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## PIONEER IN SHORT

### ACTOR DHARMENDRA HOSPITALISED

Veteran actor Dharmendra has been admitted to a hospital for a routine health check-up, a family insider said on Saturday. The 89-year-old actor was admitted to the Breach Candy hospital in south Mumbai earlier this week. "He went to the hospital on Thursday. Since the results would take some time to arrive, the family decided that it would be better for him to stay there until all the routine check-ups were done properly. He is old and needs proper attention from the doctors. There's nothing to worry about," the insider said.

### COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR ISRO'S SATELLITE

The 24-hour countdown for the launch of over 4,000 kg communication satellite CMS-03 commenced at this spaceport on Saturday, ISRO said. The satellite, weighing about 4,410 kg, will be the heaviest to be launched from Indian soil and into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), the space agency said. The spacecraft will travel on board a LVM3-M5 rocket, dubbed 'Bahubali' for its heavy-lift capability. The launch vehicle has been fully assembled and integrated with the spacecraft and it has been moved to the second launch pad here for taking up pre-launch operations, the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said on Saturday. Later in a social media post, ISRO said, "Countdown commences!! Final preparations complete and the countdown for LVM3-M5 (mission) has officially begun at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota". "All systems are GO as we move closer to liftoff," the space agency said in its update. The 43.5 metre tall rocket is scheduled for a 5.26 pm liftoff on November 2.

### PM, PRESIDENT EXTEND GREETINGS

Several states and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab celebrated their formation day on Saturday, with political leaders hailing their contribution in the country's progress. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Delhi, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands also have their foundation days on November 1. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Lakshadweep came into being on this day in 1956.

### RJD PUSHING JUNGLE RAJ IN BIHAR: NADDA

BJP president JP Nadra on Saturday alleged that the RJD wants to bring back 'jungle raj' in Bihar if it is voted to power, and nominating late gangster-turned-politician Mohammad Shahabuddin's son points to it. Addressing election rallies in Siwan and Muzaffarpur virtually as bad weather prevented him from reaching the venues, Nadra alleged that kidnapping had become an industry during 'jungle raa' (lawlessness) and ransom used to be settled at the then CM's house. "Bihar witnessed 'jungle raj' under the RJD regime. There was complete anarchy in the state. Law and order had collapsed, and along with that, an industry of kidnapping started growing here," he alleged.

## 9 people killed at Kasibugga temple stampede in Andhra

PM Modi announces ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh to kin of deceased

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Kasibugga (Andhra Pradesh)

At least nine people — eight women and a boy — were killed, and many others were injured at a stampede which occurred at Venkateswara Swamy temple in Srikakulam district on Saturday.

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha said the temple, a private one and not under the Endowments Department, usually witnesses a turnout of 1,500 to 2,000 devotees every Saturday. The tragedy was worsened by the Ekadasi observance coinciding with 'Karthika Masam', drawing large crowds. According to the minister, the temple is located at an elevation on the first floor, and when the devotees were climbing, the railing broke, resulting in the people standing at a



Andhra Pradesh minister K. Atchannaidu visits the spot after a stampede occurred at Venkateswara temple, at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district PTI

corner falling on one another.

One of the survivors from Dharmapuram village near Ichchapuram said the approach to the temple is narrow, with only a single entry and exit point, which led to a buildup of devotees on both sides and resulted in chaos. At least seven of the dead are in the age

group of 35-40. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, expressing grief over the incident, said a full-fledged inquiry will be conducted into the incident. The CM alleged that the tragedy took place due to a lack of orderliness and discipline.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over

My thoughts are with those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover soon

— PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

A full-fledged inquiry will be conducted into the incident

— ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER N CHANDRABABU NAIDU

the incident and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh each from PMNRF to the next of kin of those who lost their lives and ₹2,000 to the injured. Pained by the stampede in Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. My thoughts are with those who have lost their near and dear ones.

## Bihar polls offer choice between development and jungle raj: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Patna/Gopalganj/Samastipur

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday asserted that the Assembly elections in Bihar presented the people with a choice between the "Modi-Nitish combine", which would develop Bihar, and the RJD-helmed Opposition that would "bring back jungle raj".

The former BJP president made the remarks while virtually addressing rallies in Gopalganj and Samastipur districts, and Vaishali district's Hajipur, the parliamentary constituency of Union minister Chirag Paswan.

He could not visit these places due to bad weather.

In Gopalganj, the native district of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, he raked up the "high-handedness" of Sadhu Yadav, former Bihar CM Rabri Devi's estranged brother, to warn people that "jungle raj" will come back if the Opposition party returned to power.

"This election is an opportunity to decide who



should be entrusted with the future of Bihar. On the one hand are those who ushered in 'jungle raj'. On the other hand is the duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Nitish Kumar, who have brought development," he said.

"The people of Gopalganj have never voted for the RJD since 2002. I am sure they will keep up the trend... Nobody knows the misdeeds (kaarnaame) of Sadhu Yadav better than the people of Gopalganj," he added.



RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale addressing the media during the ongoing 3-day all-India executive meeting of RSS in Jabalpur PTI

## RSS not opposed to caste census: Hosabale

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jabalpur

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Saturday said the organisation was not opposed to a caste-based census but asserted it should not be politically motivated and must serve the purpose of identifying socially and economically backward communities for their progress. Speaking to reporters on the concluding day of the three-day RSS all India executive body meeting, Hosabale said people often vote based on caste or money, and awareness was needed to end such practices.

"During elections, caste-based remarks are made only to secure votes. Unity and harmony are essential for the country's progress. Caste arrogance is creating social

discord. Hindu society has many castes and sects, besides spiritual organisations. The feeling of social goodwill must grow to strengthen self-confidence in society," the RSS leader said.

To a query on caste enumeration, Hosabale said the Supreme Court had already observed that it could be undertaken if necessary. "Such data is useful for welfare schemes. It should not be used for political purposes, as that will divide society. Some castes have remained backward and need empowerment. If data is required to ensure the benefits of Government schemes reach them, it should be collected," he said. The RSS does not function on caste lines, but wherever the data is useful for the country, it should be gathered, he pointed out.

## Country will soon be freed from Naxal menace: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Raipur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the number of districts affected by Maoist terror has dwindled from 125 to just three in the last 11 years, and the day is not far when the country will be freed from the Naxal menace.

Speaking at various events in Chhattisgarh, Modi also said India has always come forward as a first responder during any global crisis, adding the nation has always stepped forward as a reliable partner to provide help. In his address at the 'Chhattisgarh Rajat Mahotsav' in Nava Raipur to mark the 25th anniversary celebration of the formation of Chhattisgarh, Modi hailed the State's growth journey and said the seed sown 25 years ago has grown



into a "vat vriksh" (banyan tree) of development.

Modi said he was deeply satisfied that Chhattisgarh was breaking free from the clutches of Naxal violence,

which had caused immense suffering to the State for over five decades.

"For 50 years, the people here suffered unbearable pain (because of Naxalism). Those who show off the Constitution and shed crocodile tears in the name of social justice have committed injustice to you for vested interests," he said. The Maoist ideology deprived tribal regions of basic facilities, the PM said.

"For years, tribal villages lacked roads, schools and hospitals. The existing ones were blown up with bombs. Doctors and teachers were killed. Those who ruled the country for decades abandoned you while they enjoyed life in their air-conditioned offices," Modi said.

Modi said he could not just stand by and watch his tribal brothers and

sisters being destroyed by violence. "I could not (bear to) see mothers crying for their children. In 2014, when you gave us the opportunity, we resolved to free India from Maoist terror. Today the results are before the nation," Modi said. Eleven years ago, 125 districts across India were affected by Maoist terror, but today the number has declined to three, he said. "I guarantee that the day is not far when every corner of Chhattisgarh and India will be completely free from Maoist terror," the prime minister said.

In the past few months, dozens of Maoists, including many carrying rewards of lakhs and crores of rupees on their heads, have surrendered across the country, Modi noted. "In Kanker, more than 20 Naxals laid down arms recently.

## BJP MP urges Amit Shah to rename Delhi as Indraprastha

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

BJP MP from Chandni Chowk, Praveen Khandelwal, on Saturday wrote to Union Minister Amit Shah, urging the renaming of Delhi as 'Indraprastha', citing its ancient, cultural, and civilisational roots. Khandelwal has also requested the renaming of Old Delhi railway station as 'Indraprastha Junction', and the International Airport as 'Indraprastha Airport'. Khandelwal, in his letter to Shah, which was also sent to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and other ministers, said the move would reflect the historical, cultural, and

civilisational roots. His letter came on a day when the national capital attained the Union Territory status 69 years ago — on November 1, 1956, following the reorganisation of Indian states. In the letter, he said Delhi holds a special place among the ancient cultural centres of India. Indraprastha represents the eternal spirit of Indian civilisation, symbolising ideals of righteous governance and social harmony, he opined. He said that the lineage of the city dates back to the Mahabharat era, when the Pandavas founded it, and it was known as Indraprastha.

Khandelwal stressed that renaming would help restore the cultural identity of the national Capital. "It is not merely a metropolis but a living symbol of Indian civilisation, embodying the spirit, ethics, and tradition of public welfare. History bears witness that during the Mahabharata era, the Pandavas established their capital."

"I humbly urge the Government of India to seriously consider and decide on this matter so that our capital may regain its ancient identity and glory," the Chandni Chowk MP said in a letter in Hindi.



## Delhi's traffic woes to ease with new project

Munak Canal elevated road to be extended up to Kashmere Gate

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

In a move to ease long-standing traffic congestion in north Delhi and expand road infrastructure, the Rekha Gupta Government is exploring the extension of the Munak Canal elevated road up to Kashmere Gate and a four-kilometre-long tunnel road connecting Inderlok and Maharana Pratap Inter State Bus Terminal, Kashmere Gate. The Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) has begun preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) in this regard. According to preliminary PWD estimates, the corridor could reduce travel time between the Delhi-Haryana border and Kashmere Gate by up to 40 per cent.

The elevated road, currently planned till Inderlok, will be extended through an underground tunnel up to Kashmere Gate. Once completed, it will provide a continuous, signal-free corridor from the Delhi-Haryana border to Central Delhi, connecting directly with ISBT, Outer Ring Road, and Wazirabad corridor.

The project will significantly reduce travel time for vehicles coming from Sonapat, Rohtak, and the Urban Extension Road (UER) while easing bottlenecks at Mukarba Chowk, Azadpur, and Roshanara Road. PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma said the project represents a decisive step toward long-term, sustainable urban mobility. "Delhi needs futuristic and innovative solutions that cater to the growing infrastructural needs of Delhi and its citizens.

## Railway's swift action ensures safe crossing for 22 elephants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jamshedpur

Movement of about a dozen long-distance express trains was temporarily halted on Saturday to ensure safe passage to a herd of 22 wild elephants under the Chakradharpur division of South Eastern Railway. According to officials, the railway acted promptly after field officials reported movement of elephants near the railway track close to the Jharkhand-Odisha border between Birsa and D



cabin section since late Friday night and stopped movement of the trains for 3-4 hours in gaps till the herd crossed over safely early on Saturday morning.

In a remarkable demonstration of its commitment to wildlife conservation and operational safety, Chakradharpur Division temporarily halted the movement of trains between Birsa and D Cabin section on November 1 to ensure the safe passage of a herd of 22 elephants, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (CKP division) of South Eastern Railway, Aditya Kumar Choudhary said. "No sooner did we receive a report about the

movement of 22 elephants near the rail track, train operations were temporarily suspended to prevent any untoward incident, underscoring Indian Railways' proactive approach towards ensuring harmonious coexistence between wildlife and rail operations," he said. During the period, the trains detained included 1813 (Tatanagar-Bilaspur Express), 12810 (Howrah-Mumbai CSMT Mail), 12102 (Jnaneswari Express) and 12130 (Azad Hind Express).

The Buffet Box / Renée Ranchan

Swipe, Star Sign, and Second Thoughts

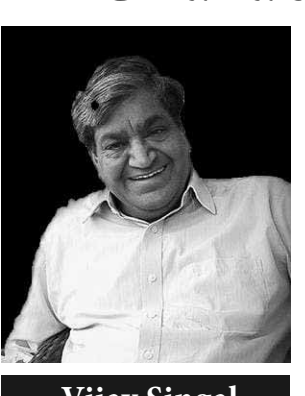


Renée Ranchan

pillows in a doomed attempt to block out both the noise and human existence! It set me thinking. Perhaps, we are all guilty of growing artificial roots in this brave new world of love. The vocabulary alone feels like horticulture gone digital: you plant your profile, prune your photos, weed out the unsuitable ones, and wait for something to sprout; except, the only thing that grows is self-doubt. Meera's daughter is not alone in her quest. My nephew, 31 years old and full of misplaced optimism, once told me he was trying "slow dating". I imagined something gentle and old-fashioned -- handwritten notes, long walks, perhaps exchanging books. It turned out to mean he limits himself to chatting with one person a week to "reduce emotional clutter". A fine concept, except that by Wednesday, he'd usually block the "flavour of the week". In earlier times, one had marriage brokers. They came with folders and forthrightness, matching family temperaments with the precision of skilled gardeners. "Good roots," they'd say, "strong lineage, no bad habits, decent dowry, one cousin abroad." Now, metrics do the same job, minus the warmth and the unsolicited advice about your complexion. Where marriage brokers fade, astrologers still bloom. Meera's mother, bless her, still won't let anyone say "engagement" until the stars have been consulted. She rings up a gentleman in Varanasi who tells her which hour is most auspicious for sending a WhatsApp proposal. "The moon is in your fifth house," he once said gravely, "so avoid anyone named Rohit before Thursday." The last Rohit, incidentally, was an engineer with a compulsive fondness for motivational quotes. Meanwhile, the not-so-better-half, who claims to be pragmatic, finds this entire system vastly entertaining. "So essentially," he commented the other evening, "we've gone from arranged marriages to arranged algorithms -- both involve someone else making decisions while pretending you're in control!"

Voice Within / Vijay Singal

Characteristics of a Tamasik Karta



Vijay Singal

the mode of ignorance. It has been stated that a tamasik karta is prakritah, the one whose mindset is purely materialistic and who remains oblivious of the subtler spiritual realities. He works only with selfish motives, without considering wider implications of his actions. A tamasik karta is also stated to be ayuktah, the one who lacks discipline. A yukta mind is the one which is perfectly under the control of the intellect, and which is enlightened by the wisdom of the self. Ayuktah, on the other hand, is the mind which is not under control. It is indisciplined. Thus, instead of being enlightened by the wisdom of the self, and guided by his intelligence, a tamasik karta is spurred by the instincts and impulses of his own mind. A combined reading of these two characteristics of a tamasik karta suggests that such persons are disconnected from the spiritual reality. Their vision is narrow. Instead of working in a meaningful and purposeful manner, and aiming at long-lasting gains, they seek instant gratification and momentary benefits. They ignore higher values, often rejecting established ethical standards. The tamasik kartas have been declared to be shatah, which means cunning and deceitful. Another hallmark of their character is naishkritikah, being hurtful and insulting to others. They are also stated to be stabdah i.e. stubborn. A combined reading of these three characteristics of the ones working in the mode of ignorance suggests that instead of working with integrity, such people often have hidden agendas of their own and use manipulation to achieve their concealed motives. In relationships, they have a use and throw policy. They often hurt others, either by their words or actions. They enjoy putting others down by resorting to unnecessary criticism or false blame. Being stubborn, they hold rigidly to their opinions; and are not amenable to any advice, reason, or correction. They stick to their view and justify their action, even if they are proved to be wrong. Their obstinacy is born not from their intelligence, wisdom, or willpower; but from their inability to learn to adapt. Another characteristic of the tamasik kartas is said to be alasah i.e. laziness. Such people lack energy and enthusiasm to discharge their duties and fulfil their responsibilities. They avoid all creative endeavours and hard work, considering them to be too laborious and painful. The tamasik kartas have also been stated to be dirgha-sutri, a procrastinator. The term dirgha-sutri portrays a person who makes frivolous excuses, delays action at every step; and puts everything aside to be done later. He postpones action until it is too late. A combined reading of these two characteristics alludes to the fact that whatever such people do, they do it half-heartedly. They generally neglect work and shirk responsibility. As the ignoble thoughts and evil deeds of a person impact him more than anyone else, a tamasik karta always remains visahik, meaning unhappy and morose. Whatever the circumstances, a tamasik person gets overwhelmed by sadness. He feels that the world is so bad that nothing is going to work for him. To summarise, a tamasik person lives life as per his tamasik worldview. In his work, he is guided by his tamasik knowledge. And he expresses himself through his tamasik deeds. His behavioural patterns, thus emerge out of confusion, carelessness, inertia; and a negative outlook. He does not have the understanding, intention, vitality or courage to stand up to the challenges of life. He invariably spends his time and energy complaining about the circumstances around him. He lacks purpose in life. A combined reading of the shlokas from 18.26 to 18.28 makes it clear that the attitude towards any work is more important than even the work itself. One's mindset and disposition towards any task determines if he would get joy or sorrow out of that task. His growth or stagnation is outlined by such a mindset. Shloka 18.28, thus, enumerates the traits which pull an individual down in life. When one analyses his own behavioural patterns in the light of the knowledge imparted in this verse, he becomes aware of his own tamasik tendencies. By becoming aware of his own obnoxious traits, one can consciously overcome such weaknesses. He can thus begin moving towards an empowered and inspired living.

Guest Column / Rashmi Kaushik

Is Urban Life Making Us Lonelier?



Rashmi Kaushik

community affairs. Today, even in apartment complexes packed with people, silence lingers in corridors. We nod politely in elevators but seldom stop to talk. Urban life rewards efficiency, not intimacy. The rhythm of the city is fast, precise, and unrelenting, a rhythm that leaves little space for stillness. We measure our worth in productivity and screen time, mistaking motion for meaning. Social media gives the illusion of company; a flurry of hearts and emojis stand in for real connection. Yet when the phone screen goes dark, the emptiness returns, familiar, nameless, and persistent. Psychologists call it the epidemic of modern loneliness. It is not about being alone, but about feeling unseen. In cities like Delhi, Mumbai, or Bengaluru, where millions live side by side, loneliness hides behind ambition. People move here chasing better opportunities, carrying dreams and degrees in their backpacks. But along the way, they lose the luxury of unhurried conversation. Technology was meant to connect us and in some ways, it has. We can video call across continents, find old school friends in seconds, and join global communities from our bedrooms. Yet it has also thinned our relationships. We communicate constantly, but rarely connect deeply. We know what others are doing, but not how they're feeling. The city, in its relentless pursuit of success, often forgets to pause for empathy. The loneliness that comes with urban living doesn't always scream for attention. It seeps in quietly through missed calls, postponed plans, and meals eaten alone. Over time, it becomes part of the architecture: invisible, but everywhere. Still, amid this solitude, small revolutions of togetherness are taking root. Young professionals are forming book clubs, art circles, and weekend volunteer groups. Residents in gated societies are reviving community dinners and terrace yoga sessions. Some offices have begun hosting "no-agenda Fridays," where employees simply talk not about work, but about life. These may seem like small steps, but they are bridges in a fragmented world. There's also a growing movement towards mindful connection, phone-free dinners, digital detox weekends, and "slow meet-ups" where people gather just to share stories. The idea is simple: to bring back presence in a world addicted to distraction. Because in the end, what we miss isn't just the company it's belonging. It's the warmth of being understood without explanation, of being remembered without a reminder. Urban loneliness isn't a failure of people; it's a symptom of a lifestyle that prizes independence over interdependence. But cities are living organisms... and they can heal. The cure begins with small acts. Saying hello to a neighbour. Checking in on a colleague. Smiling at a stranger. These gestures may not change the world, but they can change a moment and sometimes, that's enough. As dusk falls and the skyline lights up again, maybe it's time to ask ourselves: in our race to build faster, taller, and smarter cities, what have we left behind? Connection doesn't require a network, just attention. Perhaps the real heartbeat of a city isn't in its traffic or its towers, but in the simple, human bonds that remind us we are not alone. Because loneliness may be the shadow of modern life -- but even in a city of millions, one kind word can still turn the lights back.

पञ्चमि नैशनल बैंक

पञ्चमि नैशनल बैंक 40 रजिस्ट्रारद्वारा अर्बन असेट्स एन्फोर्समेंट सेक्टर में एक प्रमुख भूमिका निभा रहा है। बैंक की सेवाओं में ऋण, बचत, और वित्तीय सलाह शामिल हैं।

punjab national bank

BO SAMALKHA (044300) SAMALKHA, PANIPAT-132103 POSSESSION NOTICE (SYMBOLIC) Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of the PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK SAMALKHA (044300), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 06-08-2025 calling upon the borrower (1) M/S Varun Trading Company Address-Shop No 192/9 Model Town Samalkha-132101 (2) Smt Seema Rani (Prop) Address-House No 95 Model Town Samalkha 132101 (3) Sh. Harsh Chander S/o Sh Hans Raj Shop No 192/9 Model Town Samalkha-132101 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 19,11,959.58/- (Rs Nineteen Lakh Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine and Fifty Eight Paise only) as on 31.07.2025 with interest calculated up to 31-07-2025 with further interest and other expenses minus recovery if any.

LOST & FOUND

I, Jogender Singh Deshwal S/o Balbir Singh R/o Village Mahawali, Tehsil Samalkha Distt. Panipat declared lost my client Sale Deed Vasika No. 4405 Dated 23.2.2024, vasika no. 1411 dated 22.7.2019 which is registered in the office of S.R. Samalkha Panipat and lost at Tehsil Samalkha and lost date 23.8.2024 If some one found please contact at my address.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Equitable mortgage of Commercial Shop No 192/9 Measuring total of 27.00 sq yard situated in Model Town Near Railway station vide Sale Deed Vasika no 1998/1 dated 27.01.2000, Sale Deed Vasika No. 3204 dated 17.12.2014 and Family Transfer Deed Vasika No. 3205/1 dated 17.12.2014 within M C Limits, Samalkha

PUBLIC NOTICE

That Sh. Surabh Bhatia S/o Sh. Chetan Prakash Aggar (Hereinafter referred to as the Mortgagor) is the absolute owner of House No. 621, Sector-33.8, Chandigarh, RPD No. 14598, Measuring 528.13 Sq. Yards, According to the said Mortgage, the below mentioned following document is misplaced by the Smt. Harsimrit Kaur D/o Gurbakh Singh.

यूको बैंक UCO BANK

Zonal Office: SCO No 37, SECOND FLOOR, PHASE 1 DUGRI ROAD, PO- URBAN ESTATE DUGRI Ludhiana - 141013, Phone: 0164-2236072, Email: zoulud.gad@ucobank.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BREAK OPEN OF OVERDUE LOCKERS

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Branch Name with SOLID, Locker No., Locker Holder Name, Due Rent, Overdue Since, First Reminder Date, Second Reminder Date, Third Reminder Date, Fourth Reminder Date. Contains 6 entries for lockers in Bhatinda (0135) Amrik Singh Road.

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Possession Notice [Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to borrower(s)/ guarantor(s), on the date mentioned hereunder, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice, within 30 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

EVICTON NOTICE

I, Surjit Kaur W/o deceased Arjan Singh, Owner & resident of House No. 3526/35-D, Chandigarh hereby inform that my son Paramjit, daughter-in-law Sarbjit, grand-daughter Richa, Grandson Unique have hate towards me and my son Lakhwinder since long time. Due to threats to our lives, beating to me and my son, abusing and misbehav, I am dispossessing/dishown above mentioned four persons from Kothi No.3526/ 35-D, Chandigarh, my moveable and immovable property and life. I request to the President of India and Hon'ble Governor to help us to get justice by getting vacated my Kothi from them as there is danger to me and my son Lakhwinder's life.

THE NAKODAR CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS LTD. NAKODAR (JALANDHAR)

It is for the information of the public that M/s Veerka Beverages Private Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance by SEJAA Punjab for the project namely "Setting up of a Beverages Manufacturing Unit at Plot No. 454, Goidwal Sahib Industrial Area, Phase 2, Goidwal Sahib, Tarn Taran, Punjab by M/s Veerka Beverages Private Limited. vide File No. 2025/EC/F/341; EC Identification No. EC25C3803PB5438002N dated 31.10.2025 through our environmental Consultant "Shivalik Solid Waste Management Limited". The copy of Environmental Clearance along with the conditions to be complied is available in Environmental Clearance portal and with the project proponent. The interested person may contact either of two.



## Haryana sets Benchmark in transparent recruitment process, 3 Lakh Youth Employed: CM Saini

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday said that the current state government has made unprecedented progress in youth employment, providing 300,000 young people with government job opportunities over the past 11 years in a fully transparent manner. Of these, 180,000 have been appointed to regular government positions, while 120,000 have secured employment through the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam (HKRN).

On this occasion, he transferred over Rs. 109.65 crore to the accounts of 5,22,162 eligible women under the first installment of the Deendayal Lado Laxmi Yojana. He also launched a paperless registry system across the state, stating that the new system will relieve citizens from complex registration procedures, eliminate unnecessary delays and curb the possibility of corruption.

Addressing a press conference, he said that a three-day cultural festival is being organized to celebrate Haryana Day this year, which was inaugurated today by Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh in Panchkula. He said that a weekly book fair will be held starting from the next Haryana Day.

Saini stated that the current state government has recently completed 11 years of public service. In recognition of youth talent, the Chief Minister said that the interview process for Group C and Group D recruitments has been abolished. Haryana's transparent recruitment model has emerged as a national benchmark and has been repeatedly praised by the Prime Minister, he said.

Saini said that the state government is focusing on both education and skill development for youth in line with the new National Education Policy. A robust EASE of Doing Business ecosystem has been established to accelerate industrial growth. Over the past 11 years, 12,20,872 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have been registered in Haryana, attracting investments worth Rs 28,377.59 crore. The Chief Minister highlighted that the state is now home to over 9,500 startups and 19 unicorn companies, signaling that Haryana is redefining prosperity while achieving remarkable progress in infrastructure development.

He emphasized that farmer welfare remains at the heart of government policies. In Haryana, all 24 crops are procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP), and payments are guaranteed within 48 hours

of sale. **CM INAUGURATES BLOOD DONATION CAMP TO COMMEMORATE 350TH MARTYRDOM DAY OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR**

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a state-level blood donation camp organized to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur at Kisan Bhawan, Sector 14, Panchkula, CM Saini said that blood donation is a great donation and a true service to humanity. Extending his greetings to the people of the state on Haryana Day, he said that today is a day to celebrate the creation of Haryana and draw inspiration from the sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Earlier, he encouraged the blood donors at the camp by pinning badges on them, offering his heartfelt congratulations, and wishing them for their noble contribution.

**CM DIGITALLY RELEASES RS. 2,100 EACH TO 5,22,162 ELIGIBLE WOMEN BENEFICIARIES**

On the occasion of Haryana Day, Saini released Rs. 2,100 each to 5,22,162 eligible women beneficiaries under the 'Deen Dayal Lado Laxmi Yojana'. These women beneficiaries received a benefit of over Rs. 109 crore.

**LAUNCHES PAPERLESS REGISTRY SYSTEM**

CM Saini also announced a step towards digital governance by implementing a paperless registry system across Haryana. He launched the system digitally during a press conference and informed that the initiative was first started in the Ladwa tehsil of Kurukshetra district on September 29, and has now been expanded to the entire state. From September 29 to October 31, 2025, a total of 917 paperless registries have been successfully completed, demonstrating the success of this system. He stated that this new system will relieve citizens from the decades-old, complex registry process and will eliminate unnecessary delays in registry-related work. Citizens will now be able to complete most of the procedures from the comfort of their homes — they will only need to visit the tehsil once for photo verification.

## Haryana Celebrates 60th Foundation Day with State-Level Function in Panchkula

PNS ■ Chandigarh

A state-level function was organized in Panchkula on the occasion of Haryana's 60th Foundation Day on Saturday with Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh saying that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the dedicated efforts of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana has achieved remarkable progress in the fields of healthcare, education, industrial development, investment promotion, infrastructure enhancement, and law and order.

Prior to the function, the Governor, along with his wife Mitra Ghosh and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, inaugurated an exhibition showcasing Haryana's rich culture and heritage and



also visited there. On this occasion, Tourism and Heritage Minister Arvind Sharma, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana, and former Speaker Gian Chand Gupta were also present.

The Governor noted that since its formation on November 1, 1966, Haryana has been on the path of rapid growth and prosperity with remarkable achievements in all sectors.

This progress has been possible because of the hard work, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit of the people of Haryana.

The Governor praised the initiatives being taken under the leadership of Chief Minister Saini for the welfare of women, children, senior citizens, Scheduled Castes, and Other Backward Classes. He expressed confidence that the people of Haryana would agree

that true and sustainable development is achieved only when every welfare scheme and service reaches the last person in society. The Haryana Government, he said, remains steadfast in ensuring that the benefits of development reach every citizen. He called upon everyone to uphold the ideals of equality, justice, and fraternity through collective efforts and to take Haryana's glory to greater heights.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Saini honoured the Governor by presenting him with a turban, a unique memento symbolizing the state's progress in agriculture, sports, and women's empowerment, and a shawl. During the event, the Governor also inaugurated the filmed version of the State Song adopted on March 28.

## Himachal govt plans three-month campaign to 'eradicate' chitta drug

PNS ■ Shimla

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday said his government will launch a multi-level campaign against the menace of chitta (heroin) over the next three months, and a special police cell will be

constituted to "eradicate" it from the state.

After chairing a high-level meeting, Sukhu said that police have identified the panchayats most affected by drug menace, and they will receive special attention. "To prevent the illegal trade and use of narcotics and drugs in the state, drug prevention

committees will be formed at the panchayat level. A notification for this has been issued," he said.

The committee will have seven members, including the chairperson, and will hold monthly meetings, preparing detailed reports on chitta and related activities in the area and sharing them with law

enforcement agencies, Sukhu said. Anti-chitta volunteers will also be trained in colleges across the state, he added.

Sukhu will launch the campaign with an anti-chitta rally in Shimla on November 15, from the Ridge to Chaura Maidan. It will see participation from MLAs, dignitaries, students, among

others, officials said.

The campaign will involve "strict action against chitta mafia on the grassroots level", they said. Sukhu said he will personally monitor the campaign and appealed to all the government representatives, police, volunteers, and students to make it a success.

## Fake propaganda of BJP over CM's Camp Office exposed: CM Mann

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Slamming the BJP for misleading the people of the state with baseless propaganda, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday dared the leaders of the saffron party to substantiate their claims regarding 'Sheesh Mahal' with valid proofs.

In a video message, the Chief Minister said that the BJP leadership is baffled by the growing base of the Aam Aadmi Party across the country, especially in Gujarat, due to which it is indulging in such dirty tantrums. He said that in the dearth of any tangible issue against the state government, BJP is trying to mislead the Punjabis by spitting venom. He said that the saffron party has no roadmap for the state but it is now just banking on morphed videos and such frivolous claims to defame the state government.

Mann said that ever since



he assumed charge as the head of the state, house number 45 in Chandigarh is the official residence of the Chief Minister, whereas house number 50 is his guest house/camp office. He said that several important meetings are held here in this house, and visiting dignitaries to the state stay here. He said that this house has not been allotted to anyone and is used solely as his camp house cum rest house for the visitors.

The CM said that these are not the Sheesh Mahals but are the residences that are used by the common leaders elected by the

Punjabis. He said that those who have palaces, and are now in the BJP fold, never stayed back in these houses; rather, their staff and friends used to occupy them. Mann said that BJP leaders like Captain Amarinder Singh and old friends of the saffron party like Sukhbir Singh Badal have constructed huge palaces by acquiring money illegally, but the BJP leadership is mum on them.

Coming down heavily on the BJP, the Chief Minister reminded the saffron party that their Minister of State, Ravneet Singh Bittu, is illegally squatting in a house at Chandigarh which was once allotted to his uncle Tej Parkash Singh. He said that despite several reminders, the Governor of Punjab has never paid heed to get this sheesh mahal vacated by the BJP leader. Mann categorically said that before pointing to them, the BJP should peep into its conscience and see where it stands.

## AAP, SAD, Congress slam Centre for 'restructuring' Panjab University's Senate Syndicate

PNS ■ Chandigarh

The ruling AAP and the opposition SAD and Congress on Saturday hit out at the Centre for "restructuring" Panjab University's governing bodies — Senate and Syndicate — with the Akali Dal calling it a "Tughlaqi Farman".

The attack follows after the Centre restructured Panjab University's Senate and Syndicate via a notification dated October 28, amending the Panjab University Act,

1947, taking effect immediately. Senior AAP leader and Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema called the BJP government's "centralising overreach on the Panjab University Act an assault on federalism and regional identity". "Diluting the unique state-Centre joint character by cutting the state's role, replacing elected members with Central nominees, and shifting power is a shameless power grab that cripples

autonomy," Cheema alleged. SAD leader and former Union minister, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, claimed the move will make the "Syndicate and Senate of the Panjab University rubber stamps of the Central government by ending elections to the Syndicate, and making it a fully-nominated house besides filling the Senate with nominated and ex-officio members to end Punjab's control over its elite institution".

## Punjab Raj Bhawan celebrates Statehood Day of 8 States and 7 Union Territories

PNS ■ Chandigarh

A vibrant celebration marking the Statehood Day of 8 States—Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu—and 7 Union Territories—Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry—was organized at the Guru Nanak Dev Auditorium, Punjab Raj Bhawan, Chandigarh, under the theme "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" on Saturday.

Punjab Governor and Administrator, UT Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, presided over the ceremony as the Chief Guest. The event showcased the unity and diversity of India

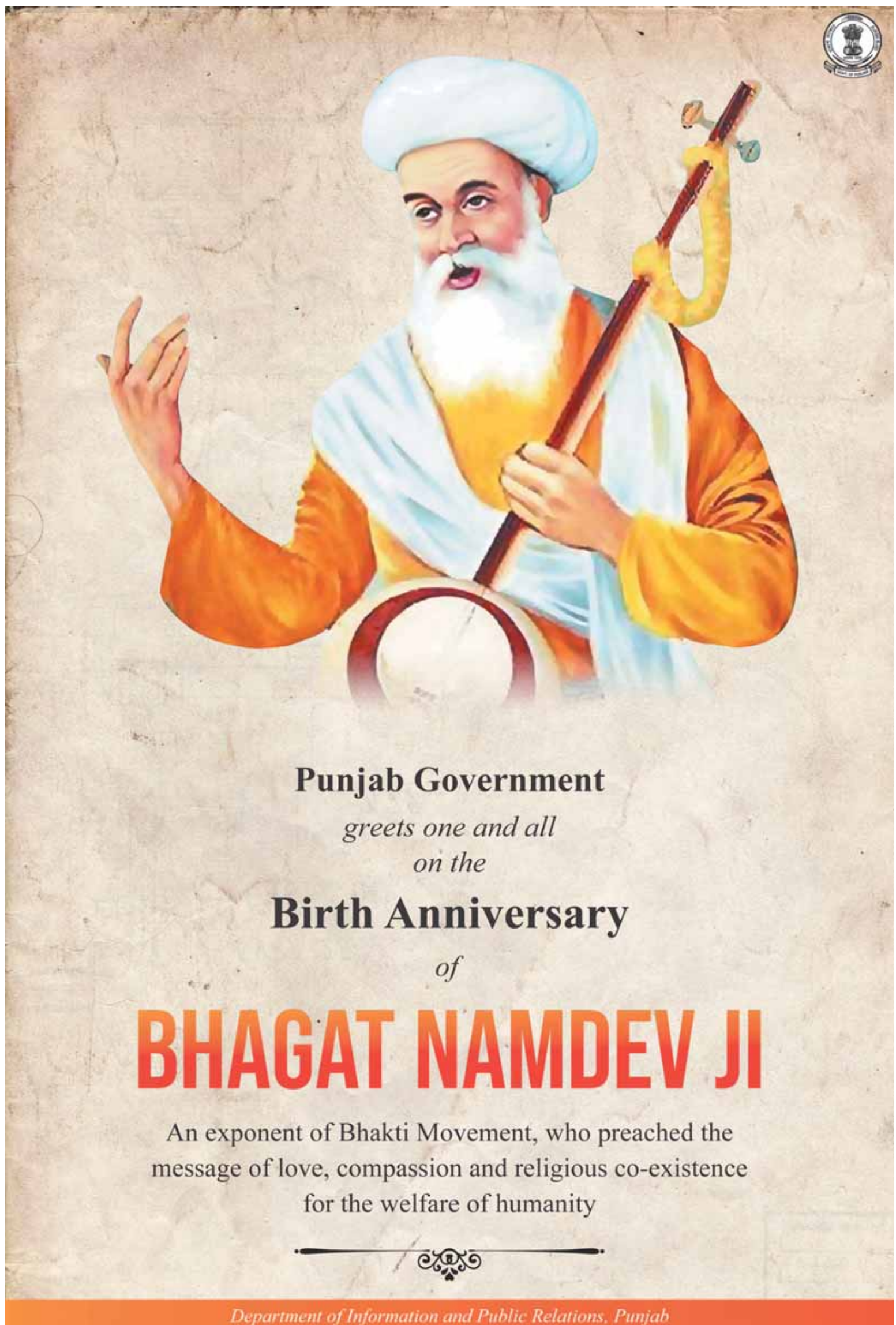
through colourful performances representing the distinct cultural identities of various States and Union Territories. Traditional dances, folk songs, and regional music from across the country were presented by the participants, reflecting the essence of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat"—the spirit of togetherness in diversity.

Kataria remarked that "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" has become a strong medium to connect hearts and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood among the people of India. It allows citizens from all walks of life to learn about each other's customs, values, and achievements, thereby reinforcing the vision of 'One Nation, One Spirit, One Future'. "Our country's identity lies in its 'unity in diversity'. India's strength comes from its people—

diverse in culture, language, and tradition, yet bound by the common thread of patriotism and humanity. Each state and Union Territory contributes in its own unique way towards nation-building," he said.

Highlighting Chandigarh's youth participation in Civil Defence Volunteer programmes, he said, "The enthusiastic involvement of young people in national service shows that our youth are not only aware of their rights but are equally committed to their duties towards the nation."

The event concluded with a cultural presentation showcasing folk dances and musical performances representing the participating States and Union Territories, leaving the audience with a renewed sense of pride and patriotism.



## Classifieds

### BEDKHALI NOTICE

**I Maya W/o Kooki Ram,** House No. 6603-C, Sector 56, Chandigarh inform that my son Vinod, his wife Nita, and their children Gungun, Suhana, and Bhumil are out of my control. I disown them from all my movable and immovable properties. Anybody who deals with them will do at their own Risk.

**I, Somnath S/o Sh. Choudhary Ram R/o H.No. 1834/4, Rajendra Colony, Distt. Rohtak** declare that my son Sahil and his wife Neha Chaudhary are out of my control. So I disown them from my all moveable/immovable properties. Any body dealing with them at their own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their legal or illegal acts.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**I ROHIT ROHIT s/o BINDER PAL** Passport No. P6407798 Dated 24 JAN 2017, issued at Chandigarh, India & Expired on 23 JAN 2027, resident of RATHMALI DISTT, KAITHAL PIN: 136035, HARYANA, INDIA and presently residing at 711 WORKMAN MILL RD, WHITTIER, CA 90601 do hereby change my name ROHIT to ROHIT ROHIT for all purposes.

**I, Parshant Bhardwaj** (Aadhar No. 9222 5127 3992) S/o Sh. Vishal Kumar R/o Ward No. 12, Sampla, Teh. Sampla Distt. Rohtak declare that in all my documents my name is Parshant Bhardwaj and in my marksheet my name is Parshant. I want to get my passport in the name of Parshant Bhardwaj as per my documents. Both my names are Parshant Bhardwaj and Parshant and I am the only person with both names and no one else.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Aditya Verma** (Aadhar No. 6499-3701-9719) S/o Sh. Parveen Verma, R/o House No. 1758, Sector-15, Panchkula, Haryana-134113, That my father's actual name is Parveen Kumar Verma, but in my 10th and 12th class marksheet, my father's name is written as Parveen Verma. That now I want to correct my 10th and 12th class record from Parveen Verma to Parveen Kumar Verma.

**I Harish Sreen S/o Kishan Chand,** House no. 282-A, Medical Enclave, Amritsar, Punjab 143001 have changed my name from Harish Sreen to Harish Sareen.

**I, Rai Sahab S/o Sh. Manphool Singh R/o H.No.1, Back Side Govt. High School, Khairpur, Sirsa (Haryana).** That I have changed my name from Rai Sahab to Rai Sahab Saharan, in future my name is to be called as Rai Sahab Saharan.

**I, Sarabjeet Kaur,** daughter of Gurmail Singh, resident of Salana Wala Singh Wala, Tehsil Amloh, District Fatehgarh Sahib declares that in certificates of my minor daughter Jasmeen Kaur, the father's name has been wrongly written as Gurpreet Singh Gill instead of Gurpreet Singh.

**I, Arya PS** spouse of Abilash K G R/o #201, Sector 65, Mohali have changed my name from Arya PS to Arya P S vide Affidavit No - IN-CH58767163307007X Dated 25-10-2025 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

**I, Padmini** daughter of Nipun Gupta R/o Depot House, 3 BRD Air Force Station, Chandigarh have changed my name from Padmini to Padmini Gupta vide Affidavit No - IN-CH58865833968140X Dated 31-10-2025 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

**I, Ginni** daughter of Nipun Gupta R/o Depot House, 3 BRD Air Force Station, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ginni to Ginni Gupta vide Affidavit No - IN-CH58865798960015X Dated 31-10-2025 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

**I, SONIA W/o Mahender Kumar Chhabra R/o 5-B, Inderpuri, Old DC Road, Sonipat, Haryana- 131001** Have changed my name from Sonia to Sanya Chhabra for all future purposes.

**I, Ravi Shankar S/O Vijay Narayan Singh R/O Quarter No. 1055 Type 3 Ground Floor, Sector 7 B Chandigarh** Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Pratyush To Pratyush Sinha.

**I, Dalbir Kaur W/o Ravinder Singh,** residing at H. No. 1541, Purani Anaz Mandi, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar-135001, Haryana, India have changed my name from Dalbir Kaur to Preet Kaur

**I, Gourav S/o Ramesh Kumar,** residing at Village Hargarh (478), Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar-135002, Haryana, India have changed my name from Gourav to Gagan.

**I, Jasdeep Singh Arneja S/o Gurinder Mohan Singh R/o H.No. 17-B, Model Town, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar- 135001 (Haryana), INDIA** have changed the name of my minor daughter from Karman Arneja to Karman Kaur Arneja.

**I Pardeep kumar s/o Balbir Singh r/o vpo gawar distt Hissar Haryana** declared change my name from Pradeep to Pardeep kumar and in future my name is Pardeep kumar.

**I, Saroj Devi W/o Raj Kumar R/o Village Sili Khurd, Tehsil Radaur, Distt Yamuna Nagar-135133, Haryana, India** have changed my name from Parveen Verma to Parveen Kumar Verma.

**I, Sulekh Chand Modgil S/o SC Sharma R/o H. No. 1791, Sector 17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar - 135003 (Haryana), INDIA** declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Sulekh Modgil in my minor son namely Mollik Modgil aged 16 years in his 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is Sulekh Chand Modgil.

**I, Aman M Gupta** son of Sunil Kumar Gupta, Resident of House No. 32, City Enclave, Bhabat Road, Zirakpur, SAS NAGAR (Mohali), Punjab, have changed name of daughter from Ananya Gupta to Annanya Gupta.

**I Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal S/o Sh. Rameshwar Dass, R/O House No. 742/5, Police Line, M.M. Hospital Ambala City** inform that my name SANJAY AGGARWAL is mentioned in my PAN CARD and in my Aadhaar Card my name is mentioned as SANJAY KUMAR AGGARWAL. SANJAY KUMAR AGGARWAL and SANJAY AGGARWAL is one and the same person.

**I Viney Rana S/o Sh Rana Partap, House No. 139, Village Jyotisar, Josar (428), District Kurukshetra, Haryana (136119)** have declared that my name and my wife's name are incorrectly mentioned in my son Uday Partap Rana's matriculation certificate as Vinay Rana and Mamta respectively. However our correct names are Viney Rana and Mamta Rani. Please all concerned note please.

**I Viney Rana S/o Sh Rana Pratap H.No. 139, Village Jyotisar, Josar (428) Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana (136119)** have declared that my name wrongly mentioned in my Pan card & my Haryana Police I- card Vinay Rana. Kanwar Vinay Rana in my voter card and the name of my father has been wrongly written as Ram Pratap Rana in my voter card & Partap Rana in my Pan Card and Aadhar Card. But my actual and correct name is Viney Rana & my father's name is Rana Partap.

**I Jasvir Kaur W/o late Sh. Gurdeep Singh Resident of House No-131 Khera Sita Ram Kalka, Tehsil Kalka, District Panchkula (Haryana) 133302** is Permanent Resident of above address. My son old name is Arshdeep Singh and I want to change my minor son's name to Amandeep Singh.

**I, Jai Prakash S/o Sh. Swami Nath Mourya R/o # 1625-F, Adarsh Nagar, Nayagaon, Mohali** declare that Jai Prakash Mourya and Jai Prakash both name are one and same person.

**I, Poonam D/o Sh. Jai Prakash R/o # 1625-F, Adarsh Nagar, Nayagaon, Mohali** declare that Poonam Mourya and Poonam both name are one and same person.

**I, Richa W/o Sagar Mehta R/o H.No.157, Shivala Colony, Amritsar** have changed my name from Richa to Richa Mehta.

**I, Sachin S/O Prem Pal R/O H No-668 Ward No 8, Street No 21/4, Near Anandpur Kutia, Hari Darbar Colony, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143521** have changed my name to Prince Lomas. I have changed only my name not my religion.

**I, Manjit Singh S/O Sadhu Singh R/O Vill-Darvesh Pind, Teh-Phagwara, Distt-Kapurthala, Punjab** have changed my name to Kulbir Singh.

**I, Usha Devi W/O Tarlok Chand Koundal R/O Near Lankaghari Zamanabad Road, Vill Natehar Po Kangra, Natehr (438), Dist-Kangra, Himachal Pradesh-176001** have changed my name to Usha Koundal.

**I, Karandeep S/O Narinder Kumar R/O #78, Street Number-2, Bhagatpura, Phagwara, Kapurthala, Punjab-144401** have changed my name to Karandeep Sharma.

**I, Preeti, W/o Narender, r/o village Kinana, Tehsil and District Jind (Haryana),** state with my affidavit that in some of my documents my name is Preeti and in some other documents it is Priti, both are my names, in future I want to keep my name as Priti.

**I Parveen Kumar S/o Satpal R/o H.No. 1315, Sector-1, Rohtak (Haryana)** declare that my name in my all documents is Parveen Kumar. Now I want to change my name from Parveen Kumar to Parveen Kadyan. That Parveen Kumar and Parveen Kadyan both are the same and one person. In future I may be called as Parveen Kadyan.

**I, Rekha Rani W/o Sh. Amit Chauhan R/O, House no. 215 Sector 12 Panchkula, Haryana** have changed my name from Rekha Rani to Rekha Chauhan.

**I, Pooja Verma D/o Balbeer Singh W/o Kailash Chander R/o Village Dhani Kumharan, Tehsil Hansi, District Hisar** have changed my name from Pooja to Pooja Verma. In future I will be known as Pooja Verma.

**I, Kailash Chander S/o Sh. Sher Singh R/o Village Dhani Kumharan, Tehsil Hansi, District Hisar** have changed my name from Kailash to Kailash Chander. In future I will be known as Kailash Chander.

**I Sudesh Kumari w/o Purn Dass Pruthi r/o H.No. 1964, Near Jeevan Jyoti Public School Sec-4, Gurugram Haryana** declare that I have changed my name from Sudesh Pruthi to Sudesh Kumari for all future purposes.

**I Parmjit Kaur W/O Sikander Rai R/O #312/12 Kaki Pind Po Dakoha Distt Jalandhar** I Have Changed My Name From Parmjit To Paramjit Kaur And Changed My Late Husband Name From Sikander To Sikander Rai. All Please Note

**Kuldish kaur w/o late: Mohinder Singh R/o Mohiuldinpur dalel Po. & Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur)** changed my son name from Surinder Singh to Surinder Singh Multani.

**I Hitherto Known As Kulwant Kaur W/O Harwinder Singh, R/O Vpo Chaunda, Tehsil Malerkotla, District Sangrur, Punjab, Pin Code 148022,** Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kulwinder Kaur.

**I, SHRI KIRSHAN S/O HARI SINGH** Residing at 852/A/3/28, BHARAT COLONY, ROHTAK-124001 (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name to SHRI KIRSHAN DAGAR. In future I will be known as SHRIKIRSHAN DAGAR for all purposes.

**I, Philomina** legally mother of No.JC-388076Y Rank SUB Name Suresh Kumar A unit 61 WEU C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) presently residing at Kuppododdi Main Road, Kuppododdi, Kanakapura(T), Ramanagar(D), Heligehalli, Distt. Ramanagar, State-Karnataka- 562117 declare That I have changed my DOB from 01.07.1950 to 01.01.1955 vide Affidavit dated 31.10.2025 before the court of Bathinda.

**I, Anthonappa** legally father of No.JC-388076Y Rank SUB Name Suresh Kumar A unit 61 WEU C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) presently residing at Kuppododdi Main Road, Kuppododdi, Kanakapura(T), Ramanagar(D), VTC : Heligehalli, PO : Heligehalli, Distt. Ramanagar, State-Karnataka- 562117 declare That I have changed my DOB from 01.07.1943 to 01.01.1943 vide Affidavit dated 31.10.2025 before the court of Bathinda.

**I, Nitin Mittal S/O Roshan Lal Mittal R/o H. No. 104, Sector 13, Hisar, Haryana** declare that I have changed my name from Nitin Mittal to Nittin Mittal for future purpose.

**I, Mamta Rani W/o Naresh Chhabra R/O House No 779 Sector 15 A Hisar** declare that I have changed my name from Mamta Rani to Mamta Chhabra for all future purpose.

**I, Pankaj Makkar** son of Hari Krishan R/O House No. 1001/18 Uttam Nagar 125033 Hansi district Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Pankaj to Pankaj Makkar for all future purpose.

**I, Ashok Kumar S/o Narain Dass Bansal R/o H. No. 1012, Sector 14, Hisar** declare that I have changed my name from Ashok Kumar to Ashok Bansal for future purpose.

**I, Mandeep Singh Ahluwalia S/o Gursharanjit Singh R/o B-103, New Amritsar** have changed my name from Mandeep Singh Ahluwalia to Mandeep Singh.

**I, Sirat Mittal D/o Anil Mittal R/o 562 Mohan Bakery Sector-9, Ambala City Distt. Ambala** have changed my name Sirat.

I hitherto known as Sonia W/o Arun Kumar, residing at H. No. 1501, Ssector 17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar - 135003, Haryana, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sonia Soni.

**I, Navroj S/o Rajwinder Singh R/o Kallar Majra, Teh Cheeka, Distt Kaithal** have change my name Navroj to Navroj Singh.

**I, Safik Ahmad S/o Late Mohd Sadik R/o House No. 2308, Indira Colony Complex, Mani Majra, Chandigarh.** That I have changed my name from Safik Ahmad to Safiq Ahmed.

**I Kulwinder Kaur Bal W/O Ashok Singh R/O Village Nurpur Hakima Distt. Moga** Have Changed My Name To Kulwinder Kaur.

**I Jasveer Kaur Dhiman W/O Baldev Singh R/O Near Police Station, Jaito Road, Bajakhana, Distt. Faridkot** Have Changed Name To Jasveer Kaur.

**I, Deepak Kumar S/O Narinder Kumar Sharma R/O Lakhnawal, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar 144633** Have Changed My Name From Deepak Kumar To Dipak Sharma.

**I, Deepak Kumar S/O Ram Dhan R/O H No.44/3, Jail Road, Opp. Yash Hospital, Kondal Enclave, Village - Sherpur, Tehsil/District Gurdaspur, Punjab, India.** Declare That Have Voluntarily Changed My Son, S Name From Hetansh To Maanvish Attre. Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb85823174451296x Date 24-10-2025 Before Executive Magistrate Gurdaspur.

**I, NIRMALA** is legally Wedded Spouse of Army No- JC 677747W Rank-NB/Sub Name: Jay Prakash Presently Posted At Unit: 519 Asc Bn C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Near Govt Primary School, Village Kauakheda, Kalal Kheria, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282006 declare that in my husband service record my name is wrongly mentioned as NIRMALA but as per Civil/Govt Documents my Correct name is NIRMALA YADAV. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219293, Dated: 01/11/2025

**I, SAVITA** is legally Wedded Spouse of Army No- JC 353583N Rank-Sub Name: Raghbir Singh Presently Posted At GE CTL (WC) Chandigarh Permanent Address: Bhaleta (38), Kangra, Bhalata, Himachal Pradesh, 176201 declare that in my husband Service Record my name is wrongly mentioned as SAVITA but as per Civil/Govt Documents my Correct name is SAVITA PATHANIA. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219292, Dated: 01/11/2025

**I, RAMU KUMARI** am legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: 14674644H Rank: Hav Name-Narayana Rao Gedela Presently residing at Unit: 61 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: 11-105, Gatchapuvedhi, Narsipatnam, Narsipatnam, PO: Narsipatnam, DIST: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh - 531116 declare that I have changed My Name from RAMU KUMARI to RAMA KUMARI GEDELA. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219291, Dated: 01/11/2025

**I, ERRANNA** am Father of Army No: 15721375L Rank- Nk Name-Thandra Mallesh Permanent Address: House No 3-72, Village - Ankoli, Post - Ankoli, Teh - Adilabad, Dist- Adilabad, State - Telangana, Pin No: 504001 declare that I have changed my name from ERRANNA to THANDRA ERRANNA and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/01/1968 to 01/01/1971. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219295, Dated: 01/11/2025

**I, SUSHILA** am Mother of Army No: 15721375L Rank- Nk Name-Thandra Mallesh Permanent Address: House No 3-72, Village - Ankoli, Post - Ankoli, Teh - Adilabad, Dist- Adilabad, State - Telangana, Pin No: 504001 declare that I have changed my name from SUSHILA to THANDRA SUSHEELA and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/01/1972 to 01/01/1976. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219296, Dated: 01/11/2025

**I, Uma Pawair** spouse of No.14828690H Hav/MT Shree Ram resident of Village- Chawandiya, Post- Chawandiya, Tehsil- Khinswar, District- Nagaur, State- Rajasthan, Pin-341001, have changed my name from Uma Pawair to Uma Vide affidavit No.IN-PB88896356272872X dated 01 Nov 2025 before notary public Pathankot

**I, Neeraj** spouse of No.13628717P NK Sunil Kumar Singh resident of Village- Muhammadpurghiror, Post- Ghiror, Tehsil- Ghiror, District- Mainpuri, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-205121, have changed my name from Neeraj to Neeraj Chauhan Vide affidavit No.IN-PB88606402445734X dated 31 Oct 2025 before notary public Pathankot

**I Rai Singh s/o Bhangi Ram** resident of # 133 Near Kidzee School, Dashmesh Nagar, Rupnagar, Tehsil and District Rupnagar (Punjab) have changed my name from Rai Singh Bunger to Rai Singh.

**I, RAMU KUMARI** am legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: 14674644H Rank: Hav Name-Narayana Rao Gedela Presently residing at Unit: 61 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: 11-105, Gatchapuvedhi, Narsipatnam, Narsipatnam, PO: Narsipatnam, DIST: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh - 531116 declare that I have changed My Name from RAMU KUMARI to RAMA KUMARI GEDELA. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219291, Dated: 01/11/2025

**I, ERRANNA** am Father of Army No: 15721375L Rank- Nk Name-Thandra Mallesh Permanent Address: House No 3-72, Village - Ankoli, Post - Ankoli, Teh - Adilabad, Dist- Adilabad, State - Telangana, Pin No: 504001 declare that I have changed my name from ERRANNA to THANDRA ERRANNA and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/01/1968 to 01/01/1971. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219295, Dated: 01/11/2025

**I, SUSHILA** am Mother of Army No: 15721375L Rank- Nk Name-Thandra Mallesh Permanent Address: House No 3-72, Village - Ankoli, Post - Ankoli, Teh - Adilabad, Dist- Adilabad, State - Telangana, Pin No: 504001 declare that I have changed my name from SUSHILA to THANDRA SUSHEELA and Also Correct my Date of birth from 01/01/1972 to 01/01/1976. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 219296, Dated: 01/11/2025

**I, Uma Pawair** spouse of No.14828690H Hav/MT Shree Ram resident of Village- Chawandiya, Post- Chawandiya, Tehsil- Khinswar, District- Nagaur, State- Rajasthan, Pin-341001, have changed my name from Uma Pawair to Uma Vide affidavit No.IN-PB88896356272872X dated 01 Nov 2025 before notary public Pathankot

## USP



### Innovation, Integrity, and Impact: Shiksha Mahakumbh Fosters New Education-Industry Partnerships

**Mohali:** Day 2 of Shiksha Mahakumbh 2025 at NIPER Mohali focused on "Academia - Industry - Society Interface" fostering collaboration among educators, innovators, and social leaders to align education with national progress. The morning began with yoga and an interactive breakfast, followed by a Panel Discussion featuring Geeta Ahuja, Secretary, Vidya Bharti North Zone, and Virender Walia, Treasurer, Vidya Bharti North Zone. The discussion emphasized practical learning, innovation ecosystems, and strengthening moral foundations in education. The inaugural session began with a Welcome Address by Prof. Dulal Panda, Director, NIPER Mohali, who reiterated the institute's commitment to nurturing interdisciplinary research and societal impact. Vijay Nadda, Organising Secretary, Vidya Bharti North Zone, introduced Shiksha Mahakumbh and highlighted Vidya Bharti's efforts in building bridges between traditional knowledge systems and modern academic frameworks.



### CSIR-CSIO Celebrates Foundation Day with Fit India Freedom Run 6.0 - Swachhata se Swasthya ki Ore in Collaboration with SBI

**Chandigarh:** The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO) in collaboration with SBI celebrated its Foundation Day in a spirited manner by organizing the "Fit India Freedom Run 6.0 - Swachhata se Swasthya ki Ore", promoting the message of fitness, cleanliness, and wellness. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 170 runners representing CSIR-CSIO, State Bank of India (SBI) and sister laboratory CSIR-IMTECH. The run emphasized the importance of a clean and healthy lifestyle in line with the national "Fit India" initiative. The event was organized by the CSIO Ladies Club, led by Mrs. Nisha Singh Bhattacharya, President, with commendable efforts from Drs. Preetismita, Neelam, Pooja, Neha, Rekha, Asha Rani, Mrs. Ritu, and others. Co-organization was ably supported by the CSIO Staff Club, under the guidance of Drs. Umesh Tiwari and Amol Bhandekar, along with team members Mr. Deepak Kश्यap, Mr. Harbir Pal Singh, Mr. Manu Sharma, Mr. Neeraj Gulerial, Mr. Sunil Kumar, and others.



Bank of Baroda Zonal Office Chandigarh celebrated Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 from 27th October to 2nd November 2025. Integrity pledge undertaken by all Zonal Office staff members under the guidance of Zonal Head Shri Sabheak Singh (GM), Shri Rajay Bhasker DGM(CA), Shri Rajesh Sharma DGM (BD). Message of honourable President, Vice President, Prime Minister and CVC read by Zonal Authorities and shared among staff members. Workshop on Cybersecurity Awareness by Senior Officials of Chandigarh Cyber Police was organised for Zonal office staff members to become more vigilant and attentive towards Cyber-Crimes and Money Mule activities. Training program under collaboration with Baroda Academy, Chandigarh undertaken where in one day workshop for Branch Heads from all four regions was organized on Ethics, Fraud Prevention and Vigilance.



### Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station achieved the unprecedented record of second highest monthly power generation of 566.418 million units in October 2025

**Jhakdi:** India's largest underground hydro power project, SJVN's 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station, continues to touch the pinnacle of excellence to strengthen the nation towards energy self-reliance. In this sequence, NJHPS has added another golden chapter to its achievements by generating the second highest monthly power generation of 566.418 million units (MU) in October 2025. This figure is the second highest monthly power generation in the month of October in the history of NJHPS, surpassing the previous second highest monthly record of 559.484 million units (MU) recorded in the year 2020-21. However, the highest ever generation by NJHPS in the month of October is 660.778 million units (MU), which was recorded in the year 2010-2011.

**Disclaimer**  
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents for the advertisement (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The Paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the content on their own.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform that the property...

GENERAL BODY MEETING NOTICE
It is informed to all members of The Gagan Co-op. HB (Ist) Society Ltd...

LOST SALE DEED
It is hereby informing to the general public that property which is in name of Mr Sukhjit Kaur...

सार्वजनिक सूचना
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यालय...

LOST SALE DEED
It is hereby informing to the general public that property which is in name of Mr Varinder Sharma...

सार्वजनिक सूचना
The General Public is hereby informed that the Original Regd. Sale deed No. 4283 dated 02.01.2007...

अतिरिक्त-कम-मूल्यकृत एकाप प्लॉट
This is to inform that the property...

अतिरिक्त-कम-मूल्यकृत एकाप प्लॉट
This is to inform that the property...

DC JAIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Mehana Road Sonapat
(A prestigious Jain Minority Institution of NCR)
ADMISSION OPEN
D.E.Ed/JBT

DC JAIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Mehana Road Sonapat
(A prestigious Jain Minority Institution of NCR)
ADMISSION OPEN
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DC JAIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Mehana Road Sonapat
(A prestigious Jain Minority Institution of NCR)
ADMISSION OPEN
D.E.Ed/JBT

Breast Cancer Awareness Motorcycle Rally Held in Mohali
GIJMT Organizes Rally to Promote Early Detection; Over 40 Riders Participate

A Legendary Duel on the Greens: Army and Police Officers Tee Off at Forest Hill Golf & Country Club Resort

A Legendary Duel on the Greens: Army and Police Officers Tee Off at Forest Hill Golf & Country Club Resort

Disclaimer
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisement...

Public Notice
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisement...

Public Notice
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisement...

SARITA JAIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Panchi Jattan, Sonapat
(A prestigious Jain Minority Institution of NCR)
ADMISSION OPEN
D.E.Ed/JBT

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
SARM BRANCH - GILL ROAD, MILLERGANJ, LUDHIANA...

Public Notice
The undermentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability...

Public Notice
The undermentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability...

Public Notice
The undermentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability...

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
SARM BRANCH - GILL ROAD, MILLERGANJ, LUDHIANA...

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
SARM BRANCH - GILL ROAD, MILLERGANJ, LUDHIANA...

Public Notice
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Form No. 3
[See Regulation-13 (1)(a)]
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

Office of The Returning Officer-Cum-Assistant Registrar
Co-operative Societies, Kurukshetra
Election Programme

Office of The Returning Officer-Cum-Assistant Registrar
Co-operative Societies, Kurukshetra
Election Programme

ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS
NARINDER SINGH
Exh. No.: 29601

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
REGIONAL OFFICE, RECOVERY SECTION, CHANDIGARH

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
REGIONAL OFFICE, RECOVERY SECTION, CHANDIGARH

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REGIONAL OFFICE, RECOVERY SECTION, CHANDIGARH

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
REGIONAL OFFICE, RECOVERY SECTION, CHANDIGARH

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
REGIONAL OFFICE, RECOVERY SECTION, CHANDIGARH

Public Notice
It is informed to General Public that Sh. Surinder Kumar & Sh. Sanjay Kumar...

BRAHMI JANTA SR. SEC. SCHOOL
Near G.T. Road Ansal Plaza,
Pritampura-Nathpur Road
(NEAR Drain No. 8), Sonapat

Public Notice
It is hereby notified that certain Bank clients who had taken Bank lockers on rent in the Gurmandi Branch...

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CHANDIGARH | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 2, 2025

## States Focus

# War of words between Himanta and Gaurav Gogoi continues

TONY DAS  
Guwahati

With the Assembly elections nearing, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi are heating up day-by-day with a war of words.

A day after the Chief Minister alleged that State Congress president Gogoi is a "Pakistani agent, planted by foreign power," the Opposition leader hit back on Saturday, claiming that such comments show that Sarma is "unfit" to hold his position as head of the Government.

Gogoi also criticised the timing of the allegations, saying Sarma made the comments on the day when late cultural icon Zubeen Garg's last movie was released. Sarma hit back, claiming that he will 'move on' to Gogoi's case after ensuring justice is done in the Garg's death case by December first-half.

The CM reiterated his allegation that Gogoi was linked to Pakistan through his British wife, claiming the Congress leader was a "Pakistani agent" planted by "foreign power"



Gaurav Gogoi (left) and Himanta Biswa Sarma (right)

and asserting that he had evidence to prove it.

Reacting to the charges, Gogoi in a post on X said, "Over the past few months, Himanta Biswa Sarma dan-goriya has lost credibility." "Yesterday, when the entire state was watching Garg perform for the last time in 'Roi Roi Binale', the chief minister's comments showed his growing fear of losing power," he said. "It was another example of why he is unfit as the chief minister of the people of Assam," Gogoi, who is the Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha, claimed.

Sarma also accused Gogoi for supporting the infiltra-

tors in Assam. "As long as I'm the Chief Minister, eviction drives are not going anywhere, but the encroachers certainly are. We will continue eviction drives against Miya Muslims," said Sarma, accusing Congress for supporting those "grabbing" lands in Assam.

Garg had died while swimming in the sea in Singapore on September 19, leading to a massive outpouring of public grief and the government constituting a Special Investigating Team (SIT) of the state police's CID to probe the circumstances of the singer-composer-actor's death. His last movie, 'Roi

Roi Binale' (Tears Still Flow), opened to packed houses on Friday in the State as well as in multiple cities of the country. Asked for his reaction to Gogoi's statement, Sarma told reporters on sidelines of a programme in Morigaon that he knows the right time to go after Gogoi.

"What credibility has been lost? I know the timing, I have learned it (in politics). You want that I should give out the SIT report now, during the Zubeen case, so that you can say that I am diverting issue," Sarma said. He was referring to the SIT of CID which had probed the 'anti-India' activities of one Pakistani national, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, who is purportedly close to Gogoi's wife, and his associates, with the report submitted to the government on September 10. The Chief Minister maintained that at present, people want justice for Garg and are not concerned about Gogoi.

"After December 10, when justice for Zubeen would be ensured, I will move to Gaurav Gogoi. My eyes are fixed on the target," he asserted.

# Cocaine worth ₹47 crore seized at Mumbai airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
New Delhi/Mumbai

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 4.7 kg of cocaine worth about ₹47 crore from a female passenger arriving from Colombo at the Mumbai airport and arrested five persons, the finance ministry said on Saturday.

In a statement the ministry said DRI officers intercepted the passenger shortly after her arrival and subjected her baggage to detailed examination. The scrutiny led to the discovery of nine pouches of a white powdery substance concealed inside coffee packets. Preliminary testing with the NDPS field kit confirmed the substance to be cocaine.

"In a major blow to international drug trafficking networks, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 4.7 kg of cocaine, valued at approximately Rs 47 crore in the illicit market, from a female passenger arriving from Colombo at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Mumbai," the statement said. The DRI apprehended four

ALL FIVE ACCUSED HAVE BEEN ARRESTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (NDPS) ACT, 1985)

additional persons of the syndicate — one who had come to the airport to receive the consignment and three others linked to the financing, logistics, and distribution network of the smuggled narcotics.

All five accused have been arrested under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985), the statement added.

"Some of the recent seizures by DRI indicate a concerning trend wherein international drug syndicates are increasingly exploiting Indian women as couriers, while concealing narcotics within food items and everyday edibles to camouflage the contraband and evade detection," the ministry said.



## J&K LG VISITS CHRYSANTHEMUM THEME GARDEN IN SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday visited the Valley's first Chrysanthemum Theme Garden at the Botanical Garden here, after it was recently opened for the public.

The L-G was accompanied by senior officials, including his Principal Secretary Mandeep Bhandari, Secretary of the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens Zubair Ahmad, and Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Akshay Labroo, according to a spokesperson.



## KUKI-ZO COMMUNITY SKIPS KUT FESTIVAL IN MANIPUR

The Kuki-Zo community in Manipur on Saturday refrained from participating in the State-level Kut festival, the annual post-harvest celebration observed on November 1, citing the continuing ethnic conflict in the State.

Kut, also known as the Chavang Kut, is celebrated every year by the Kuki-Zo communities across the state to mark the completion of the harvest season.

The festival has remained suspended since 2023 when ethnic violence broke out in the State. Extending greetings on the occasion, Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla described Kut as "a celebration of gratitude, unity and bonds of brotherhood among all communities."

# CCPA fines two IAS coaching institutes for misleading ads

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
New Delhi

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of ₹8 lakh each on Dikshant IAS and Abhimanu IAS for misleading advertisements, unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The action came after successful UPSC candidates complained that their names and photographs were used without consent

in advertisements falsely claiming credit for their results, the consumer affairs ministry said in a statement.

In Dikshant IAS case, the CCPA received a representation from Mini Shukla (AIR 96, UPSC CSE 2021), who stated that her name and photograph were used in the institute's promotional material without her consent.

She clarified that she had never been associated with Dikshant IAS and had only attended a mock interview at Chahal Academy, which

she later discovered was jointly organised with Dikshant IAS.

The institute had published advertisements claiming "200+ Results in UPSC CSE 2021", featuring photographs and names of successful candidates without disclosing the specific courses taken by them.

However, it could produce only 116 enrolment forms against its claim of "200+ results" and failed to submit any agreement with Chahal Academy or evidence showing that students were

informed of the joint nature of the programme.

The CCPA found that Dikshant IAS was taking full credit for "200+ results in UPSC CSE 2021" for all stages of the examination by deliberately concealing that the candidates' association with the institute was limited only to the interview stage.

"The advertisements deliberately concealed crucial details about the courses undertaken by successful candidates. This omission created a false impression that Dikshant

IAS had contributed to their overall UPSC preparation, whereas their association was limited to the interview stage," the CCPA said.

In Abhimanu IAS case, a representation from Natasha Goyal (AIR 175, UPSC CSE 2022) revealed that the institute had falsely claimed her as its student and used her name and photograph without authorisation.

Evidence showed that the institute had shared a question bank with her for a mock interview that was never conducted, but still

used her name and photograph without consent.

The CCPA found that Abhimanu IAS had published misleading claims such as "2200+ Selections since Inception", "10+ Selections in IAS Top 10", and "1st Rank in HCS/PCS/HAS".

The advertisements prominently featured pictures and names of successful candidates from various examinations in 2023 while concealing information about the specific courses these candidates had enrolled in.

# Congress conducts internal training camp for district presidents for elections

GIRISH SHARMA  
Bhopal

Even as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, a crucial process for ensuring fair and transparent elections, begins in Madhya Pradesh from November 4 to December 4, the Congress appears more engaged in conducting an internal training camp for its district presidents at Pachmarhi than in field-level monitoring of the voter verification drive.

The Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) on Saturday announced an eight-member SIR monitoring committee to oversee the voter list revision across the State. However, political observers find it ironic that while the Congress claims credit for pushing the Election Commission to initiate the SIR process following its allegations of 'vote theft', the party's district presidents — its most critical organisational link — will be away attending a training

MPCC ON SATURDAY ANNOUNCED AN EIGHT-MEMBER SIR MONITORING COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE VOTER LIST REVISION ACROSS THE STATE

camp during the same period.

The timing has raised eyebrows within political circles. Analysts argue that since the Congress was the first to allege irregularities and demand a thorough verification of voter rolls, its top district functionaries should have been stationed in their respective areas to closely monitor the enumeration being carried out by Booth Level Officers (BLOs). Instead, their absence is being viewed as a major strategic misstep that could weaken on-ground oversight.

The SIR process involves house-to-house verification

of voter lists, cross-checking entries, and identifying errors, omissions, or duplications before the publication of the final electoral roll on 7 February 2026. According to the Election Commission, the exercise will cover nearly 5.75 crore voters across Madhya Pradesh's 55 districts.

Madhya Pradesh Congress Media Department Chairman Mukesh Nayak argue that the training camp at Pachmarhi — meant to strengthen organisational coordination and prepare for upcoming elections — is equally important. He claimed that it was scheduled for over a month now.

However, many leaders within the party quietly admit that without the presence of district presidents, who are considered the 'backbone of the organisation', the newly formed eight-member monitoring committee will struggle to track the SIR exercise effectively at the grassroots level.

Political experts note that Rahul Gandhi has often emphasised the vital role of district presidents, calling them "the soul of the party's field machinery." Their absence during such a sensitive electoral process could send a confusing signal — that Congress is prioritising internal management over direct public engagement in safeguarding voter rights.

While the party maintains that the monitoring committee will coordinate closely with local units, critics suggest this centralised approach cannot substitute for real-time supervision and feedback from the ground.

# Haryana man killed after being held captive in Guatemala

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Kaithal

A Haryana teenager who set out for the United States last October through the treacherous 'dunki' route in search of a job has been killed after allegedly being held captive by human traffickers in Guatemala, the deceased's family members claimed on Saturday.

The family of Yuvraj (18), son of an agriculturist from Mohna village in Kaithal, learned of his death a few days ago when one of the "donkers" sent them a death certificate and photos of him and another youth from Punjab, claiming both had been killed, his maternal

uncle Gurpej Singh told PTI over the phone.

He explained that 'donkers' is a term used for human traffickers who operate illegal migration routes, during which some travellers are often assaulted and mistreated.

Gurpej said that Yuvraj, who had passed his Class 12 exam, was eager to support his family and hoped to find a job once he reached the US. Three Haryana-based travel agents had taken large sums of money from the family, promising a safe journey through other contacts in their network.

However, after the initial payment was made, the family lost contact with

Yuvraj. A few months later, they received videos showing him and another youth from Punjab being held hostage in Guatemala, Gurpej said. Following this, the "donkers" raised ransom demands. Yuvraj's family believes that the money they routed through the Haryana-based agents to be paid to the other "donkers" did not reach its intended recipients. Recently, one of the "donkers" contacted the family, claiming that Yuvraj had been killed, and demanded Rs 3 lakh to provide proof of his claim. Once the money was sent, the trafficker sent a death certificate and photos, Gurpej said.

# Indian Army conducts drone, counter-drone exercise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
New Delhi

The Indian Army has conducted a drone and counter-drone exercise, focused on developing and testing doctrinal precepts for their operations strengthening the force's response capability against evolving aerial threats, officials said on Saturday.

The exercise, 'Vayu Sananvay-II', was held on October 28-29 in the forward areas of the desert sector under the Pune-based Southern Command.

# New Haj house coming up at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Mumbai

Mumbai will soon see a new Haj House coming up at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

The project marks a major step forward in the ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Minority Affairs to modernise Haj infrastructure and provide improved facilities for pilgrims.

Dr Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, conducted a site visit to the proposed location of the new Haj House at Kharghar, accompanied by the officials from the Haj Committee of India (HCOI) and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD).

During the visit, Secretary reviewed the layout and design plan for the upcoming



Officials reviewing the layout and design plan for the upcoming facility

ing facility and discussed the implementation timeline and technical aspects of the project with the concerned officials. The visit also included discussions on connectivity, logistics and amenities to ensure that the new Haj House effectively caters to the needs of Haj pilgrims.

The meeting also included

a review of some minority welfare schemes — Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) and Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PMVIKAS). Secretary also emphasised the importance of timely implementation, optimal resource utilisation and measurable outcomes benefiting minority communities.

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6)]

**ALLAHABAD**

**ZONAL OFFICE: SCO 96, District Shopping Centre, Fourth Floor, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar - 143001, Ph: 0183-2830600; Fax: 0183-2500108, E-mail: zoamritsar@indianbank.co.in**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on date mentioned below for recovery of dues to the Secured Creditor from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit and description of Movable / Immovable Properties are also mentioned hereunder:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) & Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property/ies having type of Symbolic / Physical Possession	Outstanding Dues	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Bid Incremental Amount
1.	<b>Borrower / Mortgagor(s):-</b> (1) Sh. Rachpal Singh H.No. 96/15, Ward No. 15, Tehsil Patti, District Tam Taran, Punjab - 143416. (2) Smt. Palwinder Kaur, H.No. 96/15, Ward No. 15, Tehsil Patti, District Tam Taran, Punjab - 143416. <b>Guarantor(s):-</b> (1) Sh. Balkar Singh S/o Sh. Sucha Singh, H.No. 350, Ward No. 5, Tehsil Patti, District Tam Taran, Punjab - 143416; (2) Sh. Vijay Sabharwal S/o Sh. Baldev Singh, H.No. 916/11, Near Grain Market, Opposite Market Committee Office, Tehsil Patti, District Tam Taran, Punjab - 143416.	All that part and parcel of Residential Property measuring 0 Kanal 3.23 Marla in actual (as per title deed 4 Marla) situated at House No. 288/11 (Old House No. 136/9) Ward No. 11, Tehsil Patti, District Tam Taran, Punjab as per Registered Sale Deed dated 03.12.2015 Vasika No. 1608 Registered at Sub Registrar, Patti in the name of Sh. Rachpal Singh & Palwinder Kaur. The Property is bounded as under:- North by: Property of Monika; South by: Property of Satpal; East by: Street; West by: Property of Billu. <b>TYPE OF POSSESSION: PHYSICAL.</b> <b>PROPERTY ID: IDIB50308877083</b>	Rs. 19,27,999.27 as on 31.10.2025 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 01.11.2025	Rs. 6,90,000/-	Rs. 69,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-
2.	<b>Partnership Firm:-</b> M/s Rajan Medicine Co., <b>Partner:</b> Sh. Sachin Sachdeva, Sh. Sandeep Sachdeva, Anand Market, Rajan Medicine Co., Amritsar, Punjab - 143001. <b>Partner / Guarantor:-</b> Sh. Sachin Sachdeva S/o Sh. Jagdish Sachdeva, R/o House No. 38-A, Gali No. 13, Fateh Singh Colony, O/s Gate Hakima, Amritsar, Punjab - 143001; <b>Partner / Guarantor / Mortgagor:-</b> Sh. Sandeep Sachdeva S/o Sh. Jagdish Sachdeva R/o House No. 533, Gali No. 3, Harnama Shah di Kala, Dhabwasti Ram, Tehsil & District Amritsar, Punjab - 143001; <b>Guarantor:-</b> Smt. Shafali Sachdeva W/o Sh. Sachin Sachdeva, R/o House No. 38-A, Gali No. 13, Fateh Singh Colony, O/s Gate Hakima, Amritsar, Punjab - 143001	All that part and parcel of Residential Property / Plot House Khana Sumari No. 945/7-6, measuring 77.50 Sq.Yds., situated in the Area Amritsar Urban Jaura Pipal Katra Garbha Singh Devi Wali Gali Kucha Kahan Singh, Tehsil & District Amritsar vide Sale Deed No. 4339, Book No. 1, Vol No. 11523 dated 01.08.2012, in the name of Sh. Sandeep Sachdeva. The Property is bounded as under:- North by: Street; South by: House of Hira Singh; East by: House of Gurbachan Singh; West by: House of Sunder Singh. <b>TYPE OF POSSESSION: PHYSICAL.</b> <b>PROPERTY ID: IDIB006573509759</b>	Rs. 33,29,569.70 as on 29.10.2025 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 30.10.2025	Rs. 10,72,000/-	Rs. 1,07,200/-	Rs. 10,000/-

**THIS PUBLICATION IS ALSO 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2) & 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 TO THE ABOVE BORROWERS, MORTGAGORS AND GUARANTORS**

**For further details, Terms & Conditions, Contact for Property at Sr. No. 1:- Mr. Harpreet Singh, M: 81460-34455, Sr. No. 2:- Mr. Neel Griv, M: 9123740033, E-mail: zoamritsar@indianbank.co.in**

Sr. No. 1	Patti Amritsar Branch	Contact Person: Mr. Aditya Ambashtha
Sr. No. 2	Chowk Farid Amritsar Branch	Contact Person: Mr. Umeedi Lal Meena

**M. 88001-59594**  
**M. 86192-49588**

**E-mail: p622@indianbank.co.in**  
**E-mail: a019@indianbank.co.in**

**THE PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE & TIME**  
**10.11.2025 to 17.11.2025, BETWEEN 10:00 A.M. TO 04:00 P.M.**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 19.11.2025, 10:00 A.M. TO 05:00 P.M.**  
**(WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 10 MINUTES DURATION EACH)**

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://baanknet.com>) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please Call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to [support.baanknet@psballiance.com](mailto:support.baanknet@psballiance.com). For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://baanknet.com> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://baanknet.com>

**Date: 01.11.2025** **Place: AMRITSAR** **AUTHORISED OFFICER**



## PROSPECT

### India progressing towards 500 GW of non-fossil energy target by 2030

India is making steady progress towards achieving 500 gigawatts (GW) of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, underscoring its growing leadership in the global energy transition, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) said. Speaking at the inauguration of the 18th edition of the Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo, Teri Director General, Vibha Dhawan highlighted the country's achievements and policy momentum driving its renewable energy expansion.

She noted that India has already reached 127 GW of installed solar capacity and continues to strengthen its domestic value chain through Government-led initiatives such as the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar and battery manufacturing and the National Manufacturing Mission. Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India said India's clean energy transition is accelerating faster than ever, with renewable capacity surpassing 250 GW in 2025 and a strong pipeline targeting 500 GW by 2030. The Ministry of Power has approved a ₹5,400 crore Viability Gap Funding scheme for 30 GW of Battery Energy Storage Systems, in addition to 13.2 GW already underway, which is expected to attract ₹33,000 crore in investments by 2028, he added. Speaking at the event Manu Shrivastava, Additional Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Government said having pioneered sub-₹3 per unit tariffs without subsidies and powered nearly 65 per cent of Delhi Metro's daytime demand, the state has now reached another milestone of delivering round-the-clock solar-plus-storage power at ₹2.70 per unit.

### ITPO announces Nakshatra 2026 and Arogyam 2026 at Bharat Mandapam



The India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) proudly announces the 19th edition of Nakshatra and the 2nd edition of Arogyam, to be held from January 10 to 18, 2026, at Hall Number 11, Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, in collaboration with M/s Future Point. Nakshatra, now in its 19th year, is India's biggest and most reputed exhibition dedicated to astrology, vastu, holistic sciences and spiritual wellness. Alongside it, Arogyam, focused on AYUSH, herbal, organic and sustainable wellness, will create a comprehensive platform celebrating India's ancient wisdom and modern health innovations. The previous edition—Nakshatra 2025 and Arogyam 2025—drew over 100 exhibitors and nearly 20,000 visitors. The 2026 edition is set to be bigger and more diverse, featuring 150+ exhibitors representing sectors such as astrology, vastu, yoga, ayurveda, organic food, wellness products and eco-living. As a special gesture to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, ITPO is offering a 50 per cent discounted rate for startups booking commercial booths, as per ITPO's approved norms. This initiative aims to promote emerging enterprises in the AYUSH, wellness and spiritual sectors by giving them a national platform for visibility and growth.

Event Timings: The exhibitions will remain open to visitors from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm daily from January 10 to 18, 2026. Highlights include the Nakshatra Knowledge Conclave, Arogyam Live Arena and the introduction of "Swasthya Ratna Awards" recognising excellence in AYUSH and holistic wellness.

ITPO invites the public, media, professionals and enterprises to participate in this celebration of India's spiritual heritage and wellness economy—a confluence of science, spirituality and sustainable living.

## Kerala declared free from extreme poverty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared the State as free from extreme poverty at a special session of the Assembly on the occasion of 'Kerala Piravi' (Birthday) on Saturday — November 1, making it the first Indian State to make such a declaration. Vijayan, who called this year's Kerala Piravi the birth of a new era for Kerala, spoke at length about the four-year long process that led to the declaration. Refuting the Opposition allegations that the declaration was a publicity stunt ahead of the local body elections, he said that the implementation of the Extreme Poverty Alleviation Project (EPEP) was a decision taken in the first Cabinet meeting of the current Left Democratic Front (LDF) in 2021. "We only make promises we can fulfil and we have fulfilled what we promised," he said.

Chief Minister said that the process of identifying the extremely poor families began within two months of



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan speaking in the State Assembly on Friday

that decision, with active public participation, including local body representatives, Kudumbashree workers, volunteers and officials. The families identified through data collection at the local body level were scrutinised and recommended by the ward committees. This was subjected to super check and a draft list was prepared. This list was presented to the Grama Sabhas and from it, 1,03,099 individuals from 64,006 families were identified as extremely poor.

Considering food, health, housing and income as the critical factors for identifying the extremely poor, micro plans were prepared for each family.

"In the first phase of the EPEP, essential documents were provided to 21,263 people, who were struggling without even the basic documents such as ration card or Aadhaar card. Regular supply of food has now been ensured through Kudumbashree for 20,648 extremely poor families.

Health services, access to medicines, vaccinations, palliative care and organ transplants have been ensured," he said, detailing the project for poverty eradication.

Houses were provided under the LIFE mission for 4,677 families, while 2,713 families were provided land and houses. Livelihood support was provided to 4,394 families. A total of 35,041 families were made part of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

(MGNREGS). A scheme to provide special attention to 5,583 children through the Education Department and free travel for educational purposes was implemented. Scholarships were provided to 331 students. A total of 428 single-member families were shifted to safe shelter homes.

The Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) walked out of the Session questioning the propriety of convening a special session just for the Chief Minister to make a statement under Rule 300 of the house procedures. Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan also called it a "hollow proclamation".

Quoting academic journals and United Nations reports from the 1970s, which indicated that Kerala was facing issues including poverty and high birth rates, Vijayan said that the State has made commendable progress since those days through continuous interventions by mass movements and progressive Governments as well as comprehensive reforms in agrarian relations, public intervention in the health

and education sectors.

"The process of eradicating extreme poverty is a continuation of the steps taken earlier for the universal public distribution system and for the eradication of landlessness and homelessness. Kerala has made remarkable progress in the Sustainable Development Index envisioned by the United Nations by eradicating extreme poverty. Our State is a laboratory for many welfare activities. In terms of extreme poverty alleviation too, we can hope that our experiments will become a model that other states in the country can benefit from. This proud achievement belongs to the entire people of Kerala. We are witnessing a historic moment," he said.

Chief Minister said that the Government has spent over ₹1,000 crore for the implementation of the scheme. Steps should be taken to ensure that none of those who have been freed do not fall back into extreme poverty. For this, proper checks need to be carried out from time to time.

### VIT-AP University hosts 5th convocation to celebrate accomplishments of class of 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Amaravati/Andhra Pradesh

VIT-AP University proudly hosted its 5th Convocation Ceremony on November 1, 2025, celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of the Class of 2025. The grand event, held on the university's scenic campus at Amaravati, marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of the graduating students.

The ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, proud parents, faculty members, staff and students. NV Ramana, Former Chief Justice of India, was the Chief Guest, while Rajeev Verma, Senior Director at Samsung Electronics, Bengaluru, attended as the Guest of Honour.

In his convocation address, NV Ramana - Former Chief Justice of India said "As you step out of the campus, remember — life beyond these walls is filled with extraordinary challenges and uncertainties. Stay informed about the world around you, be tech-savvy and remain sensitive to the needs of society. I truly appreciate VIT-AP University for nurturing not only brilliant minds but also responsible citizens ready to shape a better future." Education is not merely about acquiring knowledge but about using it responsibly to serve society.

Addressing the graduates, Rajeev Verma, Senior



Director, Samsung Electronics Bengaluru, said "You are entering a world where technology evolves faster than textbooks can keep up. What is relevant today may become obsolete tomorrow. As you step beyond this campus gates, remember — the real journey begins now. Keep learning, keep adapting and remain lifelong learners in this ever-changing world." The skills and values you have developed at VIT-AP will empower you to meet global challenges with confidence.

Dr G Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of VIT, expressed pride in the

accomplishments of the Class of 2025.

He stated that the convocation stands as a reflection of VIT-AP's unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and fostering excellence. He congratulated the graduates for their hard work and resilience, assuring them that they are well-prepared to make meaningful contributions to society.

The ceremony was also attended by Sri Sankar Viswanathan, Vice President, Dr GV Selvam Vice President, Dr SV Kota Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Dr Jagadish Chandra Mudiganti, Registrar, Dr N Madhusudhan Rao -

Dean Academics, Dr Khadeer Pasha — Deputy Director-Student welfare, Deans of various schools, faculty members, staff and the proud parents of the graduating students.

The 5th Convocation of VIT-AP University was a day of pride, reflection and inspiration — a celebration of knowledge, perseverance and new beginnings for the Class of 2025.

At this convocation, 3,117 graduates belonging to the Class of 2025 received their degrees. Among them, 28 students were awarded gold medals and 126 students secured ranks.

### Indian Army, Spear Corps organises mini marathon to commemorate Keping La day



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Itanagar

In the run-up to Keping La Day on 17 November, the Indian Army's Spear Corps organised the Siang Open Mini Marathon at the picturesque Vibrant Village of Tuting in Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh to honour the gallant soldiers who laid down their lives during the 1962 Battle of Keping La.

The event, themed "Siang Mini Marathon" to commemorate "Keping La Day" witnessed over 517 participants from the Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the local population including school children, women and youth.

The participants ran in two categories — 2 km and 7 km — through the breathtaking landscape of the Siang Valley, showcasing enthusiasm, fitness and patriotic fervour. The Mini Marathon was more than a

sporting event; it symbolised unity, remembrance and civil-military harmony. Tuting, located in India's easternmost frontier, stands as a living testimony to national resilience and community spirit.

Through this initiative, the Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to fostering friendship, fitness and solidarity among border communities while honouring the bravehearts of the 1962 war. The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where winners across various categories were awarded medals, certificates and cash prizes.

The zeal and participation of the local youth and women were especially appreciated, reflecting the growing culture of sports and fitness in the border regions. The locals appreciated the event and commended the participants for their energy and determination.

## CM lays foundation stone for a 50-bed AYUSH hospital in Mikirbitha, Morigaon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Guwahati

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday laid the foundation stone for a 50-bed AYUSH hospital at Mikirbitha in Morigaon district. He also launched the distribution of the first instalment of the seed capital under Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan (MMUA) where he presented cheques worth ₹10,000/ to each of the 36,367 female beneficiaries of Morigaon Legislative Assembly constituency, including 32,951 from rural areas and 3,416 from urban areas. The Chief Minister also laid foundations for a new circuit house for Morigaon involving the financial outlay of ₹15 crore.

It may be noted that with an aim to promote traditional systems of medical science alongside modern advancements and improve healthcare services, a 50-bed AYUSH hospital to be built on 15 bighas of land in Mikirbitha. The hospital will include a main multi-story building with 40 beds in the general ward and 10 private rooms. Designed as a modern, fully equipped centre for traditional, holistic and alternative medicine, the hospital will aim at strengthening the AYUSH sector and promote health services focused on a balanced lifestyle.

Speaking on the occasion,



Chief Minister Sarma recalled that nearly two years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Jorhat. The State Government had taken several women belonging to self-help groups to that event.

The Prime Minister there expressed his vision to empower three crore women across India as 'Lakshpati Baideos'. Inspired by this, Assam Government set a goal to create 30 lakh such women through self-help groups and launched Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan to

fulfill that commitment.

The Chief Minister on the occasion urged upon the women entrepreneurs to use the seed capital wisely. He said that the initiative will proceed in three phases and it is vital for every participant to understand each stage and how to utilise the capital wisely.

The Chief Minister said that if a woman deposits the first instalment of ₹10,000 in her self-help group's account, it will form a collective capital of Rs.1 lakh, which can be used to start a group busi-

ness. Alternatively, women can start individual ventures or expand their family enterprises. After six months, the Government will assess how the funds were used. Those who invest the initial capital productively will receive the next instalments of ₹25,000 and ₹50,000 respectively.

Highlighting the vital role of women's self-help groups in strengthening both family and state economies, the Chief Minister shared success stories from Morigaon constituency.

He mentioned Bandana Das, a

member of the Priyadarshini Self-Help Group from Pub Jaluguti village, who started a food-processing unit and a grocery store with a capital investment of ₹80,000. Through this business, she now earns about ₹50,000 each month, setting a remarkable example of self-employment and empowerment.

Jyotsna Khakhlari Devi, a member of the Sanjivani Self-Help Group from Borbhagiya village, has become self-reliant through integrated farming. With a loan of ₹15,000 from her group

and an additional ₹50,000 from the individual lender, she began dairy production, goat rearing and vegetable cultivation, ensuring a steady source of income. Jyotsna now earns about ₹60,000 a month, the Chief Minister stated.

The achievements of Bandana Das and Jyotsna Khakhlari Devi show that with proper use of training and support from self-help groups, rural women can achieve self-reliance and gain a respectable position in both society and economy.

The Chief Minister exhorted that Morigaon has several such examples. He said State Government has full confidence in the strength and ability of Assam's women. With the right guidance and support, they can play a vital role in strengthening the rural economy.

The Chief Minister also said that the Government is working to bring transformative changes to women's lives in Assam. As part of this effort, the Government formulated plans to introduce a strict law against polygamy in the upcoming November session of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Stating about the bouquet of welfare schemes in Assam, the Chief Minister highlighted that the people of the state are getting benefit directly from various welfare schemes such as free admissions, 'Nijut Moina', bicycle distribution and 'Orunodoi'. He

announced that the Government continues to increase funding under the Orunodoi scheme. He also said that from January 1 of the coming year, each beneficiary will receive an additional ₹250 per LPG cylinder as financial assistance. Families holding ration cards will also receive free rice, along with sugar, pulses and salt at subsidised rates beginning in December.

The Chief Minister announced that an additional 4,000 eligible families from the Morigaon constituency, who have not yet received Orunodoi benefits, will now be included under the scheme. He said that when women become self-reliant and financially empowered, no one can disrespect them; instead, everyone will admire them. Therefore, the Government's goal is the holistic welfare of women, regardless of caste or religion.

Minister Water Resources etc Pijush Hazarika, Minister Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Kaushik Rai, MLA Rama Kanta Deuri, Chief Executive Member of the Tiwa Autonomous Council, Jibon Chandra Konwar, Chairperson Morigaon Zila Parishad, Pranati Kalita Deka, Mission Director of the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission, Kuntal Moni Sarma Bordoloi, host of other dignitaries and women beneficiaries were also present on the occasion.



## FROM THE WORLD

### GERMANY

#### Berlin airport suspend flights

A late evening drone sighting at Berlin's airport suspended flights for nearly two hours, according to the news agency dpa, before air travel returned to normal in the German capital on Saturday morning. Flights were suspended between 8.08 pm and 9.58 pm local time at Berlin Brandenburg Airport, the news report cited the airport. Witness reported seeing a drone. Police confirmed the sighting but did not find the drone. Representatives for the airport and police did not immediately return requests for comment. Europe is on high alert after drone intrusions into NATO's airspace reached an unprecedented scale in September. Some European officials described the incidents as Moscow testing NATO's response, which raised questions about how prepared the alliance is against Russia.

### SRI LANKA

#### Lawmakers urge protection

Sri Lanka's opposition lawmakers urged the country's police chief to provide personal protection to all elected representatives of the people at different elected bodies. The opposition members of parliament requested the Speaker to summon the police chief Priyantha Weerasuriya to the house on Friday to discuss the issue. "It is the duty of the Government to protect the people's representatives", Ranjith Madduma Bandara, legislator of the main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), said. Weerasuriya told the MPs that the decision to remove personal protection was a political decision taken by the Government. "If the Government has politicised it, now it's the responsibility of the speaker of parliament to direct the police to provide security", Bandara said.

# Latest Gaza remains not hostage bodies: Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Jerusalem

The remains of three people handed over by Hamas to the Red Cross this week do not belong to any of the hostages, Israel said Saturday, the latest setback that could undermine a US-brokered ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

The handover followed Israel's return on Friday of the bodies of 30 Palestinians to Gaza. That completed an exchange after militants earlier this week turned over remains of two hostages, a sign that the tense Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement was edging forward.

The unidentified remains of the three people were returned late Friday to Israel, where they were being examined overnight. At the time, a military official warned that Israeli intelligence suggested they did not belong to any of the hostages taken by Palestinian militants during the October 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel that



Palestinians waiting to get donated sugar and rice at a community kitchen in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip

sparked the war. The Israeli official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to talk to the media. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on

Saturday confirmed that the remains did not belong to any of the hostages, without giving further details. Hamas' armed wing said in a subsequent statement that it had offered to hand

over samples on Friday of unidentified bodies, but that Israel had refused to receive them and asked for the remains for examination. "We handed the bodies over to stop the claims of

Israel," the statement said. It was unclear who the remains belonged to. Since the US brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on October 10, Palestinian militants have

released the remains of 17 hostages that were held in Gaza for the past two years.

But the process of returning the bodies of the last 11 remaining hostages, as called for under the truce deal, is progressing slowly, with militants releasing just one or two bodies every few days.

The total number of Palestinian bodies returned by Israel since the ceasefire began now stands at 225. Only 75 of those have been identified by families, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It is unclear if those returned were killed in Israel during the October 7, 2023, attack, whether they died in Israeli custody as detainees or were recovered from Gaza by troops during the war.

The fragile truce faced its biggest challenge earlier this week when Israel carried out strikes across Gaza that killed more than 100 people, following the killing of an Israeli soldier in Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city, and the incomplete return of hostages.

## US urges ASEAN firmness against China

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Kuala Lumpur

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday urged Southeast Asian nations to stand firm and strengthen their maritime forces to counter China's increasingly "destabilising" actions in the South China Sea.

Speaking at a meeting in Malaysia with his counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Hegseth reiterated US concern over what he called China's aggression in the disputed waters that intensified in recent months, citing incidents such as the ramming of vessels and the use of water cannons.

The South China Sea remains one of Asia's most volatile flashpoints. Beijing claims almost the entire region, while ASEAN members, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei also claim ownership of coastal areas and features. The Philippines, a key US ally, has had frequent clashes with China's maritime fleet. Manila has repeatedly urged

a stronger regional response, but ASEAN has traditionally sought to balance caution with economic ties to Beijing, the region's largest trading partner. Hegseth criticised Beijing's recent declaration of Scarborough Shoal, which China forcefully seized from the Philippines in 2012, as a "nature reserve."

"You don't put platforms on nature reserves," he said, describing China's activities on the uninhabited shoal. He told the meeting it was "yet another attempt to coerce new and expanded territorial and maritime claims at your expense."

Hegseth said China's provocative actions challenged and threatened territorial sovereignty in the region. While stressing that Washington values continued dialogue with Beijing, Hegseth said the US will monitor China's behaviour closely.

"China's sweeping territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea fly in the face of their commitments to resolve disputes peacefully," he said.

## 21 APEC leaders boost trade unity

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Gyeongju (South Korea)

Leaders of 21 Asia-Pacific Rim nations wrapped up their annual summit with a statement underscoring regional economic cooperation, just days after the presidents of the United States and China agreed to dial down their trade war.

After two days of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the South Korean city of Gyeongju, APEC leaders issued a joint statement pledging greater cooperation to overcome shared challenges in a global economy hit hard by trade tensions between the US and China, the world's two largest economies.

On Thursday, US President Donald Trump and China's Xi Jinping — who met on the sidelines of the APEC summit — dialled back earlier steps and agreed to de-escalate trade tensions. Trump, known for his dismissal of multilateralism, quickly left South Korea after the agreement with Xi, allowing the Chinese president to steal the limelight at the summit. APEC leaders call for



Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung shaking hands after a group photo at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea

greater cooperation. The joint statement declared that the APEC leaders "acknowledge the global trading system continues to face significant challenges."

"We reaffirm our shared recognition that robust trade and investment are vital to the growth and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region," it says.

Jeonghun Min, a professor at South Korea's National Diplomatic Academy, said the statement avoided direct language supporting "free and open trade," but still managed to endorse eco-

nomics cooperation and multilateralism, which embody "the very purpose of free trade." "It wasn't possible to leave that out entirely," said Min. The joint declaration also said that APEC members remain committed to the Putrajaya Vision 2040, a new 20-year growth vision adopted in 2020 that calls for a trade environment that's

"free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable." On Friday, Xi told the summit that China would support global free trade and supply chain stability — an apparent effort to

position his country as an alternative to Trump's protectionist policies. In written remarks sent to a CEO summit held in conjunction with APEC, Xi said that "investing in China is investing in the future."

Xi also met with his Japanese, Canadian and Thai counterparts bilaterally on Friday and was to meet South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday for one-on-one talks that Seoul officials said would touch on efforts to achieve denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

## American Hindu group asks VP Vance to engage with Hinduism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New York

An American Hindu organisation asked Vice President JD Vance to "engage with Hinduism" after he said that his wife, Usha, "encouraged" him "to re-engage" with his faith. Vance is facing criticism over his interfaith marriage after saying he eventually hopes that Usha, who grew up in a Hindu household, "is somehow moved by the same thing that I was moved in by church."

Hitting back at his critics, Vance on Friday said it was his wife who encouraged him to re-engage with Christianity. "My wife — as I said at the TPUSA — is the most amazing blessing I have in my life. She herself encouraged me to reengage with my faith many years ago," he



said. Responding to Vance's remark, the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) issued a statement on Friday calling on him to engage with "Hinduism too."

"With respect to the Vice President, if your wife encouraged you to re-engage with your faith, why not reciprocate that and engage with

Hinduism too?" said the HAF. "Hinduism doesn't share the need to wish your spouse comes around to see things as you do in terms of religion," the HAF added.

The group said that, being a public figure and Vice President, Vance should acknowledge the "rights of Hindus to practice."

## 40,000 Afghan refugees leave Pak's Balochistan province

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Karachi

More than two years after Pakistan started a crackdown against Afghan nationals, nearly 40,000 of them have left Balochistan Capital Quetta, a top provincial official has said.

Since October 2023, when Pakistan asked all the foreign nationals, including Afghan illegal immigrants, to leave voluntarily or face deportation, the deadline has been extended multiple times.

Pakistan hosts over 1.7 million registered Afghan refugees, with many more living without documentation. The Government recently launched yet another repatriation drive, citing security and economic concerns, prompting thousands of Afghans to return to their home country.

The authorities have fastened the deportation measures by ordering the closure



of around 54 Afghan refugee camps across the country. Quetta Commissioner Mir Ullah Badhani said that most of the Afghans who have returned home were living in the Afghan Basti (town) on the Eastern bypass of Quetta for the last 35-40 years and had constructed quarters and buildings for residence and

businesses. Feroze Shah, a resident of Qadirabad, as the basti is known, said it was occupied mostly by poor people who were forced to leave or were leaving for Afghanistan, uncertain of their future and were without any proper belongings. "Over the past two years, hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees

### 18 MILITANTS ARRESTED

**Lahore:** Eighteen militants, mostly belonging to the banned terror outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, were arrested during intelligence-based operations in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Saturday. A statement released by the Counter terrorism department (CTD) of the Punjab police said that it arrested 18 terrorists belonging to proscribed organisations, with most of them belonging to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The intelligence

based operations were conducted across various districts of the province over the past month.

"The CTD, in collaboration with an intelligence agency, successfully foiled terror plots in Punjab. The terrorists were planning to target key buildings and installations in various cities," it said.

The CTD recovered 3.02 kilograms of explosives, 14 detonators, 33 feet long safety fuse wire, and three improvised explosive devices.

have been expelled from different parts of Pakistan, some of whom are our relatives or belong to our tribes," he said. "Now the influx has grown because winter will soon start in Afghanistan, and people want to cross over so that they can settle down and find places to stay before peak cold," he added. According to

the Commissioner, refugees crossing over to Afghanistan via the Chaman border have slowed down due to the recent conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Hundreds of Afghan refugees had been put up in camps near the Chaman border waiting for their turn to cross over, Badhani said.



## Grand Egyptian museum dedicated to old civilisation

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Cairo

Egypt was inaugurating the long-delayed Grand Egyptian Museum on Saturday, the world's largest museum dedicated to its ancient civilisation — a megaproject also aimed at boosting the country's tourism industry and troubled economy. Two decades in the making and located near the Giza Pyramids on the edge of Cairo, the museum showcases over 50,000 artefacts detailing life in Egypt. World leaders, including monarchs, heads of State and Governments, were to attend the grand opening ceremony in the Egyptian capital, according to a statement from the presidency, which touted the museum as "an exceptional event in the history of human culture and civilisation." President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi wrote on social media that the museum will bring "together the genius of ancient Egyptians."



## Multiple people arrested in Halloween weekend attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Dearborn

Multiple people who had been allegedly plotting a violent attack over the Halloween weekend were arrested on Friday in Michigan, FBI Director Kash Patel said in a social media post. The law enforcement effort was focused on suburban Detroit. Patel said more information would be released later. Investigators believe the plot was inspired by Islamic State extremism and are investigating whether those in custody were potentially radicalised online, according to two people briefed on the investigation who could not publicly discuss details. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. FBI and state police vehicles were in a neighbourhood near Fordson High School in Dearborn. People wearing shirts marked FBI walked in and out of a house, including one person who collected paper bags.

## Ukraine forces hit key fuel pipeline near Moscow

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kyiv

Ukrainian forces hit an important fuel pipeline in the Moscow region that supplies the Russian army, Ukraine's military intelligence said Saturday, a claim that came amid a sustained Russian campaign of massive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. The operation was carried out late Friday, according to a statement on the Telegram messaging channel. The agency, which is known by its acronym HUR, described it as a "serious blow" to Russia's military logistics.

HUR said its forces struck the Koltsevoy pipeline, which spans 400 kilometres (250 miles) and supplies the Russian army with gasoline, diesel and jet fuel from refineries in Ryazan, Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow.

The operation, which targeted infrastructure near the Ramensky district, destroyed all three fuel lines, HUR said.

The pipeline was capable of transporting up to 3



Russian servicemen attend a practice for sabotage operations behind enemy lines at a training ground on an undisclosed location

million tons of jet fuel, 2.8 million tons of diesel, and 1.6 million tons of gasoline annually, HUR said.

"Our strikes have had

more impact than sanctions," said Kyrylo Budanov, the head of HUR, referring to international sanctions on Russia imposed over its full-

out war and the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Elsewhere, a civilian died and 15 more were injured after Russia struck southern

Ukraine with a ballistic missile on Saturday morning, local official Vitaliy Kim said. A child is among those injured in the strike on the

Mykolaiv region, he said and added that Russia used an Iskander missile.

Another Russian strike early Saturday sparked a fire at a gas plant in the central Poltava region, Ukraine's emergency service reported.

The latest strikes came as Russia keeps up massive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure — attacks that brought power outages and restrictions across Ukraine earlier this week, in what Kyiv described as a "systematic energy terror."

Moscow launched 223 drones at Ukraine overnight into Saturday, 206 of which were shot down, according to the Ukrainian air force. Seventeen struck targets in seven Ukrainian regions, the air force said, without providing details.

Russia also hit an agricultural enterprise in Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region, injuring a 66-year-old woman there, according to a Telegram update by regional Government official Viacheslav Chaus.

## Republicans reject call to scrap filibuster to end shutdown



ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Washington

Back from a week abroad, President Donald Trump threw himself into the shutdown debate, calling on the Senate to scrap the filibuster and reopen the Government, an idea swiftly rejected Friday by Republican leaders who have long opposed such a move. Trump pushed his Republican Party to get rid of the Senate rule that requires 60 votes to overcome objections and gives the minority Democrats a check on GOP power. In the chamber that's currently split 53-47, Democrats have had enough votes to keep the government closed while they demand an extension of health care subsidies. Neither party has seriously wanted to nuke the rule. "The choice is

clear — initiate the nuclear option, get rid of the filibuster," Trump said in a late night social media post Thursday.

Trump's sudden decision to assert himself into the shutdown now in its 31st day — bringing the highly charged demand to end the filibuster — is certain to set the Senate on edge. It could spur senators toward their own compromise or send the chamber spiralling toward a new sense of crisis.

Republican leaders responded quickly, and unequivocally, setting themselves at odds with Trump, the president few have dared to counter.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune has repeatedly said he is not considering changing the rules to end the shutdown.

## President Hassan wins disputed election

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kampala (Uganda)

Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan won the country's disputed election with more than 97 per cent of the vote, according to official results announced early on Saturday, in a rare landslide victory in the region.

Hassan appeared at an event in the administrative capital, Dodoma, to receive the winner's certificate from electoral authorities. In remarks afterwards, she said the result showed Tanzanians voted overwhelmingly for a female leader.

After the election, "it's time to unite our country and not destroy what we've built over more than six decades," she said. "We will take all actions and involve all security agencies to ensure the country is peaceful."

Hassan took power in 2021. As vice president, she was automatically elevated when her predecessor, John Pombe Magufuli, died months after the start of his second term.

The result is likely to amplify the concerns of critics, opposition groups and others who said the election in

HASSAN APPEARED AT AN EVENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL, TO RECEIVE THE WINNER'S CERTIFICATE FROM ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES

Tanzania was not a contest but a coronation after Hassan's two main rivals were barred or prevented from running.

She faced 16 candidates from smaller parties. The October 29 election was marred by violence as demonstrators took to the streets of major cities to protest the poll and stop the counting of votes.

The military was deployed to help police quell riots. Internet connectivity has been on and off in the East African nation, disrupting travel and other activities. The protests spread across Tanzania, and the Government postponed the reopening of universities, which had been set for Nov. 3. There was a tense calm in the streets of Dar es Salaam, the commercial capital.

## Top diplomats call for hasty ceasefire in Sudan war

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Dubai

The foreign ministers of Germany, Jordan and the United Kingdom jointly called on Saturday for an immediate ceasefire in the war in Sudan, describing the situation there in stark, apocalyptic terms after a paramilitary force seized the last major city in the East African nation's Darfur region. United Nations officials have warned that fighters with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have rampaged through the Darfur city of el-Fasher, reportedly killing more than 450 people in a hospital and carrying out ethnically targeted killings of civilians and sexual assaults.

While the RSF have denied killing people at the hospital, those who have escaped el-Fasher, satellite images and videos circulating on social media provide glimpses of what appears to be mass slaughter taking place in the city. At the Manama Dialogue security summit in Bahrain, British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper on Saturday spoke in grim words about events in el-Fasher, where a paramilitary force known as the Rapid Support Forces



has seized the city. "Just as a combination of leadership and international cooperation has made progress in Gaza, it is currently badly failing to deal with the humanitarian crisis and the devastating conflict in Sudan, because the reports from Darfur in recent days have truly horrifying atrocities," Cooper said.

"Mass executions, starvation and the devastating use of rape as a weapon of war, with women and children bearing the brunt of the largest humanitarian crisis in the 21st century. For too long, this terrible conflict

has been neglected, while suffering has simply increased." She added that "no amount of aid can resolve a crisis of this magnitude until the guns fall silent."

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul echoed Cooper's concern, directly calling out the RSF for its violence in el-Fasher. "Sudan is absolutely an apocalyptic situation," Wadephul said. Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Sudan has not received "the attention it deserves. A humanitarian crisis of inhumane proportions has taken place

there." "We've got to stop that," he added.

Bahrain's Government late on Wednesday rescinded an accreditation for The Associated Press to cover the summit, after a "post-approval review" of that permission.

The Government did not elaborate on why the visa was revoked. Earlier that day, the AP published a story on long-detained activist Abdulhadi al-Khawaja beginning an "open-ended" hunger strike in Bahrain over his internationally criticised imprisonment.

## Serbia marks anniversary of train disaster

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Novi Sad (Serbia)

Tens of thousands of people from all over Serbia gathered on Saturday in the northern town of Novi Sad to commemorate the victims of a railway station disaster a year ago. The rally was also a massive display of boiling discontent with the Government of autocratic President Aleksandar Vucic.

The collapse of a concrete canopy at the Novi Sad train station last November 1 killed 16 people.

The tragedy triggered youth-led street protests and a nationwide movement demanding political changes that have seriously shaken Vucic's tight hold on power. The protesters believe that the concrete construction at the renovated station building in Novi Sad collapsed because rampant corruption and nepotism in state infrastructure projects



A demonstrator lighting candles during a protest in Sao Paulo

with China led to fatal disregard of safety rules. No one has been held responsible, though 13 people have been charged. Saturday's ceremonies started with 16 minutes of silence for the 16 victims at exactly 11:52 am, the time of the collapse. People also laid wreaths and lit candles outside the station. "We are here to pay

tribute on Saturday suggested that protesters' resolve remains strong.

On the eve of the commemoration, Vucic apologised to the student protesters after previously threatening mass arrests and routinely branding them as "terrorists" instructed from the West to topple him and destroy Serbia.

"I have said some things that I am now sorry for saying," Vucic said in a TV address that called for dialogue. "All that hatred boiling in our society cannot bring any good. It can only lead to further destruction."

Student protesters dismissed the apology. They are demanding an early parliamentary election that they hope would oust the populist Government.

While Vucic toned down his rhetoric, authorities cancelled train service to Novi Sad, preventing some protesters from travelling.

## Pak arrested fisherman allegedly spying for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Saturday claimed that a fisherman from the country has been arrested for allegedly spying for India.

Addressing a press conference here, Tarar said Ijaz Mallah, who fished on the high seas, was forced to procure military uniforms, Pakistani currency, cigarettes, match boxes, lighters, and SIM cards. "In September, when Mallah was out fishing, he was arrested by the Indian coast guard," Tarar said.

Mallah was told he would be compensated for spying, but on refusal would be imprisoned for two to three years. "So this common fisherman was eventually released," Tarar claimed.

## Bangladesh dockers launch strike against port lease deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dhaka

Hundreds of port workers staged a mass hunger strike on Saturday to protest the interim Government's decision to lease out Bangladesh's main commercial seaport in southeastern Chattogram to foreign operators, amid a volatile political landscape ahead of the February elections.

"The decision has been taken against the national interest. This decision will not be accepted under any circumstances," Anwar Hossain, leader of the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), an apex body of worker unions, told the rally at the port city.

The token hunger strike, joined by activists from various workers' and political organisations, came a

month after the port workers began protests against Professor Muhammad Yunus' plan to lease out the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) to UAE-based operator DP World. The protesters said the NCT at Chattogram port — Bangladesh's main trade gateway — was built with "domestic funds and modern technology" while it emerged as the country's "most successful container terminal". Bangladesh is the world's second-largest garment exporter and relies heavily on Chattogram port for most of its imports and exports. Soon after assuming power after last year's violent street campaign that toppled then prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Government, Yunus insisted the facility — strategically located on the Bay of Bengal

— should be handed over to the "best operator in the world". His insistence sparked immediate reactions among security experts and protests in the political arena, which faded from public focus amid subsequent political turmoil. However, it resurfaced in September when Yunus said Bangladesh never explored the full potential of the Bay of Bengal, though it was "an integral part of our country" and expressed his Government's desire to upgrade ports at southwestern Cox's Bazar, Matarbari, and Maheshkhali.

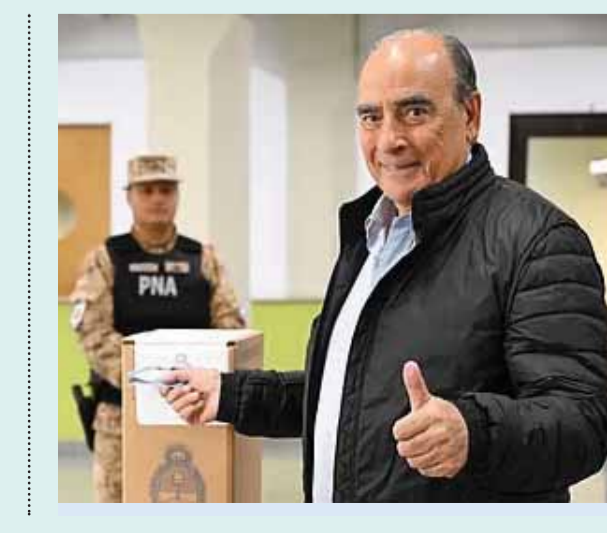
"These ports can foster a regional economy and strengthen economic ties with Nepal and the Seven Sisters, benefiting all parties," he said at the ceremonial signing of the Charter.



## Military officers arrested for alleged coup attempt

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Bissau

A group of military officers was arrested in Guinea-Bissau this week for allegedly planning a coup, according to a statement from the armed forces on Friday. The alleged coup plot involved several senior officers who were reported missing starting Monday, and was announced the day before the general election campaign was set to begin. "This sad episode, which involves some general and senior officers of our Armed Forces, jeopardises the peace and stability so desired for socio-economic development and the attraction of foreign investment," a statement from the armed forces General Staff reads. The coup attempt was allegedly led by the director of a military training school, Daba Na Walna, with the support of some generals and senior officers.



## Argentina's chief of staff resigns after Milei win

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Buenos Aires

The chief of staff to President Javier Milei of Argentina resigned on Friday, less than a week after the governing party won a new mandate to accelerate his programme of radical reform in pivotal midterm elections. Guillermo Francos, a 75-year-old career politician with decades of experience at the heart of Government, said in a statement that he was stepping down so that Milei "may face without constraints the stage of Government that begins after the national elections." Francos' departure after weeks of speculation was expected to herald a wider Cabinet shake-up, as is common in Argentina following elections. Interior Minister Guillermo Catalán followed suit on Friday. Riding high off his party's surprise landslide win in Sunday's legislative elections.



### Paul powers TN to 252/4 vs Vidarbha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Coimbatore

Pradosh Ranjan Paul continued his fine run with the bat, scoring yet another century as Tamil Nadu reached 252 for 4 at stumps on the opening day of their Elite Group A Ranji Trophy match against Vidarbha on Saturday. Paul, who struck a career-best double hundred against Nagaland in the previous round, compiled a fluent 113 featuring 13 boundaries, while Baba Indrajith was unbeaten on 94 at close of play, seven runs short of his hundred.

Paul added 179 runs for the fourth wicket with Indrajith after Tamil Nadu elected to bat first on winning the toss.

The hosts were in early trouble at 18 for 2, with openers Vimal Kumar (2) and Athish SR (3) dismissed cheaply by Nachiket Bhute and Praful Hinge respectively. Paul then joined hands with Andrew Siddarth C to steady the innings before the latter fell to Akshay Karnewar in the 30th over. The left-hander later forged a strong partnership with Indrajith to guide Tamil Nadu to safety.

At stumps, Shahrukh Khan was batting alongside Indrajith after Bhute trapped Paul leg-before in the 87th over. In Cuttack,



commanding half-centuries from Abhishek Reddy (76) and Srikar Bharat (93) helped Andhra post 222 for 3 on the opening day against Odisha.

Opting to bat, openers Reddy and Bharat shared a 140-run partnership to give Andhra a solid start before Badal Biswal (1/52) broke the stand, with Rajesh Mohanty taking the catch to

dismiss Bharat. Sambit S Baral (2/32) then struck twice in successive deliveries of the 55th over, removing Reddy and trapping skipper Ricky Bhui in front to leave Andhra at 186 for 3. At stumps, Shaik Rasheed (25) and Kirdant Karan Shinde (16) were at the crease.

In Ranchi, play was curtailed due to bad light, with Nagaland reducing

Jharkhand to 91 for 2 in 31 overs on a weather-hit opening day.

Opener Shikhar Mohan (42) and Virat Singh (16) were unbeaten at stumps, while Sharandeep Singh (22) and Kumar Suraj (9) were the two wickets to fall. At the BCA Stadium in Vadodara, no play was possible due to a wet outfield following rain.

#### Brief Scores:

Tamil Nadu 252 for 4 in 88 overs (Pradosh Ranjan Paul 113, Baba Indrajith 94 batting; Nachiket Bhute 2/43) vs Vidarbha. Andhra 222 for 3 in 68 overs (Srikar Bharat 93, Abhishek Reddy 76; Sambit S Baral 2/32) vs Odisha.

Jharkhand 91 for 2 in 31 overs (Shikhar Mohan 42 batting; Saurav S Kumar 1/15) vs Nagaland.

### Karun Nair hits 2nd ton to take Karnataka to 319/3 against Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Thiruvananthapuram

Out of favour India batter Karun Nair staked his claim with an unbeaten 142 to guide Karnataka 319 for three against Kerala on the opening day of a Group B Ranji Trophy match on Saturday.

Opting to bat, Karnataka lost openers Aneesh KV (8) and skipper Mayank Agarwal (5) early before Nair and wicketkeeper Krishnan Shrijith (65 off 110) shared 16 runs for the third wicket to stabilise the innings.

Smaran Ravichandran (88 batting off 143 balls) was giving Nair company at the crease at stumps.

Nair decorated his knock with 14 boundaries and two hits over the fence, while Shrijith smashed 10 fours.

MD Nideesh (1/41), Nedumankuzhy Basil (1/58) and Baba Aparajith (1/65) were the wicket-takers for Kerala.

In another Group B match in New Chandigarh, Punjab rode on skipper Uday Saharan's 100 off 247 balls to reach 215 for five against Goa.

Besides Saharan, wicket-keeper Salil Arora was unbeaten on 51 off 131 deliveries. Right arm medium-



pacer Deepraj Gaonkar (2/22) picked up two wickets for Goa, while Mohit Redkar (1/41), Vasuki Koushik (1/28) and Arjun Tendulkar (1/58) scalped a wicket each.

In Indore, Madhya Pradesh were 64 for one against Chandigarh at stumps after the rest of the proceedings of the day was called off because of inclement weather.

The other Group B match between Maharashtra and Saurashtra has been washed out due to wet outfield.

#### Brief Scores:

Karnataka 319 for 3 in 90 overs (Karun Nair 142 not out, Smaran Ravichandran 88 not out, Krishnan Shrijith 65; MD Nideesh (1/41) vs Kerala.

**At Indore:** Madhya Pradesh 64 for 1 in 27 overs (Jharsh Gawali 32 not out, Himanshu Mantri 28 not out; Jagjit Singh 1/14) vs Chandigarh.

**At New Chandigarh:** Punjab 215 for 5 in 87 overs (Uday Saharan 100 not out, Salil Arora 51 not out; Deepraj Gaonkar 2/22) vs Goa.

### BRIEFLY

#### BABAR BECOMES HIGHEST RUN-GETTER IN T20Is



Former captain and Pakistan batting stalwart Babar Azam became the highest run-getter in T20 Internationals to leave behind Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Babar achieved the feat while scoring 11 from 18 balls in the second T20Is against South Africa in Lahore on Friday night.

But a close look at the statistics of the top five T20 run getters also gives a clear picture of why Babar was sidelined from the Pakistan T20 side since December 2024 before he was surprisingly recalled for the South Africa series.

The statistics shows that Babar has now scored 4234 runs in 123 matches at an average of 39.57 but the telling stats are his strike and number of sixes hit compared to the others in the list.

Babar has the lowest strike rate 128.77 and least number of sixes (73) hit in the list that has Rohit, Kohli, Jos Butler and Paul Sterling. Rohit has a strike rate of 140.89 and has hit 205 sixes in his career, Virat has a strike rate of 137.04 and has hit 124 sixes.

Butler has a strike rate of 148.97 and he has smashed 172 sixes while Ireland's Sterling has a strike rate of 134.86 and has hit 133 sixes.

#### PATRICK VIEIRA'S TENURE AS GENOA COACH ENDS



Patrick Vieira's tenure as Genoa coach ended Saturday with the club in last place and winless through nine rounds of the Serie A season.

While Genoa announced only that Vieira "is no longer the coach of the first team," the Gazzetta dello Sport said that he resigned.

Roberto Murgita and Domenico Criscito were appointed as joint interim managers for Monday's match at Sassuolo.

Vieira, a World Cup winner with France as a player, was hired a year ago to replace the fired Alberto Gilardino with Genoa one spot above the relegation zone. He led to Genoa to a 13th-place finish last season and had his contract extended for two more years. But Genoa has lost six of its nine matches this season and was beaten 2-0 at home by promoted Cremona last weekend.

It's the second coaching change in Serie A this week after Luciano Spalletti replaced the fired Igor Tudor at Juventus.

### Pant's fifty steadies India A in 275 chase



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Bengaluru

Skipper Rishabh Pant's unbeaten fifty laced with impudence, patience and fortune held India A together, taking them to 119 for four against South Africa A on the penultimate day of the four-day match on Saturday.

India still need 166 runs to scale down the target of 275, after South Africa, overnight 30 for no loss, were bundled out for 199 in their second innings.

Pant (64 batting, 81 balls, 8x4, 2x6) and Ayush Badoni (0) were at the crease at stumps, and the former will have to play a vital role in getting India A closer home on Sunday.

The wicketkeeper-batter joined Rajat Patidar (28) in the middle when the South Africans were bowling like wind, troubling the batters with pace and bounce.

At one stage, India were 32 for three, having lost Ayush Mhatre, Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal. Mhatre chopped Tshupo Moreki onto his stumps, Sudharsan's 38-ball struggle ended when he fell leg before to the same bowler before

Okuhle Cele found a tiny gap between the bat and pads of Devdutt.

But Pant, who added 77 runs for a gritty fourth-wicket stand, faced the sit-

uation with characteristic gusto, pulling Cele and then carting off-spinner Preenelan Subrayan for a six over covers.

He was not merely looking to hang on but wanted to stamp his authority to bring his side back into contention.

Pant did that with some style and Cele dropped a sitter at fine leg off left-arm pacer Tiaan Van Vuuren when he attempted that no-look loop shot. Pant was on 46 then.

Soon, he brought up a creditable fifty off 65 balls with a four through the covers off Subrayan, and he also received some treatments for possible cramps as the innings progressed.

But at the other end, Patidar was in deep sea against SA pacers, and received an early reprieve on 7. The right-hander edged Cele but Jordan Hermann spilled the chance at second slip.

There were a couple of leg before shouts against Patidar but he survived them, and later opened up to play some of those delightful drives through covers. However, Patidar undid all the hard work as his attempt to upper cut to Van Vuuren ended in the hands of wicketkeeper Rivaldo Moonsamy, and Pant looked even more disappointed with that faulty shot-selection.

### Bengal dominate against Tripura in Ranji

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Agartala

Sudip Gharami, promoted to open in place of the injured Sudip Chatterjee, made the most of the opportunity with a composed unbeaten 70, guiding Bengal to a commanding 171 for one against hosts Tripura on the opening day of their Elite Group C Ranji Trophy match on Saturday. At the other end, Shakir Habib Gandhi stood firm with an equally impressive 82 not out off 187 balls, studded with 11 boundaries.

The pair added 167 runs for the unbroken second wicket to put Bengal firmly in control before bad light curtailed play to just 60 overs.

Tripura players took the field wearing black ambands to mourn the passing of former captain Rajesh Banik, who died in a road accident on Friday night.

Gharami's 10th first-class half-century came in the 40th over. Except for one reprieve at slip, he looked solid throughout and found an able ally in Gandhi as the duo punished the loose deliveries while showing restraint otherwise. Earlier, Bengal lost opener Kazi Junaid Saifi



Players during the first day of a Ranji Trophy cricket match between Bengal and Tripura at Maharaja Bir Bikram College Stadium in Agartala PTI

(0) in the second over, caught behind by Sentu Sarkar off Abhijit Sarkar, before the Gharami-Gandhi stand took control.

Tripura skipper Manisankar Murasingh used as many as seven bowlers, but none could break the partnership. With regular captain Abhimanyu Easwaran on India A duty for the South Africa A four-day game in Bengaluru, wicketkeeper-batter Abhishek Porel is leading Bengal in this fixture.

The visitors, playing their first away match of the

season, came in with back-to-back outright wins over Uttarakhand and Gujarat to sit atop the group with 12 points. In Delhi, wicket keeper-batter Saurabh Rawat struck a gritty unbeaten half-century, while all-rounder Jagadeesha Suchith provided valuable support with 44 not out as Uttarakhand recovered from early trouble to reach 213 for six against Services.

Opting to bat, Uttarakhand slipped to 117 for six inside 50 overs, undone by left-arm spinner Vikas Yadav's fine

spell of 4/46. Yadav removed Aarav Mahajan (22) and Yuvraj Choudhary (0) off successive deliveries before returning to dismiss Bhupen Lalwani (25) and Shashwat Dangwal (14) in quick succession.

However, Rawat and Suchith steadied the innings with an unbroken 96-run stand for the seventh wicket to see Uttarakhand through to stumps without further damage. Arjun Sharma chipped in with 2/69 for Services.

In Guwahati, only nine overs were possible due to persistent rain, with Railways reaching 39 without loss after Assam opted to bowl first. In Ahmedabad, the opening day's play between Gujarat and Haryana was washed out without a ball being bowled.

**Brief Scores:**  
**In Agartala:** Bengal 171/1; 60 overs (Sudip Gharami 70 batting, Habib Gandhi 82 batting) vs Tripura.

**In Delhi:** Uttarakhand 213/6; 90 overs (Saurabh Rawat 52 batting, J Suchith 44 batting; Vikas Yadav 4/46, Arjun Sharma 2/69) vs Services.

**In Guwahati:** Railways 39 for no loss; 9 overs vs Assam.

### Sepp to miss final stretch of European tour

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Virginia Water (England)

Sepp Straka has withdrawn from the two playoff events for the Race to Dubai so he can be home when his 2-month-old son leaves the hospital for the first time since birth.

Straka, who was born and raised in Austria until moving to Georgia as a teenager, was exempt for the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship next week as a Ryder Cup player.

Straka was the only European to not play in the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth leading up to

the Ryder Cup. His son was born in early August and has been in neonatal intensive care since then. He improved enough for Straka to compete at Bethpage Black.

"Paige and I are pleased to share that we are preparing for our son, Thomas, to return home in the coming weeks after spending his initial two months of life in intensive care," Straka said in a statement.

"We are immensely grateful to the dedicated medical teams who have cared for him and helped him grow stronger following his early arrival in August."

He said he was withdrawing from Abu Dhabi and the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai the following week to be with his family. "I need to be in Alabama to support Paige, ensuring we give Thomas the best start possible as he transitions from NICU to home," he said.

He will not meet the minimum four events on the European tour. Given the circumstances of Straka's son, the tour's chief executive, Guy Kinnings, has amended his requirements from four tournaments to two that allows Straka to remain eligible in 2026.

### PRO WRESTLING LEAGUE SET TO RETURN IN JANUARY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

The Pro Wrestling League (PWL), which was suspended after four seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to make a comeback in January 2026 with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) directly handling payments to wrestlers and franchises to ensure financial transparency and stability.

The WFI also asserted that wrestlers who were part of the protest against former chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh will not face discrimination and will be allowed to enter their names in the auction.

In the past, the WFI had granted the rights to host the PWL to ProSportify for an annual royalty fee but a crisis emerged when a majority of participants complained that they had not received their Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) details for several years.

The WFI also claimed that it did not receive the agreed-upon royalty.

In June 2022, the WFI signed a settlement contract with ProSportify to acquire full ownership of the Pro Wrestling League by paying ₹30 crore.

### Messi tour goes Pan-India; Hyderabad replaces Kerala stop

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Kolkata

Lionel Messi's much-anticipated 'GOAT Tour to India 2025' just got bigger with Hyderabad added as the new southern leg stop to ensure fans in the region are not "deprived" of seeing their idol following the cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kerala.

The decision to add Hyderabad comes in the wake of the cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kochi, which had been originally announced by Kerala Sports Minister V

Abdurahiman for November 17. The revised plan now ensures Messi's 'GOAT Tour' will span all four corners of India — east (Kolkata), south (Hyderabad), west (Mumbai) and north (New Delhi) — turning it into one of the biggest sporting spectacles ever hosted in the country.

"Now we are covering south also. This will be a tribute to millions of football fans in South India," Satadru Dutta, the sole organiser of the 'GOAT Tour to India 2025', told PTI on Saturday.

"With this, every part of India is covered. West is covered through Mumbai,

east through Kolkata, north through Delhi. There is a huge Messi fan base in Chennai, Kerala and Hyderabad," Dutta said. "I wanted to make it a pan-India event and now that the Kerala event is cancelled, south people are getting deprived to see Messi," he said, adding that Hyderabad was chosen to give the region its share of Messi magic.

"South should also get an exposure of Messi, so people from south can travel to Hyderabad and watch him. Booking for the Hyderabad event will happen within a week," Dutta confirmed.



## India seek historic World Cup glory

## Hungry to taste WC victory: Harmanpreet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Navi Mumbai

Indian women's cricket stands on the brink of a watershed moment, reminiscent of the men's historic 1983 triumph, with the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side determined to end its ICC trophy drought when it faces a formidable South Africa in the Women's World Cup final on Sunday.

The 13th edition of the World Cup is guaranteed to crown a new champion — between third-time finalists India and first-time finalists South Africa — both riding on the back of remarkable campaigns. A title triumph could trigger an unprecedented surge of interest in women's cricket in India, inspiring a new generation of young girls to take up the sport — perhaps even more than the advent of the Women's Premier League did three seasons ago.

But the hosts will need to quickly move past their emotionally draining semifinal win here three nights ago — one that might have already earned them the "favourites" tag.

Jemimah Rodrigues' unforgettable 127 not out and Harmanpreet's gritty 89, coupled with an uncharacteristically erratic outing from seven-time champions Australia, carried India into yet another summit clash — a stage where heartbreak has struck far too often.

India's nine-run loss to England in the 2017 ODI World Cup final still lingers painfully for those who were part of that campaign, including Harmanpreet. It was followed by a narrow five-run defeat to Australia in the 2023 T20 World Cup semifinal



India's Harleen Deol, left, Jemimah Rodrigues, back centre, and Deepti Sharma, front centre, during a practice session ahead of the ICC Women's World Cup final ODI cricket match between India Women and South Africa Women at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai

and another gut-wrenching loss to the same opponents in the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medal match. For India, the battle is no longer about proving skill or form, but about crossing the elusive final hurdle that has so often tripped them — including in this very tournament. After a stuttering start that saw them lose three matches on the trot, India revived their home campaign with compelling wins over former champions New Zealand and Australia, rediscovering their spark when it mattered most.

Semifinals can often drain teams emotionally, and India will have to regroup quickly after that high-voltage chase. Their new anchor at number 3, Jemimah Rodrigues, has emerged as a force to reckon with, but her heroics have now raised expectations that mirror those faced by India's male stars. It was a game in which India expected their best batter Smriti Mandhana (385 runs) to fire but found a hero in a diminutive Jemimah. On a flat DY Patil Stadium surface — known for its high scores and evening dew —

another run-fest could be on the cards, testing India's fielding and bowling discipline. While India overcame Australia, the victory was far from flawless. Seamers Kranti Gaud and Renuka Singh Thakur struggled for rhythm, and even skipper Harmanpreet dropped a regulation catch. On such batting-friendly decks, there's only so much bowlers can do, but Deepti Sharma — the tournament's leading wicket-taker with 17 scalps — will once again be key to India's success. South Africa, mean-

while, will not mind the "underdog" tag. They've shown remarkable resilience through the tournament — from being bowled out for 69 against England in Guwahati to later thrashing the same opponent at the same venue, and recovering from a 97 all-out against Australia in Indore. Veteran Marizanne Kapp (204 runs, 12 wickets), Nadine de Klerk (190 runs, 8 wickets), Tazmin Brits (212 runs), Chloe Tryon (167 runs, 5 wickets) and skipper Laura Wolvaardt (470 runs) have all delivered telling performances.

As the tournament has progressed, Wolvaardt's consistency and leadership have taken centre stage, and her partnership with Brits at the top presents a formidable challenge for Indian bowlers.

Left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba (12 wickets) will test India's right-hand-heavy batting order, while South Africa's collective perseverance could prove decisive in a pressure-filled final. For a nation that has weathered its share of cricketing turbulence, this South African side has scripted an inspiring turnaround — reaching a fifth successive ICC final across genders and age groups.

Having lost to New Zealand in last year's T20 World Cup final, their hunger to go one step further is immense. Ultimately, the contest will come down to which team handles the pressure better. For Harmanpreet Kaur, it could be the final opportunity to etch her name in history as the first Indian woman to lift an ODI World Cup as captain.

**Teams (from):**  
**India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Richa Ghosh (wk), Uma Chetry (wk), Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Kranti Gaud, Renuka Singh Thakur, Shree Charani, Arundhati Reddy, Radha Yadav.  
**South Africa:** Laura Wolvaardt (c), Tazmin Brits, Sinalo Jafa (wk), Karabo Meso (wk), Anneke Bosch, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Marizanne Kapp, Sune Luus, Nondumiso Shangase, Chloe Tryon, Ayabonga Khaka, Msabata Klaas, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Navi Mumbai

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Saturday said her team has endured the pain of losing on several occasions in the past but is now ready to experience the joy of winning a global title, ahead of their Women's World Cup final against South Africa. India and South Africa will face off in the summit clash here at the DY Patil Stadium on Sunday, with women's World Cup set to have a new champion alongside former winners Australia, England and New Zealand.

"We know how it feels to lose. But we are looking forward to how it feels to win. Hopefully tomorrow is a special day for us, we have done a lot of hard work, and it's only about getting everything (done) tomorrow for the team," Harmanpreet told reporters on the eve of the final. "We have been talking about that whenever we have enjoyed and given our best, we always get positive results. It's a proud moment for me and the entire team, and I'm sure the entire country must be also very proud the

way we have played the last two games," she said. India will be making their third appearance in a Women's ODI World Cup final. They had lost to Australia by 98 runs in the 1998 title clash and went down fighting to England by nine runs in the 2017 final. India had also lost the Commonwealth Games gold medal match to Australia in 2022. "When you are at a stage like a World Cup final, there cannot be any bigger motivation. The team is charged up, players are supporting each other and that shows they are together and how ready we are for this match. We knew long before that the World Cup was in India, and now it is about giving 100 per cent," Harmanpreet replied when asked about motivating her side. Harmanpreet welcomed the fact that there will be a new ODI world champion on Sunday night. "It's good that there are two different teams. We have seen Australia dominating world cricket for so many years and England was also on that stage. The excitement is different," she said.

## Women kept Indian cricket alive: Nutan Gavaskar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

There was no money, sponsors didn't make a beeline and foreign tours were an ordeal, but there were women of steel who believed in the old adage that "the show must go on." And Nutan Gavaskar was the first among equals, one of the torchbearers of the women's cricket movement in India back then in 1973. Women then played for the love of the game and for the pride of wearing the jersey with 'India' inscribed on it. There were women like Nutan, who were ready to go the extra mile when the journey was arduous and no one knew if there was light at the end

of the tunnel. "The Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI) was formed in 1973 and it selected the national team till 2006 when BCCI finally took the women's game under its wings. But when I look back, those were the days when there was no money but all those women fought on for the passion and love of the game," Nutan, younger sister of legendary Sunil Gavaskar, told PTI on the eve of the Women's World Cup final in Mumbai on Sunday. She recalled the days of hardship, which remain a badge of honour for the Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI), where she served as the long-standing secretary.

## Tennis veteran Bopanna announces retirement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

Indian tennis veteran Rohan Bopanna, one among the only four Indians to win Grand Slam titles, on Saturday announced his retirement from professional tennis, bringing an end to a career spanning more than two decades on the challenging ATP Tour. The 45-year-old Bopanna's final appearance on the Tour came at the Paris Masters, where he partnered Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik, losing in the opening round earlier this week. In an emotional statement titled "A Goodbye, But Not The End," Bopanna said he was "officially hanging up racquet," reflecting on a journey that took him from his hometown of Coorg to the biggest arenas in world tennis.

"How do you bid farewell to something that gave your life its meaning? After 20 unforgettable years on tour, however, it's time.. "Starting my journey from a small town of Coorg in India, chopping blocks of wood to strengthen my serve, jogging through coffee estates to build stamina and chasing dreams on cracked courts to standing under



Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna during a practice session for the men's doubles tennis event at the Paris 2024 Olympics, in Paris. Bopanna on Saturday announced his retirement from professional tennis

the lights of the biggest arenas in the world—it all feels surreal," Bopanna wrote. Bopanna had ended his India career after the Paris Olympics last year. He had announced his retirement from Davis Cup in 2023, playing his last tie against Morocco in Lucknow. The doubles specialist, who played for 22 years, described tennis as more than a sport, calling it a

source of "purpose, strength and belief" through challenging moments. "Every time I stepped onto a court, it taught me perseverance, resilience to rise, to fight again when everything inside me said I couldn't—and most of all, reminded me why I started and who I am," he said. Bopanna also paid tribute to his family, crediting them for their support throughout

his career.. He thanked his parents for their sacrifices, his sister Rashmi for her constant encouragement, and his wife Supriya for being his "greatest partner off court." He dedicated a heartfelt note to his daughter, Tridha, saying she gave him "new purpose

and a softer strength. "Every match I played in these last years, I played for you—to show you that dreams are worth fighting for and that kindness and courage matter more than winning," he wrote.

Bopanna, who turned professional in the early 2000s, became one of India's most successful doubles players, known for his powerful serve and longevity on the ATP Tour. Over his career, he represented India in multiple Davis Cup ties, Grand Slam events, and the Olympics. He won his first Grand Slam when he triumphed at the French Open mixed doubles event with Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski in 2017 and won his first and only men's doubles title with Matthew Ebden at the Australian Open in 2024. In 2023, Bopanna won the Indian Wells trophy with partner Ebden, becoming the oldest ATP Masters champion at 43 years-old.

## SOUTH AFRICA TO START AFRESH VS INDIA IN KNOCKOUT CLASH: WOLVAARDT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Navi Mumbai

The dynamics of playing a World Cup knockout games are entirely different and South Africa will not rely on their recent record against India in the Women's World Cup final, said Proteas skipper Laura Wolvaardt here on Saturday. India, who are in an ODI World Cup final for the third time, have lost each of their three matches to the Proteas since 2017 which includes their narrow three-wicket loss at Visakhapatnam earlier in the league stage. Wolvaardt, the tournament's leading run-scorer with 470 runs, recalled India batter Jemimah Rodrigues' incredible 127 not out against Australia in the semifinal to prove her point. "Knockout cricket is completely different to league cricket.

## Sadhvani held for a draw by Barrish; Rojas holds Naryanan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Panjim

Grandmasters Raunak Sadhwani and SL Narayanan, India's two best hopes, were held to draws by Daniel Barrish of South Africa and Steven Salas Rojas of Peru in the first game of the opening round of World Chess cup on Saturday. While most of the games in the 156 players contest selected for the first round went according to rankings, there were a few surprises that are typical of the knockout format of the world cup. Four players, in fact, did not turn up to play and their opponents got walk overs. However those who ended up getting a free point were all higher ranked players and this would give them a free passage in to the next round of this USD 2 million prize money tournament that in addition has three places reserved for the next candidates tournament. The Indian elite, comprising World Champion D Gukesh, Arjun

Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa, P Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi and Nihal Sarin, have all received direct entry into the second round, which will feature 128 players. Each round will follow a knockout format, with two classical games, and in case of a tie, games of shorter duration will decide the winner. In another upset of the day, India's Leon Luke Mendonca was also held to a draw, while Diptayan Ghosh also just proved equal to his opponent. Surya Shekhar Ganguly, who has been in the World cup before, played a fine game to beat Ahmadzada Ahmad of Azerbaijan, while Ritvik Raja did well to hold 2024 World junior champion Nogerbek Kazybek of Kazakhstan to a draw. With this being only the first game of the opening round, the action will resume on Sunday. Those in the lead will look to seal their passage to the next round, while those who drew will aim to take the upper hand. For players starting with a loss, the

road ahead appears difficult, as the day did not witness any major upsets. Important and Indian results round 1 game 1 (Indians unless stated): Nagi Abugenda (Lba) vs lost to Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (Tur); Jeffery Xiong (Usa) beat Li Yiheng (Hkg). Qin Oscar Shu Xuan (Nzl) lost to Maxim Rodshtein (Isr); Vladislav Artemiev (Rus) beat Ndahangwapo Heskiel (Nam). Alrehailli Ahmed Abdullah (Ksa) lost to Michael Adams (Eng); Nils Grandelius (Swe) beat Allam Mohamed (Ple); Huh Isaak (Kor) lost to Martinez Alcantara Jose Eduardo (Mex); Benjamin Gledura (Hun) beat Amdouni Zoubaier (Tun). Salih Akar Ali Salih (Irr) lost to Dmitrij Kollars (Ger); V Pranav beat Boulrens Ala Eddie (Alg); Kigigha Bomo Lovet (Ngr) lost to Alexander Donchenko (Ger); Raunak Sadhwani drew with Daniel Barrish (Rsa). Ilkhomi Jaloliddin (Tjk) lost to Vokhidov Shamsiddin (Uzb); Frederic Svane (Ger) w/o against

Husbands Orlando (Bar); Maksim Chigaev (Esp) beat Elbilja Jacques (Mar); Kavin Mohan (Mas) drew with Robert Hovhannisyann (Arm). Anton Guijarro David (Esp) beat David Silva (Ang); Manon Reja Neer (Ban) vs Aryan Tari (Nor); M Pranesh vs Akhmedinov Satbek (Kaz); Farai Mandizha (Zim) w/o to Amin Bassem (Egy) and more. Velimir Ivic (Srb) beat Orozbaev Eldiyar (Kgz); Mwali Chitumbo (Zam) w/o to Etienne Bacrot (Fra); Ivan Cheparinov (Bul) beat Cordoba Roa Angel Gabriel (Col); Cahaya Satria Duta (Ina) drew with Haik Martirosyan (Arm). Gabriel Sargissian (Arm) vs Liyanage Ranindu Dilshan (Sri); Shiyam Thavandiran (Can) drew with Daniil Yuffa (Esp); Leon Luke Mendonca drew with Wang Shixu (Chn); Tran Thanh Tu (Jpn) lost to A R Saleh Salem (Uae); Aleksander Indjic (Srb) beat Ilan Schnaider (Arg). Rojas Salas Steven (Per) drew with S L Narayanan; Maxime Lagarde (Fra) beat Amartuvshin Ganzorig (Mgl); Mohammad

Fahad Rahman (Ban) vs Vasyil Ivanchuk (Ukr); Aydin Suleymanli Aze) vs Prin Laohawirapap (Tha); Divya Deshmukh vs Kourkoulos-Arditis Stamatidis (Gre); Vazquez Facundo (Uru) lost to Svane Rasmus (Ger); Aleksey Grebnev (Fid) vs Quizon Daniel (Phi). Raketomaharo Fy Antenaina (Mad) drew with Evgeniy Najer (Fid); Daniel Dardha (Bel) vs Bank Gia Huy (Vie); Agibileg Uurtsaikh (Mgl) vs Henriquez Villagra Cristobal (Chi); Daneshvar Bardiya (Iri) vs Salinas Herrera Pablo (Chi); Pa Iniyang beat Berdayes Ason Dylan Isidro (Cub); Meier Georg (Uru) vs Neelash Saha; G B Harshavardhan Yilmaz Yilmaz Mustafa (Tur); Andy Woodward (Usa) beat Himlal Gusain; Max Warmerdam (Ned) vs M R Lalit Babu; Garcia Pantoja Robert (Col) drew with V Karthik; Mateusz Bartel (Pol) vs Aronyak Ghosh; Peng Xiongjian (Chn) drew with Diptayan Ghosh; Surya Shekhar Ganguly beat Ahmadzada Ahmad (Aze); Nogerbek Kazybek (Kaz) drew with Raja Ritwik.

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
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1	10143693167.	Loan Against Property with Dropline Overdraft Facility	28.10.2025	9,90,071/-

**NAME OF BORROWERS AND CO-BORROWERS : 1.RAJESH KUMAR 2.SUNIL KUMAR**

**PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY MEASURING 50 SQ.YDS., COMPRISED IN KHASRA NO.835/1-836/1-837/1-838/1, KHATTA NO.306/345 AS PER JAMABANDI FOR YEAR 2004-05, SITUATED AT VILLAGE LOHARA, H.B.NO.260, ABADIKNOWN AS SUNDER NAGAR, TEH. & DISTT. LUDHIANA., ANDTHE SAID PROPERTY IS BOUNDED BY AS: EAST: STREET 18' WIDE, WEST: NEIGHBOUR, NORTH:NEIGHBOUR, SOUTH: NEIGHBOUR**

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Date : 02.11.2025  
Place : LUDHIANA

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)



## When Fabric Finds Voice

When cloth remembered its roots, the evening became a conversation between worlds, says SAKSHI PRIYA

What happens when the fabric of a people's history is cut, stitched, and reborn under the lights of a foreign runway? The answer revealed itself in Delhi, as Kirrikin, the Indigenous Australian label founded by Amanda Healy, brought a mesmerising confluence of art, ancestry, and contemporary design to the Indian capital. The showcase, presented by the Australian High Commission and the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), shimmered with the quiet grace of storytelling through fabric.

Kirrikin, meaning "Sunday's best clothes" in the Wonnarua language, embodies renewal through fabric. Its Indian debut reflected a dialogue between land and memory, where patterns became storytellers of ancestry. For Healy, fashion is an act of cultural continuity. "It is a fine line to balance culture, language, and commerce. I am guided by elders and cultural experts in our community," she said, acknowledging the responsibility woven into every creation.

The Buffy Dress opened the evening with poised modernity, its clean lines suggesting control over extravagance. The Black Ball Dress followed with timeless elegance, blending restraint and grandeur. The Martha Dress flowed with quiet strength, while the Kaye Dress, created with artist Kaye White, glowed in black and rose-pink — soft yet assertive.

Designed in Australia and crafted in Noida, each garment reflected a creative dialogue between two nations bound by their reverence for fabric.

Yet, it was the Ripples Collection that held the emotional core. Made from sustainable viscose and linen-cotton blends, its fluid silhouettes symbolised transformation. The Ripple print mirrored water in motion, evoking circles of social change and continuity — subtle, intelligent, and deeply moving. What impressed me most as an observer was Kirrikin's poise in representing its heritage. The clothes possessed an almost academic clarity, each cut and contour an argument for balance between beauty and purpose, modernity and memory.

Sunil Sethi, Chairman of FDCI, described the event as a meeting of equals. "Fashion has always been a bridge, and this event is a true meeting of cultures," he said. His words framed the evening perfectly, capturing the quiet dignity with which both countries approached this exchange.

What happens when heritage walks the runway? As the final model stepped away, the stage bridged continents and centuries, showing how craftsmanship becomes both memory and movement. In the quiet that followed, one idea remained — true fashion seeks meaning, not moment.

### ON PRESERVING INTEGRITY

Amanda Healy: We always seek the artist's approval before any development work begins, but it is a given that if they want to work with us, their work will be commercialised. We hope it is for the greater good — to get them more recognition and profile. Love it or hate it — we all need cash to survive. We try to help this process through respectful inclusivity.

### ON INDIGENOUS WISDOM

Amanda Healy: What's often missed about our people is our strength and resilience. Our ancient environmental knowledge could have prevented the massive bushfires that now kill thousands of animals each year. For thousands of years, cultural burn-off practices maintained balance. In just two centuries of neglect, destruction has multiplied. We understand our land through generations of observation.



## Strings of divinity



### TEAM VIVA

To speak of Sufi music is to speak of love in its purest resonance — a communion between the human and the divine, carried through the language of sound. This harmony shaped the evening at the India International Centre, where the Rishal Music Trust announced *Lakshmi Meets Saraswati*, an initiative devoted to nurturing India's classical and folk arts.

Founded by Harvansh Chawla, a distinguished lawyer and steadfast advocate for India's cultural heritage, the Trust envisions itself as a dynamic platform to nurture classical musicians, folk artists, and traditional art forms, offering them mentorship and recognition in an evolving cultural landscape. A musical performance by National Award-winning flautists Rajesh and Rishab Prasanna filled the hall with compositions that carried the spirit of India's timeless traditions. At the heart of the gathering stood the launch of *Sufi Music: Through the Eye of*

*Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan*, authored by Dr Jagriti Luthra Prasanna and published by B.R. Rhythms.

The book explores the sacred realm where every verse becomes remembrance and each note devotion — revealing how Nusrat Saheb's music continues to bridge faith and feeling. Muzafer Ali, Begum Abida Parveen, and Pt Rajendra Prasanna bear witness to the work's authenticity and its resonance across generations.

The evening reflected India's artistic spirit — where learning flows through listening and tradition lives through reverence. *Lakshmi Meets Saraswati* reminds that true prosperity lies in preserving wisdom, grace, and the music that stirs the soul. With twelve Padma Shri awardees as mentors, the initiative becomes both sanctuary and stage — celebrating prosperity born of wisdom, artistry, and cultural inheritance.



## The jazz of gentle colours



### SAKSHI PRIYA

There are evenings when art and jazz meet not by design but by destiny — one painting in colour what the other hums in sound. At the German Ambassador's Residence in New Delhi, this rare harmony graced the fifth edition of *Art In Residence*, an initiative by Art Incept in collaboration with the German Embassy that celebrates India's emerging artists.

This edition featured artist Pankaj Chouhan, whose works seem less painted than breathed into being. His *Whispers of Remnants* — charcoal and pencil on paper, captures the quiet of disap-

pearing spaces, tracing time's residue through lines etched in silence. In contrast, 'A Conversation Between Soil and Smoke' — watercolour and pigment dust on paper, moves like a half-remembered memory, a dialogue between earth and air.

Together, they reflect the transience of rural life and the delicate persistence of memory. As a German jazz formation played through the evening, the music moved in quiet dialogue with Chouhan's canvases — both improvisational, both born of instinct and emotion. Each note, like each brushstroke, carried a sense of longing, an invitation to see more closely

what rests beneath the surface. Ambassador Dr Philipp Ackermann, who initiated the *Art In Residence* programme in 2023, described it as a space where art lives and evolves. "If you wish to build real partnership between countries, you must work people-to-people," he said. "And art and culture are the best bridges for that."

Now in its fifth edition, the programme played through pigment, paper, sound, and silence in quiet understanding. And as the last note of jazz faded into the twilight, it felt as though the art itself had begun to sing — a whisper turning into poetry, a moment suspended between breath and colour.

WHEN ART ENTERS DIPLOMACY, SILENCE TURNS ELOQUENT, AND COLOURS BEGIN THE CONVERSATIONS WORDS NEVER COULD



## Be There... If you dare!

Halloween crashed India's nights — ghosts grooved to desi beats, witches posed, and chaos sparkled, says SAKSHI PRIYA

Halloween has cast its spell on India, and it glows differently under Indian skies. What was once a Western whisper of ghosts, pumpkins, and trick-or-treating now roams freely through our streets — bold, noisy, and spectacularly alive. Across cities, people paint their faces, slip into cloaks and vampire capes, and step out to celebrate fear as if it were a festival of art.

Delhi's *HorrorCon India 2025*, held at Okhla, captured that mood perfectly, bringing together the thrill of darkness and the exuberance of performance. Curated by Khooni Monday, the event was a celebration of creativity, theatre, and playful horror. What began as the Celtic festival of Samhain now beats with an Indian pulse — a celebration where tradition, technology, and imagination merge. The event reimaged the festival through an Indian lens. The grounds resembled a living stage, glowing with lanterns and mist. Everywhere one turned, there was something curious to see, tarot

readers revealing fates, cosplayers dressed as cinematic demons, and artists showcasing sculptures that twisted horror into beauty. Children carried pumpkin baskets through the Trick-and-Treat alley, while adults explored the "Bizarre Bazaar" filled with handcrafted masks, skull candles, gothic jewellery, and Halloween-themed art.

Nearby, the "Hallowville Food Zone" served eerie delights — desserts dusted in black cocoa, blood-red mocktails, and spicy snacks inspired by cinematic villains. Everywhere one turned, something fascinating awaited — cosplayers as Indian ghosts, illusionists twisting perception, and artists moulding the strange into beauty.

For a country that has always loved a good ghost story, from *chudails* to *bhoots* — Halloween feels less borrowed and more rediscovered. The festival of fright has turned into a festival of delight — where masks reveal, shadows dance, and the night itself smiles back.

We have become a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different dreams  
— Jimmy Carter

Chandigarh  
November 2, 2025



The upcoming Bihar Assembly elections promise to be a crucial political battleground that will test not only the strength of major alliances but also the mood of an electorate eager for tangible change. Bihar elections are all about loyalties and caste realignments. The contest will reveal how much ground the ruling coalition has retained and how effectively the opposition can translate discontent into votes

## The rise of Bihar's silent majority | Between promises and performance

In the Bihar of the 1990s, amidst Lalu's Jungle Raj, dusk meant curfew. Women hurried home before dark, roads emptied out, and fear filled the air. Extortion, kidnappings, and political muscle were the order of the day. For the youth and women, opportunity was a distant dream, safety itself was uncertain.



**SANJAY MAYUKH**  
BJP National Media Co-Head

Twenty years later, the picture could not be more different. Bihar's women today are no longer confined indoors; they are riding scooters to work, running self-help groups, and voting in numbers that often outpace men.

A state once synonymous with Jungle Raj has turned its women and youth into a political and economic force. From divisive caste-based politics to the politics of appeasement, parties like Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), driven by parivarvad, often prioritized the development of their children rather than the youth and women of Bihar. They suppressed the aspirations of people and made them feel like this was their reality.

Over the years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre and the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar, no stone has been left unturned to transform Bihar from the image of a BIMARU rajya to a Viksit and Samridh Bihar.

Nari Shakti and Yuva Shakti have been the loudest supporters of PM Modi since 2014 and have entrusted their faith in the BJP-NDA government. In the 2020 Bihar elections, out of 243 total seats, 119 constituencies had more women than men on the voter list. Among those 119, the NDA secured 72 seats (60.5 per cent), while the Mahagathbandhan (MGB) won just 42 seats (35.3 per cent).

As PM Modi says, "when a woman is developed whole society is developed. And women of Bihar have two brothers, Narendra and Nitish, who are tirelessly working for their overall well-being."

On the contrary, Mahagathbandhan and Tejaswi Yadav are busy making fake and impractical promises to the people of Bihar, underestimating their political acumen. Their promise of giving government jobs to one person in every family and ₹30,000 monthly to Jeevika Didis which exceeds Bihar's monthly budget and is practically impossible to fulfill. These are just attempts to woo women voters who have not supported them in previous elections. Meanwhile, the BJP-NDA government works with accountability and

has fulfilled and made significant progress on its 2020 manifesto promises.

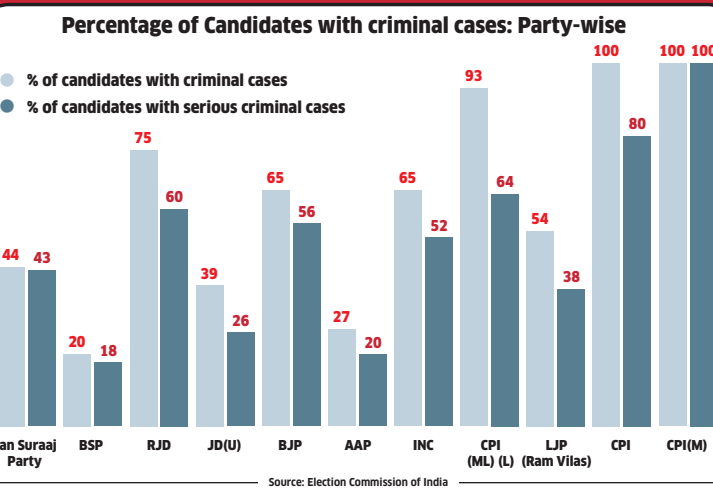
### Accountability and Delivery

The most powerful story of Bihar's revival is that of its women. They are now agents of change in every corner of the state. Under the ₹50,000 crore micro-finance mission, 1.1 crore women have found not just financial support, but dignity. Through direct cash transfers of ₹10,000 each, the NDA government has enabled them to take charge of small enterprises from tailoring and dairy farming to local businesses that sustain families and communities. The Lakhpati Didi Yojana is no longer just a policy, it's a movement of 30 lakh women breaking economic barriers and inspiring others to follow. The PM Ujjwala Scheme, with over 1 crore gas connections, has replaced the chulha's smoke with a new breath of dignity. Beyond economics, empowerment has meant safety and recognition. Every district now has a women's police station, and 35,000 women officers serve in uniform — The highest in India. For countless Women, this symbolises trust in governance and a sense of belonging in public life. A provision of 35 per cent reservation for women has been implemented in all state government jobs.

Additionally, 50 per cent reservation for women has been introduced in the recruitment of teachers in primary schools. Bihar is also the first state in the country to provide 50 per cent reservation for women in local body elections giving them an opportunity to lead the society.

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### BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2025 PHASE I



### BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: 1972-2020

1972	INC wins a majority, followed by the CPI and the SSP
1977	Janata Party wins a landslide victory, INC finishes second
1980	Congress (I) secures a majority; Janata Party (SC) is runner-up
1985	Congress wins a large majority; Lok Dal comes in second
1990	JD wins a majority, with the BJP in second place
1995	JD retains majority, BJP remains the second-largest party
2000	RJD wins a plurality in 2000, followed by close victories for the JD(U), BJP in 2005, and NDA in 2020
2005	February: RJD wins 75 seats, JD(U) 55, LJP 29 & BJP 37; October: JD(U) 88, BJP 55, RJD 54 & LJP 10
2010	JD(U) sweeps with 115, BJP second with 91 and RJD gets 22
2015	RJD tops the tally with 80, JDU comes close second with 71 and BJP gets 53
2020	RJD gets 75, BJP 74, JDU 43 and INC gets 19

Nitish's fatigue meets Tejaswi's momentum as Bihar stands ready to judge its own political legacy. Once again, Bihar finds itself at the centre of a democratic reckoning. The 2025 Assembly election is not merely a political contest — it is a moral referendum on two decades of governance, broken promises, and a restless generation's demand for justice, jobs, and dignity.



**NAWAL KISHORE**  
National Spokesperson and National President, RJD Student Wing

### The Unkept Promises of "Sushasan"

The NDA, led by Nitish Kumar, enters this election under the heavy weight of its 2020 manifesto — a catalogue of promises that faded faster than the ink on which they were printed. The 19 lakh jobs pledged in 2020 have now been inflated into a promise of one crore in 2025 — a leap of ambition unmatched by planning or sincerity. Nitish's own remark, "Where will the money come from?", captures the crisis of credibility his government faces.

In contrast, Tejaswi Yadav's 17-month stint in power gave young voters a glimpse of possibility — a period in which recruitment drives and administrative accountability seemed to return. His confidence became the mirror that reflected Nitish's fatigue.

### Floods, Corruption, and Failing Infrastructure

Each year, North Bihar drowns - not only in floodwaters but in official indifference. Embankments collapse, bridges crumble, and compensation trickles down slower than the floodwaters recede. The recurrent bridge collapses despite billions in

expenditure expose a pattern: corruption has become structural, not incidental. Even Prime Minister Modi's famous quip, "Do you need a *lalten* when there is light?", now rings hollow in villages that still await reliable electricity and Internet connectivity — seventy years after Independence.

### Populism Disguised as Welfare

Sensing discontent, the NDA government has turned to a flurry of freebies: 125 units of free electricity, enhanced pensions, cash transfers for women, and the expansion of Ujjwala and Viswakarma Yojanas. But voters can see through the timing - schemes announced on the eve of elections cannot erase years of inaction.

The Viswakarma Yojana, in particular, has been criticised for linking caste identity to monetary benefit, turning empowerment into caste-based patronage. What should have been economic inclusion has instead deepened social fault lines.

### An Economy That Never Took Off

Despite its fertile land and industrious people, Bihar remains India's poorest state. It ranks last in per capita income (₹60,337 in 2024), second-last in higher education enrollment, and continues to lag in health and gender indices.

Even in its strong sectors — such as Makhana production — Bihar exports raw produce while others reap the profits. The late creation of a Makhana Board with a modest ₹100 crore allocation, just before elections, feels more like an attempt to woo the Mallah vote than to industrialise the Mithila region.

### Leadership Without a Face

The NDA's 2025 Sankalp Patra reveals an even deeper problem, a leadership vacuum. The alliance has chosen not to project a Chief Ministerial face, reflecting internal anxiety about Nitish Kumar's political relevance. His frequent political realignments have eroded the image of "Sushasan Babu."

Once a symbol of administrative stability, Nitish now finds himself mocked as the head of a "copy-paste government", borrowing ideas from RJD's play-book. On the other side stands Tejaswi Yadav, leading the Mahagathbandhan with the slogan "Bihar ka Tejaswi Pran" — a call that resonates with the youth, Dalits, women, and backward communities.

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## Gen-Z at the ballot: Which alliance can win Bihar's youth vote?

ASHOKE RAJ

As Bihar gears up for the two-phase Assembly election, the focus has sharply turned to the state's young and restless electorate — Generation Z. With nearly one in every four voters belonging to this age group (born after 1997), Gen-Z has become the most decisive factor in determining who governs Bihar next.

### Youth Power at the Ballot Box

Bihar will vote in two phases — on November 6 for 121 seats and on November 11 for 122 seats. Out of the state's 7.41 crore registered voters, about 1.75 crore are from Generation Z. That's roughly 24 per cent of the total electorate. In several districts, including Nawada, young

voters form an even larger proportion — nearly 3.64 lakh out of 17.16 lakh total voters, according to the Election Commission's latest roll revision. With over half of Bihar's population under 40, this election is being shaped by the aspirations of a generation that has grown up in the age of smartphones, social media, and digital awareness.

### Gen-Z: A Different Kind of Voter

Unlike their parents, Bihar's Gen-Z hasn't seen the Lalu Prasad Yadav or Congress-led governments. Their political memory starts and ends with Nitish Kumar's rule. They are impatient, digitally savvy, and eager for measurable progress. For them, issues like unemployment, migration, poor education infrastructure,

and corruption matter more than caste arithmetic or legacy politics. A 2020 Lokniti-CSDS survey showed that 21 per cent of Bihar's voters ranked unemployment and lack of industry as their top concern — a sentiment that remains even stronger in 2025.

### What Each Side Is Offering to the Youth- NDA: Jobs, Skill Development, and Stability

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has campaigned around employment and welfare schemes. Ahead of the polls, his government announced a ₹1,000 monthly allowance for unemployed graduates and promised one crore new jobs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and programs like Digital India and MUDRA Yojana

continue to resonate with first-time voters. BJP ally Chirag Paswan has also re-energised his "Bihar First" campaign, focusing on entrepreneurship and modern education to attract the young.

### Mahagathbandhan: Tejaswi's 'New Bihar' Vision

RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav, the chief ministerial candidate of the opposition alliance, has made jobs his central promise. He has vowed that every family in Bihar will have at least one government job if his coalition comes to power.

Tejaswi has also pledged to establish one medical and one engineering college in each district, besides expanding polytechnic and paramedical institutes. His casual, youth-

friendly image — often seen in jeans and t-shirts — is part of his effort to connect directly with younger voters.

### Jan Suraaj: Prashant Kishor's Clean Politics Pitch

Political strategist-turned-leader Prashant Kishor (PK) has emerged as a challenger from outside the two main blocs. His Jan Suraaj campaign targets Gen-Z's frustrations with corruption, delayed recruitments, and the lack of transparent governance. However, PK faces a tough road — his movement lacks the grassroots structure of major parties. Yet, his message of change and accountability has found some appeal among students and first-time voters.

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# Reservation: India cares for the marginalised

India has established a comprehensive affirmative action structure that is legally binding. Caste quotas, the new EWS quota, disability reservations, and required local seats for women have all contributed to increased inclusiveness



### JUDICIAL VERDICTS IMPACTING RESERVATION POLICY

- Champakam (1951)**  
Strikes down reservations in education, leads to First Amelment
- Indira Sawhney (1992)**  
Upheld OBC quota, introduces 50 per cent ceiling, "creamy layer" concept
- Nagaraj (2006)**  
Conditions for SC/ST promotions set: backwardness, representation, adm efficiency
- Jarnail Singh (2018)**  
Removes proof of backwardness requirement for SC/ST promotions
- Janhit Abhiyan (2022)**  
Upholds 10 per cent EWS reservation, rules 50 per cent limit not inviolable
- 2024 SC Ruling on SC/ST Creamy Layer**  
Mandates state power to identify 'creamy layer' within SC/STs

### Targeting Caste, Class, Disability, and More

India's quota system is still based on caste. According to studies, SC/ST quota beneficiaries come from poorer households and districts than general-category students. For example, one study discovered that after the 1993 implementation of OBC reservations, the average OBC student received an additional 0.8 years of education compared to earlier generations. These findings imply that quotas have increased educational achievement for backward castes. Similarly, political science research shows that reserving parliamentary seats for SCs/STs and women has resulted in significant poverty reductions and increased social spending in such regions.

Beyond caste and class, India has moved to expand quotas to other disadvantaged groups. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016 requires a 4 per cent

reserve of government jobs for people with baseline disabilities. (This is often divided into 1 per cent each for blindness, hearing impairment, locomotor difficulties, autism/intellectual disability, and so forth.) States are now implementing this; for example, Uttar Pradesh has announced a 4 per cent quota for disabled candidates in all government job openings. Education regulations also promote inclusion: the 2009 Right to Education Act mandates private schools to reserve 25 per cent of first-grade seats for disadvantaged (mostly low-income or rural) children, providing them with free education through eighth grade. India's Constitution also protects minority rights. Articles 29-30 protect the cultural and educational rights of religious and linguistic minorities, and institutions run by minorities can even set their own admission standards. For example, the State provides financial support to help minorities establish schools and scholarships.

However, there are no separate religious quotas at the national level. The Supreme Court and top scholars have consistently said that India's reservation policy is based on caste and class, not faith. The RSS (a national ideological entity) stated in 2025 that "the Constitution does not allow religion-based quota", and courts have already rejected attempts to reserve positions specifically for Muslims. In actuality, some disadvantaged Muslim communities benefit indirectly: many "OBC" lists include Muslim castes, and certain states, like Karnataka and Andhra, have attempted sub-quotas under OBC for Muslims (subject to judicial challenges). Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims continue to be excluded from the SC/ST classifications, which is an ongoing source of grievance.

Despite living in comparable poverty, they are not granted SC status by law. According to a 2021 IndiaSpend article, approximately 47 per cent of urban Dalit Muslims live in poverty, which is higher than the percentage for Hindu Dalits, despite the fact that their groups do not have access to SC quotas. The Supreme Court has agreed to consider a plea for "religion-neutral" reservation, which would benefit Dalits of all religions. This discussion reveals a gap: caste is not religious; thus, any poor Dalit (regardless of faith) should qualify - yet in fact, official lists omit Christians and Muslims, leaving these groups out of affirmative action.

### Progress and Persistent Challenges

India's reservation system has certainly improved representation of historically marginalised groups. Millions of SC/ST and OBC students have gained access to universities and civil services that they would not have had

without quotas. Political parties frequently draw from reserved constituencies and employ leaders from particular areas. Governments have supported affirmative action initiatives to help underprivileged groups in accordance with the constitutional direction (Article 46). According to one assessment, election-reserved SC/ST seats experienced lower poverty rates and better social results for their residents, demonstrating that political representation can bring benefits. However, India still "lags in creating an inclusive scene". Many critics believe that the system excludes the poorest among its targets. For example, the so-called "creamy layer" regulation bans wealthy OBC individuals from quotas, whilst poor upper-caste inhabitants can only receive assistance under the new EWS quota, which cannot benefit the poorest SC/ST/OBC households. The EWS plan itself was controversial: opponents argue that it completely excludes SC/ST/OBC, essentially creating a "rich upper-caste" quota, in their opinion.

Others are concerned that quotas alone will not assure equal access to private-sector jobs or higher education, where reservations do not apply. Social discrimination and educational inequalities continue to hamper true equality in the workplace and at colleges. Implementation gaps also exist in public jobs. Research demonstrates that even when SC/ST job quotas exist, many positions go empty for years due to high qualification requirements or institutional resistance. In the past, few high-ranking positions were filled with reservations, and progress has been slow. As a scholar observed in 2019, large-scale protests against Mandal-era quotas reflected "massive debates and controversies" over their efficiency. Today, there are calls for sub-quotas inside SC/OBC groups, quotas in private firms, and stricter implementation of existing legislation. Women, who account for half of the population, are likewise under-represented: the long-delayed Women's Reservation Bill (approved by Parliament in 2023), which provides one-third of legislative seats for women, is currently awaiting final enactment.

India has established a comprehensive affirmative action structure that is legally binding and has grown in recent years. Caste quotas, the new EWS quota, disability reservations, and required local seats for women have all contributed to increased inclusiveness. However, many underprivileged people continue to slide between the cracks. A fully inclusive strategy would ensure that all underprivileged or marginalised people receive benefits, regardless of caste or class, while simultaneously addressing societal stereotypes and opportunity disparities. As courts and policymakers adjust India's quotas, the task continues to strike a balance between broad access and social justice, bringing the promise of equality closer to reality for all.

The article is written by Ms Hemangi Sinha, Project Head at WIF, who has been actively involved in research and policy writing on social equity and Governance. It is co-authored by Ms Sakshi Chaudhary, her researcher, who has contributed to the analysis and drafting of the piece

ities for children from the poorest homes, rather than benefits going down through generations of the same family.

### Constitutional Mandates and Reservation Laws

The Indian Constitution specifically allows for caste-based quotas. Article 15(4) makes particular provisions for SC/ST and other backward classes, while Article 16(4) allows for the reservation of government posts for under-represented backward classes. As a result, current central policies allocate approximately 49.5 per cent of government employment and college seats to SCs, STs, and OBCs (15 per cent for SC, 7.5 per cent for ST, and 27 per cent for OBC). These quotas apply to all public-sector jobs, including universities and legislatures. (Some states go much further, such as Tamil Nadu, which reserves 69 per cent of seats, exceeding the 50 per cent cap.) In local administrations (village and city councils), constitutional amendments have also reserved seats for SC/ST members in proportion to their population, and women have been guaranteed one-third of all panchayat/municipal seats since 1994. The 73rd and 74th Amendments thus give a voice to disadvantaged groups in grassroots politics.

Over time, India has expanded affirmative action to include additional communities. In 2019, the Government passed the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which allows for reservations only on economic grounds. It introduced Clauses 15(6) and 16(6), which allow up to 10 per cent of jobs and college seats to be reserved for "Economically Weaker Sections" (EWS) who are not already classified as SC/ST/OBC. This 10 per cent EWS limit is "in addition to the existing reservations" and was confirmed by the Supreme Court in 2022-23. A split bench stated that the normal 50 per cent reservation cap (introduced in 1992) is "not inflexible" in doing so. The Court held that EWS quotas, which target poor upper-caste households, are constitutionally acceptable and broaden India's affirmative action net beyond caste alone.



HEMANGI SINHA



SAKSHI CHAUDHARY

"Reservation is an instrument of affirmative action by the State... to ensure an all-inclusive march towards... an egalitarian society while counteracting inequalities," ruled the Supreme Court. For decades, India has employed similar policies to help historically marginalised populations gain access to school, employment, and politics.

The Constitution allows the State to establish "special provisions for the advancement of any socially or educationally backward class... or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" and reserve public posts for any backward class "not adequately represented". In practice, this has translated into legally guaranteed quotas known as "reservations" for disadvantaged castes in government positions and colleges, as well as reserved seats in elected organisations. According to many, "India has a long history of affirmative action policies for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), which were later extended to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the 1990s."

### Limiting Reservation to First Generation: Ensuring Fairness in Affirmative Action

In a recent Supreme Court ruling, Justice Pankaj Mishra argued that this remedy should not become a perpetual advantage for the same families. He stated that once a family benefits and "achieved higher status", its descendants should not indefinitely take special seats. His own words were: "Reservation, if any, has to be limited only for the first generation or one generation." In other words, if a member of a backward community wins a government job or a college seat through reservation, the next generation will compete with everyone else. This notion is similar to the "creamy layer" criterion, which is already utilised for OBC quotas.

Limiting quotas to one generation would prevent affluent families from monopolising benefits within a community. Critics of unfettered quotas point out that more affluent SC/ST families frequently send numerous members to reserved postings, in contrast to many poorer families who continue to get no benefits. Introducing a generational cap or periodic review would free up seats for people who have never advanced through the system.

According to one study, eliminating the advanced segment "prevents their capture of benefits... improving reach to the most marginalised". In practice, this means greater possibil-

listens and understands that opportunity grows only when education and aspiration speak the same language. This is not Bihar that sends its young away, it is Bihar that calls them back.

### Looking Ahead: Bihar@2025

A state once defined by migration is now working to become a destination of opportunity. NDA's Sankalp Patra for Bihar 2025 focuses on expanding opportunity, empowering women, and creating jobs for the youth.

For women, the goal is financial and social strength. The success of microfinance schemes and the transfer of ₹12,100 crore to 1.21 crore women have already sparked an entrepreneurial revolution in rural Bihar.

The new Jeevika Didi Credit Card will help self-help groups get loans up to ₹15 lakh easily, allowing women to grow small businesses and support their families. A women's police battalion named after Lt. Bharti Asha Sahay Chaudhary and freedom fighter Vijaya Mushaharin will soon be established, along with Pink Force units at public places to ensure safety. Free HPV vaccination and regular cancer screenings will continue for women's health and prevention.

As Bihar steps into a new phase of industrial growth, it is the young and ambitious who will drive it forward. For youth, the focus is on jobs and entrepreneurship. The government plans to create 30 lakh jobs through new industrial parks in food processing, textiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics, and semiconductors. District-level Samrat Ashok Entrepreneurship Centres will be

set up to train and mentor 10 lakh young entrepreneurs, providing co-working spaces and startup support.

In PM Modi's words, "Jab itni light hai to Bihar mein lalain ki zarurat kya hai." That light is the light of development, of confidence, of self-reliance, a light the NDA government has brought to Bihar. The Congress and RJD have, time and again, hurt Bihar's progress and the self-respect of its people. Today, Bihar refuses to return to that era of darkness. The NDA government will once again receive the people's unwavering trust and blessings, especially from the women of Bihar, who believe that their brothers, Narendra and Nitish, are the ones who can ensure a life that is better, peaceful, and safe.

Dr Sanjay Mayukh is the Chief Whip of the BJP and the Deputy Whip of the NDA in the Bihar Legislative Council. He is overseeing the party's media management in Bihar Assembly elections

### Between promises and performance

His campaign has been rooted in employment, meritocracy, and transparency — the very issues the NDA has repeatedly evaded. By combining social justice with developmental pragmatism, Tejaswi has reframed the debate from "who rules Bihar" to "who represents Bihar." His brief but active governance period, inclusive seat distribution, and consistent articulation of youth concerns have transformed him from a political inheritor to a credible contender.

This election, then, is less about parties and

more about trust versus betrayal, vision versus inertia. Bihar's electorate — politically aware, emotionally invested, and often cynical — understands that freebies cannot substitute for jobs, nor can slogans replace governance.

The anti-incumbency tide, the unemployment crisis, and the awakening of marginalised voices may together script a new political chapter. For the first time in many years, the contest seems to be between a generation that remembers Nitish's first promise and one that believes in Tejaswi's first step.

### The Verdict of a Politicised People

Bihar has never lacked awareness; it has often lacked alternatives.

In 2025, it may finally find one. The question before its voters is simple yet profound: Will they choose continuity or change? Because after two decades of recycled manifestos and half-built dreams, Bihar's people deserve not another slogan, but a government that listens, delivers, and believes. In the end, Bihar deserves more than promises — it deserves performance.

Naval Kishore, Professor of Political Science at Delhi University

### Gen-Z at the ballot...

#### Election Climate: Youth Engagement and Law & Order

As enthusiasm builds, the Election Commission has sought a report from Bihar's DGP following the killing of a Jan Suraj worker in Mokama,

raising concerns over law and order. Political analysts believe such incidents could influence how young voters view the fairness of the electoral process.

At the same time, the rise in digital campaigning has brought new energy. All parties are heavily using social media platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and X (formerly Twitter) to reach Gen-Z voters directly, bypassing traditional rallies.

### What Will Decide the Gen-Z Vote?

Jobs, education, and migration continue to be the most critical issues. While the NDA banks on continuity and national leadership, the Mahagathbandhan emphasises change and opportunity. Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj offers an alternative narrative of clean governance.

Political experts say that whichever alliance manages to convince young voters of its credibility on employment and transparency will likely gain a decisive edge.

### The Verdict Lies with the Young

In 2025, Bihar's election isn't just about who wins power — it's about which vision wins the confidence of its youth. Generation Z, with its tech-driven worldview and demand for real progress, may well decide not just the fate of the next government, but the direction of Bihar's political future.

Whoever wins the hearts of Bihar's Gen-Z — wins the future of the state.

The writer is an Associate Editor at The Pioneer

## FROM AGENDA COVER

### The rise of Bihar's silent majority

And at home, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has given more than 41 lakh families 11 lakh higher than promised in 2020 manifesto a pucca house transforming not just rooftops, but lives. Clean sanitation, electricity, and ownership in a woman's name have redefined what it means to live with dignity.

### Youth Development: From Migration to Motivation

Bihar's youth, once forced to migrate for opportunity, are now finding purpose at home. Skill training and entrepreneurship are turning aspiration into achievement.

Over 20 lakh youth have received formal training under the Bihar Skill Development Mission, and the establishment of the Jan Nayak Karpooi Thakur Skill University will institutionalize this shift linking learning directly to employability. Since 2020 over 50 lakh government jobs and employment opportunities have been created.

Through the Teacher Recruitment Examination (TRE), a domicile provision now ensures local youth get first priority, helping talent stay rooted in Bihar. At the same time, Bihar is redefining accessibility in education. NIT Patna now offers engineering courses in Hindi, while the MBBS in Hindi initiative will soon make medical education available to thousands in their own language.

These reforms reflect a government which

"FOOD IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING THAT CONNECTS US ALL"  
— JESSIE WARE

## Telangana on a plate: A chronicle of culture, devotion and cuisine

ANIL RAJPUT



Telangana, located on India's Deccan Plateau, is known for its attractively rugged landscape, picturesque rivers and lakes, and long historical continuity. The Krishna and Godavari rivers meander through its fertile fields, while smaller lakes and tanks, many engineered centuries ago, continue to fascinate by its beauty besides serving as essential water sources. Hyderabad, the capital, is renowned for its breathtaking architecture and exotic cuisine while towns such as Warangal, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, and Khammam reflect regional development grounded in agriculture, technology, and cultural heritage. The varied geography and long historical heritage of this area have shaped a distinct cultural identity that continues to evolve in modern India.

Archaeological discoveries have identified sites like Padavulagutta, Ragonda, and Eturnagaram as cradles of prehistoric life inhabited by people in the Stone Age who lived close to the rivers and used tools crafted from quartzite. The historical narrative of Telangana, however, begins more than two thousand years ago when the region was part of the Satavahana domain known for their administrative and trade systems that nurtured agriculture, coin production, and commercial exchange with other parts of India and overseas networks. Sites in Phanigiri and Kotilinga have revealed coins, pottery, and relics that demonstrate its wide trade connections besides the presence of Buddhist monastic institutions. During this era, the early growth of Telugu as a language of the people is known to have begun alongside Prakrit and Sanskrit.

The eminent pre modern dynasty of the region was the Kakatiya dynasty, which emerged between the 11th and 14th centuries with Warangal as its capital. The Kakatiyas consolidated the region's famed agricultural economy through the construction of extensive irrigation tanks and implemented administrative practices with local village participation. Their rule is also distinguished by its patronage of architecture and intricate designs in sculptures. The Thousand Pillar Temple in Hanamakonda and the fortified structures of Warangal stand testimony of Kakatiya exquisite craftsmanship. Telugu inscriptions were widely used and promoted the language as both an administrative and literary medium. The period also recorded increased participation of women in governance, most notably under Rani Rudrama Devi, whose leadership is embellished in regional history.

Following the decline of the Kakatiyas due to invasions from the north, the region entered a phase of political transition. The Bahmani Sultanate and later the Qutb Shahis established control, contributing influences that blended with existing Telugu culture. The founding of Hyderabad by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah in the late sixteenth century positioned Telangana as a center of Indo Persian art, architecture, and literature. The Charminar and Golconda fort are standing examples of refined planning and craftsmanship from this period that have stood the test of time. Diamond production from Golconda mines flourished and elevated the region's commercial status globally.

By the eighteenth century the Asaf Jahi Nizams, a dynasty founded by Mir Qamar-ud-din Siddiqi in 1724 consolidated authority and developed the princely state of Hyderabad. Under the Nizams, Hyderabad grew into the main center of administration, health care, and education. Universities, hospitals, railway networks, and

public projects expanded infrastructure and helped promote a sophisticated urban society. At the same time, rural Telangana experienced neglect and hardship through feudal agrarian systems, which led to organised resistance movements in the mid twentieth century. These struggles influenced political developments after India gained independence in 1947 and the princely state of Hyderabad eventually integrated into the Indian Union in 1948. Telangana later joined with Andhra regions to form Andhra Pradesh in 1956. Following the principles of equitable distribution of resources and recognition of cultural identities, a separate Telangana state came into being on June 2, 2014. Today Telangana is building upon both historic continuity and modern development strategies specially in infrastructure and information technology to define its own future within the country.

Diverse religious traditions have made Telangana what it is today over many centuries. Early evidence from excavations confirm the presence of Buddhism in various parts of the region. Monasteries, stupas, and inscriptions show that Buddhism held cultural and educational influence during the Satavahana (1st century BCE to 3rd century CE) and Ikshvaku (3rd to 4th century CE) periods. Although Buddhism gradually declined, the values of community and simple ritual practices remained evident in social customs.

Hinduism however, held a prominent position once the Kakatiya dynasty (12th - 14th century CE) with their capital in Orugala (modern day Warangal) came to power. They controlled a large portion of Eastern Deccan and are recognized for their contribution to art, literature and architecture. The Ramappa Temple, constructed under the patronage of Kakati Ganapati Deva during this period is famous for its detailed carvings and unique structural characteristics, and remains to this day an important heritage site. Devotion to Lord Rama is central at Bhadrachalam where a large number of pilgrims converge especially during the Sri Rama Navami festival. Sri Sita Ramachandraswamy temple built here, on the banks of the Godavari River, is the site where the periodical Pushkaram and Maha Pushkaram are celebrated with enthusiasm and mirth. Local guardian deities such as Pochamma and Maisamma continue to be worshipped in villages through seasonal and agricultural festivals that have helped reinforce a relationship between community and environment.

Islamic heritage coexists harmoniously in Telangana particularly in Hyderabad where historic mosques, Sufi centers, and community institutions are a part of the city's culture. The Makkah Masjid built during the 17th century is one of the largest mosques in India accommodating over 10,000 devoted worshippers and regularly attracts visitors from far and near. Sufi dargahs

including Yousufain dargah reflect a spiritual culture that values inclusiveness and prayer as a shared human expression that is practiced with much enthusiasm even in modern times.

Telangana is also home to Christian, Jain, and Sikh communities whose places of worship contribute to a landscape of plural faith traditions. Tribal communities maintain distinct spiritual practices centered on nature, ancestral memory, and seasonal cycles. This religious diversity forms an integrated social structure where public festivals, neighborhood rituals, and culinary traditions reflect mutual influence and respect that is the hallmark of the region's harmony and community living. These histories and beliefs are expressed clearly in Telangana cuisine, which is both practical and yet exotic. Local agriculture and climate have shaped a food system where millets and sorghum play a major role. Telangana cuisine is usually grouped into three major culinary streams; Telangana inland cuisine, Hyderabad cuisine, and tribal cuisine. Each stream differs in ingredients, cooking techniques, flavor profiles, and social context but together they reflect a common cultural identity of the state.

Telangana inland cuisine is known for its simplicity yet intricate cooking techniques and strong flavors. Cereals such as jonna (sorghum), saija (pearl millet), and occasionally ragi (finger millet) are commonly used as the base. These grains are cooked in the form of roti, which are thick breads traditionally cooked on a flat griddle till they are puffed and tanned. Meals are generally paired with pappu, which in the local dialect means lentils, and are prepared with seasonal greens or vegetables. Tamarind adds sourness to many dishes especially in pulusu which is a type of tangy stew, also a part of the menu. Red mirchi (chili), used extensively, gives the cuisine its distinctive color and spicy heat. Gongura (sorrel leaves) is prepared in several forms including gongura pachadi where the leaves are combined with chilies and garlic to produce a sharp and sour flavor. Curries such as vankaya (brinjal), sorakay (bottle gourd), and beans provide balance with texture and nutrition to the meal. Among meat dishes, mutton and natu kodi (country chicken) are widely popular. Another local favorite is dalcha, a hearty lentil stew often cooked with mutton or vegetables, slow-simmered with tamarind and spices to create a wholesome accompaniment to rice or roti. Telangana cuisine also features snacks and festival foods like sakinalu (rice flour and sesame coils) made during Sankranti, and sarvindhi which is a savory rice flour cake mixed with chana dal (split chickpea) and green chilies before being pan cooked to a firm consistency; ideal for a snack in-between meals.

Hyderabad cuisine, on the other hand, has witnessed multiple culinary innovations and

evolved through interactions among Telugu, Persian, Turkish, and other regional influences under the Qutb Shahi and Asaf Jahi courts. The most popular dish of course is the famed biryani, where basmati rice is layered with marinated meat and cooked with spices including dalcini (cinnamon), elaichi (cardamom), and lavang (clove). The tradition of slow steaming allows flavors to merge thoroughly with every grain of rice and the exquisite colors of the spices shine through along with its unique aroma. Kebabs and kormas show the importance of tenderizing meat over time and are blended with herbs and spices like cumin, coriander chilli, garlic, ginger and yogurt for a distinctive flavour. Another iconic preparation is pathar ka gosht (mutton), where slices of marinated meat are cooked on heated stone slabs, absorbing a smoky char and retaining a succulent texture that reflects the Nizam's fondness for culinary artistry. These mesmerizing meals once adorned the tables of royalty and nobles but over the years are staple and available even in small cafes by the road side. During the month of Ramadan, haleem made from gosht, broken wheat, and lentils are prepared in almost all households. A popular vegetarian dish is bagara baingan, where brinjal is simmered in a sauce containing sesame seeds, peanuts, and tamarind. To top off the rich and spicy meals, Hyderabad cuisine adds widely recognized sweets to calm and soothe the palate. Sheer khurma made from milk and seviyan (vermicelli) is prepared during Eid. Qubani ka meetha features dried apricots cooked until soft and usually served with cream is another favorite during the festive season. Hyderabad is also known for its bakery culture and Irani chai. Osmania biscuits and tea houses, many modest but very popular, are preferred meeting places where discussions and long conversations are held over chai and snacks.

In the northern pockets of Telangana, in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, and their surrounding forests, food is more than sustenance. It is a way of living with the land. Tribal communities here cook what the earth and seasons offer: sturdy millets, resilient maize, wild greens, foraged tubers, and berries that stain fingertips and sweeten the day. Their kitchens glow with open fires, where ingredients are rarely over-handled, allowing their natural flavors to speak. One of the region's most beloved delicacies, bongu chicken, is prepared by slipping marinated pieces of meat into hollow bamboo and letting the flames do the work. The aroma that escapes is smoky, earthy, and deeply comforting. Mahua flowers, gathered at dawn, become both food and a festive drink, marking celebrations, stories, and rituals that weave communities together. Everything including drying, fer-

menting, and smoking is part of a knowledge system passed down quietly through generations, rooted in sustainability long before the word became fashionable.

Across Telangana, everyday meals unfold with their own thoughtful rhythm. First come cereals such as rice or roti made from sorghum or other millets, forming the heart of the plate. Then follows a gentle parade of sides: a comforting pappu or dal, a tangy pulusu simmered with tamarind, a crisp stir-fried vegetable, and a bright pickle that wakes the senses, often raw mango or lemon. Curd arrives last, a calming finish that cools both palate and body. The flavors may be bold, but every spice such as jeera, methi, and rai earns its place, not just for taste but for nourishment. Even the simplest home-cooked lunch is an exercise in balancing heat, tang, texture, and health.

Festivals and celebrations bring their own sweetness. In many homes, thin and delicate pootharekulu, a traditional local sweet, crackles with ghee, jaggery, or nuts tucked inside. Freshly fried ariselu, another sweet, gleams golden with jaggery and warm ghee and a festive must-have. During Sankranti and Ugadi, sweet treats like polelu-soft, stuffed lentil flatbreads fried in ghee-and fluffy appam, made from fermented rice and jaggery, mark the joyous mood of the season. In bustling Hyderabad, double ka meetha still reigns as the dessert that defines special occasions, while velvety cashew sweets such as jeedi pappu delight guests of every age.

As Telangana finds its voice on global platforms, from tech corridors to international food streets, its cuisine stands unique. Millets, once viewed as humble grains, are being celebrated for their fiber and protein-rich goodness, and their role in diabetes-friendly diets. Young cooks are reinventing age-old recipes, blending tradition with modern flair, while local entrepreneurs bottle the region's bold flavors including pickles, spice mixes, and ready-to-cook meals and send them to shelves near and far. Culinary tourism is giving travelers a taste of what farmers and home cooks have preserved with devotion.

Even as cities rise and lives grow busier, the region's food culture holds steady, reminding us of where we come from. These recipes carry the imprint of farmers sowing in dry soil, artisans crafting tools, and elders stirring pots with practiced hands. The turmeric that boosts immunity, the garlic that keeps the heart strong, the fenugreek that soothes digestion, all reflect a quiet science embedded in tradition. Slow cooking, fermentation, and the use of minimally processed ingredients are not trends here but wisdom.

Passing these culinary traditions to the younger generations is vital for preserving cultural continuity across Telangana. The future of Telangana cuisine depends on its continued practice not only as a source of pride but also for the nourishment and environmentally conscious methods it represents. The recipes and ingredients born here have enabled communities to survive and flourish through changing seasons and circumstances while ensuring wholesome, balanced diets. Preserving these culinary habits today allows us to protect a rich cultural legacy and promote healthier generations ahead. We must ensure that each individual shares the duty and honor of ensuring that this knowledge remains strong so that the vibrant tastes of Telangana stay alive in kitchens everywhere and every generation continues to enjoy the nutrition, comfort, and sense of identity they carry within them.

(The writer is Secretary, Cuisine India Society)

## Soup-er cosy ways to stay warm this winter

TEAM AGENDA

There's a chill in the air, and that can mean only one thing — soup season is officially open! Bubbling pots on the stove, grilled cheese sandwiches crisping golden on the side, and the scent of roasted tomatoes and herbs filling the kitchen. November is about ladling joy, one steaming bowl at a time.

### The Classic Comfort: Tomato Soup with Grilled Cheese

A bowl of intensely flavourful tomato soup — bright, tangy, and smoothened by a swirl of cream — brings instant comfort. Ripe tomatoes roasted with garlic and thyme blend beautifully with vegetable stock and a hint of basil. Alongside sits a grilled cheese sandwich made with thick buttered sourdough, layered with sharp cheddar and molten Gruyère. The joy is in the dunk — crisp, cheesy bread meeting the warm, tangy soup. It's simple, familiar, and timeless — the kind of comfort that never goes out of style.

### The Earthy Indulgence: Cream of Mushroom Soup

For those who savour umami depth, nothing compares to a homemade cream of mushroom soup. A mix of cremini, shiitake, and button mushrooms is sautéed with butter, garlic, onions, and a splash of white wine. Blended to creamy perfection and finished with fresh thyme and cream, it's woody, aromatic, and deeply satisfying — like capturing the essence of a misty forest in a bowl.

### The Hearty Classic: Barley Soup

When the chill sharpens, comfort lies in a slow-simmered



barley soup. Pearl barley, with its nutty flavour and soft chew, forms the heart of this rustic dish. Sauté carrots, celery, onions, and garlic in olive oil, add the barley and vegetable stock, and let thyme, bay leaf, and parsley work their magic. The result is a rich, golden broth — nourishing, simple, and deeply satisfying, the kind of bowl that warms you from the inside out.

### The Creamy Favourite: Broccoli Cheddar Soup

A marriage of vibrant vegetable and sharp cheese, broccoli cheddar soup is pure comfort made elegant. Fresh broccoli florets are simmered with onions and garlic, then blended with milk and aged cheddar for a silky, indulgent finish. Each spoonful carries the warmth of cheese and the freshness of greens, crowned best with homemade croutons or a sprinkle of extra cheddar.

### The Golden Delight: Sweet Corn Soup

Light yet hearty, sweet corn soup offers gentle sweetness and soothing warmth in equal measure. Kernels of fresh or frozen corn are simmered with ginger, garlic, and spring onions, then lightly thickened for a velvety texture. A dash of white pepper and soy sauce brings balance to its natural sweetness. Served hot, it's the perfect prelude to winter — simple, wholesome, and universally loved.

As the evenings turn colder, a bowl of soup brings quiet comfort and warmth. Creamy mushroom, sweet corn, or hearty barley — each spoonful tastes like home. Stir, sip, smile — that's November in a bowl.



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

## The joy of the messy mix

TEAM AGENDA

From England's past, a festive spree, The sweetest, nuttiest history! Soak the fruit and give a shout, The Christmas countdown starts right now! That's what the Cake Mix is all about! Centuries later, this tradition continues to symbolise abundance, gratitude, and community — values beautifully revived at Crowne Plaza New Delhi Mayur Vihar Noida through a —Mediterranean-inspired celebration.

Guests, corporate partners, and associates came together around lavish tables filled with candied peels, nuts, and spices — complemented by Mediterranean elements such as figs, apricots, pistachios, and lemon zest, each carrying a note of prosperity and cheer. The aromatic mix will now mature to become Christmas cakes and seasonal treats at Bake It, the hotel's signa-



ture bakery. Led by Mohit Singh, Director of Operations, the ceremony reflected joy and renewal. The evening also featured a floating dining experience, Mediterranean delicacies, live music, flair bartending, and creative art sessions curated by Art House. A joyful reminder that Christmas begins not with gifts, but with shared warmth, sweet nostalgia, and the promise of celebration. The perfect start to fill every heart!

"EFFORT IS THE KEY IN THE RELATIVE;  
EFFORTLESSNESS IS THE KEY  
IN THE ABSOLUTE"  
— SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

# Why is the path of karma yoga eternally relevant?

GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

The Being that is in you is in everybody else. And you are part of everybody. When you act from this understanding, even though you act, you will not be bound by the action

The Bhagavad Gita caters to humanity as a whole. The Bhagavad Gita is about the wisdom of yoga, though it was given in the midst of war. Conflict is the nature of the world; comfort is the nature of the Self.

Amidst conflict, find comfort. When you are tired of conflicts and the games of the world, get into the comfort of the Self. When you are bored with comfort, get into the games of the world. People who love peace do not want to fight, and those who fight do not have peace. What is needed is to be peaceful within and then fight where the need so arises. Face the conflict while seeking the comfort of the Self. This is the whole message of the Bhagavad Gita: Krishna tells Arjuna to be centred in peace and to fight at the same time. This is the essence of Karma Yoga.

A Karma Yogi is not someone who has dropped everything and is doing 'tapasya' in the Himalayas. One who doesn't hate or doesn't crave anything is a real Karma Yogi, and he is free from all bondages. When you are only craving joy and happiness, you become weak. 'Yoga' brings deep silence within, and 'Karma Yoga' brings dynamism. 'Karma Yoga' is about working with total responsibility. A person can do the same job either following the principles of Karma Yoga or in an imperfect or 'ayogya' way. For example, a teacher can be a 'Karma Yogi' when they take an interest in the overall development of a child. However, if the teacher's interest is only in the salary that they would get on the first of every month, then they aren't Karma Yogis.

The whole essence is to act without being attached to the fruits of the action. This is the main philosophy of Karma Yoga. The Bhagavad Gita is all about your attitude. How do you manage yourself when you face a war-like situation? The worst situation in life is when you have to face a battle and when you have to fight not with an enemy, but with some of your own people. When you have to fight with your own brothers and sisters, how do you handle your mind? It is easy to fight a war with an enemy, someone you don't like.

But fighting with someone who is part of your own family is the worst and most difficult act to do. The Bhagavad Gita begins with Arjuna's dilemma and Lord Krishna's eternal wisdom to uplift a despondent human spirit.

At the beginning of the Kurukshetra war, Arjuna is completely reluctant to fight. He would say to Lord Krishna, "Why are you asking me to fight this war? It is going to bring me a lot of sin. I am going to be miserable. Even if I win the war, I'll be miserable. If I lose it, I'll be even more miserable. I am going to quit now." Lord Krishna imparts the knowledge of Karma Yoga to Arjuna to uplift his spirit.

A Karma Yogi isn't feverish about the fruits of an action, nor does his or her happiness depend on the outcomes. That person is a real Karma Yogi. A yogi is not one who has dropped everything and is sitting in the Himalayas. But if you are doing your action in the path of yoga, you purify yourself, your soul, you have a say over your senses, and you win over your mind. And



"TO PURIFY ONESELF, A YOGI KEEPS DOING WORK EITHER THROUGH THE BODY, THE MIND, THE INTELLECT, OR JUST THROUGH THE SENSES, WITHOUT GETTING ATTACHED TO THE WORK"

— GURUDEV

you realise your true nature as part of the Self. The Being that is in you is in everybody else. And you are part of everybody. When you act from this understanding, even though you act, you will not be bound by the action. The consequences of that action will not bind you or make you miserable.

Even as you act, you will find you are merely a witness and that you are separate from these actions. You are not the doer. You remain unfazed by actions and their results. And this is what Karma Yoga is all about. A Karma Yogi has an equanimous state of mind under all circumstances. They aren't on cloud nine when they succeed, and neither do they break down when they lose. They see victory and failure, profit and loss as temporary in the context of time.

A devotee once asked me, "If everything is pre-destined, why should I act and put effort?" When Lord Krishna manifested his Vishwaroopam to Arjuna, he emphasised that the battle was a significant part of the cosmic destiny. All the war-

riors had already chosen their destinies by either supporting or opposing Dharma. So, even after knowing that everything is going to end, one has to fulfil their duties as their Dharma. In fact, there are two attitudes to lead a perfect life. One, when you want to retire to bed, at that time you should say, "Everything is fine and everything is being taken care of. Not a blade of grass moves without Divine intervention. God has kept us like this, so let it be." This is known as 'Nivrutti'.

This helps you go inward and relax. However, when you wake up in the morning and go to work, seek perfection in even the smallest act. Wherever you see imperfection, pay attention to how you can correct it. When you act, see where you can bring improvement and what you can change. This is known as 'Pravrutti'. You need a balance of both 'Pravrutti' and 'Nivrutti' in life. It is like breathing in and breathing out.

Nature has designed our lives in such a way that we work for some time and then we rest for some time. But what do we do? When it is time

to rest, our minds keep working; we keep thinking about things to be accomplished — "I want this, that, and the other." This keeps us away from getting deep rest. And when it comes to activity, we come up with these questions — "Anyway, everything is going to end, why should I act?"

This is applying the wrong knowledge at the wrong place. It is like asking, if I have to get off the bus anyway, why get in? You get in somewhere and you must get down at some other place. See if you can live without doing anything? No, you will get restless and fidgety.

You must have seen people who keep moving their fingers and hands because they are so restless and agitated. You have been given all this energy, and you have to utilise it in some way. You have to use it for some meaningful work. You cannot live doing nothing.

Of course, you can have periods of non-action — that is what meditation is, that is what silence is — but then you have to resume your activities. If you don't, your mind will act and bother you. There is no enemy greater than your own mind. The skill in action is to act without craving, aversion, or feverishness for the outcome. Action without attachment to the outcome is 'Nishkama Karma', one of the central



A KARMA YOGI IS NOT SOMEONE WHO HAS DROPPED EVERYTHING AND IS DOING 'TAPASYA' IN THE HIMALAYAS. ONE WHO DOESN'T HATE OR DOESN'T CRAVE ANYTHING IS A REAL KARMA YOGI, AND HE IS FREE FROM ALL BONDAGES. WHEN YOU ARE ONLY CRAVING JOY AND HAPPINESS, YOU BECOME WEAK. 'YOGA' BRINGS DEEP SILENCE WITHIN, AND 'KARMA YOGA' BRINGS DYNAMISM. 'KARMA YOGA' IS ABOUT WORKING WITH TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

tenets of Karma Yoga. Liberation is acquired by Nishkama Karma. When you practise Karma Yoga for a long time, you become a witness to your actions. This is what Karma Yoga is all about. To purify oneself, a yogi keeps doing work either through the body, the mind, the intellect, or just through the senses, without getting attached to the work or the result of that action. In one of the shlokas, Lord Krishna says that the Divine is present in everybody's heart.

Hence, you see me in everybody and everyone in me. Leave all your worries to me. I am here for you. I will wash away all of your sins. Don't grieve. You surrender yourself to me. I will provide you with refuge. See me in everybody. Everyone is part of one universal spirit. And I am that. You are that. Everything is that. Knowing this, one can act without doership and get established in Karma Yoga.

## Audit, the imperative for accountability

MANISH ANAND

In *The Audit Trail: How the Audit Trail Heralded Financial Accountability and International Supreme Institution*, P Sesh Kumar turns what might seem like a dry subject—the history of auditing and public finance—into an intellectual odyssey across empires, religions, and revolutions.

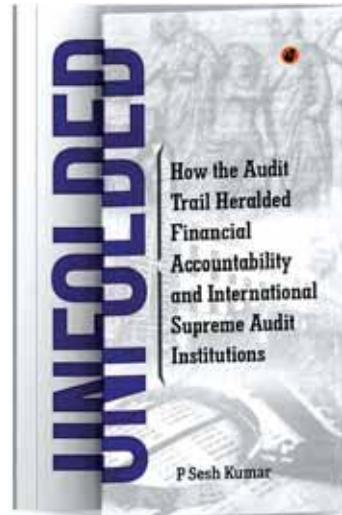
Published by The Browser, the book is both a global history of accountability and a meditation on the moral architecture of the state. At its core, Kumar argues that audit is civilisation's conscience — the mechanism by which power explains itself to the governed. Long before modern democracies and corporate regulators, rulers in India, China, and the Islamic world had already discovered that unchecked authority corrodes itself.

### From Kautilya to Xi: A 2,000-Year Ledger of Accountability

The book opens with a charming yet profound moment — a question from the author's granddaughter. P Sesh Kumar, who once served as Director General (Audit) in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, is asked by the curious child what exactly an auditor does. That innocent query becomes the spark for a sweeping intellectual journey—tracing the birth and evolution of auditing from the temple accountants of Sumer around 3000 BCE, who inscribed offerings on clay tablets in cuneiform script, to the bureaucratic aristocrats of ancient Egypt, who transformed record-keeping into an instrument of royal order and accountability.

From ancient civilisations, the author essays tales of the Middle Ages, with refinement in accountability in governance gaining foothold in the port city of Venice. Thereafter, the evolution of accounting codes and methods spread like wildfire through Europe, and the Industrial Revolution accompanying colonialism globalised the practices of Venice and London.

But Kumar builds a vivid tale of governance accountability with a flashback to third-century BCE Pataliputra, where Kautilya (Chanakya) codified financial discipline in the Arthashastra. Kumar vividly reconstructs how the Mauryan state ran a complex system of collectors and treasurers who checked each



Title: Unfolded  
Author: P Sesh Kumar  
MRP: ₹449  
Publisher: The Browser

other's ledgers—an early model of separation of powers. The narrative then moves to the Gupta Empire, where inscriptions on copper plates served as both fiscal records and instruments of moral reminder—gifts, endowments, and penalties etched into metal to outlast corruption.

Kumar draws a line from these practices to the Censorate of imperial China and the Bayt al-Mal of early Islam, showing how oversight was not merely administrative but spiritual. In perhaps the most captivating section, Kumar introduces Luca Pacioli, the Renaissance mathematician who published the principles of double-entry

bookkeeping in 1494. His work, Kumar writes, "turned merchants into historians of their own integrity." From Venice to the Dutch East India Company, accounting became both a language of trust and a tool of empire. But *The Audit Trail* is not nostalgia for ancient wisdom. Its later chapters examine how modern institutions—especially India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)—inherited this ancient burden of scrutiny, only to find themselves trapped in procedural ambiguity.

Kumar cites the 2024 Supreme Court ruling that limited the CAG's authority as emblematic of a global trend: democracies that revere transparency in rhetoric but restrict it in practice. His lament for the CAG—"a caged lion, surrounded by walls it did not build"—may be the book's most searing line. It captures both the institutional fragility of modern audits and the author's belief that accountability, once lost, cannot easily be legislated back.

Kumar rekindles readers' memories of a turbulent chapter in India's recent history, offering insider insights from his years within the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). He revisits the period when India's top audit institution dominated headlines, as media outlets seized on the staggering figures of presumptive losses cited in audit reports on the 2G spectrum allocations, coal block allocations, and the Commonwealth Games.

For the complete story please see our website [www.dailypioneer.com](http://www.dailypioneer.com)

(The writer is a senior Delhi-based journalist)

## The Constitution as India's living conscience

The Constitution is not merely a text for legal experts; it is essential reading for anyone who cherishes democracy, justice, and the rule of law

**FOLDED  
Corner**

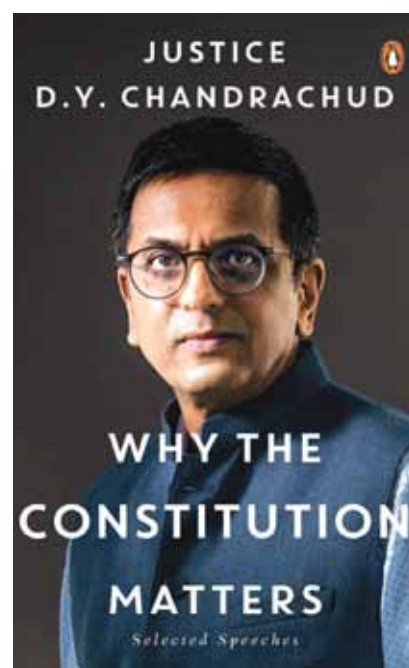
KANISHK SHEKHAR

As the 50th Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud delivered some ground-breaking rulings covering a myriad of issues. His judicial career spans over 25 years, where some of the most path-breaking judgements of contemporary constitutional history find their way. After his retirement in November 2024, speculations were ripe regarding the next phase of his public life. Now the former CJI is seen in a new avatar of an author. His debut book *Why the Constitution Matters* was released in August 2025.

This book serves not only as a commentary on constitutional law; rather, as the author articulates, "The Constitution evolves through living conversations, and constitutional discourses extend beyond the courts." Justice Chandrachud explores the deep significance of the Constitution in defining the identity and governance of the nation. This enlightening work provides readers with a nuanced perspective on the Constitution's role in safeguarding fundamental rights, ensuring justice, and upholding the rule of law. The author draws upon his experience as a judge, making intricate constitutional principles accessible to both legal experts and ordinary citizens. Through captivating narratives and real-life examples, he demonstrates how the Constitution influences daily life.

The book serves not merely as a collection of judgements and lectures but rather as an exploration. Chandrachud encourages us to accompany him as he reveals the essence of the Constitution through narratives, practical illustrations, and instances from the courtroom that radiate with human experience.

Regardless of whether you are a law student, a teacher, a practising advocate, or an individual seeking to understand why a 75-year-old document continues to influence our lives and aspirations, his expressions resonate



Title: Why the Constitution Matters  
Author: Justice DY Chandrachud  
MRP: ₹999  
Publisher: Penguin Entrepise



KANISHK SHEKHAR  
Columnist

deeply within you. The organisation of the book resembles a sequence of interconnected dialogues. Each chapter delves into a specific theme, though there are some overlaps, while collectively they create a narrative about India's constitutional evolution, emphasising that this document is not merely static text but a

dynamic, evolving commitment. In the initial stages of constitutional development, the Constitution of India was perceived as a political document that conferred civil and political rights absent under colonial rule. Over time, the Constitution evolved to be recognised as a social document based on the principles of equality and justice. It feels as though the author is conveying to us: "This is not merely history—it pertains to your present and your future." The book

offers extensive elaboration on constitutional law, constitutional interpretation, and various other essential elements required for the effective functioning of the Constitution, which is characterised as a living instrument. The author references Professor Philip Bobbitt to elucidate the typology of constitutional argument—whether it be textual, structural, prudential, historical, or ethical. In the initial chapter, several judgements are presented that elucidate various methods of delivering sound to what is referred to as "constitutional silences." Furthermore, it also emphasises the necessity of constitutional abeyances.

This delicate equilibrium is what upholds the legitimacy of a constitutional order. The author dispels the misconception that the Indian Constitution is merely a borrowed document. For example, instead of being derived from the American Bill of Rights, the fundamental rights outlined in Part III have their origins in the Constitution of India Bill of 1895. More such historical anecdotes can be found spread across the entire book.

In the chapter titled "Rule of Law," the author emphasises the significance of Justice Khanna in the notorious ADM Jabalpur case and how The New York Times praised him by stating, "If India ever finds its way back to freedom and democracy, someone will erect a monument to Justice H. R. Khanna."

This chapter further stresses that no institution established by the Constitution can possess absolute power, which is why judicial review remains a crucial aspect of the rule of law and the separation of powers. Through rulings such as Kalpana Mehta vs UOI, the doctrine of separation of powers has evolved, reflecting Indian society's progression towards justifications and rights under the law. The chapter titled "Inventing & Reinventing Constitutional Identity" warrants thoughtful consideration.

For the complete story please see our website [www.dailypioneer.com](http://www.dailypioneer.com)

(Kanishk Shekhar, is a columnist and also teaches students preparing for Civil Services Exam)