



Chief Minister, Punjab S. Bhagwant Singh Mann hands over approval letters to

30,000 FLOOD-AFFECTED FAMILIES

for the construction of new houses



To provide permanent housing and basic facilities under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) to landless families in rural areas and those living in kutchha houses, the following financial assistance is being provided

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Third installment

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will be released
once the roof
is completed.

₹31,000 for house construction and ₹12,000 for toilets
will also be provided under the MGNREGA scheme

Senate Polls Not Announced: Students to gherao BJP offices on Dec 3

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Tensions at Panjab University (PU) reached a boiling point on Wednesday as protesters demanding the announcement of long-overdue Senate elections forced a campus shutdown, led to exam cancellations, and resulted in a massive security mobilization. With student activists announcing to intensify their agitation because of delay in announcing the senate polls, the Panjab University Bachao Morcha (PUBM) on Wednesday declared plans for a "gherao" of all BJP offices on December 3, vowing to keep up the pressure until their demands are met.

For more than a year, the University's administration has failed to announce the schedule for Senate elections, sparking a series of protests that have escalated in both size and intensity. The latest round of protests came to a head after campus authorities were forced to cancel exams and shut down the university for the day on Wednesday, as more than 200 Chandigarh Police officers, supported by an additional 100 campus security personnel, were deployed to keep order. This overwhelming security presence came on the heels of violent clashes between police and protesters on November 10, which saw demonstrators storming the university gates.

The immediate trigger for the protests has been the university's failure to finalize voter lists for the Senate elections. While the

university has been working on updating these lists, controversy erupted when Dr Inderpal Singh Sandhu, a former Senate member, raised concerns over the removal of names from the voter rolls. Specifically, teachers who had turned 58 years old were being excluded, despite the Chandigarh Administration's official notification that the retirement age for college faculty had been raised to 65. Dr Sandhu has written to the university registrar, urging the administration to restore the names of these eligible teachers to the voter list.

This issue is compounded by the larger debate over the Senate elections themselves. While the university has indicated that elections for the Academic Council are being prepared, the process is slow, and many in the PU community feel the delay is intentional. According to university regulations, the election process must be announced at least 240 days in advance, which means that if the election schedule is issued today, the Senate formation will take another nine to ten months. With more than 3.50 lakh voters across various constituencies, the scale of the preparation is vast, but critics argue that the delays are politically motivated.

As the protests grew, the university authorities declared a holiday on Wednesday, closing all offices and halting all campus activities. Exams scheduled for the day were also postponed, with new dates to be announced later.

Despite the disruptions, the protesters made it clear that they were not backing down. In a statement, PUBM leader Jodh Singh emphasized that the strike would continue until December 2, the deadline they have set for the university to announce a firm schedule for the elections. Following this, they will escalate their protests with a "gherao" of all BJP offices on December 3.

The student unrest is not just a campus issue — it has now become a political flashpoint. Political parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), and Congress, have thrown their weight behind the protesters. Farmers' organizations like the Samyukta Kisan Morcha and Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Morcha have also voiced support, accusing the central government of meddling with the university's autonomy. The catalyst for this wider political support was the Union Ministry of Education's ill-fated October 28 notification, which sought to restructure the Senate and Syndicate, essentially altering the composition and functioning of the university's decision-making bodies.

The university's Vice-Chancellor Prof Renu Vig had previously met with student representatives and assured them that the Senate election schedule had been sent to the Chancellor — who is, notably, the Vice-President of India — for approval. However, the protesters remain unsatisfied with this response, continuing to

demand a public announcement of the election timeline.

Meanwhile, the campus has a big presence of security forces with heightened security arrangements following the November 10 clashes. Anti-riot vehicles, including the "Vajra" vehicle, have been deployed to maintain law and order. Despite the heavy presence of police, the protests have been largely peaceful, with only a small sit-in taking place outside the Vice-Chancellor's office as a symbol of resistance.

The situation at PU has deteriorated to such an extent that academic activities are being severely disrupted. Students and faculty members alike are frustrated by the prolonged delays and the perceived lack of accountability from the administration. In response, the Punjab and Haryana High Court will hear a critical case related to the Senate election impasse on November 27, with the possibility that the court may issue directions to expedite the process. The outcome of this case could be a turning point in resolving the deadlock.

As the PU administration scrambles to address mounting pressure, the protesters' resolve remains firm. With multiple stakeholders — from students to political leaders to farmers' groups — rallying behind them, the Panjab University Senate election controversy has transcended campus boundaries and become a broader struggle for democratic governance and institutional autonomy.

Punjab CM Announces Increase in Sugarcane Price to Rs 416 per Quintal

PNS ■ Dinanagar

In a move aimed at benefiting sugarcane farmers, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday announced an increase in the state's sugarcane price to Rs 416 per quintal, making it the highest price for sugarcane in India. The announcement was made during the inauguration of a new Sugar Mill and Co-Generation Plant in Dinanagar.

Mann, speaking to the media after the inauguration, emphasized that the new price, effective for the upcoming crushing season, would offer significant benefits to sugarcane cultivators, particularly in Punjab's border regions, where the crop is a vital agricultural asset. "Punjab is proud to continue its tradition of setting the highest price for sugarcane in the country. This will greatly benefit our farmers, especially in the border districts, where sugarcane is a major crop," he said.

He also pointed out that the state's move to set such a high price for sugarcane would contribute to Punjab's ongoing efforts to diversify its crop production and reduce dependency on water-intensive crops like paddy. He urged the Union Government to recognize sugarcane as a sustainable, viable alternative, which could play a key role in water conservation efforts while strengthening the state's agricultural economy.

The Chief Minister also dedicated the newly modernized Cooperative



CM LASHES OUT AT BJP

Mann, in his speech, didn't hold back when addressing

the ongoing political dynamics with the Centre. He took a jibe at the BJP, specifically targeting state BJP working president Ashwani Sharma, urging him to focus on ensuring Punjab receives the Rs 1,600 crore flood relief promised by the Prime Minister, rather than engaging in political theatrics. "Before blaming the state government, Ashwani Sharma should first ensure that Punjab gets its due share from the Centre," Mann stated. He also reiterated his firm stance against any attempts to alter the status of Chandigarh or Punjab University, emphasizing that his government would never tolerate encroachments on Punjab's rights.

CM Saini inaugurates state-level exhibition of DIPR at Int'l Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday inaugurated the state-level exhibition of the Department of Information, Public Relations & Languages at the International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra. He said that the state-level exhibition has been designed using modern and high-tech technology. The exhibition effectively portrays the roadmap of making Haryana a developed state by the year 2047. The chamber featuring the Bhagavad Gita written in 35 global languages is remarkable and commendable. Under one roof, the exhibition presents Haryana's growth, future plans, teachings of the holy scripture Gita, history of major pilgrimage sites of Kurukshetra, and important excerpts of the Mahabharata displayed on a massive curved LED screen.

The Chief Minister also inspected 25 stalls set up by various departments to



showcase their achievements and future plans. He received feedback about the schemes of each department and appreciated the decoration, and use of modern technology in the exhibition. The Chief Minister also posed for a group photograph with officials and dignitaries and visited the Haryana Pavilion.

Saini took interest in the exhibition and gathered information about the advanced modern technology used. Through

high-tech technology, an innovative effort has been made to present the 18 chapters of the holy scripture Gita and the teachings given by Lord Shri Krishna to Arjuna during the Mahabharat.

Additional Director of the Department, RS Sangwan and Director of Shaheed Memorial Dr Kuldeep Saini briefed the Chief Minister about the history of the state as well as the developmental aspects and progressive roadmap of Haryana over the past 11 years.

Punjab farmers rally in Chandigarh, demand crop loss compensation, hike

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Thousands of farmers from Punjab gathered at the Dussehra Ground here on Wednesday under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha, pressing the government to accept various demands, including legal guarantee for minimum support price for crops based on the Swaminathan Commission formula and withdrawal of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

The protesting farmers converged here to mark five years of their agitation against the now-repealed farm laws.

On November 26, five years ago, the farmers had launched 'Delhi Chalo' march, resulting in a sit-in protest for more than a year at the borders of the national capital, demanding the withdrawal of the three farm laws.

Among various demands, the protesting farmers sought that the government should exclude agriculture and allied sectors while entering into Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with other countries. Farmer leader Raminder Singh Patiala said they have got reports that agriculture and allied

63K challans for drunk driving issued in Haryana this year

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana Police on Wednesday said that as many as 63,073 challans have been issued for drunk driving in the State so far this year, with Gurugram accounting for nearly 25,000 of them.

According to the Police Department's official statement, the district-wise data showed the highest number of challans from January 1 till November 24 was issued in Gurugram at 24,972, followed by Faridabad (7,402), Karnal (4,851), Panchkula (4,180), and Jind (3,109).

Following instructions issued by the Haryana Police, regular special drives were being conducted across all districts of the state, it said.

"The purpose of these drives is not only to curb drunken driving but also to strictly monitor lane driving, noise pollution, and misuse of red-blue lights. After reviewing weekly reports, the police headquarters has directed the districts to make these campaigns even more effective and result-oriented," the statement said.

Basketball court accidents kill two teens, including national level player in Rohtak, Bahadurgarh

PNS ■ Chandigarh

A junior national-level basketball player and another teen died in eerily similar accidents during practice in Haryana after the basketball hoop's iron pole fell on them.

While 16-year-old Hardik Rathi, who had taken part in the national sub-junior basketball championship, died in Rohtak on Tuesday, Aman, one year younger, breathed his last on Monday. The incidents, which came to light on Wednesday, led to outrage with opposition parties slamming the BJP-led state government and anguished family members joining them in blaming the establishment for

dilapidated sports infrastructure.

Hardik's death was captured in vivid detail on CCTV cameras. The footage showed the youngster reaching for the hoop. As soon as he attempts to hang from it, the pole collapses and crushes him under it.

The rods supporting the basketball pole were rusted, local players at the Lakan Majra village who practice with him told reporters. They rushed Hardik to a hospital where he died, SHO Samarjeet Singh said.

Khadak Singh, Hardik's elder brother, said the condition of the iron pole had been brought to the notice of the officials on multiple occasions but nothing was done to fix it. Holding the sports

department and the government responsible for his brother's death, Khadak Singh told reporters that his brother never missed any competition, be it U-14 or U-17. It was his dream to lead the Indian basketball team one day.

"Hardik trained twice a day. As soon as he tried to touch the hoop on Tuesday morning, it got uprooted and fell on his chest, leading to internal bleeding, which proved fatal," he said.

Haryana's Minister of State for Sports Gaurav Gautam told reporters in Ambala that a high-level probe will be held and anyone found responsible for the sad and unfortunate incident will face action. "We have suspended the district sports officer," he said when asked about Hardik's death.

"As per information, it was a sports nursery under the panchayat," Gautam said.

Officials in Rohtak and Bahadurgarh said the circumstances leading to the collapse of the iron poles in both incidents, including the condition of the equipment, are being probed.

On Sunday, Aman went to a basketball court in the premises of a government school for practice. He was critically injured after an iron pole fell on him and died at PGIMS Rohtak during treatment on Monday night, SHO (City) Dinkar Yadav said. "We came to know that the pole was not in good shape and some children had climbed it and it fell," said Jhajjar District Sports Officer Satender Kumar.

Punjab CM Begins Rs 377 cr Compensation Disbursement for Flood-Hit Families

PNS ■ Dera Baba Nanak

In a step towards rebuilding flood-affected Punjab, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday launched the disbursement of compensation to over 30,000 families whose homes were severely damaged during the recent catastrophic floods. The state government has earmarked a total of Rs 377 crore to assist the affected families, with the first installment of Rs 70,000 per household being released immediately to kickstart the reconstruction process.

Mann, addressing the gathering, expressed deep sympathy for the suffering endured by the people of Punjab, emphasizing that the unprecedented floods had caused unparalleled

hardship. "The pain and loss these families have experienced is beyond words. I have personally witnessed their suffering during my visits to the affected areas," said Mann, underlining that the state government stood firmly with the victims in their hour of distress.

He praised the selfless efforts of social, religious organizations, and volunteers, who played a crucial role in providing relief to the flood victims. "The indomitable spirit of Punjab has once again shone through," he remarked, acknowledging how the state rose to the challenge despite the adversity.

Under the comprehensive rehabilitation package, each family with a fully damaged house will receive Rs 1.20 lakh in compensation. The state

government plans to distribute this amount in three installments, ensuring families have the financial support needed for reconstruction. Additionally, CM Mann announced that 90 days of wage employment would be provided to those involved in rebuilding their homes, facilitated through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The CM highlighted that Punjab had already begun paying Rs 20,000 per acre to farmers for crop losses caused by the floods, making it the highest compensation given by any state in the country. Despite the extensive damage, Punjab contributed nearly 150 lakh tonnes of paddy to the national food pool, reaffirming its role as the country's "food bowl."


4 operatives linked to Lawrence Bishnoi gang held after exchange of fire

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Four operatives, tasked to carry out targeted attacks in the Chandigarh tricity area and Patiala region by a foreign-based gangster linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, were arrested after an encounter in SAS Nagar on Wednesday, police said.

Seven .32 calibre pistols and 70 live cartridges were recovered from them, they said, adding that those arrested have been identified as Harvinder Singh alias Bholu alias Honey, Lakhwinder Singh, Mohammad Samir and Rohit Sharma, all residents of Patiala's Rajpura.


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Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

PIONEER IN SHORT

AHMEDABAD TO HOST CWG 2030
 Ahmedabad has been officially awarded the hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, marking the return of the multi-sport event to India after two decades and supporting the country's Olympic ambitions for 2036. The decision was approved by the 74-member Commonwealth Sport general assembly following a recommendation by its Executive Board. India had last hosted the Games in Delhi in 2010. Ahmedabad, which has significantly upgraded its sports infrastructure over the past decade, will feature 15-17 confirmed disciplines, including athletics, swimming, gymnastics, table tennis, netball, weightlifting and boxing, with additional sports under consideration. The city has previously hosted major events like the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships and the Asian Aquatics Championships. Key venues include the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave and Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, with an athletes' village planned for 3,000 residents.

PM at Ayodhya sparks India-Pak war of words

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

India on Wednesday condemned Pakistan's criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisting a flag atop the Ram temple in Ayodhya. In a searing response to Pakistan's remarks, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said New Delhi "rejects with contempt" the claims, stressing that a country steeped in intolerance and systemic discrimination cannot masquerade as a defender of pluralism.

Pakistan had protested the flag-hoisting at the Ram temple, alleging it represented growing pressure on religious minorities and an attempt to erase Muslim heritage. India dismissed the charge as baseless, politically motivated, and wholly detached from ground realities.

"Pakistan should focus on its own abysmal human rights record instead of delivering hypocritical homilies," Jaiswal said at the MEA's weekly briefing. He added that Islamabad's "deeply stained history of



PM Narendra Modi at the Dhawajrohan ceremony at the Ram Temple on Tuesday

bigotry and repression" leaves it with no moral standing to lecture India. Reinforcing India's position, Jaiswal said Pakistan's leadership "would do better to turn its gaze inwards" and confront its own persistent human rights failures rather than commenting on internal events in India.

PM urges citizens to honour duties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In a letter to citizens on the occasion of Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged citizens to fulfil their Constitutional duties, asserting that these were foundations for a strong democracy. He also recalled Mahatma Gandhi's belief that rights flow from the performance of duties.

He also stressed citizens on the responsibility of strengthening democracy by exercising the right to vote, in his letter and suggested that schools and colleges celebrate Constitution Day by honouring first-time voters turning 18. The PM recalled the contribution of Rajendra Prasad and BR Ambedkar and several others in the drafting of the Constitution.

He also paid tributes to the leadership of Vallabhbhai Patel, Birsu Munda and Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle. "All these personalities and milestones remind us of the primacy of our duties, something the Constitution also emphasises through a dedicated chapter on Fundamental Duties in Article 51A. These duties guide us on how to collectively achieve social and economic progress," the prime minister said.



President Droupadi Murmu, VP CP Radhakrishnan, PM Narendra Modi, LS Speaker Om Birla, among others during the Constitution Day celebrations at Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi

He said Mahatma Gandhi always emphasised the duties of a citizen. "He believed that a duty well performed created a corresponding right and that real rights are a result of the performance of duty," Modi said.

He underscored that the policies and decisions taken today will shape the lives of generations to come, and urged citizens to place their duties foremost in their minds as India moves towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

"Our country has given us so much and this brings out a deep sense of gratitude from within. And, when we live with this feeling, fulfilling our duties becomes integral to our nature. To carry out our duties, it becomes imperative to put in our full capability and dedication in every task," the prime minister said.

"Every action of ours should strengthen the Constitution and further national goals and interests. It is after all our responsibility to fulfil the dreams envisioned by the framers of our Constitution," he said.

"When we work with this sense of duty, our nation's social and economic progress will multiply manifold," the prime minister said.

Modi said Sardar Patel's visionary leadership ensured the political unification of India. "It was his inspiration and courage of conviction that guided our steps to act against Articles 370 and 35(A).

The Bystander



Indian-American diplomat claims majority H-1Bs fraudulent

AGENCIES ■ New Delhi

Former US Congressman and economist Dave Brat and Indian-American diplomat Mahvash Siddiqui have alleged fraud in the H-1B visa programme, particularly at the Chennai consulate.

Siddiqui claimed 80 per cent to 90 per cent of Indian H-1B applications are fraudulent, while Brat said just the Chennai district received 2,20,000 visas, far above the US cap. These claims raise fresh questions on visa integrity amid the President Donald Trump administration's crackdown on immigration.

Speaking on Steve Bannon's *War Room* podcast, Brat said the H-1B system had been "captured by industrial-scale fraud", asserting that visa allocations from India had reached levels that

defied statutory limits. "71 per cent of H-1B visas come from India, and only 12 per cent from China. That tells you something's going on right there," Brat said.

"There's a cap of only 85,000 H-1B visas, yet somehow one district in India — the Madras (Chennai) district — got 2,20,000. That's 2.5 times the cap Congress has set. So that's the scam." Brat went on to frame the issue as a direct threat to American workers. "When one of these folks comes over and claims they're skilled — they're not, that's the fraud. They're taking away your family's job, your mortgage, your house, all of that," he said.

According to reports, the US consulate in Chennai processed roughly 120,000 H-1B visas and an additional 140,000 H-4 dependent visas in 2024. The consulate handles applications from



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Delhi bets on a 53km track to cut carbon and create urban calm

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The cycle track is expected to start near the Wazirabad barrage on the eastern side and pass along Pushta Road and the Old Iron Bridge before ending near the Hindon Sarovar project. On the western bank, the track is likely to run between the river and the Ring Road.

The riverfront spanning over 25 hectares is likely to be completed by June 30, 2026.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and attended by senior officials from the DDA, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, PWD, Railways, the Power Department Delhi Jal Board and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Detailed discussions took place on phased construction, inter-departmental coordination, the status of approvals and the project's execution plan.

The chief minister said the Government aims to complete all three phases within a maximum of three years so that residents can benefit from the project at the earliest.

The CM was informed that most departments have already issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for the project and that coordination among agencies has been effectively established. Railway-related approvals are in the final stage, with continuous dialogue underway and a resolution expected shortly. The Chief Minister directed all departments to accord this project the highest priority and ensure seamless coordination at every level.

Delhi already has several

kilometres of cycle tracks, but these lie unused because of encroachment, misuse and lack of practical routes.

At the meeting, she was informed that the tendering process had been completed and preparatory work for commencing construction is in its final stage. The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure that there is no compromise on quality, safety or environmental standards and that citizens are provided with a safe, modern and aesthetically developed cycle track.

She expressed confidence that the project will become a milestone in transforming Delhi into a clean, green and healthy metropolis, offering future generations a better environment and improved lifestyle.



Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Meer Kali W/o Chet Ram, R/o Flat No- 61-B, Ashiana/ Jnrum, Sector 20, Panchkula, Haryana, my son Tinku is out of my control. I disown him from my moveable/ immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him at his/ her own risk.

I, Rani Devi, wife of the late Shri Sundar Pal, resident of 250 L, Ward 7, Bhagat Nagar, Tehsil Town, Panipat, state that my son, Ajay Kumar, and his wife, Jyoti, are beyond my control. Therefore, I hereby evict them from my moveable and immovable property. Anyone who has any future dealings or transactions with them will be responsible. I, or any member of my family, will have no responsibility.

I, Sate Singh son of Sh. Assh Singh resident of House No.1, Block-1, Commando Complex, Phase 11 (Sector 65) Mohali declare that my daughter Roshni out of my control and she got married against my and my family members wishes. I disown above Roshni and her husband Ajay Kumar from my all moveable/ immovable properties. Any person dealing with them are at their own risk I am not responsible for t heir legal /illegal activities.

I, Ramesh Kumar S/o Hukum Chand R/o H. No. 262, Ward No. 3, Village Khatkar, Sersa District Sonapat, have evicted my Daughter Kajal from all my moveable & immovable properties, as she is out of my control. Anybody who is dealing with her at their own risk. I or any member of my family will not be responsible.

I, Parkash Kaur, wife of Makhan Singh, R/o Ward No. 17, H.No. 172, Guru Nanak Colony Pehowa, District Kurukshetra, my son Rajinder Pal Singh, daughter-in-law Sukhwinder Kaur and Manjeet Singh, daughter-in-law Balwinder Kaur are beyond my control. I disown them from my moveable and immovable property. They will be responsible for any unethical acts and transactions done by them in future.

I, Veena Choudhary w/o Joginder Singh House No. 2402, Pushpac Society Sector 48 C Chandigarh, declared that my son Kulvinder Singh Choudhary And his wife Ranjana out of my control so I disown from my moveable and immovable properties. If anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Shakuntla W/o Ram Sewak R/o H.No. C-270, Rehmanpur Road, Deep Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab declare that my son Prince Kumar & his wife Priyanka Anuragi are out of my control. I disinherit them from my moveable and immovable properties. I and my family shall not be held responsible for any of their acts deeds and things. All please note.

ਮੈਂ ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੋਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮੁਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ 1249ਦੇ ਮੁਹਾਲਾ ਅਜੀਤ ਨਗਰ, ਨਵਦਰ ਚੌਕ, ਸੁਲਤਾਨ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਿਮਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਬਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਰਿੰਦੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਨ ਮੜਕੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਵਾਂ ਅਲੱਗ ਸਿਦਦੀ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੋਟੇ ਦੇਣੇ ਕਰਨੇ ਵਾਲਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਨੰਦੇ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਦਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਵੇਖੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਕ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਮੇਰੇ ਚਲ ਵਾਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਤਲਕ ਵਾਲਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ। ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰੋ।

ਮੈਂ ਗੁਰਮੁਖ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਿਵਾਸੀ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਲਾਬਾ ਜਿਹੀ ਫੁੱਟੇਹਾਬਾਦ ਹਲਕਾ ਬਾਹਰ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਬਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਰਨੇ ਸੁਨੇ ਕੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਮੈਂ ਇਸੇ ਅਪਣੀ ਸੰਮਤ ਚਲ ਵਾਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਕ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਮੇਰੇ ਚਲ ਵਾਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਤਲਕ ਵਾਲਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ। ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰੋ।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shila (Existing name as per service documents of my deceased husband) widow of No 10134578 L/NK (Late) Krishan Kumar resident of village Mehiana Tehsil and Distt. Sonapat (Haryana), have changed my name and DOB from Shila DOB Nil to Sheela Devi DOB 01.03.1959 (Existing my civil documents) Vide affidavit dated 26.11.2025 executed at District Court sonapat (Haryana).

I am an EX No-15565596-N, Rank- SPR (ACP HAV), Name- JAGTAR SINGH, residence of VPO-JHALLIAN KALAN, TEHSIL & DISTRICT- RUPNAGAR, STATE -PUNJAB declare that I change my daughter's name (HARSH PREET KAUR to ARSHPREET KAUR) in Army Records

I, Ex No-JC 268858-Y, RANK-SUB, NAME-RAJ HARISH RAHOUR, OF ARTY RECORDS, S/O-RATTAN SINGH. Resident of #287, WARD NO-02, TEHSIL-

KHARAR, District- MOHALI, State- PUNJAB That in my Army Records my name RAJ HARASH and date of birth 10-07-1964. It is shown incorrect. my correct Name RAJ HARISH RATHOUR and Date of birth 10-07-1964

CHANGE OF NAME

ਮੈਂ ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਮੋਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮੁਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ 1249ਦੇ ਮੁਹਾਲਾ ਅਜੀਤ ਨਗਰ, ਨਵਦਰ ਚੌਕ, ਸੁਲਤਾਨ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਿਮਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਬਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਰਿੰਦੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਨ ਮੜਕੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਵਾਂ ਅਲੱਗ ਸਿਦਦੀ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੋਟੇ ਦੇਣੇ ਕਰਨੇ ਵਾਲਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਨੰਦੇ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਦਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਵੇਖੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਕ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਮੇਰੇ ਚਲ ਵਾਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਤਲਕ ਵਾਲਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ। ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰੋ।

I, Jatinder S/o Sh. Sant Lal R/o 1154/1, Ward No.8, Khairpur Colony, Sirsa, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana) have changed my name from Jatinder to Jitender Kumar. That in future my name is to be called as Jitender Kumar.

I, Sunil Devi Sangwan W/o Sh. Anil Kumar, R/o H.No 19-A, Bhagwanpura, Manimajra, Chandigarh 160101, have changed my name from Sunil Devi Sangwan to Sunil Devi.

I, Aranjhwant Singh S/O Gej Singh Resident Of V.O.P Lehra Dhurkot Tehsil And District Bathinda Punjab 151111. Have Changed My Name To Rajwant Singh

I, Ram Avtar S/o Shukh Lal R/o Vill Mandhana, Teh & Distt Bhiwani have changed my name from Ramavtar Sharma to Ram Avtar for all future purposes.

I, Dinesh Kumar S/o Ramavtar R/o Vill Mandhana, Teh & Distt Bhiwani have changed my name from Dinesh Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Satish Kumar Bansal S/O Bhim Sain R/O Hira Singh Nagar, Kotkapura (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Satish Bansal.

I, Mahaber Prashad Rajendra Prashad S/o Rajendra Prasad R/o House No: 120, Sector 10-A, Chandigarh Near- gmsss-10, pin code - 160011 have changed my name from Mahaber Prashad Rajendra Prashad to Mahabeer Prasad.

I, Krishna Devi W/o Mahabeer Prasad R/o House No. 120, Sector, 10-A, Chandigarh Near- gmsss-10, pin code - 160011 have changed my name from Krishna Devi to Krishna Mahaveer Prasad.

I, Mahavir Rajendra Prasad S/o Rajendra Prasad R/o House No: 120, Sector 10-A, Chandigarh Near- gmsss-10, pin code - 160011 have changed my name from Mahavir Rajendra Prasad to Mahabeer Prasad.

I, Jyoti Sharma W/o Naveen Kumar R/o H. No. 627/1, Jyoti Colony, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Jyoti Sharma to Jyoti Harmal.

I, Anil Kumar Rajpal S/o Laxman Dass R/o H. No. 897-9-B, Near ITI, Habanspura Colony, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Anil Rajpal to Anil Kumar Rajpal.

I, Kamala W/o Ram Laxhan R/o H. No. 21, Vishal Nagar, Gobind Pura, Distt Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Kamala to Kamla Devi.

I, Km. Nivedita Mishra W/o Vikas kumar Pandey # 4917, 38West Chandigarh have changed my name to Nivedita Pandey.

It is for general information that I MAHIMA SINGH S/O TEJA SINGH, Village Tanda Karoran, Naya Gana, Tehsil Kharar, District SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab Pin Code 160103, India declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as JASWINDER KAUR in my Office Record. The actual name of my wife is BHOLI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Mo.Hasan S/o Sh. Hameed R/o H.No.983, Near Beri wali Masjid, Ashok Vihar Colony, Panipat, declare that my names Mo.Hasan and Raufal alias Raufal Hasan both are same and one person name for all purposes.

I, Narinderjit Kumari W/o No. 01082728Y Rank Nk Sutarant Lal R/o Village Kalupur, PO Mananahana, Kotfatathi, Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Narinderjit Kumari to Narinderjit Kaur and date of birth from 15-01-1968 to 01-04-1967. Concerned note.

I, Vinaya Sheel S/o Vedvrat R/o VPO Guriani, Tehsil Kosi, District Rewari, Haryana 123301 declare that I change my daughter's name (HARSH PREET KAUR to ARSHPREET KAUR) in Army Records

I, Sat Parkash S/o Chandgi R/o Lajwana Kalan, Tehsil-Julana, District-Jind (Haryana). I have Change my name from Sat Parkash to Satya Parkash.

I, Reena w/o Aric Tung R/o Pandori Bainsan Post Office, Pandori, District Gurdaspur have changed my name from Reena to Reena Tung. Concerned note.

I, Neelam W/o Darshan Lal R/o 60/2, Chatti Khui Wali Gali, Nangal Kotli, Mandi Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name Neelam Alias Satya Devi to Neelam. Concerned note.

I, Rajinder Kaur W/O Ranjeet Singh Chandhoke R/O 2110 Sector 38 C, Chandigarh Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Rajinder Kaur To Rajinder Kaur Chandhoke.

I, Kul Bhushan S/O Shri Hari Kishan Arya R/O H.No 1200/4 Old Anji Mandi Rohtak declare that I want to change my name Kul Bhushan to Kul Bhushan Arya. In future I may be known as a Kul Bhushan Arya for all purpose.

I, Aryan Kamboj S/O Dinesh Kumar R/O H. No. 2745-46, Housing Bord Colony, Sector 17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as DINESH and REETA respectively in my 10th and 12th classes educational documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are DINESH KUMAR and REETA RANI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Vijay Pawar S/o Sh. Jai Kanwar R/o House No.233, Parsvnath City, Sector-35, Karnal have changed my name from Vijay Pawar to Vijay Kumar.

I, Nirmala Devi W/o Deepak Kumar R/o House No. 7, New Govind Vihar, Baltana, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar Punjab have changed my name from Nirmala Devi to Nirmala.

I, manohar lai s/o Ram lai r/o 215/1 ward no 23/1 guru nanak pura jagadhri. That I have change my name from manohar lai to manohar lai verma.

I, Vandana kumari w/o Rohit gupta R/o 2419 first floor Aerocity mohali (SAS nagar). Punjab 140306, have changed my name to Vandana gupta

I, Sokat Ali S/o Bale Ahmed R/o House No. 216, Saini Vihar, Phase-1, Baltana, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar Punjab declare that in my some documents my father name mentioned incorrect as Bale Ahmed. His Correct name is Bale Ahmed. Concern Please note

I, No. 1932912 Ex MCERA-II Subhash Chander S/o Sh. Chater Singh R/O 309/30, Dev Colony, Rohtak (Haryana) declare that I have changed my children's name from Aryan to Aryan S Chander (son), Vasundhara to Vasundhara S Chander (daughter) and Vaidehi to Vaidehi S Chander (daughter).

I, Ex Service No. 4555533K N/K Rajbir Singh S/O Bhim Singh R/O VPO Karsola Tehsil Julana, Distt. Jind declare that I have changed my name from Subhash Chander to Rajbir Singh. In future my name will be known as Rajbir Singh.

I, Ramniwas S/o Norang Ram R/o Vill Surpura Khurd, Sub-Tehsil Bahal, Tehsil Loharu, District Bhiwani Haryana India have changed my minor name of my daughter from Hanpriya (old name) to Heena (new name).

I, Tajinder Singh s/o Trilok Singh R/O # 95 village kansapur POST office Alipur, Tehsil BARARA (Ambala) has changed my name from Tajinder Singh to Singh Tajinder.

I, Gurtej Singh son of Gurbaksh Singh resident of village Kohle Majra, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala have changed the name of my minor daughter from Komaljeet Kaur to Komaljeet.

I, Bikram Singh S/o Late Sh. Bir Singh R/o House No 1366, Phase 1, Ramdarbar Colony Chandigarh have changed my name from Bikram Singh to Vikram Chauhan.

I, Mohammed Anish S/o Jani, R/o House no 1206, Palsora, sector 56, Chandigarh have changed my name from Mohammed Anish to Anish .

I, Pushpa W/o Sh. Vipan R/o House no 860, Dadumajra colony sector 38 west, Chandigarh have changed my name from Pushpa to Pushpa Devi .

I, Parminder Singh S/o Sh. Kesar Singh R/o House no. 268, phase 3-B-I, SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab have changed my name from Parminder Singh to Parminder Singh Rehal.

I, DEVENDER GUPTA Son of LATE SH. KISHORI LAL R/o House No. 184, Green City, Dhakoli, Near Mamta Enclave, Zirakpur, Post Office Dhakauli, Sub Tehsil Dera Bassi, District S.A.S Nagar (Mohali) Punjab-160104 have changed the name of my minor son ANSH, aged 10 Years and he shall hereafter be known as YUVAAAN GUPTA.

I, Hardeep Kaur wife of Satnam residing at Village Bir Pind Tehsil Nakodar, District Jalandhar-144043 Punjab have changed the name of my minor Daughter Diksha Aged 14 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Diksha Kailey

I, Hardeep Kaur wife of Satnam residing at Village Bir Pind Tehsil Nakodar, District Jalandhar-144043 Punjab have changed the name of my minor Daughter Lavleen Aged 12 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Lavleen Kailey

I, hitherto Known as Sawan Kumar S/o Rakesh Kumar R/o Ward No.61, Islamabad Road, Ram Nagar Colony, Gali No.8, Amritsar have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Sawan Shori

I, Mahaveer Sharma son of Hari Babu Sharma residing at H.No.153, Ward No.9, Street 3/2, Bikkar Thekedar, Dashmesh Nagar, Goiana Mandi, PO Goiana Mandi, District Bathinda-151201 Punjab have changed the name of my minor son DIVYA aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as Divyansh Sharma.

I, Balwinder Singh S/o Sardool Singh R/o H.NoF14/249, Gali No.2, Guru Gobind Singh Nagar, Majitha Road, Amritsar have changed my grand daughter Nayab Kaur to Nayab Kaur Maan

I, Mohinder Pal S/o Tara Chand R/o 17/157 Mohan Nagar Verka Amritsar have changed my name to Mohindarpal

I, Lakhwinder Kaur W/o Amrit Pal Singh R/O Village Pandori Lubana, PO Pandori Waraich, Amritsar have declare that my daughter Deepnoor Kaur. Deepnoor is her Given and Kaur is her Surname

I, Lakhwinder Kaur W/o Amrit Pal Singh R/O Village Pandori Lubana, PO Pandori Waraich, Amritsar have declare that my son Jaikirat Singh. Jaikirat is his Given name and Singh is his Surname

I, Lakhwinder Kaur W/o Amrit Pal Singh R/O Village Pandori Lubana, PO Pandori Waraich, Amritsar have declare that Lakhwinder is my Given name and Kaur is my Surname

I, Monika Sanjay Bhatia wife of Sanjay Bhatia resident of 34, Holy City Orchard, Gumtala Bye Pass, Amritsar have changed my name from Monika Sanjay Bhatia to Monika Bhatia concerned may please be noted.

I, Damber Maya Subba mother of JC 583267N Sub Amir Subba R/o Vill-Badatam T G, PO Labong, Teh & Dist Darjeeling State - WB. Have changed my name from Damber Maya Subba to Damber Kumari Subba and DOB from 04.07.1946 to 15.04.1953 vide affidavit No.IN-PB9597867834781X, Dt.26.11.2025 before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Simranjit Singh S/o Charanjit Singh VPO Kaleke Tehsil Baba Bakala Distt Amritsar have declare that Simranjit is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

I, Jasdev Singh S/o Baldev Singh Chohan R/O B-165 Ranjit Avenue Amritsar have changed my name to Jasdev Singh Chohan

I, Jasmin Kaur Chauhan W/o Jasdev Singh Chohan R/O B-165 Ranjit Avenue Amritsar have changed my name to Jasmin Kaur Chohan

I, Mandeep Singh S/o Satpal Singh R/O H.No.100, Gali No.2, Max Ashiana Enclave, Near Jahandpeer Dargah Khandwala, Amritsar has declared that Singh is my Surname and Mandeep is my Given Name. All Please Note.

I, hitherto Known as Naziran wife of Griffan Masih residing at Village Bhumli Tehsil and District Gurdaspur, Punjab, India Pin-143529 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Munira.

I, Meenu Bajaj W/o Mahesh Kumar Bajaj R/O 462, Sector-13, Hisar, Haryana 125001 declare that I have changed my name from Meenu to Meenu Bajaj for all future purpose.

I, Rajiv Kumar S/o Raja Ram R/o House No 18 Greater Kailash, Near Bachpan School Jandli (Part 113) Ambala, Haryana -134003 Have changed my name from Rajiv Kumar to Rajiv Khetar Paul.

I, Saurabh, S/o Sandeep, R/o Puthi Saman, Tehsil Bas, District Hisar, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Saurabh to Neeraj Kumar.

I, Army No. 13764816X Ex. NK Rohit Kumar 13 J&K Rif son of Sh. Lekh Ram, resident of village Saniyo, post office Didag, tehsil Rajgarh, district Sirmour Himachal Pradesh, declare that in my army record my wife name is Vandana wrongly entered, whereas the correct name is Bandana and Part-2 Order No. my daughter name is Rangna Chauhan wrongly entered, whereas the correct name is Rangana Thakur. Now I want to get my wife correct name is Bandana and daughter correct name is Rangana Thakur in my army record and other government documents. All concerned please may note.

I, Narender S/o Dhara Singh R/o MF 49,Mapsko City, Sonapat Working as a lab Incharge in NIFTEM Kundli have changed my name from Narender Sinhrum to Narender for all future purposes.

It is for general information that I AMIT KUMAR S/O AMAN KUMAR BANSAL R/O LAKHDATAR SOCIETY, FLOOR NO. 3, ROHTAK GATE, RAJSHREE VIHAR COLONY, BHIWANI, TEHSIL & DISTT BHIWANI (HARYANA), declare that the name of my Mine has been wrongly written as AMIT BANSALALIASAMIT KUMAR in my son ADITYA BANSAL in his 10th class, Marksheet and Birth Certificate. The actual name of my Mine is AMIT KUAMR respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Mahesh Kumar S/o Sh. Chandrathan R/O H. No. 2841P, Sector 14, Part-2, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Mahesh Sehgal to Mahesh Kumar for all purposes.

I, Virender Singh S/o Sh. Ram Kumar Father of Pararana (Daughter Name) R/O Vpo Mirzapur, Tehsil and District Hisar, Haryana, INDIA, have changed my minor Son/Daughter name from Pararana to Prema.

I, Aniket Panghal (Old Name, which is to be changed) Son of Sh. Om Prakash, Resident of 28, Kharka Wala Chowk, Ladwa, Tehsil & Distt. Hisar have changed my name from Aniket Panghal (Old Name) to Rajesh Kumar (New Name).

I, Robin S/o Vikram Singh R/O Ward No 12 VPO Barwa, Teh. Siwani, Distt Bhiwani, Haryana 127045 declare that I have changed my name from Robin to Robin Singh for all future purpose.

I, Ajay Kumar Sharma Urf Ajay Kumar S/o Roshan Lal R/o Gali No. 16/1 Kaunt Road, Shanti Nagar, Bhiwani, Haryana 127021 declare that I have changed my name from Ajay Kumar Sharma Urf Ajay Kumar to Ajay Kumar for all future purpose.

I, Dinesh Alampuria Urf Dinesh Kumar Alampur S/O Pardeep Kumar Alampur R/o House No. 51, Preet Vihar Colony, Bawri Gate, Bhiwani, Haryana-127021 declare that I have changed my name from Dinesh Kumar Alampur to Dinesh Kumar Alampur for all future purpose.

I, Damber Maya Subba mother of JC 583267N Sub Amir Subba R/o Vill-Badatam T G, PO Labong, Teh & Dist Darjeeling State - WB. Have changed my name from Damber Maya Subba to Damber Kumari Subba and DOB from 04.07.1946 to 15.04.1953 vide affidavit No.IN-PB9597867834781X, Dt.26.11.2025 before Notary Public Amritsar

I, Sonia Alampuria Urf Sonia W/o Dinesh Kumar Alampur R/O House No. 51, Preet Vihar Colony, Bawri Gate, Bhiwani, Haryana-127021 declare that I have changed my name from Sonia Goyal to Sonia for all future purpose.

I, Sonia Goyal W/o Dinesh Kumar Alampur R/O House No. 51, Preet Vihar Colony, Bawri Gate, Bhiwani, Haryana-127021 declare that I have changed my name from Sonia Goyal to Sonia for all future purpose.

I, Preethi W/o Shakti Anchal R/O Anchal Bhawan Captain Nathu Street, Lohar Bazar, Bhiwani, Haryana-127021 declare that I have changed my name from Preethi to S Preethi for all future purpose.

I, Jasleen Kaur W/o Surinder Jeet R/o # 516, Sector 33-B, Chandigarh have changed my name to Jasleen Kaur Sachdeva.

I, Vinod Mandal S/o Latu Mandal R/O # 128, Dhanas Chandigarh have changed my name to Binod Mandal.

I, Amandeep Kaur W/o Late Narinder Kumar have Changed my minor son's name from Neal Roshan D'Souza to Akamdeep Singh.

I, Ram Lal S/o Khuni Lal # 339, CHB, Small Flats, Mauli Jagran Part-2, Chandigarh have changed my name to Ratanalal.

I, Aman W/o Mohd Adil R/o # 1671/2, Near Gurudwara Sec 30 B, Chandigarh have changed my name to Aman Bano.

I, Kavita D/o Rama Nand R/o Ward No. 3 Narwana Road, Near Durga Mandir , Shivpuri Colony Jind Tehsil and District Jind have Changed my name from Kavita to Kavita Mehra.

I, Devender Singh Bisla S/o Jangjit Singh Bisla R/O Village Rajthal Tehsil Narnaud District Hisar have Changed my name from Devender Singh Bisla to Devender Bisla.

I, Mamta Kumari D/o Ran Singh W/o Pardeep Hooda R/O House No. 44, Sawan Park, New Model Town, Near Himanshu Nursery, Panipat, Haryana, have changed my name from Mamta Kumari to Mamta Hooda. In future I should be known as Mamta Hooda.

I, Alka Kadian D/o Randhir Singh Kadian W/o Vinay Malik R/O House No. 109, Assandh Road, Adarsh Nagar, Near Head Post Office, Panipat, Haryana, have changed my name from Alka Kadian to Alka Malik. In future I should be known as Alka Malik.

I, Subhash Chander Sharma S/o Mani Ram Sharma R/o Village Rawatkhera, Distt. Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Subhash Dev Sharma to Subhash Chander Sharma. In future I shall be known as Subhash Chander Sharma for all purpose.

I, Uttarani Singha C/o Bir Singha R/o PO Rongpur Part II, Vill. Rongpur Part III, Silchar, PO : Silchar, Distt. Cachar, Assam-788001 declare that I have changed my name from Uttarani Singh to Uttarani Singha for all future purpose.

I, Karan Kumar S/o Gone Ram R/O Village Karamgarh, Phagan Majara, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Karan Kumar to Kumar Karan.

I, Army No. 14941555H Rank: Nk. Name: Narendar Kumar Unit: 6 Mech. Inf. C/O 56 APO, Resident of Kimoli, Chamoli, Uttarakhand, Pin-246455 have changed my Son's Name from Sahdev Garwal to Sahdev Kumar.

I, Anusuiya Chauhan mother of Army No. 14684124L Rank: HAV. Name: Anand Singh Chauhan, Resident of Vill - Bohadpur, PO- Kukargaon, Teh- Ora, Distt.- Jalaun, State -Uttar Pradesh, Pin-285001 have changed my name from Anusuiya Chauhan to Anusuiya vide affidavit dated 25-11-2025 before Patiala Court.

I, Jitendra Pal Singh Chauhan father of Army No. 14684124L Rank: HAV. Name: Anand Singh Chauhan, Resident of Vill - Bohadpur, PO- Kukargaon, Teh- Ora, Distt.- Jalaun, State -Uttar Pradesh, Pin-285001 have changed my name from Jitendra Pal Singh Chauhan to Jitendra Pal Singh vide affidavit dated 25-11-2025 before Patiala Court.

I, Dnyandeo father of Army No. 14684263P Rank: HAV. Name: Shelke Amol Dnyandeo, Resident of Vill-Gunwadi, PO- Gunwadi Teh-Nagar Distt - Ahilyanagar, State -Maharashtra, Pin-414002 have changed my name from Dnyandeo to Dnyandeo Hari Shelke vide affidavit dated 25-11-2025 before Patiala Court.

I, Shelke Seema Dnyandeo mother of Army No. 14684263P Rank: HAV. Name: Shelke Amol Dnyandeo, Resident of Vill-Gunwadi, PO- Gunwadi Teh-Nagar Distt - Ahilyanagar, State -Maharashtra, Pin-414002 have changed my name from Shelke Seema Dnyandeo to Seema Dnyandeo vide affidavit dated 25-11-2025 before Patiala Court.

I, Nk Jagraj Singh serving in unit 237 Engineer Regiment c/o 56 APO have changed my son name from Bhavjot Singh Dhillion to Bhavjot Singh Dhillion.

I, Ramandeep Kaur W/O Bhagirath Singh Gill R/O Vpo. Lopon Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala District Moga Have Changed My Name To Ramandeep Kaur Gill.

I, Vipal Kumar Dutta S/o Krishan Dutt R/O H. No. B-2238, Street No. 4-D, Kailash Nagar, Fazilka 152123 Pb, have changed name from Vipal Kumar to Vipal Kumar Dutt.

I, Vijay Yadav S/o Nathunee Yadav R/O # T-1, 21 Sector 25 PU Campus Chandigarh, have changed my minor son name from Saurav Kumar to Saurav Yadav.

I, Ram Lal S/o Khuni Lal R/o # 339 Small Flats, Mouli Jagran, Chandigarh, have changed my name to Ratanalal.

I, Hans Raj S/o Chhedi Lal Yadav, H. No. 2366, Vikas Nagar, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Hans Raj to Hans Raj Yadav, for all future purposes.

I, Ashutosh Vasishth, S/o Sh. Shri Niwas R/o H. No. 106, 1st Floor, Main Road, Sector 13, Hisar, Haryana, declare that I have changed my name from Ashutosh @ Murari to Ashutosh Vasishth for all future purposes.

I, Kuldeep Kumar S/o Kailash Chander R/O Village Chuli Khurd, Tehsil Adampur, District Hisar (Haryana) PIN-125052, declare that I want to correct my name from Kuldeep to Kuldeep Kumar and my minor daughter's name from Shaina to Shaina Beniwal in my minor daughter Shaina Beniwal's 10th class educational documents (Mark sheet).

I, No. 069152R EX AG POT TEL DYAL SINGH of PPO No. Mig Navy SC 2352 1979 Unit Indian Navy resident of Village Lutera Kalan, PO.

PUBLIC NOTICE
1. Rakesh Madaan S/o Ram Chand
Maddan R/O House No. 536/2, Ward No.
21, Partap Gate, Kailthal, Distt. Kailthal

सर्वजनिक सूचना
मैं, भूषण कुमार पुत्र स्व. श्री हेमू राम निवासी
रामनगर कालोनी पट्टी डबवाली तहसील
उदवाली जिला सिरसा बनवाया है कि

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
(SUCCESSION CASE)
IN THE COURT OF
Supreet Kaur

Punjabi University Patiala
(Established under Punjab Act No. 35 of 1961)
Construction Wing invites E-Tenders for Water Proofing on Roofs of Dr. Bhim
Rao Ambedkar Hostel, Homni Bhaba Hostel, Arts Block-6, Admin Block-2,

PUBLIC NOTICE
Mr. Gurjeet Singh son of Sh. Gurdar Singh avail
a loan from Piramal Finance Limited Rajpara
against Property Measuring 02-1/2/50

नगर निगम रोहताक
सर्वजनिक सूचना
सर्व संपत्तियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहताक

न्यायालय तहसील जूंद कस
रजिस्टर साहब जीन्द
मकें अरुण कुमार पुत्र स्व. श्री हरदत्त जीन्द
निवासी मकान नंबर 3507 अरुण इस्टेट जीन्द

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
Jasmine
Civil Judge, (Junior Division)
Amritsar

General Public
CNR No. : PBAS02-003033-2025
Next Date :- 20-01-2026
Succ - 57/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Family Transfer (Death Case) of 20% Share of M/s HARI CHEMICALS
located at Industrial Plot No 1938, Phase-II M. I. E. Bahadurgarh
(Jhajjar).

PUBLIC NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank limited, Shal Tower, Plot No-23 New Rohtak
Road Karol Bagh New Delhi- 110014

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Loan Account Number & Address, Description of Secured Asset to be enforced, Date of Notice sent/Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date

न्यायालय तहसील जूंद कस
रजिस्टर साहब जीन्द
मकें अरुण कुमार पुत्र स्व. श्री हरदत्त जीन्द
निवासी मकान नंबर 3507 अरुण इस्टेट जीन्द

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
Supreet Kaur
Additional Civil Judge,
(Senior Division) Amritsar

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
Supreet Kaur
Additional Civil Judge,
(Senior Division) Amritsar

TATA CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered Address: Tower A, 11th Floor, Peninsula Business Park,
Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank limited, Shal Tower, Plot No-23 New Rohtak
Road Karol Bagh New Delhi- 110014

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Loan Account Number & Address, Description of Secured Asset to be enforced, Date of Notice sent/Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date

सर्वजनिक सूचना
मैं, विजय कुमार पुत्र स्व. श्री प्रकाश निवासी गोपी चौक
टोला नगर 8707 अरुण इस्टेट जीन्द

CRIMINAL COURTS JALANDHAR
Form No 55
IN THE COURT OF
Amandeep Singh Guman
Magistrate First Class
Amritsar

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
Supreet Kaur
Additional Civil Judge,
(Senior Division) Amritsar

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(i) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to general public at large that Sh.
Rakesh Kumar S/o. Sh. Mangat Ram R/O Village Maljkpur

Details of offence:
Publication Issued to:
Chai Shai Bar:
Dugri Road Ludhiana (through its
authorised agent) Prince Lamba S/O

Additional Civil Judge,
(Senior Division) Amritsar
Dated, this day of 24-11-2025

Table with 4 columns: Description of Secured Assets, Type of Possession, Reserve Price (Rs.), Earnest Money EMD (Rs.)

SWAMI DAYANAND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Approved by Punjab Govt., Reco. by NCTE, New Delhi Affiliated with SCERT, Mohali

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Quota/Counseling Quota) seats for Direct Admission in D.El.Ed./E.T.T. Course.

Campus : Lehra Bega (Bhucho Mandi) Bathinda
PHONE : 92155-44124, 94683-35928, 82955-00772

राजकीय कन्या उच्च विद्यालय, जमाल
नीलामी सूचना
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि राजकीय कन्या उच्च विद्यालय,

HIMACHAL PRADESH GRAMIN BANK
AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF MOVABLE PROPERTY
It is informed to the general public or interesting person/parties that public auction/sale of the following Vehicle will be held on

Table with 5 columns: Name & Address of Borrower, Vehicle Make & Model, Reserve Price

HIMACHAL PRADESH GRAMIN BANK
AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF MOVABLE PROPERTY
It is informed to the general public or interesting person/parties that public auction/sale of the following Vehicle will be held on

Table with 5 columns: Name & Address of Borrower, Vehicle Make & Model, Reserve Price

ICICI Home Finance
Notice for sale of immovable assets through Private Treaty
Notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of
Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with rule 8(i) of the Security
Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE
SR NO., NAME OF DEPARTMENT, NAME OF WORK NOTICE, OPENING DATE, CLOSING DATE, AMOUNT / IN APPROX. IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

**Your Trusted
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Order Order

**CBI busts corruption
racket in Income Tax
Appellate Tribunal, Jaipur**



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday busted a racket that helped settle appeals in exchange of bribe at the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in Jaipur and arrested three people, including a judicial member, officials said. The agency recovered ₹30 lakh cash from the car belonging to arrested judicial member S Seethalakshmi, they said.

During searches in Jaipur, Kota and other places, the CBI seized more than ₹1 crore in cash, transaction details, property documents and other incriminating documents, indicating an organised syndicate, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. Acting on a tip-off, the agency started its operation on Tuesday, following which an advocate at the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Rajendra Sisodia, was nabbed while allegedly taking ₹5.5 lakh bribe through hawala network from Mujmmel, whose case was pending before the appellate body, officials said. Mujmmel was arrested along with Seethalakshmi and Sisodia, they said.

The investigation agency said the syndicate was "indulging in corrupt activities" and settling "appeals pending before ITAT bench, Jaipur, in favour of appellants in lieu of bribe." "The CBI registered an instant case on November 25, 2025, against the accused Advocate (of) ITAT and others, including a Member and Assistant Registrar..." the spokesperson said.

**Court issues notice to CBI
on Rabri Devi's plea
seeking transfer of case**



A Delhi court on Wednesday sought a response from the CBI on a plea filed by former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi seeking transfer of the IRCTC hotel scam case to a different judge. Principal and Sessions Judge Dinesh Bhatt was hearing the plea of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and issued the notice to the CBI. The court, however, refused to stay the ongoing trial proceedings in the CBI case.

Earlier on Monday, she moved a plea seeking transfer of the CBI and ED cases registered against her to another court, saying she had a reasonable apprehension that "fair and impartial justice" would not be rendered.



SC orders nationwide audit of private varsities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

In a significant development, the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government, all States and Union Territories, and the University Grants Commission (UGC) to disclose how private universities across the country were established, regulated and monitored.

A Bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and NV Anjaria said it was necessary, in the larger public interest, to examine how private universities were created, the statutory framework under which they function and the benefits granted to them by Governments.

The Supreme Court directed all Governments to file comprehensive affidavits detailing the background, legal basis, and financial or administrative benefits extended to private universities, including land allotments and preferential treatment. The Court also sought information on who actually controls and manages these institutions, and how their governing bodies are constituted.

The Bench was hearing a petition by 23-year-old student, one Ayesha Jain, who approached the Court after Amity University allegedly refused to change her name in its rolls despite her furnishing all legal documents.

She claimed that university officials harassed her, barred her from attending classes and even taunted her for changing her name to a muslim name. Her petition detailed a series of complaints made to the UGC and the Ministry of Education, alleging that despite their intervention, the university refused to take corrective action.

The controversy dates back to



2021, when the petitioner changed her name from Khushi Jain to Ayesha Jain and published it in the Gazette of India. In 2023, she completed a certificate course at Amity Finishing School under her new name and later joined Amity Business School for an MBA (Entrepreneurship) programme in 2024.

However, the university allegedly refused to update her records, preventing her from attending classes and sitting for exams. After multiple unanswered representations and complaints, Jain approached the Supreme Court in mid-2025, accusing the university of arbitrariness and discrimination.

When the matter came up again on November 20, both officials were present before the Court and submitted their affidavits. However, instead of concluding the matter,

the Bench expanded its scope significantly, observing that the issues involved in the case carried wider implications for governance and regulation of private higher education in India.

The Bench in the order dated November 20 (uploaded on Wednesday) emphasised that it wished to examine how private universities came into existence, what statutory provisions or notifications enabled their creation, and what benefits they receive from Governments.

"The issues have now come before this Court, which the present coram has also deliberated in detail, in the larger public interest, it is deemed appropriate to examine the aspects relating to the creation/establishment/setting-up of all private Universities, either under the State Governments/Union

Territories or the Central Government, and connected concerns," said the Court.

The Court then directed the Centre and all State and Union Territory administrations to disclose the legal basis under which each private, non-Government or deemed university was established. The Court also sought complete information on the benefits granted to these institutions, including land allotments, statutory relaxations, preferential treatment and any financial or administrative concessions.

The top court further sought full details of the organisations and individuals who run such institutions, including the composition and selection process of their governing bodies. "Full details of the concerned personnel connected with the establishment/management of

such Universities shall be placed on record," it said.

The UGC was also asked to explain its regulatory authority over private universities and the actual mechanism it follows to ensure compliance with statutory and policy requirements. "The affidavit by the UGC shall cover what the statute/policy mandates as also the actual mechanism to monitor/oversee compliance by the institutions," the Court said.

The order also called for disclosures on admissions policies, recruitment of faculty, checks on compliance with legal obligations, whether institutions claiming to operate on a "no profit, no loss" basis are doing so in reality, grievance redressal systems for students and faculty, and whether minimum statutory salaries are being paid.

The Court made the responsibility for these disclosures explicit. Responsibility for every disclosure and its correctness shall rest with the deponent concerned," the Court said. It underscored that any attempt to suppress or misrepresent facts would be viewed sternly.

"If there is any attempt to withhold, suppress, misrepresent or mis-state facts in the affidavits called for, this Court will be compelled to adopt a strict view," the Bench said.

To ensure accountability at the highest level, the Court directed that the affidavits must be personally affirmed by the Cabinet Secretary of India, Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, and the Chairman of the UGC, without any delegation. The matter is slated for further hearing on January 8, 2026 when the Court is likely to examine the disclosures in detail.

CJI mulls virtual-only hearings in Supreme Court due to pollution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, while considering the possibility of shifting Supreme Court hearings to the virtual-only mode due to the severe air pollution, said he felt unwell when he went for an hour-long walk a day before. Kant said he would decide after consulting the bar, even as the idea of allowing virtual hearings for lawyers above 60 years of age was floated in the court.

The observations were made by the CJI at the outset of the hearing on pleas — challenging the Election Commission's decision to conduct Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and other states — when senior lawyer, Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, sought exemption from personal presence.

"I have congestion issues... Please allow my colleague to take notes. I want to appear through video conferencing on the next date," Dwivedi said, adding that he is having some issues after he went for a morning walk. "I want your lordships' leave. Permission may be given to appear online, I am not well," he added. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal concurred and said, "At our age, we are breathing this obnoxious air when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is 400-500." The CJI said, "Yesterday, I went for a walk for an hour. I was not feeling well." Then, the



possibility of excluding lawyers aged 60 and above from in-person hearings was mooted.

"If I take any decision, then we will take the bar into confidence first. We will see hardship faced by lawyers and litigants... If we get a proposal, then we will do something. I will meet office-bearers in the evening and take some steps," the CJI added. Presently, the top court functions through a hybrid mode where proceedings are conducted through both physical and virtual modes. The air quality in the national capital was recorded in the "very poor" category on Wednesday morning, with an AQI reading of 335.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

SC seeks HMT response on plea for taking possession of 27 acres of land

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response of the Hindustan Machine Tools and others on a plea of the Kerala Government seeking its nod to take possession of 27 acres of land held by the HMT at Kalamassery for establishing a 'Judicial City'. The proposed 'Judicial City' will house the Kerala High Court's judicial wing and allied infrastructure.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notice to HMT and other respondents on the State's application.

The plea has been filed in a long-pending civil appeal arising from a 2014 judgment of the Kerala High Court concerning ownership and ceiling restrictions on the land.

In 2016, the top court had issued notice in the appeal filed by HMT and directed that the status quo with respect to

the land be maintained. That interim order continues to remain in force.

The State Government has now urged the bench to modify the status quo order to allow it to take over 27 acres of HMT land, subject to the condition that it deposits the compensation amount, calculated as per the 2014 Basic Valuation Report, in the form of a fixed deposit receipt (FDR) in the name of the Registrar General of the Kerala High Court in a nationalised bank.

The 900-acre land bank at

Kalamassery was originally acquired in the 1960s for setting up a machine tool factory as a Central Sector project.

Over time, portions of the land were transferred to entities including the Naval Armament Depot and the Kerala State Electricity Board. However, large tracts remained unutilised by HMT.

The Kerala state had attempted to resume nearly 400 acres, triggering prolonged litigation that culminated in the 2014 High Court judgment.



HMT campus Kalamassery, Kerala

'Need to finalise Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior advocate Vikas Singh on Wednesday stressed the need to finalise the Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments.

He said this will ensure that judges of fine calibre comes to the higher courts and that there is credibility in the process. Memorandum of Procedure is the list of rules and procedures for appoint-

ment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Speaking at a Constitution Day celebration organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Singh highlighted deficiencies in judicial infrastructure, particularly in lower courts.

"I beseech the law minister, the Chief Justice of India and the other collegium judges that this Memorandum of Procedure has been hanging fire since 2016. The Memorandum of



Senior advocate Vikas Singh

Procedure is basically meant to ensure that the collegium system has more accountability, and I request that it be finalised at the earliest," Singh said.

"This will definitely ensure the quality of judges coming to the higher courts and there is credibility in the process. I feel that the Collegium system is the best system for appointment of judges but there has to be accountability. That can only be brought in either by law made by Parliament regulating the

Collegium system or by the Memorandum of Procedure," he added. The SCBA president said the Constitution Day must serve as an occasion for introspection on whether the Constitution has fulfilled its promise. Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

Earlier, the day was observed as National Law Day.

SC pulls up Haryana Govt for uprooting trees for way to BJP office

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Terming it "pathetic", the Supreme Court pulled up the Haryana Government and its urban development body on Thursday for the uprooting of 40 fully-grown trees to build an accessible road to a newly-constructed BJP office in Karnal, and sought a remedial action plan, warning them of being "taken to task".

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan was hearing a petition filed by a 1971-war veteran, challenging the dismissal of his plea at the High Court on May 3 against the arbitrary allocation of a plot in a residential area to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Haryana and later, the

construction of an access road for its office by uprooting 40 fully-grown trees situated in a green area.

"It is pathetic that you uprooted fully-grown trees. Why and what happened to these trees? What is your explanation for this? Why can't you get the office of the political party shifted to some other location?" the bench asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, who appeared in the matter for the Haryana Government.

Banerjee said the required permissions were taken for allotment and all green norms followed.

He assured the court that trees will be planted in proportion to the number of trees felled.

The bench asked Banerjee who will compensate for the loss of the

40 fully-grown trees. It also asked him to come up with a good explanation, warning that the state and its instrumentalities are bound to be "taken to task".

"We are warning you that all of you will be taken to task for this," the bench told Banerjee and other lawyers appearing for different bodies of the state Government.

The court passed the order after hearing advocate Bhupender Pratap Singh, who appeared in the matter for Col (ret'd) Davinder Singh Rajput, a 1971-war veteran.

"The petitioner was also aggrieved by the felling of 40 trees in the green belt to make a 10m pathway through the 100m green belt in front of the house of the petitioner.

It is pertinent to note that the petitioner had paid 10 per cent pref-



erential-location charges for the green belt facing the plot almost 36 years ago," the plea said. Singh told the bench that the High Court dis-

missed Rajput's writ petition and upheld the arbitrary actions of the State, violating the legal and fundamental rights of the petitioner.

Mother of martyred Agniveer moves HC against denial of full benefits to family

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The mother of Agniveer Murali Naik, who was killed in cross-border shelling in Jammu & Kashmir during Operation Sindoor, has moved the Bombay High Court challenging the denial of benefits to which a regular soldier's family is entitled. The Agnipath scheme creates an "arbitrary" distinction between Agniveers and regular soldiers, claimed the plea filed by Naik's mother Jyotibai Naik, questioning the "discriminatory" denial of full death benefits.

Murali Naik was killed on May 9 in Poonch when the Pakistan Army resorted to ceasefire violations, launching heavy artillery and mortar attacks, as India launched Operation Sindoor in the aftermath of Pahalgam terror attack.

The petition, filed through advocates Sandesh More, Hemant Ghadigaonkar and Hitendra Gandhi, said the Agniveers perform the same duties and face the same risks as regular soldiers, yet the families of Agniveers are denied long-term pensionary and welfare benefits.

"The Agnipath scheme introduced by the Government expressly excludes Agniveers from post-service pension benefits and other long-term welfare entitlements normally available to regular soldiers," the petition said.

As per the plea, the family of a martyred Agniveer gets an ex-gratia amount of around Rs one crore but are not given any regular family pension or any other benefits. The petition sought directions to ensure equal posthumous benefits, including pensions, institutional recognition, and welfare measures for families of Agniveers who die in service.

It also sought a direction to the concerned authorities to consider the petitioner's request for these benefits to be extended to her family.

As per the plea, Naik was recruited in the Indian Army in June 2023.

After his death, the petitioner sent letters to several authorities, requesting that her family be granted the same benefits as those given to the families of regular soldiers.

However, she was yet to receive any reply, claimed the petition.



Editor's TAKE

India's fight against crime against women

The rising cases of violence against women—from female infanticide to domestic abuse and gender-based killing—demand urgent and decisive action

With Bollywood actress Celina Jaitley filing a case against her Austrian husband Hogg, it has once again become evident that domestic violence can occur across class and nationality, and that the rot runs deeper than imagined. She claimed she has suffered severe emotional, physical, sexual, and verbal abuse by her husband, because of which she was forced to flee her home in Austria and return to India.

This menace has been whetted by the latest United Nations data which is a reminder of how deeply violence against women remains embedded across societies. As per the UN data, in 2024 alone, 50,000 women and girls were killed by intimate partners or family members – one every ten minutes. Globally, 137 women lose their lives every day to those closest to them. These numbers, released by UNODC and UN Women, shows the mirror to the societies and nations who claim that gender violence has been controlled.

Back home in India, despite its economic and social advances cannot claim to be different. Female infanticide and gender-based killing in India are for real. In India sex-selective abortions and neglect of girl children, continues through early marriage, dowry-related violence, trafficking, and domestic abuse.

India, home to deep-rooted patriarchal norms and skewed sex ratios in several states, is undeniably a significant contributor to this distressing global statistic. The UN report makes one fact painfully clear: the home remains the most dangerous place for women. In contrast to the global pattern in which only 11 per cent of male homicides are committed by family members, 60 per cent of women's killing occur within the close confines of homes in India. This points to a larger cultural crisis.

When those who should protect become perpetrators, when honour is weaponised, and when daughters are seen as burdens, violence becomes inevitable.

Decades of policy measures—from the Pre-Conception and 'Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act' to *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*—have created awareness but not transformation. Laws exist, yet implementation leave much to be desired. Deep-seated prejudices, economic pressures, dowry systems, and lack of gender-sensitive policing continue to prevent meaningful change. The onslaught of digital media has opened yet another threat for women. The UN data also highlights a growing threat: digital violence. As UN Women notes, harassment, stalking, and coercion online often escalate offline. In India online abuse is becoming common. Without strong cyber laws, early intervention systems, and trained law-enforcement units, they often have to bear the brunt in silence.

Time to act is now. India must prioritise early prevention—identifying patterns of control, threats, harassment, and coercion. The state agencies must ensure strict enforcement of existing laws while creating specialised femicide investigation units.

And most critically, India must invest in girls – through education, health, legal protection, and economic empowerment—because crimes against women thrive where girls have little perceived value.

The Special Intensive Revision is a step towards strengthening our democracy and to effectively counter the half-front war we are facing every day, which is being waged from within, facilitated in a very large measure by illegal voters who are not citizens of India



BALRAJ MEHTA

"Remember, for your Progress, for your Welfare, for your Happiness, never fail to cast your vote in elections"- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam"

The news swirling around us, apart from smog in Delhi NCR, are once again (after the Bihar elections) focusing on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) being conducted by the Election Commission of India. There is a lot of noise in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and surprisingly in UP, Punjab and Delhi NCR. Especially revealing are the videos of illegal immigrants lining up at border checkpoints along WB-BD border for getting back to their native homes in Bangladesh. I wonder if it is because of the SIR being conducted in West Bengal or due to the Immigration and Foreigners Act 2025, which has come into force on 01 Sep 2025 - it is a moot question which, however, will answer itself in due course!

The ongoing debate rekindled the memory of my own experiences of this grave security problem, which I saw from various angles during my service. As a Company Commander, I was deployed for Op RHINO in the district of Barpeta and adjoining areas in Assam for about six months during 1995-96.

I remember coming across many overtly Muslim Bengali-speaking men who claimed to have studied in local schools, being natives of Assam. Whenever I asked them to read a poster/signboard printed in Assamese, they could not - they had no clue; obviously, they were Bangladeshi illegals. Later as CO of my battalion in 2004, I was tasked to prepare a presentation on security threats and consulted a whole lot of literature, intelligence summaries and authoritative books by eminent authors to research on infiltration in areas of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, as also Pakistan's efforts to export militancy through the Indo-Nepal border. The experiences of Lt Gen SK Sinha, who had been the governor of Assam from Sep 1993 till Apr 1998, and at that time was serving as governor of J&K (Jun 2003 - Jun 2008), provided a lot of clarity.

His accounts were eye-opening as to how the state governments had been encouraging illegal immigration from Bangladesh over the last many decades and recruiting them as captive vote banks. Another useful publication (amongst many others) was the book by Mr Arun Shourie, 'Will the Iron Fence Save a Tree Hollowed by termites', detailing the machinations of Pakistan ISI to foment trouble in India.

It is also worth remembering that Bangladesh had completely come under Pakistan's spell during the regimes of Begum Khaleda Zia between 1991-96 and 2001-2006. Later, while writing my



MPhil thesis on 'International Terrorism and Implications for India' in 2007, I was able to see a continuing trend of external enemies undermining our security and own political parties turning willing co-conspirators for selfish power games. I noticed the same many times during my tenure as GOC of a Sub Area looking after almost whole of North East in 2017-18. Coming back to the present turmoil, the air is surcharged (or sir-charged) with uncertainty for the Bangladesh nationals staying illegally.

There are reports of emptying out of slums around Kolkata, panic in areas around the Siliguri corridor and even a shortage of maids/domestic staff in Gurugram, among other cities. While on the border, BSF check posts are having their hands full in dealing with an extraordinary exodus.

In the specific context of West Bengal, it will be worthwhile to recollect that the issue of enclaves was left simmering after the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. It was finally resolved by the LBA Protocol of 2011, and exchange was completed four years later, when on 31 Jul 2015 India transferred 111 enclaves to Bangladesh and in turn received 54.

Effective border guarding is difficult due to low-lying terrain, unpredictable water bodies, swamps and unfenced stretches. These infirmities permit unchecked infiltration and facilitate illegal trade, including the smuggling of drugs, cattle and other contrabands. Reluctance has been shown by state governments in providing land for border fencing.

Out of the total Bangladesh border of 2261 km with West Bengal, as informed to Lok Sabha by MHA on 20 Aug 2025, 569 km remains unfenced. Land is yet to be acquired for nearly 230 km - more than 10 years after the last of the boundary issue of enclaves was finally resolved and border alignment finalised! This delay, to my

The Pioneer SINCE 1865

IT IS ALSO WORTH REMEMBERING THAT BANGLADESH HAD COMPLETELY COME UNDER PAKISTAN'S SPELL DURING THE REGIMES OF BEGUM KHALEDA ZIA BETWEEN 1991-96 AND 2001-2006

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PICTALK



Farm workers pluck marigold flowers from a field, in Nadia, West Bengal. PHOTO: PTI



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

2ND OPINION THE PIONEER

Currently, a large number of people across the world identify themselves as SBNR, i.e., spiritual but not religious. The term may be new to Indians, but recent research shows that perhaps one in every five persons living in the USA describes themselves as spiritual but not religious.

This phrase means different things to different people. The confusion arises because the words "spiritual" and "religious" are often mistakenly taken as synonymous. Both relate to belief in a Higher Power of some kind, both imply a desire to connect or enter into a deeper relationship with this Higher Power, and both refer to rituals, practices, and daily moral behaviours that help build such a connection. Therefore, before exploring the difference between reli-

A New Path For A New World

gion and spirituality, we need to define these two terms and understand clearly that they are not the same. Religions generally have a large amount of faith which may or may not find support in reason and may even go against facts known through enquiry, experimentation, and evidence. Religions also come with rituals, ceremonies, acts, and paraphernalia of worship. Spirituality, in comparison, is free from such elements or has very little of them.

The main substance of spirituality is values, virtues, and rational spiritual beliefs that enlighten a person about the self, the meaning of life, the role and goal of human existence, and the method of bringing purity and quietude to the mind in a simple, rational, and experiential way. It can be said that spirituality is the universal core of all religions. It is the essence of all wisdom. The opposite of spirituality is gross materialism which breeds competition, selfishness, and a struggle for survival. Spirituality leads to harmony and peace.

If it does not bring these benefits, then it is not spirituality but pseudo-spirituality. The aim of every religion is to make a person pious and a good citizen. But with time, every religion went through degeneration. So it is not correct to condemn all religions or reject everything in any one religion. However, if a religion instigates its followers against others or gives its followers such frenzy that they attack

people of other faiths, then such a system cannot be called religion in the true sense. Fanatics who have no deep religious experience but raise slogans and get provoked easily are the real enemies of religion. When many people say that religion and politics should not mix, they say so because of this background. India, with its pluralistic culture, gives every person the right and freedom of religious belief without government interference.

The Indian polity is known as secular. Yet, despite this, many riots after independence were caused by religious intolerance. In such situations, spirituality can play a major role in maintaining peace and harmony in a society where people speak different languages, follow different religions, and have different lifestyles. Spirituality removes bias and prejudice, breaks the walls of casteism, cultism, and meaningless customs, and creates a basis for brotherhood. Spirituality implies universal love, non-violence, compassion, virtue, simplicity, honesty, detachment, and service. If spirituality is placed at the centre of politics and society, the world would be a better place. One cannot have humility, detachment, compassion, or freedom from hatred and violence without spirituality.

The writer is a spiritual teacher and popular columnist

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RUPEE'S DECLINE AND INDIA'S ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

The fall of the Indian rupee is not merely an economic statistic - it affects the daily life of every ordinary citizen. When the rupee weakens, the prices of fuel, cooking oil, electronic goods, and even essential medicines rise sharply. Families feel this burden almost immediately, making household budgeting increasingly difficult and tightening monthly expenses for millions. While it is understandable that global factors such as U.S. tariffs, geopolitical uncertainty, and soaring gold prices have contributed to the rupee's decline, the situation also highlights how dependent India remains on imports. The greater our reliance on foreign products, the more exposed our currency becomes to international volatility, leaving the economy vulnerable to forces beyond our control.

What the nation needs now is a well-designed, long-term strategy aimed at strengthening domestic production, boosting exports, and building sustained confidence among investors. India has enormous talent, abundant resources, and growing entrepreneurial strength. Yet without consistent policy support, improved infrastructure, and meaningful structural reforms, the rupee will continue to experience pressure whenever global markets fluctuate. A stable currency provides citizens with a sense of security and trust in the economy. It is therefore crucial that policymakers concentrate on fortifying India's economic foundations and resilience, ensuring a more predictable financial environment for all.

KR GAGAR | KARNATAKA

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New CJJ's Challenges and Priorities

The new Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, will serve for nearly fifteen months, a tenure that is far from insignificant, considering the present condition of the judiciary. The looming threat to judicial independence from various quarters is an issue the fifty-third Chief Justice must tackle with urgency. Equally important is the administrative dimension of the judiciary, which is likely to demand continuous attention.

The transfer and appointment of senior judges have raised widespread concern. "Judges judging judges" is not inherently problematic; however, the increasing tendency of the collegium to overprotect "brother judges", leading to national outcry, needs to be curbed firmly and transparently. The judiciary must recognise its limitations and maintain a balanced approach in its remarks on individuals and issues.

Fair and swift disposal of matters is always a daunting responsibility for a Chief Justice, yet it remains true that no Chief Justice can significantly reduce case pendency on his own. If the government lacks the will to implement meaningful reforms, there is little the highest judicial authority can do. By the time a Chief Justice attempts to undertake reforms beyond lip service, his tenure is often close to ending, making way for his successor.

GANAPATHI BHAT | AKOLA

Reform Must Balance Compassion

Apropos the news report "CM Stalin urges PM to amend RTE Act", the appeal to safeguard in-service teachers from disqualification under the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) mandate is both urgent and humane.

These educators were recruited through official procedures, have served for years, and now face the threat of losing their jobs due to a retrospective requirement. The Supreme Court's directive, though anchored in the pursuit of quality, overlooks the logistical and emotional strain on thousands of teachers, many of whom work in remote regions with limited access to training.

It is a welcome step to shield serving teachers from being penalised for systemic shortcomings. Abrupt dismissals would disrupt classroom continuity and worsen the existing shortage of experienced staff in government schools.

A phased compliance model, service-linked exemptions, and targeted support for TET preparation would offer a fairer approach. Parliament should act swiftly to amend the RTE and NCTE Acts not merely to protect livelihoods, but to uphold the integrity of public education. Teachers deserve dignity, not retroactive punishment. A nation that values learning must also value those who teach.

A. MYLISAMI | COIMBATORE

Delhi's Transport Crisis Demands Action

The renewed focus on vehicular emissions is both urgent and justified. For decades, transport has remained the weakest link in Delhi's struggle against toxic air. Although the Supreme Court-mandated shift to CNG in the early 2000s provided temporary relief, the rapid surge in private vehicles soon wiped out those gains. Today, with Delhi once again shrouded in a blanket of poisonous smog, decisive action on transport can no longer be delayed.

The recent order to tighten green norms, penalise defaulting vehicles, and accelerate the transition to electric mobility is a step in the right direction. However, genuine progress depends on strengthening public transport. Despite an expanding metro network and an increasing fleet of electric buses, the system still falls short of the city's demands.

Encouraging carpooling and other behavioural changes may help, but such cooperation from the public will emerge only when residents witness a clear and consistent commitment from the government. Immediate, visible measures, such as effective dust control, improved road maintenance, and faster augmentation of the bus fleet, can foster this confidence. Cleaning Delhi's air requires a collective effort, built on credible and sustained governance.

SANJAY CHOPRA | PUNJAB



Who provided oxygen to the Maoists all these years?

Maoism's greatest victims have been the adivasis and indigenous tribal groups. After more than seventy years of independence, the benefits of development are finally beginning to reach the most vulnerable, empowering them to live as free citizens without fear and in control of their own future

FIRST Column



BALBIR PUNJ

On November 18, security forces successfully neutralized the notorious Naxal (Maoist) commander Madvi Hidma, who was wanted with a bounty of one crore rupees, following a fierce firefight in a remote forested region. With Hidma's elimination, it appears that the anti-Naxal operations have entered their final phase, bringing the Indian government closer to its goal of eradicating Maoist insurgency nationwide by March 2026, a target publicly announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Undoubtedly, this marks another significant achievement for the Modi government, reflecting ongoing efforts in governance and development. However, a section of Indian society—particularly some factions within the Left—are in mourning following Hidma's killing and the near total demise of Naxal movement.

Hidma is accused of killing over 150 people, including the one in Tadmeta in 2010, which left 76 CRPF personnel dead and the 2013 Jhiram Ghati (Darbha) attack, which wiped out the Congress leadership in Chhattisgarh. Apart from killing countless security personnel, Maoists, under the guise of pursuing a 'revolution,' have brutally murdered hundreds of innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, often targeting villages and communities perceived as enemies.

This orgy of violence and death has persisted for nearly six decades. Couldn't it have been stopped earlier? Why was such decisive action against Naxalism not possible sooner? The answer lies in the worldview of the Left, which has remained deeply rooted in the Indian establishment for decades and has provided both ideological and material support to this violent movement. In other words, a segment of the ruling elite has been complicit in this grim dance of death and destruction, with both overt and covert support all these years.

Dr. Manmohan Singh, who served as India's Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, identified Naxalism—the extremist Maoist insurgency that began in West Bengal in 1967—as India's most serious internal security threat. In June 2010, he underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive, iron-fisted policy to



DEMOCRACY, WITH ALL ITS INHERENT IMPERFECTIONS, NONETHELESS REMAINS THE MOST BALANCED, HUMANE, AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE KNOWN TO HUMANITY

The writer is an eminent columnist and the author of 'Tryst with Ayodhya: Decolonisation of India' and 'Narrative ka Mayajal'

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counter the escalating violence and growing influence of left-wing extremism.

However, the National Advisory Council (NAC)—a body created outside the constitutional framework and chaired by Sonia Gandhi—opposed any strong counter-insurgency operations, advocating instead for negotiation-led and development-centric approaches.

It is widely recognised that the Manmohan Singh government operated largely under the influence of the NAC, whose members predominantly held Left-leaning political views. Most NAC members argued that Naxalism, could not be suppressed through force but required comprehensive development programmes in the affected areas.

The irony, of course, was that the very development projects they advocated—such as the construction of rural roads, the establishment of schools and banks, and the implementation of essential infrastructure—were persistently sabotaged by the Naxals. These insurgents viewed such initiatives as a threat to their territorial control and ideology.

Naxal sympathisers—often referred to as "Urban Naxals"—repeatedly promote the

narrative that Maoists are the true champions of Adivasis and the poor, claiming they resist alleged "oppression" on their behalf. The reality, however, is starkly different.

Owing to a combination of neglect rooted in British colonial policies and the subsequent failures of India's early post-independence governments, Naxals forcibly seized control of many tribal and remote regions through the barrel of a gun, cutting them off from the national mainstream.

The Maoists vandalised government offices, schools, and public infrastructure; set fire to buildings; blew up roads and bridges to hinder movement; and extorted local communities through systematic violence and intimidation—inflicting widespread fear, insecurity, and suffering. The result was all economic activities came to a halt and preventing the growth and integration of these areas into broader economic systems.

Over the past eleven years, the Modi government has actively confronted Naxalism through a dual approach: implementing targeted developmental initiatives such as building roads, schools, and healthcare facilities, while simultaneously deploying security forces to dismantle insurgent net-

works and restore order, with a focus on improving infrastructure, education, health services, and safety.

The ideological foundation of the Naxals is rooted in Mao Zedong's teachings, the Chinese communist leader whose tumultuous era was characterised by widespread atrocities against political dissenters, intellectuals, and perceived enemies of the state. During the Cultural Revolution alone, estimates suggest that approximately two million innocent individuals lost their lives due to purges, executions, and social upheavals orchestrated under his leadership.

Although China has moved away from many of Mao's original economic doctrines, it now relies on a distorted form of state capitalism characterised by significant government control of key industries and resources. Despite these economic shifts, its political and ideological core remains largely unchanged, emphasising centralised authority and a sense of ideological continuity.

Harbouring deep-seated animosity towards India, China has historically used Maoist groups—including urban Naxal activists—as proxies to influence regional conflicts and undermine India's stability.

What recently transpired in Delhi has attracted attention: air pollution remains an undeniably serious issue that demands an honest and open debate. During a demonstration at India Gate addressing this very concern, Left-wing activists shouted slogans such as "Madvi Hidma Amar Rahe," which translates to "Long live Madvi Hidma," and "Har Ghar se Charu Niklega," meaning "A Charu Mazumdar will arise from every home." When approached by authorities to calm the situation, they reportedly used pepper spray on the police officers, indicating a level of hostility and unrest.

The methods of Naxals bear grim resemblance to those of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un. Just as Kim executes opponents publicly, these Left-wing extremists run kangaroo "people's courts" where innocents—branded arbitrarily as police informers or class enemies—are summarily executed. The charges are framed by the Naxals, and the verdict is delivered by them.

The brand of communist ideology pursued by Maoists, characterized by its violent tactics and anti-human principles rooted in revolutionary fervor, has consistently failed to establish a prosperous or rights-respecting society anywhere in the world over till date. Despite various attempts in countries such as Nepal, India, and Peru, the Maoist approach has led to ongoing conflict, human rights violations, and instability.

Democracy, with all its inherent imperfections, nonetheless remains the most balanced, humane, and effective system of governance known to humanity. It offers a framework that emphasises individual rights, rule of law, and civic participation, making it far superior to alternative models, including theocratic systems such as Sharia, which impose strict religious laws and often suppress personal freedoms.

The truth is that Maoism's greatest victims have been the very communities—Adivasis, indigenous tribal groups residing mainly in remote, forested regions—and the deprived, marginalised populations often living in poverty and lacking access to basic amenities.

Hopefully, change is on the horizon. Maoists and their urban supporters are now on the run, signalling a shift. After more than seventy years of independence, the benefits of development are finally beginning to reach the most vulnerable, empowering them to live as free citizens—without fear and in control of their own future.

Ayodhya Flag Hoisting Marks a Civilisational Turning Point for India



RAHUL KAUSHIK

Ayodhya's flag hoisting marks a rupture in India's civilisational timeline. It is not a ceremonial ascent of cloth over stone; it is a declaration that Indian civilisation, after centuries of subjugation, distortion, and hesitation, has resumed authorship of its own story. The moment becomes even more defining when placed alongside the speeches delivered today by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat, both of whom articulated a clear shift in India's civilisational self-understanding. In mainstream political discourse, speeches often function as commentary. Today's addresses were different. They belonged to the category of foundational articulation, the kind that frames eras and redirects national consciousness. The Prime Minister spoke not as an administrator of the present but as a custodian of a long civilisational arc. He placed Ayodhya not merely in the domain of faith or national sentiment but in the deeper continuum of historical recovery—an India reclaiming its civilisational confidence after generations of deliberate erosion.

The PM invoked Thomas Macaulay's 1835 speech, the blueprint of colonial psychological engineering. Macaulay had argued that Britain must detach Indians from "all that is Indian and all that is spiritual," replacing inherited identity with a colonial mindset. By referencing this, the PM signalled that the struggle for the Ram Mandir was not only about a disputed site; it was about reversing the civilisational disorientation imposed upon India. The flag atop the temple stands as a rejection of that colonial project. It asserts that a civilisational people can reclaim their axis even after centuries of attempted deracination. PM Modi's emphasis on removing "symbols of slavery" from the national psyche extends this argument. He pointed out that civilisations decline not only through military defeat but through acceptance of imposed inferiority. His message was clear: India must cleanse its public life, public spaces, and public imagination of frameworks that once justified its subjugation. Ayodhya becomes the counter-symbol—not of triumphalism, but of recovered self-respect. The PM framed



Ayodhya as a civilisational centre, a point around which national memory, ethical order, and cultural purpose realign. He did not present the Ram Mandir as an achievement of his government. He cast it as a civilisational correction, a return of a people to their foundational narrative, interrupted by invaders, colonial administrators, and post-colonial elites. This framing ensures that Ayodhya transcends electoral politics and becomes a civilisational reference point meant to outlast governments and eras. Mohan Bhagwat reinforced this civilisational framing. He emphasised continuity: how generations of swayamsevaks, saints, devotees, and scholars held firm to the belief that the Ram Janmabhoomi must be restored.

He located the movement within a long tradition of sacrifice—civilisational, not partisan. Bhagwat reminded the nation that the Ram Mandir movement was not born recently; it was the cumulative expression of India's cultural memory, preserved by saints, akharas, and ordinary people who never let the idea fade. Together, the speeches formed a dual narrative: one rooted in historical memory, the other in institutional continuity.

Modi spoke to psychological recovery; Bhagwat acknowledged the structural labour that preserved the memory through decades. This moment also demands remembrance of those who carried the burden in earlier decades. L.K. Advani transformed cultural yearning into political articulation. Mahant Paramhans Ramchandra Das embodied the spiritual insistence on the sanctity of the site. Mahant Digvijaynath and Avaidyanath ensured the movement stayed on course. Ashok Singhal provided strategic clarity and national mobilisation. The Sangh Parivar sustained the civilisational claim when the political establishment

dismissed it. Their contributions created the foundation for the present moment. Without the saints, swayamsevaks, and leaders who shaped the movement's vocabulary, Ayodhya's restoration would have remained unresolved. The flag hoisting is therefore not a standalone event; it is the endpoint of a civilisational relay. In this sense, the leadership of the present era delivered the final consolidation. By aligning legal, administrative, infrastructural, and national sentiment into one direction, the current government ensured that centuries of civilisational aspiration materialised.

What makes the moment civilisational is its effect on collective self-understanding. The temple is more than a building; it is a centre of gravity. It signals that Indian civilisation has re-entered public life with clarity, unafraid of its past and unapologetic about its identity. It marks the end of the idea that Indian identity must be diluted to modernise. The PM's speech recognised this shift. He described Ayodhya as a site where India reclaims "virasat" (heritage) and "vikas" (progress), rejecting the colonial binary between roots and modernity.

His invocation of Macaulay underscored that the civilisational correction is also psychological. India must no longer see itself through colonial eyes. The flag rising above the Ram Mandir declares that a civilisation long denied its centre has restored it.

This moment will be remembered not as a religious event or political accomplishment, but as a civilisational turning point when India regained ownership of its narrative, memory, and future.

The writer is commentator on socio-political issues

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Healthcare: MedTech Innovation for Self-Reliance and Global Reach



JITENDRA SHARMA

India stands at the cusp of a healthcare transformation—one which is powered by indigenous innovation, collaboration and commercial scalability. For decades, our medical technology landscape was driven by dependency on foreign and finished goods. Through the help of strategic collaboration, robust R&D and visionary infrastructure, India is currently building its own medical technology ecosystem, which aligns with the nation's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, a self-reliant India.

Beyond Manufacturing: Building the Ecosystem

When India began its MedTech journey, the focus was largely on manufacturing finished products. However, it soon becomes evident that manufacturing alone could not sustain the long-term growth. A deeper change was required for the same which strengthens the entire value chain. For instance, the ₹ 7,000 crore radiology industry depended on ₹ 700 crore worth of imported detectors. Recognising that no imaging manufacturer would set base without reliable access to such critical components, India starts focusing on component-level manufacturing. Leading global suppliers of detectors, generators, and imaging technology have also established factories in India, enabling domestic radiology facilities to flourish. This transformation from finished products to component ecosystems has also created a ripple effect, empowering local manufacturers, startups and researchers to innovate with independence and confidence.

From Science to Commerce

To enable financial viability, a venture fund for medical technology startups and growth stage firms is being enabled to help them scale, innovate and even reach IPO readiness.

Additionally, our partnership with World Trade Centre—India's first trade centre within a Med Tech Park connects domestic manufacturers with 392 similar centres on a global basis—opening up international collaborations, exports and a distributor network. This unique step continues to position India as a neutral yet influential global trade player in the technology of healthcare.

Collaboration Over Competition

One of the biggest transformations in India's MedTech sector is the recognition that collaboration is the new pattern of competitiveness. A single company may produce 10 medical devices, but hospital needs 600. Individually, no manufacturer can fulfil such comprehensive orders. However, when 20-30 companies come together under a unified export strategy, India can deliver turnkey hospital solutions to global clients. Recently, 26 Indian Medtech companies collaborated to supply products to meet an international healthcare equipment order from Tajikistan. Such a model of aggregation not only promotes exports but also fosters a culture of independence and shared growth within the domestic ecosystem.

Made in India Hospitals: A Healthcare Revolution

Taking indigenous innovation a step further, India is now building 100 made-in-India hospitals across tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Each hospital that has around 100 beds will be equipped entirely with domestically manufactured devices, from basic hospital beds and surgical tools to complex MRI and dialysis machines. The model is mainly designed to be asset-light and entrepreneur-friendly; hospitals will operate on leased infrastructure and equipment financed by NBFCs and real estate partners. This approach also reduces upfront investment and allows healthcare entrepreneurs to focus on operations, quality and patient care as well. The first such facility, Bhanu Tai Gadkari Memorial Trust Diagnostic Centre in Nagpur, already stands as the proof of concept for indigenous revolution.

Driving Ethical and Technological Leadership

India Innovation drive is also expanding into advanced domains like robotic surgery, assistive technologies, and high-end diagnostics. With the upcoming centres dedicated to robotic surgery and open-source assistive platforms, the country is setting a great example in innovation with integrity, ensuring that technology growth remains transparent and inclusive as well.

India's transformation in Medtech goes beyond manufacturing, and it represents a mindful shift from dependency to leadership. By making its own supply chains, funding systems and innovation clusters, India is not only fulfilling its domestic needs but also shaping the global healthcare market.

The Pioneer SINCE 1865

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There is a new twist in the H-1B visa imbroglio. Although the debates till now have focused on manipulations, salaries, misuse, skills, and similar issues, a new element was introduced. The latest allegation against the present visa regime is that India possibly grabs more visas than are mandated by the US laws. America fixes an annual quota of 65,000 visas for outsiders, which can be increased by another 20,000. But latest reports indicate that a single Indian city, Chennai, accounts for 2,20,000 applications a year, or more than two-and-a-half times the yearly quota. The implication is that India breaks the US laws, and sends more people to the US. This is in addition to the Indians already based in the US on existing H-1B visas, which are valid for a specific period. The Chennai example is that of new visas, which increases the population of Indians, as they are coupled with separate ones for spouses, and dependents.

A simple rationale that explains this gross mismatch between quota and applications is the error in the math. The number of applications does not equate to the number of granted visas. It may be true that 2,20,000 individuals apply in Chennai, but only some of them may get the visas. In any case, Indians account for 70 per cent of the H-1Bs granted every year, and Chennai is the hub for the applications from the IT industry, which is centred in South India. Indeed, the large number of applicants results from the American rules. It is not the skill, salary, or any other merit-related factor that determines who gets the visa. The allocation is through a lottery system. The applications are put in a basket, and the fortunate names picked up through random computerised selection. Destiny, and luck, rather than skill, decides the names of the new visa holders.

Obviously, Indians devised a way to beat this random system. The firms used their own random, but sophisticated, though simple, math to grab the visas. The trick was to apply in bulk, in numbers that far exceed the quota. The arithmetic is simple. If 100 visas are available, and India puts in 1,000 applications, while other nations account for another 200, the odds of an Indian selection go up. An Indian has several times more chances to get the H-1B compared to the other nations. This may explain why Chennai is flooded with such a huge number of applications. For the Indian firms, it simply does not matter who gets the visa: A, B, or C, if their employees get it. The skills required to work with the American clients are easy enough to teach to the Indians, who are comfortable with arithmetic, and sciences. One can call it smartness, or manipulation.

What is more important is how to make the H-1B regime stable, solid, and efficient. The US feels that the way to attract more skilled outsiders is to make it merit-based. This seems perfect except, as one can expect from Americans, their way to gauge merit is through salaries. There are moves to shift from the lottery system to a pecking order based on incomes. The higher the salary of an applicant, the more chances she has. Indeed, the applicants will be arranged in an order from higher-to-lower incomes. The top 65,000 or 85,000 will get the H-1Bs, and the rest rejected. The thinking is that salary equals skills, and experience. The person who earns more is obviously the one that America needs. This will weed out the less-skilled, lowly-paid employees that Indian firms routinely send to the US. This will allow Americans to fill in the mid-level jobs.

However, there is the flip side. As more experienced Indians enter the US on H-1Bs, they are likely to occupy senior positions within the offices of the American clients. Hence, instead of being individual employees, they will emerge as team leaders, or project managers, who handle several employees under them. Strangely, the mid-level Americans, who possibly find jobs because of the changes in the H-1B regime, will work under these Indians. Now, we have a new situation. Earlier, the Indians flooded, and ate up local jobs. Now, they will continue to enter the country, and be in responsible jobs, and manage and order the Americans. Clearly, this will lead to fresh tensions between the locals and outsiders. More importantly, Americans will give up better jobs, and meekly accept the mid-level ones. The US firms will be managed by Indians. Already, there are Indian CEOs, who head leading American firms.

The need of the hour is not to make the visa regime simple, like lottery or salary-based, but more nuanced. One of the ways to do so is to make a distinction between the US-educated immigrants, and non-US ones. If an Indian, or Chinese has a higher education American degree, she may be given a preference to get the H-1B. A non-US-educated person will get it only if there is unused quota. This serves two purposes. One, it aligns the outside worker's mindset, and thinking with the American system, and processes. Two, it ensures, thanks to the stringent admission system, that only the best get local jobs. For America, it has a dual bonanza. Outsiders will first spend huge sums to get educated in the US. Once they begin to work, they will contribute more in taxes, and consumption.



Most elders depend on families

In India, the majority of elders are heavily dependent on family support for financial, emotional, and other needs. According to recent reports, more than 70 per cent of those who are aged 60 and above rely completely on their families. More importantly, less than 10 per cent of them have enough retirement corpus, and have not made consistent contributions to pension and superannuation plans. This is worrisome as it implies that the social security net, either state-driven, or imposed by personal choices does not exist.

It is not that people are not aware of building a wealth nest for old age. It is not that individuals do not make efforts. It is not even that they have little post-retirement income, or savings. The truth is that we make too many mistakes, even blunders, as we plan for old age. We do not consider the relevant issues, and mostly under-plan for the purposes. At some emotional level, we believe, and hope, that our children will take care of us for the last 20 years, as we did for the first 20 years of their lives. The result is a challenging retirement.

Many people make unduly optimistic assumptions about future expenses, when they are in their 40s and 50s. For example, they expect to slow down lives, and reduce their monthly costs without considering additional and specific old-age-related expenses. Usually, costs related to healthcare, household help, lifestyle, and leisure increase with age. We possibly need more leisure, and entertainment when we are older. Inflation, even if it is on the lower side, adds other layers of pressure, silently reducing the purchasing power.

Underestimating inflation is one of the most damaging retirement errors. What seems like a comfortable amount today may fall far short two or three decades later. Even a five per cent inflation, which seems low or inconsequential, will play havoc in 20 years. "A consistent five per

cent annual inflation rate over 20 years will lead to an approximately 165.33 per cent cumulative increase in prices," states a web calculator. This implies that even if the price of an item remains the same, say, ₹100, inflation will hike it to ₹265.33.

Such calculation slips can creep in other areas. In most cases, we simply invest whatever surplus is available when we earn. We do not estimate the corpus that we are likely to generate, and what will be available in the post-retirement years. Most use unrealistic assumptions, vague estimates, or generic rules of thumb, as is the case with inflation. A retirement plan needs to be built on personal calculations that consider specific lifestyle, expected life span, financial dependents, inflation rate, and post-retirement sources. Mistakes result in large gaps between expected and actual corpus.

Another common mistake is to combine retirement funds that are needed for day-to-day living, and those that are needed in times of emergencies (healthcare). Without separate emergency reserves, unexpected expenses such as medical bills, and needed home repairs force individuals to dip into long-term investments. This disrupts the compounding effect, and reduces the corpus significantly. Even job losses, or income losses during the working years can dent the future savings. An ideal plan includes an emergency fund that covers 6-12 months of expenses, and is kept in liquid, accessible instruments.

It is never too early to prepare for retirement. Generally, we feel that we need to enjoy, and have fun, till we are in our 40s. The retirement planning begins then, for the last 20 years of working life. The truth is that time is the most powerful component in building wealth. Even

modest contributions made early, when one is in the 20s, benefit from the compounding effect. Late starters need to contribute dramatically more amounts to achieve the same target as those who begin young.

For example, someone who begins to save, and invest at 25 may need only half the monthly savings compared to someone who starts in the 40s to reach the same retirement corpus. Or someone who starts early may end up saving twice more than someone who starts 20 years later. It is math and arithmetic. Delaying those first savings-and-investments steps takes a heavy toll. The earlier you start, the lighter the monthly burden becomes.

While we are working, the urge to start late comes from the assumptions that our best working years are ahead. In our 30s, we are confident that we will earn more in the 40s, get the due promotions, and these will enable us to save higher amounts. Hence, we will be safe within 15-20 years, and have enough to retire peacefully. This overconfidence obviously leads to postponement of disciplined saving early on, with a belief that 'I'll catch up later.' Sadly, life rarely follows a predictable financial path. Indeed, life is full of googlies, rather than the straighter ones. Job instability, market cycles, health, or setbacks can derail strong career trajectories.

Most of us begin with a plan, which may be elaborate, and chalked out in consultation with a financial expert. However, experience shows that a retirement plan which is forgotten after the initial calculations is guaranteed to fall short later. Life changes the issues related to incomes, family responsibilities, market conditions, and financial goals. Failing to review and adjust retirement plans can render them outdated and ineffective. Regular reviews, ideally once a year, ensure that the investments stay aligned with the goals.

As retirement approaches, the ability to take risks declines. This means shifting a larger portion of the portfolio towards low-risk instruments such as debt funds and fixed deposits. Experts often recommend gradually moving money out of equities, and into safer avenues about 3-4 years before the planned retirement date. It is wise to prioritise investment options that offer easy liquidity so that one can access funds smoothly when there is no regular income. But most of us do not heed to this advice. In fact, in India, as in the developed nations, the elderly have acquired a higher risk appetite.

A question for near-retirees is: Where should I park my corpus? Ideally, look for avenues that provide steady returns without exposing the savings to undue risks. Many Indians choose annuity plans from life insurers. These convert lump sum amounts into guaranteed monthly or annual payouts for as long as you live, and provide predictable and lifelong income. A senior citizen health plan is usually the best fit for those nearing retirement. They offer coverage for common illnesses and may include benefits such as checkups, diagnostic tests, and cashless hospitalisation.

OUR TAKE



The Tech Wrecker

China charts China+1 plan



For nearly three decades, the world's manufacturing heart throbbled in China. The Pearl River Delta became the planet's assembly line, and Shenzhen the workshop. They, along with other sites in China, shaped everything from phones to toys. It could not go on forever. History tells us that global supply chains are products of geopolitical moments, which shift like sand, maybe over decades or centuries. Post-Covid, across boardrooms and nations, a new phrase took shape: China + 1. It describes a strategy to develop alternative supply chains to mitigate risks, diversify production, and protect growth.

Firms across sectors chased new geographies to replicate China-like operations. Over the past few years, there has been a slow but decisive redrawing of the global industrial map. India, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, and parts of Eastern Europe emerged as the preferred destinations to compete with China. However, the shift does not imply the rejection of China but a recalibration. What many forget is that China has done the same. It too has pursued a China + 1 strategy, albeit with Chinese characteristics.

Look at BYD, China's largest electric vehicle maker. It ventured out to set up manufacturing bases overseas to cater to the western China + 1 vision. It began production at a plant in Rayong, Thailand, in 2024. This was its first full-scale passenger vehicle factory outside China. Later that year, BYD exported Thai-made models like the Dolphin to Europe. It aims to double overseas sales to 8,00,000 vehicles. For a firm that once relied almost entirely on Chinese clusters, overseas expansion has become a necessity.

The Chinese battery giant, CATL, invested euro 7.3 billion in Hungary. The facility will be one of Europe's largest battery plants. The company's overseas revenue share has risen steadily. In January 2025, it crossed 30 per cent. CATL serves European automakers from non-China plants. The strategic logic is clear. Building battery plants outside China allows the company to access markets where Chinese-origin supply chains face intense economic, business, and political scrutiny. As the world pursues China + 1 strategy, the Chinese offer viable options through their non-China-located factories.

This shift is being felt with the smartphone makers such as Xiaomi, OPPO, and Vivo. For nearly a decade, Xiaomi relied on large-scale hubs in Guangdong and Jiangsu. But by 2020, it shifted a part of its production of smartphones, smart TVs, and IoT devices to India, Vietnam, and Indonesia. In India, Xiaomi works through partners like Dixon

Technologies and Bharat FIH. Counterpoint Research notes that Xiaomi produces more than 95 per cent of its India-sold smartphones within India, a shift accelerated after New Delhi's 2020 rules and disruptions during the pandemic.

In Vietnam, Xiaomi set up a new assembly plant; local regulatory filings confirmed an investment of \$80 million. Indonesia is another beneficiary. The company restarted local manufacturing in 2021 after a brief pause, and uses the region to supply select Android models for the domestic and ASEAN markets. The overseas moves do not reduce Xiaomi's reliance on Chinese R&D. Rather, they create a distributed manufacturing system, a reverse China + 1, which protects it from geopolitical risks, tariff exposures, and supply bottlenecks.

OPPO and Vivo, both owned by BKB Electronics, diversified their footprints before others realised the same. In India, OPPO invested \$280 million into its Greater Noida facility. In 2023, it chalked out expansion plans to take the capacity to 100 million units a year.

Vivo announced a \$1 billion India-specific investment plan over several phases starting 2020. Both firms follow a similar path in Indonesia. Vietnam has emerged as a regional hub. While BKB has not disclosed the exact numbers, Vietnamese import data shows steady inbound component flows for OPPO, and Vivo-branded devices, supporting partial assembly for ASEAN distribution.

Lenovo, which is headquartered in Beijing, is another example, as it has an operational presence in the US, and Europe. It is one of the most agile Chinese tech firms. Its PC and server footprint spans Mexico, Brazil, Hungary, India, and Japan, a network that allows it to move workloads flexibly depending on market conditions. For instance, the facility in Mexico supports North America. The Hungary plant is one of the largest server centres in Europe. It assembles hardware close to the European clients, who prefer local supply chains following the war in Ukraine and energy disruptions.

In India, Lenovo manufactures laptops, desktops, and tablets through partnerships with

Wingtech and Dixon. IDC noted in 2023 that Lenovo's India-made PC shipments grew significantly after India tightened import restrictions on finished devices. The firm's diversified production bases serve different regulatory zones without excessive dependence on Chinese export corridors. It positions the firm favourably in state-driven procurement markets in India, Europe, and the US, where Chinese-made devices face scrutiny.

Combined with the West-induced China + 1, and China-driven China + 1, the world is moving toward a triangular supply chain. China continues to dominate materials, components, and scale-driven manufacturing. India, and others are emerging as the assembly, testing, and export hubs. The US and parts of Europe remain the centres for design, R&D, intellectual property, and high-end production such as advanced semiconductors. A triangle gives firms flexibility. Labour-intensive processes may shift to India or Vietnam. Material processing may remain in China. High-value silicon or precision engineering may move towards the West.

This structure spreads risk geographically. It reshapes trade flows. The Asia-to-US export corridor may no longer be dominated by China but by multi-country supply chains that begin in China, pass through India and Vietnam, and end in the western markets. Companies will build supply chains that allow them to operate regardless of geopolitics shifts. It is a strategy reminiscent of non-alignment where nations refuse to choose sides. It is not driven by ideology but by corporate survival. Firms design production networks that remain functional, and profitable across multiple political outcomes.

The implications for India are extensive. In a 2023 study, Morgan Stanley noted that India's manufacturing share of GDP may rise to 20 per cent by 2030 if China + 1 shift accelerates. India's strategic relevance grows when global firms embed critical parts of supply chains in the country. It strengthens India's bargaining power in geopolitical negotiations. It makes India a focal point for global debates on environment, energy, and sustainability due to a plethora of data centres, EV plants, and battery factories. The era of single country dominance in manufacturing is over. The new reality is a more distributed, resilient, and politically aware global system.

PM Modi launches Safran aircraft engine facility in Hyderabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Hyderabad

Highlighting India's investment potential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the country is a trusted partner and investors are co-creators.

After virtually inaugurating French major Safran's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facility for LEAP engines used in commercial aircraft, in the city, Modi said the facility will also help provide job opportunities for the youngsters.

Asserting that India has decriminalised hundreds of business-related provisions, he underlined that the National Single Window System has brought numerous approvals onto a single platform.

He noted that GST reforms, faceless tax assessment, new labour codes, and the insolvency and bankruptcy code have all made governance simpler and more transparent than ever before.

"Because of these efforts, India is now seen as a trusted partner, a major market, and a rising manufacturing hub. India today has rapid growth, a stable government, a reform-oriented mindset, a vast young talent pool, and a large domestic market. And most importantly, for those investing in India, the country considers them not merely as investors but as co-creators, stakeholders in the journey of Viksit Bharat," he said.

In the last few years, India's aviation sector has taken a huge leap and today the country is one of the fastest growing domestic aviation markets in the world, Modi said adding that India's domestic market is the third largest in the world.

As the aspirations of the people of India are on a new level, the demand for air travel in India is continuously increasing prompting Indian carriers to continuously increase their active fleet. India's airline companies have ordered more than 1,500

new aircraft, he said. With the rapid expansion of India's aviation sector, the need for MRO facilities has also increased, he further said adding that nearly 85 percent of India's MRO work has been taking place outside the country, which led to higher costs, longer turnaround times, and aircraft remaining grounded for extended periods.

He said that such a situation was not suitable for a vast aviation market like India. Therefore, the Government of India is developing the nation as one of the world's major MRO hubs, he said. Referring to the Safran's facility, Modi said now, for the first time, a global OEM is establishing Deep Level Servicing facility in the country.

In addition, the partnership of Team Safran's global training, knowledge transfer and India's institutions will create a workforce that will give a new direction to the entire MRO ecosystem in the coming years, Modi said

adding with the facility, there will be many opportunities for the youth of South India to get employment.

"And we do not just want to be limited to aviation MRO. We are also working on a very large scale on the MRO ecosystem related to shipping. In addition, we are also promoting design in India on a large scale," the PM said.

Modi said he would like Safran to use India's talent and opportunities for propulsion design and manufacturing, as the country is not just dreaming big, but taking big decisions and achieving even bigger achievements. According to him, the country opened the doors of the economy, secondly strengthened its fundamentals and thirdly made business easier.

"In addition, today 100 per cent FDI is possible in most sectors. In sectors such as defense, where there was no place for the private sector earlier, 74 per cent FDI has been opened automatically. There is also a lot of progress

in the space sector," he explained.

The Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) facility in the city will be operational in 2026 and will be a major boost for the country's indigenous capabilities in the fast-growing aviation sector, a press release from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had said.

The facility, set up with an initial investment of ₹1,300 crore, is for the LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engines, which power the narrow-body Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. LEAP engines are manufactured by CFM International, an equal joint venture between Safran Aircraft Engines and GE Aerospace, the release had added.

Designed to service up to 300 LEAP engines annually, SAESI facility will employ over 1,000 highly skilled Indian technicians and engineers upon achieving full operational capacity by 2035, the release issued on



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu, Safran CEO Olivier Andries and others during the inauguration of French major Safran's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for aircraft engines, in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Tuesday said. It had also said that developing indigenous capabilities in MRO will reduce foreign exchange outflows, create high-value employment, strengthen supply-chain resilience and position India as a global aviation hub.

Sensex, Nifty soar on US Fed rate cut hopes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

Snapping the three-day falling streak, benchmark Sensex rebounded by 1,022 points while Nifty reclaimed the 26,000 level on Wednesday on across-the-board buying aided by a rally in global peers amid growing hopes of a US Fed rate cut and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,022.50 points or 1.21 per cent to settle at 85,609.51. During the day, it surged 1,057.18 points or 1.24 per cent to 85,644.19.

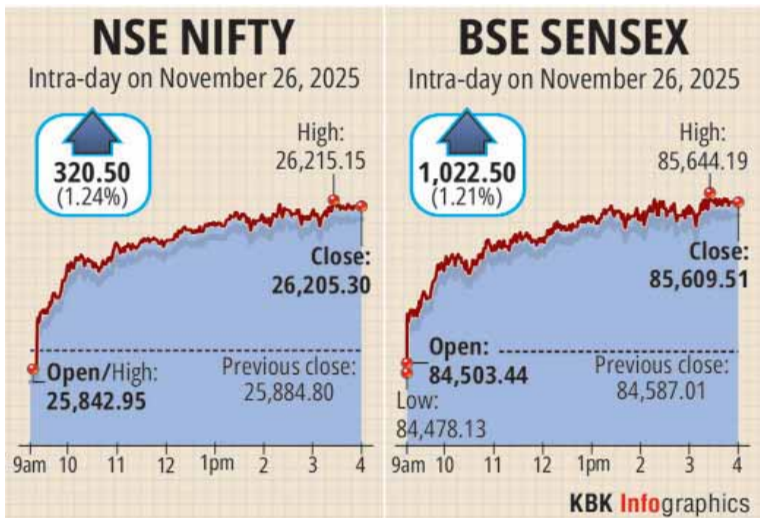
The 50-share NSE Nifty zoomed 320.50 points or 1.24 per cent to end at 26,205.30, just 10 points shy of its all time closing high. The broader index scaled record intra-day high of 26,277 on September 27, 2024.

In intra-day trade, Nifty rallied 30.35 points or 1.27 per cent to 26,215.15.

Increasing optimism surrounding a potential truce between Russia and Ukraine also bolstered the investor sentiment, experts said.

Among Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Axis Bank and Infosys were among the major gainers. Bharti Airtel and Asian Paints emerged as the laggards from the pack.

Market participation was broad-based, with metals, energy and IT leading the gains. Mid-cap and small-cap indices also advanced over 1 per



cent. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled in positive territory. Kospi surged 2.67 per cent, Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.85 per cent and Hang Seng index climbed 0.13 per cent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index, however, ended lower.

Markets in Europe were trading in the green. US markets ended higher on Tuesday.

"Indian markets staged an impressive rally on Wednesday, with broad-based buying across sectors reflecting the sharp risk-on sentiment in global equities.

"The upmove was supported by growing expectations of a US Federal

Reserve rate cut in December, after the latest US economic releases — including September retail sales and producer price data — signalled softening demand and cooling inflation," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors bought equities worth ₹785.32 crore on Tuesday, and Domestic Institutional Investors (DII) also purchased stocks worth ₹3,912.47 crore, according to exchange data.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.32 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.23 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, metal surged 2.08 per cent, oil & gas jumped 1.81 per cent, followed by energy (1.68

per cent), capital goods (1.65 per cent), services (1.63 per cent), power (1.59 per cent) and commodities (1.58 per cent).

BSE Telecommunication emerged as the only laggard.

A total of 2,800 stocks advanced while 1,371 declined and 154 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"On a global scale, market sentiment improved with rising expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate cut in December, alongside softer US yields and a weaker dollar. Furthermore, increasing optimism surrounding a potential truce between Russia and Ukraine is enhancing risk appetite, fostering a positive outlook for the upcoming year," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, went up marginally by 0.03 per cent to USD 62.50 per barrel.

"Renewed optimism over a potential rate cut by the US Federal Reserve in December, along with expectations of a 25-basis-point repo rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India early next month, improved investor sentiment.

"Additionally, easing crude oil prices — driven by hopes of progress toward peace between Ukraine and Russia — provided further support," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

On Tuesday, the Sensex dropped 313.70 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 84,587.01. The Nifty declined 74.70 points or 0.29 per cent to 25,884.80.

Cabinet approves scheme to promote manufacturing of rare earth magnets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a scheme to promote manufacturing of rare earth permanent magnets with an outlay of ₹7,280 crore.

The 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets' was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The scheme will promote manufacturing of rare earth permanent magnets. The aim is to create capacity of 6,000 MTPA (metric tonne per annum)," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

Rare earth magnets are used in major industries including electric vehicles, aerospace, electronics, medical devices and defence.

The scheme envisions

allocating the total capacity to five beneficiaries through a global competitive bidding process. Each beneficiary will be allotted up to 1,200 MTPA of capacity.

The total duration of the scheme will be 7 years from the date of award, including a 2-year gestation period for setting up an integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) manufacturing facility, and 5 years for incentive disbursement on the sale of REPM.

Tesla opens 3rd 'Experience Centre' in India

KUSHAN MITRA ■ Gurugram

The Elon Musk chaired Tesla Motors on Wednesday opened their third 'Experience Centre' in India. The centre which is based at Orchid Business Park on Sohna Road in Gurugram is the second such centre in the NCR.

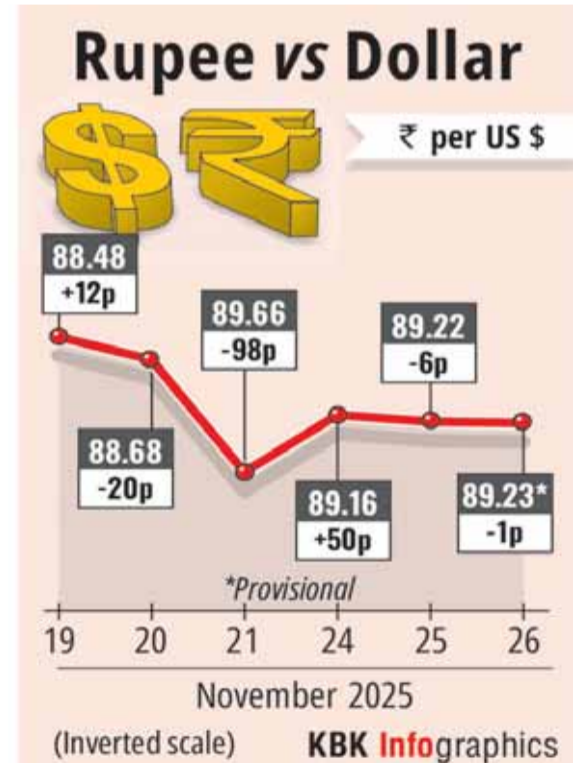
Tesla India officials highlighted that this is the largest centre so far and the only 'All-In-One' centre with sales and service. The American carmaker also gave a hint of their future plans in India having started operations a few months ago.

Deliveries of their Model Y SUV started in September and the carmaker is busy establishing a network of 'Superchargers' with the first three already functioning and three more opening up in the next few

months. These superchargers allow the Model Y to gain 275 kilometres of range in only 15 minutes. It was hinted that the supercharger network will be expanded rapidly in other major Indian cities as will their sales network. However to entice sales, Tesla India announced that all buyers of Tesla vehicles until the end of the year would receive a home charger for free. Tesla has recently hired Sharad Aggarwal as General Manager for their Indian operations. The former Lamborghini India chief is expected to ramp up the sales and service network. With Indian carmakers like Mahindra and Tata Motors also moving up the charts in terms of electric offerings and Tesla models attracting a high import duty, he will have his work cut out.



A Tesla car parked at Gurugram's Orchid Business Park during the launch of Tesla's centre in India on Wednesday.



Loyalty dips as professionals prioritise adaptability: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

The definition of loyalty has evolved with the workforce, and today's professionals seek purpose, flexibility, and consistent growth over long-term stability, says a report.

According to a report by staffing and HR solutions provider Genius HRTech (formerly known as Genius Consultants), a significant percentage of professionals said loyalty is outdated and adaptability matters more when asked to define 'career loyalty'.

The Genius HRTech report is based on a survey among 1,607 professionals across sectors in October. "Today's professionals seek purpose, flexibility, and

consistent growth rather than longevity alone. For employers, this means reimagining retention strategies; focusing less on tenure and more on trust, recognition, and career progression," Genius HRTech chairman and managing director RP Yadav added.

Regarding switching jobs for a slightly higher pay but a similar role, the report found that a large majority (67 per cent) of respondents said they would evaluate the move based on learning and workplace culture.

Around 24 per cent admitted they would switch immediately for better pay, while only 9 per cent said they would stay loyal, insisting money alone wouldn't make them move, the

report added. When asked how they define 'career loyalty' today, 50 per cent of respondents said loyalty is outdated, and adaptability matters more.

In comparison, 30 per cent described it as staying committed to one's profession or craft rather than to an employer, while 20 per cent viewed it as staying long-term with one organisation, the report said.

Further, the report revealed that 55 per cent of the people interviewed said they see themselves in the current workplace for 3-5 years; however, this largely depends on growth opportunities, while 20 per cent said they would stay for less than 2 years, citing value changes and new experiences as reasons.

India's green economy may attract \$4.1 trillion investments, create 48 million jobs: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

India could attract USD 4.1 trillion in cumulative green investments and create 48 million full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs by 2047, according to an independent study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

The analysis further projects that India could also unlock a USD 1.1 trillion annual green market by 2047.

The first-of-its-kind national assessment identifies 36 green value chains across energy transition, circular economy and bio-economy and nature-based solutions that together represent a defining green economic opportunity for India's journey towards

Viksit Bharat. A green economy is often viewed narrowly as solar panels and electric vehicles.

However, the study highlights a far broader opportunity that extends to bio-based materials, agroforestry, green construction, sustainable tourism, circular manufacturing, waste-to-value industries and nature-based livelihoods, each of which could scale into billion-dollar sectors over the next two decades while strengthening resource security and resilience.

"India's green transition is fundamentally net positive: it can create millions of jobs, accelerate growth, improve public health and strengthen national security by shifting to domestic energy

sources. The value chains identified in this CEEW study point to where this trillion-dollar opportunity lies," said Jayant Sinha, president, Everstone Group and Eversource Capital and former Union minister of state.

"Policy stability addressing bottlenecks like land and usage of blended finance tools is now needed to de-risk investment. With a whole-of-government approach, India can mobilise the capital required to drive a green frontier development model," he added.

Amitabh Kant, former G20 Sherpa and former CEO, NITI Aayog, said as India moves beyond a USD 3 trillion economy, the country cannot follow the development models of the West.



"With much of our infrastructure yet to be built, we have a unique chance to design cities, industries and supply chains around circularity, clean energy and the bioeconomy. Just as digital public infrastructure

enabled India to leapfrog technologically — achieving in seven years what would have taken decades — we must now pivot into a green economy.

"While much of the world remains locked into legacy systems, a Viksit Bharat built on circular and resource-efficient value chains can define a new development pathway and set a global benchmark for green growth," he said.

According to CEEW analysis, energy transition alone could generate 16.6 million FTE jobs and attract USD 3.79 trillion in investments across renewables, storage, distributed energy and clean mobility manufacturing.

Electric mobility would be the single largest employer within the

green economy, driving over 57 per cent of all energy-transition jobs. Bio-economy and nature-based solutions, anchored in India's rural and peri-urban landscapes, could create 23 million jobs and unlock USD 415 billion in market value.

The top job-generating value chains within this segment include chemical-free agriculture and bio-inputs (7.2 million FTE jobs), agroforestry and sustainable forest management (4.7 million FTE jobs), and wetland management (3.7 million FTE jobs).

Abhishek Jain, director, Green Economy and Impact Innovations, CEEW, said pursuing a green economy will not just create jobs and economic prosperity for India, it will also help us secure the fuels

and resources of the future.

"India today imports 87 per cent of its crude, which can be reduced to zero with electric vehicles, solar energy and next-generation bioethanol and biodiesel. We import 100 per cent of our lithium, nickel and cobalt, and even 93 per cent of copper ore — all of which can become zero-import with a circular economy.

"We are heavily dependent on fertiliser imports — all of our potash is imported, and 88 per cent of urea is directly or indirectly import-dependent. With bio-inputs for agriculture and the bioeconomy at large, we can secure our food and material needs. For India, green is not a choice; it is an imperative," he said.

FROM THE WORLD

UK
Lawyers condemn Labour MP trial

A group of the UK's high-profile lawyers and legal experts have warned against the consequences of an "unfair and contrived" trial that Labour Party member of Parliament Tulip Siddiq has been subjected to in Bangladesh. Siddiq, a niece of Bangladesh's deposed PM Sheikh Hasina, had resigned as a Treasury minister in British PM Keir Starmer's Cabinet earlier this year. A trial against her began in Dhaka in August, with a verdict of Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission expected later this week. In a letter addressed to Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Abida Islam, lawyers including Cherie the wife of former UK prime minister Tony Blair and former ministers Robert Buckland and Dominic Grieve, have expressed concerns that Siddiq has not been granted basic rights during the Dhaka trial process.

VATICAN CITY
Pope Leo visit to Turkey

Pope Leo XIV is embarking on his first foreign trip, a pilgrimage to Turkey and Lebanon that would be delicate under any circumstances but is even more fraught given Mideast tensions and the media glare that will document history's first American pope on the road. Leo is fulfilling a trip Pope Francis planned to make, to mark an important anniversary with the Orthodox church in Turkey. In Lebanon, he'll try to boost a long-suffering Christian community as well as Lebanese of all faiths who are still demanding justice over the 2020 Beirut port blast. Leo, who spent 12 years as superior of his Augustinian religious order and two decades as a missionary in Peru, says he loves to travel. And in recent weeks, he has shown both diplomatic and linguistic dexterity in answering questions on the fly from reporters.

Kremlin confirms US envoy's Moscow visit

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Kyiv

A senior Kremlin official confirmed on Wednesday that US special envoy Steve Witkoff is set to visit Moscow next week as efforts to find a consensus on ending the nearly four-year war between Russia and Ukraine pick up speed.

But Yuri Ushakov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs adviser, insisted that Kremlin officials still have not seen a US peace proposal, even though representatives of the United States, Russia and Ukraine held talks in Abu Dhabi earlier this week.

"Contact is ongoing, including via telephone, but no one has yet sat down at a round table and discussed this point-by-point. That hasn't happened," Ushakov told Russian State media.

Ukrainian officials didn't confirm whether US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, who in recent weeks has played a high-profile role in the peace efforts, would be in Kyiv in the coming days, as Trump indicated Tuesday.

Trump's plan for ending the war became public last week, setting off a spate of diplomatic manoeuvring. The initial version appeared heavily slanted toward Russian demands for halting its invasion of its neighbour.

After weekend talks in Geneva between US and Ukrainian officials, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the plan could be "workable," although key points remain unresolved. A Ukrainian official said Zelenskyy hoped to meet



Rescue workers trying to put out a fire of a residential building burning after a Russian attack on Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine

with Trump in coming days. Witkoff's role in the peace efforts came under a renewed spotlight Tuesday when a report indicated he coached Ushakov, the Putin aide, on how Russian leader should pitch Trump on the Ukraine peace plan.

Trump described Witkoff's reported approach to the Russians in the call as "standard" negotiating procedure. "He's got to sell this to Ukraine. He's got to sell Ukraine to Russia," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to his home in Florida on Tuesday night. "That's what a dealmaker does."

Russia's grim war of attrition in Ukraine continued as a backdrop to the diplomat-

ic jockeying. The southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia came under a large Russian drone attack overnight, damaging more than 50 residential buildings, including a university dormitory filled with people, the head of the regional military administration, Ivan Fedorov, said Wednesday.

The attack injured at least 19 people, he said. Russian air defences, meanwhile, downed 33 Ukrainian drones overnight over various Russian regions and the Black Sea, according to the Russian Defence Ministry. European countries, who are alarmed by Russia's aggression and see their own future at stake in negotiations over Ukraine, are

fighting to make their voice heard in the talks as the United States takes the lead.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Wednesday that Europe wants the war to end as quickly as possible. "But an agreement negotiated by great powers without the approval of the Ukrainians and without the approval of the Europeans won't be a basis for a real, sustainable peace in Ukraine," he told lawmakers in Berlin.

"Europe is not a plaything but a sovereign actor for its own interests and values," he said. The head of the European Union's executive, Ursula Von der Leyen, was upbeat about recent developments, saying there is "an

opportunity here to make real progress" toward peace.

She insisted that any settlement must include future security guarantees for Ukraine. At the same time, she said a deal cannot contain limitations on Ukraine's armed forces or block its path to NATO membership.

Those limits were part of the initial proposal. "As a sovereign nation, there can be no limitations on Ukraine's armed forces that would leave the country vulnerable to future attacks," she said during a speech at European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. "This is as much about deterrence as it is about Europe's security, because Ukraine's security is Europe's security."

Pak Govt issues notices to shut down 35 Afghan refugee camps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Peshawar

The Pakistan Government has issued notices to shut down 35 Afghan Refugee Camps in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, an official said on Wednesday.

A total of 42 refugee camps were established across the province, seven of which have already been closed. The schedule for shutting down the remaining camps is now moving forward rapidly, an official from the provincial Home Department said.

The phased evacuation is already underway, and



several additional camps are expected to be fully cleared by next week, the official added. Officials are briefing Afghan refugees about alternative arrangements after the closure of camps.

More than half a million Afghan refugees had been living in these facilities for decades. The Pakistan Government has decided to carry out a structured screening process and launch a possible enforcement operation targeting undocumented migrants, citing security reasons.

Federal agencies will lead the initial phase of operations, the official said. The

provincial Government has been formally engaged in the process, and it is expected that the upcoming Apex Committee meeting will put forward strict policy recommendations regarding the future handling of Afghan refugees, he added.

District administrations across the province have been directed to closely monitor refugee registration, movement and business activities.

Meanwhile, the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees continues, with border officials reporting that dozens of families are returning to Afghanistan daily.

Landslides, floods hit Indonesia, 10 dead



Torrential rains unleashed flash floods and triggered landslides on Indonesia's Sumatra island on Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Medan

Torrential rains unleashed flash floods and triggered landslides on Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing at least 10 people and leaving six others missing, police said on Wednesday.

Rescue teams were struggling to reach affected areas in six regencies of North Sumatra province after the monsoon rains over the past week caused rivers to burst their banks, tearing through hilly villages as mud, rocks and trees tumbled down, leaving destruction in their wake, the National Police said in a statement.

Rescue workers by Wednesday had recovered at least five bodies and three injured people in the worst-hit city of Sibolga and were searching for four villagers who were reported missing, the statement said. In the neighbouring district of Central Tapanuli, landslides hit several homes, killing at least a family of four, and floods submerged nearly 2,000 houses and buildings.

Floods and landslides also uprooted trees that killed a villager in South Tapanuli district and hurt another, destroyed a bridge in Mandailing Natal district and submerged 470 houses. A main road was blocked by mud and debris in Nias island, the statement said.

Videos on social media show water cascading down rooftops as panicked residents scramble for safety. In some areas, flash floods rose rapidly, transforming streets into raging torrents carrying

tree trunks and debris. Sibolga police chief Eddy Inganta said emergency shelters have been set up and authorities urged residents in high-risk zones to evacuate immediately, warning that continued rainfall could trigger more landslides after six landslides in the hilly city flattened 17 houses and a café. "Bad weather and mudslides hampered the rescue operation," Inganta said, adding that access remains limited as rescuers battle harsh conditions.

Tuesday's disasters occurred the same day the National Disaster Mitigation Agency declared the official end of relief efforts in two areas of Indonesia's main island of Java after 10 days of operations.

More than 1,000 rescue workers had been deployed to search for people buried under landslides triggered by torrential rains that left 38 people dead in Central Java's districts of Cilacap and Banjarnegara.

At least two people in Cilacap and 11 in Banjarnegara were still unaccounted for when the operations ended, as unstable ground, bad weather and the depth and extent of the landfill material pose a high safety risk to rescue teams and residents, the agency said. Heavy seasonal rain from about October to March frequently causes flooding and landslides in Indonesia, an archipelago of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile floodplains.

Bolivia's new President plans tax cuts

ASSOCIATED PRESS
La Paz

Bolivia President Rodrigo Paz of Bolivia said on Tuesday he planned to scrap a ream of taxes, in one of his first moves since becoming the nation's first conservative leader in nearly two decades on a bid to rescue a crisis-stricken economy.

Just over two weeks since taking office, Paz also announced his Government would slash 30 per cent of total federal spending from Bolivia's 2026 budget to reverse years of populist economic measures taken under the long-ruling Movement Toward Socialism, or MAS, party. He did not give further details on how his Government would make such deep cuts. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Paz said first said he was proposing to repeal Bolivia's national wealth tax, arguing that it had crippled growth and dis-



couraged billions of dollars in investments since being imposed by his left-wing predecessor, former president Luis Arce. Another levy on the chopping block is Bolivia's 0.3 per cent tax on everyday financial transactions, Paz said, something that long motivated Bolivians to keep clear of the formal banking system and instead stash their savings under mattresses and floorboards.

"We are giving the first

signs of security that the country requires," Paz said. "We are paving the way for economic activity." The bills to remove the taxes must be sent to Congress for approval before taking effect. Business leaders were already thrilled.

"The persecution of the private sector is ending," said Klaus Freking from the country's main agricultural chamber. "It is the beginning of legal certainty." But Paz and his Economy Minister

José Gabriel Espinoza said Tuesday that, for now, their Government wouldn't touch the pillars of Bolivia's economic model under the MAS party — specifically, the country's fuel subsidies that keep its retail price of gasoline among the world's cheapest, as well as its fixed exchange rate that became distorted as the country's central bank ran out of US dollars.

"The president is starting off on the right foot, aiming to generate better investments," said Bolivian economic analyst Gonzalo Chávez. "But he's not addressing the core problems."

Paz is sticking to his campaign promise of deploying gradual measures — as opposed to a shock fiscal adjustment of the kind that Bolivians have known and feared since the 1990s — to dig Bolivia out of its worst financial crisis in four decades.

Thousands of Cubans struggle without power, water nearly a month after Hurricane Melissa

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Rio Cauto

Thousands of Cubans remain without power, water or proper shelter almost a month after Hurricane Melissa pummelled the island's eastern region as one of the strongest Atlantic storms in history.

By day, families walk toward the nearest river to fill plastic containers with water and by night, they squeeze together to sleep under temporary shelters and tents. "We lost everything in the flood," 80-year-old Lucia García said. "I am very depressed and very sad." García is living in a small classroom with her two sons, ages 45 and 55, and her ailing 81-year-old husband, who remains bedridden. The school where they're staying in the town of Rio Cauto

MORE THAN 2,300 PEOPLE WERE EVACUATED FROM THE RÍO CAUTO AREA, WITH MORE THAN 750 STAYING IN PRIVATE HOMES

serves as a shelter for 14 families and is providing daily meals to them and 25 other families living with relatives and neighbours. Water delivery trucks pass by every three or four days. Many of the town's residents lived by the river and lost their homes after Melissa cut through eastern Cuba, forcing nearby dams to release huge amounts of water. More than 2,300 people were evacuated from the Rio Cauto area, with more than 750 staying in private homes, according to a November 10 report pub-

lished in the official newspaper, Granma. It claimed that the return of residents to their homes "has been completed." Major damage also was reported in the nearby town of Los Mangos, where residents said massive floods hit a day after the storm made landfall. "By dawn, the entire village was underwater," recalled Anisleydis Hidalgo. "We were evacuated before the hurricane hit," she said. "When we returned home, they came to tell us there would be flooding but no one expected the water to reach the level it did."

She is living in a military-style tent with her 5-year-old daughter and two other families. Lianet Socarras, a social worker from Los Mangos, said that 58 people, including 30 children, are sharing 10 tents donated by the Government of India. "The most critical

problem we have now is the supply of drinking water in the community," she said, noting that there is none. Soaked mattresses, electrical appliances, clothing, food, furniture and other belongings remain scattered outside the homes, with the smell of decaying carcasses of animals killed during the storm hanging over the town.

Neither the hurricane nor the floods damaged the electrical system in Los Mangos, but scheduled power outages have lasted many hours, further exacerbating an already difficult situation. In the southern coastal municipality of Guamá, several towns are still reeling from the storm. "The sea came into my house and soaked mattresses, electrical appliances and everything else that was there," said Altigracia Fonseca, a 65-year-old retiree.



Thai court issues warrant for Miss Universe co-owner

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Bangkok

A court in Thailand said on Wednesday that it has issued an arrest warrant for a co-owner of the Miss Universe Organisation in connection with a fraud case. Jakkaphong "Anne" Jakrajutatip was charged with fraud then released on bail in 2023. She failed to appear as required in a Bangkok court on Tuesday. Since she did not notify the court about her absence, she was deemed to be a flight risk, according to a statement from the Bangkok South District Court. The court rescheduled the hearing for December 26. According to the court's statement, Jakkaphong and her company, JKN Global Group Public Co Ltd, were sued for allegedly defrauding Raweeat Maschamadol in selling him the company's corporate bonds in 2023.



Fire rages in Hong Kong, high-rise, 13 killed

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Hong Kong

A fire ravaged a high-rise Hong Kong housing complex on Wednesday, killing 13 people and leaving others trapped inside, authorities said. The Hong Kong Government reported four deaths and said three other people were hospitalised. Two of the injured were in critical condition and the other person was stable, a brief statement said. Hong Kong media said that one of the deceased was a firefighter, but that could not be immediately confirmed. Police said they had received multiple reports of people trapped in the affected buildings. The raging fire sent up a column of flames and thick smoke as it spread on bamboo scaffolding that had been set up around the exterior of the complex in the city's Tai Po district.

Israel hands over 15 Palestinian bodies

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Khan Younis

Hospital officials in Gaza said on Wednesday that Israel handed over 15 more Palestinian bodies, completing the latest swap of the ceasefire as the first phase of the agreement nears a conclusion and officials convened to discuss moving to the second.

It came a day after Palestinian militants returned the remains of Israeli hostage Dror Or, who the Israeli military says was killed by the militants in their October 7, 2023 attack. Israel has agreed to return 15 Palestinian bodies for each hostage returned.

With the latest swap, Israel has sent back to Gaza a total of 345 Palestinian bodies since the exchanges started last month, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Two hostages — one Israeli and one Thai national — remain in Gaza.

Hamas said Wednesday it was determined to uphold its side of the agreement and return them both. Turkish, Qatari and Egyptian officials met Wednesday in Cairo to discuss the second phase of the ceasefire, which began in October and has held despite accusations by both sides of violations.

The next phases of the agreement include deploying an international stabilisation force and developing an international body to govern Gaza and oversee reconstruction. An armed international stabilisation force will be tasked with



Red Cross convoy carrying the remains deceased hostage handed over by Gaza militants

AP

keeping security and ensuring the disarmament of Hamas, a key demand of Israel. Indonesian officials have said they plan to deploy 20,000 peacekeepers to the force. Major questions hang over nearly every part of the plan and the timeframe for implementation.

In the meantime, nearly all Palestinians remain displaced and dependent on humanitarian aid, Hamas retains significant control over nearly half of Gaza and the rebuilding of the territory has barely begun.

Gaza's Health Ministry said only 99 bodies out of the 345 Israel has returned have been identified. They say identifying the remains is complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel mourned the latest hostage to be returned by the

Palestinian militants, Dror Or. Israel's military said Or and his wife, Yonat Or, were killed by militants who overran their community of Kibbutz Beeri on October 7, 2023. Before they were killed by the militants, the couple evacuated two of their children from their burning house through the window, said the Hostages Families Forum. The decision ultimately saved the children's lives — Alma and Noam were abducted by the militants and released in a hostage deal in November 2023.

The Forum remembered Or as a devoted father and talented cheesemaker who spent years working at the Be'eri dairy, eventually managing it. The group said Or was also a chef and yoga teacher. In total, Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people across southern Israel

and abducted 251 to Gaza in their October 7, 2023 attack that kickstarted the war in Gaza. With the return of Or's remains, almost all of the hostages or their remains are out of Gaza.

Hazem Qassem, the spokesperson for Hamas, said Wednesday that the militant group was committed to handing over the remaining two hostages and wrapping up the exchange. Writing on his Telegram channel, he called for mediators to pressure Israel to stop its "violations" of the ceasefire.

A Palestinian man was killed when Israeli troops opened fire Wednesday on a group of people in central Gaza, a hospital said. At least two others were wounded in the attack that took place east of the Maghazi refugee camp,

according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital which received the casualties.

They were the latest casualties among Palestinians since a ceasefire deal brought the war to a halt in Gaza last month. Israel's military did not immediately respond to request for comment on the report. Also Wednesday, the military said its troops struck a group of six militants in the southern city of Rafah, killing one. The military statement said that the militants had "most likely emerged from the underground terror infrastructure in the area."

Since the ceasefire took effect on October 11, the Gaza Health Ministry said, 345 Palestinians were killed and 889 were wounded in the strip as of Tuesday.

It said at least 69,775 Palestinians have been killed and 1,70,863 injured in Israel's offensive in Gaza. It does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its figures, but has said women and children make up a majority of those killed.

The ministry is staffed by medical professionals and maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by independent experts.

Turkey's intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin met in Cairo on Tuesday with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egypt's intelligence chief Hasan Reshat to discuss advancing to the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement, a Turkish security official said.

Australia to enforce social media ban for children

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Melbourne

The Australian Government said young children will be banned from social media next month as scheduled despite a rights advocacy group challenging the world-first legislation in court. The Sydney-based Digital Freedom Project said it had filed a constitutional challenge in the High Court on Wednesday to a law due to take effect on December 10 banning Australian children younger than 16 from holding accounts on specified platforms.

Communications Minister Anika Wells referred to the challenge when she later told Parliament her Government remained committed to the ban taking effect on schedule.

"We will not be intimidated by legal challenges. We will not be intimidated by Big Tech. On behalf of Australian parents, we stand firm," Wells told Parliament.

Digital Freedom Project president John Ruddick is a New South Wales state lawmaker for the minor Libertarian Party. "Parental supervision of online activity is today the paramount parental responsibility. We do not want to outsource that responsibility to Government and unelected bureaucrats," Ruddick said in a statement.

Pakistan, Bahrain agree to bolster defence cooperation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Islamabad

Pakistan and Bahrain on Wednesday agreed to further bolster cooperation in economic, defence and cultural fields, as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held talks with the Gulf country's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa in Manama. Shehbaz, who arrived in Bahrain on a two-day visit, held delegation-level talks with King Hamad at Al Qudaihiya Palace in Manama, state-run Radio Pakistan reported. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's desire to expand trade and investment. He said that bilateral trade is poised to grow with the Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement, which is currently in the last stages of finalisation, it reported. He

invited Bahraini investors to explore opportunities through the Special Investment Facilitation Council, especially in food security, IT, construction, mining, tourism, and healthcare. "Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of the longstanding defence partnership and agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in training, logistics, manpower, and defence production," Radio Pakistan said. Both leaders also discussed the recent developments in Gaza, and agreed that the establishment of peace and stability was long overdue for the people of Gaza. King Hamad also conferred upon Shehbaz the Order of Bahrain (first class), which is the highest award given by Bahrain to Heads of States and Governments.

Shein faces European Union scrutiny over child safety

ASSOCIATED PRESS
London

European Union regulators are stepping up scrutiny of Shein's safety measures after French authorities found illegal weapons and child-like sex dolls on the fast-fashion company's website.

The European Commission said Tuesday it was using the 27-nation bloc's digital rulebook to demand more information from the company on what it's doing to protect children and to prevent illegal goods from showing up on its online marketplace. Shein has come under fire in France after officials found the sex dolls with childlike features for sale on its website, and then discovered large quantities of illegal "Class A" weapons including firearms, knives and machetes. The French government responded by moving to suspend access to the Shein website in France. It also asked the European Commission — the EU's executive arm — to investigate

under the bloc's Digital Services Act, which requires online platforms to do more to protect users under threat of hefty financial penalties. The Commission has sent a so-called request for information to Shein because "we now have serious indications that indeed Shein may be posing more systemic risks for our consumers across the entire European Union," spokesman Thomas Regnier told a daily briefing in Brussels. The commission wants to know, "first, what are the systems that the company has put in place to prevent these illegal goods from being sold online? Second, what has the company done to prevent minors from accessing them?" Regnier said. Shein said it has received the request, "and we are working to promptly address it." The company, founded in China in 2012 and now based in Singapore, said it maintains "an ongoing and constructive dialogue with EU regulators".

Bangladesh expects reply on Hasina extradition



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Dhaka

Bangladesh on Wednesday said India gave "no reply" to its earlier request seeking the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, but Dhaka now expects a response from New Delhi as the "situation is different now" with the judicial process completed and the former premier convicted.

The interim Government led by Muhammad Yunus last week had sent an "official letter" to India seeking the extradition of 78-year-old Hasina after a special tribunal sentenced her to death on November 17 for committing "crimes against humanity". Foreign Affairs Adviser M Touhid Hossain told reporters that the Government is awaiting India's reply to its latest request to extradite Hasina.

"I do not expect that they (India) will answer within a week of Dhaka's request, but we expect we will get an answer," he said.

Hossain said Bangladesh had earlier requested India to return Hasina but received "no reply". However, he said, "the situation is different now" as the judicial process is complete and she has been convicted. Hossain said the formal extradition

request was conveyed through the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi following the verdict delivered by the International Crimes Tribunal-Bangladesh (ICT-BD). He said the request was made under the existing extradition treaty between the two countries.

Bangladesh had earlier sent a note verbale in December last year seeking Hasina's extradition, to which India acknowledged receipt without further comment. Hossain, a former diplomat, clarified that Bangladesh was not ruling out a reply from India, but it is simply not expecting it within seven days.

Along with Hasina, the ICT-BD had also sentenced the then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal after a trial held in absentia. Hasina is currently in India, while Kamal is also believed to be hiding in the country.

The third accused, former police official Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, who appeared as an approver, was sentenced to five years in prison. On November 20, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said the interim Government is also considering moving the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague to bring back the "fugitive convicts".



Air force officials during the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise Garuda between the Indian Air Force and the French Air and Space Force in France

Pakistan tests anti-ship missile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Karachi

The Pakistani Navy has successfully test-fired an indigenously developed ship-launched anti-ship ballistic missile, the military has said.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the test was conducted on Tuesday "from a locally produced naval platform, enhancing the country's defence capabilities."

The missile is capable of striking both sea and land targets with high accuracy, the ISPR said, adding that it is equipped with advanced guidance technology and enhanced manoeuvrability features. A spokesperson for the Pakistan Navy said the successful test reflects the country's growing technological expertise and reinforces the Navy's commitment to safeguarding national interests. President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

MISSILE IS CAPABLE OF STRIKING BOTH SEA AND LAND TARGETS WITH HIGH ACCURACY

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, and the Services Chiefs extended their congratulations to all units, scientists, and engineers involved in the achievement.

Since the May conflict with India, Pakistan has been focused on enhancing its defence capabilities and in September, the Pakistan Army carried out a training launch of its newly developed Fateh-4, a ground-launched cruise missile with a range of 750 kilometres.

The ISPR has said the Fateh-4 has advanced avionics and navigational aids and is designed to evade missile defence systems through low-altitude, terrain-hugging flight, ensuring high precision in target engagement.

India confronts China over airport ordeal: MEA says Arunachal not up for debate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

India has issued a firm and public rebuke to China after an Arunachal Pradesh woman was stopped and subjected to an 18-hour ordeal at Shanghai's Pudong airport, calling Beijing's conduct unacceptable and reiterating that Arunachal Pradesh remains an "integral and inalienable" part of India.

During the weekly media briefing on Wednesday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal made it clear that China's repeated attempts to question India's territorial sovereignty will not alter the truth. "No amount of denial by the Chinese side is going to change this indisputable reality," he said. The MEA confirmed that New Delhi lodged

INDIAN PASSENGER PREMA WAS REPORTEDLY DETAINED DESPITE BEING ELIGIBLE FOR VISA-FREE TRANSIT UNDER CHINESE REGULATIONS

strong protests in both Beijing and New Delhi immediately after the incident. The Indian passenger-Prema Wangjom Thongdok, a valid passport holder from Arunachal Pradesh was reportedly detained despite being eligible for visa-free transit under Chinese regulations.

"We issued a statement yesterday regarding the arbitrary detention of an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh who was transiting through Shanghai on her

onward journey to Japan," Jaiswal noted. "Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. This fact is self-evident." He emphasised that actions such as these undermine the fragile progress made in stabilising India-China ties since 2024.

"Arbitrary measures involving an Indian citizen are most unhelpful towards the ongoing efforts by both sides to build mutual trust and restore normalcy," Jaiswal said. According to the MEA, the Chinese authorities have yet to provide any convincing explanation for the woman's treatment, which India argues violates international travel norms as well as China's own rules allowing 24-hour visa-free transit for foreign nationals. The passenger had earlier described a humiliating experience in which Chinese immi-

gration personnel questioned her Indian nationality and mocked her documents. Her ordeal ended only after sustained intervention from the Indian missions in Shanghai and Beijing, for its part, has rejected all allegations.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning denied that the woman was ever "detained" or "harassed," insisting that her "lawful rights and interests were fully protected."

India has categorically dismissed that claim, saying the facts of the case speak for themselves. By taking a public and firm position, New Delhi has signalled that any targeting of Indian citizens especially from Arunachal Pradesh will trigger a strong diplomatic response, even as both countries attempt to steady their strained relationship.

Taiwan announces \$40 billion for arms purchases

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Taipei

Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te said Wednesday he will put forth a special \$40 billion budget for arms purchases, including to build a Taiwan Dome, an air defence system with high-level detection and interception capabilities, in the face of US pressure for the island to increase its defence spending. The budget will be allocated over eight years, from 2026 to 2033, and comes after Lai already pledged to raise defence spending to 5 per cent of the island's GDP. Currently, Taiwan has budgeted an increase in its defence budget to 3.3 per cent for 2026, allocating TWD 949.5 billion (\$31.18 billion). Lai had previewed the announcement in an op-ed for the Washington Post on Wednesday, saying the special budget would be used to purchase arms from the US.

Women march in Mexico to protest gender violence

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Mexico City

Hundreds of women marched through Mexico City's streets on Tuesday to protest violence against women in a country where gender violence remains pervasive. Among the hundreds of marchers clad in purple or with green bandanas, some beat drums and others carried signs. One read: "Today I am the voice of those who are asking for help."

"I am here for my grandmother, for my mother, for all of the women who aren't here anymore, for all the women who report (violence) and aren't supported," said Alin Rocha, a 41-year-old teacher, who marched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Gender violence and equality have received more attention since President Claudia Sheinbaum, Mexico's first female leader, took office last year.



PROSPECT



Ahead of Shaheed Diwas on 10th December, Assam Ministers Jayanta Mallabaruah, Atul Bora and Pijush Hazarika review the preparations at Bora Gaon, Guwahati

Sunil Mittal-led ICIL sells Bharti Airtel's stake worth ₹7,195 crore



Telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's family office-owned ICIL on Wednesday raised ₹7,195 crore by selling a 0.56 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel to long-term investors through an open market transaction. Indian Continent Investment Ltd (ICIL) is one of the promoter entities in city-based Bharti Airtel.

According to a regulatory filing, "The transaction attracted strong interest, receiving robust orders from marquee domestic and international long-only investors. Both new and existing shareholders of Airtel participated, with the placements majorly allocated to long-only investors". According to the bulk deal data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), ICIL offloaded a total of 3.43 crore shares, representing a 0.56 per cent stake in the city-based Bharti Airtel. The shares were disposed of at an average price of ₹2,097.81 apiece, taking the deal value to ₹7,195.49 crore.

TK Kishore Kumar of ULCCS becomes first vice-chairman of the ICAE



Kishore Kumar TK, representing Uralunkal Labour Contract Co-operative Society (ULCCS), India, has been elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the International Cooperative Alliance Asia-Pacific Committee on Agriculture and Environment (ICAE) at the Annual Meeting of the ICAE held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Professor Madya Dato' Abdul Rahman Abdul Razak Shaik is the new Chairperson of the committee. Kishore Kumar is the Chief Project Coordinator of ULCCS and CEO of UL Cyberpark.

ICAE is a regional committee of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) that focuses on agricultural and environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific region. It operates under the International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), the regional arm of the global ICA, which works to advance cooperative movements across the Asia-Pacific area.

The committee's activities include promoting sustainable agriculture, improving farmers' incomes, developing agricultural cooperatives and supporting climate-change management.

SBI confident of achieving 3% NIM target

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

State Bank of India is confident of achieving its 3 per cent net interest margin guidance even if the Reserve Bank decides to cut the repo rate by 0.25 per cent in next week's monetary policy review, Chairman CS Setty said.

In an interview with PTI, the SBI chairman said that the RBI decision next Friday will be a "close call" and added that the house view at SBI is pointing towards a shallow cut of 0.25 per cent.

"...If December rate cut is there, but our house view again is that it would be a shallow rate cut of 0.25 per cent, so it may not have any significant impact on the margins," he said.

Earlier this month, before the release of official data pointing to inflation cooling to the lowest ever rate of 0.29 per cent in October, SBI had opined that RBI will opt for a pause in December and cut the interest rate in February.

Earlier this week, RBI Governor

Sanjay Malhotra said that there is a space for a rate cut and it was mentioned in the last bimonthly policy in October.

The recent statement and macroeconomic indicators have triggered a widespread expectations of a rate cut in upcoming Monetary Policy Committee decision on December 5.

Setty, the chairman of the country's largest lender, said that with growth keeping up at high levels — the bank expects Q2 real GDP expansion at 7.5 per cent and 7 per cent for FY26 — RBI will have to take a close call.

"The higher growth rate also poses some sort of communication challenge for the RBI.

So when the higher growth rate is there, how is that rate cut is undertaken, but the softer inflation indicates that there is a room for rate cut," the SBI chairman said.

On the margins front — where all the lenders have had a difficult time due to RBI's 1 percentage point cut this year — Setty affirmed that



State Bank of India Chairman CS Setty

there exists multiple levers for SBI to protect the crucial number influencing profitability.

Aspects which will help the NIMs include the complete benefit of the 1 percentage point cut in cash reserve ratio, which has the

potential to increase interest income as more resources get available for lending, repricing of the fixed deposits booked earlier at elevated rates and also the benefits of the 0.2 per cent cut in savings bank account rates

announced earlier, he said.

Setty also reminded that only 30 per cent of the bank's assets are linked to the external benchmark of repo rate, which will mean that a very small proportion of assets get repriced on a RBI rate cut and the pressure on margins is limited.

He, however, suggested that a RBI rate cut in February would have been more helpful from a NIMs perspective, as a bigger proportion of fixed deposits will get repriced by then.

After the September quarter earnings, when SBI had posted a 0.03 per cent expansion in the whole bank NIM at 2.93 per cent, Setty had exuded confidence of exiting FY26 with a NIM of over 3 per cent in March quarter.

The domestic NIM for the bank has been above 3 per cent consistently. The SBI chairman added that the sequential expansion on the NIM in the September quarter was driven by liabilities management, where it was able to bring down the cost of resources.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 13th pre-Budget Consultation with the experts and stakeholders from the education, health, human development and women empowerment sectors in connection with the forthcoming Union Budget 2026-27, in New Delhi on Wednesday. The meeting was also attended by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, Secretaries of Finance, Economic Affairs, Education, Urban Development and Women and Child Development, Health and the Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India

Hindustan Power wins high-value SECI project with 150MW contracting capacity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Hindustan Power, one of India's leading integrated energy companies, has won a bid from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop a solar and battery energy storage project with a contracted capacity of 150 MW of solar power.

The project will require the installation of approximately 300 MWp of solar capacity and 300 MWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). Shaping India's next phase of clean-energy growth, the Chairman Ratul Puri emphasized the company's focus on building flexible, storage-led renewable assets that will define the country's future power infrastructure.

The project will be developed under the 'SECI-ISTS-XX' tender. It is designed for flexible deployment and can be set up at suitable locations



Ratul Puri, Chairman of Hindustan Power

across India. It was secured through a tariff-based competitive bidding process, followed by a successful e-Reverse Auction (e-RA) conducted on the ETS portal.

It was awarded under SECI's tender for ISTS-connected Solar PV projects with integrated Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). Commenting on the development, Mr Ratul Puri, Chairman, Hindustan Power, said: "This project reflects

our continuous commitment to advancing India's transition toward a modern, flexible and future-ready energy ecosystem.

Our focus remains on building assets that deliver stability and efficiency, as we continue to build future-ready energy infrastructure that supports India's clean-energy ambitions." This development marks another step forward in Hindustan Power's efforts to strengthen its renewable energy portfolio and contribute to India's clean energy goals.

The integration of solar generation with battery storage will enable enhanced grid reliability, improved power management during peak hours, and a more stable supply of clean energy. By combining solar power with advanced storage, Hindustan Power continues to support national goals for sustainability, energy security and the delivery of clean power. The

company is currently developing clean-energy projects across various parts of India. It is commissioning a 435 MW solar project in Uttar Pradesh, a 100 MW solar power plant along with a state-of-the-art 100 MW battery-energy storage system in Assam and a 120 MWh battery-storage project in Bihar. The company has also secured a new contract from SJVN Limited to build a 100 MW solar project paired with a 200 MWh battery-storage system. Together, these projects reflect Hindustan Power's commitment to expanding India's clean-energy footprint.

About Hindustan Power Hindustan Power is a leading integrated power-generation company in India, focused on renewable and transitional energy solutions. With a strong commitment to sustainability and innovation, the company has been a key contributor to India's energy transformation.

Kovind inaugurates workshop on Cyber Shikshit Bharat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

In a significant push towards bolstering India's digital defences, the International Workshop on "Cyber Shikshit Bharat: Securing Critical Infrastructure — Empowering India through Cyber Awareness and Resilience" was held today at new Maharashtra Sadan New Delhi, drawing top leaders, experts and industry pioneers.

The event, aimed at fostering a cyber-secure ecosystem amid rising global threats, was graced by Shri Ram Nath Kovind,

in safeguarding India's critical infrastructure. Co-hosted by HCL Tech and CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team), the event saw strategic event partnerships with MeitY, Indian Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIIT-H), Gramax Cyber Tech and CSAI as event partners. The gathering brought together policy-makers, technologists and academics to discuss strategies for combating cyber threats in an increasingly interconnected world.

In his inaugural address, former President Kovind underscored the pivotal role of cyber awareness in



former President of India, as the Chief Guest. Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, Cabinet Minister of Madhya Pradesh, served as the Guest of Honour, while Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), delivered a compelling keynote address.

Organised by Lisianthus Tech, a leading cybersecurity firm, the workshop highlighted the urgent need for awareness, resilience, and indigenous innovation

national security. "As India marches towards becoming a global digital powerhouse, securing our critical infrastructure is not just a technical imperative but a national duty. Initiatives like Cyber Shikshit Bharat empower citizens and institutions to build resilience against evolving threats," he said. Kovind praised the collaborative efforts.

Guest of Honour Kailash Vijayvargiya echoed these sentiments, linking cybersecurity to economic growth.

IRFC Celebrates Constitution Day, reaffirming commitment to constitutional values

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) proudly celebrated Constitution Day today in its Board Room, reflecting upon the guiding principles that shape our nation's Governance and progress.

On this occasion, Chairman and CMD, Manoj Kumar Dubey, addressed the IRFC team and highlighted the importance of upholding the Constitution as the foundation of India's growth story.

He emphasised that the values enshrined in the Constitution serve as the bedrock for the ambitious projects being execut-



ed by Indian Railways, enabling the creation of a stronger and more connected Bharat.

Dubey reiterated IRFC's steadfast commitment to national development through innovative financing solutions and continuous support to the #MakeInIndia initiative.

He stated that by aligning with Constitutional values, IRFC is playing a significant role in realising the vision of #ViksitBharat.

The celebration concluded with a collective resolve to continue serving the nation with integrity, accountability, and dedication — true to the spirit of the Constitution of India.

From Aligarh to Sharjah: Aligarh Muslim University alumni celebrate Sir Syed Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

An Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) alumni group in the UAE held a memorable celebration of Sir Syed Day at Hotel Holiday International in Sharjah, marking the 208th birth anniversary of the university's visionary founder.

The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner and second-largest export destination. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited the UAE seven times over the past ten years, which ultimately led to the formation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2022. This bilateral initiative resulted in nearly 200 per cent growth in merchandise trade, increasing from \$43.3 billion in FY 2020-21 to \$83.7 billion in FY 2023-24.

The evening brought together over



Syed Ahmad Khan

eight hundred AMU alumni from across the UAE, rekindling the spirit of their alma mater and reaffirming their commitment to Sir Syed's vision of educational accomplishment and social

progress. ZI Sherwani, Founder and CEO of Cordova Group of Companies, graced the event with his palpable presence as the Chief Guest. A special highlight of the evening was the remembrance of the longstanding goodwill extended by the UAE leadership towards India and Aligarh Muslim University.

Speaking on the occasion, Sherwani commented, "In today's world, innovative thinking and creative writing must evolve with modern educational technologies.

If we want our youth to lead, we must equip them with tools that expand their imagination and sharpen their intellect.

And if the AMU Alumni Association takes concrete steps to advance Sir Syed's vision by establishing new institutes of science and technology, I assure you of my wholehearted support."

BRIEFLY

DEMBÉLÉ RETURNS TO PSG FOR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembélé is set to make his return from a left calf injury after being included in Paris Saint-Germain's squad for Wednesday's Champions League game against Tottenham. Dembélé has not played since he had to come off midway through the first half of PSG's 2-1 home loss to Bayern Munich in the competition on November 4. Dembélé had only recently returned following a right hamstring injury sustained while playing for France in September. PSG, which has been blighted by injuries this season, will still be without Morocco right back Achraf Hakimi, who sprained his left ankle during the loss to Bayern Munich. PSG beat Tottenham on penalties when they met in August in the UEFA Super Cup, securing the French club's fifth trophy of 2025. PSG won the Champions League last season and currently sits seventh in the league phase after four games, three points behind leader Bayern Munich.

JASVEER SINGH APPOINTED HEAD COACH BY PATNA PIRATES



Patna Pirates on Wednesday named Jasveer Singh as head coach for the upcoming Pro Kabaddi League season. Jasveer, who has successfully led UP Yoddhas since 2018, brings vast experience and a fresh perspective to the three-time champions. His appointment comes following the departure of former head coach Anup Kumar, who made notable contributions during his tenure. "I am happy to join the most successful team in the league. There is no doubt about what the Patna Pirates can achieve. I have reached the playoffs in almost all seasons but the trophy is still pending. It feels right and part of destiny that my first trophy and the Pirates' fourth come together," Jasveer said in a release.

Ahmedabad to host 2030 Commonwealth Games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Glasgow

The Indian city of Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games during Commonwealth Sport's general assembly here on Wednesday, paving the way for the multi-sport event's return to the country after two decades.

It was a mere formality for the general assembly of 74 members to put a seal of approval on India's bid after Ahmedabad was recommended as the proposed host of the centenary edition by the Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board last month. India last hosted the CWG in 2010 in Delhi.

The Executive Board's recommendation followed a process overseen by the Commonwealth Sport's Evaluation Committee.

"India brings scale, youth, ambition, rich culture, enormous sporting passion and relevance... We start our next century for the

Commonwealth Games in good health," said Dr Donald Rukare, President of Commonwealth Sport.

The decision also bolstered India's ambition to be an Olympic host in 2036.

Ahmedabad, the city which is in the race for Olympic hosting rights as well, has upgraded its sports infrastructure on a war footing in the last one decade.

India was facing competition from the Nigerian city of Abuja for the 2030 bid. But Commonwealth Sport decided to instead consider the African nation for the 2034 edition.

For the 2010 Delhi Games, India had spent close to ₹70,000 crore to host the 2010 edition of the Games, far exceeding the initial estimate of ₹1600 crore. The quadrennial event has been struggling to stay relevant and find willing hosts for a while.

"We are deeply honoured by the trust shown by Commonwealth Sport. The 2030 Games will not only celebrate a 100 years of the



Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Mansukh Mandaviya speaks to the media as Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights of 2030 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi

Commonwealth Movement but also lay the foundation for the next century," PT Usha, President of the Commonwealth Games Association of India and the IOA, said. "It will bring together Athletes, communities, and cultures from across the Commonwealth in a spirit of friendship and progress," she added.

2030 Games to feature 15-17 disciplines

Commonwealth Sport also confirmed that 15 to 17 sports will feature at the 2030 Games.

"The Amdavad 2030 team will work closely with Commonwealth Sport and the International Federation of Sports to shape a dynamic and exciting sport programme with strong local

resonance and global appeal," the body stated.

Athletics and Para Athletics, Swimming and Para Swimming, Table Tennis and Para Table Tennis, Bowls and Para Bowls, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Artistic Gymnastics, Netball and Boxing are the confirmed disciplines.

"The process to finalise the remainder of the programme will start next month, and the full Centenary Games line-up will be announced next year. "The sports under consideration are: Archery, Badminton, 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Cricket T20, Cycling, Diving, Hocky, Judo, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Rugby Sevens, Shooting, Squash, Triathlon and Para Triathlon and Wrestling. "The host can also propose up to two new or traditional sports," it added.

The expanded programme stays true to the Indian Olympic Association's commitment to have an elaborate Games.

PRESTIGIOUS MOMENT FOR INDIA: MANDAVIYA

New Delhi: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said the Commonwealth Sport's decision to award the hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games to Ahmedabad is a prestigious moment for the country as it strives to become a sporting powerhouse by 2047. Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights of the centenary edition during Commonwealth Sport's general assembly in Glasgow, clearing the decks for the event's return to India after two decades. "It is a prestigious moment that India will host centenary Commonwealth Games," Mandaviya said here. "India is capable of hosting major events and will be among top-five sporting nations by 2047," he added.

India clinch 4-3 win against Malaysia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Ipoh (Malaysia)

The Indian men's hockey team eked out a narrow 4-3 victory against hosts Malaysia at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup on Wednesday.

Selvam Karthi (7'), Sukhjeet Singh (21'), Amit Rohidas (39') and Sanjay (53') scored for India, while Faizal Saari (13'), Fitri Saari (36'), and Marhan Jalil (45') got on the score-sheet for Malaysia.

India started the game on the front foot, forcing the hosts back in their own half as they looked to assert themselves on the opposition.

They earned their first opportunity from a penalty corner at the foot of the three-minute mark and built a sustained period of pressure that eventually paid off.

A neat move from Sukhjeet Singh set up Selvam Karthi to score a tap-in, helping India take a 1-0 lead.

From there on, they largely controlled the tempo of the game until a foul from



Yashdeep Siwach resulted in a green card and a penalty corner for Malaysia.

A deflection for the Indian keeper helped Faizal Saari level the score at 1-1 to end the first quarter.

Determined to regain their advantage, the Indian forwards looked sharp and were attacking in waves as they dictated terms with a well-coordinated high pressing system. They managed to get back in front through a calm finish from Sukhjeet Singh after a shot from

Abhishek came his way. India had a couple more opportunities to increase their advantage, but had to settle for a 2-1 lead at half time. India earned a penalty corner early in the third quarter as they pushed to double their advantage. However, they weren't able to make the most of their chances.

Malaysia had a one man advantage after Jugraj Singh received a green card in the 34th minute, and they made the most of it with Fitri Saari

scoring the equaliser. India responded instantaneously though, with Amit Rohidas converting from a penalty corner, showcasing his composure and experience.

India had to dig deep to hold onto their advantage after Selvam Karthi received a yellow card in the 43rd minute, but the hosts equalised right at the end of the third quarter through captain Marhan Jalil.

With all to play for in the final quarter, India were pushing forward to find the winner while ensuring they held firm at the back.

Malaysia were denied an opportunity as Pawan pulled off a sensational save, keeping his team on level terms. India then took the lead for the fourth time in this contest with their captain Sanjay converting a penalty stroke. Determined to see the game out, India remained resolute to defend a couple of late penalty corners from Malaysia to prevail in this contest.

India bags silver and bronze in world youth TT championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Indian table tennis players made a strong debut at the ITTF World Youth Championships in Romania, returning with a haul of two medals — a silver and a bronze — in Under-19 Boys and Under-15 Girls team events respectively.

The Under-19 Boys squad produced the standout performance, reaching the final with confidence and tactical maturity before going down 0-3 to Japan.

The title clash opened with a tense five-game battle, where Ankur Bhattacharjee pushed Ryusei Kawakami to the limit before losing 17-15, 6-11, 12-10, 4-11, 11-13. Japan then extended their lead as Kazuki Yoshiyama beat Abhinav 11-7, 11-8, 11-6, followed by Tamito Watanabe's straight-games 11-9, 11-7, 11-3 win over

Priyanuj Bhattacharyya to seal the gold.

Earlier, India entered the final with a thrilling 3-2 win over Chinese Taipei in the semifinals.

The Under-15 Girls added to India's impressive debut by reaching the semifinals and earning a bronze medal.

Despite their 0-3 loss to South Korea, Ankolika Chakraborty, Divyanshi Bhowmick, and Ananya Muralidharan displayed promise, particularly after the team's notable 3-1 win over Germany in the quarterfinals.

In the Under-19 Girls event, India fell narrowly 2-3 to Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals despite a spirited showing.

Wins from Syndrea Das, Pritha Vartikar, and Taneesha Kotecha gave India a chance, but consistency from Chinese Taipei in the final match halted India's progress.

Javokhir Sindarov becomes youngest player to win FIDE World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Panaji

Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov beat China's Wei Yi to win the FIDE World Cup here on Wednesday, becoming, at 19, the youngest ever player to achieve the feat.

The Uzbek was an overwhelming favourite of Grandmaster Sahaj Grover, who minced no words while placing his money on Sindarov once the quarterfinals arrived.

As it turned out, Wei Yi played out another easy draw with white pieces but Sindarov was at his best as he cracked through white's defenses in the second game

itself. The Uzbekistan youngster went home richer by \$120,000 (over ₹1 crore) despite starting as the 16th seed in a competition that is known for its heartbreaks.

Both Sindarov and Wei will play in the Candidates and the latter earned USD 85,000 for his performance here over the last few weeks.

As things stand, Sindarov, Wei Yi and Andrey Espenko of Russia are the qualifiers from this World Cup, and they will be joined by Fabiano Caruana of the USA, Anish Giri of Holland and Matthias Bluebaum of Germany.

R Pragnanandhaa and Hikaru Nakamura are almost

certain to make it unless a hurricane hits the chess circuit.

Sindarov has come out as the second biggest star from Uzbekistan after Nodirbek Abdusattorov and it seems that the Russian dominance in the sport has finally ended. It remains to be seen how far the Uzbek stars continue to dominate, but for now, it is clear that it is not Europe sans Magnus Carlsen but Asia that dominates the chess world.

Sindarov simply dominated Wei Yi right from the early stages of the middle game even though the computer gave a different evaluation.

Unnati Hooda, Srikanth advance in Syed Modi International

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Lucknow

Top seed Unnati Hooda and former champion Kidambi Srikanth notched up comfortable wins to lead a host of Indians into the second round of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday.

While Hooda overcame compatriot Aakarshi Kashyap 21-13, 21-18, Srikanth, who had reached the finals at Malaysia Masters early this year, produced a fluent performance to defeat Kavin Thangam 21-13, 21-10 at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium.

Among other key results, seventh seed Rakshitha Sree



India's Kidambi Srikanth returns a shot during a men's singles match at the Syed Modi India International 2025 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Santhosh Ramraj opened her women's singles challenge with a confident 21-12, 21-14 win over Shreya Lele.

Kiran George also advanced in the men's singles section, beating Israel's Daniil Dubovenko

21-17, 21-9, and will face Jason Gunawan of Hong Kong next.

Priyanshu Rajawat, playing his first match in five months after recovering from a knee injury, defeated meiraba Luwang Mainsnam 21-18 21-14 to set up a second-round clash with another Indian, BM Rahul Bharadwaj. Bharadwaj beat Tarun Reddy Katam 18-21 21-16 23-21 in another all-Indian clash.

Among other Indians, Alap Mishra, Siddhanth Gupta, progressed to the men's singles second round, while Devika Sihag, Mansi Singh, Isharani Baruah, Tanya Hemanth and Anupama too also advanced.

In mixed doubles category, in an all-Indian clash between World Juniors medallists, C Lalramsanga and Taarini Suri edged out Bhavya Chhabra and Vishakha Toppo 25-23, 21-14.

Young sisters duo Gayatri and Mansa Rawat added another win for the hosts, defeating Arathi Sunil and Varshini Viswanath 21-11, 21-18 in women's doubles.

In men's singles, top seed Teh of Singapore got past India's Ritvik Sanjeevi 21-19, 21-17, staying steady in the tight moments to seal his place in the round of 16.

Top seeds Terry Hee and Jin Yujia of Singapore overcame India's Ayush Makhija and Simran Singhi 23-21, 21-10.

Chelsea beats Barcelona 3-0 in Champions League

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ London

On a night of changes, blunders and a glorious individual goal by 18-year-old Estevo, defensive lapses cost Manchester City and Barcelona dearly as both teams slumped to notable losses in the Champions League.

In Pep Guardiola's 100th Champions League game as City coach, his team struggled to cope with Bayer Leverkusen's quick transitions in a 2-0 defeat, while Barcelona had an own goal and a red card in its 3-0 loss at Chelsea. Guardiola made 10 changes to his starting lineup following Saturday's loss to Newcastle in the Premier League, with Erling Haaland among those on the bench, but it didn't have the desired effect.

Alejandro Grimaldo fired home Leverkusen's first goal with a low shot into the far corner in the 23rd and Patrik Schick headed in a second in the 54th. "It feels wonderful and we gave everything till the last second," Schick told broadcaster DAZN.



Estevão stars and Barcelona stumbles Chelsea comfortably beat 10-man Barcelona 3-0 at Stamford Bridge to earn its third league-phase win and move closer to the top.

It was the second loss for Barcelona, which went down a man after defender Ronald Araújo was shown a second yellow card just before half-time for a forceful tackle on Marc Cucurella.

Jules Koundé's own goal handed Chelsea the lead in the 27th as Barcelona defenders got tangled up in the goalmouth. The hosts stretched their advantage

with a fine individual goal by Estevão in the 55th as he held off two defenders, and a close-range shot by Liam Delap in the 73rd.

Barcelona's fourth loss in 10 games in all competitions could mean more criticism of coach Hansi Flick's approach. City would have moved atop the table with a win but the night ended with the top three unchanged. Bayern Munich, Arsenal and Inter Milan all play Wednesday.

Borussia Dortmund rose to fourth and Chelsea is fifth after both won to join City on 10 points, while Barcelona is

down in 15th and Juventus improved to 21st with a win as the Italian club tries to turn around its campaign.

Mourinho's Benfica finally wins

While Guardiola had an unexpected loss, his old foe José Mourinho picked up his first Champions League win with his new club Benfica as left back Samuel Dahl's early goal set the stage for a 2-0 win over troubled Ajax. It was No. 36 vs. No. 35 in the pre-game standings as the two winless teams met in Amsterdam.

Dahl scored an unstoppable volley in the sixth and Leandro Barreiro added a second goal in the 90th. Ajax has lost all five of its Champions League games and won only one of its last 10 games in all competitions.

Aubameyang shines for Marseille Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored twice in four minutes early in the second half to turn the game around for Marseille in a 2-1 win over Newcastle.

Serhou Guirassy scored two goals as Dortmund routed

10-man Villarreal 4-0 to end a three-game winless run in all competitions.

Juventus won 3-2 on its trip into the Arctic Circle to face Bodo/Glimt and needed a stoppage-time winner from Jonathan David after the Norwegian host leveled the score in the 87th.

David scored on the rebound of a shot by Kenan Yildiz, who was brought on at halftime and had a hand in all three Juventus goals.

Canadian forward Promise David scored the only goal as Belgium's Union Saint-Gilloise won 1-0 at injury-depleted Galatasaray. The Turkish club was without injured Champions League top scorer Victor Osimhen, and finished with 10 men after 18-year-old defender Arda Ünyay picked up two yellow cards.

McTominay scores again Scott McTominay scored the opening goal as Napoli won 2-0 against Azerbaijan's Qarabag, whose player Kevin Medina seemed to be knocked unconscious by another McTominay shot and was later substituted.

Leverkusen stuns Manchester City

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Manchester

Pep Guardiola made 10 changes to his team and Manchester City paid the price. A 2-0 defeat to Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League made it back-to-back losses for City and raised questions over Guardiola's decision to leave out so many of his star players — including top scorer Erling Haaland.

"I take absolutely full responsibility," the City manager said. "It was too much. (It was) the first time in my life I've done it and it was too much."

Guardiola acknowledged his mistake at halftime at the Etihad Stadium — making three substitutions after Leverkusen took a 1-0 lead into the break. And by the time he eventually sent for Haaland, the German team had doubled its advantage.

But even the introduction of the Norway striker couldn't turn the game in City's direction, making it five losses in all competitions



this season and adding pressure to its next game in the Champions League against Real Madrid next month.

Guardiola's sweeping changes to his lineup came after defeat to Newcastle in the Premier League over the weekend. But his bold team selection backfired with City looking disjointed after so many changes.

It was the first time this season Haaland has been left out of the starting lineup for a game in the Premier League or Champions League. He has scored 22 goals for club and country. "You never know what

would happen in the game with other players. Everybody thinks with Erling, Bernie (Bernardo Silva) and the others we should be better, but I don't have the answers," Guardiola said. "We cannot play Erling all the time for 95 minutes."

Alejandro Grimaldo fired Leverkusen in front after 23 minutes and Patrik Schick headed in a second in the 54th. "No matter who they put on the pitch it's a quality team," Leverkusen coach Kasper Hjulmand said. "It's a great team. No matter who played I think we did well."

Second whitewash at home: India surrenders to South Africa

KUSHAN SARKARN
■ Guwahati

A clueless Indian team, which seemed lacking in both skills and resolve, succumbed to its biggest defeat in terms of runs, losing the second Test to South Africa by a whopping margin of 408 on Wednesday, giving the visitors their first series triumph in the country in 25 years.

This was the second time in a space of a mere 13 months that India ended up white-washed at home, severely denting their chances of qualifying for the World Test Championship final.

Under head coach Gautam Gambhir, India have now lost five Tests against New Zealand and South Africa at home.

A chase of 549 was never possible, but what one

expected was a semblance of fight, which wasn't there on a day five Indian track presenting itself in all its might on which the ball bounced like a hissing snake and turned as if on a hairpin Himalayan bend.

Marco Jansen, who played the perfect all-rounder in this Test match, took a one-handed stunner to skittle India for 140 in 63.5 overs and give the Temba Bavuma-led side a victory to cherish for a long time.

"It's little disappointing. As a team we need to get better. We need to give credit to the opposition. They dominated the series but at the same time, you can't take cricket for granted (because of playing at home)," said a downcast India skipper Rishabh Pant in the post-match presentation, trying to



India's Ravindra Jadeja during the fifth day of the second Test cricket match between India and South Africa, at ACA Stadium, Barsapara in Guwahati

make sense of his team's recent home record.

Courtesy Gambhir's inexorable tactics and selection calls, the aura of invincibility that once accompanied the team at home lay in tatters at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium on a slightly nippy Wednesday afternoon.

But the man was his usual combative self in the aftermath. "I am the same guy who got you results in England and was coach for Champions Trophy," he asserted in the post-match press conference.

"You don't blame any individual or any particular shot. Blame lies with everyone. I never blamed individuals and won't do it going forward," he added.

Off-spinner Simon Harmer's career got a second wind as he decimated the

Indian team with turn, bounce and zip off the same surface on which home bowlers looked pedestrian.

Once Pant (13) was dismissed failing to counter the bounce, the writing was on the wall.

"I have been coming to India but never thought that we will walk away with a 2-0 series win," an expectedly delighted Bavuma said later.

The likes of Sai Sudharsan, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel and Nitish Reddy, which is the new brigade in Test cricket simply didn't have enough preparation to read a spinner from his hands.

Sudharsan scored 14 in 139 balls but was about to be dismissed about six times and looked like getting out to every delivery.

His lack of readiness was the buck that would stop at

Gambhir's door for his poor choice of personnel.

Gambhir's obsession with bits and pieces cricketers in the traditional format has left them team in a flux with none of the players sure about their places and roles in the team.

The impact of this defeat will have far reaching implications in terms of confidence and psyche of the red-ball team going forward.

It wasn't an easy pitch to survive on but the poor technique was disappointing along with the inability to read the drift, not playing with a soft bottom hand and a completely non-existent backfoot play.

Only Ravindra Jadeja (53) walked the talk when it came to putting up a good fight but there was no one at the other end to help the veteran. (PTI)

It is up to BCCI to decide my future: Gambhir

KUSHAN SARKARN
■ Guwahati

Under-fire India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday said it was up to the BCCI to decide his future after the Test series white-wash against South Africa but also reminded everyone of the success the team has achieved in his eventful tenure.

Gambhir was speaking after the humiliating 408-run drubbing at the hands of South Africa in the second Test on Wednesday, which gave the visitors a 2-0 series sweep.

"It is up to the BCCI to decide. I've said it in my first press conference when I took over as the head coach. Indian cricket is important, I'm not important. And I sit here and say exactly the same thing," Gambhir was terse as usual at the post-match press conference.

"And yes, people can keep forgetting about it. I'm the same guy who got results in England as well, with a young team. And I'm sure you guys will forget very soon, because a lot of people keep talking about New Zealand (home



series whitewash last year). And I'm the same guy who won the Champions Trophy, and Asia Cup as well," Gambhir reminded.

The combative response to the question on his future aside, Gambhir said he would not try to dodge the blame for the debacle against a very well-prepared South Africa.

"The blame lies with everyone and starts with me," he conceded in his first reactions after the 0-2 drubbing.

inclination to focus on all-rounders at the expense of specialists in the traditional format.

He insisted that in Test cricket, a man with limited talent but tough mindset can trump prodigal talent on any given day.

"Red ball cricket is a completely different challenge to white ball cricket. There needs to be a different skill set. And more importantly, there need to be tough characters that are important to be a successful Test side," the former southpaw said.

"You don't need the most skillful and the most flamboyant players to succeed in Test cricket. You need the toughest characters with limited skills who will go on to succeed in Test cricket, irrespective of how the conditions and what the situation is," Gambhir said.

"Yes, we are going through transition"

The new crop of players in the Test set-up have been found wanting against the turning deliveries on a difficult track and that can happen when the team's core batting line-up has played less than 15 five-day matches on an average. (PTI)

Gambhir has also attracted criticism for frequent changes in the team and his

Shukri will have a look at his comments: Bavuma

KUSHAN SARKARN
■ Guwahati

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma on Wednesday downplayed Shukri Conrad's controversial remarks that he wanted India to "really grovel", through a prosaic reasoning that the head coach "will have a look at his comments".

Former players from both India and South Africa, including legends Anil Kumble and Dale Steyn, have expressed disappointment at Conrad's usage of the word "grovel", which carries a historical context, to describe Proteas' dominance in the just-concluded Test series which they won 2-0.

"Yeah, look, I mean, the comments or the remark made by the coach came to me this morning. My mind has obviously been focused on the game and making sure that we're in this position where we've won. I haven't had the opportunity, proper opportunity, to chat to the coach," Bavuma said, trying his best to diffuse the situation and suggesting that Conrad is an old man, who should be allowed to reflect on his comment.



South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma (left) receiving trophy from Devajit Saikia, BCCI Secretary (right), at the post-match award ceremony of the first-ever Test match held in Guwahati

"But look, Shukri is close to 60 years old. He's got a wealth of experience behind him. He's got a lot of years. And I think he will, at some point, have an opportunity to speak to those comments. I think from a team's perspective, look, we understand the magnitude of the series. We understand the intensity of the series."

Referring to the "bauna" (slang lingo for a short man) comment made by Jasprit Bumrah to describe the South Africa skipper's height during the first Test in Kolkata, Bavuma added, "And I think,

as we would have seen in the series, there have been times where certain guys have crossed the line. But those are things that happen within the game. And I'm not saying that the coach has crossed the line, but those are things that happen. But I think he'll have an opportunity to speak more on that."

For the uninitiated, the word 'grovel' carries a cricketing context.

In 1976, when the West Indies arrived in England for a Test series as overwhelming favourites, then English captain Tony Greig during a

pre-series interview said, "I intend to make them (West Indies) grovel."

West Indies thrashed England 5-0 in the series and made Greig eat humble pie.

South Africa completed a 2-0 series sweep of India with a 408-run drubbing of the hosts in the second Test here, having entered the game after a 30-run victory in Kolkata.

Conrad made the comments after the end of fourth day's play in the second Test with his team in a commanding position to win their first Test series in India in 25 years.

A 2-0 series win and that too in India is an "incredible" achievement, feels Bavuma, who termed it as a victory that would be right up there.

"I think what makes it sweeter is the fact that we're on the other side of the result. We know how dark it can be. Coming here, I would have never thought 2-0 would be the result at the end of the series. But I think it's an incredible achievement for the group of players.

"Again, we've gone on to etch ourselves in history and we are creating some memorable moments." (PTI)

You can't take cricket for granted: Rishabh Pant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Guwahati

Stand-in skipper Rishabh Pant on Wednesday conceded that India needed to get better as a Test team, and said results cannot be taken for granted just because of playing in home conditions.

South Africa towelled India by 408 runs in the second Test here to complete a 2-0 series sweep, the first such instance for the visitors since their triumph under Hansie Cronje in the 1999-2000 series.

"It's little disappointing. As a team we need to get better. We need to give credit to the opposition. They dominated the series but at the same time, you can't take cricket for granted (because of

playing at home)," said Pant in the post-match presentation.

Pant said India will have to learn from the series and get better in future.

"We need to take the learning and stick as a team. We needed to be clear with our mindset. In the future, we need to learn from it and get better."

The wicketkeeper-batter admitted that South Africa played better cricket throughout the series.

"They played better cricket, cricket demands that you need to capitalise as a team. And we did not do that and that cost us the whole series."

"The positive will be focussing on our own plan

We need to take the learning and stick as a team. We needed to be clear with our mindset. In the future, we need to learn from it and get better

— RISHABH PANT, STAND-IN SKIPPER

and that's what we will take from this series," he added. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma was delighted to sweep the series.

"It's massive. For me personally, I've been out of the game for a couple of months with injury. Not every day you can come to India and walk away with a 2-0 series win.

"What's special is that we had dark days as a group and it's a credit to them. There's a big shift in our mindsets in

terms of what we want to do. I think our preparation is something — guys go out there looking to contribute," he said.

Bavuma lauded spinners Simon Harmer and Keshav Maharaj for their consistency in the series.

"Simon has the experience of playing here in India in 2015, he complements Keshav quite well. Bit more guile with the ball, it's a struggle to take the ball out of their hands. Simon was

the man for us in this series," he said.

Off-spinner Harmer was adjudged the player of the series, and he said he will leave these shores with fond memories.

"Like I said in the last Test, it's been a long road. 10 years later, a completely different feeling. Will leave with a lot more fonder memories from then. To beat a very good Indian team is a hell of an effort.

"I was just watching our second innings, after 40 overs, the ball got softer and it became easier. But there was the odd-ball, the ball that Rishabh got. Nice to contribute, nice to get wickets and nice to get a fifer in India," said Harmer.

Urvil Patel's 37-ball 119 powers Gujarat to 8-wicket win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Hyderabad

Skipper Urvil Patel went on a six-hitting spree en route to a ruthless unbeaten 119 as Gujarat blew away Services by eight wickets to open their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) campaign on a rampaging note in a Group C fixture here on Wednesday.

Patel, making his debut as T20 captain, made a mockery of the Services attack, smashing 12 fours and 10 sixes in his whirlwind 37-ball assault.

The 27-year-old, retained by Chennai Super Kings, raced to his century in just 31 balls — the second-fastest T20 hundred by an Indian.

Patel and Abhishek Sharma jointly hold the record for the fastest T20 hundred by an Indian, having reached the mark in 28 balls in the 2024-25 edition against Tripura and Meghalaya respectively.

In 2023, Patel had also struck a 41-ball ton against Chandigarh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The wicket-keeper batter shared a blistering 174-run opening stand with Aarya Desai (60 off 35) to



overhaul the target of 183 in just 12.3 overs at the Gymkhana Ground.

Earlier, sent in to bat, Services managed 182 for nine with opener Gaurav Kochhar top-scoring with a 37-ball 60 studded with seven fours and two sixes.

Their innings never really took off as wickets fell regularly, with Arzan Nagwaswalla (2/38) and Hemang Patel (2/21) picking up two apiece.

At the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Punjab began their campaign with a five-wicket win over

Himachal Pradesh. Opting to bowl, Punjab restricted HP to 147 for eight, with none of the batters, including Inshah Mahajan (33) and Nikhil Gangta (35), able to convert starts.

Harpreet Brar (2/14) and Gurnoor Brar (2/32) claimed two wickets each.

In reply, Punjab cruised to 153 for five in 13.5 overs, powered by Anmolpreet Singh (43) and Salil Arora (36). In another Group C match, Puduachery defeated Haryana by five runs.

Pougajendy Akash

SMARAN SHINES IN KARNATAKA VICTORY

Ahmedabad: Ravichandran Smaran gave another reminder about his unlimited potential with a well-timed fifty, guiding Karnataka to a five-wicket win over Uttarakhand in the opening Group D match of the Syed Mushtaq Ahmed Trophy here on Wednesday.

Once Uttarakhand posted a competitive 197 for five in 20 overs, Karnataka's task was cut out. Skipper Kunal Chandela (88, 49 balls, 7x4, 5x6) and Aanjaneya Suryavanshi (54, 36x, 5x4, 3x6) added 122 runs for the fourth wicket as Uttarakhand recovered from a shaky 32 for three.

Pacer Vidwath Kaverappa was the stand out performer for Karnataka, taking three

wickets while conceding 37 runs. Karnataka slipped to 15 for two, losing Karun Nair and KL Shriji but Mayank Agarwal and Smaran took their side to 99 through an alliance of 84 runs for the third wicket. But quick wickets of skipper Agarwal, Smaran and Abhinav Manohar reduced Karnataka to 128 for five in 13.2 overs. The former champions needed 70 runs off 6.4 overs at that stage.

But late-order batters Praveen Dubey (38, 24b) and Shubbang Hegde (29, 18b) knocked off those runs to take Karnataka past the target in the last ball of the match. Left-arm pacer Rajan Kumar (3/24) was the most successful bowler for Uttarakhand.

only manage 196 for six, despite a 47-ball 90 by opener Arsh Ranga and a 31-ball 52 by Yashvardhan Dalal.

Skipper Aman Khan (4/28) was the pick of the bowlers, taking four wickets.

SMAT: Mumbai beat Railways

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Lucknow

Defending champions Mumbai made a confident start to their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) campaign, defeating Railways by seven wickets, with India players Ajinkya Rahane and Suryakumar Yadav making vital contributions in a Group A match on Wednesday.

Chasing a below-average score of 158 for 5 in 20 overs, Mumbai had little trouble overhauling it with Rahane

clobbering a 33-ball 62, studded with four boundaries and five sixes, at the top to help the star-studded side finish the chase with 25 balls to spare. India's T20 skipper Suryakumar, who shared a 51-run stand with Rahane for the second wicket, struck an equally belligerent 30-ball 47 on his return to the field after a 2-1 away series win against Australia in the five-match T20 series earlier this month.

Railways, led by former India player Karn Sharma, were off to a poor start,

losing their openers for just 19 runs before former India-U19 player and first-class stalwart Mohammad Saif brought some stability with a well-made 48 in the company of young Ravi Singh (26 off 19 balls) and Ashutosh Sharma (61 off 30 balls).

In fact, after Saif departed with Railways still in trouble at 113/4, it was Sharma who gave a mighty push by smashing seven boundaries and three maximums to give some respectability to the score.

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