

War beyond language: Stalin insults Indian currency

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ Chennai

The decision of the Tamil Nadu government to replace the universally recognised symbol of Indian currency ₹ with the Tamil letter Ru has stirred a hornet's nest across the country if the initial reactions are any indication. But even DMK persons are of the view that Chief Minister MK Stalin's new found passion for Tamil language is to make the Centre to use Article 356 in order to dismiss the democratically elected government so that the party could romp home with increased majority in the 2026 Assembly election based on the sympathy wave.

The move to change the symbol from ₹ to Ru (rubai, Tamil for Rupee) was publicised by the DMK government through advertisements in the Stalin-family owned newspapers and news channels which are galore in the state. Thangam Thennarasu, the minister for finance is all set to present the 2025-2026 budget for Tamil Nadu on Friday.

Thennarasu is not known for his

proress either in economy or education and is guided by a coterie of IAS officers, according to Prof C Murukadass, former head of the department of economics and who had been advisor to chief minister MG Ramachandran and J Jayalalitha.

Edappadi Palaniswamy, former chief minister, termed the move as political stunt and one of the many gimmicks deployed by Stalin to tide over the financial ruin Tamil Nadu is undergoing. The economic survey presented by the government at the Centre is also another ploy to cheat the general public, said Palaniswamy who took to social media.

K Annamalai, the state BJP chief, pointed out that Stalin has scored a self goal in his bid to emerge as the savior of Tamil. "It was Udhayakumar, a Tamil Nadu born youth who designed and developed the ₹ which was recognised and accepted by the then UPA Government headed by Manmohan Singh. The DMK was the second largest partner in that government and had supported the decision," said Annamalai.



The logo of the 2024-25 Tamil Nadu budget (left) and the logo of the 2025-26 Tamil Nadu budget (right). The Tamil Nadu government replaced the Devanagari rupee symbol with a Tamil letter in its logo for the budget 2025-26, which will be tabled in the state Assembly on Friday

Udhayakumar is the son of Dharmalingam, a former DMK MLA who had represented Rishivandhyan constituency. "It is like humiliating the Tamil youth who had the rare privilege to design the emblem of the national currency," said Prof Murukadass.

Stalin is engaged in a battle with the BJP-led Centre over the implementation of the three-language policy in school and college curriculum. He has convened a meeting of the non-BJP chief ministers to form a united front against the BJP-led NDA

government's NEP 2025 and the alleged order to impose Hindi.

"Stalin or for that matter any other chief ministers in the country are incapable to replace the ₹ with the design or letter of their choice as this comes under the prerogative of the Centre. What the DMK government is doing is to divert the attention of the public from the failure of the Stalin government. The state is burdened with debt of ₹9.54 Lakh Crore and there is no money in the coffers for social welfare measures. Moreover, Stalin is fac-

ing indifferent health due to a series of ailments. His only mission is to facilitate the coronation of son Udhaidhi as the successor," said Prof Murugadass.

Political commentators in Chennai are of the view that Stalin's displeasure over the National education Policy and the campaign against it is much ado about nothing. "This is a move to grab national headlines and the people will forget the same after the initial excitement," said a senior commentator.

Dr YR Johnson, former principal of

Navodaya Vidyalaya and a widely respected educationist is of the view that the State Government was violating the provision enshrined in Indian Constitution that guarantees the right to education. "You cannot deny the children their right to learn a language. Let the politicians have their fights in the public arena but not in schools or colleges. The Supreme Court and High Courts in the country have reiterated many times the right of children to learn the language of their choice and what the Tamil Nadu Government does is gross violation of court order," said Dr Johnson.

Adding to the woes of Stalin, a former ADGP Pon Manickavel said that Stalin has lost all capabilities to administer the State and he is led by a group of advisors who are working against the interest of the nation.

The Lok Sabha had witnessed Dhayanidhi Maran, Stalin's nephew questioning the propriety over the translation of Indian Constitution into Sanskrit, to which the Speaker gave the former some basic lessons.

Nation outraged by attack on national symbol

A beacon of unity, not division

PROF GOURAV VALLABH ■ New Delhi

Since time immemorial, the progress of civilization has been defined by its ability to connect-first through roads that linked villages and kingdoms, then through canals and boats that carried commerce and culture across waters, and later through airways that brought distant lands closer than ever before.

These physical networks, however, have always been paralleled by intangible forces-shared beliefs, traditions, and above all, the financial systems that unify economies and enable prosperity. Since the dawn of our independence, the Indian rupee has been one such force, binding together a nation of unparalleled diversity, where every region's traditions are

equally unique and equally important.

It is within this context that the Tamil Nadu government's decision to replace the universally recognised rupee symbol (₹) with the Tamil letter 'Ru' in their budget document must be examined. This move appears to be less about cultural pride and more about political posturing, stoking regionalism at the cost of national unity, echoing past language-related controversies. Tamil Nadu, which adheres to a two-language policy (Tamil and English), has long opposed the three-language framework, branding it an imposition of Hindi. Yet, the National Education Policy (NEP) fosters multilingualism and grants states the autonomy to determine their linguistic preferences.

"I don't have any reaction"

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

IT Guwahati Professor D Udaya Kumar, who had designed the Indian rupee symbol refused to be drawn into the controversy over language and said it is a mere coincidence that his father was a DMK MLA. "I don't have any reaction. It's the government which suddenly felt that there was a need for a change and they wanted to implement their own script. This is up to the state government. So, I don't have anything to say about that. It's entirely up to the government," said Kumar.

Kumar's father N Dharmalingam was an MLA from the Rishivandiyam constituency in 1971 from the DMK party, which is in power in Tamil Nadu presently. "My father was an MLA even

before I was born. Now, he is old and living in our village, leading his life peacefully. It just happened to be a coincidence, probably I could have been somebody else as well," the professor said.

Recollecting his experience while designing the Indian rupee symbol, Kumar said the design which he created was based on certain requirements that the government had asked for. "It was a competition by the Government of India. I participated and my design got selected as the winner of the competition, and it was implemented then," said the IIT professor.

The Indian Rupee sign was adopted by the Government of India on July 15, 2010. Udaya Kumar is a post-graduate in Design from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

Opposition divided

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Opposition members of the INDIA bloc said including Congress which is part of the DMK led Tamil Nadu government slammed Stalin for the decision to lock horns with the Centre in this perspective while Left parties held there was not inappropriate to State have its own symbol. Congress MLA PM Narendraswamy and Karnataka Minister Eshwar Khandre viewed the symbol change as an expression of frustration over the central government's approach to southern states. They urged for immediate steps to bridge the growing divide and promote inclusivity.

CPI leader and a member of INDIA bloc of opposition parties, D Raja said that decision to

replace the Rupee symbol with a Tamil alphabet is not against the Constitution in any form.

"Tamil Nadu government has taken a few initiatives in order to enlighten all sections of the society. This budget is in Tamil and is meant for Tamil Nadu... The government has not changed the numbers, and that needs to be understood. Only the symbol has been changed... It is not against the Constitution in any form," said Raja.

DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai meanwhile defended the state government's decision and was quoted, "The usage of Ru is to signify protest of the state against the policies of the government. The people of the state are aware of what the BJP is trying to do. Everybody across the country is aware of the nefarious designs of the BJP government."

Yamuna found dead in the Capital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in its report on "Review Of Upper Yamuna River Cleaning Project Upto Delhi And River Bed Management In Delhi", said the Yamuna river's capacity to sustain life have been found to be almost non-existent in the Delhi stretch, noting that 23 out of the 33 monitored sites, including six in the national capital, failed to meet primary water quality standards.

Having taken note of the presence of heavy metals like lead, copper, zinc, nickel, cadmium and chromium in the riverbed of Yamuna which pose a serious threat to the health and ecosystem of the river, the Committee recommended that the Department explore the possibility of controlled dredging. The Department has through their Action Taken Replies furnished the submissions of various Departments of the Yamuna basin States. However, the Delhi Jal Board has not furnished its reply.

The Yamuna flows through a 40 km stretch in Delhi, entering at Palla from Haryana and exiting at Asgarpur into Uttar Pradesh. The dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, which reflect the river's capacity to sustain life, were found to be almost non-existent in the Delhi stretch, the report said. It said the Yamuna has been categorised into three parts viz. the part from Yamunotri to Hathnikund Barriage may be considered as unpolluted stretch, the part from Hathnikund Barriage to Palla is moderately polluted. However, the part from Palla to Okhla, basically the Delhi stretch is severely polluted. Further, as per the Primary Water Quality Criteria for organised outdoor

Even if Delhi Jal Board treats the entire sewage generated in Delhi, lack of minimum flow and fresh water downstream makes the Yamuna ecosystem unsustainable for life

bathing, the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) is specified as 5 mg/l or more, the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) is specified as 3 mg/l or less and Fecal Coliform (FC) is specified as less than 2500 MPN/100 ml.

The water quality data of monitored 33 locations during January, 2021 - May, 2023 was analysed for 4 parameters viz. Dissolved Oxygen (DO), pH, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Fecal Coliform (FC). The results were compared with the Primary Water Quality Criteria for Outdoor Bathing (PWQC) notified by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. The analysis revealed that: All the 04 monitored locations each in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are complying while all the 06 monitored locations are non-complying with the criteria in Haryana. All the 07 monitored locations in Delhi were non-complying with the criteria during 2021. 06 locations were non-complying except at Palla (entry point of Delhi) which is observed complying during 2022 & 2023. Out of 12 monitored locations in Uttar Pradesh, 11 are observed non complying during 2021 - 2023.

"Further, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in their reply has cited the observation of a Committee headed by Dr MA Chitale which in their

Report - For Preparation of Guidelines for Works on De-siltation from Bhimgauda to Farakka submitted in February 2017 did not recommend the large scale de-silting or dredging of rivers. Taking into account the replies of various Departments of Yamuna Basin States and deteriorating water quality of river Yamuna due to existence of heavy metals beyond permissible limits, the Committee reiterated that the Department may take pro-active steps at least for controlled dredging of the sludge which cannot be left to the vagaries of monsoon rains and whose continued presence may further decay the water quality of such an important river," the report said.

The report stated even if Delhi Jal Board (DJB) treats the entire sewage generated in Delhi upto Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) of 10 mg/l desired water quality of BOD less than 3 mg/l & Dissolved Oxygen (DO) more than 5 mg/l may not be achieved in river Yamuna due to unavailability of fresh water in the river downstream of Wazirabad and importance of minimum flow for sustenance of river ecosystem.

In its report the Committee warned that despite the construction and upgrade of sewage treatment plants (STPs) in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, pollution levels remain alarmingly high. The Committee called for a coordinated response from all stakeholders to tackle pollution and restore the river's health.

The panel raised particular concerns over encroachment along the Yamuna floodplains. While Delhi and Haryana provided information on encroachments, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are yet to furnish complete details.

No country for women: British national raped in Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

A British national, who came to Delhi to meet a man she befriended on Instagram, was raped by him at a Mahipalpur hotel in South West Delhi. However, her ordeal did not end there, and she was molested by another person in the hotel lift when she went to ask for help. The police have arrested the accused, Kailash, in a rape case and his friend, Wasim, has been charged with molesting the British tourist. The British High Commission has been informed, and the victim is receiving necessary support. According to police, the victim said she met the accused on social media. They started conversing regularly, and she decided to visit India to meet him in person.

The British national came to India a month ago and stayed in Maharashtra for some time, before travelling to Goa. On Tuesday, she came to Delhi allegedly to meet the 24-year-old Kailash who had befriended her on Instagram recently. She was allegedly first molested by a house-keeping staff in the hotel's lift. Later, she met Kailash who allegedly raped her in a hotel room, police said.

"Separate cases have been registered in both matters. They are not related to each other," Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Surendra Chaudhary said. She visited a hospital on Wednesday and police were then informed about the incident, a police officer said.

The woman first spoke to the accused on a social media platform a month and a half earlier and after that, they talked frequently, he said. According to police, Kailash, a resident of east Delhi, struggled to speak English and used some transla-

tion application to communicate with her.

When the woman came to India, she and Kailash made plans to meet each other in Delhi, the officer said. The victim travelled from Goa to Delhi and booked a room in a hotel in Mahipalpur. When Kailash came to meet her, she alleged that he raped her, the officer added.

Police teams are checking CCTV footage of the hotel to know the sequence of the events. A special team, led by an ACP and under the overall supervision of the DCP, has been formed to probe the case. Police have seized the accused's phone and will check if he has contacted any other women on social media.

The victim first spoke to the accused on social media. The accused struggled to speak English and used some translation application to communicate with her

Kailash, it is learnt, works at a private firm. The woman has told police that he struggled to speak English and used Google Translate to communicate with her. The incident is reported days after an Israeli tourist, along with a homestay owner, was gang-raped in Karnataka by three men. The mishap occurred when a group of travellers was stargazing near the canal situated near the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi. All three suspects have been arrested.

Another traveller from Odisha was found dead in the incident after he and two others were pushed into a canal by the attackers in Karnataka.

President sanctions prosecution against Sisodia, Jain

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

In fresh trouble for the AAP former ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendra Jain, President Droupadi Murmu has granted prosecution sanctions against them in the ₹1,300 Crore scam in construction of classrooms in Delhi government schools, during their tenure as ministers in the national Capital.

Official communications to the office of Lieutenant Governor of the NCT of Delhi, the President through the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), said, the required permission to register an FIR and institute a probe against then education minister Manish Sisodia and then public works department (PWD) minister Satyendar Jain is granted.

Under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) prosecution of former PWD minister, Satyendra Jain has been ordered. The file number 17A/4/DOV/2021 has been moved ahead as further action will take it forward. The MHA's move comes after reviewing findings from the Department of Vigilance (DoV)'s investigation into alleged financial irregularities linked to them. In 2022, the Delhi government's vigilance directorate recommended a probe into the alleged scam and submitted a report to the chief secretary.

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), in a report dated February 17, 2020, highlighted "glaring irregularities" in the construction of over 2,400 classrooms in Delhi government schools by the Public Works Department (PWD).

It is alleged that a huge scam to the tune of over ₹2,000 Crore have been carried out in NCT of Delhi for the construction of School Rooms/Buildings at a highly inflated cost by the Govt, of NCT of Delhi. The scam involves construction of around 12,748 School Rooms at a very high and inflated construction cost. The total cost incurred for constructing the school rooms/buildings is around ₹2,892.65 Crore. The school rooms/buildings are being allegedly constructed at the rate of ₹8,800 Sqft whereas it is common knowledge that average construction cost (even for a builder of flats) is around ₹15,00 Sqft. The lump sum cost for constructing a school room/building as per the tender awarded is around ₹24.86 Lakh per room, whereas such rooms are easily constructed at Delhi by/through any person at around ₹5 Lakh per room.

Since the offices of The Pioneer shall remain closed on March 14, 2025 on account of Holi, there will be no edition dated March 15, 2025

Abandoned, blinded, maimed; each rescued camels breathes a story

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ Jaipur

Ranu was abandoned, blind, and helpless. Blackie was rescued from smugglers. Rani spent years performing in a circus, while Martin, left lame from an injury, was no longer wanted. Each of them found safety and dignity at the Camel Rescue Centre (CRC) in Bassi, where, for the past 14 years, hundreds of camels have been treated and rehabilitated.

Established in 2011 by Help In Suffering (HIS) with support from the ELSU Foundation, the centre provides critical medical care for working camels-those used in transport, brick kilns, and tourism.

Located 30 km from Jaipur, it has become a sanctuary for camels suffering from injuries, malnutrition, and disease. With a full-time veterinary team, CRC

treats 250-350 camels every month, offering emergency care and long-term rehabilitation.

"The centre is part of HIS's camel welfare programme, running since 2001. Each year, 5,000-7,000 camels receive free veterinary care through mobile clinics, reaching remote areas where medical services are scarce. HIS also conducts annual treatment camps at major camel hubs like Pushkar, Jaisalmer, and Nagaur, treating thousands of camels during these events," said Timmie Kumar, Managing Trustee, HIS.

Beyond medical care, HIS has introduced humane welfare measures, such as replacing wooden nose pegs with gentler alternatives, fitting over 1,000 camel carts with reflectors to prevent accidents, and conducting regular deworming programmes for 2,000 camels annually.



For many families, camels are their livelihood, yet without proper veterinary care, these animals suffer from preventable illnesses and injuries. The Bassi

centre bridges this gap, ensuring camels receive treatment while also training owners in better welfare practices.

The centre was set up because there was

nowhere else for these camels to go, added Kumar. "We have treated, rescued, and rehabilitated thousands, but beyond the numbers, it's about relieving suffering and supporting the people who depend on them," he further said.

CRC veterinarians routinely treat camels for lameness, infections, digestive disorders, and respiratory diseases. Its mobile team reaches remote areas where veterinary care is often unavailable. "Every camel has a story," said Dr. Abhinav Swani, Veterinary Doctor at CRC, Bassi.

Many have worked in extreme conditions for years. Others are abandoned once they are no longer useful. The Camel Rescue Centre is one of several animal welfare initiatives by Help In Suffering (HIS), Jaipur, which continues to be a beacon of compassion for Rajasthan's gentle giants.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Gopal Chand S/o Jaidev Verma R/o H.No. 606 Ward 5 Bharat Nagar Tehsil Pehowa District Kurukshetra, have evicted my son Kamaljeet Verma, his wife Shruti Verma, from all my movable-immovable properties, as they are out of my control. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, Pal Masih S/o Vajir Masih R/o Tikka Wasti Zira Firozpur Punjab inform that my son Raju and his wife Shashi Bala and grandsons Jabez Benjamin and Immanuel are out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and immovable Properties. Anybody deal with them will do at their own risk.

I, Pushap Raj S/o Vishab Raj R/o H.No. 786 Top floor Mohalla Jatawala Manimajra Chandigarh, declared that my son Ashish Thakur is out of my control, so I debar him from all my moveable immovable properties, anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Kuldip Singh S/o Sardar Singh R/o H.No. 340, New Deol Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab declare that my son Jagwinder Pal Singh, Kanwarpreet Singh & My daughter Barinder Jit Kaur are out of my control. I disinherit them from my movable and immovable properties. I shall not be held responsible for any of their acts deeds and things. All please note.

We, Prem Kumar S/o Sant Ram And Santosh W/o Prem Kumar R/o Harjan Mohalla, Ismailabad Distt. Kurukshetra My Daughter Neha Rani is out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and immovable properties. If anybody deals with him that will be at his own risk.

I, Kulwant Kaur widow Baldev Singh village Siana Saidan, Pehowa, Kurukshetra, my son Jasbir Singh is married to Narinder Kaur on 21/12/24 with mutual consent and Narinder Kaur has Taranjit Singh S/o Jasbir Singh Now all of them are at my disposal hence in future all of them will be the heirs of my movable and immovable property.

I, Ranjit Singh S/o Shri Swarn Singh resident Village Kulladpur, Tehsil Naraingarh, District Ambala, declare that my son Amarjit is beyond my control. Therefore, I evict him from my movable and immovable property. The person who deals with it will be his responsible himself. I will not have any responsibility.

I, Kala Singh S/O Sh. Baljit Singh R/O Raipur Mandla, Tehsil & Distt. Patiala (Punjab) Inform That My Daughter Manpreet Kaur (Aged 26) Is Not Under My Control. I Disown/Disinherit Her From My All Moveable/Immovable Properties. Anybody Deals With Her At Their Own Risk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

मैं सूनिया देवी पत्नी श्री राजेश शर्मा, निवासी मोहल्ला जोगिया वार्ड नंबर 4 नारायणगढ़, तहसील नारायणगढ़, जिला अम्बाला घोषणा करती हूँ कि मेरे पहचान पत्र में मेरे पति का नाम रमेश, मेरे पति के पहचान पत्र में उनका नाम राजेश कुमार और मेरे आधार कार्ड में मेरे पति का नाम राजेश शर्मा लिखा हुआ है। यह कि रमेश, राजेश कुमार और राजेश शर्मा तीनों नाम मेरे ही पति के हैं। संशयित नोट करें।

I, Sarbjit Kaur wife of Baldev Singh mother of No. 19011494A Sep Manjit Singh R/O Vill Delanwal, Tehsil Khador Sahib, District Tarn Taran, Punjab-143111, declared that in my son's service records, my date of birth has been mentioned 01 January, 1963, whereas my correct date of birth is 01 January, 1958.

I, Joseph, father of Army No. 16116532F Rank Hav Name Johnson VJ of Unit 5 Engr Regt c/o 99 APO Declare That My true and correct date of birth is 02.06.1953 as per my Aadhaar Card & Voter card, but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned is 01.07.1954, which is wrong.

I, Baldev Singh son of Karnial Singh Father of No. 19011494A Sep Manjit Singh R/O Vill Delanwal, Tehsil Khador Sahib, District Tarn Taran, Punjab-143111, declared that in my son's service records, my date of birth has been mentioned 01 January, 1963, whereas my correct date of birth is 01 April, 1958.

For change of name (father): Mr Ranjit singh father of 2513989P L/nk Guravtar singh Unit 15 punjab C/o 56 APO R/o Melak akalian Post office Fatehgarh panjtoor Teh Dharamkot Dist Moga (PB) have change my name from Mr Ranjeet singh to Mr Ranjit singh vide affidavit no IN-PB15041860062044X dated 11.03.2025. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within one week.

I, Mahinder Kaur W/O EX NO-3364023, Rank-Sep, Name-Late Darshan Singh, Postal Address of Vill-Behdali, Po-Bhaddal, Tehsil & District-Rupnagar, State-Punjab, declare That now I amend my name Mohinder Kaur To Mahinder Kaur Date of Birth 15-02-1959 to 15-01-1956 Due to wrongly mentioned in my record.

I, Bimla Devi W/o Harbans Lal R/o Village Prempur, Po. Narur, Tehsil Phagwara, Distt Kapurthala, Punjab, India declare that my name is written as Bimla in my husband's passport whereas my correct name is Bimla Devi. All concerned note.

I, Ashma Devi W/o Sh. Wazir Singh R/o H.No. 24-A, Sector-36A, Sunicity, Rohtak, Haryana, declares that I have changed my name from Ashma Rani to Ashma Devi, For all future purposes.

I, Snehlata Sharma W/o Late Sanjeev Kumar and D/o JC51754X SUB MAJ Late. Ranbir Singh, R/O H.No.493, Sector-8, Part-2, U.E. Karnal declared that in my father's Army service record my name mentioned as Saneh Lata and date of birth 11/12/1983 which is incorrect. My actual name is Snehlata Sharma and date of birth is 10/08/1976 for all future purposes.

It is for general information I Dristi D/o Kuldip Kumar R/O House No 713, Panjokhra, Ambala Distt Ambala, Haryana declare that name of my Father has been wrongly written as Kuldip in my 10th class and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father is Kuldip Kumar, Which may be amended accordingly.

I, Brahmeen Kaur R/o Prabhdeep Singh Bajaj R/O House no 436 Hissar Road Singh Sabha, Gurudwara, Durga Nagar Ambala City 134003, Haryana have changed my name from Brahmeen Kaur to Brahmeen Kaur Bajaj.

I, Pinki Devi W/O Kashmir Singh R/O Vill Indira Colony Distt Ambala Haryana I Have Changed My Name From Pinki Devi To Pinki

I, Neelam D/o Late Sh. Mahender Singh Dahiya R/O H.No. 529/9, Murthaal Adda, Old Housing Board Colony, Near Mini Post Office, Sonipat, Haryana declares that Mahinder Singh & Mahinder Singh Dahiya both names belong to my father. In future my father's name is to be read as Mahender Singh Dahiya instead of Mahender Singh.

I, Arwinder Singh S/O Gurwinder Singh R/O Village-Ampur Gurdaspur 143520, Punjab. Declare That My Given Name As Arwinder And My Surname As Singh.

I, Karamjeet Kaur W/O Arwinder Singh R/O Village-Ampur, Gurdaspur 143520, Punjab. Declare That My Given Name As Karamjeet And My Surname As Kaur.

I, Gagandeep Singh S/O Narinder Singh R/O H.No.159 Main Gali Gurudwara Sahib Mastar Colony Tarn Taran have declare that my Son Anshdeep Singh. Anshdeep is his Given name and Singh is his Surname

I, hitherto known as Parmam Singh son of Lalkha Singh residing at VPO Harse China Vichala Qila, Tehsil Ajanta District Amritsar-143101 Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Parmam Singh China

I, hitherto known as Bavi Rani wife of Hardeep Singh residing at H.No.190, Wadali Road, Baba Deep Singh Colony Chheharta, District Amritsar-143105 Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bevi Rani

I, hitherto known as Mandeep Kaur wife of Sonu Singh residing at Patti Sultan Di, Sultanwind Pind, Amritsar Punjab-143001 India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manpreet Kaur

I, hitherto known as Manpreet Kaur wife of Balkar Singh residing at Village Bathnawala, Post office Dodwan, District Gurdaspur-143532 Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Balwinder Kaur

I, Ruchika Chauhan D/ RP Singh R/O #1447, Sector-11, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my minor son name from Suyyash Thakur to Suyyash Pratap Singh

I, Sabrina D/O Barjinder Singh R/O Baba Farid Nagar, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Sabrina Dhalia.

I, Nachhatar Singh S/o Jagir Singh R/O Hira Singh Nagar, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed my name to Nachhater Singh.

I, Jasleen Kaur Wife of Simranjit Singh, R/O House No. 399, Phase-3A, Mohali, Tehsil and District S.A.S. Nagar (Punjab), India have changed my name from Jasleen Kaur Sunnar to Jasleen Kaur.

I, Nishu Mittal W/o Amit Kumar R/O H.No. 325, Sector -9, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name to Nishu Singh.

I, Sarbjit Kaur W/O Surinder Singh R/O Giddarbaha (Sri Muktsar Sahib) have change my name to Sarbjit Kaur

I, Pawan Kumar Singla s/o Sohan Lal Address Ward 13 Seven City Tehsil samana distt patiala have changed my name from Pawan kumar Singla to Pawan kumar

I, Sukhdev Kumar S/o Mukhtiar Singh R/O H.No. 450, Dalima Vihar, Rajpura, Patiala, have changed my name from Sukhdev Kumar to Sukhdev Singh.

I, Raj Kumar S/o Ram Lal Arora, resident of 242-243 Garden enclave, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Raj Kumar to Raj Kumar Arora, All concerned note.

I, Alisha, W/o Sh. Arshdeep Singh Virdi, R/O House No. 1061, Sector-4, Panchkula (Haryana)134112, have changed my name from Alisha to Alisha Virdi.

I, Jyoti W/o Service No. 15225780X, Rank NK, Suresh Kumar R/O VPO Dhoulha Khera, Mukerian Hoshiarpur Punjab, declared that in my husband service record our son name mentioned as Laksh, whereas his correct name is Laksh Sohal.

I, Shushma W/O Ashwani Kumar R/O 417/9 Shinday Di Chakkhi Mohalla Islamabad Gurdaspur Punjab Pin-143521. Have Changed My Name From Shushma To Sushma.

I, Jayshri is legally wedded spouse of No.15794304M Rank NK (DS) Name Bhut Narad Narshibhai residing at Vill - Chhapra, PO - Devgam, Teh - Lodhika, Dist - Rajkot, State - Gujarat, have changed my name from Jayshri to Bhut Jayshree Naradbbhai vide Affidavit No IN-PB15996999913844X Dated 13-03-2025 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, Maynithala is mother of No.15802842X Rank L/NK Name Muthuvel S presently residing at D.No - 54/14B, Vill - Chinnallugurukkal, PO - Ullukurukki Tehsil - Denkanikottai, Dist - Krishnagiri, State - Tamil Nadu, have changed my name from Maynithala to Maynithala vide Affidavit No IN-PB16017740521979X Dated 13-03-2025 before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

I, Varsha is legally wedded spouse of JC-357325L Rank NB/SUB Name Darade Manik Gangadhar presently residing at Village - Jodwadi, Post Office - Ujani, Distt - Beed, State - Maharashtra, have changed my name from Varsha to Varsha Manik Darade vide Affidavit No IN-PB15833895566873X Dated 13-03-2025 before Notary Public Pathankot (Punjab).

I, Bhagwati Spouse of No.13774589W Nk Pramod Kumar Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 APO that in my husband army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Bhagwati but my correct name is Bhagwati Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB15924633850184X Dated 13.03.2025 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, No.13774589W Nk Pramod Kumar Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 APO that in my army service record my son's name has been wrongly entered as Kabyansh but correct name of my son is Kavyansh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB15926419969416X Dt.13.03.2025 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Kulvinder Kaur W/o Amarjit Singh R/o Block Verka Fatehgarh Shukarchak Amritsar have changed my name from Kulvinder Kaur to Kulvinder Kaur

I, Payal W/o Inderjit Singh R/o Opposite Mahindra Green Land Palace Village Abul Khair, Jail Road, Gurdaspur have changed my name from Payal to Payal Kaur.

I, Smitha CPV Legally Wedded Wife of Army No. JC 423661A Rank: Sub Name Girish Kumar P V Unit: 6 Mech Inf C/o 56 APO Resident of Muthiyalamb, Village Korom, Post Office Korom, Tehsil Payyanur, District Kannur, State Kerala, Pin 670307, have changed my name from Smitha CPV to Smitha C P V.

I, Sradhya CPV, Daughter of Army No. JC 423661A Rank: Sub Name: Girish Kumar P V Unit: 6 Mech Inf C/o 56 APO, Resident of Muthiyalamb, Village Korom, Post Office Korom, Tehsil Payyanur, District Kannur, State Kerala, Pin 670307, have changed my name from Sradhya CPV to Sradhya C P V.

I, Shyla Mol S is legally Wife of Service No. JC314968P Rank Nb. Sub. Name: Roy M residing at Village Mulavana, Post Kundara, Taluk Kollam, Distt. Kollam (State) Kerala, Pin-691501, have changed my name from Shyla Mol to Shyla Mol S.

I, Dimple Kaur W/o Harwinder Singh R/O #207, St. No. 1, New Yadvindra Colony Patiala declare that in some Documents my name Wrongly Mentioned Dimple Kaur but my correct and true Name is Dimple Kaur. Piz Note

I, Monika Goel W/o Sh. Vipin Jindal R/O Nandan Vatika, Gail No. 2, Tomar Nursing Home Wall, Opp. Aggarwal Park, Hira Road, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Monika Goel to Monika Jindal, in future my name is to be called as Monika Jindal.

I, Ramjatan Pal is Father of Name Rajesh Kumar Pal residing at Vill. At Sharay Nooruddinpur, Phulpur, Po. Sarai Inayat, Distt. Allahabad, State- (UP), have changed my Name from Ramjatan Pal to Ramjatan Vide Affidavit Dated 13 March 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Reeta Devi is Mother of Name Rajesh Kumar Pal residing at Vill. At Sharay Nooruddinpur, Phulpur, Po. Sarai Inayat, Distt. Allahabad, State- (UP), have changed my Name from Savitri Devi to Savitri Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 13 March 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Reeta Devi Pal is Wife of Name Rajesh Kumar Pal, residing at Vill. At Sharay Nooruddinpur, Phulpur, Po. Sarai Inayat, Distt. Allahabad, State-(UP) have changed my Name from Reeta Devi Pal to Reeta Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 13 March 2025 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Sajjo W/o Raj Mohammad R/O Village Ubbawal, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab-148001, have changed my name to Sajja.

I, Vikash Kumar S/o Ved Parkash R/O H.No. 2219, Sector 7, HBC, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Vikash Kumar to Vikas Rohilla.

I, Paranjit Kaur W/o Jatinder Singh R/O 584, Amar Palace Wali Gali, Gurdaspur (Pb) have change my name from Paranjit Kaur to Parmdeep Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Karamjit Kaur W/o Pardeep Singh R/O Vpo Riail Kalan Teh Batala, Distt Gurdaspur have changed my Name To Kaur is my Surname and Karamjit is my Given Name.

I, Robinjeet Singh S/o Gurbhje Singh R/O Vill Riail Khurd, p/o Riail Kalan Teh Batala, Distt Gurdaspur have changed my Name To Singh is my Surname and Robinjeet is my Given Name.

I, Neelam Bala W/o Gourav Khosla R/O 123, New Diamond Colony, Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Neelam Bala to Neelam Khosla. Concerned Note.

I, Sukhdev Raj S/o Milki Ram R/O Vill. Udhoke Kalan Teh. Baba Bakala Distt. Amritsar have changed my name from Sukhdev Raj to Sukhdev Singh. Concerned note.

I, Kanta Devi W/o No. 3966375X EX Nk Ram Singh R/O Vill Dalla Gauria P/O Kahnawan Distt Gurdaspur, Punjab-143529 declare that in Army service record of my deceased husband, name and DOB of my daughter wrongly written as Sashi Devi and 01 July 1979. Her correct name and DOB are Anu Devi and 12 May 1983. Concerned note.

I, Prashant Grover S/O Rajender Grover R/O H. No. 56-A, Kamla Nagar, Behind Malik X-Ray Hospital, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Prashant to Prashant Grover for all purposes in future.

I, Dinesh Gupta S/O Om Parkash R/O W. No. 15, Shubham Hospital, Nohar Road, Ellenabad, Sirsa-125055 (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Dinesh Gupta To Dinesh Chander Gupta.

I, Baldev Bansal S/O Ram Karan Dass R/O Gali No.-8, Mohalla Rattan Pura, Phagwara, District Kapurthala, Punjab, India-144401 Have Changed My Name As Baldev Parkash.

I, Rohit S/O Balwinder Singh R/O Back Side Petrol Pump, Chachoki, Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name Given Name As Rohit & Surname As Mehra.

I, Fateh Singh S/O Amar Singh R/O Vill. Dhadiala, P.O. Tarda, Urmur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Fateh And My Surname As Singh.

I, Kuldip Singh S/O Virsa Singh R/O Vill. Balarnwal, P.O. Marhi Tarda, District Gurdaspur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Kuldip Singh To Kuldeep Singh.

I, Kanta Kumar W/O Surinder Kumar R/O Vill. Mehmowal, P.O. Bathian Brahmna, District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Kanta Kumar To Kanta Kumari.

I, Amrik Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Village Bhulewail Rathan P.O. Parsawal, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Declare That My Given Name As Amrik And My Surname As Singh.

I, Charanjit S/O Mohan Lal R/O Vpo. Bihala Tehsil And Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Charanjit Neelam To Charanjit.

I, kavaljit kaur w/o satnam singh r/o lohke kalan ferozepur have changed my name to kawaljeet kaur.

I, Anita Kanwar W/o Yashvir Singh R/O Vill. Damkari, P.O. Damkari, Teh. & Distt. Solan (HP) have changed my name from Anita Kanwar to Anita Kumari.

I, Khem Singh S/o Nek Ram R/O Vill. Nal, P.O. Dhyanagar, Teh. Pachhad, Distt. Sirmour (HP) have changed my name from Khem Singh to Khem Chand.

I, Pooja W/o Tapender Singh R/O Vill. Bhari, P.O. Punderhar, Teh. Nohradhar, Distt. Sirmour (HP) have changed my minor son's name from Akhilesh Varam to Akhil Verma.

I, Sunita Devi W/o Gopal Singh R/O Vill. Bargyana, P.O. Gaighat, Teh. Parwanoo, Distt. Shimla (HP) have changed my name from Sunita Devi to Kanouri Devi.

I, Sapna W/o Dhan Bahadur R/O Vill. Dharyan, P.O. Sadhu Pul, Teh. Kandaghat, Distt. Solan (HP) have changed my name from Sapna to Shabbu.

I, Sanjay Kumar S/o Jagdish Chand R/O 102 Nanhera Ambala Haryana declare that Sanjay Kumar and Sanjay Kumar Vohra are the names of the same person and in future I will be called as Sanjay Kumar Vohra. Concerned note.

I, Sushila S Chaugale Mother of No.15797916P NK Santosh Chaugale resident of Village-Soundatti, Post-Soundatti, Tehsil-Raibag, District-Belagavi, State-Karnataka, Pin-591213, have changed my name from Sushila S Chaugale to Sushila Sadashiv Chougale vide affidavit No.IN-PB14742655776406X dated 10 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sadashiv Chaugale Father of No.15797916P NK Santosh Chaugale resident of Village-Soundatti, Post-Soundatti, Tehsil-Raibag, District-Belagavi, State-Karnataka, Pin-591213, have changed my name from Sadashiv Chaugale to Sadashiv Babu Chougale vide affidavit No.IN-PB14741689458581X dated 10 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15797916P NK Santosh Chaugale resident of Village-Soundatti, Post-Soundatti, Tehsil-Raibag, District-Belagavi, State-Karnataka, Pin-591213, have changed my Daughter name from Sandhya Chaugale to Sandhya Santosh Chougale vide affidavit No.IN-PB14743259094215X dated 10 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15775917X Hav (Gunner) Prem Pal resident of Village- Parchva, Post-Mandanpur, Tehsil- Meerganj, District-Bareilly, State-Uttar Pradesh, Pin-243504, have changed my Mother name from Jamunadevi to Jamuna Vide affidavit No.IN-PB1565908967035X dated 12 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No. JC-304520F Sub (OCC) Sushil Chandra resident of Village- Ghusupur, Post-Binaykpur, Tehsil-Karhal, District-Mainpuri, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-205001, have changed my Son name from Sumit Kumar to Sumit Yadav vide affidavit No.IN-PB13753972756035X dated 06 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Archana Devi spouse of Nena Arun Kumar resident of Village- Alamapur Lathla Urf Lodona, Tehsil- Jewar, District-Gautam Buddha Nagar, State-Uttar Pradesh, Pin-203141, have changed my name from Archana Devi to Archna Devi vide affidavit No.IN-PB1565717597079X dated 12 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Thurhu Singh Father of No.13770702H CHM Sanjeev Singh resident of Village- Tharial, Post- Madhopur, Tehsil-Pathankot, District-State-Punjab, Pin-145024, have changed my name from Thurhu Singh to Thurhu Singh vide affidavit No.IN-PB15313959806030X dated 11 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Parkash Kaur D/O Bhag Singh W/O Randhir Singh R/O Village Hathur Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Hardeep Kaur After Marriage.

I, Satveer Kaur Sandhu W/O Paramveer Singh R/O Vpo. Dhalleke Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Satveer Kaur After Marriage.

I, Tara Rani Mother of No.13770702H CHM Sanjeev Singh resident of Village- Tharial, Post- Madhopur, Tehsil-Pathankot, District- State-Punjab, Pin-145024, have changed my name from Tara Rani to Tara Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB15314843705154X dated 11 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15435366W Hav Deepak kumar Singh resident of Village- Kuraian, Post- Ishmela, Tehsil- Sonpur, District- Saran State- Bihar, Pin-841221, have changed my Father name from Shivaji Singh to Shivjee Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB15160426056774X dated 11 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Rammi Kumari Singh spouse of No.15435366W Hav Deepak kumar Singh resident of Village- Kuraian, Post- Ishmela, Tehsil- Sonpur, District- Saran, State- Bihar, Pin-841221, have changed my name from Rammi Kumari Singh to Rammi Kumari Vide affidavit No.IN-PB15162837478528X dated 11 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15435366W Hav Deepak kumar Singh resident of Village- Kuraian, Post- Ishmela, Tehsil- Sonpur, District- Saran, State- Bihar, Pin-841221, have changed my Mother name from Basanti Devi to Vasanti Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB15159674497394X dated 11 March 2025 before notary public Pathankot

I, Parveen Kumari W/o Shiv Kumar R/o Teh Anandpur Sahib, Jhaji, Rupnagar, Punjab 140117 declare that I have changed my name from Parveen Kumari to Parveen.

I, Indu Choudhary Wife of Rajiv Choudhary Resident of H.No.374, Gali No.3, Bharat Nagar, Pathankot, Tehsil and District Pathankot (PB), declare that I have change my name Indu Bala to Indu Choudhary. All concerned note.

I, Arshdeep S/o Nainahil Singh R/O Village Khairabad, P.O. Phool Khurd, Tehsil and District Rupnagar (Punjab) have changed my name from Arshdeep to Arshdeep Singh.

I, Ranjan am Mother of Army No-JC356888Y Rank-NB/SUB Name-Nimbalkar Yeshwant Mansing Presently Posted At Unit: 105 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: A/P Pharandwadi, Teh: Phaltan Dist: Sataar, Farandwadi, Satara, State: Maharashtra, Pin-415523 declare that I have changed My name from Ranjan to Ranjana Mansing Nimbalkar. Vide Affidavit No: 48AA 901511, Dated:13/03/2025

I, Mansing am Father of Army No-JC356888Y Rank-NB/SUB Name-Nimbalkar Yeshwant Mansing Presently Posted At Unit: 105 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: A/P Pharandwadi, Teh: Phaltan Dist: Sataar, Farandwadi, Satara, State: Maharashtra, Pin-415523 declare that I have changed My name from Mansing to Mansing Sonaba Nimbalkar. Vide Affidavit No: 48AA 901510, Dated:13/03/2025

I, Jaishri am legally Wedded Spouse of Army No-JC356888Y Rank-NB/SUB Name-Nimbalkar Yeshwant Mansing Presently Posted At Unit: 105 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: A/P Pharandwadi, Teh: Phaltan Dist: Sataar, Farandwadi, Satara, State: Maharashtra, Pin-415523 declare that I have changed My Name from JAISHRI to Jaishri Yeshwant Nimbalkar. Vide Affidavit No: 48AA 901512, Dated:13/03/2025

I, Surender Kaur am Mother of Army No: 15341105K Rank-Hav Name-Mangal Singh Presently Posted At Unit: 62 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Govindgarh, Ramgarh, Samba, Chak Paras, Ramgarh, Jammu, Jammu And Kashmir, 181144 declare that I have changed my name from Surender Kaur to Sinder Kaur and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/07/1965 to 10/05/1955. Vide Affidavit No:48AA 901508, Dated:13.03.2025

I, Nehal Singh am Father of Army No: 15341105K Rank-Hav Name-Mangal Singh Presently Posted At Unit: 62 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Govindgarh, Ramgarh, Samba, Chak Paras, Ramgarh, Jammu, Jammu And Kashmir, 181144 declare that I have changed my name from Nehal Singh to Nihal Singh and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/07/1964 to 03/04/1955. Vide Affidavit No:48AA 901507, Dated:13.03.2025

I, Shankareppa am Father of Army No: 16132991K Rank: Spr Name- Subhasachandra Kumbhar Presently residing at 161 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS), Chandimandir Cantt Panchkula, Haryana declare that I have changed My Name from Shankareppa to Shankareppa Kumbhar

I, Ratna is Mother of Army No: 16132991K Rank: Spr Name- Subhasachandra Kumbhar Presently residing at 161 Br Coy, 16 Engr Br Regt (PMS), Chandimandir Cantt Panchkula, Haryana declare that I have changed My Name from Ratna to Ratna Kumbhar

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Unemployment rate in Haryana drops to 4.7%, says CM Saini

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said that according to data released by the National Statistical Office, the state's unemployment rate has decreased to 4.7 percent which is significantly lower than both the national average and the employment rates in neighboring states. Responding to questions raised by opposition MLAs on the Governor's address in the state Assembly, he took a dig at the Congress party, accusing opposition leaders of presenting a false picture of unemployment rate in the state by relying on data from the CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy).

He criticized the opposition for selectively releasing misleading unemployment figures to further their own political agendas, seeking to gain political benefit by misrepresenting the facts.

Saini said that the latest report for the October-December 2024 quarter of the Periodic Labour Force Survey, released by the National Statistical Office, shows Haryana's unemployment rate at 4.7 per cent, whereas the national unemployment rate stands at 6.4 per cent. The Chief Minister said that the NITI Aayog relies solely on surveys conducted by the National Statistical Office, which is an agency of the Government of India, for all policy decisions.

Saini said that over the past 10 years, the current government has not only provided government jobs to reduce unemployment in the state but also focused on developing the skills of the youth for employment in the private sector. Taking a jibe at the Congress, he said, "During its 10-year tenure, Congress provided government jobs to only 86,000 youth. Jobs were given based on money and recommendations. In contrast, the current government has provided government jobs to around 1,77,000 eligible youth over the past 10 years, pure-



ly based on merit, without any nepotism, regionalism, or corruption."

Saini said that the state government is continuously working to enhance the quality of education and provide better educational opportunities to students. There are 7,986 sanctioned posts in government colleges. Out of these, 5,422 posts are filled. The process of filling 2,424 Group-B Assistant

Professor posts in various subjects is ongoing through the Haryana Public Service Commission.

Saini said that farmers' welfare is at the center of the government's policies. The government is purchasing all crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP). Since the year 2021-22, a total of Rs. 1.25 lakh crore has been directly transferred to farmers' bank accounts for food grains procured at MSP.

He said that opposition leaders are misleading farmers on MSP. He shared that during the Congress regime in 2014, only 30.07 lakh metric tonnes of paddy were procured. However, in 2024-25, the procurement has increased to 53.99 lakh metric tonnes. This clearly

shows that the government is buying nearly twice as much paddy as before. The government ensures an adequate supply of urea during the sowing season.

BPL CARDS WILL BE VERIFIED

Replying to the increase in BPL cards in the last five years, the Chief Minister said the Opposition leaders are talking about more BPL cards being

made. If any BPL card has been made in the state in a wrong way, then it will be investigated. He said that during the Congress regime, the business of giving recommendations was prevalent and BPL cards of the rich were made but the poor could not get included in the BPL category. He said in the last 10 years, the state government has brought a change in the method of estimating the number of families below the poverty line. According to government data, the number of BPL families in Haryana has witnessed a sharp rise over the past five years, with the latest figures for 2024-25 the cumulative number of BPL households reaching 51.83 lakh.

CONG STAGES WALKOUT

The Congress staged a walkout as soon as the Chief Minister began his reply to the Governor's address. Underlining that the government had given 26,000 jobs, Saini had only started his speech when former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda asked him for how long had these jobs been held back. Hooda said that the CM was not restricting himself to giving a reply on the Governor's address but was giving a speech on the government's achievements.

A brief exchange took place between the treasury benches and the Congress before the main Opposition party staged a walkout. Later, speaking to the media, Hooda, accompanied by other Congress MLAs, said that the government had nothing to say on the Governor's address. Saini criticized the Congress MLAs for walking out of the House, stating that the opposition lacks the ability to listen to the truth. He said that Congress won't even be present in the Assembly in 2029.

He further added that Congress has no real issues and only focuses on making baseless accusations. He recalled stating during the municipal elections that Congress would be wiped out due to its flawed policies, and the results proved him right as not a single Congress candidate won.

Punjab Budget Session from Mar 21-28; Budget on Mar 26

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Cabinet on Thursday approved the summoning of the Budget Session of the 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha from March 21 to 28. Alongside finalizing the budget timeline, the Cabinet also gave a green signal to major educational and skill development initiatives, including the implementation of the 'English for Work' course for college students and the establishment of 40 'Hunar Sikhiya Schools' to provide technical training to youth.

The Cabinet's decision on the Budget Session will now be sent to the Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, who will officially summon the legislature as per Article 174(1) of the Indian Constitution. The session will commence with the Governor's address on March 21 — that is Friday, followed by discussions. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema will present the state budget for 2025-26 on March 26 — that is Wednesday, after which a general discussion will take place.

Major Boost to English Skills for Job Readiness

In a move aimed at enhancing employability, the Cabinet approved a waiver from Section 63(1) of The Punjab Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 2019, to continue the 'English for Work' course for the next two financial years. The initiative, being run in collaboration with British Council Education India Private Limited (BCEIPL), benefits nearly 5,000 students across government colleges in Punjab annually. This exemption ensured that the program runs without administrative hurdles, allowing students to improve their English communication skills — a key factor for securing better jobs in both domestic and international markets. The waiver will be placed before the upcoming Vidhan Sabha session for legislative approval.

40 Hunar Sikhiya Schools to Empower Youth

Recognizing the need for industry-relevant education, the Cabinet has approved the establishment of 40 Hunar Sikhiya Schools (Schools of Applied Learning) across Punjab at an estimated cost of Rs 32 crore. These specialized schools will focus on vocational and technical training in fields such as banking, financial services, and insurance; digital design and development; beauty and wellness; and healthcare sciences and services. Additionally, three foundational courses will be introduced in Functional English; Career Foundations (covering professionalism, CV creation, soft skills, and career development); Technology in Everyday Life (teaching practical digital skills like writing emails, creating work plans, and using digital tools). The move is expected to bridge the gap between education and industry requirements, making Punjab's youth more competitive in the job market.

Police Operation Rescues 7-Yr-Old Kidnapped Boy; Key Accused Killed in Encounter

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A dramatic 15-minute gunfight between Punjab Police and kidnapers ended with the rescue of a seven-year-old Bhavkirat Singh and the death of the main accused in a police encounter. The operation, personally monitored by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, showcased the Punjab Police's swift action in tackling heinous crimes.

Bhavkirat was abducted on Wednesday evening from outside his house in Seehan Daud village, Ludhiana, while playing in the courtyard. Two masked men on a motorcycle grabbed him and sped away, triggering panic in the village. His family, led by his grandfather Gurjant Singh, immediately began a frantic chase but lost track of the abductors after about eight kilometers.

As news of the abduction reached authorities, a massive police operation was launched across three districts. Intelligence teams worked overnight, and by 2 am, Punjab Police had tracked down two kidnapers. However, the child was still missing, raising fears about his safety. Under

intense interrogation, the detained suspects revealed that their gang leader, Jaspreet Singh, 23, was holding the boy hostage and had planned to demand a Rs one crore ransom — or worse, harm the child if they were caught.

Acting on leads, Punjab Police cornered Jaspreet Singh near Patiala on Thursday evening. He was traveling in a Scorpio SUV, trying to evade capture by using CCTV-free back roads. As the police signaled him to stop, he opened fire, sparking a fierce 15-minute encounter.

During the exchange, three police personnel were injured, but they managed to fatally wound Jaspreet and overpower him. Upon securing the vehicle, the police found Bhavkirat curled up in fear beside the seat. The terrified child was rescued unharmed, bringing immense relief to his distraught family. Jaspreet was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries.

The kidnapers had initially demanded Rs one crore but later settled for Rs 30 lakh after negotiations with the boy's grandfather. However, instead of giving in, the family alerted the police, which led to a meticulously planned operation that foiled the crime.

Punjab Cong Sets 2027 Poll Strategy: Grassroots Push, Unity Drive, Targeting AAP's Cracks

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress has set its sights on a major political comeback, drawing up a detailed strategy to strengthen its organizational grip and counter the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the 2027 Assembly elections. In a high-stakes meeting of the state's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) in New Delhi on Thursday, party leaders resolved to launch a grassroots outreach campaign, end factionalism, and capitalize on AAP's internal turmoil to regain lost ground.

The Congress leadership, under the newly-appointed Punjab affairs' in-charge and Chhattisgarh's former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, has decided that 2025 will be dedicated entirely to rebuilding the party at the block and booth levels. A special team of leaders will be assigned responsibilities to oversee district-wise mobilization, ensuring direct engagement with voters. The party will also actively reach out to AAP MLAs and leaders looking for an exit, following reports of growing discontent within the ruling party.

"Today, a meeting of the Punjab Political Affairs Committee was held. In this meeting, discussions took place on six key agendas, and everyone shared their views... This year is dedicated to strengthening the organization, so all discussions were focused in that direction. The Congress party is strong in Punjab, but we need to work on micro-management here," said Baghel, after the meeting.

"In the next meeting, we will prepare an agenda on issues concerning the Punjab Government and take it down to the booth level. As part of this, there will be a training program, and booth committees will also be formed," said Baghel, adding "We will fight for the issues of Punjab's farmers, women, youth, Dalits, and every section of society."

With internal unity identified as the biggest challenge, Baghel and Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring laid out strict directives for leaders to refrain from public infighting. "Factionalism cost us dearly in 2022. This time, it won't," Warring asserted. The "Judega Block, Jeetegi Congress" campaign will be expanded, making every leader accountable for on-ground party building, he said.

With 2025 designated as the year of rebuilding, the Congress roadmap for Punjab includes a hyper-local outreach program, where leaders will take charge of individual districts and constituencies. A direct connect with voters, through door-to-door campaigns, will be maintained to highlight

the failures of the AAP government.

A decision has also been taken to welcome defectors from AAP and other parties, signaling an open-door policy for disgruntled leaders. At the same time, there will be strict monitoring of factionalism, with senior leadership ensuring internal unity. A focus will be laid on upcoming municipal and panchayat elections, using them as a litmus test before 2027.

STRENGTHENING GROUND PRESENCE

Baghel, while addressing the senior leadership, stressed the need for continuous engagement with people rather than seasonal political activity. "Congress will now be seen in every village and town, standing with people in their struggles. We won't just show up before elections," he said. Party leaders have been directed to spend more time in their respective constituencies, regularly hold meetings with workers, and ensure that the Congress narrative is amplified against the AAP Government's governance failures. The next meeting on March 18 with Congress MLAs will focus on finalizing the roles of senior leaders in this campaign.

AAP IN CRISIS, CONG SEES OPPORTUNITY

A significant part of the discussion revolved around the ongoing instability in AAP. Several reports suggested that some AAP MLAs and leaders are unhappy with the party's functioning, and Congress sees this as a moment to rebuild its base by welcoming the defectors. Baghel, when asked about Congress's claims that AAP leaders are in touch with them, responded, "AAP is in chaos. Their ship is sinking, and people are looking for an escape. It's only a matter of time." This marked a clear strategic shift, with Congress actively scouting for potential turncoats, something the party had largely refrained from doing in Punjab's previous Assembly elections.

CONG HITS OUT AT PUNJAB BUDGET SESSION DURATION

Punjab Government's decision to limit the Budget session to just six days drew sharp criticism from the Congress. Baghel slammed the move, stating, "How can crucial issues be debated in such a short time? AAP has no faith in democratic principles. They want to avoid tough questions." Congress leaders have decided to take an aggressive stance in the Assembly, questioning the AAP Government over its handling of Punjab's finances, law and order, and the unfulfilled promises made to voters.

Punjab Government
led by
Chief Minister
S. Bhagwant Singh Mann
extends heartiest greetings to one and all
on the auspicious occasion of
HOLI
The Festival of Colours

Join Chief Minister
S. Bhagwant Singh Mann's
official WhatsApp channel
Scan Here

S. Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Thudimella Naga Surya Sai Is Son Of No.15487514L Rank Dfr Name T Suresh Of Unit 90 Arm'd Regt C/O 56 Apo, Residing At 77-51-1as, Devineni, Gandhipuram, Santhinagar, Prakashnagar, Payakapuram, Vijayawada (Urban) P.O. Payakauram, District Krishna, State Andhra Pradesh Pin 520015 Have Changed My Name From Thudimella Naga Surya Sai To Thurimella Naga Surya Sai Vide Affidavit Dated 13 March 2025 Before At Notary Ferozpur.

I, Prabhjit Kaur W/O Mehal Singh R/O Village Dharmheri, P.O. Bibipur, District Patiala Have Changed My Name To Parabhjeet Kaur.

I, Daljit Singh S/O Harbhajan Singh R/O Vpo. Jadia Teh-Nawanshar Distt. S.B.S. Nagar have changed my name as Daljit Singh to Daljeet Singh.

I Jagdish Singh S/O Bata Ram Village Balagan PO and Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Jagdish Singh To Jagdish Singh Balagan.

I Shingara Singh Nagra S/O Mohinder Singh Nagra, V.P.O. Kohala, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name Shingara Singh Nagra to Shingara Singh.

I, Pal Singh S/O Jangir Singh R/O Vill: Dhana Shahid Teh-Zira Distt. Ferozpur (142050) Pb, India, have changed my name Jaspal Singh Manes to Pal Singh.

I, Vikas Chopra W/O Mohan Lal R/O Vill: Bharthala Teh-Balochaur Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Vikas Chopra to Vikas Singh.

I Sukhinder Kaur Brar W/O Aimer Singh Brar R/O Near Fazilka chowk, VPO Malout, Malout (Rural) Malout Village Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed by name to Sukhinder Kaur.

I Chamkaur Singh S/O Darshan Singh Village Talwaleh Tehsil Tapa, District Barnala have changed my name Chamkaur Singh Randhawa.

I, Varinder Kaur Benipal W/O Avtar Singh R/O VPO Rajewal, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Varinder Kaur.

I Amarjeet Kaur W/O Gurjant Singh Hehar R/O Vpo. Pherurain (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Amarjeet (Name) Kaur (Sirmame)

I Randhir Singh S/O Sher Singh R/O H. No-27 Village-Padian Lahri P.O-Pathankot, Tehsil Ans Dist-Pathankot, Punjab - 145001, have changed my name to Randhir Singh JK.

I, Rita Dey W/O JC-332534X Sub Maj Nemi Chandra Dey, Ge (East) Ferozpur C/O 56 Apo, Residing At Qtr No-4P-1, W-1 Zone, Near Mes Shiv Mandir, Ferozpur Cantt, Punjab-152001 Have Changed My Name After Marriage From Rita Pal To Rita Dey Vide Affidavit Dated 13 March 2025 Before At Notary Ferozpur.

I, T Kalpana Is Wife Of No.15487514L Rank Der Name T Suresh Of Unit 90 Arm'd Regt C/O 56 Apo, Residing At 77-51-1as, Devineni Gandhipuram Santhi Nagar, Prakashnagar, Payakapuram, Vijayawada (Urban) P.O. Payakauram, District Krishna, State Andhra Pradesh Pin 520015 Have Changed My Name From T Kalpana To Thurimella Kalpana Vide Affidavit Dated 13 March 2025 Before At Notary Ferozpur.

I, Amandeep Kaur Dhillon W/O Gursaran Singh, Residing At Gna House, Old Phagwara Road, Kot Kalan, Jalandhar, Punjab 144024, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Jasvinder Singh Sehra.

I, Ranbir Singh S/O Gursaran Singh, Residing At Gna House, Old Phagwara Road, Kot Kalan, Jalandhar, Punjab 144024, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ranbir Singh Sehra.

I, Gurmali Singh S/O Sarwan Singh R/O VPO Dargabad Tehsil Nakodar Distt Jalandhar, Punjab, India, have changed my name from Gurmali Singh to Gurmali Singh.

I, Mandeep Singh S/O Surinder Singh R/O W.No. 8 Mohalla Jalian Vpo. Urmal (Hoshiarpur) Pb, have changed my daughter name from Gursanjh Kaur Saini to Gursanjh Kaur.

I, Mehal Singh S/O Sheeha R/O Village Dharmheri, P.O. Bibipur, District Patiala Declare That My Father's Correct Name Is Sheeha Singh Instead Of Shisha Singh.

ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ
ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨਗੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਪਾਸ ਹੋਈ:-
ਪਾਸ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰ ਦੀ ਯੁਕਤੀ ਲਿਖਿ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਦੀ ਪਿਛਾਣ ਹੇਠ ਹੇਠ ਹੋ, ਸ੍ਰੀ ਚੰਦ ਕਰਕਾਉਟਿ ਹਿੰਦ ਜਨ ਮਾਨਗੀ ਡਿਵੀਜ਼ਨ ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰਾਰ ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਰੁਝਾਮਪੁਰ ਪਾਸ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੇ ਹਨ। ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਯੁਕਤੀ ਰੁਝਾਮਪੁਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੁੱਲ 10 ਕਮੇਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਚੁਣੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਹਨ ਇਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਜਨ ਸਿਰਫ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖਿ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹਨ

ਜਿਲਾ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
05	ਅਨੁਕੂਲਿਤ ਨਾਮੀ (ਐਸ ਸੀ)	
09	ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਲਈ	
10	ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਲਈ	

ਇਹ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਜਨ ਅੰਦਰ ਲਈ ਅਤੇ ਇਕ ਨਵੇਂ ਅਨੁਕੂਲਿਤ ਨਾਮੀ ਲਈ ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਰਾਇਆ ਰਿਸ਼ਾ ਹੋ। ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਯੁਕਤੀ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਕਰਕਾਉਟਿ ਹਿੰਦ ਜਨ ਮਾਨਗੀ ਡਿਵੀਜ਼ਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹਨ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
1	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ	17-3-25 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸਦੀਕਨਾਮ ਮਤੇ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ, ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਲੜਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿੱਧ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ	3-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
3	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	21-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
4	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਰਾਂ	21-4-25 1 ਤੋਂ 2 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
5	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਾਯੋ	21-4-25 2 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
1	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ	17-3-25 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸਦੀਕਨਾਮ ਮਤੇ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ, ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਲੜਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿੱਧ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ	3-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
3	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	21-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
4	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਰਾਂ	21-4-25 1 ਤੋਂ 2 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
5	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਾਯੋ	21-4-25 2 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
1	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ	17-3-25 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸਦੀਕਨਾਮ ਮਤੇ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ, ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਲੜਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿੱਧ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ	3-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
3	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	21-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
4	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਰਾਂ	21-4-25 1 ਤੋਂ 2 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
5	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਾਯੋ	21-4-25 2 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
1	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ	17-3-25 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸਦੀਕਨਾਮ ਮਤੇ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ, ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਲੜਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿੱਧ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ	3-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
3	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	21-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
4	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਰਾਂ	21-4-25 1 ਤੋਂ 2 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
5	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਾਯੋ	21-4-25 2 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
1	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ	17-3-25 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸਦੀਕਨਾਮ ਮਤੇ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ, ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਲੜਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿੱਧ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ	3-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
3	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	21-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
4	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਰਾਂ	21-4-25 1 ਤੋਂ 2 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
5	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਾਯੋ	21-4-25 2 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
1	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ	17-3-25 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸਦੀਕਨਾਮ ਮਤੇ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ, ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਲੜਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿੱਧ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ	3-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
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6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
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5	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਾਯੋ	21-4-25 2 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
1	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ	17-3-25 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸਦੀਕਨਾਮ ਮਤੇ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ, ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਲੜਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿੱਧ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ	3-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
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4	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਰਾਂ	21-4-25 1 ਤੋਂ 2 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
5	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਾਯੋ	21-4-25 2 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ	ਚੋਣਵੇਂ	ਰਿਜ਼ਟਰੇਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ
1	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ	17-3-25 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
2	ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸੰਦਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਸਦੀਕਨਾਮ ਮਤੇ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਕਾਰੀ, ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੰਚਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਦੀ ਚੰਦ ਲੜਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿੱਧ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ	3-4-25 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
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4	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਰਾਂ	21-4-25 1 ਤੋਂ 2 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
5	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਾਯੋ	21-4-25 2 ਤੋਂ 3 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
6	ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਐਲਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਐਲਾਣ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਂ	21-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
7	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਠੀਕੀ	22-4-25 9 ਤੋਂ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ
8	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੇਖਣ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਖਤਮ ਖਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਐਲਾਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ	22-4-25 4 ਤੋਂ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

ਚੰਦ ਨੋਟਿਸ

PUBLIC NOTICE TO APPEAR/ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DISTRICT LEVEL MSEFC, PATIALA (PUNJAB)

Through this publication this is for constructive notice for respondent M/s Onkar Dairy Milk Production, G.T. Road, Vili Kauri, Khanna, Ludhiana 141401 through its Director/M/D/ Chairman/ Principal Officer /C.M.D to appear in person or through authorized representative before the Micro Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, Patiala on 24.03.2025 at 02:00 P.M. Venue: Court Room of Deputy Commissioner, Block-A, Mini Secretariat, Patiala (Punjab) regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant M/s Star Polypacks, C-6/B, Focal Point, Rajpura, District Patiala-140401 U/s 18 (1) of MSME Act-2006 bearing reference No. DIC/Reg/217. If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per Sec. 23 and 25 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and Award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO APPEAR/ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DISTRICT LEVEL MSEFC, PATIALA (PUNJAB)

Through this publication this is for constructive notice for respondent M/s Chaudhary Enterprises, Jashna Malerkotla Road, Malerkotla, 148023 through its Director/M/D/Chairman/ Principal Officer /C.M.D to appear in person or through authorized representative before the Micro Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, Patiala on 24.03.2025 at 02:00 P.M. Venue: Court Room of Deputy Commissioner, Block-A, Mini Secretariat, Patiala (Punjab) regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant M/s Star Polypacks, C-6/B, Focal Point, Rajpura, District Patiala-140401 U/s 18 (1) of MSME Act-2006 bearing reference No. DIC/Reg/217. If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per Sec. 23 and 25 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and Award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO APPEAR/ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DISTRICT LEVEL MSEFC, PATIALA (PUNJAB)

Through this publication this is for constructive notice for respondent M/s Mishi Farmer Producer Company Ltd., # 429, VPO Nagla Roran, Kamal, Haryana-132003 through its Director/M/D/ Chairman/ Principal Officer /C.M.D to appear in person or through authorized representative before the Micro Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, Patiala on 24.03.2025 at 02:00 P.M. Venue: Court Room of Deputy Commissioner, Block-A, Mini Secretariat, Patiala (Punjab) regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant M/s Star Polypacks, C-6/B, Focal Point, Rajpura, District Patiala-140401 U/s 18 (1) of MSME Act-2006 bearing reference No. DIC/Reg/217. If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per Sec. 23 and 25 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and Award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO APPEAR/ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DISTRICT LEVEL MSEFC, PATIALA (PUNJAB)

Through this publication this is for constructive notice for respondent M/s Onkar Dairy Milk Production, Registered office at G.T. Road, Village Kauri, Khanna, District Ludhiana-141401 through its Director/M/D/ Chairman/ Principal Officer /C.M.D to appear in person or through authorized representative before the Micro Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, Patiala on 24.03.2025 at 02:00 P.M. Venue: Court Room of Deputy Commissioner, Block-A, Mini Secretariat, Patiala (Punjab) regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant M/s Star Polypacks, C-6/B, Focal Point, Rajpura, District Patiala-140401 U/s 18 (1) of MSME Act-2006 bearing reference No. DIC/Reg/217. If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per Sec. 23 and 25 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and Award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO APPEAR/ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DISTRICT LEVEL MSEFC, PATIALA (PUNJAB)

This is for the information of general public that Canara Bank Branch G.T. Road, Near Malerkotla Chowk, Khanna propose to sanction credit facility to Karam Cold Store, Village Shamri against the security of equitable mortgage of the property i.e. shop and stairs on the ground floor and two rooms on the first floor bounded as under:- East Property of Balbir Singh 13'-0", West Room 12'-0", North - Street 9' wide 4'-0" South Property of Chhanga Singh 48'-0", situated at Nabha Road, Amloh, Tehsil Amloh (bearing property tax No. B010000500 as per municipal record) owned by Sh. Gursewak Singh, Pavitar Singh sons of Sh. Jang Singh son of Sh. Piara Singh, residents of village Hoal, Tehsil Khanna purchased through registered sale deed bearing vasiqa no.2018-19125/1784 registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Amloh on 22.02.2019 from Satnam Singh, Harwinder Singh sons of Rachpal Singh. The following documents regarding chain of title of the above mentioned property are submitted and are not in possession of the present owners of the property. Sh. Gursewak Singh has lodged DDR bearing LR no.578/2

Editor's TAKE

Balochistan on the Boil

The deadly train hijacking episode has brought the region's struggle to the fore

The recent hijacking of the Jaffar Express in Balochistan marks another deadly episode in the decades-long struggle for Baloch independence. The attack, orchestrated by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), underscores the escalating insurgency in Pakistan's largest but most neglected province. The Pakistani military's swift operation to neutralise the hijackers may have ended the immediate crisis, but it has done little to address the underlying grievances that continue to fuel the Baloch nationalist movement.

On March 11, armed militants targeted the Jaffar Express, a passenger train traveling from Quetta to Peshawar. The BLA demanded the release of Baloch political prisoners and individuals allegedly abducted by Pakistani security forces. Pakistani military forces swiftly launched a rescue operation. The successful yet costly operation highlights the deteriorating security situation in Balochistan and the growing boldness of separatist groups.

The hijacking is not an isolated incident but rather a continuation of the Baloch people's longstanding quest for self-determination. Balochistan, rich in natural resources but historically marginalised, has seen multiple uprisings since Pakistan's creation in 1947. The roots of the conflict date back to what many Baloch consider a betrayal by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's founder. At the time of Partition, the princely state of Kalat, a major part of present-day Balochistan, opted for independence. However, in 1948, under pressure from Pakistan and with little international support, Kalat was forcibly annexed. This fueled deep resentment among the Baloch people and led to an armed insurgency that has resurfaced in different forms over the decades.

Balochistan, despite being rich in resources such as gold, copper, and natural gas, remains the most impoverished province in Pakistan. Baloch nationalists argue that the region's wealth is exploited by the central government, with little benefit to the local population.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has further intensified tensions, as Baloch rebels view Chinese investments and infrastructure projects as a means of increasing Pakistan's control over their land without addressing local grievances. Adding to the discontent are widespread allegations of human rights abuses, including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of activists and civilians. The Pakistani state has often responded with heavy-handed military crackdowns, further deepening resentment.

While the Baloch nationalist movement has waxed and waned over the years, recent developments suggest it is gaining momentum. The BLA and other militant groups, such as the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), have intensified their attacks on security forces, government infrastructure, and projects associated with CPEC. Targeted assaults on Chinese nationals working in Pakistan further indicate a strategy aimed at destabilising foreign investments and pressuring the Pakistani state. The hijacking of the Jaffar Express is a testament to the insurgents' evolving tactics and growing audacity. By targeting civilian infrastructure and taking hostages, the BLA has demonstrated its capability to conduct large-scale operations, signaling an emboldened separatist movement.

A military response alone will not quell the insurgency. Addressing the root causes—political disenfranchisement, economic marginalisation, and human rights violations—is crucial for any long-term resolution. The ongoing struggle in Balochistan is a reminder of the consequences of neglecting ethnic and regional grievances. Without meaningful dialogue and political solutions, Pakistan risks further destabilisation in its most resource-rich yet volatile province. The recent train hijacking may have been neutralised, but the broader Baloch insurgency remains far from over.

Leaderspeak

We fully respect the sovereignty of Mauritius with regard to Chagos. We will extend our cooperation through forums such as the Colombo Security Conclave, Indian Ocean Rim Association, and Indian Ocean Conference. Be it the Global South, the Indian Ocean, or the African continent, Mauritius is our important partner. We have come up with SAGAR vision for the stability and prosperity of this entire region. India shall also assist in setting up of National Maritime Information Sharing Centre in Mauritius

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Towards a Fit and Trim India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's latest initiative to combat obesity and curb excessive oil consumption is timely as obesity rates are rising sharply, underscoring urgent need for preventive healthcare and dietary reforms

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent initiative to combat obesity and reduce excessive cooking oil consumption has ignited nationwide discussions on health and nutrition. The campaign underscores the importance of preventive healthcare and dietary changes in addressing India's growing obesity crisis. Given the alarming rise in obesity worldwide, this initiative is both timely and necessary and has received support from healthcare professionals, sportspeople, and the World Health Organisation.

India is witnessing a sharp increase in obesity, with the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) reporting that 23% of men and 24% of women are now overweight or obese. Urban areas show even higher numbers due to sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy diets. By now, we all know that obesity increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and certain cancers, placing a heavy burden on India's healthcare system. The WHO has identified obesity as a major global health crisis, and India is rapidly catching up with Western countries in obesity rates.

However, while addressing obesity through lifestyle changes is essential, an even more pressing concern needs urgent attention—food adulteration. In 2018-19, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) found that almost one-third of food samples tested in India failed quality checks due to adulteration. Media reports highlight alarming instances of harmful substances being added to food, such as urea, starch, and detergent in milk; synthetic dyes and artificial ripening agents in fruits; chalk in common salt; artificial colors in spices; formalin in fish; iron filings or colored leaves in tea; synthetic whiteners, chalk powder, or soapstone in rice and wheat; and lead chromate in pulses. These adulterants pose serious health risks, including food poisoning, kidney damage, cancer, and neurological disorders.

Food adulteration is now so rampant that, at times, we don't even need food inspectors to detect it. Walk through any vegetable market, and you will see unnaturally shiny apples, bright green peas, pointed gourds, and glossy brinjals. These are not signs of freshness but of harmful chemicals like wax, artificial dyes, and pesticides. Soak vegetables in water, and you may see colors leaching out—clear evidence of adulteration.

While obesity can be managed by raising awareness about the dangers of consuming processed foods with unhealthy



ingredients or overconsuming edible oil and encouraging lifestyle changes, avoiding adulterated food is far more challenging. It is difficult to detect adulteration, and the issue is deeply rooted in systemic flaws in food production and regulation. Unless food adulteration is effectively tackled, even so-called "healthy" choices can be hazardous, exposing consumers to harmful substances despite their best efforts to maintain a nutritious diet.

Due to the widespread issue of food adulteration, many people have stopped eating fruits with their peels or raw salads, fearing pesticide residues and chemical coatings. This shift highlights how food adulteration forces people to compromise on natural and healthier eating habits, ultimately hindering efforts to promote a balanced diet and combat obesity.

With adulteration becoming so prevalent, it's no surprise that people are turning to organic food. The organic food market is expanding rapidly worldwide. In India, it was valued at around \$1.5 billion in 2023 and is projected to reach \$8.9 billion by 2032. However, organic food in India is much costlier than conventionally grown food, making it less accessible to middle—and lower-income groups. To make matters worse, fake organic labels

have become a growing concern. As demand rises, many brands and sellers misuse the "organic" tag, passing off conventionally grown food at a premium price under the guise of organic produce. If left unchecked, this defeats the very purpose of switching to organic food, leaving us right back where we started.

PM Modi's past campaigns, such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the promotion of yoga through the International Day of Yoga, have demonstrated his ability to mobilise public participation and drive meaningful change. His efforts to combat obesity are also likely to strike a chord with the masses. However, while his past initiatives have successfully influenced public hygiene and global health trends, his latest campaign against obesity will have a meaningful impact only if the issue of food adulteration is effectively addressed.

In the fight against obesity, food adulteration is the elephant in the room. Addressing it first will ensure that when

Indians make healthier choices, they are truly consuming safe and nutritious food. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to combat obesity and reduce excessive cooking oil consumption is a crucial step toward improving public health in India.

Indeed, rampant food adulteration undermines even the best health-conscious efforts, exposing consumers to harmful substances despite their intent to eat well. The presence of hazardous chemicals in everyday foods, from fruits and vegetables to dairy and staples, poses severe health risks.

PM Modi's past campaigns have successfully driven large-scale behavioral changes, and his anti-obesity initiative holds similar promise. However, its success depends on a holistic approach that includes stringent food safety regulations, public awareness about adulteration and affordable access to truly healthy food.

Strengthening regulatory frameworks, enforcing stricter penalties for food fraud, and promoting verified organic practices can help bridge the gap.

(The writer is Additional Director, Research Division, Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Views expressed are personal)

Four-Day Workweek: Challenges and Promises

SECOND Opinion



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

The concept of a four-day workweek has taken the world by storm, promising enhanced work-life balance and efficiency. However, implementing such a model in a heterogeneous and populous nation like India—home to over 1.4 billion people—presents significant challenges.

India's labor market has distinct complexities, making a four-day workweek more of an aspiration than an immediately achievable solution. The country's economy encompasses sprawling informal sectors alongside emerging knowledge industries, creating a stark divide in working styles and employment patterns.

The informal economy, which employs approximately 90% of India's workforce, operates beyond conventional employment paradigms. Agricultural laborers, small business owners, and daily wage earners typically work based on demand rather than a fixed schedule. For such workers, a four-day workweek may hold little relevance, as their earnings are directly tied to the number of hours worked.

Conversely, India's expanding service and technology sectors may be better positioned to experiment with compressed workweeks. Some e-commerce organisations have already tested four-day workweeks, reporting promising results in employee satisfaction and productivity. However, these

remain exceptions rather than the norm.

Cultural perceptions of work in India present another significant hurdle. The deeply ingrained belief that long hours demonstrate commitment and dedication fosters resistance to reduced workweeks. This cultural mindset suggests that even if policies change, shifting attitudes may take considerably longer.

Infrastructure challenges further complicate the feasibility of a four-day workweek. Many Indian workers endure long commutes due to inadequate transportation networks and urban congestion. As a result, even with a compressed work schedule, the actual time available for leisure and personal activities might remain limited.

Despite these challenges, there are compelling reasons to explore pathways toward introducing a four-day workweek in India. Research suggests potential benefits, including reduced burnout, lower absenteeism, and improved mental health-factors that could address key workplace issues currently affecting Indian employees.

A sector-specific approach may offer the most viable path forward. Pilot programs in knowledge-intensive industries could serve as testing grounds, allowing successful models to be gradually expanded to other sectors. Additionally, government incentives for businesses willing to adopt such programs could accelerate broader acceptance.

The pandemic has already reshaped work arrangements worldwide, including in India. Remote and hybrid work

models have demonstrated that productivity is not necessarily dependent on physical presence or rigid schedules. This shift in perspective creates opportunities for workplace innovations, including compressed workweeks.

Rather than viewing the four-day workweek as a universal, short-term solution, India could integrate it into a broader movement toward more flexible, worker-oriented employment practices. While full-scale implementation across industries may be a distant goal, selective adoption in specific sectors could lay the groundwork for wider acceptance as the economy and infrastructure continue to evolve.

The journey toward workweek reform in India will be long, culturally complex, and closely tied to the nation's economic landscape. However, initiating the conversation is a crucial first step in the right direction.

The four-day workweek presents both opportunities and challenges for India. While its informal economy and cultural perceptions pose obstacles, the growing service and technology sectors offer a testing ground for its feasibility. Infrastructure limitations and deep-rooted work traditions may slow widespread adoption, but pilot programs and government incentives could drive gradual acceptance. The pandemic has already reshaped work models, highlighting flexibility's potential. Rather than an immediate, universal solution, a sector-specific approach could pave the way for broader implementation.

(The author is a motivator and freelance writer. Views expressed are personal)

Letters to the Editor

PRIME MINISTER MODI IN MAURITIUS

Madam — Prime Minister Modi's second visit to Mauritius on its National Day, following his 2015 trip, has revitalized the previously weakened ties between the two nations. The ritual of pouring Gangajal into Mauritian waters symbolizes the cleansing of past grievances and has led to the signing of eight Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), including a strengthened strategic partnership focused on artificial intelligence, set to begin soon. Once under British rule, Mauritius saw the arrival of Indian laborers who endured harsh conditions and exploitation. These laborers, known as 'Girmityas' or 'People of Agreement', share a common history and cultural ties with India. This enduring rapport is expected to foster mutually beneficial developments in the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second visit to Mauritius on its National Day, following his 2015 trip, has significantly strengthened the ties between the two nations. Historically, Mauritius and India share deep-rooted cultural and historical connections. Modi's visit included a symbolic ritual of pouring Gangajal into Mauritian waters, signifying the cleansing of past grievances. This visit resulted in the signing of eight Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), including a strategic partnership focused on artificial intelligence, set to commence soon. This visit marks a new chapter in their enduring relationship.

RS NARULA | PATIALA

EUROPE FIGHTS TRUMP TARIFFS

Madam — The European Union announced on Wednesday, March 12, that it would impose retaliatory trade measures, introducing new duties on U.S. industrial and agricultural products. This decision came just hours after the Trump administration increased tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports to 25 percent. As the world's largest trading bloc, the EU had anticipated the U.S. tariffs and prepared accordingly. However, the measures still place significant strain on already tense transatlantic relations. Just last month, in February, Washington warned Europe that it would need to take responsibility for its own security in the future. The EU's retaliatory measures will initially target U.S. goods worth approximately 26 billion euros (USD 28 billion). These measures will not be limited to steel and aluminum products but will also affect textiles, home appliances, and agricultural goods. Additionally, items such as motorcycles, bourbon whiskey, peanut butter, and jeans will face renewed tariffs. With this, an open trade war has erupted between the European Union and the United States, which may escalate into a serious and dangerous situation in the coming days. The economic impact could extend beyond these regions, affecting countries like India, which may be particularly vulnerable due to its weaker economy. This escalating trade war between the EU and the US threatens global economic stability, with potential ripple effects on various nations.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

TRUMP PUSHING INDIA INTO TRADE WAR

Madam — President Donald Trump, who champions the slogan "America First," has drawn India into his trade war. He has threatened that if India does not reduce import tariffs on American goods, the US will impose equivalent tariffs on Indian goods starting in April. This has placed India in a difficult position. Calling India the "Tariff King," Trump argues that the taxes India imposes on American goods are unfair. When he took a similar stance against China, the Chinese government responded aggressively, demonstrating its readiness not only for a trade war but for any kind of confrontation. However, the situation between India and the US is different, raising the question: Is India prepared for such a scenario? Last year, trade between India and the US amounted to \$118 billion, with India exporting goods worth \$77 billion and importing \$40 billion. The major imports from the US include crude oil, pearls and precious stones, nuclear reactors and related materials, boilers, machinery, and other equipment. On the other hand, India's major exports to the US consist of automobiles, textiles, and metals. If Trump's tariff threat becomes a reality, these three Indian industries could suffer a significant blow. The US is struggling with a \$1.2 trillion trade deficit and a market flooded with Chinese products, which has become a major concern. Trump's policies aim to address this issue. Trump's background as a businessman is evident in the strategic moves he is making.

DATTAPRASAD SHIRODKAR | MUMBAI

TRAIN HIJACKING IN BALOCHISTAN EXPOSES PAKISTAN'S FAULTLINES

The recent hijacking of the Jaffar Express in Balochistan has once again highlighted the deep-rooted insurgency in the region. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) seized control of the train, which was carrying over 500 passengers, including 214 Pakistani soldiers.

The group issued a 48-hour ultimatum, demanding the release of Baloch prisoners and the withdrawal of Pakistani forces. In response, the Pakistani military launched a rescue operation, deploying Special Service Group (SSG) commandos. Reports indicate that 104 hostages have been freed, while 16 militants were killed. However, several hostages also lost their lives during the operation, further escalating tensions.

The local population has long accused the government of exploiting their resources while denying them political and economic rights. This discontent has fueled multiple insurgencies over the decades, with separatist groups like the

BLA leading armed resistance against the state. The Pakistani military's heavy-handed response, including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, has only intensified the unrest.

A major factor driving the insurgency is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which includes the strategic Gwadar Port, is seen as an effort by Pakistan and China to exploit Balochistan's resources without benefiting the local population. Baloch insurgents have repeatedly attacked CPEC infrastructure and Chinese investments, viewing them as symbols of foreign occupation.

The BLA's warning after the hijacking—demanding that Pakistan and China leave Balochistan—reinforces this narrative. The crisis in Balochistan poses a significant challenge for Pakistan. A sustainable solution requires dialogue, economic inclusion, and an end to military repression.

SACHIN TRIPATHI | BHOPAL

Carney: From Central Banker to Prime Minister

Mark Carney's rise from a globally respected central banker to Canada's Prime Minister signals a dramatic shift in the country's political landscape. Among his most urgent tasks is repairing Canada's strained relationship with India, a key economic and geopolitical partner

FIRST Column

Mark Carney's transition from a globally acclaimed central banker to Canada's Prime Minister marks a profound shift in leadership dynamics. Renowned for his crisis management at the helm of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, he now faces the uncharted terrain of political leadership. Taking charge of a deeply divided political landscape, he must navigate a strained Indo-Canadian relationship and the resurgence of protectionism in a Trump-led America.

From Central Banker to Political Leader

While his economic acumen lends him credibility in managing fiscal policy and trade relations, his greatest challenges will be diplomatic—repairing strained ties with India, navigating a hostile White House, and restoring public trust in Canada's institutions. His leadership style, devoid of political baggage but rooted in financial pragmatism, will determine whether he succeeds in stabilising Canada's position on the global stage.

Repairing Indo-Canadian Relations

It is well known that former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alienated much of the Indian community in Canada by openly supporting Khalistani elements, severely straining relations with India. Carney has indicated that he favors stronger ties with India, a move that would benefit both nations. Unlike Trudeau, who pursued a self-serving political agenda at the cost of diplomatic relations, Carney must now leverage his skills and experience to mend fences with New Delhi.

One of Carney's most urgent foreign policy tasks will be repairing Canada's damaged relationship with India. Rebuilding trust through direct talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior officials—while avoiding public accusations that could further aggravate tensions—will be crucial.

- Key measures include:
1. Addressing India's concerns about pro-Khalistani extremism operating from Canadian soil.
 2. Strengthening counterterrorism collaboration with India.
 3. Reviving discussions on the stalled Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
 4. Encouraging Canadian investments in India's technology and infrastructure sectors.
 5. Attracting Indian investments into Canada's energy and AI industries.
 6. Easing visa restrictions for Indian students and professionals to reinforce diaspora-driven relations.

Tackling Khalistani Extremism

Managing the presence of Khalistani elements in Canada remains a significant challenge. Trudeau's perceived leniency toward these extremists led to a diplo-



KS TOMAR

matic crisis, especially after the Nijjar controversy. If Carney aims to restore relations with India while maintaining domestic stability, he must strike a balance between national security and democratic freedoms.

- Potential steps include:
1. Directing CSIS and the RCMP to closely monitor extremist groups.
 2. Increasing surveillance on pro-Khalistani funding networks.
 3. Implementing stricter regulations on events that glorify violence against India.
 4. Enhancing intelligence-sharing with India's RAW and IB.

5. Considering the deportation of individuals involved in terrorist financing or inciting violence against India.

6. Establishing a bilateral security task force to monitor extremist activities.

Carney must also distinguish between moderate Sikhs and extremist Khalistanis, ensuring that law enforcement targets violent elements rather than peaceful Sikh advocacy groups. His approach must be security-driven rather than politically motivated—unlike Trudeau's strategy of appeasement.

GARNEY MUST ALSO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MODERATE SIKHS AND EXTREMIST KHALISTANIS, ENSURING THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT TARGETS VIOLENT ELEMENTS RATHER THAN PEACEFUL SIKH GROUPS

Balancing Indo-Canadian Relations and Domestic Politics

Restoring trust with India while managing domestic political sensitivities will require a delicate balancing act. Carney's lack of political baggage allows him to take a fresh approach, while his global reputation ensures India takes his diplomatic overtures seriously.

Leveraging economic incentives to reset relations with India could provide him with a major diplomatic victory early in his tenure. However, he will face opposition from pro-Khalistani groups in Canada, accusations of suppressing free speech and resistance from left-leaning Liberals who supported Trudeau's stance. If he implements a balanced policy—cracking down on extremists while protecting legitimate Sikh voices—he can repair Indo-Canadian ties without shaking domestic instability.

The Indian Diaspora's Influence

The Indian community in Canada, comprising approximately 1.86 million individuals according to the 2021 census, represents about 5.1 per cent of the national population. This demographic has significantly influenced Canada's multicultural landscape, particularly in urban centers such as Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, and Montreal.

Notable political figures from this community include:

Jagmeet Singh: Leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP) since 2017 and the first person of Indian descent to lead a major federal party.

Harjit Singh Sajjan: MP for Vancouver South and former Minister of National Defense.

Anita Anand: Appointed Minister of National

Defense in 2021.

Bardish Chagger: Former Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth.

Chandra Arya: MP for Nepean, Ontario, and advocate for economic development and immigrant integration.

Political Engagement and Diplomatic Tensions

The Indian community's active political participation underscores its commitment to Canada's democratic processes. However, relations between Canada and India deteriorated following the October 2024 murder of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia.

Trudeau accused the Indian government of orchestrating violence against dissidents in Canada, leading to reciprocal diplomatic expulsions and further straining bilateral ties. This crisis has raised concerns among the Indian diaspora, particularly regarding immigration, education, and economic exchanges. For Carney, engaging constructively with the Indian community is crucial. Addressing their concerns, fostering inclusive policies and working toward diplomatic reconciliation with India will be essential steps in strengthening Canada's social and economic fabric.

Domestic Political Challenges

Carney assumes office amid deepening political divides. The Liberal Party has suffered declining public confidence, particularly in Western Canada, where Trudeau's policies alienated oil-dependent provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan. Meanwhile, right-wing populism has gained traction, mirroring global trends.

While Carney's lack of electoral experience may be a vulnerability, his credibility as an economic strategist could help him regain voter trust.

Managing inflation, stabilising interest rates, and addressing affordability concerns will be immediate priorities. Gaining support from both progressive and conservative voters will be crucial for effective governance, while restoring confidence within his party and among centrist voters will determine his political longevity.

Conclusion

Carney's leadership will be defined by his ability to steer Canada through complex domestic and global challenges.

A strategic recalibration of ties with India could elevate his stature, but any misstep—particularly on the Khalistani issue—risks deepening tensions and undermining economic prospects in South Asia. India will also have to understand the prioritise and compulsions of the new Canadian prime minister to reboot the relations.

(Writer is a strategic affairs columnist and senior political analyst. Views expressed are personal)

Ramzan and Navratri: A Shared Journey of Self-Restraint and Purity

Ramzan and Navratri symbolise the essence of all that is good, pure, and noble in the two religions: Islam and Hinduism. The common message for devotees of these respective religions is to achieve excellence in behavior through introspection and self-restraint.

The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, once said, "There are limits to self-indulgence, none to self-restraint." Truly, self-restraint plays an important role in shaping human behavior in different societal and cultural settings. The entire concept of social control is based on the type, range, and depth of restraint exhibited in human behavior. More often than not, we see laws being violated, manipulated, and disobeyed because they are externally imposed. In contrast, by practicing self-restraint, we become the masters of our actions and, in turn, our destiny.

Ramzan, the ninth lunar month in the Islamic calendar, is a period of spiritual reflection and piety, observed through fasting from dawn to sunset and increased charitable deeds by Muslims worldwide.

The objective behind this month-long exercise is to cultivate self-control and self-restraint through fasting, with the goal of achieving excellence in behavior and guarding against evil. According to the Quran (Verse 2:183):

"O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed to those before you so that you may become righteous."

Ramzan is seen as a time for introspection and strengthening one's connection with God. One night during Ramzan, known as Laylat al-Qadr, is believed to be a night of exceptional blessings, during which the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad. The first revelation of the Holy Quran took place on Laylat al-Qadr.

However, fasting does not mean abstaining only from food and water; it also necessarily includes refraining from all evil actions and thoughts. One must not indulge in falsehood, gossip, backbiting, or foul language while fasting.

Once, as Prophet Muhammad was passing through a street with his followers, he heard a woman shouting and abusing others. The Prophet asked, "Who is this woman? Is she a Muslim?" His followers replied, "She is a Muslim and is observing the fast." The Prophet then instructed his followers to offer dates to the woman to break her fast, explaining that by using vulgar language and expressing anger, she had rendered her fast meaningless.

In essence, a fasting person must exercise utmost control to eliminate even the slightest traces of waywardness in behavior and demeanor. The observer of a fast must ensure that their thoughts and deeds remain pure, noble, decent, and benevolent toward others, including all of humanity.

There are two types of sinners:

1. Fasiq-ul-Amal - One who commits sin while knowing it is wrong.

2. Fasiq-ul-Aqeeda - One who commits sin and does not believe it is wrong.

Fasting can refine and purify those in the first category. During Ramzan, believers are given the opportunity for repentance and forgiveness. If a person sincerely seeks pardon from the Lord for their misdeeds, the Lord listens to their prayers during this holy month.

The faithful are instructed to adopt taqwa (refraining from sin and guarding against evil). If those observing the fast do not adhere to this principle, their fast will not be accepted by Allah. As the Quran (79:40-41) states:

"As for him who fears to stand before his Lord and restrains himself from low desires, Paradise is surely the abode."

Fasting detoxifies the body when observed properly. Namaz (prayer), besides being an act of worship, is similar to yoga and meditation. Prophet Muhammad's daughter, Hazrat Fatima Zehra, highlighted the benefits of fasting during Ramzan, stating that one of its purposes is to help the rich understand the pangs of hunger experienced by the poor. For this reason, Zakaat (charitable alms-giving) is prescribed during this period.

The Quran states: "And spend in the way of Allah and cast not yourself to perdition with your own hand." It further clarifies: "He loves those who purify themselves." Someone once asked Hazrat Ali Ibn Abi Talib, the Caliph of Islam, "How do we know that Allah has accepted our prayers during Ramzan?" Hazrat Ali replied, "If, between the sighting of the moon at the beginning of Ramzan and the sighting of the moon for Eid, you notice a positive change in your behavior, your prayers have been accepted."

Similarly, in Hinduism, Chaitra Navratri is observed between April 2-11, while Sharad Navratri is celebrated in the autumn season, around October-November. According to the Shastras, devotees observing Navratri fasts must practice Brahmacharya (celibacy), as it helps in reducing negative qualities such as anger, pride, deceit, and greed.

It also aids in keeping and honoring different vows and commitments in life. Devotees observing the fast should also abstain from falsehood and refrain from using intoxicants like gutka, tobacco, and wine. Consumption of non-vegetarian meals is also prohibited during these periods.

Currently, the month-long Ramzan is being observed, and Chaitra Navratri will be celebrated from March 30 to April 7, 2025. From a cultural

perspective, Delhi has a unique character of celebration, as people from all corners of the country reside here.

The great Urdu poet, Mirza Ghalib, beautifully captured the fervor of the holy month of Ramzan in Delhi in a letter to his close friend, Mir Mehdi Husain 'Majroh':

"How did you presume that during the month of Ramzan, I would be staying in Rampur? Although Nawab Sahab insisted that I stay in Rampur, tempting me with mangoes, I left and, by 'Chand Raat' (the night before Ramzan), reached Delhi, for Delhi is a place where people feel the pulse of absolute bliss."

"In Delhi, during Ramzan, I have three commitments: At dawn, I go to Masjid Hamid Ali Khan, at Kashmiri Gate, to listen to the soulful recitation of the Holy Quran by Hazrat Qari Jafar Ali Jarchavi; in the evening, I break my fast at Mehtab Bagh, near Jama Masjid; and at night, I perform Namaz-e-Isha at Jama Masjid. How mirthfully life is passing here!"

Ramzan and Navratri, two sacred observances in Islam and Hinduism, exemplify the virtues of self-restraint, introspection, and spiritual elevation. Both are deeply rooted in religious traditions and serve as periods of reflection, discipline, and devotion, guiding individuals toward moral and ethical excellence.

Spiritual fasting

Ramzan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is a time for fasting, prayer, and increased charitable acts. It is believed that during this holy month, the first revelation of the Quran was bestowed upon Prophet Mohammad on Laylat al-Qadr, a night of immense blessings.

Fasting during Ramzan is not merely about abstaining from food and drink but also about refraining from falsehood, anger, and immoral behavior. The objective is to cultivate 'taqwa'—a heightened sense of God-consciousness and righteousness. Acts of charity, such as 'Zakaat' (alms-giving), further strengthen the bond of empathy between the rich and the poor.

Similarly, Navratri, a Hindu festival observed twice a year, emphasises devotion, purity, and self-discipline. Devotees engage in fasting, prayer, and abstinence from material indulgences, aiming to purify the mind and body. Observing celibacy and refraining from falsehood, intoxicants, and non-vegetarian food are integral to this practice.

In a culturally diverse city like Delhi, these spiritual occasions are observed with great fervor, reflecting the city's unique ethos of religious harmony. Ultimately, both Ramzan and Navratri remind us that true devotion lies in self-restraint, moral conduct, and a compassionate heart.

(The author is a lawyer. Views expressed are personal)

India's fragile trade deal with the US

India is currently in a tight spot regarding its economic relations with the United States. In less than two months since the new US President took office, high-level Indian officials, led by the Prime Minister himself, have visited Washington, D.C. Last week, India's Commerce Minister was in Washington for discussions with the newly appointed US Trade Representative and Commerce Secretary. According to news reports, Piyush Goyal is expected to return to Washington towards the end of March. The reason? President Trump's simultaneous announcement, during Goyal's visit, of imposing reciprocal tariffs on all countries with high import duties, including India.

President Trump has consistently targeted India as a high-tariff nation since taking office. His public outbursts against various allies and friendly countries have become a near-constant spectacle, akin to a reality show streaming across the globe. Several world leaders who managed early meetings with Trump were relieved that they were spared the harsh treatment that the Ukrainian President faced in the Oval Office. Trump's confrontational style is now well known, and global leaders fear reputational damage from their bilateral conversations with him. He employs his blunt, undiplomatic rhetoric to put foreign leaders in a difficult position, compelling them to return with lucrative economic deals for the US.

It was no surprise, then, that after meeting India's Commerce Minister, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick stated, "We would like to focus on a bilateral conversation just between India and the United States—to bring down the tariff levels that India has, which protect some of its sectors." Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US last month, discussions on a bilateral trade agreement have been actively initiated, with expectations of finalisation by the end of the year. Intense consultations are underway in Delhi, with all relevant ministries contributing their recommendations.

One of India's key priorities is retaining control over the agricultural sector, which has significant domestic political implications. The US is pushing for greater access to the Indian agriculture market, while India seeks reciprocity without jeopardising its small farmers. American farmers, who are generally more prosperous and own larger farmlands, rely on advanced machinery to boost crop output. However, the US Commerce Secretary made it clear that access to India's agriculture market remains a top priority. He stated, "Maybe certain products have quotas. Maybe certain products have limits... And then we do the same thing on the other side and craft an agreement that makes sense for both of us. The Indian agriculture mar-

ket has to open up. It can't just stay closed."

Meanwhile, back in India, the government is considering reducing import duties on certain products, including electronics. India currently imposes nearly 16.5 per cent import duties on several ICT hardware products, while the US maintains rates well below 1 per cent. Many experts believe that lowering duties on electronics could benefit India by encouraging US companies to shift their supply chains to the country. However, there seems to be some confusion over the definition of "US-manufactured" and "Made in the US" when determining tariff reductions. At present, many US technology companies do not manufacture in the US but operate their largest factories in China or Southeast Asia.

President Trump, meanwhile, is pressuring American companies to relocate their manufacturing bases back to the US, threatening consequences if they fail to do so. This move could further complicate the already fragile global supply chain. India is closely monitoring these developments and must remain agile in its decision-making.

Conclusion

India and the United States have shared a complex yet evolving economic relationship, marked by cooperation and contention. Over the years, India has worked towards strengthening trade ties with the US, which remains one of its largest trading partners. However, friction has persisted over issues such as tariffs, market access, and trade imbalances. With the new US administration taking a firm stance on protectionist policies, India faces increasing pressure to lower its trade barriers and open its markets to American goods, particularly in agriculture and technology. President Trump's aggressive trade policies, including reciprocal tariffs and demands for reduced Indian duties on US imports, have added new challenges to negotiations.

As India navigates these complex trade dynamics, it must strike a balance between fostering economic cooperation with the US and protecting its domestic industries, especially agriculture and manufacturing. While a bilateral trade deal could provide long-term benefits, hasty concessions could threaten small businesses and farmers. At the same time, global supply chain shifts present opportunities for India to attract investments from US firms. With careful negotiations and strategic decision-making, India can work towards a trade agreement that ensures mutual benefit while safeguarding its economic interests. The coming months will be crucial in shaping the future of India-US economic relations.

(The writer is a political analyst. Views expressed are personal)



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Russia says it has retaken Kursk's biggest town from Ukraine



Ukrainian serviceman of Khartia brigade known by call sign "Krystal" fires M101 Howitzer towards Russian positions in Kharkiv region, Ukraine

PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Moscow

Russian forces have driven the Ukrainian army out of the biggest town in Russia's Kursk border region, officials claimed Thursday, as US officials sought the Kremlin's response to a proposed 30-day ceasefire in the three-year war that Ukraine has endorsed.

The Russian Defence Ministry's claim that it recaptured the town of Sudzha, hours after President Vladimir Putin visited his commanders in Kursk and wore military fatigues, could not be independently verified. Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment on the claim.

The renewed Russian military push and Putin's high-profile visit to his troops came as US President Donald Trump presses for a diplomatic end to the war. The US Tuesday lifted its March 3 suspension of military aid for Kyiv after senior US and Ukrainian officials made progress on how to stop the fighting during talks held in Saudi Arabia.

Trump said Wednesday that "it's up to Russia now" as his administration presses Moscow to agree to the ceasefire. The US president has made veiled threats to hit Russia with new sanctions if it won't engage with peace efforts.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Thursday that US negotiators were on their way to Russia, but he wouldn't comment on Moscow's view of the ceasefire proposal.

"Before the talks start, and they haven't started yet, it would be wrong to talk about it in public," he told reporters.

Senior US officials say they hope to see Russia stop attacks on Ukraine within the next few days.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told Fox News that national security adviser Mike Waltz spoke Wednesday with his Russian counterpart. She also confirmed that Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, will head to Moscow for talks with Russian officials, possibly including Putin.

By signaling its openness to a ceasefire, Ukraine has presented the Kremlin with

a dilemma at a time when the Russian military has the upper hand in the war — whether to accept a truce and abandon hopes of making new gains, or reject the offer and risk derailing a cautious rapprochement with Washington.

The Ukrainian army's foothold inside Russia has been under intense pressure for months from a renewed effort by Russian forces, backed by North Korean troops. Ukraine's daring incursion last August led to the first occupation of Russian soil by foreign troops since World War II and embarrassed the Kremlin.

Speaking to commanders Wednesday, Putin said he expected the military "to completely free the Kursk region from the enemy in the nearest future."

Putin added that in the future "it's necessary to think about creating a security zone alongside the state border," in a signal that Moscow could try to expand its territorial gains by capturing parts of Ukraine's neighboring Sumy region. That idea could complicate a ceasefire deal.

Ukraine launched the raid in a bid to

counter the unceasingly glum news from the front line, as well as draw Russian troops away from the battlefield inside Ukraine and gain a bargaining chip in any peace talks. But the incursion didn't significantly change the dynamic of the war.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, assessed late Wednesday that Russian forces were in control of Sudzha.

Ukraine's top military head, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, said late Wednesday that Russian aviation had carried out an unprecedented number of strikes on Kursk and that as a result Sudzha had been almost completely destroyed. He did not comment on whether Ukraine still controlled the settlement but said it was "maneuvering (troops) to more advantageous lines."

Meanwhile, Major General Dmytro Krasnylnikov, commander of Ukraine's Northern Operational Command, which includes the Kursk region, was dismissed from his post, he told Ukrainian media outlet Suspilne on Wednesday.

Imran Khan's party slammed for spreading 'fake narrative'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Thursday slammed jailed former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party for spreading a "fake narrative" regarding the deadly terrorist attack on a train in Balochistan.

At least 21 passengers were killed in the attack by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) terrorists on the Jaffar Express in Bolan areas of Balochistan on Tuesday. The stand-off with the militants ended after the security forces killed all 33 terrorists.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Asif accused PTI-affiliated social media accounts of misrepresenting the tragic incident and undermining national unity by promoting misinformation, instead of acknowledging the sacrifices made by the armed forces in the rescue operation.

"What's more upsetting is the way PTI's social media interpreted the situation," he said. "In yesterday's tweets, and otherwise as well, they target the armed forces. When the armed forces impose martial law, then they stand with them," Asif said, recalling that Khan supported Pervez Musharraf in his 2002 referendum.

Asif said Pakistan would emerge victorious in the war on terrorism with the nation's support for the armed forces.

"Our war against terrorism is a big milestone that the entire country can be proud of. If the entire nation stands proud like this with our armed forces, then there is no doubt we will be successful in our war (against terrorism)," the minister said.

The Parliament on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution to condemn the train attack and all acts of terrorism

that endanger people and public order.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhary moved the resolution that appreciated the armed forces for their unwavering commitment, bravery and sacrifice in safeguarding the lives of the citizens and protecting the integrity of Pakistan.

The House expressed the "resolve to take every possible measure to eliminate terrorism from every corner of the country, affirming that no group, individual and ideology that seeks to undermine the nation's security, prosperity and sovereignty will be allowed to spread fear, hatred and violence within the territorial limits of the country."

At least 21 passengers were killed in the attack by the Balochistan Liberation Army terrorists on the Jaffar Express in Bolan areas of Balochistan on Tuesday

It expressed the commitment to working relentlessly to root out terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The House called upon the people regardless of their ethnicity and religion to unite in the fight against terrorism and reject extremism, ensuring peace, safety and prosperity for future generations.

Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari strongly condemned the terrorist attack.

He said the terrorists, enjoying the backing of some foreign forces, only want to kill innocent people and impede the progress of Pakistan. He emphasized the need for unity in political ranks and consensus to once again defeat the terrorists.

Maintenance hole explosion at Texas Tech University causes fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Texas

An explosion inside a maintenance hole on the Texas Tech University campus in Lubbock set off fires and power outages, leading school officials to issue evacuation orders for several buildings and cancel classes for the rest of the week, university police said.

The explosion happened Wednesday night at the Engineering Key section of campus, which was evacuated.

Power was being shut down to the entire campus while repairs were underway, said Caitlynn Jeffries, a spokesper-

son for the university's police department. She asked that all public and unofficial personnel avoid campus.

"You can go ahead and go home for spring break. We are closing school down for the next couple days," Jeffries said at a news media briefing.

Firefighters responded to campus at about 7 p.m. For a possible gas leak, Lubbock Fire Rescue Capt. Jon Tunnell said at the briefing. They found "multiple manhole covers with active fire and smoke issuing from them," he said.

No injuries were reported, Tunnell said.

Musk, DOGE may get rid of programme that made tax filing free

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

Mia Francis, a 22-year-old barista from Boston, filed her taxes on her own this year for the first time, using a free government tax filing programme that made it easy because it did most of the work for her.

Francis said it took 45 minutes to finish her taxes with the IRS Direct File programme, an electronic tax return filing system that the IRS made permanent last year and that has rolled out to 25 states.

Francis is expecting a \$530 refund. And because she saved cash by not using a commercial tax preparation company to file her taxes, "that money will go a long way," she said. She plans to use it for a trip to Amsterdam this year.

Despite its popularity with Francis and other members of the American public, the IRS Direct File's fate remains unclear as Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency cleave their way through the federal bureaucracy.

So far, the programme is still available for use ahead of the April 15 tax filing deadline, and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent committed during his January confirmation hearing to maintaining it, at least for this tax season.

Representatives from the Internal Revenue Service and DOGE did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press on their plans for Direct File. But one Republican tax expert says the IRS never got congressional authorization to create Direct File.

And Republican lawmakers and commercial tax preparation firms complain the programme is a waste of money because free filing programs already exist, although they are hard to use.

Direct File was rolled out as a pilot program in 2024 after the IRS was tasked with looking into how to create a "direct file" system as part of the money it received from the Inflation Reduction Act signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2022. Last May, the agency announced that the programme would be made permanent.

The IRS accepted 140,803 returns filed by taxpayers using Direct File in the 12 states where it was available last tax season. It's been expanded to include half the country this year. It is unclear how many taxpayers have used Direct File this year.

Mercia Vinton, an original architect of Direct File from the US Digital Service, noted the ease and accessibility of the programme and called it "a great example of how people should interact with the government in the 21st century."



the IRS," she said. "It was built by an in-house product team, in an iterative manner, and we ship updates to the software to improve user experience in real time based on feedback. If we continue to invest in it, both taxpayers and the IRS can benefit." Musk posted last month on his social media site that he had "deleted" 18F, a government agency that worked on technology projects such as the IRS' Direct File programme.

This led to some confusion about whether Direct File is still available to taxpayers. However, conversations inside the IRS indicate that no decision has been made on whether to cut the program, two people familiar with these conversations tell the AP.

Former IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel, who oversaw the rollout of the programme, said Treasury officials considering the future of the program should take into account "the voice of the taxpayers."

"My reflection is that taxpayers are in very different situations and have very different preferences for how they want to file," he said. "Those whose preference is to file electronically direct with the IRS for free, it's a good option to have on the menu. But it should not replace other options."

Derrick Plummer, a spokesperson for Intuit, one of the country's largest commercial tax preparation firms, said free tax preparation had been available for years before Direct File came along.

"IRS Direct File is a solution in search of a problem, a waste of taxpayer dollars and a drain on critical IRS resources," he said. A June 2024 Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration report estimates that the annual costs of Direct File may range from \$64 million to \$249 million.

"The IRS should focus on its core mission including data privacy and customer service while policymakers in Washington

focus on simplifying the tax code," Plummer said.

However, other taxpayers, like 31-year-old Aquiel Warner in Austin, Texas, say they want to avoid using commercial tax preparation software.

Warner filed her taxes with Direct File in 10 minutes using her phone and a chatbot that the IRS provides. She likes the program's convenience, that it prepopulated her tax forms and that it allowed for free filing. Although she has some concerns about data privacy in the government — DOGE is reported to have access to some of the IRS' internal systems — she feels more secure going through the IRS than commercial tax preparation services.

"I don't want to be a product. I don't want my information sold when I file my taxes," she said. "I have to file my taxes, and I don't want to be put in a situation where, in order to file my taxes, I have to pay to get the help I need because I'm not a professional tax preparer."

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said the IRS never got explicit permission from Congress to create the Direct File system.

"It really doesn't matter if it's a good idea. It was done illegally," he said, calling on Congress and the Justice Department to look into what he says is unauthorized spending that went into the creation of Direct File.

Democratic lawmakers in January asked Bessent and IRS commissioner nominee Billy Long to preserve the program. They wrote in a letter that "ending Direct File would hurt everyday Americans." Long has not yet received a nomination hearing.

In the meantime, Musk and his cadre of computer programmers could decide to wield their tech skills to boost the programme — or use the very same digital savvy to delete it.

Pak PM Shehbaz Sharif visits Balochistan after BLA insurgents attack train



A special train, organised by the army for the wounded and survivors rescued by security forces from a passenger train attacked by insurgents, arrives at a railway station in Much, in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province

PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Karachi

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday visited the restive Balochistan province to review the law and order situation and to express solidarity with the people there following the Jaffar Express hijacking incident in which 21 civilians and four soldiers were killed.

Sharif's visit comes a day after security forces killed all 33 Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) militants who on Tuesday hijacked the Jaffar Express.

Sharif is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Planning, Development Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Nawabzada Mir Khalid Magsi and others.

The incident occurred when the train, travelling from Quetta to Peshawar and carrying 440 passengers, was ambushed by BLA militants near the mountainous terrain of Gudalar and Piru Kunri in a tunnel. They opened fire

on the train and held the passengers hostage, prompting the security forces to initiate an operation that lasted two days. Announcing the completion of the operation, Director General Inter-Services Public Relations Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Wednesday said the armed forces took part in the action against militants who "remained in contact with their facilitators and mastermind based in Afghanistan via satellite phone". Units from the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), Special Services Group (SSG), Army, and Frontier Corps (FC) took part in the operation, the army's spokesperson said.

Chaudhry said no one can be permitted to make innocent people of Pakistan the victim of their barbarism in the streets, trains, buses or markets because of their misleading ideas and instructions and facilitation of foreign masters.

"Whoever does this, let me say it very clearly, will be hunted down and brought to justice. Let me also say that this incident of Jaffar Express changes the rules of the game," he said.

The bodies of those killed in the attack will be sent to their native areas after necessary administrative prerequisites. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Thursday lambasted former prime minister Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for "politicising" the incident and misinterpreting the situation on social media.

"We need to rise above political interests and demonstrate national unity (on such occasions)," said Asif.

Asif slammed the former PTI-led government's decision to relocate thousands of fighters from the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to the country.

On the Jaffar Express rescue operation, the minister said, "God forbids, there could have been a lot of casualties, but the security forces eliminated the terrorists."

"Our war against terrorism is a big milestone that the entire country can be proud of. If the entire nation stands proud like this with our armed forces, then there is no doubt we will be successful in our war (against terrorism)," the minister asserted.

Syria under Islamist group's rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Damascus

Syria's interim president on Thursday signed a temporary constitution that leaves the country under Islamist rule for five years during a transitional phase.

The country's interim rulers have struggled to exert their authority across much of the country since the Islamist former insurgent group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS, led a lightning insurgency that overthrew former leader Bashar Assad in December.

Former HTS leader Ahmad Al-Sharaa is now the country's interim president — a decision that was announced after a meeting of the armed groups that took part in the offensive against Assad. At the same meeting, the groups agreed to repeal the country's old constitution and said a new one would be drafted.

While many were happy to see an end to the Assad family's dictatorial rule of over 50 years in the war-torn country, religious and ethnic minorities have been sceptical of the new Islamist leaders and reluctant to allow Damascus under its new authorities to assert control of their areas.

Abdulhamid Al-Awak, one of the seven members of the committee al-Sharaa tasked to draft the temporary constitution, told a press conference Thursday that it will maintain some provisions from the previous one, including the stipulation that the head of state has to be a Muslim, and Islamic law is the main source of jurisprudence.

However, Al-Awak, a constitutional law expert who teaches at the Mardin Artuklu University in Turkey, also said the temporary constitution includes provisions that enshrine freedom of expression and the press. The constitution will "balance between social security and freedom" dur-

ing Syria's shaky political situation, he said. A new committee to draft a permanent constitution will be formed, but it is unclear if it will be more inclusive of Syria's political, religious, and ethnic groups.

Al-Sharaa on Monday reached a landmark pact with the US-backed Kurdish authorities in northeastern Syria, including a ceasefire and a merging of their armed forces with the central government's security agencies.

The deal came after government forces and allied groups crushed an insurgency launched last week by gunmen loyal to Assad. Rights groups say that hundreds of civilians — mostly from the Alawite minority sect to which Assad belongs — were killed in retaliatory attacks by factions in the counter-offensive.

A key goal of the interim constitution was to give a timeline for the country's political transition out of its interim

phase. In December, Al-Sharaa said it could take up to three years to rewrite Syria's constitution and up to five years to organise and hold elections.

Al-Sharaa appointed a committee to draft the new constitution after Syria held a national dialogue conference last month, which called for announcing a temporary constitution and holding interim parliamentary elections. Critics said the hastily-organised conference was not inclusive of Syria's different ethnic and sectarian groups or civil society.

The United States and Europe have been hesitant to lift harsh sanctions imposed on Syria during Assad's rule until they are convinced that the new leaders will create an inclusive political system and protect minorities. Al-Sharaa and regional governments have been urging them to reconsider, fearing that the country's crumbling economy could bring further instability.

Bangladesh extends military's magistracy power

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dhaka

Bangladesh's interim government led by Muhammad Yunus on Thursday extended the magistracy power of the military forces for 60 more days for the third time amid a nationwide law and order situation.

"Commissioned officers holding the rank of captain and above in the Bangladesh Armed Forces have been granted special executive magistrate powers across the country," a Public Administration Ministry statement said here.

According to the statement, navy and air force officers too would hold the authority of executive magistracy while performing duties in aid of civil administration, including the military and navy officers serving on deputation in paramilitary Bangladesh Coast Guard and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The renewal of the government order came as a nationwide operation called Operation Devil Hunt is underway as the country vandalism afresh since February 5.

Protesters that day first demolished the 32 Dhanmondi residence of Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman using excavators coinciding with a scheduled virtual speech by his daughter and deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India, where she fled last year after the students' massive protest that ousted her Awami League government.

The protesters subsequently attacked or set on fire the houses and business establishments of Awami League leaders and activists throughout the country. They were confronted while attacking a fugitive former minister's village home in suburban Gazipur on the outskirts of the capital.

The armed forces were first granted magistracy power on September 17, 2024, a little over a month after the fall

Bangladesh has called out military in aid of civil administration, especially, during elections but were never granted magistracy power

of Hasina's Awami League regime in a student-led mass protests when police were in a dilapidated state as the main law enforcement agency.

A large number of policemen were lynched or critically wounded and police stations were attacked by protesters for their role in protecting the ousted regime while the government said the police was gradually regaining its morale with a massive restructuring exercise.

In line with the authority, the armed forces' officers could arrest or issue orders to arrest any crime suspect. But army chief General Waker Uz Zaman last month said the military forces were eager to return to their barracks as soon as possible saying army troops were not trained for policing.

Zaman also said that he ordered troops to use minimal force in discharging policing duties as part of joint forces and stressed the need for reorganisation of police to take their original responsibilities in the quickest possible time.

Bangladesh, in the past two decades, has called out military troops in aid of civilian administrative authorities particularly to enforce vigil during national elections and handle law order situations but they were never granted magistracy power.

The military, however, was given the magistracy authority in 2002 during former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government to carry out an anti-crime security clampdown called Operation Clean Heart when at least 40 people were killed in security custody.

UN secretary-general visitz Rohingya refugee camps, push for aid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ DHAKA

UN Secretary-General António Guterres arrived in Bangladesh on Thursday on a four-day visit to review the situation of more than 1 million Rohingya refugees amid the fear of aid cuts that could seriously affect them.

Bangladesh's foreign affairs adviser, Toudih Hossain, received Guterres at Dhaka's main airport.

Guterres's visit, which is his second to the country, is seen as crucial after the announcement of possible aid cuts by the World Food Programme, or WFP, and others following the decision by Washington to shut down USAID operations.

The interim government, which came to power in August after the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a mass uprising in Bangladesh, is hopeful that the visit will strengthen international efforts to mobilise aid for the Rohingya refugees and attract new global attention to the Rohingya crisis.

The WFP, the main UN food agency, said in a letter to the refugee authorities earlier this month that cuts to food rations could take effect from April 1 in Cox's Bazar, where dozens of camps are inhabited by Rohingya refugees.

The agency said that the food rations could be half, or USD 6, from the existing USD 12.50 per month.

In a message to The Associated Press, the WFP said recently that whether the fund cuts would be effective from next month would depend on getting adequate funding that it requires to run their operations.

WFP spokesperson Kun Li said that they were "actively mobilising funds" to prevent any reductions in food assistance for Rohingya refugees. If the agency is unable to secure sufficient funding — USD 81 million to sustain operations through the end of the year, including USD 15 million needed for April — they will have no choice but to reduce rations starting in April.

Guterres and Bangladesh's chief adviser, Muhammad Yunus, are scheduled to visit Rohingya camps in the southern Cox's Bazar district on Friday.

On Saturday, Guterres will hold a meeting with Yunus at his office in Dhaka, the capital.

'We will just die in silence': US aid cuts hit Ethiopia's fragile Tigray region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mekele

As a displaced person in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, 76-year-old Haile Tsege is no stranger to hunger.

During its war with Tigray fighters that devastated the region in 2020-2022, Ethiopian government restrictions on the rebellious region reduced aid flows to a trickle. Then in 2023, US and UN aid distributions of grain were halted for months over a corruption scandal.

Now the Trump administration's dismantling of the US Agency for International Development, or USAID, has again halted food deliveries to a sprawling camp of over 20,000 people outside Tigray's regional capital, Mekele.

"We will just die in silence," said Tsege, one of the 2.4 million people in Tigray who depend on humanitarian grain, most of it provided by the US.

Ethiopia with its over 125 million people had been the biggest beneficiary of US aid in sub-Saharan Africa, receiving \$1.8 billion in the 2023 financial year. In addition to life-saving food, the funds were spent on HIV medications, vaccines, literacy programs and jobs creation, as well as services for 1 million refugees hosted by Ethiopia.

Most of these programs have been stopped. The USAID staffers who oversee them have been placed on administrative leave and told not to work, as they face the threat of termination. The US Embassy didn't respond to questions.

Emergency food was exempted from President Donald Trump's executive order, signed on his first day in office, suspending foreign aid during a 90-day review amid the administration's allegations of waste.

Aid agencies in Ethiopia had to apply to USAID for waivers to continue handing out US grain. These have been

secured, but USAID's payments system is still not functioning.

As a result, a consortium of aid agencies in Tigray has had to stop distributions to the over 1 million people it has been responsible for feeding with US-provided grain. It has no money to pay for fuel, trucks and drivers to distribute existing food stockpiles.

That includes 5,000 metric tons of sorghum — enough to feed 300,000 people for a — stuck in a storage facility in Mekele that could rot before it reaches those in need.

"This is just one warehouse. There are several others across the region," said Teklewoini Assefa, head of the Relief Society of Tigray, part of the consortium. "This will create malnutrition, disease. If this situation continues, what follows? Death."

He added: "Everything boils down to the payment system."

The effects of the aid cuts are widespread, with many USAID contracts terminated. Already, Ethiopia has been forced to lay off 5,000 local healthcare workers who were working on its HIV response.

Tigray relied heavily on US funds. More than two years after the war killed hundreds of thousands, full-scale recovery efforts are yet to start. The region's health system is in ruins and hundreds of schools remain closed.

In 2024, child malnutrition stood at 21% in some areas, according to a survey reviewed by The Associated Press — far above the World Health Organization's threshold of 15% at which a situation is classified as an emergency. Now, aid workers say many programs to improve nutrition have halted. Projects to deliver medicines and vaccines have stopped. Dozens of camps for displaced people have had water sources cut off. "The impact has been

Tigray relied heavily on US funds. More than two years after the war killed hundreds of thousands, full-scale recovery efforts are yet to start. The region's health system is in ruins and hundreds of schools remain closed

huge," said Ashenafi Asmelash, executive director of Mena for Mums, which has had two USAID-funded programs terminated. One helped build long-term resilience among farmers. The other helped improve the nutrition of children and new mothers.

Management Sciences for Health, another Tigray organization, has halted a project to combat tuberculosis and told its staff to expect mass layoffs in March, according to a senior executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. Efforts to assist thousands of women who were raped during the war have been derailed, said Rigat Bishaw at Ayder Hospital, Tigray's biggest healthcare facility.

This includes counselling and psychotherapy sessions for survivors run by the US-based Center for Victims of Torture, which received a stop-work order from the Trump administration in February and furloughed its staff.

CVT also halted a program to train health workers to recognize sexual abuse cases and refer survivors to appropriate health services.

"This sudden disruption is having a huge impact on the healing of traumatized people," said Yohannes Fisseha, a CVT manager.

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IIM Ranchi invites tender from eligible bidders for 'Supply and Installation of Aluminum Composite Panel and 3D Acrylic Letters at IIM Ranchi'. The last date for submission of the sealed bid is up to 03.00 PM on 20.03.2025. For More details, please refer to our website: www.iimranchi.ac.in.

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I, Sangeeta, W/o Rinku Kumar Giri R/o Flat No 423, 4th Floor, Tower T8, Dream Homes, Wavecity, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Sangita Kumari for all Purposes.
PD(1666)A
I, Sanam Pudi Ramesh Babu S/o Sivasankaraiya, Permanent R/o 00, Sankaranagar, Revuru, PO-Revuru, Sub District-Ananthasagaram, District-Nellore, AP-524303, Present R/o Qtr-129, Type-2, Sector-9, R K Puram, New Delhi-110022 have changed my name to Sanampudi Ramesh Babu.
PD(1675)C

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दिनांक 07/03/2025
क्रमांक 124/वि.शा./2025
निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार परसेन्ड/आयटमेटेड मोहरबंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर आनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
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1. 2025_UAD_407899_1 Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of LED Street light/LED flood light 45 watt, 60 watt, 90 watt, 120 watt and 250 watt in all Vidhan Sabha area in Bhopal 84591000/- 425000/- 20000/- Original manufacturer or their authorized dealer who registered Electrical contractor in centralized registration system in MPPWD having valid electrical license Non SOR item 1 माह 06 Months (including Rainy Season)
निष्पत्ति व शर्तें :- निविदा प्रपत्र की निर्धारित राशि, धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज आनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे। समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। यदि किसी प्रकार का संशोधन होता है तो वह website पर प्रदर्शित होगा। वह पृथक से सामाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जाएगा।
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Office of the Superintending Engineer
1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora
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Letter No. : 1036(i)/Nivida-01/2024-25 Dated : 11/03/2025
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1 Construction of Bageshwar-Amsarkot Motor Road to Nadiagan Motor road in district and Constituency Bageshwar Under State Sector. Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST ₹ 14.86 Lakh 120 Days 15 Month (Including Rainy Season and Winter Season) Class "A" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./Any state Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Kritivas Mukherjee S/o. Sh. Basudip Mukherjee and Smt. Teja Arun Baidya W/o. Kritivas Mukherjee both are the joint 'Title Holders' in possession of Entire Ground Floor of Freehold Built up Residential Property Bearing Plot No. I-1636, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 measuring 251.00 sq. yards, hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' vide Sale Deed dated 28th October, 2022 duly registered as Regn. No. 8814, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 16739, pp. 51-96 on 01.11.2022 in the Office of the Sub Registrar - V, Mehrauli, New Delhi. That original documents of the aforesaid plot owners, i.e. (1) Lease Deed dated 01.11.1987, (2) Letter for Conversion dated 24.12.1999, (3) Conveyance Deed dated 24.12.1999, (4) Will (Registered) of Sh. Pralim Gupta dated 03.03.2000, (5) Death Certificate of Parsh Ranjan Gupta dated 14.04.2000, (6) Collaboration Agreement dated 17.04.2014, (7) Will (Registered) of Smt. Pralim Gupta dated 30.05.2014, (8) Relinquishment Deed dated 30.05.2014, (9) Sanction for Construction Letter dated 25.08.2014, (10) Mutation Letter dated 03.09.2021 and (11) Special Power of Attorney dated 07.09.2021 w.r.t. the Schedule Plot (Plot No. I-1636, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi) have all been lost/misplaced and are untraceable as on date, in lieu of which Information Report dated 13.03.2025 bearing LR No. 2666639/2025 has been filed with Delhi Police. This notice is thus issued to the Public at large, i.e. any person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUF(s) etc. having any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned lost/misplaced/untraceable original documents or otherwise having any claims, rights, title, interests, possession etc. in the Schedule Property, by way of SF Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc., may come forward with supporting documents to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null and void and unavailing.
Joni Kashyap, Advocate
Address: Chamber No. 6, Block-E, Karkardooma Court New Delhi-110032. Contact No. +91 99116 25467

PROVISION OF IOCL SIDING & ELECTRICAL WORKS
Tender Notice No. : Sr.DEE/LMG/40 of 2024-25, dtd. 10-03-2025. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; SN-1; Tender No.: EL/LM/24-25/49; Name of Work : At Sekerkote-Provision of IOCL siding. Tender Value: ₹ 2,40,36,774.56/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,70,200/-; SN-2; Tender No.: EL/LM/24-25/48; Name of Work : (i) At Guwahati & Kamakhya: Electrical works of segregation of essential load and (ii) Provision of 30%/70% lighting of Railway station. Tender Value: ₹ 2,65,17,503/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,82,600/-; Date & time of closing of above tenders at 11:00 hrs. and opening at 11:30 hrs. on 02-04-2025. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 11:00 hrs. on 02-04-2025 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Sr. DEE, Lumding NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE
SR.No. NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER OPENING DATE (APPROX.) IN RUPEES AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1 GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY HISAR LASER CLASS 4 (HIGH POWER LASER) 15.03.2025 22.03.2025 6.10 LACS <http://www.gjust.ac.in> 01662-263169 physiotherapy@gjust.org
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 32817-1-27-7

verka
THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66
Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop
e tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-
Sr.No. Name of Work/Item Period/Tentative Qty
1. For Verka Bathinda Dairy Manpower required for job contract i.e. for processing, manufacturing, packing of milk & milk products & panjiri and loading & unloading of milk, milk products, edible, non edible & packing material. 01.05.2025 to 30.04.2026
2. For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy a) Labour contract for different jobs in Prod. Engg., Mktg, Cleaning & Housekeeping of factory. Annual b) Providing of security manpower as per required Verka Gurdaspur Dairy. Annual
3. For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy a) Hiring of vehicles for i. Road milk tanker for lifting of raw milk from various BMC/MCC to Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy. 04 No's (Cap.09 to 15 MT) ii. Lifting of milk from various MPCs to concerned MCC/ Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy, (Mahindra Bolero, Pick-up/Max-pick-up, Tata 407/ Tata 207). 20 No's (Cap.1.5 to 2 MT & above) b) Construction of hall for CIP system and allied civil works at verka Hoshiarpur dairy on labour rate. One job c) Construction/ fabrication of new milk & milk product cold store as per technical specification laid down in tender document at Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy. One job d) Sale of unserviceable machineries & scrap items lying at Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy. One job e) Allotment of Milk Booths for :- i. Padrana Milk Bar ii. Balachaur Milk Bar iii. Civil Hospital, Garshankar iv. Civil Hospital, Dasuya v. Municipal Corporation Office, Hoshiarpur vi. Khara Kotli Park, Dasuya Three Years
4. For Verka Jalandhar Dairy Disposal of unserviceable scrap material one time basis and annual rate contract. As per site
5. For Verka Ludhiana Dairy Pest control service at verka ludhiana dairy and MCCs which include control of flies, mosquitoes, lizards, rodent etc. Annual/ One job
6. For Cattle Feed Plant, Bhatian (Khanna) Annual for Ktn Qty in MTs Annual for GKB/Qty in MTs
i. Niacin 2.0 0.120
ii. Red alae based buffer with prove buffering action in cattle feed. 350 90
iii. Beta carotene 1.0 0.450
iv. Calcium propionate 2.5 1.1
v. Sodium borate 3.0 5.5
vi. Zeolite 15 27
vii. Biotin 1.0 0.400
viii. Cobalt sulphate 2.0 0.330
ix. By-pass fat 150 100
7. For Cattle Feed Plant Ghaina-ke-Banger Wall/shop painting in the state of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu area. 2,00,000 sqft
NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.
NA/12/28675/2023/42542 Dated CHD :- 3/13/2025 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

India launches first exploration licence auction for minerals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Panaji

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Thursday launched the nation's first-ever auction of Exploration Licences (ELs) for 13 exploration blocks for critical minerals.

Reddy launched the ELs in the presence of Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in Dona Paula near here, a major reform aimed to unlock India's untapped critical and deep-seated mineral resources.

The licenses are for the exploration blocks for minerals like REE (rare earth elements), zinc, diamond, copper, PGE (platinum group minerals) and others.

The programme also featured a roadshow on the 5th Tranche of Critical Mineral Blocks and the launch of AI Hackathon 2025, a Mineral Exploration Hackathon focused on "Mineral Targeting

using AI" (Artificial Intelligence).

Addressing the gathering, Union minister Reddy said that in the last 10 years, India's mining sector has achieved many milestones and emerged as one of the fastest and most dynamic sectors of the country.

Today marks another milestone in the industry, he said. "We are laying the foundation for new era in mineral exploration," he said adding that the era is faster, more technologically-driven and globally competitive.

"We have established ourselves as a serious player in the global mineral landscape, it has also opened flood gates of opportunities for the private sector," he said.

Reddy said even greater milestones will be achieved in the coming years and it will pave the way for the rise of India as a global leader.

"Today we are launching 13 blocks for

various critical and deep-seated minerals," the minister said.

The exploration possibilities have been contemplated from multiple states like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Karnataka, he said.

The exploration access would be granted exclusively, which would empower private companies to explore up to 1,000 square metres per licence, Reddy said.

This new framework will encourage transparency, efficiency, innovation, ensuring that only the most promising areas remain for a detailed exploration, he said.

"In the first 10 years (of Narendra Modi government), we increased the exploration activities manifold. The biggest reform is the introduction of a transparent auction regime and the involvement of private sector," Reddy said.

The minister said India's legal frame-

work for mining exploration was limited until now.

"There was a crucial gap. There was no structural mechanism for the private companies. Recognising this, the Government of India introduced amendment to the MMDR Act in 2023. This is a reform that will open doors for a systematic exploration of minerals," he said.

Addressing the gathering, CM Sawant thanked the Union Mines Ministry for choosing Goa for the roadshow and the launch of the ELs. Sawant said mining has always been integral part of the economy, contributing significantly for employment, industrial growth and development.

"As we stand at the cusp of a new era of mineral exploration, this initiative reflects the government's firm commitment in self-reliance in critical minerals," he said.

"These minerals are an integral part of

our electronic industry, green industry and others," Sawant said, adding that a lot of countries are yet to explore for the mineral availabilities.

The chief minister said there is a need to increase the pace of exploration in the country. The amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act is a bold step which will help to tap the untapped mineral wealth of the country, he said.

Goa will immensely benefit from such an initiative, the CM said.

As India moves for a green energy future, securing the supplies of critical minerals will play a key role, he said.

Referring to the Hackathon 2025, Sawant said that Goa, with its mining legacy, stands to benefit from such technology advancement.

Mines Secretary V L Kantha Rao said this is a big event for the Union Ministry

of Mines. "Today there are 4 to 5 important initiatives that are showcased here, including critical mineral auction. Some of the critical minerals which are 100 per cent imported currently are part of the auction," he said.

These blocks, once they are auctioned and mined, will ensure self-reliance for minerals in India, the official said. "This is a very important event in our journey towards Atmanirbharta," he added.

Kantha Rao said the way in foreign countries people go and do exploration on their own, the same concept is introduced here.

"A private company will do the exploration and if they find the deep-seated or critical mineral, then they will get an income for 50 years," he said.

"If nothing found in the exploration, 50 per cent of the risk is borne by the Government of India," he added.

Rupee surges 22 paise to settle at 87 against USD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

The Rupee surged 27 paise to settle at 87 (provisional) against the USD on Thursday following robust macro-economic data and easing crude oil prices.

Besides, recent weakness in the US dollar index also supported the local currency, forex dealers said.

However, losses in domestic equities and unabated foreign capital outflows capped the sharp gain, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the Rupee opened at 87.13 and hit the intraday high of 86.94 against the greenback. The unit touched the day's low of 87.15 before ending the session at 87 (provisional), 22 paise higher from its previous closing level.

In the previous session on Wednesday, the rupee settled 1 paise lower at 87.22 against the US dollar.

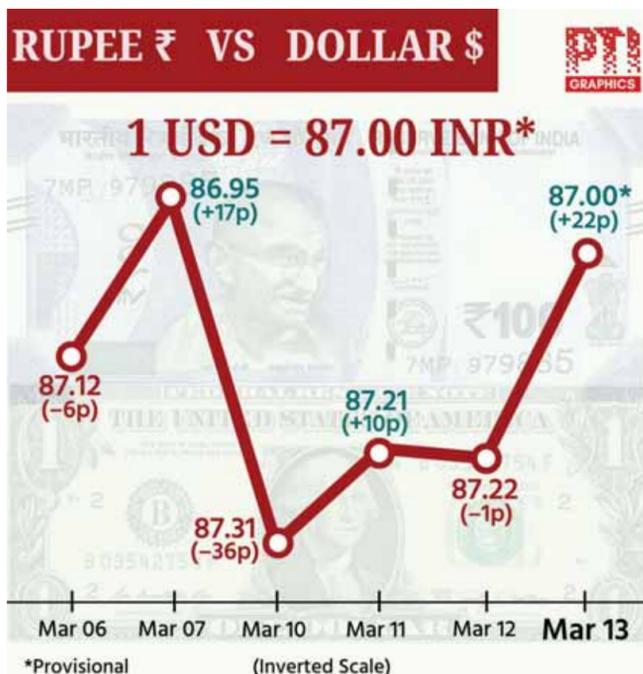
Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the Rupee recovered on upbeat macroeconomic data and a soft US dollar.

However, weak domestic markets capped sharp gains.

Choudhary further said that weak domestic markets, the ongoing trade tariff issue and Foreign Institutional Investment outflows may cap a sharp upside.

"Traders may take cues from PPI and weekly jobless claims data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹86.80 to ₹87.25."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which



gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.12 per cent at 103.70.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.37 per cent lower at \$70.69 per barrel in futures trade.

SEBI expands unpublished price sensitive information's scope

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Markets regulator SEBI has widened the ambit of the scope of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI) by including any proposed fundraising activities agreements which can impact the management or control of the company, restructuring plans, and one-time bank settlements.

The move is aimed at enhancing regulatory clarity, certainty and uniformity in compliance in the ecosystem.

To give this effect, SEBI, in a notification issued on March 11, amended insider trading regulations. The new rules would come into force from June 10.

In its notification, SEBI said that any proposed fundraising activity, upward or downward revisions in credit ratings, other than ESG ratings, and agreements affecting the management or control of the company would be considered as UPSI.

Further, developments relating to corporate insolvency processes, including the clearance of resolution plans, one-time settlements, or restructuring of loans and borrowings from banks or financial institutions would fall under the UPSI ambit.

SEBI said that fraud or defaults by the company, its promoter, director, key managerial personnel, or subsidiary or arrest of key managerial personnel, promoter or director of the company,

whether occurred within India or abroad would be classified as UPSI.

Any initiation of forensic audits or receipt of final forensic audit report; with regards to financial mis-statements, misappropriation, siphoning, or diversion of funds by the company would come under the scope of UPSI.

Any action initiated or orders passed within India or abroad, by regulatory, statutory, enforcement authority or judicial body against the company or its directors, key managerial personnel, promoter or subsidiaries would be categorised as UPSI.

In addition, flexibility has been provided to make entries in the structured digital database on a deferred basis, within two days, as well as to not have mandatory trading window closure.

"Entry of information, not emanating from within the organisation, in structured digital database may be done not later than 2 calendar days from the receipt of such information.

For unpublished price sensitive information not emanating from within the listed company, the trading window may not be closed," SEBI said.

With this amendment now events that are deemed to be UPSI have increased from the earlier five events to 16 events, Makarand M Joshi, Founder partner MMJC and Associates, a corporate compliance firm, said. This will lead to a decrease in litigations on whether a particular event is UPSI or not.

Sensex falls by 200 points on sell-off in realty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Benchmark BSE Sensex reversed its early gains to close lower by 200 points on Thursday, marking its fifth straight session of losses due to selling in realty, IT and auto counters.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 200.85 points or 0.27 per cent to close at 73,828.91 with 22 of its constituents ending lower and eight with gains. The index opened higher and hit a high of 74,401.11 in the late morning session.

The index failed to hold onto gains due to persistent selling in select bluechips and shed 259.17 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a low of 73,770.59 later.

The NSE Nifty fell 73.30 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 22,397.20. In the session, the benchmark declined by 93.15 points or 0.41 per cent to hit an intraday low of 22,377.35.

From the 30 Sensex companies, Zomato, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Maruti Suzuki India, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and Infosys were among the laggards.

In contrast, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Tata Steel, NTPC, Tata Consultancy Services, PowerGrid, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Sun Pharmaceuticals were the gainers. "Shortened trading week and sell-off in the US short market are providing a hiccup to the global market. However, India is withstanding with resilience and healthy outperformance, by a narrow negative trend," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said, "On the weekly expiry day, markets remained range-bound and closed slightly lower. While positive global cues initially drove an uptick, selling pressure in heavyweight stocks across sectors pulled the Nifty into the red."

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul settled lower. European markets were trading higher in the mid-session deals. US markets closed on a positive note on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent Crude traded 0.34 per cent lower at USD 70.71 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth ₹1,627.61 Crore, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) purchased equities worth ₹1,510.35 Crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

South Africa to host first G20 trade and investment meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Johannesburg

South Africa will host the first G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting under its presidency from March 18 to March 20, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) announced here on Wednesday. South Africa officially assumed the presidency of the G20 in December 2024 for the year 2025 under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability".

The TIWG meeting, which will be held virtually, will bring together senior officials from G20 member countries as well as the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU).

The deputy director-general of trade at the DTIC, Ambassador Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter, said this would be the first of the four proposed meetings of the TIWG, which will culminate in the G20 trade ministers' meeting to be hosted by South Africa in October.

Mlumbi-Peter said the first session will also be attended by international organisations, such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nations Trade and Development (UNTAD), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation

and Development (OECD) and African regional communities. "We have identified four focus areas for the TIWG. The first is trade and inclusive growth, with an outcome being principles to promote trade and inclusive growth that aim to address common or shared challenges resulting from distributive effects of trade with adverse outcomes for economically-vulnerable regions, both within and between countries," she said.

"The second focus area will be looking at the responsive trade and investment agenda to address the challenge of global commons," Mlumbi-Peters added. She said other critical areas of focus are the G20 framework on green industrialisation and investments, with a view to promoting value addition of critical minerals close to the source as well as the development of low-carbon manufacturing value chains to support global decarbonisation and industrial adaptation. Inclusive economic growth, industrialisation, employment and reduced inequality are some of the high-level deliverables for South Africa during its year-long presidency of the bloc.

The G20 members include the world's major economies, representing 85 per cent of global GDP.

Temasek acquires stake in Haldiram's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Temasek, Singapore's sovereign investment firm, is acquiring a minority 10 per cent stake in Haldiram Snacks Food - India's largest packed snack and sweets company and restaurant operator - at a valuation of USD 10 billion, according to industry sources.

It has signed a definitive term sheet agreement earlier this week at a valuation of USD 10 billion (around ₹85,000 Crore), which is considered to be the largest for the Indian packed food industry, they said.

The Agarwal family, promoters of Haldiram Snacks Food, may rope another investor for selling some more stake in the company which had a revenue of over ₹12,500 Crore in FY24.

The agreement with Temasek came after months of negotiations as several PE firms, including Blackstone, Alpha Wave Global and Bain Capital-led consortiums, were in the race to pick up a stake in Haldiram Snacks Food.

The Agarwal family may also opt for IPO (Initial public offering) route next year to capitalise on India's buoyant stock market.

Earlier, the promoters were intending



Temasek, Singapore's sovereign investment firm, is acquiring a minority 10 per cent stake in Haldiram Snacks Food: PTI

to divest a larger portion. However, they have decided to offload a minority stake only.

The National Company Law Tribunal has already approved the process of merger of the two fractions, while other regulatory approvals are awaited. Established in 1937 as a retail sweets and namkeen shop in Bikaner, Rajasthan by

Ganga Bhishen Agarwal, Haldiram products are now sold in over 80 countries.

In 2022, it was announced that the packaged snacks businesses of Delhi-based Haldiram Snacks and Nagpur-based Haldiram Foods International would be first demerged and then merged into an entity named Haldiram Snacks Food.

GenAI to drive productivity in Indian banking

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi/Mumbai

Generative AI (GenAI) is reshaping India's financial services landscape, driving significant advancements in customer engagement, operational efficiency, and risk assessment.

The EY report titled "How much productivity can Generative AI unlock in India?"

The Aldea of India: 2025", highlights that Generative AI is poised to improve productivity levels of Indian financial services by 34 percent to 38 percent by 2030 and up to 46 percent, specifically for banking operations.

The EY study reveals that 74 percent of financial firms have initiated proof-of-concept projects, and 11 percent have moved to production-level deployments. Investment in Generative Artificial Intelligence is also increasing, with 42 percent of organizations actively allocating budgets toward Artificial Intelligence initiatives.

They are rapidly adopting Generative AI across key areas such as voice bots, email automation, business intelligence, and workflow automation.

Customer service is the top priority,

with 68 percent of firms prioritizing it for Generative AI implementation, followed by operations (47 percent), underwriting (32 percent), sales (26 percent), and IT (21 percent).

These investments are already delivering measurable results: 63% have seen improved customer satisfaction levels, while 58 percent of firms report cost reductions.

Reflecting on the report findings, Pratik Shah, Partner and National Leader - Financial Services, EY India said, "The financial services industry has moved beyond innovation pilots to real-world implementation in 2024-25.

Firms are integrating Generative AI with core banking systems, including CRM, loan origination, card management platforms, among other areas.

These efforts have led to a significant reduction in operational costs, with Artificial Intelligence-driven solutions slashing the cost per unit of normal business activities to as low as 1/10th of traditional manual processes."

"As firms move from pilots to large-scale implementations, the focus must shift from isolated use cases to enterprise-wide integration.

The key to unlocking Generative AI's

full potential lies in building robust AI governance, ensuring data security, and aligning technology with core business objectives.

While NBFCs and mid-sized banks have demonstrated early success, large banks are now accelerating adoption.

The coming years will define how effectively financial institutions can balance innovation with regulatory compliance to drive sustainable growth, operational excellence, and superior customer experiences," he added.

The EY study, which analysed over 700 roles in the sector (more than 300 in banking and 400 in insurance) projects that Generative Artificial Intelligence will drive a 34 percent to 38 percent productivity improvement by 2030, paving the way for growth and operational transformation in the industry.

It is poised to significantly impact banking operations, customer service, and credit and collections.

As per EY's industry labor efficiency analysis, Artificial Intelligence-driven efficiencies are projected to contribute an additional 9 percent to labour productivity in financial services by 2030, raising overall productivity levels in the sector to 34per cent-38 per cent.

IN BRIEF

REC SIGNS ₹18,360 CRORE MOU WITH GOVERNMENT OF KERALA FOR PUMP STORAGE PROJECTS

GURUGRAM: REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has signed an MOU with the Energy Management Centre (EMC), Government of Kerala, for collaboration and financing of Pumped Storage Projects (PSP) in Kerala. The MOU was signed during the Global Green Hydrogen & Renewable Energy Summit 2025.



SRMIST RISES IN QS UNIVERSITY WORLD RANKINGS BY SUBJECT (2025)

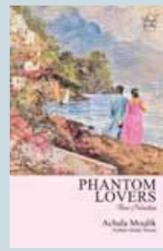
Chennai: SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) proudly announces its significant rise in the prestigious QS University World Rankings by Subject, further solidifying its position as a global leader in higher education.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT 2025

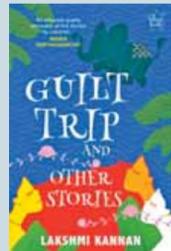
Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has been named as one of the World's top Universities for study of 14 subjects in the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025. For the first time, Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been ranked under the top 100 subject in the World.

Subject	World Rank	India Rank
Engineering & Technology	113	9
Computer Science & Information Systems	142	4-7
Data Science and Artificial Intelligence	11-100	5-9
Engineering - Electrical & Electronic	101-200	2-10

MARCH READS



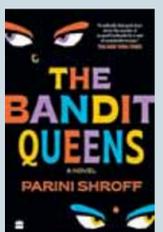
Book: Phantom Lovers
Author: Achala Moulik
Publisher: Niyogi books
Price: ₹595



Book: Guilt Trip and Other
Author: Lakshmi Kannan
Publisher: Niyogi books
Price: ₹395



Book: Quarterlife :
A Novel
Author: Devika Rege
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: ₹599



Book: The Bandit Queens:
A Novel
Author: Parini Shroff
Publisher: Harper Collins
Price: ₹499

'Ratan Tata: A Life by Thomas Mathew,' offers a compelling tribute to India's legendary industrialist and philanthropist, says **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

The Architect of India's Aspirations

The demise of an 87-year-old human being is neither shocking nor does it bring everlasting grief to the mind. If the deceased happens to be our father, mother, brother, or sister, we may be in a sense of bereavement for a couple of months. The general feeling among us is that each day that one gets after crossing the age of 60 is a bonus from Yama Raj. But there are certain persons for whom we pray to God Almighty to bless them with a much longer life. Ratan Tata, India's legendary industrialist topped the list of such people who made this world a much better place because of their presence.

The entire Indian society, barring a Malayalam satellite news channel, received the news of Ratan Tata's demise with a pang in their hearts. Born into a Zoroastrian family (popularly known as Parsees), Ratan Tata lived a life based exclusively on the essence of Zoroastrianism-Humata, Hukta, and Huvarsta (good thoughts, good words, and good deeds). For Ratan and the Tata Group, industry and business were means to serve humanity, either through philanthropy or social service. The catchphrase "We Also Make Steel" campaign launched by TISCO, the flagship company of the group, speaks volumes about the mission of this industrial conglomerate.

No doubt, the central government had honoured J.R.D. Tata and Ratan Tata with Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan, respectively. But it is still doubtful whether the powers that be gave these great sons of India the honour they truly deserved. J.R.D. Tata, predecessor to Ratan

Tata, did all he could to elevate the country economically and socially, despite the outdated socialist ideology that prevailed from 1947 to 1991. He had been pleading with the policymakers to loosen the government's shackles over the economy, which would have made India competitive in the global arena.

It is said that for every industry launched by them, the Tata Group set up institutions like schools, colleges, vocational training institutes, hospitals, and old-age homes.

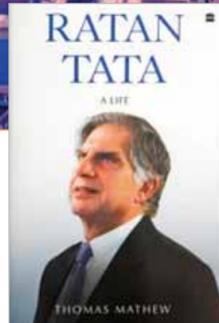
During the 1980s, I do remember watching J.R.D. Tata interviewing the then World Population Council chairman who visited India. It is rated as one of the best interviews in Indian television. Imagine the numero uno of our industry, who is held in awe by the world, appearing on Indian TV to interview a guest!

The second TV programme featuring J.R.D. Tata was also broadcast by Doordarshan-it was an interview by Rajiv Mehrotra in the famous series "In Conversation," a popular talk show. Interestingly, those were

the days when there were no satellite TV news channels and "angry young anchorpersons" who interrogated the interviewees instead of interviewing them.

There are exceptions, like "Rendezvous with Simi Garewal," in which the diva of Hindi cinema interviewed the crème de la crème of Indian society. They were all talk shows shot inside aesthetically designed studios and, hence, the series could not always capture the real person being interviewed. But with all due respect, it has to be said that Simi Garewal did a wonderful job. She successfully brought to our drawing rooms personalities like Ratan Tata (the first time I saw Ratan Tata appear on a TV show).

Ratan Tata: A Life authored by **Thomas Mathew**, a former IAS officer. I do not know whether there are any other books on Ratan Tata. The 666-page book is a moving tribute to Ratan, who was once described as the Most Eligible Bachelor of India. Ratan reached the zenith of Indian industries not just because he was born with the surname



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Ratan Tata: A Life
Author: Thomas Mathew
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: ₹1499/-



Ratan Tata receiving the Padma Vibhushan from the then President Pratibha Patil at the Civil Investiture-II Ceremony



Young Ratan Tata shares a heartfelt moment with his beloved dog, showcasing his lifelong bond with animals

CAG ex-DG diagnosis malaise with Top Auditor

BY DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

Auditors most often cite the statement of B. R. Ambedkar that the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India is the most important official. Over the decades, the CAG emerged as India's highly respected institution. The people also look upon the CAG to keep a check on the executive by preparing no-holds-barred reports. **P. Sesh Kumar** spent decades in the office of the CAG. Hailing from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS), **Kumar** gained a ringside view of the functioning of the CAG. He, thus, has expectations on him to reveal if the CAG is facing new challenges.

The CAG made a comeback to the popular discourse over tabling of reports in the Delhi Assembly. Else, the CAG had almost faded from the popular discourse in the recent years. **Kumar** examines sharp reduction in number of reports of the CAG since 2011. He notes that the CAG reports peaked in 2015 when a total of 52 reports were submitted on Union government. Afterwards, reports turned to trickle, coming down to just 15 in 2018. **Kumar** after retirement has come out with an inside account of the functioning of the CAG. His book 'CAG Ensuring Accountability Amidst Controversies: An Inside View' deals with several turning points in the journey of the top auditor of India. The book also dwells upon the tenure of Vinod Rai and takes a critical view of the famous "presumptive losses to the exchequer" shown in the reports during the last few years of the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government. **Kumar** indeed also cites the gains made by the government with the course corrections in policy making after the CAG reports were made public.

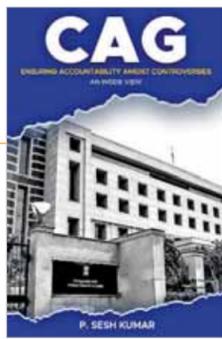
In 17 chapters, **Kumar's** book gives an exhaustive account of the history, current controversies, challenges, and also a reform roadmap. The book critically examines the tenures of Rajiv Mehrotra and GC Murmu as CAG. The author also brings out concerns in the IAAS cadre over the manner in which some of the CAG reports were handled. He details unhappiness in the cadre of auditors over the manner in which the report on the collections of tolls on national highways were handled by the CAG. **Kumar** stresses that the CAG report on the collections of tolls on national highways listed timely reform roadmap also for policy actions by the government.

But the people are genuinely concerned over the CAG not going public with its reports. **Kumar** answers the people's curiosity by examining in details the Supreme Court judgment that termed the CAG reports as "mere views" until they are tabled by Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of parliament or Assemblies. This explains why the CAG is not going public with reports after submitting them to parliament or Assemblies.

Taking a ringside view, the book argues that the CAG is not mandated to be a property of the PAC that its reports can wait endlessly to go public. The CAG is accountable to the people, and, therefore, the top auditor should move to the Supreme Court to review the judgment. **Kumar** details that almost half the reports of the CAG are awaiting action on the parts of the PAC of parliament and Assemblies for the people to know about them. If the CAG reports are not made public, the Constitution's arrangements of checks and balances for the healthy functioning of democracy too gets affected, suggests the book. It argues that the people need to know about the CAG reports to make informed decisions.

Besides, **Kumar** also raises a pertinent question on the appointment of the CAG. A single member CAG may be susceptible to personal biases, he argues, while suggesting that a multi-member top auditor body should be constituted. **Kumar** calls for Constitutional changes so that an appointment committee on the lines of the Election Commission and the Director of the CBI can also decide the members of the CAG. **Kumar** revisits some of the major controversies over the CAG reports. The CAG report on Bofors Scam in 1989 sets the backdrop for the political slugfest in the PAC in not recommending actions on the report to parliament. The book also exhaustively dwells upon the CAG reports on 2G spectrum allocations, Coal blocks, Rafale deal, and many others.

Kumar's book, published by White Falcon Publishing, is a complete account of the functioning of the CAG, while also seeking space as a historical document. Until 1978, CAG was appointed from among IAS and IAAS, writes **Kumar** in the book, while making a case for reopening the post for non-IAS officials also. The book makes for an interesting read while also being an important document on the functioning of the CAG.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: CAG
Author: P. SESH KUMAR
Publisher: White Falcon Publishing
Price: ₹799/-

HOW SOCIAL MEDIA SHAPES CONVERSATIONS

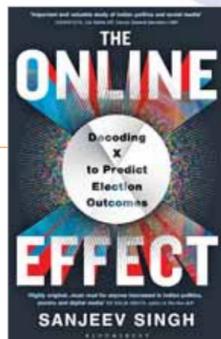
The New Ballot Box?

BY SHALEEN KUMAR SINGH

In **The Online Effect**, **Sanjeev Singh**, a seasoned journalist and academic, delves into the intricate relationship between social media and political communication in India, offering a compelling narrative that is both scholarly and accessible. With a sharp analytical focus on X (Formerly Twitter) influence on electoral outcomes, Singh presents the fascinating story of the Singh-Srivastava Vote Predictor (SSVP) model, a groundbreaking tool he co-developed with data scientist Rishabh Srivastava. The preface sets the stage with a personal anecdote, recounting **Singh's** early encounters with X and its transformative potential. The book meticulously examines how X evolved from a microblogging site into a critical tool for political communication.

A significant portion of the book is dedicated to the development of the SSVP model, a pioneering effort to correlate X engagement metrics—such as tweets, retweets, likes, and interactions—with electoral outcomes. **Sanjeev Singh** provides a detailed account of the challenges involved, from navigating the complexities of data collection via X APIs to employing advanced statistical analyses and rigorous testing to validate the model.

The study's findings are striking—in six out of seven states analysed, there was a strong correlation between X engagement and vote share. He emphasises the shrinking digital divide between rural and urban India, highlighting the model's relevance across diverse demographics. He also critiques traditional sentiment analysis methods, advocating for a



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: The Online Effect
Author: Sanjeev Singh
Publisher: Bloomsbury India (2024)
Price: ₹479/-

more nuanced approach to studying political communication in the digital age.

Despite the technical nature of the subject, **Sanjeev Singh's** engaging and conversational tone makes complex concepts accessible to both academics and general readers. The book is enriched with empirical data, case studies, and real-world examples, offering a comprehensive exploration of X impact on Indian politics. By weaving together insights from journalism, political science, and data analytics, he provides a holistic understanding of the digital transformation in electoral campaigns. As India approaches

its next general election, the book serves as a practical guide for psephologists, political strategists, and voters alike, offering tools to navigate the evolving landscape of digital political communication. The book also prompts deeper reflection on the ethical implications of using social media data for electoral predictions. While author briefly touches on the limitations of sentiment analysis, he does not fully address pressing concerns about data privacy, misinformation, and algorithmic biases.

The Online Effect is a thought-provoking and timely exploration of how X has transformed Indian politics. By demystifying the SSVP model, the author offers valuable insights into the intersection of technology, communication, and democracy. The book is an essential read for scholars, journalists, and anyone interested in the digital future of electoral politics.

Shaleen Kumar Singh teaches English at Swami Shukdevanand College, Shahjahanpur, India, edits creativesaplings.in an online journal.



Government of Haryana

Heartiest Greetings on the Colourful Festival of **Holi** March 14, 2025







“होली की बहुत-बहुत शुभकामनाएं।
आप सभी के जीवन में हमेशा आनंद और उमंग का रंग बरसे।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

www.pharyana.gov.in | <https://www.facebook.com/ipharyana> | <https://www.instagram.com/ipharyana> | <https://www.youtube.com/ipharyana> | <https://www.linkedin.com/ipharyana> | <https://www.whatsapp.com/ipharyana>

Aman Bhalla Group of Institutions, Kotli, Pathankot

1. Aman Bhalla College of Engineering & Technology, Kotli, Pathankot, (Approved by AICTE & Affiliated to IKGPTU) invites online applications for the Post of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor on regular basis in B. Sc(MLS).

2. Aman Bhalla Institute of Management & Technology, Kotli, Pathankot, (Approved by AICTE & Affiliated to IKGPTU) invites online applications for the Post of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor on regular basis in B. Sc (Anesthesia & Operation Theatre Technology).

Qualifications & Salary Scales as per AICTE/IKGPTU/Pb. Govt. norms. Candidate must submit online application with 7 days from date of publication of advertisement and submit it along with the application.

Contact: 8283000040 Email id: hr.abfptk@gmail.com

TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE
HOMI BHABHA CANCER HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE PUNJAB
(Grant-in-Aid Institute under Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India)

HBCH&RC/LOCAL PURCHASE/2025-2027/02
DISPENSARY PROCUREMENT CELL
Date: 12-03-2025

Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Punjab
Venue: Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Plot No.1, Medicity, New Chandigarh, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140901 (Punjab)

S.No.	TENDER PARTICULAR	DATE
1	CPPP BID DATE	12-03-2025
2	GEM BID NO.	HBCH&RC/LOCAL PURCHASE/2025 -2027/01
3	PRE-BID DATE AND TIME	13-03-2025 AT 04:00 PM
4	ITEM REQUESTED IN BID	LOCAL PURCHASE FOR DRUGS AND SURGICALS (SANGRUR)
5	MODE OF TENDER	CPPP (PUBLIC TENDER)
6	Website	Tmc.gov.in
7	LAST DATE OF BID	22-03-2025- 05:00 PM
8	Email ID.	Dispensarypc.m@hbchrcm.tmc.gov.in

Sd/-
NA/12/28678/2023/42545 Dated CHD :- 3/12/2025 DIRECTOR, HBCH & RC, PUNJAB

TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE
HOMI BHABHA CANCER HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE PUNJAB
(Grant-in-Aid Institute under Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India)

HBCH&RC/LOCAL PURCHASE/2025-2027/01
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6	Website	Tmc.gov.in
7	LAST DATE OF BID	22-03-2025- 05:00 PM
8	Email ID.	Dispensarypc.m@hbchrcm.tmc.gov.in

Sd/-
NA/12/28677/2023/42544 Dated CHD :- 3/12/2025 DIRECTOR, HBCH & RC, PUNJAB

PUBLIC NOTICE
BRANCH OFFICE CLOSING

Bajaj Finance Limited having its Registered Office, Mumbai- Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411 035 and Corporate office on 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv House, Viman Nagar, Off Pune - Ahmednagar Road, Pune, Maharashtra 411 014 hereby informs its customers and concerned that its office located at Bajaj Finance Limited, Frontier Tower, 3rd Floor, 180 & 180/1, G T Road, Miller Ganj, Ludhiana, Punjab - 141003 will be closing with effect from 20th June 2025. For better customer facility all the existing services shall continue to be available at new branch shifted to Bajaj Finance Limited, Jai Kartar Tower, B-2433, 2nd Floor, Gobind Nagar, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001

All customers and concerned are requested to take note of change of address and requested to contact our office at Bajaj Finance Limited, Jai Kartar Tower, B-2433, 2nd Floor, Gobind Nagar, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana, Punjab- 141001 thereafter.

Bajaj Finance Limited, 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv House, Viman Nagar, Off Pune - Ahmednagar Road, Pune - 411 014 Maharashtra Tel - 020 -7150 5050

Date:- 14-03-2025

Government of Punjab
Tender Notice Reference No. 2025/5517 dated 13-03-2025

The Department of SPO, PAU, Ldh invites online e-tender for the following purchase:
Purchase of Desktop Computer Department of Agronomy, PAU Ludhiana
Closing date & time: 26.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
For details log onto: www.eproc.punjab.gov.in and www.pau.edu
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the E-Tender Notice shall be published on the above websites only.

Admn Cum Accounts Officer
Store Purchase Ludhiana
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana
(E-mail: spoaao@pau.edu)

NA/12/28715/2023/42591 Dated CHD :- 3/13/2025

FEDERAL BANK
YOUR PERFECT BANKING PARTNER

The Federal Bank Ltd., LCRD Chandigarh Division,
SCO 867, First Floor, NAC, Manimajra, Near Housing Board Chowk, Chandigarh- 160101
Phone No. 0172-2738102, 8127511900, 7009569557, CIN: L65191KL1931PLC000368.
E-mail id: cgnlcrd@federalbank.co.in, Website: www.federalbank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Where as The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Federal Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Rules) issued a demand notice dated 23.11.2023 calling upon the borrowers: 1. Mr. Pankaj Kumar S/o Mr. Birbal Das, residing at Near Bhagat Singh Chowk, Giani Sweets Gali, Mansa-151505, Punjab, also at House No. 809, Premi Street, Near S D College, Ward No. 14, Mansa-151505, Punjab, 2. Mr. Birbal Das, S/o Mr. Des Raj, 3. Mrs. Renu Bala, W/o Mr. Birbal Das, 2nd to 3rd residing at House No. 809, Premi Street, Near S D College, Ward No. 14, Mansa-151505, Punjab, 4. Mrs. Murti Devi, W/o Mr. Shivji Ram, 5. Mr. Yadwinder Kumar, S/o Mr. Shivji Ram, 6. Mr. Shivji Ram, S/o Mr. Des Raj, 7. Mrs. Sonia Goyal, W/o Mr. Yadwinder Kumar, 4th to 7th residing at Near Ganga Oil Mill, Gali No. 3, Ward No. 16, Mansa-151505, Punjab, 8. Mr. Harvinder Kumar Garg, S/o Mr. Shivji Ram, residing at House No. 872, Model Town Phase 3, Bathinda-151001, Punjab to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being ₹ 8,10,304.84 (Rupees Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Three Hundred Four & Paise Eighty Four only) due from you jointly and severally as on 25.10.2023 under your Overdraft - Property Power Account No. 1675560001243 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this 12th day of March 2025.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of section 13 (4) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets (security properties).

The borrowers in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Federal Bank Ltd. for an amount ₹ 9,72,713.84 (Rupees Nine Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen and Paise Eighty Four only) for Overdraft-Property Power Account No. 1675560001243 as on 25.02.2025 with interest and costs thereon.

Description of the Mortgaged Immovable Properties

- All that piece and parcel of the residential property measuring 3 Marla (15 X 60 sq. feet) with building comprised in Survey No. 670 to 676/4(2), situated Near Ganga Oil Mill, Nirmal Dham Wali Street, Mansa-151505, Punjab, with all improvements thereon and bounded on the East by Property of Pira Lal 60 ft., West by Property of Hari Ram 60 ft., North by Street 18 ft. Side 15 ft., and South by Property of Desh Raj 15 ft. (More fully described in Sale Deed No. 4583 dated 15.12.2006 of Joint Sub Registrar, Mansa)
- All that piece and parcel of the residential property measuring 3 Marla (15 X 60 sq. feet) with building comprised in Survey No. 669/4(2), situated Near Ganga Oil Mill, Nirmal Dham Wali Street, Mansa-151505, Punjab, with all improvements thereon & bounded on the East by Property of Kanla, side 60 ft., West by Property of Baldev Raj, side 60 ft., North by Street 18 ft. Side 15 ft., and South by Property of Charanjai Lal 15 ft. (More fully described in Sale Deed No. 4584 dated 15.12.2006 of Joint Sub Registrar, Mansa)
- All that piece and parcel of the residential property measuring 25'x40' with building bearing 00 Kanal 3-2/3 Marlas i.e. 1/5 share of 00 Kanal 7-1/3 Marlas comprised in Mustil and Killa No. 1130/2m(n)(0-7-1/3) situated at Near Bhagat Singh Chowk, Jagdamba Road, Ward No. 14, Gali No. 1, Mansa, Tehsil and District Mansa as per Jamabandis for the years 1983-84 to 2008-2009 dated 25.06.2014 of Halqau Patwari together with all buildings existing and / or to be constructed with all improvements thereon and bounded on the East by 25' Road, West by 25' Karnal Singh, North by 40' Harbans Lal and South by 40' Renu Bala (More fully described in Sale Deed No. 4602 dated 20.01.1995 of Sub-Registrar, Mansa)

Date: 12.03.2025
Place: Chandigarh
Authorized Officer under SARFAESI Act
(The Federal Bank Ltd)

THE ORIENTAL INSURANCE CO. LTD.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

REGIONAL OFFICE: SCO 109-111, Surendra Building, Sector 17-D, Chandigarh (CIN No.U66010DL1947GO1007158)
Phone: 0172-5025730

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public and customers/ policy holders are being informed that the following Offices in Punjab, under Regional Office, Chandigarh will be closed permanently after 60(sixty) days from the publication of this Notice. Services to the policy holders and customer of these offices will be provided by the nearby offices as per the details given below :

S.No.	Name & Code of Office being Closed	Address of New Servicing Office
1.	Business Office Batala (233804)	Business Office Dinanagar (233891), Shah Shiv Dayal Charitable Trust, 1st Floor, Shivala Market, Railway Road, Dinanagar-143531
2.	Business Office-1 Patiala (233503)	Business Office Patiala (233500), First Floor, Sai Market, Lower Mall, Patiala-147001
3.	Business Office-2 Jalandhar (233108)	Business Office-3 Jalandhar (233102), 1st Floor, Rattan Tower, Namdev Chowk, Jalandhar-144001

Date : 16.03.2025 Sd/- Jasvinder Singh, Dy. General Manager I/C

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd First Floor, Mc International, The Mall ,Mall road Amritsar 143001

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
(See proviso to Rule 8(6))
Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) 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.

This 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 ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Gurjit Trading Co (Applicant), Gurjit Singh (Guarantor, Mortgagee), Rupinder Kaur (Guarantor) Lan No. 357805000382, 357855000007	Plot No.332, Having Dimensions of Length As 50 Feet And Width As 16.6 Feet, Bounded As Front Passage: Passage, Back Side: Property of others, one Side Shop No.331, other Side: Shop No.333, Situated In The Area of Amritsar Urban Circle No.107, Grain Market (Dana Mandi), outside Gate Bhaganwala, Tehsil- Amritsar- I, District Amritsar, Punjab. (Admeasuring An Area 91.66 Sq Yard)	Rs. 44,72,995/- as on dated 05-03-2025	Rs. 27,00,000/- Rs. 2,70,000/-	March 27, 2025 From 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	April 19, 2025 From 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link-<https://www.DisposalHub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by April 18, 2025 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Ltd First Floor, Mc International, The Mall ,Mall road Amritsar- 143001 on or before April 18, 2025 before 05:00 PM. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before April 18, 2025 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Ltd First Floor, Mc International, The Mall ,Mall road Amritsar- 143001 on or before April 18, 2025 before 05:00 PM Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Amritsar.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 9780139915/ 7304914763

Please note that the Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Ageo Assets Management Private Limited 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

Date : March 14, 2025
Place: Phillaur
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

LIBERTY
होली के रंग, लिबर्टी के संग

होली

की आप सभी को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

लिबर्टी कम्पनी की ओर से

महा सेल महा ऑफर

01 मार्च से 14 अप्रैल 2025 तक

सुबह 10:30 बजे से शाम 07:30 बजे तक

लिबर्टी पार्क, निकट सिविल इंस्टिट्यूट, रेलवे रोड, कर्नाल