a new vigour first in rural areas of Gujarat, and Rajasthan and later in Madhya Pradesh, the eye-catching Red Achcha Hai campaign tapped the power of drama and visual communication with the CHETNA team dressed in red explaining the menstrual process, the need for menstrual hygiene and breaking myths and taboos around menstruation. The positive impact of this awareness programme and distribution of 2199 menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits containing three information booklets, a clothes brush, a nail cutter and a rope to dry the washed

cloth, led to its continuation in 47 schools of Sansad block of Ahmedabad since February 2024. Even while focusing on adolescents, the campaign continued to reach out to women too. In 2023, when the campaign was being conducted across 16 villages of Jhagadia block, Bharuch district of Gujarat, a woman sarpanch was invited as a chief guest for an event to celebrate nutrition week organised on the grounds of an adjoining temple. The sarpanch expressed her reservations as it was the fourth day of her period. However, after some discussions on the myths surrounding menstruation, the CHETNA team motivated her to come to the function. The sarpanch not only came for the function and sat on the temple steps but entered the temple. This act made her an icon for breaking the myths and taboos surrounding menstruation and helped to inspire other women shackled by societal barriers imposed by their families during their menstrual cycle. A mother of a malnourished child, who was also one of the partici-



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

pants, was menstruating on the day of the function and was reluctant to attend. However, when she was informed that the sarpanch, who was also menstruating, had entered the temple, she took courage and followed her. The sarpanch's actions challenged traditional taboos and set a powerful example. It highlighted the power of education and support in overcoming menstrual stigma. The campaign has reached more than 10,000 women and girls and many young people are coming forward to support the campaign. The students of Riverside School of Ahmedabad City supported the campaign by raising funds for the initiative to end discrimination against women and girls. Poor menstrual hygiene practices may lead to recurring reproductive tract infections which may increase the risk of cervical cancer. The 'Red Achcha Hai' campaign is changing mindsets and empowering women and girls to break free from restrictive cultural norms. (The author is a journalist writing on development and gender; views are personal)

When AAP announces Rs 2100 per month to every unemployed woman of Delhi resident, BJP promises Rs 2500 to those below the poverty line and Rs 21,000 to pregnant women, and Congress promises Rs 2500 to every woman under the proposed Pyari Didiyojana. Also, AAP promises full financial assistance to children from dalit families for pursuing higher education. When BJP promises Rs 15000 for up to two attempts for students preparing for competitive examinations, Congress promises Rs 8500 under the Yuva Udan Yojana apprenticeship scheme for a year. While RBI has warned that rising expenditure on subsidies, including cash transfers to women, could limit productive investments. Activists are yet to arrive at a consensus on whether such schemes actually empower women or not. There are so many cases in the Supreme Court about freebies and cash transfers to residents. A few months ago, SC has issued notices to some state governments and the central government, also to the Election Commission of India, on the plea seeking comprehensive guidelines to bar political parties from distributing cash and other freebies at the expense of taxpayers. A total ban on freebies should be implemented by enacting laws at the centre.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

# Seed innovation: Key to agricultural growth

Unlocking India's full agricultural potential demands strong policies, industry collaboration and a commitment to technological advancements, especially in seed innovation



AJAI RANA

India stands at the cusp of a transformative shift in its agricultural landscape, driven by its growing population, expanding economy, and the mounting challenges posed by climate change. With the Union Budget 2024 allocating Rs 1.52 lakh crore to agriculture, the government's recognition of the sector's importance in ensuring India's economic future is clear. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for agricultural growth focuses on innovation, sustainability, and resilience. For India to realise its agricultural potential by 2025, however, clear policy frameworks and effective industry collaboration are essential.

At the core of this transformation is the need for a robust, resilient, and technologically advanced seed sector. As India transitions from a traditional, production-centric agricultural model to one that prioritises farmer welfare and income generation, there is a fundamental opportunity to improve livelihoods and promote sustainable agricultural practices. A critical aspect of India's agricultural future lies in scientific advancements, particularly in the development of genetically modified (GM) crops. Globally, GM crops have proven successful in increasing yields, improving pest resistance, and reducing dependency on chemical inputs. Yet, India has been cautious in adopting GM technology, and a transparent, science-based approach to its regulation could help unlock its potential. A national consensus on the safe deployment of GM crops would support the goal of reducing reliance on imports, especially in essential crops like oilseeds and pulses.

The importance of collaboration between the private sector and public institutions such as the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) cannot be overstated. Such partnerships drive significant research and development efforts across key crops like oilseeds, cotton, and maize, while also protecting intellectual property rights (IPR) to incentivise further innovation. A strengthened IPR framework could position India as a global leader in agricultural research and technol-



ogy. Youth involvement is emerging as a critical force for revitalising India's agriculture. The average age of farmers in India is over 50, which highlights the need to encourage younger generations to enter the field. As of 2022, about 30 per cent of India's youth are employed in agriculture, yet a large proportion still view it as a last resort. Programmes targeting youth education and entrepreneurship in agriculture are gaining traction, with initiatives like the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) and various skill development programs helping young farmers access better technologies and market opportunities. Moreover, youth-led startups in agritech are making an impact in areas like precision farming, farm-to-table models, and sustainable agriculture practices, providing innovative solutions to long-standing problems.

For example, the 'Agri-Startups' ecosystem is seeing rapid growth, with over 3,100 agritech startups currently operating in India (as of 2023), and an investment influx that has grown by 20 per cent annually. This demonstrates the growing interest among youth to innovate and lead the agricultural transformation. Furthermore, sectoral integration across the agricultural value chain is becoming more pronounced. India's agri-



FOR EXAMPLE, THE 'AGRI-STARTUPS' ECOSYSTEM IS SEEING RAPID GROWTH, WITH OVER 3,100 AGRITECH STARTUPS CURRENTLY OPERATING IN INDIA (AS OF 2023), AND AN INVESTMENT INFLUX THAT HAS GROWN BY 20 PER CENT ANNUALLY

cultural ecosystem is complex, with each sector, such as poultry, dairy, horticulture, and rural development, playing a distinct yet interconnected role in the overall growth. The government is focusing on strengthening these individual sectors as part of a holistic approach. The GST framework currently presents challenges for the agricultural sector, particularly about the costs and complexities of compliance for farmers and seed companies.

Simplifying the GST system could reduce operational burdens and make agricultural practices more sustainable and profitable. Additionally, targeted tax relief or incentives for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in agriculture, particularly in seed production, agro-processing, and machinery manufacturing, could support growth and job creation, especially in rural areas.

Restoring the 200 per cent income tax deduction for research and development (R&D) expenditure could significantly boost innovation in the seed industry. By reducing the financial pressures associated with R&D, such a policy would incentivise greater investment in developing drought-resistant and higher-yielding crop varieties. This would be particularly important in critical sectors such as oilseeds and pulses,

where India faces challenges in achieving self-sufficiency. In addition, a unified national-level registration process for seeds, along with the "One Nation, One License" policy, would simplify operations for seed companies. The current multi-state registration process often leads to inefficiencies and delays, hindering the growth of the industry. A streamlined system would enable companies to operate more efficiently and ensure that high-quality seeds reach farmers promptly, fostering growth and innovation in the sector. Research Linked Incentive (RLI) schemes could further encourage innovation by offering financial incentives for successful R&D outcomes. This would accelerate the development of new seed varieties that are climate-resilient and high-yielding, reinforcing India's position as a leader in global agricultural research. Looking ahead, the future of seed research holds exciting possibilities, particularly in areas like biofortified crops, climate resilience, and hybrid development. Breeding drought-tolerant varieties of rice, oilseeds, and pulses will be essential to ensure food security in an era of unpredictable weather patterns.

(The writer is the chairman of the Federation of Seed Industry of India and MD & CEO of Savannah Seeds; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CASH PROMISES TO WOO VOTERS

Madam — It is with reference to the news "AAP-BJP fight it out on social media over Guarantees" - January 30 While election debates are not a new trend in Indian elections, the issue has become hotly debated in recent months. Recently, AAP, BJP and Congress have announced schemes and cash benefits to woo voters in poll-bound Delhi. They have made tens of promises to fulfil the needs of the poor, the middle class, women, youth, priests, and other sections of society if they form a government in Delhi.

When AAP announces Rs 2100 per month to every unemployed woman of Delhi resident, BJP promises Rs 2500 to those below the poverty line and Rs 21,000 to pregnant women, and Congress promises Rs 2500 to every woman under the proposed Pyari Didiyojana. Also, AAP promises full financial assistance to children from dalit families for pursuing higher education. When BJP promises Rs 15000 for up to two attempts for students preparing for competitive examinations, Congress promises Rs 8500 under the Yuva Udan Yojana apprenticeship scheme for a year. While RBI has warned that rising expenditure on subsidies, including cash transfers to women, could limit productive investments.

Activists are yet to arrive at a consensus on whether such schemes actually empower women or not. There are so many cases in the Supreme Court about freebies and cash transfers to residents. A few months ago, SC has issued notices to some state governments and the central government, also to the Election Commission of India, on the plea seeking comprehensive guidelines to bar political parties from distributing cash and other freebies at the expense of taxpayers. A total ban on freebies should be implemented by enacting laws at the centre.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

### DeepSeek disrupts AI market



The global AI race has taken a dramatic turn with the rise of DeepSeek, a Chinese startup that claims to rival US industry leaders at a fraction of the cost. Its latest model, DeepSeek-R1, has ignited debate over China's growing AI capabilities, sending shockwaves through tech markets. DeepSeek's AI Assistant, powered by DeepSeek-v3, has surpassed OpenAI's ChatGPT as the top-rated free app on Apple's App Store. The company claims to have trained the model for under \$6 million, a stark contrast to the billions spent by US firms. Even more striking,

DeepSeek-R1 is said to be 50 times cheaper to operate than GPT-4. The impact has been immediate and severe. Nvidia, the AI chip giant, suffered the biggest single-session stock loss in history, wiping out nearly \$600 billion in market value. Investors fear that low-cost Chinese AI models could disrupt the industry, forcing a rethink of AI development strategies.

US President Donald Trump called DeepSeek's rise a "wake-up call," urging American firms to stay competitive. However, concerns are growing over China's access to restricted Nvidia H100 chips, raising questions about how DeepSeek trained its models. The AI world now faces two possibilities: a new Cold War in AI, where the US and China develop separate ecosystems, or a global AI price war that democratises access to advanced AI. Either way, DeepSeek has proven that China is no longer playing catch-up—it's setting the pace.

Gopalswamy J | Myslapore

### DRESSCODE FOR SIDDHIVINAYAK

Madam—The news that the Siddhivinayak temple trust, Mumbai, issued an advisory by barring devotees from adhering to dress sense and suggested avoiding torn jeans and prohibiting skirts and revealing clothes inside the premises. Having taken notice of the recent ghastly incidents at Govt RG Kar Hospital, Kolkata, and inside the Anna University campus, Chennai, there is an increase among perpetrators and wicked minds even when dressed properly. May be the reason that in order to bring good sense to prevail, the devotees, while praying before the lord, cross their arms and pull on their ears and also tap the temples gently not only to forgive and also to bless them with pious qualities. Dress to kill shouldn't end up otherwise in danger.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

### AT LEAST 30 DEAD IN STAMPEDE

Madam — A stampede broke out at the Sangam Nose area of Maha Kumbh, Prayagraj, at around 1 am on the inter-

vening night of Tuesday and Wednesday as lakhs of devotees rushed to take the holy dip on the auspicious occasion (bathing in the river will cleanse their sins and help attain salvation) of Mauni Amavasya. Due to the stampede at the world's largest religious gathering in India, at least 30 people were killed, with many more injured, a doctor at the Kumbh Mela festival told AFP. As a result, the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad has postponed the Amrit Snan. Political leaders expressed concerns, demanding immediate action and better future arrangements for pilgrim safety and wellbeing. People come from different places, bound by their faith, and they end up paying with their lives. Mahamandleshwar Premanand Puri has blamed the administration for the deadly stampede at Maha Kumbh Mela, stating they prioritised VIPs over safety preparations.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### TRUMPS INFLUENCE ON INDIAN ECONOMY

How India's digital economy could be shaped by his policies



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Donald Trump, the 45th President of the United States, has left an indelible mark on both American and global politics. While much of the discussion about his policies and influence has focused on traditional industries like trade, defence, and foreign relations, Trump's impact could extend beyond these sectors — especially to economies like India. As the world's largest democracy and one of the fastest-growing digital economies, India stands to experience both challenges and opportunities in the wake of Trump's post-presidency actions and his political stances. Here's a closer look at how Trump could shape India's digital economy.

**Trade Policies and Digital Tariffs** - Trump's "America First" policy introduced a more protectionist approach to trade, focusing on reducing imports and ensuring favourable terms for US companies. India has seen its digital space expand rapidly, particularly with global tech giants and startups. However, if Trump or his political allies push for new tariffs or restrictions on foreign tech investments — or increase scrutiny on digital platforms operating in India — it could complicate business relations. While this may benefit India's indigenous tech sector and could leverage such scenarios to strengthen local supply chains and reduce dependency on US companies, it will certainly be bad for US India's bilateral trade. **Geopolitical Tensions and Digital Sovereignty** Another area where Trump's impact could be felt is in the realm of digital sovereignty. Trump's earlier administration frequently took stances against Chinese technology companies. India, too, has followed suit with actions



against Chinese apps, and the digital sovereignty debate is likely to continue. Should Trump's influence result in stronger US-India alliances in the digital space, it could accelerate India's drive for data privacy regulations, local data storage mandates, and greater control over its digital infrastructure. The US and India will have the opportunity to collaborate on setting global standards for cybersecurity, data protection, and artificial intelligence.

If the relationship between the two countries remains strong, it could also lead to joint ventures that power India's emerging tech ecosystem. US-India Strategic Digital Alliance - Under Trump, the US-India relationship generally saw an uptick in strategic collaboration, especially in defence, technology, and trade. Post-Trump, this alignment could be further amplified. As a leader in traditional and digital technologies, Trump's legacy of prioritising high-tech industries in the US could create opportunities for Indian companies to collaborate with American firms in research and development. For India, this could mean access to cutting-edge technologies in fields like AI, 5G, quantum computing, and blockchain. Such collaboration could increase India's digital infrastructure capabilities, making it more competitive in the global market. Promoting E-Commerce Growth - Trump's policies favoured business growth, especially in the private sector.

His approach to deregulation, tax cuts, and incentivising entrepreneurship could be leveraged by Indian businesses, particularly in the e-commerce space. While Donald Trump's influence on India's digital economy is not straightforward, his policies, legacy and post-presidency actions could create ripple effects across global digital markets, including India. Whether it's through tighter immigration restrictions, geopolitical positioning, or shifts in trade relationships, India's digital economy must remain agile, harnessing both challenges and opportunities. India's emerging tech scene is robust and well-positioned to adapt to global changes.

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

# Freebies could push Delhi to fiscal disaster



UTTAM GUPTA

Despite repeated warnings from the Supreme Court about the detrimental impact of freebies on free and fair elections, political parties continue to offer them



In the din of blistering campaign in Delhi with the central theme of major political parties being on "freebies" - an acronym for 'something given free of charge' - it may be worthwhile to remind them about two observations made by the Supreme Court (SC). In an order in *S Subramaniam Balaji vs the Government of Tamil Nadu & Ors* given in July 2013, the SC had observed that the distribution of freebies of any kind influences all people. "It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree." A decade later, hearing a PIL on 'freebies', on January 25, 2022, it observed "This is no doubt a serious issue, budget for freebies is going above the regular Budget".

But, all this seems to have fallen on deaf ears. The state elections held since 2022 have witnessed political parties intensely competing with each other to mesmerise voters with a deadly combination of free goods and services and cash assistance. These have played a dominating role in winning elections. In Delhi, the offers have reached their 'NADIR'. The starting point was an announcement by the finance minister Atishi in the budget for 2024-25 reg. The Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana (MMSY) under which, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government will give Rs 1000 per month to all the women above the age of 18 in the national capital. Meanwhile, the ex-Chief Minister and convener of AAP Arvind Kejriwal promised an increase in income support under the MMSY to Rs 2,100 a month for every woman.

AAP has also promised free medical services to all above 60 at all hospitals; financing foreign education for Dalit students; free bus travel for all students; 50 per cent concession on metro fares; life insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh, accident insurance of Rs 5 lakh for all auto-rickshaw drivers and e-rickshaw pullers; wedding aid of Rs 1 lakh for their daughters and free coaching for their children; Rs 18,000 per month for all pujaris and granthis etc.

Not to be left behind, the BJP has come up with a package that is far more lucrative. It has promised Rs 2,500 a



THE RECKLESS SPENDING OF THE TAXPAYER'S MONEY ON FREEBIES IS NEITHER A RECOGNISED POLICY NOR IS SANCTIONED IN A COURT OF LAW. IT IS BLATANT FINANCIAL IRREGULARITY THAT AMOUNTS TO BRIBING VOTERS USING PUBLIC MONEY SOLELY FOR GAINING ADVANTAGE IN ELECTORAL POLITICS

month to women under Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY); Rs 21,000 to pregnant women; LPG cylinders for Rs 500 and free cylinder on Holi and Diwali; a stipend of Rs 1000 a month to SC students pursuing technical and vocational courses; free education for needy students from KG to PG; free travel for students on Delhi Metro; Atal Canteens in Jhuggi Basti clusters providing nutritional meals for Rs 5 only; implementation of Ayushman Bharat scheme and additional cover of Rs 5 lakh for senior citizens. BJP has vowed to continue all existing schemes.

The Union Government's standards of financial propriety lay down inter alia that "no authority shall exercise its powers of sanctioning expenditure to pass an order which will be directly or indirectly, to its advantage; and the expenditure from public moneys should not be incurred for the benefit of a particular person or a section of the people unless a claim for the amount could be enforced in a court of law or the expenditure is in pursuance of a recognised policy or custom".

The reckless spending of the taxpayer's money on freebies is neither a recognised policy nor is sanctioned in a court of law. It is blatant financial irregularity that amounts to bribing voters using public money solely for gaining advantage in electoral politics. Yet, the parties continue with it. What about the impact on the budget? Look at the BJP offer. The number of women above the age of 18 years in Delhi is around 67 lakh. @Rs 2500 per month under MSY or Rs 30,000 annually to each woman, giving assistance to them all will require Rs 20,100 crore per annum. According to an estimate, there are about 15 lakh pregnant

women. @Rs 21,000 per woman, the total outgo comes to Rs 3150 crore annually. As for subsidy on LPG, take consumption of 4 cylinders per household (HH). The cost supply is around Rs 1000 per cylinder, for two cylinders (Holi and Diwali), the subsidy will be Rs 2000 whereas for the other two @ Rs 500 each, the outgo will be Rs 1000 or Rs 3000 per HH. Taking a total of over 82.5 lakh HHs (current Delhi population of 330 lakh divided by 4 being the average HH size), the annual impact would be Rs 2500 crore.

Look at free education for needy students from KG to PG. According to the latest data available, around 9.91 per cent of Delhi's population was considered below the poverty line in 2011-12. The current population is 330 lakh, and the poor are 33 lakh. Of this, takes one-third or 11 lakh to be persons in the studying age 4 - 25 years. Taking the average expense of educating a child in India at the bare minimum of Rs. 20,000 per annum, the total expense on "needy students" in the city would be about Rs 2200 crore annually. The additional burden of these four guarantees alone on the Delhi government's budget is Rs 27,950 crore (20,100+3150+2500+2200).

Other freebies would bloat this figure by several thousand crore. Already, the finances of the Delhi government are in a precarious state. Against the total expenditure of Rs 76,000 crore during FY 2024-25, the total revenue is estimated at around Rs 58,000 crore.

This leads to a fiscal deficit (FD) of Rs 18,000 crore which is 80 per cent higher than the FD for FY 2023-24 at Rs 10,000 crore. The surge in FD is despite a steep reduction of over 30 per cent in capital expenditure from the bud-

get estimate (BE) of Rs 22,000 crore for FY 2023-24 to Rs 15,000 crore for FY 2024-25.

The government's current debt is about Rs 40,000 crore. But, this is not all. We also need to add the loans taken by its departments such as Delhi Jal Board (DJB): Rs 70,000 crore and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC): Rs 10,000 crore as the liability for servicing those debts is vested entirely in the NCT government. This takes the total debt of Delhi to Rs 120,000 crore.

The situation has come to such a pass that CM Atishi has approached the Centre seeking a loan of Rs 10,000 crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF).

The precariousness of the state's finances has a lot to do with the freebies which are estimated to cost about Rs 11,000 crore during 2024-25. Add to this at least Rs 30,000 crore being the impact of guarantees given during this election, freebies alone would dent the exchequer by Rs 41,000 crore annually.

Delhi government could be starting at an FD of close to Rs 50,000 crore. And, its debt would balloon to Rs 150,000 crore. The ball won't stop here. When used to doles, people will want more and more and parties can't say no. When, even a die-hard reformist and fiscal disciplinarian like Modi is forced to give way to freebies (courtesy, of Kejriwal's brand of politics), things will only worsen. What if people stop working (very likely when they get money sitting at home) and tax-payers stop paying taxes (likely when they see their earnings being frittered away in distributing doles to those who don't work)? The National Capital could be staring at fiscal disaster.

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

# Neravu Scheme: A catalyst for social change

It is a transformative movement dedicated to changing lives through direct action, offering relief and assistance to bring about social and economic change

Philanthropy has always been a driving force behind social progress, bridging gaps and providing succour to those in need. Often, it is the initiative of an individual or an organisation that reaches out to support the underserved. Marginalised sections of society, often ill-equipped to fend for themselves, view such assistance in dire circumstances as a matter of life and death. Across the country, there are numerous examples of individuals and organisations stepping up to aid the needy. In southern India, Mangalore, Karnataka, the MRG Group - a prominent business conglomerate with interests spanning hospitality, real estate and finance - has taken a remarkable step in this direction through its transfor-

mative initiative, the "Neravu". **The Neravu Initiative: A Lifeline for Thousands** Launched in 2019 with an initial allocation of Rs 1.25 crore, the Neravu has grown significantly in scope and impact. It has reached a remarkable milestone, disbursing Rs 6 crore in financial aid to support 3000 families and 60 organisations, benefiting approximately 15000 individuals. The assistance provided - ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh for individuals and up to Rs 25 lakh for organisations - addresses diverse needs, including medical emergencies, education, sports, and social welfare. What sets the initiative apart is its scale and robust framework, ensuring that aid reaches thousands of households. The "Neravu" program is



B K JHA

underpinned by a rigorous selection process to ensure the most deserving candidates receive support. An impartial committee meticulously reviews applications, prioritising critical medical cases, disabilities, and exceptional achievements in academics and sports. The programme extends beyond Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Shivamogga districts to

Kerala's Kasaragod district, showcasing its inclusive approach. **What is Neravu?** The word Neravu means 'support' in Kannada, and this initiative lives up to its name as one of the largest corporate-run financial assistance programs in India. Designed to address the immediate and long-term challenges faced by economically disadvantaged communities, the focus is on: **1. Education:** Scholarships ensure access to quality education for underprivileged students. **2. Healthcare:** Financial aid covers critical treatments and surgeries for those unable to afford medical expenses. **3. Livelihood Enhancement:** Vocational training and resources empower individu-



als to achieve self-reliance. **Impact of the Neravu** Mangalore, a thriving port city known for its cultural diversity and economic activity, has witnessed a profound impact from the "Neravu". **Educational Opportunities:** Many students from low-income families have pursued higher education, thanks to scholarships. **Healthcare Access:** Critical

medical interventions have been made possible for individuals lacking access to quality healthcare. **Empowerment:** Vocational training programmes have enabled women to contribute to their households. The MRG Group has expanded the reach of the "Neravu", demonstrating how corporate philanthropy can transcend geographical boundaries. Empowering Communities Through Philanthropy The "Neravu" initiative's impact goes beyond immediate financial relief, fostering self-reliance and community upliftment. Beneficiaries have shared inspiring stories of transformation. For instance, Raj Lakshmi, a graduate from a nearby village and the eldest among her sib-

lings, completed her studies with the Neravu's support. Now employed as a computer instructor, she supports her family of five. "I could complete my course because of "Neravu", and today, I am able to earn a living and help my family," she shares. **Making a Difference** The Neravu exemplifies how corporate initiatives can address pressing issues while fostering inclusive growth. Neravu's structured approach ensures that aid reaches the right people. In a world grappling with economic disparities, programs like "Neravu" serve as a beacon of hope. By addressing the root causes of poverty and empowering individuals, the initiative has brought tangible change to countless families.

Dr K Prakash Shetty, Founder & Chairman MRG Group, the visionary behind this movement, emphasises that philanthropy is not merely about monetary aid but about fostering a culture of self-reliance and social participation. Under his leadership, the MRG Group has blended business success with meaningful social impact, setting a benchmark in corporate social responsibility. The "Neravu" stands as a testament to the transformative power of structured philanthropy. By addressing fundamental challenges and empowering individuals, it inspires a collective commitment to building a more equitable society. *(The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)*

# Hamas frees 8 more hostages

## Israel puts prisoner release on hold

PTI ■ KHAN YOUNIS

Hamas-led militants freed eight hostages on Thursday as part of the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, but the chaotic handover of some of the captives, who masked militants shuttled through a rowdy crowd of thousands, drew an angry protest from Israel.

Israel was supposed to release 110 Palestinian prisoners later in the day, including around 30 serving life sentences for deadly attacks against Israelis. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the move was put on hold until the "safe release" of hostages can be assured.



A crowd greets Islamic Jihad and Hamas fighters as they arrive for the hand-over of Israeli and Thai hostages to the Red Cross in the south Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis, Thursday. AP/PTI

Over six weeks, Hamas is to free 33 Israeli hostages — roughly one third of those held — in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. As part of the truce, Israel has also pulled its forces back from major cities and allowed hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians to return to their homes in war-torn Gaza.

gated to watch, some from the tilted rooftops of bombed-out buildings. Footage showed hostage Arbel Yehoud looking stunned as masked militants hustled her through the shouting crowd, sometimes pushing people back.

7 attack, hugging and crying with her parents. Earlier, people cheered, clapped and whistled in a square in Tel Aviv as Berger's handover unfolded on big screens next to a large clock that's counted the days the hostages have been in captivity. Some held signs saying: "Agam we're waiting for you at home."

Gaza when she was not. The United States, Egypt and Qatar, which brokered the ceasefire after a year of tough negotiations, resolved the dispute with an agreement that Yehoud would be released on Thursday. Another three hostages, all men, are set to be freed Saturday along with dozens more Palestinian prisoners.

The sides are also to begin talks on a second phase aimed at winding down the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas, whose October 7, 2023, attack into Israel sparked the fighting. The hostages released Thursday included a female Israeli soldier, a 29-year-old Israeli woman, an 80-year-old Israeli man, and five Thai labourers who had been working in southern Israel when they were captured.

About 20 friends of Yehoud gathered in southern Israel watched as the tense scene unfolded on live television. Some cried. Others had their hands over their eyes or mouths. One friend yelled at the news anchor to "shut up" when she said the situation appeared dangerous. The crowd then burst into tears after she was turned over to the Red Cross. Netanyahu condemned the "shocking scenes" and called on international mediators to ensure the safety of hostages in future releases.

At the square, the White House's Mideast envoy, Steve Witkoff, met briefly with families of hostages. "My message is that we're with the families and that we care for them," he told The Associated Press. A number of foreign workers were taken captive along with dozens of Israeli civilians and soldiers during Hamas' attack. Twenty-three Thais were among more than 100 hostages released during a week-long ceasefire in November 2023. Israel says three Thais remain in captivity, two of whom are believed to be dead.

On Monday, Israel began allowing Palestinians to return to northern Gaza, the most heavily destroyed part of the territory, and hundreds of thousands streamed back. Many found only mounds of rubble where their homes had been. In the first phase of the ceasefire, Hamas is set to release a total of 33 Israeli hostages, including women, children, older adults and sick or wounded men, in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. Israel says Hamas has confirmed that eight of the hostages to be released in this phase are dead.

Hours later, a chaotic scene unfolded at a handover of the other seven hostages in the southern city of Khan Younis, in front of the destroyed home of slain Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. Hundreds of militants from Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group arrived with a convoy, and thousands of people

The other Israeli released Thursday was Gadi Moses, 80. Five Thai nationals were freed and identified by Israel as Watchara Srioum, 33, Pongsak Tanna, 36, Sathian Suwankam, 35, Bannawat Seathao, 27, and Surasak Lamnau, 32. The Israeli army confirmed all eight were brought into Israel. The government released footage of Berger, who was among five young, female soldiers abducted in the October

Among the people set to be released from prisons is Zakaria Zubeidi, a prominent former militant leader and theatre director who took part in a dramatic jailbreak in 2021 before being rearrested days later. Israel said Yehoud was supposed to have been freed on Saturday and delayed the opening of crossings to northern

The Israeli military says it killed over 17,000 fighters, without providing evidence, and that it went to great lengths to try to spare civilians. It blames civilian deaths on Hamas because its fighters operate in dense residential neighbourhoods and put military infrastructure near homes, schools and mosques. The Israeli offensive has transformed entire neighbourhoods into mounds of rubble, and it's unclear how or when anything will be rebuilt. Around 90 per cent of Gaza's population has been displaced, often multiple times, with hundreds of thousands of people living in squalid tent camps or shuttered schools.

# Jet with 64 aboard collides with US Army helicopter

PTI ■ ARLINGTON

An American Airlines jet carrying 60 passengers and four crew members collided Wednesday with an Army helicopter while landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, prompting a large search-and-rescue operation in the nearby Potomac River. There were multiple fatalities, according to a person familiar with the matter, but the precise number of victims was unclear as rescue crews hunted for any survivors. Three soldiers were onboard the helicopter, an Army official said.

helicopter on a training flight while on approach to an airport runway. It occurred in some of the most tightly controlled and monitored airspace in the world, just over three miles south of the White House and the Capitol. Investigators will try to piece together the aircrafts' final moments before their collision, including contact with air traffic controllers as well as a loss of altitude by the passenger jet.

Washington, with temperatures registering as high as 60 degrees Fahrenheit, following a stretch days earlier of intense cold and ice.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the collision, but all takeoffs and landings from the airport were halted as dive teams scoured the site and helicopters from law enforcement agencies across the region flew over the scene in methodical search for bodies. "We are going to recover our fellow citizens," District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser said at a somber news conference at the airport Thursday morning in which she declined to say how many bodies had been recovered.

American Airlines Flight 5342 was inbound to Reagan National at an altitude of about 400 feet and a speed of about 140 miles per hour when it suffered a rapid loss of altitude over the Potomac River, according to data from its radio transponder. The Canadian-made Bombardier CRJ-701 twin-engine jet, manufactured in 2004, can be configured to carry up to 70 passengers. A few minutes before landing, air traffic controllers asked the arriving commercial jet if it could land on the shorter Runway 33 at Reagan National and the pilots said they were able. Controllers then cleared the plane to land on Runway 33. Flight tracking sites showed the plane adjust its approach to the new runway.

On Wednesday, the Potomac River was 36 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The National Weather Service reported that wind gusts of up to 25 mph were possible in the area throughout the evening. American Airlines CEO Robert Isom expressed "deep sorrow" for the crash and said the company was focused on the needs of passengers, crew, first responders and families and loved ones of those involved. Some 300 first responders were on scene. Inflatable rescue boats were launched into the Potomac River from a point along the George Washington Parkway, just north of the airport, and first responders set up light towers from the shore to illuminate the area near the collision site. At least a half-dozen boats were scanning the water using searchlights.

President Donald Trump said he had been "fully briefed on this terrible accident" and, referring to the passengers, added, "May God Bless their souls." Passengers on the flight included a group of figure skaters, their coaches and family members who were returning from a development camp that followed the US Figure Skating Championships in Wichita.

Less than 30 seconds before the crash, an air traffic controller asked the helicopter if it had the arriving plane in sight. The controller made another radio call to the helicopter moments later: "PAT 25 pass behind the CRJ." Seconds after that, the two aircraft collided.

"It's a highly complex operation," said D.C. fire chief John Donnelly. "The conditions out there are extremely rough for the responders." The US Army described the helicopter as a UH-60 Blackhawk based at Fort Belvoir in Virginia. The helicopter was on a training flight. Military aircraft frequently conduct training flights in and around the congested and heavily-restricted airspace around the nation's capital for familiarization and continuity of government planning.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the midair crash occurred before 9 p.m. EST when a regional jet that had departed from Wichita, Kansas, collided with a military

The plane's radio transponder stopped transmitting about 2,400 feet short of the runway, roughly over the middle of the river. Video from an observation camera at the nearby Kennedy Center showed two sets of lights consistent with aircraft appearing to join in a fireball. "I know that flight. I've flown it several times myself," said Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas. He said he expected that many people in Wichita would know people who were on the flight. "This is a very personal circumstance," he said. The collision occurred on a warm winter evening in

The crash is serving as a major test for two of the Trump administration's newest agency leaders. Pete Hegseth, sworn in days ago as defence secretary, posted on social media that an investigation has been "launched immediately" by the Army and the Defence Department. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, just sworn in earlier this week, said at a somber news conference at the airport early Thursday that his agency would provide all possible resources to the investigation.

# ICC has Putin, Netanyahu in its sights, yet its courtrooms empty

PTI ■ THE HAGUE

For a few hours last week, the International Criminal Court looked poised to take a Libyan warlord into custody. Instead, member state Italy sent the head of a notorious network of detention centres back home. That has left the court without a single trial ahead for the first time since it arrested its first suspect in 2006. And it's now facing serious external pressure, notably from US President Donald Trump. Though its docket remains empty, the court still wields an USD 200 million annual budget and a large number of legal eagles keen to lay their hands on Russian President Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The point of the ICC is to investigate and prosecute those most responsible for international crimes." Empty courtrooms show how hard it is to end impunity. The only permanent global court of last resort to prosecute individuals responsible for the world's most heinous atrocities has not been in this position for almost two decades. Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga became the first person convicted by court in The Hague. In 2012, he was sentenced to 14 years in prison for conscripting child soldiers. Since Lubanga's trial began, the court has had a slow but steady stream of proceedings. To date it has convicted 11 people and three verdicts are pending. It has issued 32 unsealed arrest warrants. Those suspects range from Netanyahu and Putin to Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony and Gamlet

Guchmazov, accused of torture in the breakaway region of South Ossetia in Georgia. But it faces numerous challenges. Trump, on his first day in office, reinstated an executive order from his previous term sanctioning court staff. A more damaging piece of legislation, which would sanction the court as an institution, has passed one chamber of Congress but is stalled in the Senate for now due to opposition from Democrats. The previous chief prosecutor, Gambian Fatou Bensouda, described being the subject of "hug-style tactics" while she was in office. The court was the victim of a cybersecurity attack in 2023 that left systems offline for months and some technical issues have still not been resolved. In 2022, the Dutch intelligence service said it had foiled a sophisticated attempt by a Russian spy using a false

Brazilian identity to work as an intern at the court. The current prosecutor, British lawyer Karim Khan, has requested a record-breaking 24 arrest warrants. But many suspects — like Putin — will probably remain beyond the reach of the court. Neither Russia nor Israel are members of the court and do not accept its jurisdiction, making it highly unlikely those countries would extradite their citizens, let alone their leaders, to the ICC. "They haven't issued arrest warrants for people who they are likely to arrest," says Mark Kersten, an international criminal justice expert at University of the Fraser Valley in Canada. Ultimately, countries are responsible for physically apprehending people and bringing them to The Hague, says Chaikel, whose group oversees nearly 200 human rights organisations worldwide.

# Bill introduced in US Senate to restrict birthright citizenship

Washington (PTI): A group of Republican Senators has introduced a bill in the US Senate to restrict birthright citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants and non-immigrants on temporary visas. According to Senators Lindsey Graham, Ted Cruz and Katie Britt, who introduced the bill, the exploitation of birthright citizenship is a major pull factor for illegal immigration and a weakness for national security. The US is one of only 33 countries in the world with no restrictions on birthright citizenship, they said. The legislative move comes after an executive order on the matter, signed by President Donald Trump on the first day of his presidency, has been blocked by a federal judge in Washington state. The Center for Immigration Studies estimates that in 2023, there were 2,25,000 to 2,50,000 births to illegal immigrants, amounting to close to seven per cent of births in the US. It is long overdue for the United States to change its policy on birthright citizenship

because it is being abused in so many ways, said Graham. "One example is birth tourism, where wealthy individuals from China and other nations come to the United States simply to have a child who will be an American citizen. When you look at the magnets that draw people to America, birthright citizenship is one of the largest," he said. "I also appreciate President Trump's executive order to address birthright citizenship. It is time for the United States to align itself with the rest of the world and restrict this practice once and for all," Graham said. "The promise of American citizenship should not incentivise illegal migration, but that's exactly what has happened for far too long," said Britt. "Senator Lindsey Graham's and my Birthright Citizenship Act would codify President Trump's commonsense stance and end the abuse of birthright citizenship that I do not believe is consistent with the original meaning of the 14th Amendment's Citizenship Clause," she added. "This will protect our nation's sovereignty, disincen-

tivise illegal migration, and ensure America's citizenship practices are stronger and better aligned with peer countries around the globe," Britt said. The three Senators said in September 2024, two individuals from California were found guilty in a "birth tourism" scheme. Predominantly Chinese clients paid the operators of a "maternity hotel" tens of thousands of dollars to come to the US to give birth. Clients were coached on how to lie during the admissions process. A 2022 Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee report found a birthing company catering to the wives of Russian oligarchs, celebrities, athletes and public figures. The Birthright Citizenship Act of 2025 specifies who can receive citizenship by virtue of their birth in the United States, including children born to at least one parent who is either a citizen or national of the US, a lawful permanent resident of the US, or an alien performing active service in the armed forces. This bill only applies to children born after the date of enactment.



M23 rebels patrol in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Wednesday. PTI

# Trump talks so much that WH stenographers, everyone else struggling to keep up

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The White House stenographers have a problem. Donald Trump is talking so much, the people responsible for transcribing his public remarks are struggling to keep up with all the words. There were more than 22,000 on Inauguration Day, then another 17,000 when Trump visited disaster sites in North Carolina and California. It's enough to strain the ears and fingers of even the most dedicated stenographer, especially after four years of Joe Biden's relative quiet. Now there are discussions about hiring additional staff to keep up with the workload, according to people with knowledge of the conversations who insisted in anonymity to discuss internal matters. The flood of words is one of the most visible — or audible — shifts from Biden to Trump,

who craves the spotlight and understands better than most politicians that attention is a form of power. He's been speaking nearly nonstop since starting his second term, drowning out dissenting voices and leaving his opponents struggling to be heard. Take Wednesday, for example. During a signing ceremony for legislation to accelerate deportations, Trump, a Republican, talked up his accomplishments, claimed Hamas was using US-funded condoms to make bombs in Gaza, defended his administration's efforts to freeze federal spending and reduce the government workforce, veered through descriptions of migrant violence and made the surprise announcement that Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, would be used as a detention centre for people who are in the US illegally. Trump's commentary remains

laden with falsehoods, including baseless allegations about voter fraud and assertions that California water policies worsened the recent wildfires. Sometimes he speaks off the cuff about consequential geopolitical matters, such as a recent suggestion that Palestinians should be displaced from Gaza while the enclave is rebuilt. It can be hard to know when to take him seriously, like when he muses about serving a third term, which the US Constitution does not allow. But now that Trump is back in the presidency, it's hard to ignore him. "He's dictating the news on his terms," said Michael LaRosa, who worked as a television producer before serving as a spokesperson for former first lady Jill Biden. "He's become America's assignment editor." Most presidents try to start their terms with a bang, seiz-

ing the moment when their influence could be at its peak. However, Trump is in a different league. Biden, a Democrat, spent 2 hours and 36 minutes talking on camera and used 24,259 words in his first week in office four years ago, according to numbers generated by Factbase. Trump's comparable stats: nearly 7 hours and 44 minutes and 81,235 words last week. That's longer than watching the original "Star Wars" trilogy back-to-back-to-back, and more words than "Macbeth," "Hamlet" and "Richard III" combined. It's also much more than when first Trump took office for his first term eight years ago. Back then, he was only on camera talking for 3 hours and 41 minutes and spoke 33,571 words. Trump has spent decades practising the best ways to get people to pay attention to him. As

# Trump orders 30k migrant detention facility

Washington (PTI): US President Donald Trump has signed a presidential memorandum to set up a 30,000-person migrant facility at Guantanamo Bay to detain "high-priority criminal aliens." The Guantanamo Bay facility, which has so far been used to hold terrorists, will now also house illegal immigrants with criminal records. The signing took place on Wednesday, with Trump directing the Departments of Defence and Homeland Security to prepare the facility. According to the memorandum, he ordered the expansion of the Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to accommodate "high-priority criminal aliens" and address related enforcement needs. "Most people don't even know about it."



# B'desh minority rights group blames interim govt for neglect

Dhaka (PTI): Bangladesh's largest minority rights group accused the country's interim government on Thursday of failing to protect religious and ethnic minorities from attacks and harassment, a claim the government has denied. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council said the government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus is also using state institutions to suppress minority groups. Yunus took over after a student-led uprising last year in which hundreds of people died forced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee to India on August 5, ending her 15-year rule. The council earlier said 2,010 incidents of communal violence took place across the Muslim-majority country between August 4 and 20. The Yunus-led government disputed the claim, saying that most of the incidents were caused by "political reasons" and not by communal issues. Traditionally, Hindus and other members of minority groups have been seen as supporters of Hasina's Bangladesh Awami League party. In a news conference on Thursday, the council reiterated its claim of earlier attacks and said 174 new incidents of communal violence had taken place between August 21 and December 31 last year in which 23 members of minority groups were killed and nine women were raped. It said other incidents involved arson, vandalism, looting and forcible takeover of property and businesses. It said at least 15 members of minority groups were either arrested or tortured for allegedly undermining Islam. Manindra Kumar Nath, the group's act-

ing general secretary, accused the government of manipulating state institutions to harass people from minority groups. "We have observed that the interim government has begun using various important state institutions to carry out discriminatory actions against minorities. This is unexpected and undesirable from a government that was established based on the anti-discrimination student movement," he said. The council said minority groups were being targeted in a systematic way, and called for the release of a jailed Hindu leader. Nath said the leader, Chinmoy Das Prabhru, was being deprived of his legal right to bail in a sedition case. He is also known as Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari. Nath said many minority leaders had gone into hiding because of false charges against them. The interim government has said they face specific charges and were not targeted for any communal reason. Under Yunus, Bangladesh has been going through a tense period with Hindu-majority India over minority issues, sparking protests and counter-protests.

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Known to all that my client S. Mahan Singh owner of the SECOND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHT AREA 7550 YARDS PROPERTY NO. 09-15, 5 VILLAGE BASA DARAPUR JANTA COLONY SHIVAJI VIHAR NEW DELHI and S. Mahan Singh purchase property from S. Mahan Singh Khurana vide Notarized GPA, ATS and will dated 12.01.2012. Now S. Mahan Singh wants to sell aforesaid property. And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void if any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and takeover the same and after his claim is understood within 15 days of this publication.  
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**BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi**  
**TENDER NOTICE** Date: 31.01.2025  
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.  

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of (₹) EMD	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
C/MC/R/25-26/ R/PR/SS/1240	SUPPLY OF 5660 NOS. 9M (160KG) PSC POLES & 2110 NOS. 11MM (56 KG) PSC POLES.	4.24 Crore	8.48 Lakhs	20.02.2025 15:00 HRS	20.02.2025 15:15 HRS

  
Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-  
For details in respect of Equipment/DOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com) Head (Contracts & Materials)  
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Mehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527  
Telephone No.: +91 11 4910 7235 | Website: [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform general public that Mr. Ashish Rajpal & Mr. Kapil Rajpal have acquired Property Flaring No. B-153, area measuring 200 Sq. Yds., situated at Mahiya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017 by way of Relinquishment Deed dated 30.12.2024 as Document No. 559. Documents related to the above said property has been misplacided i.e. Sale Deed dated 16.12.1978 duly Registered as 4992. Anyone who find the said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Axis Finance Ltd. Office No. F-3 Third Floor Sector-3, Noida 201301.  
Now, Mr. Ashish Rajpal, Mr. Kapil Rajpal & Mrs. Phool Rajpal availing loan on above said property from Axis Finance Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised with 7 days of this publication to Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh (Advocate), AccuLaw Source LLP, Unit No. S-2, U-2, 2nd Floor, built on Plot No. 4 and 5, Anand Commercial Center, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 or contact: +91 9560399093 (M)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the Arbitration Award dated 10.02.2006 passed in arbitration proceedings among the legal heirs of Late Sh. Ram Singh Khurana R/O C-3/11, Ashok Vihar, Phase-II, New Delhi; legal heirs of Late Sh. Ajit Khurana R/O B-2/10, Ashok Vihar, Phase-II, New Delhi and Group of Sh. Gurbachan Singh, Late Sh. Bhagwan Singh R/O 125, Shree Punjabi Society, Andheri, Mumbai and A-28, Vishal Enclave, New Delhi all rights and entitlements in relation to Property in Khurana No. 93 at Pooval Thala, Adarsh Nagar ("Property") have vested in Group of Sh. Gurbachan Singh, comprising of ARINDER SINGH, GURINDER SINGH and PARVINDER SINGH. The public at large may take note that if any entry enters into any transaction for sale of the Property without the knowledge of the undersigned, the same would not be recognized by the Group of Sh. Gurbachan Singh and will be construed unlawful and accordingly, will attract legal action, both civil & criminal which shall solely be at the risk and cost of such entry.  
Sd/-  
Date: 30.01.2025 Gurinder Singh, Parvinder Singh, Gurbachan Singh Arora

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that my client Smt Prabha Devi W/o Sh. Balam Singh is purchasing a property bearing No. C-23, Out of Kharsa no. 407, Situated at Village Dayalpur Mazra Binahour, in the Abad of Gali No. 7, C-Block, Dayalpur extn, Village Shahdara, Delhi 110094, area measuring 56.1/2 square yards i.e. 47.48 Sq. Mtrs. The ownership of the said property is in the name of Sh. Ram chander alias Ram Chander jogi S/o Sh. Mohan Ram Jog and the same was transferred by Sh. Braham Singh S/o Nand Singh on behalf of Sh. Bhagwat Prasad through Notarized GPA etc. dated 18/01/2001. If anybody has any objection/s upon said property/its ownership and title/s and Mortgage/Litigation, kindly inform the undersigned in writing within 7 days of publication of the notice, failing which the property would be considered as unencumbered and no objection will be entertained thereafter.  
Mahender Kumar, (Advocate) Ch. No. 6, 42nd, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi 110032, Mob. 9350101971.

**Format C-1**  
**DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES**  
(As per the publication dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)  
Name and Address of Candidate: **RAGINI NAYAK W/O ASHOK BASOYA, IA-10C, ASHOK VIHAR, PHASE-I, DELHI-110052**  
Name of Political Party: **Indian National Congress**  
Name of Election: **DELHI ASSEMBLY ELECTION-2025**  
Name of Constituency: **WAZIRPUR-AC-17**  
I, **RAGINI NAYAK**, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

**A) PENDING CRIMINAL CASES**

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and Dated	Status of case (s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1.	JMFC-02, Central District, Tis Hazari Courts	119/M/2009 289901/2016 23/12/2024	Pending	U/S 147/148/427/186/332 IPC
2.	JMFC-07, PHC/ND	16471/2018 05/09/2024	Pending	U/S 186/188/353/332/34 IPC

**B) DETAILS ABOUT CASES OF CONVICTION FOR CRIMINAL OFFENCES**

Sl. No.	Name of Court & date(s) of Order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum punishment Imposed
1.	NA	NA	NA

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that Ishan Arora & Raj Kumar (hereinafter called the seller/s) claims to be owner and in possession of Second Floor of Prop. No. D5-164, Kharsa No. 1590/624, Chandrawali, Shandara, Bhola Nath Nagar, Gali No. 9, Illaga Shandara Delhi-32 (herein after called the said property) by virtue of sale deed dated 12.04.2023 Regd. Doc. No. 3544 executed by Deepa Sharma, said Deepa Sharma had inherited the said property after the death of Radha Sharma and said Radha Sharma was the owner of said property by virtue of sale deed dated 29.05.2003 Regd. Doc. No. 3696, said Seller/s have agreed to sell the said Property to Mohit Chopra and said Mohit Chopra has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients DFC FIRST BANK LTD, Rajendra Place Branch, any person's having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.  
Vishal Diwan, Advocate  
For Diwan and Company LLP  
Advocates and Solicitors  
House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex, N.D.-19  
Mobile No. 9818399999

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Ashish Verma is the owner of Plot No. 198, area measuring 58 sq. yards, i.e. 81.93 sq. meters, (Two Floors Covered area 163.86 sq. Ft.) out of Kharsa No.511K, situated at Mohalla Neeray Road in the village Dain, Pargana, Taluk, District, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. through Will dated 07.08.2020 executed by Mr. Ratan Lal in favour of Mr. Ashish Verma in respect of area measuring 49 sq. yds. and by Way of Succession after death of Pootan Chand and Giti Deed dated 21.01.2025 as doc. No. 3641 executed by Mrs. Rina Verma in favour of Mr. Ashish Verma in respect of said Plot.  
Mr. Ashish Verma is in the process of mortgaging the said plot with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-4/A4, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-301683; e-mail: accounts@lvorth.in

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
N.16065/ST-CH (Marriage Registration)/2025  
Date: 27 January, 2025  
A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Prakash Chaturvedi son of Mr. Neeraj Chaturvedi R/O Plot No.-96, Thana Chaurana, Gurjar Farms, Ramganj Mandi, Dist. Kota, Rajasthan-326519 and Ms. Naina Kapil Daughter of Mr. Anil Kumar Kapil R/O A-1902, Prateek Estate, Sector-107 Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301 in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 26-02-2025 in the office of the undersigned.  
Deputy Collector/  
I/C City Magistrate/ Marriage Officer  
Noida Gautam Budh Nagar

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Poorvima Chaudhary who is the owner of Western Side back Portion of Ground floor, measuring 142 sq.yds., entire upper ground floor and entire third floor with roof rights, both area measuring 284 sq.yds., of Property No.61, Kharsa No.39, Suraj Nagar Azadpur, Delhi who became owner vide Relinquishment Deed dated 08.08.2023 (Doc. No.13244) and same to be financed by Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd. That (1) Original Sale deed dated 20-02-1983 (Doc. No.2456) in favour of Mr. B.S. Mittal, (2) Death Certificate of Late Mr. B.S. Mittal, (3) Original Regd. GPA Dated 20-12-1982 (Doc. No.3991) in favour of Mrs. Asha Mittal & (4) Original Will in favour of Mrs. Usha Chaudhary has been lost/stolen. If any person having any type of claim/right/ title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.  
Lucem Legal LLP  
B-83B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2 Noida, U.P. 201301>Contact:0120-4269379

**GOVERNMENT OF GOA, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WORKS DIVISION XVII (WS), PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, ALTO-PORVORIM, BARDEZ, GOA**  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
No. PWD/DXVII/WS/ASW/F24-E/22/2024-25 Dated: 30/01/2025  
1. The last date online submission is 07/02/2025 upto 15.00 hrs.  
2. The date & time of opening of online tender is 10/02/2025 after 11.30 hrs. in the office of the Executive Engineer WDXVII (WS) P.W.D. Alto Porvorim Goa.  
For more details please contact the office of the Executive Engineer WDXVII (WS). PWD Alto Porvorim Goa.  
(Website:- <https://eprocure.goa.gov.in>)  
DI/ADVT/1866/2025

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**  
CHANGE OF NAME

**REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE GLUED JOIN**  
**E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/11 of 2025 Dated: 28-01-2025.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Brief Description of item: Replacement of defective Glued Join in Lumding- Chandranathpur section under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/II Lumding (Total = 500 Nos).** Tender Value: ₹1,08,99,539.84/- Earnest Money: ₹2,04,500/- Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 24-02-2025 & will be opened at 15.00 hrs. of 25-02-2025. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 24-02-2025 in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
DRM (W), Lumding  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform the general public that Sh. Yogesh Dutt and Smt. Sudhanshu Dada are the owners of Flat No. A-16, on the 3rd Floor, without its roof rights, land area measuring 1630 Sq. Ft., i.e. 151.427 Sq. Mtrs., situated at Biji Apartments, Faridkot, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033. Sh. Yogesh Dada acquired the said Flat vide GPA in Block Relinquishment Deed No. 2023 as Doc. No. 278 executed by Smt. Kamlesh Dada in favour of Sh. Yogesh Dada in respect of Flat No. A-16 and Shop No. 9F, area measuring 100 Sq. Ft. and WILL dated 20.05.2015 executed by Sh. Satya Sudhanshu Dada in favour of Smt. Sudhanshu Dada. Sh. Yogesh Dada in respect of Flat No. A-16, Biji Apartment and Shop No. 9F Smt. Sudhanshu Dada acquired the 30% Share of the said Flat vide Gift Deed dated 30.12.2012 doc. No. 2023/15/1/20453 executed by Sh. Yogesh Dada in favour of Smt. Sudhanshu Dada in the process of mortgage. Share of Property No. A-16, On Third Floor, without its roof rights, land area measuring 1630 Sq. Ft., i.e. 151.427 Sq. Mtrs. and Gift Deed dated 14.02.2024 executed by Sh. Yogesh Dada in favour of Smt. Sudhanshu Dada in respect of said Flat. Sh. Yogesh Dada in respect of Flat No. A-16, On Third Floor, without its roof rights, area measuring 12.115 Sq. Mtrs. Sh. Yogesh Dada and Smt. Sudhanshu Dada intend to transfer the ownership of said flat by way of Sale Deed to Mr. Punit Malhotra. Subsequently, Mr. Punit Malhotra is in the process of mortgaging the said Flat with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 15-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 15-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-4/A4, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-301683; e-mail: accounts@lvorth.in

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Undersigned are Directors and Shareholders of M/S R S Ajit Singh & Co. Private Limited ("Company") having its registered office at C-9/1/0, Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi. The Undersigned, to take forward the process of conversion of the property of the Company bearing no. 91/10, Block C, admeasuring 2300.60 Square yards situated at Wazirpur Industrial Area ("Property"), in industrial use to free hold, had issued a Board Resolution in favour of one of its Directors i.e. Mrs. Gurpal Khurana. However, the Undersigned have received information that Mrs. Gurpal Khurana, acting on the instructions of one group of shareholders is seeking to transfer the Property from the Company to a third party on completed unconsensurable terms and in absolute contravention of the interests of the Company. The Undersigned in their capacity as Directors and Shareholders of the Company are taking steps to withdraw the Board Resolutions passed in favour of Mrs. Gurpal Khurana to take steps on behalf of the Company. The public at large may take note that if any entity/third party enters any transaction for sale of the Property with Mrs. Gurpal Khurana, the same would not be recognized by the Undersigned and the Company and will be construed unlawful and accordingly, will attract legal action, both civil & criminal which shall solely be at the risk and cost of such third party/entity.  
Sd/-  
Date: 30.01.2025 Gurinder Singh, Parvinder Singh, Gurbachan Singh Arora

**Pune Municipal Corporation - Health Department**  
**Tender Cell Department**  
**Extend Tender Advertisement**

Sr.	Particulars	Date
1.	Tender Form Sale Period	31/01/2025
2.	Tender Form Receiving Period	31/01/2025
3.	Bid Submission End Date	05/02/2025
4.	Tender Opening Date	06/02/2025

I, Mukesh Rani, Mother of- No.10136983X Rfn Deepak, R/o- Vill- Bhabhewa, Dist-Jhajjar, Haryana- 124021, have changed my name from Mukesh Rani to Mukesh Kumari, vide affidavit dated 30/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.  
PD(1354)C  
I, Dharendra Singh, Father Of- No.17007355M NK Amit Kumar, R/o- VPO- Gotka, Teh- Sardhana, Dist.- Meerut, U.P.- 250344, declare that in my son's service records, my D.O.B. is wrongly written as 01/01/1964 whereas my correct D.O.B. is 01/01/1961.  
PD(1355)C  
I, Bimlesh Devi Mother Of- No.17007355M NK Amit Kumar, R/o- VPO- Gotka, Teh- Sardhana, Dist.- Meerut, U.P.- 250344, declare that in my son's service records, my D.O.B. is wrongly written as 01/01/1962 whereas my correct D.O.B. is 01/01/1963.  
PD(1356)C  
I, Hav Rajendra Sharma, R/o- Vill- Naredi, Post- Jindoli, Teh- Mundawar, Dist- Alwar, Rajasthan- 301404, declare that Sundar Lal Sharma is my father, in my Army records, his DOB is wrongly mentioned as 01 July 1956 whereas his correct DOB is 01 Jan 1953.  
PD(1357)C  
I, Hav Rajendra Sharma, R/o- Vill- Naredi, Post- Jindoli, Teh- Mundawar, Dist- Alwar, Rajasthan- 301404, declare that Vidya Devi is my mother, in my Army records, her DOB is wrongly mentioned as 01 July 1959 whereas her correct DOB is 01 Jul 1963.  
PD(1358)C

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / END (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY HISAR	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF AIR CONDITIONERS AND STABILIZERS UNDER BUY BACK IN LABORATORIES OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, GUSST, HISAR	03.02.2025	17.02.2025	6.50 LACS	<a href="https://www.gust.ac.in">https://www.gust.ac.in</a>	01662-263173 cse@gust.org

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO 32154-A-127-7

**JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED**  
CIN - L60231CT2008PLC016434  
Regd. Office: A-11 (7), Udaya Society, Sector-3, Tatibandh, Dharsiya, Raipur- 492099, Chattisgarh  
Corp. Office: Jindal ITF centre, 28, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi- 110015

**EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024** (₹ Lacs)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year ended			Quarter Ended			Year ended		
		31.12.2024 Unaudited	30.09.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2023 Unaudited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2023 Unaudited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2023 Unaudited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2023 Unaudited	31.12.2024 Audited	31.12.2023 Audited	
1	Total Income from operations	80.54	113.43	81.77	277.74	245.18	320.81	54,240.22	49,138.41	62,395.86	150,832.19	190,008.47	258,613.56
2	Net Profit/(loss) before tax and share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	1.26	16.78	4.27	24.66	19.21	22.99	559.73	(1,926.98)	2,248.48	(253.49)	6,037.69	7,308.91
3	Net Profit/(loss) before tax and after share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	1.26	16.78	4.27	24.66	19.21	22.99	865.56	(1,919.79)	2,253.91	62.68	6,048.04	9,218.58
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	0.39	12.88	3.19	18.23	14.37	17.19	111.35	(2,574.83)	919.19	(2,500.27)	1,783.24	4,703.13
5	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items) (Discontinued operation)	-	-	-	-	-	-	325.55	13,905.47	2,140.87	16,579.74	3,203.88	4,379.20
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period/year [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period/year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	0.63	13.12	3.19	18.94	14.37	18.14	(243.33)	11,741.75	3,087.33	13,899.74	5,027.85	9,641.19
7	Paid up Equity Share Capital	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as at Balance Sheet date	-	-	-	-	-	31,528.69	-	-	-	-	-	(56,063.28)
9	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) (Not annualised)	0.002*	0.05*	0.01*	0.07*	0.06*	0.07	-4.05*	-9.35*	-0.93*	-16.5*	-8.24*	1.00
	(2) Diluted (₹)	0.002*	0.05*	0.01*	0.07*	0.06*	0.07	-4.05*	-9.35*	-0.93*	-16.5*	-8.24*	1.00
	Discontinued Operation	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.95*	40.57*	6.25*	48.38*	9.35*	12.78
	(1) Basic (₹)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.95*	40.57*	6.25*	48.38*	9.35*	12.78
	(2) Diluted (₹)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.95*	40.57*	6.25*	48.38*	9.35*	12.78
	Continuing & Discontinued Operation	0.002*	0.05*	0.01*	0.07*	0.06*	0.07	-3.1*	31.22*	5.32*	31.88*	1.11*	13.78
	(1) Basic (₹)	0.002*	0.05*	0.01*	0.07*	0.06*	0.07	-3.1*	31.22*	5.32*	31.88*	1.11*	13.78
	(2) Diluted (₹)	0.002*	0.05*	0.01*	0.07*	0.06*	0.07	-3.1*	31.22*	5.32*	31.88*	1.11*	13.78

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter and nine months ended on 31st December, 2024 filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter and nine months ended on 31st December, 2024 are available on the websites of stock exchanges ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)) and on the Company's website ([www.jindalinfra.com](http://www.jindalinfra.com)).

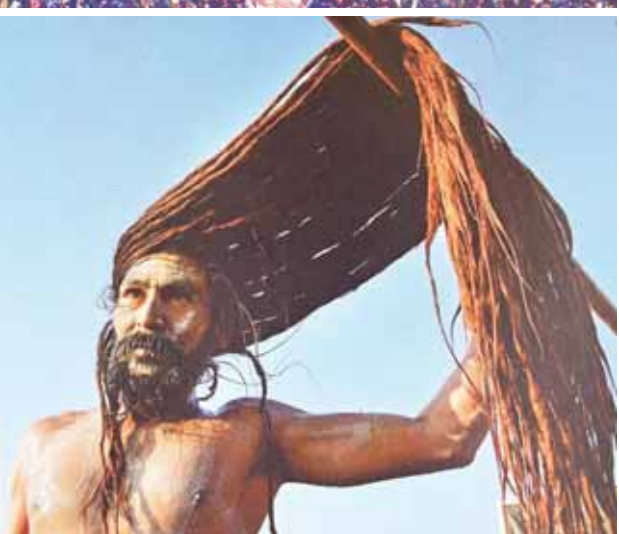
**KOTAK MAHINDRA PRIME LIMITED**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**  
Loan Account Name: Shanti Devi, Loan Account No. K1AP18687  
WHEREAS, the undersigned Officer of the Kotak Mahindra Prime Ltd. a Non-banking Finance Company duly registered with Reserve Bank of India having its Registered Office at: 27BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051 and Branch office at: Plot No. 7, 2nd Floor, Sector 125, Noida 201313, under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under sections 13(2) and 13 (12) read with Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a Demand Notice dated 18-11-2024 to, 1. M/S SHANTI DEVI PUBLICATION INDIA PVT LTD, SF 01 PLOT NO. 16 SECTOR 5 RAJENDER NAGAR, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201005. 2. ANIL KUMAR, 3. SHAIKALI SINGH, Both R/o - H NO. 3 22, SECTOR2, RAJENDER NAGAR SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 201005. ALL ALSO AT : COMMERCIAL HALL NO 1, FIRST FLOOR, FRONT SIDE PLOT NO. 16, SITUATED AT SECTOR 05, T.H.A. RAJENDRA NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201005. To repay total outstanding amount aggregating to Rs.1,02,23,309.89/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Twenty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Nine and Eight Nine Paise Only), payable as on 13-11-2024, towards the outstanding amount for Loan Account No. K1AP18687, together with further interest and other charges thereon at the contractual rates upon the footing of compound interest from 13-11-2024, till it's actual realization ("outstanding amount") within 60 days from the date of the said Demand Notice.  
The aforesaid Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor having failed to pay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 8 of the above said Rules on this 28 Day of Jan 2025.  
The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor mentioned hereinabove 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 KOTAK MAHINDRA PRIME LIMITED, having Branch office at: Plot No. 7, 2nd Floor, Sector 125, Noida 201313, for an amount Rs. 1,02,23,309.89/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Twenty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Nine and Eight Nine Paise Only), payable as on 13-11-2024, together with further interest and other charges thereon at the contractual rates upon the footing of compound interest and substitute interest, incidental, costs and charges etc. due from 13-11-2024 till the date of full repayment and / or realization.  
The Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Legal Heirs Attention is invited to the Provisions of Sub Section (8) of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.  
Description of the Immovable Property  
M/S SHANTI DEVI PUBLICATION INDIA PVT LTD, SF 01 PLOT NO. 16 SECTOR 5, RAJENDER NAGAR, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH- 201005. NAME OF THE OWNER - SHAIKALI SINGH  
COMMERCIAL HALL NO. 1, FIRST FLOOR, FRONT SIDE, WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS HAVING COVERED AREA 1000 SQ FT I.E.

JANUARY READS

# EXPLAINING THE GRAND RITUAL OF MOKSHA



The book is a radical journey of the Naga sadhus, the traditions of the akharas, and the timeless practices of devotion, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



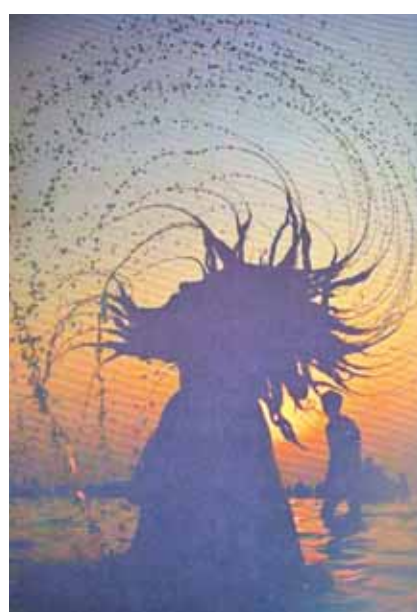
Taking you through the world's largest congregation of the Kumbh Mela, the book *The Divine Kumbh: Echoes of Eternity: Ganga, Shipra, Godavari, and Sangam* takes you through the different mythologies, meanings, and history that revolves around this biggest Hindu gathering.

Deepak Kumar Sen's book explores life at the Kumbh Mela, where millions of devotees unite at India's sacred rivers every 12 years. The book is richly illustrated with beautiful and soulful pictures that unravel ancient mythology, dynamic rituals, and deep spirituality. The book has chapters that take you through the *akharas*, the life of aesthetic monks, and their traditions and practices. The chapter on the *Juna* and *Nirmohi akharas* is a deep dive into the traditions, lineages, and formations of these akharas. Because of the numerous tales surrounding them, many people attend the Mela to see the procession of the *Naga sadhus*, which are said to exit the mela unknowingly after the snan. Travellers from all over the world swarm to the Kumbh Mela to see the extraordinary presence of *Naga babas* mediating and carrying out various rites. The *Naga sadhus* are a talk that is very excitedly shared among the people, about

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

Book: *The Divine Kumbh: Echoes of Eternity: Ganga, Shipra, Godavari, and Sangam*  
 Author: Deepak Kumar Sen  
 Publisher: Niyogi Books Private Limited  
 Price: ₹695 Pages: 180

their lives and where they live. The book provides detailed insights into the life and actions of *Naga sadhus*, the reasons why they stay naked, and much more stepping into their world. The book also takes you through the relationship between the moksha and the Kumbh, explaining the cycle of life and death. The notable chapter of the book is about the *Shahi Snan* which talks about the royal bathing done by the saints that is associated with bathing of different akharas on specific days of the Kumbh mela. The pages in the book take you through various camps formed for the *Nirvana Naga Gosains, Niranjani, Bairagis*, and the other three. According to the event timetable, the *Purna (full) Kumbh Mela* is held on the banks of a river once every twelve years in four locations: *Prayag (Allahabad),*



*Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nasik.* It is based on the movement of planets. Haridwar and Prayag host the *Ardh (half) Kumbh Mela* every six years. According to *Sen*, the precise zodiacal positions of the Sun, Moon, and planet Jupiter, kumbh is celebrated at these locations. The venue for the next Kumbh Mela is chosen at the holiest time, occurring at the exact moment when these zodiacal conditions are fulfilled. The book provides a comprehensive insight into the essence of the Mela. It beautifully bridges the ancient heritage with modern innovations, showcasing how the *Kumbh* is a global phenomenon while retaining its spiritual core. The main attraction of the book is the vivid imagery beautifully being a double spreader on the pages between the writeups. The images give a beautiful representation of the written history and truth that define this iconic event. *The Divine Kumbh* invites readers on a profound journey to experience the magic, faith, and cultural richness of one of humanity's most enduring spiritual traditions. The book is a must-read for those wishing to connect with the soul of India and understand the unparalleled significance of the *Kumbh Mela*.

Book: *Global Tumult: India as a Pole Star*  
 Author: Sujan Chinoy  
 Publisher: Rupa Publication  
 Price: ₹395

Book: *Brain On: Mental Power Strategies for Sleeping Better, Boosting Energy, and Winning the Workday*  
 Author: Deb Smolensky  
 Publisher: Rupa Publication  
 Price: ₹295

Book: *A Stitch in Time: The Biba Story*  
 Author: Meena Bindra  
 Publisher: Rupa Publication  
 Price: ₹595

Book: *Carnival: A Novel*  
 Author: Sayam Bandyopadhyay  
 Translated by Arunava Sinha  
 Publisher: Aleph Book Company  
 Price: ₹499

Book: *Raj Yoga: Freedom Awaits*  
 Author: Shivani Singh  
 Publisher: Om Books International  
 Price: ₹1,295

## Sacred Art of the Ramayana

Dr. Rooplekha Chauhan's *Ram Viraje Rangon Mein* is a vibrant artistic exploration of the Ramayana through Madhubani art

Dr Rooplekha Chauhan's *Ram Viraje Rangon Mein* is a stunning and evocative visual and spiritual journey through the epic narrative of the Ramcharitmanas. Drawing creative inspiration from her lifelong devotion to Lord Shri Ram, Chauhan blends her mastery of Madhubani art with the profound wisdom of the Ramayana to create a series of paintings that transcend mere aesthetics. Published by Prabhat Publications, this book is both an artistic homage and a devotional offering of a sacred heart to her deity. The preface introduces this beautiful book as "a series of paintings" that depict the major episodes of the Ramcharitmanas through Madhubani art, making it a priceless possession for sadhakas and devotees of Lord Rama. The painter in Dr Chauhan writes, "My colours and my brush became the medium of my spiritual practice, worship, and prayer." The creative brushwork of the artist moves sequentially through pivotal moments of Lord Ram's life, starting with Goswami Tulsidas and culminating in Ram's coronation and the Ashwamedha Yagna. Through this artistic journey, Dr Chauhan articulates her personal spiritual growth, stating that the project brought her "immense mental peace and strength." Dr Rooplekha Chauhan's paintings capture the essence of Lord Ram's life with a unique blend of devotion and artistry. Episodes such as Sita's Swayamvar, the rescue of Ahalya, and the Agni Pariksha are rendered with

intricate designs, vibrant colours, and deep symbolism. The Madhubani style, known for its geometric patterns and vivid hues, serves as a perfect medium to narrate these divine stories. As Dr Chauhan points out, these paintings are "not just paintings, but also have valuable messages inherent in them, which silently communicate between the literate and the illiterate." The book highlights a fusion of artistic styles and the cultural heritage of Lord Rama. While deeply steeped in traditional Madhubani art, Chauhan also incorporates elements of Gond art. This innovative approach enriches the visual narrative, providing a fresh perspective on the timeless tale. The paintings follow a chronological order, beginning with the divine birth of Lord Ram, moving through his formative years, exile and eventual return to Ayodhya. The artist's ability to depict the emotional intensity of scenes like Sita's abduction or Jatayu's sacrifice brings a narrative coherence to the series, making it more than just a collection of isolated artworks. Chauhan shares her personal journey from a medical professional to an artist deeply immersed in spirituality. After retiring as Dean of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College, she rediscovered her childhood passion for art. Her decision to focus on Madhubani paintings of Ramcharitmanas episodes reflects her desire to merge her artistic talents with her spiritual inclinations. The book also documents the

recognition Chauhan's work has received at national and international forums. Her participation in the Second and Third International Ramayana Conferences highlights the universal appeal of her art, which transcends cultural and linguistic boundaries. The book artistically captures many significant themes and episodes from the Ramayana. For instance, in the 'Kaushalya's Vision' section, the celestial form of baby Ram, as revealed to Mother Kaushalya, is depicted with breathtaking intricacy, emphasising the divine nature of the protagonist. Similarly, in the section of Sita's Swayamvar, the artist has brought this pivotal moment to life through vibrant depictions of the assembly, reflecting the grandeur and sanctity of

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

Book: *Ram Viraje Rangon Mein*  
 Author: Dr. Rooplekha Chauhan  
 Publisher: Prabhat Publications  
 Price: ₹2,500

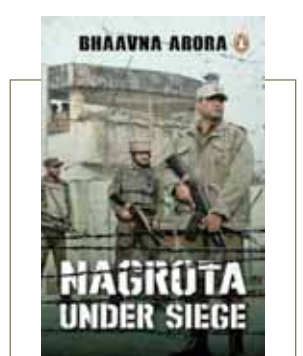
the event. In the section of Agni Pariksha, the artist in Chauhan captures the emotional turmoil of this episode and offers a poignant visual interpretation of Sita's resilience and purity. Lastly, in the section of Ashwamedha Yagna, the culmination of Lord Ram's earthly journey is presented as a symbolic assertion of dharma and the fulfilment of divine purpose. Dr Rooplekha Chauhan's work exemplifies the transformative power of art. Her paintings, while visually captivating, also resonate with a deeper spiritual message. The detailed brushwork and use of traditional motifs pay homage to the rich cultural heritage of India. Additionally, the autobiographical notes add a personal dimension, allowing readers to connect with the artist's inner journey. To sum up, *Ram Viraje Rangon Mein* is a vibrant testimony to Dr Rooplekha Chauhan's devotion, artistic talent, and cultural consciousness. It serves as both a visual feast for art enthusiasts and a spiritual guide for devotees of Lord Ram. As Chauhan aptly remarks, "The fame of Shri Ram is eternal and infinite, yet the human intellect has moulded it in its own form." This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of art, spirituality, and Indian cultural traditions. — About the reviewer: Dr Shaleen Kumar Singh heads the Department of English at Swami Shukdevanand College, Shahjahanpur (UP) and can be contacted at shaleen@sscollegespn.ac.in

## A Gripping Tribute to Valor and Sacrifice

By **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

In the book "Nagrota Under Siege" Bhaavna Arora has managed to provide the readers with a poignant account of the terrorist attack on the Nagrota Army base in Jammu and Kashmir. It blends emotional eloquence with factual accuracy and completely expresses the deep impacts of the place on Arora's mind. The author does not simply tell a story; for her, the clash and the impact on the lives of soldiers' families is the real and sad reality. The author vividly details the events surrounding the attack and manages to sort of 'bring the document to life' by making it a part of the narrative rather than just an add on feature. Within the brutal context of the situation, one can witness the sheer bravery of people like Major Akshay Girish, who Arora makes the centre of attention

in the story. The psyche of their family, portrayed with deep insanity, shows the struggles of people not actively participating in the war. The author's way of voicing the sentiments of people is exceptional, and so is his investigative insight. There is no attempt of revealing crude realities, and that is why it stands to be a brilliant



**ABOUT THE BOOK**

Book: *Nagrota Under Siege*  
 Author: Bhaavna Arora  
 Publisher: Penguin  
 Price: ₹299

tribute to the soldiers. This fervent tribute to our troops is crisp and sans any flourishes. It's nothing short of a screenplay that can very well form another actioner highlighting the sheer grit, determination, sacrifice, and most importantly, patriotism of Indian armed forces. The non-linear narrative follows the attack by three Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) militants on an army unit in Nagrota (Jammu and Kashmir) on 29 November 2016. The deadly attack leads to numerous gun fights and the army neutralising all three militants. But the hostage situation leads seven soldiers, including two officers of senior rank, to martyrdom. The extensive interviews, real photos (provided by personnel and families), and back stories that are simultaneously heartwarming and gut-wrenching, make this novel an addition to an illustrious library of tributes to our armed forces.

## WORLD BOOK FAIR 2025



For over five decades, the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) has been a destination for readers, writers, and publishers alike. As it celebrates its 52nd year, the fair promises an even grander experience from 1st to 9th February 2025 at the newly constructed halls (2-6) in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Whether you're hunting for rare finds, exploring new releases, or simply soaking in the literary atmosphere, this is the place to be. Step into a world where every page holds a story waiting to be discovered!

# Challenges galore as Sitharaman, team frame FY26 Budget

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, set to make history with her eighth consecutive Union Budget, has worked tirelessly with key officials, including Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, to prepare a budget of over ₹50 lakh crore for FY26. The Budget will have to address several challenges, including decelerating economic growth, falling value of Rupee against the US dollar and moderation in consumption demand. The economic growth is estimated to slow to a four-year low of 6.4 per cent in FY25. This is the lowest growth since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic which hit the world in 2019. Sitharaman, who has steered the Indian economy through many difficult phases, including once-in-a-century pandemic, is again confronted with economic deceleration, moderation in consumption,

stagnant private investment, and an uncertain geopolitical situation. On account of various factors, the rupee plunged to an all-time low of 86.7 per US dollar earlier this month. The team, assisting the Finance Minister to frame Budget proposals for 2025-26, includes Revenue Secretary Pandey, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth, Expenditure Secretary Manoj Govil, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Arunish Chawla, Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju, and Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran. The uphill task before the Finance Minister and her team would be to bolster growth without sacrificing fiscal prudence. The government is also expected to stick to the fiscal glide path of reducing the fiscal deficit to below 4.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product



(GDP) in FY26 amidst various headwinds. Finance Secretary and Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey: The oldest hand at the finance ministry who has been involved with the Budget making process since October 2019 when he joined DIPAM as Secretary. In September last year, Pandey, a 1987-batch IAS officer from Odisha cadre, was appointed the Finance Secretary. The Finance Ministry has six departments -- Revenue, Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, DIPAM and DPE -- and the senior most bureaucrat

in the ministry is designated as the Finance Secretary. He has been credited with divestment of Air India and PSU dividend policy among others during his tenure as DIPAM Secretary. Before serving as Secretary in the DIPAM, Pandey held many significant positions in the Union government and the Odisha government, in addition to serving a stint in the Regional Office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). Economic Affairs Secretary, Ajay Seth: The second oldest hand at the finance ministry who has in past handled four Budgets since 2021. The Budget division under his departments anchors the entire Budget making process. The balance sheet matching between revenue and expenditure and borrowings are all matched by the Budget division under him. Seth is credited with heading

initiatives such as India's first sovereign green bond issuance, and the creation of the Infrastructure Finance Secretariat. Ensuring that the economy stays on the fiscal glide path while charting out the new strategy of targeting the debt-to-GDP ratio will be some of the items that will be on top of Seth's agenda in the upcoming Budget. Expenditure Secretary Manoj Govil: A 1991-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, Govil took charge of the Expenditure department in August 2024. This will be Govil's first stint in Union Budget making and he will have a tough task in giving projections for subsidy in the Budget at a time when rupee is weakening. DIPAM and Department of Public Enterprises Secretary Arunish Chawla, a 1992-batch Bihar cadre IAS officer, took charge in DIPAM and DPE in December 2024.

## SEBI imposes ₹7 lakh fine on Motilal Oswal Financial Services

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday imposed a penalty of Rs seven lakh on Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd for flouting stock broker and depository participant rules. It has been directed to pay the fine within 45 days, according to an order passed by the SEBI. This came after SEBI conducted inspection of the stock broker and depository participant, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, jointly with stock exchanges and depositories for the inspection period from April 2021 to June 2022. In its probe, the regulator found that Motilal Oswal Financial Services did not resolve 26 complaints within a period of 30 days, transferred securities of credit balance clients to "client unpaid securities account", and incorrectly reported Margin Trading Funding (MTF) collaterals to the exchange. Additionally, it had done wrong reporting and short collection of margin on one instance in CM (capital market) segment, on one instance in FO (futures and options) segment and on five instances in currency derivative segment. The regulator noted that 39 clients had traded in June 2022 but these clients were considered as inactive by the broker and their funds were parked aside as on June 2022. "I find that the allegation that the Noticee (Motilal Oswal Financial Services) while setting aside funds of ₹3.50 crore belonging to 39 active clients, has shown incorrect reasons viz. Non-availability of client's bank account and non-traceability of client, stands established," SEBI Adjudicating Officer Amar Navlani said. The regulator said the "Noticee being a SEBI-registered stock broker and depository participant was required to comply with the applicable provisions of securities laws, which it had failed to comply with. Such failure and non-compliance accordingly needs to be dealt with suitable penalty".

## Russia in talks with India for group visa-free travel

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Russia is in discussions with India for a 'group-free visa regime', allowing a specified number of tourists travelling together in a group to enter the country without a visa, a Moscow City Tourism Committee official said on Thursday. "When there is a group of tourists travelling together to Russia, the particular number should be mentioned in the document for the visit to become visa free. For example, in the Chinese document, the group should be 10-20 people. The Russian government is in talks with the Indian External Affairs Ministry for a final agreement on the number of people comprising a group from India to avail this facility," Moscow City Tourism Committee Chairman Evgeny Kozlov told PTI. Kozlov further said India is an important country and ranks second in terms of source market among far abroad countries after China. "India is a priority market for us. For us among the far abroad countries, China ranks at the number one position, followed by India. Indians are also good spenders while travelling, spending around USD 2,000 per person per trip," he said on the sidelines of an event on Wednesday evening.



In the first nine months of 2024, January-September, Moscow received 19.7 million tourists including 61,000 Indians, he said. By 2030 the number of foreign tourists in Moscow is expected to reach six million people, mainly due to travellers from the CIS countries (Commonwealth of Independent States), the Asia-Pacific region, India, the Middle East and other parts of the world, he stated. "In the last two years we made the tourism image of Moscow our priority. There are three reasons for the increase in international visitors. First, we've been improving tourism infrastructure, second, actively promoting Moscow in our key countries like India. At the same time introducing e-visa regime," he added. Among segments, Kozlov said, Moscow City is focusing on Business, Wedding, Family and Film tourism. Meanwhile, he said, a delegation of the Moscow City Tourism Committee is in talks with production houses to invite them to shoot in Moscow City. "We want to attract Indian visitors to Moscow through cinema, therefore, our delegates are meeting with production houses and film directors to invite them to showcase Moscow City in their films. We are planning to provide them with incentives, which is still under discussion," Kozlov added.

## Markets rally for third day on buying in blue-chips

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Extending the winning run to the third day, benchmark indices - Sensex and Nifty - closed higher on Thursday on buying in heavyweight stocks Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank. The 30-share Sensex advanced 226.85 points or 0.30 per cent to settle at 76,759.81 in a volatile trade. During the day, it surged 429.92 points or 0.56 per cent to 76,962.88. The NSE Nifty went up by 86.40 points or 0.37 per cent to 23,249.50. From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, Hindustan Unilever and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers. Bajaj Finance climbed nearly



two per cent after the company reported an 18 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹4,308 crore for the December quarter. ITC Hotels, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Zomato and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the other laggards. "The Indian markets concluded on a positive note despite fluctuating between gains and losses. The fall in oil

prices due to a rise in US inventories and an ease in US 10-year yield after the US Fed's hawkish view may decelerate FIIs outflow. "The upcoming budget may be seen as an inflection point, which is likely to reverse the current bearish trend if the policies restore growth and consumption," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. In Asian markets, Tokyo settled in positive territory. Markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong were closed due to holidays. European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended lower on Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2,586.43 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.43 per cent to USD 76.25 a barrel.

## TCPL Q3 net profit down 6.5 per cent, revenue up 16.8 per cent

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
FMC major Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Thursday reported a 6.5 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹281.92 crore in the third quarter ended on December 2024. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹301.51 crore in the October-December quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from TCPL. Revenue from operations rose by 16.81 per cent to ₹4,443.56 crore during the quarter under review. It was at ₹3,803.92 crore in the year-ago period. TCPL's "India Foods and International business delivered another strong quarter of topline and market share", the company said in its



earning statement. Total expenses of TCPL in the December quarter was at ₹4,087.07 crore, up 22 per cent. Tata Consumer's total income, which includes other income was at ₹4,495.16 crore, up 16.34 per cent. In the December quarter, TCPL's overall branded business was up 18.3 per cent to ₹4,026.15 crore. It was at ₹3,403.31 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal. TCPL's branded

businesses include tea, coffee, water and other various value-added businesses. Its revenue from the branded business in India was up 19.31 per cent to ₹2,833.68 crore in the December quarter. TCPL's international branded business was up 15.95 per cent to ₹1,192.47 crore. While, its revenue from non-branded business was at ₹446.12 crore, up 8.66 per cent during the quarter. This segment includes TCPL's plantation and extraction business of tea and coffee. Commenting on the results Managing Director & CEO Sunil D'Souza said, "We delivered a topline growth of 17 per cent in Q3 FY25, growth was broad based with strong performance in India Beverages and Foods.

# Classifieds

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I Manjeet D/O Kuldeep Kumar R/O Village Jamalpur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala** Have Changed My Name From Manjeet To Manjeet Kaur.

**I Abhay S/O Sarwan Prajapati R/O Street No.4, Near G.T. Road, Rattanpura, Phagwara, District Kapurthala** Have Changed My Name From Abhay To Abhay Kumar.

**I Bindu Bala W/O Daljinder Kumar Dugg R/O St.No.6, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Tibbi, Phagwara, District Kapurthala** Have Changed My Name To Bindu Bala Dugg.

**I Daljinder Kumar S/O Satpal R/O St.No.6, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Tibbi, Phagwara, District Kapurthala** Have Changed My Name To Daljinder Kumar Dugg.

**I Daljinder Kumar Dugg S/O Satpal R/O St.No.6, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Tibbi, Phagwara, District Kapurthala** Changed Minor Daughter's Name From Parineeti Kaur To Parineeti Kaur Dugg.

**I Daljinder Kumar Dugg S/O Satpal R/O St.No.6, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Tibbi, Phagwara, District Kapurthala** Changed Minor Daughter's Name From Navneet Kaur To Navneet Kaur Dugg.

**I Angrej Singh S/O Surjit Singh R/O Vpo. Valtoha, District Tarn Taran Punjab,** Declare That My Given Name As Angrej And My Surname As Singh.

**I Mahabir Singh S/O Amarjit Singh R/O Vpo. Valtoha Patti, Tarn Taran Punjab** Declare That My Given Name As Mahabir And My Surname As Singh.

**I Naresh Kumar Khanna S/O Ram Lal R/O St No.1 Krishna Lane Central Town Hoshiarpur Punjab** Have Changed My Name To Naresh Kumar.

**I Ram Sarup S/o Shiv Dass R/O Vpo. Jhingar Kalan Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Pb,** have changed my name as Ram Saroop.

**I, Mandip Singh S/o Ram Saroop R/o Vpo. Jhingar Kalan Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Pb,** have changed my name as Mandeep Singh.

**I, Amrit Paul Kaur D/O Onkar Singh W/O Kulwinder Singh R/O # 1413, Street No.14, Gurbax Colony, Patiala** Declare That Amrit Paul Kaur & Amritpal Kaur Both Names Are Mine One And Same Person.

**I, Inderjeet S/o Raj Kumar R/O Mohalla Tanda Ram Dass Budhabar Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur)** have changed my name from Inderjeet to Inderjeet Inderjeet.

**I Karamjeet Kaur W/o Swarn Singh Sekhon R/o Moga Tehsil And District Moga** have changed my name Karamjeet Kaur Sekhon.

**I, Ramandeep Kaur W/O Kuljit Kaur R/O Dial Bharang, Tehsil Ajnala, Distt. Amritsar** Have Changed My Name From Ramandeep Kaur To Gurmit Kaur.

**I, Manjeet Singh Arora S/o Resham Singh R/o Near Krishna Mandir Basti Machhiana Zira (Ferozepur)** have changed my name to Manjit Singh.

**I Hitherto Known As Arshia D/O Sh. Sanjeev Katna Residing At Ward No. 5, Preet Colony, Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab** Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Katna, Arshia.

**I, Amandeep Kaur Dhindsa W/o Jaswinder Singh R/o Vill: Alamgir (Ludhiana)** have changed my name to Amandeep Kaur.

**I, Jaswinder Singh Dhindsa S/o Avtar Singh R/o Vill: Alamgir (Ludhiana)** have changed my name to Jaswinder Singh.

**I, Parmila Jain W/o Mahes Kumar R/o W.No. 10 Talwandi Road Raikot (Ludhiana)** have changed my name to Promila Jain.

**I, Chhinderpal Kaur Brar W/o Sukhraj Singh R/o Vpo. Mahian Wala Kalan Teh-Zira (Ferozepur)** have changed my name to Shinderpal Kaur.

**I, Sukhraj Singh Brar S/o Malkit Singh R/o Vpo. Mahian Wala Kalan Teh-Zira (Ferozepur)** have changed my name to Sukhraj Singh.

**I, Kuldeep Kaur W/o Paramjit Singh R/o Vpo. Sarupj Teh-Nawanshahr (SBS Nagar)** hereby declare that I have change my name is Kuldeep Kaur to Kuldeep Kaur.

**I, Manjit Singh S/O Tara Singh R/O Vpo Sihala, Tehsil Samrala (Ludhiana)** Declare That My Name Be Read As Given Name Manjit And Surname Singh.

**I, Baljit Kaur W/O Manjit Singh R/O Vpo Sihala, Tehsil Samrala (Ludhiana)** Declare That My Name Be Read As Given Name Baljit And Surname Kaur.

**I, Jagdeep Singh S/O Satnam Singh R/O Vpo Kishangarh, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana)** Declare That My Name Be Read As Given Name Jagdeep And Surname Singh.

**I, Kashmiro W/O Gulraj R/O Bajjar Basti, Village Bhadla Nicha, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana)** Have Changed My Name To Jasbir Kaur.

**I, Ajit Singh S/O Avtar Singh R/O H.No.25, Near Karan Hospital, Shiv Enclave, Machhiwara Road, Samrala (Ludhiana)** To Ajit Singh Sandhu.

**I, Sukhjit Singh S/O Darshan Singh R/O Vpo Kishangarh, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana)** Have Changed My Name To Sukhjeet Singh.

**I, Pushpinder Kaur W/O Jodh Singh R/O Vpo Dhamot Kalan, Patti Masanda, Tehsil Payal (Ludhiana)** Have Changed My Name To Pushpinder Kaur.

**I Amit Dubey S/O Shri jaiprakash Dubey R/O Lalru mandi, Tehsil derabassi, Distt (S.A.S Nagar) Mohali** has changed Name of my Real Son Prajjawal Dubey to Prajjawal Dubey.

**I Paras S/o Sunil Kumar R/O Krishna Nagari Out Side Hira Mandi Ferozepur City** Have Changed My Name To Paras Arora.

**I Ravinder Kumar S/o Krishna Lal R/O H.No. 80 Gilloo View Colony Satye Wala Tehsil & District Ferozepur** Have Changed My Name To Ravinder Kumar Gulati.

**I Harpreet Singh Brar S/O Nirmal Singh R/O Basti Nanakpura Chak Chibranwali Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib** Have Changed My Name To Harpreet Singh.

**I, Jagtar Kaur W/o Zora Singh Khandal R/o Vpo. Sheikhpura Teh-Jagraon (Ludhiana)** have changed my name to Jagtar Kaur Khandal.

**I, Zora Singh S/o Dalip Singh R/o Vpo. Sheikhpura Teh-Jagraon (Ludhiana)** have changed my name to Zora Singh Khandal.

**I, Bakhtawar Singh S/o Davinder Singh R/o Village Nadohar Tehsil Patti, District Tarn Taran Punjab** have changed name from Bakhtawar Singh to Bakhtawar Singh.

I hitherto known as Ekta alias Ekta Verma D/o Bhagat Ram Verma W/o Pankaj Kumar R/o Purani Anaj Mandi, Nabha, District Patiala, Punjab-144201 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Joshna Dani.

**I Amarjit Sahota S/o Mohan Sahota R/o VPO Gorya, Bara Pind Road, Dist-Jalandhar, Gorya, Jalandhar, Punjab - 144009,** have changed my name to Amarjit Singh Sahota.

**I Taranjit D/o Shardeep Singh And W/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Village Kala Bagh, Porika, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144211,** have changed my name to Taranjit Kaur.

**I, Parminder Singh alias Paramjit Singh S/o Avtar Singh R/o Vpo. Ghamaur Teh-Balachaur (SBS Nagar) Pb, India,** have changed my name from Parminder Singh alias Paramjit Singh to Parminder Singh.

**I, Baljit Singh S/o Des Raj R/o Vill: Tibba Teh-Garhshankar (Hoshiarpur) Pb, India,** my name is Baljit Singh given name and Singh treated as surname.

**I, Yamuna is Mother of Shinde Dadaso Sarjerao residing at Yelamarvadi, Post Katarkhatav, Teh. Khatav, Distt. Satara, State Maharashtra,** have changed my name from Yamuna to Yamuna Sarjerao Shinde Vide Affidavit Dated 30 January 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Manisha Sharma is legally spouse of 4091943H, Rank Hav(Clk SD), Name Rinku Sharma, Unit of 21 Garh Rif C/O 56 APO, permanent address: 16/1, Khanpur, Jind, Haryana Pin Code 126116** have changed my name from manisha sharma to manisha Vide Affidavit Dated 30 January 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Dilbagh Singh is Father of Manjit Singh,** residing at Vill. Barota Puro Nangal, Po. Mansoorpur, Teh. Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, State Punjab, have changed my Name from Dilbagh Singh To Dilbag Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 30 January 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

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# Tata Steel Chess: Gukesh beats Warmerdam to stay in lead

**PTI ■ WIJK AAN ZEE**  
World champion D Gukesh defeated Dutch Grandmaster Max Warmerdam to stay in sole lead on 7.5 points at the end of the 10th round of Tata Steel Chess tournament here. It was another eventful day for Gukesh who is now closing in on the 2800-rating barrier. The victory with black came easily when Warmerdam missed the line after being level for quite some time. The youngest world champion is a half point ahead of nearest rival Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan. Holding the sole third spot is R Praggnanandhaa on 6.5 points after a finely crafted victory over Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia. Arjun Erigaisi's hunt for an

elusive victory continued for the 10th day running as he drew with Vincent Keymer of Germany. P Harikrishna defended a slightly worse rook endgame to hold his fort against top seed Fabiano Caruana of the United States, while Leon Luke Mendonca played out a draw with Anish Giri. Praggnanandhaa came up with a dominating performance against Fedoseev who chose the Tarrasch defense as black. The opening saw Praggnanandhaa getting a structural advantage and he nurtured it quite well in the middle game. The game was devoid of drama towards the end as Praggnanandhaa sacrificed all his pawns to make a new queen on board. The calculation was perfect and it was all over in 48 moves. Keymer showcased his opening preparation to hold Erigaisi easily. The closed Ruy Lopez did not put up



enough challenge and Keymer sacrificed a pawn early to maintain parity. Erigaisi had to give the pawn back in the middle game and the position just petered out to be level. Harikrishna had to face some stiff resistance against Caruana who played black. Down a pawn in the rook and pawns endgame, Harikrishna made use of his remaining resources and drew after 68 moves. In the Challengers' section, R Vaishali went down fighting against tournament leader Nguyen Thai Van Dai of the Czech Republic while Divya Deshmukh lost another game in the event against Frederik Svane of Germany. Vaishali, on five points, shares the ninth spot and Divya, on two, is on 13th spot in the 14-players round-robin tournament. Just three rounds remain in the first major of the year. **Results: Round 10:** Masters: Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 3) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 5); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 6.5) beat Vladimir Fedoseev (6); Max Warmerdam (Ned, 3.5) lost to D Gukesh (Ind, 7.5); P Harikrishna (4.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 5.5); Wei Yi (Chn, 5.5) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 4); Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 3) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger, 4); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 7) beat Alexey Sarana (Srb, 5). **Challengers:** Nguyen Thai Van Dam (Cze, 7.5) beat R Vaishali (Ind, 5); Divya Deshmukh (2) lost to Frederik Svane (Ger, 6); Yakubboev Nodirbek (Uzb, 5) drew with Benjamin Bok (Ned, 6.5); Arthur Pijpers (Ned, 4.5) beat Irina Bulmaga (Rom, 1); Suleymanli Aydin (Aze, 6.5) beat Nogerbek Kazymbek (Kaz, 5); Miaoyi Lu (Chn, 5.5) drew with Ediz Gurel (Tur, 5.5); Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 7) beat Faustino Oro (Arg, 2.5).



## Narmada clinches gold in women's 10m air rifle

**PTI ■ DEHRADUN**  
Former World Cup winner Narmada Nithin Raju overcame a strong field, which included Asian Games medallist Ramita Jindal and Olympian Elavenil Valarivan, to not just create a national record but miss equalling the world mark by a fraction of a point on her way to clinching gold in the women's 10m air rifle event at the 38th National Games here on Thursday. Narmada, representing Tamil Nadu, clinched the top podium finish with a score of 254.4, beating back the challenge from Maharashtra's Arya Borse (252.5) and Ramita (230.4) in the eight-shooter final. In the process, she broke the national mark of 252.9 set by Olympian Apurvi Chandela at the 2019 World Cup in New Delhi. The world record in the event is 254.5 points, set by Huang Yuting of China at last year's ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi. This was 23-year-old Narmada's third-biggest career achievement in the event after she had won the 10m air rifle mixed team gold partnering Rudranksh Patil at the 2023 Cairo World Cup and bagging a bronze at the World Cup in Bhopal the same year. Self-assured and in total control of her nerves, Narmada, who was third at the end of the qualification round on Wednesday, shot a string of superb scores to

stamp her authority over her more illustrious rivals in the final. She consistently shot high scores with three of her shots achieving maximum impact of 10.9, while another two shots in the 24-shot final fetched her 10.8. She didn't go below 10 in any of her 24 shots in the final. Maharashtra's Arya Borse, 22, too enjoyed a great outing and, on any other day would have clinched a top-podium finish with a score of 252.5 but the 2022 junior world cup gold medallist in team event wouldn't have known before the final that Narmada would come up with a record-breaking performance. Haryana's Asian Games bronze medallist shooter Ramita, 21, who had shot a superb qualification-round score of 634.9 to top the qualification, had to settle for a bronze medal despite set by Huang Yuting of China at last year's ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi. This was 23-year-old Narmada's third-biggest career achievement in the event after she had won the 10m air rifle mixed team gold partnering Rudranksh Patil at the 2023 Cairo World Cup and bagging a bronze at the World Cup in Bhopal the same year. Self-assured and in total control of her nerves, Narmada, who was third at the end of the qualification round on Wednesday, shot a string of superb scores to

## Several young players in probables list of Hockey India for FIH Pro League

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
India on Thursday included more than half-a-dozen young players in the long list of probables for the upcoming FIH Pro League, based on their performance in the Hockey India League and junior level competitions. Among those included in the list of 32 senior probables for the first time are goalkeeper Princedeep Singh, defender Yashdeep Siwach, midfielders Rabichandra Singh and Rajinder Singh, and forwards Angad Bir Singh, Uttam Singh and Arshdeep Singh. Veteran drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh will lead the side, while Hardik Singh will be his deputy for the Bhubaneswar leg of the Pro League, to be played at the Kalinga Stadium From February 15 to 25. India's campaign will feature matches against Spain, Germany, Ireland and



England, playing each team twice. "Impressive performances in the junior team and the ongoing HIL has won 22-year-old Angad Bir Singh and 20-year-old Arshdeep Singh their first senior team call-ups for the upcoming FIH Pro League matches," said Hockey India in a statement. Princedeep, a member of the gold-winning side at last year's Junior Asia Cup in Muscat, is a notable addition to the senior side and will join first-choice goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera. Yashdeep will be positioned in defence alongside veterans Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas and captain Harmanpreet, while in the midfield, Rabichandra Singh will have stalwarts Manpreet Singh, Hardik, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma for company. Head coach Craig Fulton expressed confidence that

the current set of players would play entertaining, top-notch hockey in the Pro League. "Extremely happy with the squad we have selected for the Bhubaneswar leg matches of the FIH Pro League. I believe this team can win us games, perform in harmony and most importantly play an impressive brand of hockey. "Looking forward to training with the players in the camp and starting our Pro League campaign on the right note." India had finished seventh among nine teams in the 2023-24 edition of the Pro League but the European leg did not go as per expectations. The team, however, came back from the setback to win a second successive gold at the Paris Olympics. "I have been scouting these players over the last few weeks and am excited to see what they do against some of the best international teams in the world," he added.

## MI Cape Town qualify for SA20 playoffs

**PTI ■ CAPE TOWN**  
MI Cape Town booked their maiden entry into the playoffs of the SA20 tournament here with a 10-wicket thrashing of defending champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape here. MI Cape Town will take on Paarl Royals in Qualifier 1 at Geberha on February 4 and the winner of the contest will make a direct entry into the final of the third edition of SA20. MI Cape Town were excellent from the beginning of the contest with Deward Brevis, Corbin Bosch and Reeza Hendricks claiming fine catches to help dismiss the Sunrisers Eastern Cape for just 109. Corbin Bosch was the pick of the MI Cape Town bowlers, returning figures of 3.2-0-19-4, while only David Bedingham (45) and Andile Simelane (21) clicked with

the bat for the Sunrisers. South Africa pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada returned 3-0-14-2, while Trent Boult was again tight with his spell of 4-0-25-1. In reply, Rassie van der Dussen (48 not out off 30 balls) and Ryan Rickelton (59 not out off 36 balls) thrashed the Sunrisers Eastern Cape bowlers to produce a dominant show for their side. Brevis took a one-handed catch at the boundary to dismiss Sunrisers Eastern Cape batter Tom Abell (1), which was the highlight of their splendid efforts in the field. "Fielding put us ahead in the game. Ground fielding was amazing, and I think it plays a huge role. It was important to finish with the bonus point and in top two," said MI Cape Town captain Rashid Khan after the match. For Sunrisers Eastern Cape, their next match against

Paarl Royals will be crucial to determine their fate in the outcome will tournament.

## Niko Kovac will take over as new coach: Borussia Dortmund

**PTI ■ DORTMUND**  
Niko Kovac will be the new coach of Borussia Dortmund as last season's Champions League runner-up looks to rescue a troubled season. The former Bayern Munich and Monaco coach will start work Sunday, Dortmund's managing director for sport Lars Ricken told broadcaster DAZN following the team's 3-1 win over Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League on Wednesday. "We have reached an agreement in principle. He will take over the team on Sunday," Ricken told DAZN,

and said Dortmund would discuss potential signings with Kovac before the transfer window closes Monday. Youth team coach Mike Tullberg oversaw Wednesday's game — Dortmund's first win of the new year in all competitions — and will remain in his interim head coach role for Saturday's Bundesliga game at Heidenheim, Ricken said. Kovac takes over a team which is 11th in the Bundesliga and is heading for a playoff in the Champions League after finishing 10th in the 36-team league phase. Nuri Sahin was fired last week following a 2-1 loss at Bologna.



## SJVN administered Ni-Kshay Pledge under '100 Days to TB Elimination Campaign'

**Shimla:** SJVN has reaffirmed its dedication to India's mission of eliminating tuberculosis (TB) by actively participating in the 100 Days to TB Elimination Campaign, initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. As part of this initiative, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Director (Personnel), SJVN administered Ni-Kshay Pledge to the employees at SJVN Corporate Headquarters, Shimla. He urged the employees to actively contribute to this campaign. In alignment with the National TB Elimination Programme and vision of TB-Mukt Bharat outlined by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, SJVN has developed an Action Plan. Ni-Kshay Shapath, TB Awareness Sessions, Ni-Kshay Shivir (Screening Camps) etc. will be organised by SJVN's offices and projects across India. These initiatives aim to educate the masses, encourage early diagnosis and facilitate preventive treatment. The 100 Days to TB Elimination Campaign is a national initiative launched on 7th December 2024 to intensify efforts toward early detection of missing TB cases, prevent the spread of infection and offer prompt treatment to those affected.

## Bank of Baroda (BOB) announces Financial Results for the Quarter ended 31st December 2024

Consistent ROA, Robust Asset Quality: Bank Reports Steady Q3FY25 Performance  
 • BOB reports a growth of 12.6% in its 9MFY25 Net Profit to INR 14,533 crore  
 • Net Profit for Q3FY25 stands at INR 4,837 crore, growth of 5.6%YoY.  
 • Asset quality continues to be robust with Gross NPA below 2.5% at 2.43% for Q3FY25, reduction of 65 bps YoY.  
 • Net NPA ratio also remains low at 0.59%, declined by 11 bps YoY.  
 • Slippage ratio remains contained at 0.90% for Q3FY25 and 0.81% for 9MFY25.  
 • Credit costs remain below 1% due to better asset quality at 0.30% for the quarter and 0.47% for 9MFY25.  
 • BOB's balance sheet remains robust with healthy Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of 93.51% with TWC & at 76.03% without TWC.  
 • Return on Assets (ROA) remains above 1% and stands at 1.15% for the quarter and 1.17% for 9MFY25.  
 • Return on Equity (ROE) for the quarter is 17.01% and 17.03% for 9MFY25.  
 • Operating profit for Q3FY25 stands at INR 7,664 crore, up by 9.3% YoY.  
 • Operating profit growth was supported by 34.1% YoY growth in Non-Interest Income which stands at INR 3,769 crore for Q3FY25.  
 • Cost to Income ratio has also reduced by 4 bps YoY to 49.53% for Q3FY25.  
 • BOB's Global Advances registered a growth of 11.8% YoY in Q3FY25 led by robust retail loan book growth. Bank's organic Retail Advances grew by 19.5%, driven by growth in high focus areas such as Auto Loan (21.1%), Home Loan (16.6%), Mortgage Loan (16.3%), Education Loan (16.9%).  
 • Capital Adequacy (CRAR) remains healthy at 15.96%.

## PCB, ICC to organise Champions Trophy opening ceremony on February 16 in Lahore

**PTI ■ KARACHI**  
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in conjunction with the ICC will hold the opening ceremony of the upcoming Champions Trophy on February 16 in Lahore. A source in the PCB told PTI that chairman Mohsin Naqvi had approved a scheduled list of events prior to the first match of the tournament on February 19 at the National Stadium in Karachi between Pakistan and New Zealand. The PCB will officially open the renovated Gaddafi stadium on February 7 for which Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has been invited as the chief guest. On February 11, the PCB will launch the renovated National Stadium in Karachi with a ceremony in which President Asif Ali Zardari has been

invited as the chief guest. The source said the PCB and ICC were also working out the schedule of the captains press conference and photoshoots. They are likely to be held in Lahore on February 16. The opening ceremony is scheduled at Huzoori Bagh at the historic Lahore fort in which officials of different boards, celebrities, legends of the game, and government officials will be invited. The ICC and PCB are yet to confirm if Indian captain, Rohit Sharma, would be travelling to Lahore for the events. India will be playing their Champions Trophy matches in Dubai as part of a hybrid model deal between the ICC, PCB and BCCI and if they qualify for the final, then the title clash would also be held in the UAE city on March 9.

**AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

**AUCTION NOTICE**

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AAVAL FINANCIERS LIMITED Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis. The details of the cases are as under.

Name of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors	Dues As on	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price For Property	Earnest Money For Property	Date & Time of Auction	Place of Tender Submission, Tender Open & Auction at Aavas Financiers Ltd.
DAVIDERKAR, MR. HARJEET SINGH, MR. ANGREJ (AC NO.) LNYMN03718-190093154 & LNYM11721-220183258 & LNYMN04320-210146162	Rs. 26,85,585.00/- & Rs. 3,25,774.00/- & Rs. 1,32,636.00/- DUES AS ON 22 JAN 2025	3 AUG 22 Rs. 2667781/- & Rs. 528171/- & Rs. 49474/- DUES AS ON 3 AUG 22	28 JUN 24	KHEVAT NO-338, KHATONI NO-400, 401, 402, KH.NO- 53 MIN (5-11)7(8-0), 53 MIN (2-9) 68/2(1)-5 69(10-9), 52(5-7), 54(8-0), BEING 231/7389 SHARE OUT OF 41 KANAL 01 MARLA, MDUJA RADOUR, H.B. NO. 45, YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA ADM.01 KANAL 05 MARLAS 06 SARSAI	Rs. 3055680/-	Rs. 305568/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 04 MAR 2025	1ST FLOOR, SCO-142, SECTOR - 17, HUDA, JAGADHRU YAMUNA NAGAR-135003, HARYANA-INDIA
SHOBHARANI THARAYIL THULASI, MR. SHIV KUMAR (AC NO.) LNGUR00319-200118497	Rs. 27,39,378.00/- DUES AS ON 22 JAN 2025	4 JAN 23 Rs. 1909130/- DUES AS ON 4 JAN 23	30 JUN 23	APPARTMENT 203, FIRST FLOOR, SOUTHERN PARTMENT-2, KH NO 1295/1, KAPASHERA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI ADMEASURING 622 SQ. FT.	Rs. 1802592/-	Rs. 180259/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 04 MAR 2025	1ST & 2ND FLOOR, SCO NO. 36, HUDA MARKET, SECTOR 15, PART-II, GURUGRAM-122001, HARYANA-INDIA

**Terms & Conditions:** 1) The person, taking part in the tender, will have to deposit his offer in the tender form provided by the AFL which is to be collected from the above branch offices during working hours of any working day, super scribing "Tender Offer for name of the property" on the sealed envelope along with the Cheque/DD/pay order of 10% of the Reserve Price as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of AAVAL FINANCIERS LIMITED payable at Jaipur on/Before time of auction during office hours at the above mentioned offices. The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of the available interested parties at above mentioned office of AAVAL FINANCIERS LIMITED The Inter-se bidding, if necessary will also take place among the available bidders. The EMD is refundable if the bid is not successful. 2) The successful bidder will deposit 25% of the bidding amount adjusting the EMD amount as initial deposit immediately or within 24hrs after the fall of the hammer towards the purchase of the asset. The successful bidder failing to deposit the said 25% towards initial payment, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 30 days after the confirmation of the sale by the secured creditor; otherwise his initial payment deposited amount will be forfeited. 3) The Authorised Officer has absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale process without assigning any reason therefore. If the date of tender depositing or the date of tender opening is declared as holiday by Government, then the auction will be held on next working day. 4) For inspection and interested parties who want to know about the procedure of tender may contact AAVAL FINANCIERS LIMITED 201-202, 1Ind Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, jaipur-302020 or Manoj Kumar - 8130291423 or respective branch during office hours. Note: This is also a 15/30 days notice under Rule 9(1)/8(6) to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor of the above said loan accounts about tender inter se bidding sale on the above mentioned date. The property will be sold, if their out standing dues are not repaid in full.

Place : Jaipur Date : 31-01-2025 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited