

over the three agriculture laws, which were later withdrawn by the Modi Government. Badal's wife and Lok Sabha MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal was also part of the Modi Government as a minister with Cabinet rank.

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

We, Sompal Sharma w/o Sh. Vinod Sharma and Vinod Sharma s/o Ram Raj Sharma R/O H.No. 622, Dadu Majra Colony, Sector 38 West Chandigarh declare that our son Rahul Sharma is out of My control. So I disown from our all movable and immovable properties anybody dealing with him own risk.

I, Dalbir Singh S/o Khem Singh, R/o House No 571-C, Small Flats, Dhanas, Chandigarh inform that my son Rajnish Rawat is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody who deals with him will do at their own Risk.

I, Ravi Kumar S/o Late Sh. Surinder Singh, House No. 2276 Ground floor, Sector 40-C, Chandigarh inform that my son Honey, my daughter Ekta Thakur, my wife Renu Bala are out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and Immoveable Properties. Anybody who deal with them will do at their own Risk.

I, Krishna Devi, W/O Sh. Om Parkash R/O House No. 1949, Sector-15, Panchkula, Haryana-134113 That my son Davender Singh his wife Harbans Kaur and their son Harsh out of my control. I disown them from all my movable and immovable properties & savings etc. If anybody dealings with them shall be own responsible.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Laxman Das R/o Jhansa sub tehsil Ismailabad district Kurukshetra, my son Gourav Kumar and his wife Swati Devi is out of my control. I disown them from my family, all my movable and immovable properties, money and cash. If anybody deals with them, they shall be at their own risk.

I, Sudha W/o Late Sh. R.K.Saini, R/o H.No. 224, Colony No.2, Khuda Lahora, UT Chandigarh, disown my daughter-in-law Anuradha D/o C.L.Pushpakar and her son Abhinay Saini, from my all movable/ immovable properties as both are out of my control and living seperately. Anybody deals them any type do at own risk, I and my family shall not be responsible for their acts.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jindpal Kaur W/o Satveer Singh R/o Fatta Maloka, Tehsil Sardulgarh (Mansa), hereby inform that I am known by two names in the village, Jindpal Kaur and Shinderpal Kaur. I am the only woman with the above two names in the village.

I Satwinder Singh S/o Sukhdev Singh, holder of Indian Passport No: T3056786, issued at Jalandhar on 25/04/2019 R/o Kalgidhar Nagar Machhiwara, Tehsil Samrala (Ludhiana) Pin: 141115 Punjab (India) and presently residing at 180 Prior road North Kelowna, British Columbia Canada V1X5N8, do hereby change my name and shall henceforth be known as Satwinder Aujla for all purposes.

I Janki Tiwari Mother of 15719790N Hav Imanshu Singh Tiwari residing at Vill. Bari Khurd Distt. Satna State Madhya Pradesh ,Pin 485112 have changed my name from Janki Tiwari to Janki Devi and date of birth 04.08.1967 to 01.01.1963 vide affidavit date 08.08.2026 before notary public Distt. court Bathinda (PB).

I, Army No. 15258062F Rank Nk Umesh Davalatti S/o Basavaraj Siddappa Davalatti R/o H.No. 255 Tavag Belagavi Karnataka-591101 declare that in my documents this name is written as Basavaraj (father's name) & Basavva (Mother's name) but my father's & Mother's documents his/her name is written as Basavaraj Siddappa Davalatti (father's name) & Basavva Basavaraj Davalatti (mother's name). That both the my father's names Basavaraj Siddappa Davalatti alias Basavaraj & my mother's name Basavva Basavaraj Davalatti alias Basavva are of one and the same person. i.e. my father & my mother.

I Ramji Tiwari Father of 15719790N Hav Imanshu Singh Tiwari residing at Vill. Bari Khurd Distt. Satna State Madhya Pradesh ,Pin 485112 have changed my name from Ramji Tiwari to Ram ji Tiwari vide affidavit date 08.08.2026 before notary public Distt. court Bathinda (PB).

I Sudha Devi Mother of Jc 779063N Sub Yogesh Chandra residing at Vill. Badalpur Distt. Fatehpur State Uttar Pradesh, Pin 212664 have changed my name from Sudha Shukla to Sudha Devi and date of birth 01.07.1961 to 01.01.1961 vide affidavit date 08.08.2026 before notary public Distt. court Bathinda (PB).

I Kamal Kishor Father of Jc 779063N Sub Yogesh Chandra residing at Vill. Badalpur Distt. Fatehpur State Uttar Pradesh, Pin 212664 have changed my name from Kamal Kishor to Kamal Kishor Shukla and date of birth 01.07.1958 to 21.11.1960 vide affidavit date 08.08.2026 before notary public Distt. court Bathinda (PB).

I Jayashri Mother of 15581659P Hav More Santosh Eknath residing at Vill. Karoli (M) Distt. Sangli State Maharashtra, Pin 416408 have changed my name from Jayashri to Jayashri Eaknath More and date of birth 10.10.1969 to 12.05.1970 vide affidavit date 08.08.2026 before notary public Distt. court Bathinda (PB).

CHANGE OF NAME

I Harpreet Narula W/O Pawan Narula R/O # 1133 Sector 43-B Chandigarh, 160022. I Have Changed My Name From Harpreet Narula To Harpreet Kaur Narula.

I, Bhawneswar Kumar Marwaha S/o Babu Ram, House no. 3190, Sector 37-D, Chandigarh have changed my name to Bhawneswer Kumar Marwaha.

I, Army No.2891545W, Ex-NK Hema Ram S/O Sh. Mangla Ram R/O Dhani Navodi, Ralawata, Tehsil Khandala Distt. Sikar, Rajasthan -332715 declare that my army service record in my daughter name written Kumari Pravisha Singh. Whereas her correct name is Pravisha Singh.

I, Bonny Masih S/o Raju Masih r/o Village Balwanda, P.O. Chak Sharif DISTT Gurdaspur PIN 143528 have changed my name as Masih Bonny. In future Masih is my surname and Bonny is my given name. Concerned note.

I Mamta Beri w/o Late Sh. Vijay Beri R/o 2214 B, Block 13, Chandigarh Housing Board Flats, Sector 63, Chandigarh have changed my name Mamta Rani to Mamta Beri.

I, Sourav Daga S/o Surendra Kumar Daga R/o 1575, Huda, Sector 17, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135003 , have changed my name from Sourav Daga to Sourab Daga.

I Rakesh Masih S/o Mukhtar Masih r/o village Lehal PO Fateh Nangal district Gurdaspur (Punjab) declare that in aadhar card of my son Garwin Lahoria, my name wrongly written as Rakesh Lehal. As per his birth certificate My correct name is Rakesh Masih. Concerned note.

I, Nirmal Verma W/o No. 702559R Ex SGT Chander Shekhar Verma R/o Plot No. 23, Vashisath Colony, 33 Feet Road, Kurukshetra, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra declare that in my husband's service record my name is wrongly written as Nirmala Rani instead of Nirmal Verma.

I, Anil Kumar, son of Chuni Lal Wadhwa, resident of House No. B-111/394, Dr. Ajay Dhawan Street, Fazilka (Tehsil and District Fazilka), have changed my daughter's name from Naira to Naira Wadhwa.

I, Krishan Lal S/o. Mangal Ram R/o #VPO Buria, Tehsil- Jagadhri, Distt Yamunanagar have changed my minor Son from Baby of Aarti Devi to Jyesh .

I Neetu Kaur D/O No-49393, Rank-LATE CPO Gurdev Singh (Retd.) residence of VPO- Sihon Majra, Tehsil- Rupnagar, District- Rupnagar, State - Punjab declare that my correct name Nitu Kaur To Neetu Kaur and date of birth 01-07-1979 to 01-07-1980 in Navy Records as per her Adhaar card, Pan Card and School Certificate.

I Meenakshi Mehta W/O Yougesh Kumar R/O VPO Mullanpur Garibdass, Tehsil Kharar, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Meenakshi Mehta To Meenakshi Jund.

I hitherto known as Aarush Son of Pawan Kumar residing at VPO ISMAILA 11B(37) TEHSIL SAMPLA, DISTRICT ROHTAK, Haryana - 124501 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AARUSH VERMA for all future purposes.

I, Parvin W/o Mahbub R/o VPO Mujafat Kalan, P. O. Manglore, Tehsil Pratap Nagar, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135021, I Have changed my name from Parvin to Parmeena Khatun.

I, Vishay Kumar S/o Rishipal R/o VPO Sabapur, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135101, I Have changed my name from Vishay Kumar to Vishey Kumar.

I, Upendra Kumar Sah S/o Rama Nand R/o Khera Mohalla, Near Khera Mandir, VPO Chhachhrauli, Tehsil Chhachhrauli, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135103, I Have changed my name from Upendra Kumar Sah to Upendra Sah.

I, Kurban S/o Mustkim R/o House no. 63, Jaswant Colony, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana -135001, I Have changed my name from Kurban to Mohammad Kurban.

I, Ajib Singh S/o Phool Chand R/o Vill Mandhar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana -135003, I Have changed my name from Ajib Singh to Jaib Singh.

I, Puneet Kumar S/o Chaman Lal R/o H. No. 199, Vill Mandebari, P. O. Jagadhri Workshop, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana - 135002, I Have changed my name from Puneet Kumar to Punit Kumar.

I, Vijay Kumar S/o Raj Kumar R/o H. No. 400A, Prem Colony, Munda Majra, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana - 135001. I have changed the name of my minor son from Vridam Verma to Vrindam Verma.

I, Seema W/o Raju R/o House no. 24, Bhim Nagar, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana 135001, I Have changed my name from Seema to KM.Seema Bharti.

I, Usha Dhingra W/o Ramesh Kumar R/o House no., ward no. 27/18, Ranjeet colony camp, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana 135001, I have changed my name from Usha Dhingra to Usha Rani.

I, Kajal Subhashachandra Gupta D/o Subhash Gupta R/o House no. 227, Lajpat Nagar, P. O. Yamunanagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana 135001, I Have changed my name from Kajal Subhashchandra Gupta to Gupta Kajal Subhash.

I, Kailash Chand S/o Diwan Chand R/o Vill Tajewala, Tehsil Chhachhrauli, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana - 135106. I have changed the name of my minor daughter from Rajani Urf Siya to Siya.

I, Neha Gupta W/o Sahil Maheshwari R/o House no. 565, Sector-17, Near Dispensery, Huda Jagadhri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana 135001. I have changed my name from Neha Gupta to Neha Maheshwari.

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Mam Chand R/o Vill Todarpur, PO. Nagal Khajuri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135001. I have changed the name of my minor son from Devansh to Devansh Dhiman.

I Harjit Singh s/o Kuldeep Singh R/O H.NO. B-005/00377, Dashmesh Nagar, Kharar-Mohali- 140301 have changed my name from Harjit Singh to Harjeet Singh.

I, Vishal Khatri S/o Sh. Ranbir Singh Khatri R/o Mohalla Jatwara, Ward No. 1, Sonapat (HR)-131001 have changed my minor daughter's name from DHAKSHITA to DHAKSHITA KHATRI whose DOB 04.09.2014 for all future purposes.

I, Dimpal is leagally wife of No-15255679M Rank-L/LNK (GNR) Name Mahavir Unit-52 MED REGT presently residing at Vill. Dahima Post-Dahima, Teh. Hisar declare that my name is Dimpal & My DOB is 30/06.2000 as per Adhar Card & Pan Card. My name is Dimple is wrongly mention in My husband's service documents.

I, Pragya Bansal W/o Nitin Mittal R/o 45/6, New Cotton Mills, Narwana, Distt. Jind, Haryana 126116 declare that I have changed my name from Pragya Bansal to Pragya for all future purpose.

I, Nisha Devi W/o Kishori Lal R/o Kalwas, Hisar, Haryana-125004 declare that I have changed my name from Nisha to Nisha Devi for future purpose.

I, Jyoti W/o Naresh Kumar R/o H.No. 319, Near Saini Chakki, Shivpuri Colony-B, Yamuna Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my name from Jyoti Wadhwa to Jyoti.

I, No. 1585746K Ex Hav (ACP Nb Sub) Baljinder Singh R/o Vill- Keharwali, PO- Dasuya, Tehsil- Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed the name of my wife from Gurmit Kaur to Gurmeet Kaur. Concerned note.

I, No. 1585746K Ex Hav (ACP Nb Sub) Baljinder Singh R/o Vill- Keharwali, PO- Dasuya, Tehsil- Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed the name of my daughter from Navjyot Guggi to Navjot Guggi. Concerned note.

I, Manoj Kumar Kukreja S/o Tulsi Dass Kukreja R/o H. No. 186-P Housing Board Colony, Sirsa Road, Hisar, 125001 Haryana declare that I have changed the name of my daughter from Himanya to Himanya Kukreja for all future purpose.

I, Manoj Kumar Kukreja S/o Tulsi Dass Kukreja R/o H. No. 186-P Housing Board Colony, Sirsa Road, Hisar, 125001 Haryana declare that I have changed the name of my son from Yuwal to Yuwal Kukreja for all future purpose.

I, Deepika, W/o Sh. Sandeep Batra, R/o H.No. 760, Sector 25, Huda, Part-2, Panipat, Haryana-132103 declares that I have changed my name from Deepika Rani to Deepika, for all future purposes.

I, Dinesh Kumar son of Sh. Kamal Dev resident of Near Tar Factory, Saproon, District Solan (H.P.) - 173211 declares that in the school record of my son Mohit Sharma, his father's and mother's name was wrongly entered as Dinesh Kumar Sharma and Reeta Sharma, respectively whereas his father's correct name is Dinesh Kumar and mother's correct name is Reeta Devi. He passed his ICSE exam in 2023 vide UID 7961042 (Index No. 1234680/039) and ISC exam in 2025 vide UID 7961042 (Index No. 2254170/064) from CISCE, New Delhi. Concern please note.

I, Prabhjit Singh S/o Lakhbir Singh R/o VPO Tarsikka, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Prabhjit Singh to Singh is my surname and Prabhjit is my given name.

We, husband and wife, Neeshu Rani and Vinod Saini, s/o Gurudev Singh, residents of House No. 43, Sultanpur, P.O. Kakadu, Ambala City, District Ambala, Haryana, have changed the name of our minor daughter from Yashmeen to Bhavya Saini.

I Manpreet Kaur W/o Late Sh. Virender Singh R/o Village Basulan, Tehsil Kalka, Distt. Panchkula, Haryana-134102, Declare that I have changed my minor Daughter name Parbhjot Kaur to Prabhjot Kaur concerned please note.

I Jagwanti Sharma w/o Amit Sharma r/o Vill. Garhwali Teh. Julana Distt. Jind declare that I have changed my name from Jagwanti Sharma to Jagwanti for all furure purposes.

I, Pawan Paswan son of Shri Munnillal Paswan resident of Ward No. 11 Naraingarh Distt-Ambala Haryana, have changed the name of my minor daughter Animaka to Anamika.

I, Salinder Kumar S/o Nand Lal R/o Village Mahuwa Kheri, Tehsil Naraingarh, Distt. Ambala-134203 have changed my name from Surender to Salinder Kumar.

I Vijeta sharma W/o Deepak Sharma number 1223 khera mohalla, tehsil jagadhri, yamunanagar. That I have changed my name after marriage from vijeta yadav to vijeta sharma. All concern note.

I, Deepak Kumar S/o Parbhathi Lal R/o House No 1130, Housing Board Colony Sector 15A Hisar declare that I have changed the name of my minor Son from RUDRAKSH to RUDRAKSH WADHWA for future purpose.

I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Parbhathi Ram R/o House No 970 Gandhi Nagar (Mangali) Hisar declare that I have changed the name of my minor daughter from JIYA to JIYA WADHWA for future purpose.

I, Manorma D/o Late Sh. Hari Jigyasu, House No. 105, Sector 16-A, Chandigarh have changed my name from Manorama to Manorma Kumari.

I, Shalini W/o Pawan Chauhan, House NO. 39, Emaar Mohali Hills, Sector 99, Mauli Baidwan, Post office Mauli Baidwan, District SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab have changed my name from Shalini to Shalini Verma

I, Sandeep Singh S/o Sukhdev Singh, House No. 1455/23, Sector 29B, Chandigarh have changed my minor daughter name from Kirpan Kaur to Ishmanjeet Kaur

I, Vaibhav S/o Dharminder Kumar, House no 276 Sector 20-A Chandigarh have changed my name from Vaibhav to Vaibhav Panchal.

I, Tanya W/o Lalit Garg R/o H. No. 385/21 Anaj Mandi Tohana, Tehsil Tohana, Distt. Fatehabad, Haryana have changed my name from Tanya to Tanya Pahwa for all future purpose.

I, Bindu Kumari W/o No. 4476927F Ex NK Balwinder Singh R/o Village Rajeke, PO- Bolanke, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, Distt. Gurdasput, Punjab, I declare change my name from Amanpreet Kaur to Bindu Kumari and Date of Birth from 07/08/1981 to 16/08/1976 in my husband army records.

I Raj Kumar Garg S/o Om Parkash R/o H.No. 1115, Bishan Sarup Colony, Panipat - 132103 have changed my name to Raj Kumar for all future purpose.

I, Urmila Devi W/o Balvinder Singh R/o Village Chhot, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Urmila Devi to Urmala Devi. In future, I will be known by the name of Urmala Devi. All concerned please note.

I, Bharti Bajaj Wife of Sh. Aman Bajaj R/o House No. 921, Sector-4, Panchkula, Haryana, That I have changed my name from BHARTI to BHARTI BAJAJ.

I, Sunny Kagda alias Sunny S/o Jagdish R/o # 1165, Sector 52, Chandigarh, i have changed my name from Sunny Kagda alias Sunny to Sunny Kang.

I, Jasvir (Aadhar No. 3832 3903 8509) S/o Satyawan R/o H.No. 894/30 Vikas Nagar Bhiwani Road Bye Pass Jind - 126102 (Haryana) have changed my minor son's name from Gulfam Bibiani to Gulshan.

I, Dinesh Kumar S/o Dalip Singh R/o Village Hadwa Tehsil Safidon District Jind-126112 (Haryana) have changed my name from Dinesh Deshwal to Dinesh Kumar. For all purposes in future.

I, Sudesh Devi W/o Dinesh Kumar R/o Village Hadwa Tehsil Safidon District Jind-126112 (Haryana) have changed my name from Sudesh Deshwal to Sudesh Devi . For all purposes in future.

I SANDEEP KUMAR S/O NANEY LAL R/O HNO. 4423-A, DIPU WALI GALI WARD NO. 9, RAJPURA, DISTT PATIALA declare that Sandeep Patel and Sandeep Kumar both the name Pertain to the same person.

I, Ranbir S/o Shri Chand R/o VPO Mirchpur, Hisar, Haryana - 125039, have changed my name from Ranbir to Ranvir Dhanda. Ranbir and Ranvir Dhanda both name are same and one person.

I, ANIL KUMAR, son of RAJBIR SINGH, aged 32 years, resident of VPO Basantpur, Distt. Rohtak, declare that the name of my minor child has been changed from RUDR to RIYA. In future my Child name will be known as RIYA for all purposes.

I, Jobanpreet Singh S/o Baljit Singh Singh VPO Basrai (Gurdaspur) have changed my name Jobanpreet Singh to Singh Jobanpreet. Concerned note.

I Susan w/o Rohit Hans R/o Chunia farm, Sandholi, Pehowa, Kurukshetra, Haryana Have Changed My Name From SUSAN TO SUSAN HANS

I, Munesh Kumari, W/o Vikas Kasana R/o 699, Near Vikas School, Dhand, Kaithal, have changed my name from Munesh Kumar to Munesh Kumari.

I, Arjun Kasana, S/O Vikas Kasana R/o 699, Near Vikas School, Dhand, Kaithal, have changed my name from Arjun to Arjun Kasana.

I, Jarnail Singh S/o Bhal Singh Multani R/o Thanesar, Haryana have changed my given name Jarnail Singh Surname Multani

I, Harish Kumar S/o Rajbir Singh Vill.Gorkha, Shanti Nagar, Kurukshera have changed my given name Harish Surname Kumar

I, ShivaKumar S/o Madu Ram Vill.Sandholi, Kurukshetra have changed my name Shiv Kumar.

I, hitherto known as Simran Kaur Bedi wife of Jagjit Singh Bedi residing at House No.1, Krishan Kot Niwi Abadi, Near Dr. Malik, Islamabad, District Amritsar Punjab-143002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Komal

I, hitherto known as Renu Devi wife of Mitlesh Paswan residing at House No 068, Street No 04, Block C, Bhai Himmat Singh Nagar, Basant Avenue, PO Basant Avenue, District Ludhiana Punjab-141013 have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Renu

It is for general information that I, Aayushi D/o Devender Singh R/o 2579, New HBC, Phase-2, Sector 15, Tehsil & District. Sonipat, Haryana-131001 declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as Devender Kadiyan & Devender Kadyan in my class 10th & 12th Educational Documents. The actual name of my father is Devender Singh which may be amended accordingly.

I, Amritpal Singh Son Of Jagtar Singh Gill Resident Of House No. 40, Sant Vihar Colony, G.T. Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Amritpal Singh To Amritpal Singh Gill Concerned May Please Be Noted

I, Ajaaldeep Singh S/o Surjit Singh R/o House No 14, Guru Arjun Dev Nagar, Putlighar Amritsar have declare that Ajaaldeep is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

I, Judgepal Singh S/o Nirmal Singh R/o Village Dadupura, Tehsil Majitha District Amritsar have changed my name from judgepal Singh to Jaipal Singh

I, Sharanjit Kaur W/o Sarabjit Singh R/o Village Nangal Pannuan, Tehsil Majitha District Amritsar have changed my name from Sharanjit Kaur to Saranjit Kaur

I, Kawaljit Kour spouse of No 13636895Y Hav Manpriti Singh R/o VPO Chahal Kalan, Tehsil Batala, District Gurdaspur-143505 have changed my name from Kawaljit Kour to Kawaljit Kaur and Date of birth from 08.10.1986 to 08.12.1986 Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB8557700223246Y Dt.07.08.2026 before notary public Amritsar

I, Pawan Khanna S/o Hari Om Khanna R/o H.No 458/12 Gali Nain Sukh, Near Gulati Hospital, Inside Hathhi Gate Katra Parja, Amritsar have changed my name from Pawan Khanna to Pawan Kumar Khanna

I, Ashok Mahajan Son Of Dhani Ram Mahajan. Resident Of A-696, Near Temple, New Amritsar Declare That Ashok Mahajan And Ashok Gupta Is One And Same Person

I, Amritpal Singh Jhand S/o Mitter Singh R/o VPO. Taragarh Distt Amritsar have changed my name from Amritpal Singh Jhand to Amritpal Singh

I, Patil Snehal spouse of 15494052M Dfr Patil Govind Bhaskar R/o Dudhhalgaon Sarve No 86/2, Dehu, Dist Pune, Maharashtra-412109 have changed my name from Patil Snehal to Patil Snehal Govind Vide affidavit No.IN-PB77804924515345Y Dt.05.08.2026 before notary public Amritsar

I, Satveer Kour mother of No 15507717Y Dfr Suckwant Singh R/o Gram Post Gaindikhata, Haridwar, Uttarakhand-246763 have changed my name from Satveer Kour to Satveer Kaur Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB77393158170755Y Dt.05.08.2026 before notary public Amritsar

I, No.15697724H NK Devanand Chauhan Unit South Air Comd Air Fmn Sig Coy C/o 56 APO resident of Dhadhachwar, Koiriyapar, Distt. Mau, State-Uttar Pradesh - 275306 declare That I have changed my minor daughter name from Sneha to Kumari Sneha as per her Aadhaar Card, vide Affidavit No. IN-PB78472740782551Y dated 07.08.2026 before the court of Bathinda.

Continuity Pg. No. 06

Modi-Sukhbir meeting revives SAD-BJP alliance buzz ahead of 2027 Punjab polls

MONIKA MALIK ■ Chandigarh

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday has once again set off speculation over a possible revival of the SAD-BJP alliance in Punjab, despite both parties repeatedly maintaining that they will contest the 2027 Assembly elections independently.

Sukhbir, who reached Delhi in the morning, met Modi for around 10 minutes in what SAD sources described as an informal and cordial interaction. Neither side disclosed the agenda. However, party sources indicated that issues concerning Punjab, including the law-and-order situation, drug menace, governance challenges, and alleged corruption in welfare schemes under the AAP government, figured in the discussions.

The meeting assumes significance with the Assembly elections only months away and both parties seeking to consolidate their respective political space. Sukhbir had also met Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini a few days earlier in Chandigarh, adding to the political interest

surrounding his Delhi visit.

The SAD and BJP were allies for more than two decades, with their 23-year-old alliance ending in September 2020 over differences on the now-repealed farm laws. The two parties subsequently fought the 2022 Assembly and 2024 Lok Sabha elections separately, with both reduced to single-digit tallies in the 2022 Assembly polls.

Yet, Friday's meeting has revived questions about whether the two parties could eventually return to an arrangement that once dominated Punjab politics. During his June Punjab visit, BJP national president Nitin Nabin had declared that the party would contest all 117 Assembly seats on its own, while Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillion had taken a similar position. Sukhbir too has repeatedly said that the SAD is preparing to contest all 117 seats independently.

The latest meeting, therefore, does not amount to any formal change in their stated positions. But periodic interactions between senior leaders, coupled with the changing political landscape, have kept the possibility of a rapprochement alive.

The BJP-SAD alliance had formed governments in Punjab in 1997-2002, 2007-12 and 2012-17. The partnership was particularly successful

because of complementary vote bases — SAD's strength in the rural and panthik belt and the BJP's support among urban Hindu voters. Under the traditional seat-sharing formula, the SAD contested 94 seats and the BJP 23 in the elections for the 117-member House.

The alliance scripted history in 2012 by winning 68 seats and returning to power for a second consecutive term — something no Punjab party or alliance had achieved earlier. After the split, the division of their traditional support base weakened the conventional political contest and helped AAP emerge from a third-force position to sweep the 2022 elections. The split also altered the Congress' anti-Akali vote arithmetic.

OPPOSITION WASTES NO TIME IN TAKING AIM

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal was among the first to react, posting on X: "Na na karte pyaar tumhi se kar baithe" He followed it with a jibe asking whether an alliance between the "Chanda Chor Party" and "Beadbi Party" was finally taking shape.

Sukhbir hit back, accusing the AAP of failing on its 2022 promise to curb illegal mining and citing a National Green Tribunal order as evidence that its guarantees had failed.

Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Partap Singh Bajwa said that he had

expected the two parties to come together again, but claimed the combination would make little difference, describing them as "two big zeros" and saying they would remain politically weakened.

Within the SAD, senior leader Maheshinder Singh Grewal cautioned against drawing conclusions from the meeting, saying its details had not been shared. He, however, said issues concerning Punjab and what he described as the AAP government's "misrule" would naturally have figured in the discussion.

The political backdrop also remains fluid. The BJP is dealing with differences among some senior Punjab leaders, while the SAD faces organisational challenges and factionalism following the emergence of rival formations. Akali Dal Waris Punjab De, associated with jailed MP Amrpal Singh and now being steered by rebel SAD MLA Manpreet Singh Ayali, is also seeking to expand its rural footprint.

If the BJP and SAD eventually reunite, their combined organisational and traditional vote bases could make the 2027 contest considerably tougher for both the AAP and Congress. For now, however, the alliance remains speculation — the Modi-Sukhbir meeting has merely given the possibility fresh political oxygen.

Punjab Employees' DA Protest Ends After CM Meeting Fixed For Aug 27

PNS ■ Chandigarh

A massive mobilisation of Punjab Government employees over 18 percent pending Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears ended on Friday after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's office agreed to hold a meeting with a 10-member delegation on August 27. The assurance came after thousands of employees, teachers, and pensioners converged on Chandigarh, took mass leave, attempted to march towards the Punjab Assembly, and clashed with the city police, prompting the use of water cannons.

The meeting with Mann has been scheduled for August 27 at noon at Sector 3 Punjab Bhawan, with the government asking the unions to bring no more than 10 representatives. The

breakthrough came around 4.30 pm when the Chief Minister's OSD, Navraj Brar, reached the protesters and assured them of the meeting.

The employees then announced withdrawal of the protest and returned. The agitation had threatened to continue in Chandigarh until their demands were addressed.

The DA issue affects nearly eight lakh employees and pensioners, ranging from Class-IV employees to IAS and IPS officers. Employee organisations estimate that clearing the arrears could translate into an average salary increase of around Rs 15,000.

WATER CANNONS, CONFRONTATION AS EMPLOYEES MARCH TOWARDS ASSEMBLY

Thousands of employees from more than 50 departments, including Civil

Secretariat staff, teachers, transport, revenue, and other cadres, gathered at Sector 39 before attempting to move towards the Assembly during the ongoing monsoon session.

Police stopped them with barricades as they tried to proceed from the Mohali side. When protesters attempted to cross and climb the barricades, police used water cannons. The confrontation also led to pushing and shoving between employees and Chandigarh Police personnel.

The mobilisation disrupted traffic across several Chandigarh sectors and affected government functioning throughout Punjab. Several Deputy Commissioner offices and mini-secretariats wore a deserted look, while government schools, colleges and universities

were also affected. Teachers had informed students a day earlier not to attend school.

Employees arrived from across the state, with buses leaving districts such as Fazilka, Pathankot, and Mansa as early as 2 am. Unions claimed three to five buses were expected from each of Punjab's 23 districts, besides private vehicles. Many employees were accompanied by families, while pensioners also backed the agitation.

Employees say that the AAP Government, which came to power in March 2022, has released only one four percent DA instalment for July-December 2022, paid in December 2023 after a month-long statewide strike. No further instalment has been released since January 2023, taking the pending DA to 18 percent as of January 1, 2026.

1,500 Punjabi Students Caught in Canada Work-Permit Crisis; Punjab Takes Up Their Fight

MONIKA MALIK ■ Chandigarh

For nearly 1,500 Punjabi students who went to Canada in 2024 after families spent close to Rs 20 lakh each on their education and future, the Canadian dream has suddenly turned into a fight for the right to work after graduation. With their post-study work permit applications being refused or cancelled, the Punjab Government has now stepped in, seeking the Centre's diplomatic intervention and preparing to provide common legal assistance to the affected students.

have written to External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar seeking an early appointment... we have also urged the Centre to raise the issue with Canada through diplomatic channels," Dr Ravjot informed the House.

Dr Ravjot said that Punjab was also prepared to explore common legal representation by immigration experts for the students, many of whom have already approached the Federal Court of Canada. The move could reduce the financial burden on students forced to fight individual legal battles, he added.

justice. We are referring to the rules that were in force in May 2024," he said, maintaining that the students had selected their courses because they were eligible for work permits under the regulations then in force.

"Regulations may have changed later, but at the time they enrolled, they were eligible for work permits. That is the basis of our demand," he said.

Canadian MPs of Punjabi origin to rise above political affiliations and collectively take up the issue with the Canadian Government.

For the affected families, the issue now goes beyond a work permit: it is about protecting years of education, substantial family savings, and the future their children travelled thousands of kilometres to build.

The affected students, including those enrolled in business management diploma programmes through Portage College and the Canadian Institute of Osteopathic Therapy in Calgary, have alleged that non-credit programmes were subsequently treated as ineligible for PGWPs. They have also questioned why some students from the same institution received permits while others did not. Canadian immigration authorities, however, have maintained that there was no change in the relevant rule.

Haryana Targets 1.40 Crore Saplings Under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign: CM Saini

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday said the state has set a target of planting 1.40 crore saplings under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, urging every citizen to actively participate in the movement for environmental conservation.

Describing environmental protection as a collective responsibility, he said conserving nature is not merely a government programme but a moral duty of every citizen. He appealed to every family in Haryana to plant at least one tree in the name of their mother and take responsibility for nurturing it until it grows into a healthy tree. He was addressing the inaugural session of the second phase of the 77th State-Level Van Mahotsav organised at Manesar in Gurugram.

During the programme,



Saini visited an exhibition set up at the venue and participated in a plantation

drive. He also administered a pledge to the gathering to plant a tree under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and motivate others to do the same. On the occasion, he released the Forest Department's publication 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' and the latest edition of 'Haryana Forest News'. He also felicitated winners from Gurugram district who excelled in essay writing, painting and various other competitions organised on the theme 'Harit Haryana', encouraging their contribution towards environmental awareness.

Referring to the Aravali mountain range, he aid that if the Aravalis could speak, they would ask what future generations intend to leave behind in return for the clean air, water conservation and rich biodiversity they have provided for thousands of years. He said Van Mahotsav offers an opportunity to answer that question. It is not merely a plantation drive, but a

campaign to repay our debt to nature and make environmental conservation a people's movement rooted in social values, he said.

Highlighting the state's green initiatives, the Chief Minister said that 75 Namo Parks have already been developed across Haryana. In addition, Oxy Vans are being established at every district headquarters over an area ranging from 5 to 100 acres, equipped with walking tracks, cycling tracks and other modern public amenities. The Oxy Van at Karnal has already been completed, while construction is underway in Panchkula. Besides this, Nagar Vans have been developed at Murthal in Sonipat and Sadhaura in Yamunanagar. A statewide plantation campaign under the name 'Panchvati' is also being implemented in every village, while the development of Panchvati Vatikas has begun at 134 pilgrimage sites across the 48-Kos Kurukshetra region.

‘Hamare Ram’ Theatrical Performances Begin From Mohali; Punjab Govt to Organise 41 Shows: CM Mann



PNS ■ MOHALI

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday joined the audience to witness the inaugural performance of the acclaimed theatrical production 'Hamare Ram' in Mohali, featuring renowned actor Ashutosh Rana in a powerful lead performance, marking the beginning of a statewide cultural initiative under which the Punjab Government will organise 41 free performances across 12 cities during August and September.

Describing the initiative as an effort to take the timeless teachings of Lord Sri Ram to the people, the Chief Minister said the programme aims to strengthen the values of Sanatan Dharma while spreading the message of truth, righteousness, compassion and unity through the powerful medium of theatre. He said

the performances have been made free of cost so that people from all sections of society can experience and draw inspiration from the life and ideals of Lord Sri Ram.

Addressing a packed auditorium during the inaugural performance, Mann said, "The Punjab Government is organising 41 performances of the acclaimed production across 12 cities of the state during August and September to promote the rich cultural heritage and traditional values of Punjab."

He said these performances will be held across 12 cities of Punjab, namely Mohali, Bathinda, Jalandhar, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Amritsar, Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Patiala, Ludhiana, Sangrur and Khanna. Through this initiative, the state government aims to promote the rich cultural heritage and traditional values of Punjab.

“Hello, Uncle Amarinder!”: Rahul's ‘favourite BJP leader’ remark revives buzz over Captain's return to Congress

MONIKA MALIK ■ Chandigarh

“Hello, Uncle Amarinder!” — Rahul Gandhi's light-hearted sign-off to Punjab veteran politician and former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has triggered a distinctly serious political conversation in Punjab: Could the Patiala Royal, once one of Congress's most powerful faces, find his way back into the party ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections?

however, moved quickly to separate personal equations from political allegiance. Responding to Rahul's praise, he said he had no resentment towards Rahul Gandhi and maintained cordial relations with the Gandhi family, including Sonia Gandhi and her children.

“If they have called me a cool uncle, I thank them,” Capt Amarinder said, while making his political position clear: “My politics is in the BJP. I will not go back to the Congress.”

He added that politics and personal relationships were different, saying that he would always be available if Sonia Gandhi needed him personally. He also recalled that Rahul had wished him on his birthday and contacted him after the death of his cousin, Raja Randhir Singh. Capt Amarinder pointedly noted that no senior BJP leader had offered similar condolences.

Yet his comments have not entirely shut down the speculation. Only recently, Capt Amarinder had said that Congress still felt like a family and that he missed the access and personal warmth he had enjoyed with its high command.

The possibility of Capt Amarinder's return has already found support within Congress. Rana Gurjit Singh, considered close to former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, said that Capt Amarinder would be

welcomed if he returned. Pargat Singh also underlined his credentials, noting that he had served as Punjab Chief Minister twice and brought considerable experience.

The political attraction is obvious. Capt Amarinder led Congress to 62 of Punjab's 117 Assembly seats in 2002 and 77 seats in 2017. In 2014, he defeated BJP heavyweight Arun Jaitley in Amritsar by more than one lakh votes, despite the prevailing Modi wave.

His exit in 2021 and subsequent move to the BJP in 2022 coincided with a sharp organisational decline in Punjab Congress. The party managed only 18 seats in the 2022 Assembly polls, as AAP swept the state with 92.

Since then, factionalism has deepened, with competing camps around state unit chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Channi and other leaders. Capt Amarinder's departure also weakened Congress's traditional grassroots network and its appeal among sections of Jat Sikh and Hindu voters.

For now, Capt Amarinder's answer is unequivocal: BJP remains his party. But Rahul's “Hello, Uncle Amarinder!” has ensured that the question of whether the Captain could once again sail into Congress waters will remain alive in Punjab politics.

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana has launched extensive statewide preparations for one of its largest patriotic public outreach initiatives, with Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi directing all Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners, Heads of Departments and Vice Chancellors to ensure seamless coordination for the successful organisation of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026, marking 150 years of Vande Mataram, and the observance of Partition Horror Remembrance Day. The statewide patriotic campaign and related programmes will be

organised from August 9 to 17. Chairing a review meeting on Friday, the Chief Secretary reviewed district-wise preparedness and stressed that the programmes should become a people's movement that inspires patriotism, strengthens national unity and encourages citizens—particularly the youth—to connect with the nation's history and democratic values. He said the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026 will begin with its State-level launch at Narnaul in Mahendragarh district on August 9, where Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will preside over the function.

Deputy Commissioners

and Vice Chancellors from all districts participated in the meeting through video conference, while Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments attended in person. Rastogi directed all district administrations to ensure maximum public participation through schools, colleges, universities, Resident Welfare Associations, youth clubs, civil society organisations, self-help groups and local communities. He said every department must work in close coordination to ensure that every programme is organised in a dignified, disciplined and citizen-centric manner.

Illegal Mining Row Rocks Punjab Assembly Again

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Punjab's illegal mining controversy flared up again in the Vidhan Sabha on Friday, with the Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa launching a sharp attack on the AAP Government during Zero Hour. It was the second straight day that the Opposition targeted the ruling party over the issue. The flashpoint came when Bajwa referred to media reports, an NGT direction, ED action, and a pending PIL in the Punjab and Haryana High Court to accuse the government of looking away while illegal mining continued in sensitive areas, especially Pathankot and along the Ravi belt.

Bajwa said the Irrigation Minister had assured the House just a day earlier that there was no illegal mining anywhere in Punjab. “But today the NGT observation has come up,” he said, adding that reports were being

delayed for months without meaningful action. He also urged the government to allow a House Committee to visit affected areas after the session so that “the truth comes out.”

Raising the Pathankot case from 2023, Bajwa alleged that an officer was first posted as BDPO, then promoted to DDPO and later made ADC (Development), after which “around 12 acres of mineral-rich government land was transferred at throwaway rates”. He said he had written to the Governor on August 11, 2023, but no concrete action followed.

As Bajwa pressed his point, Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan intervened, saying he had already spoken for more than the allotted time. Congress MLAs, unhappy over the interruption, rushed to the well of the House and raised slogans against the Speaker. After a brief protest, they returned to their seats when Sandhwan assured Bajwa additional time.

In the extended time, Bajwa cited the ED's action in the case, saying raids were conducted at 16 premises, two close associates of the minister were arrested and crores of rupees were recovered. He further said the agency's investigation had flagged illegal mining, purchase, sale and transportation of sand and riverbed material without valid permission, besides non-payment of taxes and royalty. Bajwa also named Shri Sai Stone Crusher and Shiv Shankar Stone Crusher, saying that some vehicles seen operating at night had no number plates. Bajwa added that the ED was probing their alleged links to illegal mining activities.

He further pointed to a pending PIL and said the High Court had described illegal mining in Pathankot and Gurdaspur, especially near the Ravi, as a threat to national security. The Speaker, however, did not permit Bajwa to continue further.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Smt. Poonam Jha W/o Sh. Virender Kumar Jha S/o Late Sh. Indravel Jha wants to avail a loan from Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited against property i.e. House bearing M.C. Property No. 10, 10A/198B measuring 100 Square Yards i.e. 2 Blosa which is 1/97 share out of 9 Blosa 19 Blosa comprised in Khewat No. 1563, Khatoon No. 1927, Khata No. 804/206/56, 805/210/58, Kite 2 situated in the revenue estate of Patti Isari, Panipat, Tehsil & Distt. Panipat in sub-division of Sidharth Nagar, Panipat which is within limit of M.C. Panipat (68). The current owner of the above said property is Smt. Poonam Jha W/o Sh. Virender Kumar Jha S/o Late Sh. Indravel Jha and it is informed that original documents i.e. 1. Original Sale Deed Vaska No. 8955 dated 22/03/2000 with regard to the above said property which was in the custody of current owner is missing somewhere.
If any person/Entity/OSA/Financial Institution/Bank/ Govt. department may have obtained or have issued any loan/Stay Order/Court Case against this property as well as document or have any objection of any kind regarding the above said property or documents, in that case they/he can file an objection within 10 days (Ten Days) from the date of the present Publication to below mentioned person and after 10 days no claim shall be entertained and it would be assumed that the property is free from encumbrances:-
Ajay Kumar Sharma, Advocate Off- Chamber No. 22, Lawyer's Chamber Building Judicial Complex, Samralha, Distt. Panipat - 132011 Cont. No. 989585337 / 93190427

नामना प्रारूप
सर्व साधरण को सुचित किया जाता है कि श्रीमती परमदीप कौर विधवा श्री जोगिन्दर सिंह पुत्र श्री मन्दर सिंह पुत्र श्री मंगू सिंह निवासी 102, बार्ड न 11 नन्द कॉलोनी नंबर 1 गिहोवा, तहसील गिहोवा, जिला कुरुक्षेत्र मूल श्रीमति गुलाब कौर पुत्री श्री जोगिन्दर सिंह के कानूनी वारिस की रिपोर्ट जारी करने हेतु एक प्रार्थना पत्र इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त हुआ है श्रीमति गुलाब कौर की मृत्यु दिनांक 26.11.2020 को हुई है। प्रार्थी के प्राधान्य पत्र एक कार्यालय में प्राप्त हुआ है प्रार्थी के प्राधान्य पत्र व सत्यम हूकस गोपरी व रिपोर्ट नगरपालिका, नम्बरवार के अनुसार मूलक मामला के निम्नलिखित कानूनी वारिस है। 1.श्रीमति परमदीप कौर विधवा 2. कुरुक्षेत्री कौर पुत्री यदि इस बारे किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह तहसीलदार गिहोवा के कार्यालय में पब्लिकेशन के 30 दिन के अन्दर अन्दर आपत्ति दर्ज करना सकता है यदि प्रार्थी द्वारा दी गई सूचना किसी भी सत्य नकाराई जाती है तो प्रार्थी भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की धारा 212 व अन्य सम्बन्धित कानूनों के तहत दण्ड का भारी होगा।

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
Ms. Manpreet Kaur
Additional
Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Sangrur
GURINDER SINGH
Vs.
GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR No. PBSG02-001150-2026
Next Date:-25-09-2026
PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:
GENERAL PUBLIC:-
A
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 25-09-2026 at 10:00 a.m.
For details login to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=Sangrur
Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division)
Sangrur
Dated, this day of 07-08-2026

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
(SUCCESSION CASE)
IN THE COURT OF
Ms. Ramneet Kaur
Civil Judge (Senior Division), Malerkotla
1. Adnan Ali Khan s/o Sarshar Ali Khan, 99 Bank Colony, Shamshad House, Shamshad Ali Khan Marg, Patiala now r/o Sheikh Mali Road, Malerkotla.
2. Atika Khan d/o Sarshar Ali Khan now w/o Jamal Yusuf, 7/403 East End Apartment, Mayur Vihar Phase 1 Extn, Vasundhra Enclave, East Delhi.
Vs.
General Public
CNR No. PBSGCO-001089-2026
SUCC/15/2026
Next Date:-29-08-2026
NOTICE TO:
General Public
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 29-08-2026 at 10 a.m.
For details login to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=Sangrur
Civil Judge (Senior Division)
Malerkotla
Dated, this day of 06-08-2026

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT
ADMISSION NOTICE
POST BASIC NURSING COURSES, SESSION 2026
Online application forms are invited for from the candidates who have not appeared in PPBNET-2026 for the vacant seats in all the Government/Private colleges affiliated with the University. Online application portal shall be opened from 11-08-2026 to 16-08-2026. Candidates are advised to visit University website i.e. www.bfuhis.ac.in in regularly for counselling schedule and all other important instructions regarding admissions.
REGISTRAR
3108/12/2026-27/14020 Dated CHD :- 07/08/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
SHIFTING OF MAIN BAZAR BRANCH OF HINDU CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. PATHANKOT
This is to inform all our valued customers and the general public that the Main Bazar Branch of Hindu Co-operative Bank Ltd. will be shifted to its new premises at the following address with effect from 09.09.2026.
New Branch Address:- Hindu Co-operative Bank Ltd. Pathankot Main Bazar Branch, Shahpur Chowk, Madhopur Road, Pathankot, Punjab
The branch will commence operations from the new premises on **09 September 2026**. All banking services will continue to be available without interruption at the new location.
Customers are requested to visit the new branch for all their banking requirements from the above mention date.
For any assistance, please contact the Branch Manager.
By order
Chief Executive Officer

ICICI Bank | Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra - 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh, Delhi, PIN. 110005.
Notice for Disclosure of Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Home Loan No. TBJAL00006266673 / TBJAL00006266674. (Credit facility) was granted to RAJESH CHANDER SHARMA / ANITA SHARMA along with the deceased SIDHARTH SHARMA by ICICI Bank Ltd.
We would like to inform you that the demise of SIDHARTH SHARMA has come to our knowledge during field visits conducted by the Bank officials and by telephonic communications on the registered contact numbers. In this regard, letter dated August 06, 2026 was previously sent to the registered addresses of the Borrowers and the deceased SIDHARTH SHARMA for providing information about the Legal Heirs of the deceased Borrower.
Therefore, this Notice is hereby given for sharing details of the Legal Heirs of the deceased SIDHARTH SHARMA with supporting documents for updating the Bank's records, within 15 days of publication of this Notice.
You may submit the above-mentioned details to HARDEEP SINGH by visiting ICICI BANK LTD 1ST FLOOR RK COMPLEX BASTI ADDA ROAD JALANDHAR, PUNJAB - 144001
Date : August 08, 2026
Place : Jalandhar
SD Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

THE BUDHEWAL COOP. SUGAR MILLS LTD., V.&P.O.BUDHEWAL,(LUDHIANA)
E-TENDER AND TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders and Sealed tenders are invited for purchasing machinery parts, other material & conducting contractual jobs from parties duly approved by the National Federation/N.C.D.C., New Delhi/Sugarfed, Punjab, Chandigarh/Manufacturers/ Authorized Distributors /Authorized Stockists/Contractors and reputed firms.
E-TENDER: Supply items and Sugar Bag Handling Season 2026-27
A) Supply items
B) Contract jobs
Detailed E-Tender Forms can be downloaded from Punjab Government website:<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and sealed tenders can be downloaded from Mills website: www.budhewalsugar.com or can be obtained from Mills office on any working day.
The last date of receipt of e-tenders and sealed tenders are as following:

Particulars	Last Date of e-Tender/Sealed Tenders Receipt Time & Date	e-tender/Sealed Tender Opening Time & Date
E-TENDER	28.08.2026, 10:00 A.M.	28.08.2026, 11:00 A.M.
A&B (Sealed Tenders)	28.08.2026, 10:00 A.M.	28.08.2026, 11:00 A.M.

If any corrigendum/amendment/correction will be uploaded on the above said website. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject e-tender without assigning any reason.
Mobile No.62848-07939
97804-14549, 98157-01137
Sd/
General Manager

STATE BANK OF INDIA | BRANCH OFFICE: KHUDI KALAN Br. Code (51146) Distt.Barnala
DEMAND NOTICE | Notice U/o 13 (2) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 here after called "act"
A notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers (Borrower) (Co-Borrower) have defaulted in the repayment of Principal and Interest of the Loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 were issued to Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) at their following addresses by registered/speed post, but they have been returned un-served & as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Details of the Immovable Assets	Date of NPA	Date of Demand Notice	Liability Outstanding
Sh. Kuldeep Singh s/o Sh. Hakam Singh (Borrower) (Deceased) Through his legal heirs: 1. Smt. Harjit Kaur w/o Kuldeep Singh Vill - Burj Fatehgarh, PO - Sehna, Distt. Barnala, Punjab	Equitable Mortgage of House constructed on plot comprised of 516.66 Sq. yds i.e 17 Marlas being 17/720 share of 36 Kanal bearing Khewat no.1045/951, Khatauni no.1555, Khasra no. 208/2/4-0,21/1/4-0, 216/1/16/2/4-0, 25/2/4-0, 216/1/16/1/3-6,25/1/4-0,15/2/2-13, 27/1/11-14,276/1/12-9, 275/5/2/2/4-7,215/20/10-2, 212/1-9 situated within revenue limit of village Handiaya- B, Distt Barnala (Punjab) as per jamabandi 2008-09, surrounded by East 62 ft. street, West 62' Agri land,North 75' Kewal Krishan, South 75 ft.Jaswinder Singh, registered vide wasika no 3682 dated 06/01/2016 in the name of Sh Kuldeep Singh s/o Sh. Hakam Singh	01.03.2018	21.08.2024	Rs. 23,34,063.00 as on 21.08.2024 together with future interest incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.
2. Sh. Vishwapreet Singh s/o Kuldeep Singh (M i n o r) Through his Natural Guardian Smt.Harjit Kaur w/o Kuldeep Singh Vill-Burj Fatehgarh, PO- Sehna, Distt - Barnala, Punjab, And 1. Sh. Mahinder Singh s/o Sh. Bachan Singh Patti Tutra, Village Shaina Distt. Barnala (Guarantor) (Deceased), Through its legal heirs :1.Smt. Amarjit Kaur W/o Mahinder Singh Patti Tutra, Village Shaina Distt. Barnala, 2. Sh. Gurpreet Singh S/o Sh. Mahinder Singh Patti Tutra, Village Shaina Distt. Barnala, 3. Sh. Didar Singh S/o Sh. Mahinder Singh Patti Tutra, Village Shaina Distt. Barnala, 4. Smt. Harwinder Kaur D/o Sh. Mahinder Singh (Now Wife of Sh. Harbans Singh) VPO Ralla, Tehsil Joga, Distt. Mansa.				

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice.The above Borrower(s) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub section (4) of section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.
DATE: 08.08.2026 **PLACE: KHUDI KALAN** **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

PANDIT DEEN DAYAL UPADHAYAYA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KUTAIL, KARNAL (HARYANA).
Advertisement for filling up the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor For Super-Specialty Hospital in Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya University of Health Sciences, Kutail, Karnal (Haryana).
Advt. No. DDUUHS/Rec./FIA-2/07/2026
Closing Date: 07.09.2026
Applications are invited for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor (on regular basis) in various Super-Specialty Departments of 750 bedded Super-Specialty Hospital in Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya University of Health Sciences, Kutail, Karnal (Haryana) details of posts given as under:-

Name of Department	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
Cardiology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Cardio-Thoracic Vascular Surgery	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Gastroenterology including Hepatology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Urology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Neurology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Neuro-Surgery	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Medical Oncology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Surgical Oncology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Radiotherapy	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Gastro-Intestinal Surgery	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Nephrology including Hemodialysis Unit	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Pulmonary Medicine & Critical Care	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Endocrinology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Plastic Surgery and Burn Unit	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Pediatrics Surgery	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Clinical Hematology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Rheumatology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Palliative Care	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
Organ Transplant Unit	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)

The last date for submission of applications form is 07.09.2026 till 05:00 PM. For detail information, please visit official website www.uhskarnal.ac.in and www.kcgmc.edu.in.
Registralr.
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya University of Health Sciences, Kutail, Karnal.
Date:- 2284/11/6/2027/48001C/IT/2/4

Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Online bids on items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Rajgarh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr. No	Description	E/ Cost	E/Money	Time	Cost of Form
1	RRD to GWSS Chamroga and Kot Dhanger under GP Kothia Jajar in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH: - Providing, Laying, Jointing & Testing of GI pipe in Main line and distribution system in GWSS Chamroga and Kot Dhanger in GP Kothiya Jajar).	1155918/-	23120/-	3 Months	350/-
2	Restoration of Rain Damage under PDNA Damaged Scheme Sr. No. 363 GWSS Rajgarh (8050 dated 07 -13-2023) at location 30' 50" 49" N, 77' 25"16" E under Jal Shakti Sub Division Rajgarh in Tehsil Rajgarh in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH: - Providing Laying and Jointing GMS pipe in gravity main)	4500000/-	90000/-	6 Months	2000/-
3	Restoration of Rain Damage under PDNA Damaged Schemes Sr. No. 8073 GWSS Kuria Kadang 07 -23-2023 at location 3 0' 49' 16" N 77 20'55" under Jal Shakti Sub Division Rajgarh in Tehsil Rajgarh (SH: - Providing, Laying, jointing and Testing of GI pipes in main line and distribution system of GWSS Kuria Kadang)	600000/-	12000/-	6 Months	350/-
4	Restoration of Rain Damage s under PDNA Damaged Schemes Sr. No. 8120 GWSS Kotla Mangang 07 -18-2023 at location 30' 45'07" N, 77'19'59" E under Jal Shakti Sub Division Rajgarh in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (sH: - Providing, Laying Jointing and Testing of GI pipes in main line and di stribution system of GWSS Kotla Mangang)	599888/-	12000/-	3 Months	350/-
5	Restoration of Rain Damage under PDNA Damaged Scheme Sr. No. 362 GWSS Rajgarh (8045 dated 07/16/2023) at location 30'51'13" N, 77' 25'13" E under Jal Shakti Sub Division Rajgarh in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH: - Providing Laying and Jointing GMS pipe in Gravity Main)	2989811/-	60000/-	3 Months	350/-
6	PDNA GWSS Rajgarh under Jal Shakti Sub Division Rajgarh (SH: - Jacketing of 1 No. Tank having capacity 200000 ltrs at GWSS Rajgarh (PDNA sr. No. 7612)	694413/-	13900/-	2 Months	350/-

1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://hptenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.
1. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable venders or from any authorized agency at the earliest.
2. Key dates will be as under:-

1	Date of Online publication	05-08-2026 AT 5:00 PM
2	Downloading of e -tender Documents	From 05-08-2026 at 5:00 PM up to 1:00 PM on 14 -08-2026
3	Date of submission of e -tendering	From 05-08-2026 at 5:00 PM up to 1:00 PM on 14 -08-2026
4	Physical submissio n of earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents	Up-to 1:00 PM on 14 -08-2026
5	Date of opening of Cover -1 (Eligibility criteria) and Cover-2 (Technical bid)	14-08-2026 at 1:30 PM
6	Date of Opening of Financial Bids Cover -2	Shall be intimated separ ately.

The Terms and Conditions may be read online in E-Procurement site.
HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAPARK
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division, Rajgarh
RO NO. 2512/2025-2026 Dated: 07-08-2026

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ **punjab national bank**
...भरसे का प्रतीक...
BRANCH: SADAR BAZAR, AMBALA CANTT
POSSESSION NOTICE
[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
Whereas
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Punjab National Bank, Sadar Bazar, Ambala Cantt under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 15/05/2026 Calling upon the Borrowers: **Sh. Sukhdev Singh S/o Naseeb Singh & Sh. Jagmal Singh S/o Naseeb Singh** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.11,99,747.79 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Seven and Paise Seventy Nine Only) as on 30/04/2026** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice with future interest and incidental charges w.e.f. 01/05/2026.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower / Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on **03.08.2026**
The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank, Sadar Bazar, Ambala Cantt for an amount of **Rs. 11,99,747.79 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Seven and Paise Seventy Nine Only) as on 30/04/2026** plus interest and incidental expenses incurred by bank w.e.f 01/05/2026.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the immovable property: -		
EM of House comprised in Khata No 209/236 min, Khasra No 7/121 (5-7), 14/1/11 (3-16), situated at Village Rawlan, H.B. No 65, Sub Tehsil Ambala Cantt&Distt Ambala as per Transfer Deed No 652/1 dated 31.05.2017 registered with the office of Sub Registrar Ambala	Land measuring 4 Kanal 11.50Marla i.e. ½ share in land measuring 9 Kanal 11.50Marla	Sh. Sukhdev Singh S/o Sh. Nasib Singh
EM of House comprised in Khata No 209/236 min, Khasra No 7/121 (5-7), 14/1/11 (3-16), situated at Village Rawlan, H.B. No 65, Sub Tehsil Ambala Cantt&Distt Ambala as per Transfer Deed No 651/1 dated 31.05.2017 registered with the office of Sub Registrar Ambala	Land measuring 4 Kanal 11.50Marla i.e. ½ share in land measuring 9 Kanal 11.50Marla	Sh. Sukhdev Singh S/o Sh. Nasib Singh

DATE: 03.08.2026
PLACE: Ambala
Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005
The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Sukhdev / Krishana / 20262 Khasra No. 37/10-14, Kito 1 Ko 1/4 Bagh Bakdrol 0 Kanol 3.5 Marla, Village Rajound, Assandh Kaithal Road, Uptehsil Rajound, Distt. Kaithal, Haryana - 136044, 05 Aug, 2026	Property Situated At Khewat No 1215 Khatoni No- 20262 Khasra No. 37/10-14, Kito 1 Ko 1/4 Bagh Bakdrol 0 Kanol 3.5 Marla, Village Rajound, Assandh Kaithal Road, Uptehsil Rajound, Distt. Kaithal, Haryana - 136044, 05 Aug, 2026	September 29, 2025 Rs. 41,92,847.99/-	Kaithal (Haryana)

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: August 08, 2026
Place: Kaithal (Haryana)
Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

STATE BANK OF INDIA | Home Loan Centre BSNL Building, KC Road Barnala
Possession Notice [Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the State BANK of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice to borrower(s) guarantor(s), on the date mentioned hereunder, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower (s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section(4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against below accounts.
The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre Barnala for an amount of being less amount of recovery made, if any other charges/expenses, costs, thereon.
The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding
1. Sh. Harvinder Singh o Harvinder Singh S/o Sh Gian Singh , Sukhpura Road , V. Khuddi Kalan, Distt. Barnala (Borrower)	House built on land measuring 25 Marla Detailed as under: * Land measuring 18 Marla Khatta No 338/ 562, 201/1344 share in Khata No 172/15/5-7 and 173/11/10/13 Marla Vakkia Rakba Khuddi Kalan in the name of Sh Harvinder Singh S/o Sh Gian Singh vide Title Deed No 2744 dated 10.08.1999 and bounded as East: Self, West: Joginder Singh Panch, North: Tobha, South: Road And * Land measuring 7 Marla Khatta No 7/120 share of 6 Kanal Khata No 172/15/5-7 and 173/11/10-13 Marla Vakkia Rakba Khuddi Kalan in the name of Sh Harvinder Singh S/o Sh Gian Singh vide Title Deed No 5497 dated 24.12.2001	08.04.2026 Published on 17.04.2026	06.08.2026	Rs. 9,35,911.99 as on 08.04.2026, less recovery if any, plus further interest, other charges and expenses thereon.

DATE: 08.08.2026 **Place: Barnala** **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005
The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Zafar Iqbal / Nazibullah Ansari/ Firoz Ansari/ Anjum Ansari/ Roshan Ara / TBLUD00006680864	House Over Plot No. 148-149, Measuring 200 Sq. Yards, Comprised in 23/24- 37/3- 37/9, Khata No. 600/657- 609/666- 611/668, And Khasra No. 23/23- 24/24- 23/24- 25/1- 16- 37/14- 3- 2- 37/9- 11- 10, Khata No. 662/715, 665/718, 664/717, As Per Jamabandi Year 2011-2012, Situated At Jamalpur Awana, Hadbasot No. 177, Abadi Krishan Vihar Near Company Bagh, Tehsil And District Ludhiana, Punjab - 141001. Standing In The Name of Roshan Ara And Nazibullah Ansari Vide Sale Deed Wasika No. 10420, Dated 12/08/2016./ August 05, 2026	May 31, 2025 Rs. 23,73,277.00/-	Ludhiana
2.	Nazibullah Ansari/ Roshan Ara / Zafar Iqbal/ LBLUD00005585993 / LBLUD00005641008	House Over Plot No. 148-149, Measuring 200 Sq. Yards, Comprised in 23/24- 37/3- 37/9, Khata No. 600/657- 609/666- 611/668, And Khasra No. 23/23- 24/24- 23/24- 25/1- 16- 37/14- 3- 2- 37/9- 11- 10, Khata No. 662/715, 665/718, 664/717, As Per Jamabandi Year 2011-2012, Situated At Jamalpur Awana, Hadbasot No. 177, Abadi Krishan Vihar Near Company Bagh, Tehsil And District Ludhiana, Punjab - 141001. Standing In The Name Of Roshan Ara And Nazibullah Ansari Vide Sale Deed Wasika No. 10420, Dated 12/08/2016./ August 05, 2026	May 31, 2025 Rs. 31,60,557.00/-	Ludhiana

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: August 08, 2026
Place: Ludhiana
Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Kogta Financial (India) Limited DEMAND NOTICE
CIN No. U67120RJ1996PLC011406, Corporate Office: S-1 Gopalnari, Near Amer Pula, Opp. Metro Pillar No. 143, Jaipur- 302001, Rajasthan, India | Tel: +91 141 6767067, Registered Office: Kogta House, Azad Mohalla, Bijnagar - 305624, Rajasthan, India | Email: info@kogta.in | www.kogta.in
DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SEC 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002. The following borrowers & co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from Kogta Financial (India) Ltd. the loans of below mentioned borrowers & co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms & conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loans were classified as NPA's as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to Kogta Financial (India) Ltd. are mentioned in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be payable as applicable and the same will be charged with effect from their respective dates.

Name of Borrowers & Co-borrowers/ Mortgage	Outstanding as per 13(2)/Notice Date/ Loan Account No./ Date of NPA	Details of Secured as Assets
1. MR. RAMDASS SINGH (Applicant) S/O MR. BALWINDER SINGH, AMLOH, BHATTON, FATEHGARH SAHIB PUNJAB 147203 MOB- 7710622890	RS. 20,09,303/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Nine Thousand Three Hundred Thirty one) as on 21.07.2026/ Notice Date : 24.07.2026/ 0000201716/04-12-2024	SCHEDULE OF THE MORTGAGED IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY SITUATED AT VILLAGE MAANGARH (HADBAST NO. 25), TEHSIL AMLOH DISTT. FATEHGARH SAHIB, AREA MEASURING 0-2 BISWAS 19-1/2 BISWAS COMPRISED IN (KHEWAT NO. 68, KHATONI NO. 117 AS PER SALE DEED AND SAME IN JAMABANDI) KHEWAT NO. 68, KHATONI NO. 117, KHASRA NO. 714/230(0-16), 715/230 (0-13), 716/230 (1-5), 718/232 (0-1), 720/233 (0-16), 721/233 (2-15), 722/233 (2-3), 726/234 (3-19), ITEMS 8, TOTAL AREA

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, V Gowsalya legally spouse of No.15721146A NK Vasanthkumar P Unit South Air Comd Air Fmn Sig Coy C/o 56 APO resident of 59 A/1, North Radam Street, Kamayagoundanpatti, Uthamapalayam, Distt. Theni, State-Tamil Nadu - 625521 declare That I have changed my name from V Gowsalya to Gowsalya S as per my Aadhaar Card, vide Affidavit No. IN-PB77987482311365Y dated 06.08.2026 before the court of Bathinda.

I, Muthulakshmi P legally mother of No.15721146A NK Vasanthkumar P Unit South Air Comd Air Fmn Sig Coy C/o 56 APO resident of 3/3, Koorai Savadi Street, Kamayagoundandanpatti, Uthamapalayam, Distt. Theni, State-Tamil Nadu - 625521 declare That I have changed my name from Muthulakshmi P to Muthulakshmi and DOB from 04.06.1967 to 07.06.1965 as per my Aadhaar Card, vide Affidavit No. IN-PB77992565024516Y dated 06.08.2026 before the court of Bathinda.

I, M Paramasivam legally father of No.15721146A NK Vasanthkumar P Unit South Air Comd Air Fmn Sig Coy C/o 56 APO resident of 3/3, Koorai Savadi Street, Kamayagoundandanpatti, Uthamapalayam, Distt. Theni, State-Tamil Nadu - 625521 declare That I have changed my name from M Paramasivam to Paramasivam M and DOB from 26.02.1960 to 12.02.1960 as per my Aadhaar Card, vide Affidavit No. IN-PB78124766806983Y dated 06.08.2026 before the court of Bathinda.

I, No.4488737F Hav Khambhala Hasmukh Karshan Bhai resident of Village- Bhalgamda, Post- Sapkada, Tehsil- Halvad, District- Morbi, State- Gujarat, Pin- 363330, have changed my Son name from Khambhala Kuldip Hasmukh to Kuldip Hasmukh Bhai Khambhala Vide affidavit No.IN-PB77991902125566Y dated 06 Aug 2026 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.4488737F Hav Khambhala Hasmukh Karshan Bhai resident of Village- Bhalgamda, Post- Sapkada, Tehsil- Halvad, District- Morbi, State- Gujarat, Pin- 363330, have changed my Daughter name from Shital to Shital Hasmukh Bhai Khambhala Vide affidavit No.IN-PB77992662312327Y dated 06 Aug 2026 before notary public Pathankot

I, Sukhwinder Singh Father of No.2506418N NK Paramjit Singh resident of Village- Jatta, Post- Ramdas, Tehsil- Ajnala, District- Amritsar, State- Punjab, Pin- 143603, have changed my name & DOB from Surinder Singh to Sukhwinder Singh and date of birth from 02 April 1969 to 01 Jan 1969 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB78284435301726Y dated 07 Aug 2026 before notary public Amritsar (Punjab)

I, P MUNISWAMY Father of Krishna Moorthy M Permanent Address: House Number: 1/129, Village: Chigaralalpalli, Post Office: Gudisadhanapatti, Tehsil: Hosur, District: Krishnagiri, State: Tamil Nadu, Pin: 635105 declare that I Have changed my Name from P MUNISWAMY to MUNISWAMY PATTAPPA. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832177, Dated: 06/08/2026, Before District Court Panchkula, Haryana.

I, HARBHAJAN SINGH am Father of No: JC-341376P Rank: Sub Name: Pratap Singh Presently Posted at Unit: 57 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: 70, Vill: Nankaren, Post: Narkheda, Tehsil: Suar, Dist: Rampur, State: Uttar Pradesh, Pin-244924 declare that in my Son's Service record my name is by Mistakenly mentioned as HARBHAJAN SINGH but as Per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is BHAJAN SINGH. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832194, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, KACHARU SINGH am Father of Army No: 15201112H Rank: Hav Name: Rajput Vijaysing Kacharusing Presently Posted at Unit: 1852 FD Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Dheku Rod, VTC: Jategaon, Post: Jategaon, Tehsil: Nandgaon, Sub District: Nandanou, District: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin Code: 423106, declare that in my Son's Service record my name is by Mistakenly mentioned as KACHARU SINGH but as Per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is KACHARU TOTARAM PARDESHI. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832197, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, KACHARU TOTARAM PARDESHI am Father of Army No: 15201112H Rank: Hav Name: Rajput Vijaysing Kacharusing Presently Posted at Unit: 1852 FD Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Dheku Rod, VTC: Jategaon, Post: Jategaon, Tehsil: Nandgaon, Sub District: Nandanou, District: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin Code: 423106, declare that in my Son's Service record my Date of birth is by Mistakenly mentioned as 01/07/1953 but as Per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct Date of birth is 02/06/1952. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832198, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, Army No: 6497601L Rank: Nk Name: Jadeja Mahavir Sinh Hemubha Presently Posted At Unit: 795 Asc Bn C/o 56 Apo Permanent Address: Bhadresar, Bhadreshwar, Kachchh, Gujarat, 370410 declare that in my Service record my Daughter name is by Mistakenly mentioned as PRIYANKABA but as Per Civil/Govt. Documents my Daughter Correct name is PRIYANKABA MAHAVIRSINH JADEJA. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832189, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, Army No: 6497601L Rank: Nk Name: Jadeja Mahavir Sinh Hemubha Presently Posted At Unit: 795 Asc Bn C/o 56 Apo Permanent Address: Bhadresar, Bhadreshwar, Kachchh, Gujarat, 370410 declare that in my Service record my Daughter name is by Mistakenly mentioned as DIXITABA MAHAVIRSINH JADEJA. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832190, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, ROZIE GHALAY RAI am legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: 5761482X Rank: Nk Name: Jaideep Rai Permanent Address: VTC: Nim Khasmahal, PO: Fagu, Sub District: Gorubathan, District: Darjeeling, State: West Bengal, PIN Code: 735231, declare that in my Husband Service record my name is by Mistakenly Mentioned as ROZIE GHALAY RAI but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is ROZIE GHALAY. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832191, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, KRISHNA DEVI am Mother of Army No: 17034132Y Rank: CFN Name: Veerendra Kumar Presently Posted at Unit: 57 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: karkhera, Post & Teh: Tanda, Dist: Rampur, State: Uttar Pradesh, Pin No: 244925 declare that in my Son's Service record my Name is by Mistakenly Mentioned as KRISHNA DEVI but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is KRISHNA. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832200, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, PATHAR JIGNABEN ARJANRAY am Mother of Army No: 14949570M Rank: Nk Name: Pathar Ashish Permanent Address: Plot Garabi, Amrapur Gir, PO: Amrapur Gir, Dist: Junagadh, State: Gujarat, Pin: 362245 declare that in my Son's Service record my name is by Mistakenly mentioned as PATHAR JIGNABEN ARJANRAY but as Per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is PATHAR JIGNABEN ARJANBHAI. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832195, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, PATHAR ARJANRAY BABUBHAI am Father of Army No: 14949570M Rank: Nk Name: Pathar Ashish Permanent Address: Plot Garabi, Amrapur Gir, PO: Amrapur Gir, Dist: Junagadh, State: Gujarat, Pin: 362245 declare that in my Son's Service record my name is by Mistakenly mentioned as PATHAR ARJANRAY BABUBHAI but as Per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is PATHAR ARJANBHAI BABUBHAI. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832196, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, ASHA am Legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: 2806860X Rank: Hav Name: Kunjir Deepak Namdev Presently Posted at Unit: 16 Maratha LI, Permanent Address: Vill: Waghapur, Post: Waghapur, Tehsil: Purandhar, Dist: Pune, State Maharashtra, Pin: 412104 declare that in my Husband Service record my name is by Mistakenly mentioned as ASHA but as Per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is ASHA DEEPAK KUNJIR and Also Correct my Date of birth from 17/05/1989 to 17/05/1990. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832199, Dated: 07/08/2026

I, Ram Gopal Sarwalia S/o Ram Diya. H.No. 264/10, Outside Banso Gate, Karnal, Distt. Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Ram Gopal to Ram Gopal Sarwalia.

I, Naval Kishor S/o Ram Sharma R/o Ward No. 2, Ravidass Colony, Bhawanigarh, Tehsil Bhawanigarh Distt. Sangrur have changed my name from Naval Kishor Sharma to Naval Kishor.

I, Balwinder Singh S/o Vikram Singh R/o # 1604 Sector 52 Chandigarh have changed my minor daughter name from baby two of Sonia to Aaradhya.

I, Darshna w/o Sh. Vijay Kumar Resident of House No. 152, Parade Mohalla Kalka, Tehsil Kalka, Distt. Panchkula, Haryana - 133302. That I want to change my name from DARSHNA to SONIA.

I, Arishbeer Singh s/o Sh. Gurcharanjeet Singh Gill r/o Village - Kanganpur, Distt. Sirsa have changed my name to Arishbeer Singh Gill. Concerned note.

I, Saripan Banu m/o L/Nk Abdul Kadir Khan serving in unit 1 EW Bn C/o 56 APO have changed my name from Saripan Banu to Shareepan.

I, hitherto known as Madhu Kumari D/o Mandrika Giri R/o H.No. 938/9, Guru Nanak Pura West, Jalandhar-I, Po. Chogitti, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab- 144009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Soni Kumari Giri.

I, Sonia D/o Om Prakash R/o H.No. B-II/18, Gandhi Camp, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Sonia to Sonia Kumari (Surname as Kumari)

I, Tajinder Kumar S/o Dalwinder Kumar R/o Village Bohani, District Kapurthala, Punjab, have changed my name from Tajinder Kumar to Kumar Tajinder (Kumar as Surname).

I, Balram Kumar S/o Balwinder Kumar R/o H.No. 642, Ward No. 15, New Chandan Nagar, Kartarpur, District Jalandhar, Punjab, have changed my name from Balram Kumar to Kumar Balram (Kumar as Surname).

I, Jaswant Rai S/o Banarsi Dass R/o VPO. DIALPUR, District Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Jaswant Rai to Jaswant Lal.

I, Rajinder Singh S/o Nishan Singh Wallia R/o H.No. 3-A, Khalsa Enclave, Near Jassi Steel Phagwara (Kapurthala) have changed my name to Rajinder Singh Wallia.

I, Surinder Singh S/o Ajit Singh R/o Jaswinder Bearing Industries, G. T. Road Goraya, Distt. Jalandhar (PB) have changed my name to Surinder Singh Ghattaura.

I, Satnam Kaur W/o Satinder Singh R/o Village Atta, P.O. Goraya, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Satnam Kaur Kalsi to Satnam Kaur.

I, Satinder Singh S/o Piara Singh R/o Village Atta, P.O. Goraya , Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Satinder Singh Kalsi to Satinder Singh.

I, Sourav S/o Malkit Singh R/o Vill.Nihalpur, Po. Jhinger Kalan, Teh Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Sourav to Sourav Ludu.

I, Indu D/o Ashok Kumar R/o Ward No. 15, Chandan Nagar, Kartarpur, District Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Indu to Indu Kumari.

I, Asha W/o Prithvi Pal R/o H.No. 13860, Street No. 4, Ward No. 23, Parbhat Nagar, Millerganj, Ludhiana, Punjab have changed my name from Asha to Asha Rani.

I, Punam W/o Surinder Kumar R/o Patti Bahoki, Village Sarih, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar-144043, Punjab have changed my name from Punam to Poonam Rani.

I Rakesh Kumar S/o Sunhara Singh R/o Bhilpura (76), PO Rampur Khadar, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana – 135101, India have changed my minor daughter's name from Minakshi to Meenakshi.

I Kuldeep Singh Viridi S/O Joginder Singh R/O Bhagta Bhai Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Singh.

I Chhinderpal Kaur W/O Joginder Singh R/O Bhagta Bhai Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Shinderpal Kaur.

I Mandeep Kaur Wife Of Davinder Singh Jhaji R/O Vpo. Tajpur (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name To Mandeep Kaur Jhaji.

I Japneet Kaur D/O Arvindpal Singh Soni R/O Flat No.-602 ASPEN-3 Centra Greens Pakhowal Road Vpo. Dad District Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Japneet Kaur Soni.

I Gurpreet Singh Bhullar S/O Kulwant Singh R/O Kailash P.O Wara Bhai Ka (Ferozepur) Have Changed My Name Gurpreet Singh Bhullar To Gurpreet Singh.

I, Harpinder Singh S/o Manjit Singh R/o Village Bhadur Hussain, PO. Massania, Tehsil Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab have changed my name from Harpinder Singh to Given Name Harpinder & Surname as Singh. Concerned Note.

I, Ranjit Singh S/o Kashmir Singh R/o Ward No. 6, Kartar Nagar G.T. Road, Batala, Tehsil Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab have changed my name from Ranjit Singh to Given Name Ranjit & Surname as Singh. Concerned Note.

I, GAHININATH DAGADU GOLHAR father of No. 22052853N Rank NK/NASST Name GOLHAR PARASRAM GAHININATH presently residing at Vill - Hatola, Post Office - Patsara, Teh - Ashti, Distt - Beed, State - Maharashtra, PIN - 414203, have changed my name from GOLHAR GAHININATH DAGADU to GAHININATH DAGADU GOLHAR vide Affidavit No. IN-PB78188455346578Y Dated 06-08-2026 before Notary Public Pathankot (PB).

I, No. 3992853N Ex Nk Sudesh Singh resident of Village – Chuhan, PO – Gharota, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot, State - Punjab, have changed name of my son from BANSH SALARIA to VANSH SALARIA vide Affidavit No. IN-PB78310947482932Y Dated 07-08-2026 before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

I, Ribka W/o Satnam R/o Razapur, Khanowal Distt. Kapurthala have changed my name to Ribka Rani.

I, Lakhvir Singh S/o Tehal Singh R/o Gaunspur Po. Narpurbet Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Lakhveer Singh Sidhu.

I, Avtar Singh S/o Gurdev Singh R/o Dr. Ambedkar Nagar W.No.27 Mansa Teh & Distt. Mansa have changed my son name from Ishavjot Singh to Ishamjot Singh. please note.

I, Multani Gurpreet Gajjan Singh C/o Balwant Singh R/o Flat No. 768 Eco Homes GBP Dera Bassi Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name to Khassariya Gurpreet Balwant Singh.

I, Ravinder Pal Singh Shienh S/o Hukam Singh R/o Jhande Wali Gali Near Waddi Mata Da Mandir Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Ravinderpal Singh.

I, Daljit Singh S/o Balihar Singh R/o Vill: Azimgarh Po. Mehmoodpur Distt. Kaithal, Haryana-136034 now I'LL use Singh as a surname in future.

I, Jagdeep Singh S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o Rikhipur Mohalla, Post office & Tehsil Mukerian, Dist. Hoshiarpur, Pin Code 144211 declare that My Given Name as Jagdeep and Surname as Singh.

I, Narinder Singh S/o Sukhdeep Singh R/o Ward no 14, Tikhowal Mohalla, Post office & Tehsil Mukerian, Dist. Hoshiarpur, Pin Code 144211 declare that My Given Name as Narinder and Surname as Singh.

I, Lucky S/o Yusuf Masih R/o H.No.261, W.No.10, Christian Colony, Amloh Road, Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Lucky Masih.

I, Ajay Kumar Paswan S/o Jatinder Paswan R/o #626, St.No.7, Dalip Singh Nagar, Khanna (Ludhiana) also known as Ajay Kumar, these both names are mine, one & the same person.

I, Deepika W/o Girish Kumar R/o H.No. 103 W.No.3 Pathana Wala Mohalla Naraingarh Teh-Naraingarh Distt. Ambala-134203 Haryana have changed my name from Deepika Obroi to Deepika.

USP

Central Bank of India Regional office Chandigarh Organises Mega MSME Outreach Programme

Central Bank of India, Chandigarh Region, organised a Mega MSME Outreach Programme to create awareness about the Bank's MSME products, digital initiatives and customer-centric financial solutions. The programme was led by Regional Head, Chandigarh, Sh. Ram Kumar Yadav, in the presence of Sh. Dushyant Yadav, Secretary, MSME Promotion Council, Deputy Zonal Head, Smt. Priyanka Bansal, senior Bank officials, entrepreneurs and business representatives. Addressing the gathering, Sh. Dushyant Yadav highlighted the vital role of MSMEs in employment generation and economic growth, while emphasising the importance of timely and adequate financial support. Bank officials presented a range of MSME products, including Working Capital Finance, Term Loans, GST-based Lending, Machinery Loans, Vendor Finance, Trade Finance and other customised credit solutions. Information on government-backed schemes, social security initiatives, Re-KYC and DEAF accounts was also shared. The programme concluded with an interactive session, where entrepreneurs received guidance on credit facilities, eligibility, documentation, interest rates and digital banking services, reaffirming Central Bank of India's commitment to empowering MSMEs and supporting sustainable business growth.



Micro-cleaning emerges as new household trend for smarter home maintenance

Chandigarh: Household cleaning habits are evolving as more people embrace micro-cleaning, a trend that replaces time-consuming weekend cleaning sessions with short, daily cleaning routines. Built around concepts such as the “micro-reset” and the “10-minute clean-up rule,” the approach encourages tackling small messes before they develop into larger cleaning tasks, making home maintenance more manageable and consistent. Experts believe the growing trend reflects a shift in consumer behaviour, where regular maintenance is replacing occasional deep cleaning. By spending just a few minutes each day on targeted cleaning, households can prevent dust, dirt and clutter from accumulating while maintaining a healthier and more organised living environment.



Central Bank of India, Jalandhar Regional Office organized a Mega MSME Outreach Camp at Hotel Maya.

Jalandhar: The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from Branch Heads of various branches of Jalandhar and Kapurthala district. Regional Office representatives, and a large number of customers were present. The programme was presided by Shri Soumik Saha, Deputy General Manager, Corporate Credit, Central Office and Shri Narendra Jaggi, Regional Head, Jalandhar Region. Sh. Narendra Jaggi welcomed all the customers and thanked the customers for choosing Central Bank of India as their preferred Bank. Shri Soumik Saha spoke about need of strengthening the MSME Sector for growth of Nation and appreciated efforts of Central Bank of India in this area During the camp, loan leads amounting to Rs. 107 crore were generated out of which 25 crores have already been sanctioned and disbursed. Sanction letters were also distributed to eligible customers. The programme concluded successfully, further strengthening customers’ confidence in the Bank’s services.



GIGABYTE launches its first made-in-India gaming Laptop

Chandigarh: GIGABYTE, a global leader in high-performance computing and gaming technology, has announced the launch of its first Made-in-India gaming laptop, the GIGABYTE GAMING A16. Manufactured locally in partnership with Dixon Technologies, the laptop is powered by AMD Ryzen™ processors and is designed to deliver exceptional gaming performance and AI-ready computing capabilities. The company said the launch marks a significant milestone in its commitment to the Indian market while supporting the country's growing electronics manufacturing ecosystem.



I, Manjit Kaur W/o Tirath Singh R/o Vill: Jajja Khurd Po. Kang Jagir Teh-Phillaur Distt. Jalandhar my given name is Manjit and surname is Kaur.

I, Kartik Kumar S/o Sandeep Kumar R/o Mohalla Lakhnpal Nurmahal Teh-Phillaur Distt. Jalandhar my given name is Kartik and surname is Kumar.

I, Dilpreet So Piara Ram R/o Vpo. Bharoli Distt. SBS Nagar Pb, have changed my name from Dilpreet to Dilpreet Singh.

I Inderjeet S/o Ganga Ram R/o House No. BXXIX 212/27 1447, Street No. 1, New Ambedkar Nagar, Lohora, 33 Foota Road, Ludhiana have changed my name from Inderjeet Sharma to Inderjeet.

I, Ajay Kumar S/o Ishwar Dass R/o 162/A Raikot (Ludhiana) has changed my name to Ajay Kumar Goyal.

I, Ajay Kumar Goyal S/o Ishwar Dass R/o 162/A Raikot (Ludhiana) has changed my minor daughter's name from Tashvi to Tashvi Goyal.

I, Ajay Kumar Goyal S/o Ishwar Dass R/o 162/A Raikot (Ludhiana) has changed my minor daughter's name from Kanisha to Kanisha Goyal.

I, Shivinderpreet Singh Bhui S/o Gurcharan Singh R/o SBS Nagar, Near Akali Flour Mill, Kotkapura (Faridkot) have Changed my name to Shivinderpreet Singh.

I, Baltej Singh Khokhar S/o Jarnail Singh R/o VPO. Thathi Bhai (Moga) have changed my name to Baltej Singh.

I, Riya Garg W/O Dimple Kumar R/O Flat No. 2441-B,Mundi Complex Society, Sector 70, Sas Nagar Mohali Punjab Have Changed My Name From Riya Garg To Riya Arora.

I, Dimple Kumar Arora S/O Rajinder Kumar R/O Flat No. 2441-B, Mundi Complex Society, Sector 70, Sas Nagar Mohali Punjab Have Changed My Name From Dimple Kumar Arora To Dimple Kumar.

I, Himanshi D/o Sh. Amit Kumar R/o H No. 223/5, Gandhi Nagar Jind Tehsil and District Jind, Haryana have Changed my name from Himanshi to Himanshi Mittal. In future I will be known as Himanshi Mittal for all purposes.

I, Kunika D/o Sh. Amit Mittal R/o H No. 223/5, Gandhi Nagar Jind Tehsil and District Jind, Haryana have Changed my name from Kunika to Kunika Mittal. In future I will be known as Kunika Mittal for all purposes.

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Assam floods: Toll rises to 97 and 1.68 lakh affected

TONY DAS n Guwahati

The flood situation in Assam remained critical as the toll rose to 97 with two more fatalities and over 1.68 lakh people across 15 districts were still affected by the deluge, officials said on Friday. The railway connectivity via Sivasagar district, which was disrupted for nearly a fortnight due to damage to the tracks by floodwaters, has been restored, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) said.

The two deaths were reported from Golaghat and Udalguri districts, taking the toll in this year's flood to 97 so far, the officials said.

Golaghat, Sivasagar, Udalguri, Kamrup Metropolitan, Nagaon, Kamrup, Darrang, Sonitpur, Hojai, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Jorhat, Charaideo, Karbi Anglong and Dhemaji districts were affected by the deluge.

More than 1.68 lakh people



Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visiting flood affected areas of Upper Assam on Friday

were still reeling under floodwaters, with Golaghat being the worst-affected district with around 54,000 people hit, followed by Sivasagar (49,000) and Jorhat (27,000), the officials said.

The number of affected people has increased from around 1.6 lakh across 14 districts on Wednesday.

Altogether 133 relief camps and relief distribution centres are currently operational in six districts, giving shelter and assistance to around

45,000 displaced people. A crop area of 14,382.26 hectares remained submerged.

Floodwaters have also damaged embankments, roads, bridges and other public infrastructure in several districts.

With the restoration of the railway tracks, train services in parts of the state were made operational in a limited manner since Thursday afternoon. "Glad to share that the flood-affected railway section between Selenghat-Amguri-

Simaluguri-Sivasagar Town has been restored and made operational at 4 pm today. With this, direct train services between Guwahati and Dibrugarh via Lumding and Sivasagar can now resume," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a social media post on Thursday.

He thanked Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and the NFR authorities for restoring the vital rail link between Upper Assam and the rest of the country.

An NFR statement said its General Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava visited the affected sections and carried out a detailed inspection of the tracks, bridges and other infrastructure.

During the inspection, it was observed that many locals, including children, along with their belongings and livestock, were taking shelter on or near the railway tracks due to the flood-related situation. "Considering the humanitar-

ian concerns and prioritising public safety, it has been decided to initially operate only diesel locomotive-hauled trains on the restored sections. This precautionary measure has been taken to minimise the risk of electrocution and ensure the safety of flood-affected people until conditions become normal," it said.

Several trains, such as Nagaland Express, Guwahati-Ledo-Guwahati Intercity Express, Lumding-Tinsukia-Lumding DEMU and Tinsukia-Jorhat Town Passenger, will run via Moranhat. The long-distance trains will continue to operate on the diverted route via North Lakhimpur-Rangapara-North Ranglya for the time being.

In addition, special trains are also being operated regularly throughout the disruption period to provide alternative rail connectivity for passengers travelling to and from Upper Assam, the NFR said.

NHRC notice to MP Govt over kids crossing check dam to reach school

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Madhya Pradesh Government over reports that schoolchildren in Vidisha district are risking their lives by hopping across the pillars of a check dam to cross the Betwa River and reach school.

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the Commission sought a detailed report from the Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary within two weeks, observing that if the allegations are true, they raise serious concerns about the violation of children's human rights.

According to the NHRC, students are taking the dangerous route because it reduces the distance to school from 13 km by road to about 1.5 km. A video



showing children jumping across exposed check dam pillars has reportedly gone viral on social media.

The Commission noted that Article 21A of the Constitution guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years, while the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 makes education a legal right for every child in that age group. It also cited the Supreme Court's ruling in the Avinash Mehrotra vs Union of India (2009) case,

which held that the right to education includes access to safe school infrastructure.

The NHRC observed that the absence of safe transport or access to school amounts to a denial of children's right to education with dignity.

According to media reports, villagers said they are unable to accompany their children to school because they have to work in the fields, leaving families with the choice of either sending children through the hazardous route or discontinuing their education.

Railways runs first fuel train to Kashmir Valley via USBRL

MOHIT KANDHARI n Jammu

Indian Railways on Friday completed its first-ever trial run of a fuel-laden freight train carrying BTPN bogie petrol/diesel tankers into the Kashmir Valley via the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) route.

For decades, the Kashmir Valley has depended heavily on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) for essential supplies, including fuel.

After the launch of train services to the Kashmir Valley, fuel trains were held back due to safety concerns, particularly the route's long tunnels and fire risks. After extensive safety assessments, the first trial has now been completed successfully.

The rail-based supply of petrol and diesel is expected to deliver faster, safer and more reliable fuel transportation, and cut logistics costs. Indian Railways has been transporting fresh fruit, particularly apples, cherries

and other horticultural produce, to markets outside Kashmir via dedicated parcel and cargo trains, helping growers avoid losses during highway closures.

In recent months, the Kashmir valley has also witnessed the arrival of cement-laden freight trains, Food Corporation of India food-grain rakes, fertiliser consignments, automobile deliveries (including the first Maruti Suzuki vehicles by rail), and even Indian Army winter supplies.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inspected damaged stretches of the National Highway and assessed repair works following landslides and road damage caused by last week's heavy rainfall.

Highlighting the twin challenges of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and Kashmir's peak fruit season, Abdullah said the administration was ensuring smooth movement of essential supplies and horticultural produce. "Fruit-laden trucks are being given prior-



ity so that growers do not suffer losses. Petroleum tankers from Jammu are also being prioritised to ensure there is no shortage of essential commodities," he said.

Addressing reporters in Ramban, the Chief Minister said uninterrupted restoration of NH-44 remains the Government's priority as it is the Valley's only all-weather road link.

"There is no alternative to this highway. I travelled via the Rajouri-Poonch route through Peer Ki Gali and

Buffliaz two days ago. The condition of that stretch is far worse than this," Abdullah said, indicating that the Mughal Road cannot currently serve as a dependable substitute.

He said the damage on NH-44 was confined to a few vulnerable stretches and that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), traffic police and the district administration were working round the clock to restore normal traffic whenever weather-related disruptions occur.

Hydrogen train expansion depends on resource availability, operational needs, says Vaishnaw

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi

The hydrogen-powered train was launched on the Jind-Sonipat route on a pilot basis, and its expansion to other routes will depend on availability of resources, operational feasibility, and other requirements, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

MPs from several parties raised questions regarding the new technology, including the total expenditure incurred on its development, details of hydrogen train projects approved and proposed across the country, the availability and cost of green hydrogen for such projects, and the domestic manufacturing capacity being developed for green hydrogen fuel.

Vaishnaw, in a written reply, informed the House that from the launch of the hydrogen-powered train on July 17, 2026, till August 3, it



covered 2,492 km in commercial service on the 89-km Jind-Sonipat section.

"The hydrogen train has been developed by Indian Railways on pilot basis to demonstrate the use of hydrogen powered train technology in Railways," Vaishnaw said.

A dedicated hydrogen plant has been set up at Jind for providing hydrogen in this trainset. The hydrogen storage facility has been set up in accordance with the guidelines of the Petroleum and Explosives Safety

Organization (PESO), ensuring adherence to prescribed safety standards and protocols, he said.

Highlighting the environmental benefits, the railway minister said the hydrogen trainset ensures zero carbon dioxide emission, with water vapour being the only by-products.

"The trainset works on fuel cell technology that does not have any moving part and conventional engine for traction power generation, therefore the operation is much quieter

thereby reducing noise pollution. This project establishes Indian Railways in hydrogen technology," he added.

Speaking about the cost incurred, he said the pilot project has been developed at a total cost of Rs 141 crore. "As the hydrogen trainset and its infrastructure have been developed on a pilot basis, direct comparison of the cost of hydrogen-fuelled trains with established traction systems at this stage would not present a fair cost comparison."

He also outlined some of the train's key features, including its indigenous design and development, its status as the world's longest (with 10 coaches) and most powerful (2,400 kW) hydrogen trainset on a broad-gauge platform, and the fact that it comprises two 1,200-kW Driving Power Cars (DPCs), together generating 2,400 kW, along with eight passenger coaches.

BJP demands clarification from Congress on ministerial berths auctioning in Karnataka Cabinet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi

The BJP on Friday demanded a clarification from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi over alleged "auctioning" of the ministerial berths in the recently expanded state Cabinet in Karnataka.

This came after Karnataka BJP leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Wednesday cited a purported audio conversation between two Congress leaders of the state and alleged that Cabinet positions in the state had been secured through monetary influence.

Narayanaswamy claimed that the purported audio recording indicated that "honest" legislators who did not have money were overlooked for ministerial posts, and raised questions on the re-induction of B Nagendra, who has been charged sheeted in the '89-crore Valmiki Tribes Development Corporation scam in Karnataka, into the state cabinet.



The BJP leader also warned of protest if Nagendra continued to hold the post.

Targeting the Congress over the purported audio recording, BJP MP Anurag Thakur said, "In the Congress, one's stature and position are determined by the chadhawa (financial offerings) made to the party high command. I am not the one saying this. These serious allegations have emerged from the conversation between the Congress leaders."

According to the purported audio tape of the conversation, 80 per cent of the ministers secured their posts

in the Karnataka Cabinet by making such offerings, the former Union minister added.

"The question is why a person, who is an accused in the Valmiki Tribes Development Corporation scam and is still facing an ED case, has been inducted into the cabinet? Did the person, who embezzled funds meant for Dalits, secure a spot in the new Cabinet based on a payoff?" Thakur asked.

"These are serious allegations. Kharge, Gandhi and K C Venugopal will have to respond to these allegations," the BJP leader told reporters here.

Omar backs Bhagwat's remarks, says Gen Z protests are not anti-national

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday endorsed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks that Generation Z's grievances are genuine and that protesting does not make them anti-national.

Referring to Mohan Bhagwat's remark, the chief minister said it was encouraging that a distinction was made between opposing the Government and acting against the country.

"The good thing is that Mohan Bhagwat ji has acknowledged this distinction. Opposing the Government is not the same as opposing the country. In fact, opposing the Government is often beneficial for the nation because it helps correct mistakes wherever they occur," he said.

On Thursday while addressing a gathering of around 2,000 Gen Z and Gen Alpha members at India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) 15th



anniversary event in Mumbai, Bhagwat said, "If Gen Z members are agitating, they are not anti-national; they are our people. It is our next generation. You need a dialogue and rapport with them."

Abdullah urged authorities to stop action against students who participated in the agitation over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination and said protesting against the Government should not be equated with opposing the nation.

Abdullah said the agitation helped ensure accountability, expressing hope that it would lead to improvements in the conduct of future examinations.

Expressing concern over reports of action against the protesters, Abdullah said students were allegedly being manhandled, booked in criminal cases and harassed on social media.

In some instances, police reportedly summoned their relatives. "I believe this entire course of action should stop," he said.

Senior first officers must join AI Express to become commanders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi/Mumbai

Air India pilots who are eligible and want to become commanders on narrow- and wide-body planes will be compulsorily required to shift to Air India Express, with the Tata Group-owned loss-making airline putting in place a new framework based on a common seniority pool, according to sources.

Under the framework, senior First Officers (FOs) shifting to Air India Express for narrow-body Boeing 737 planes will be given a one-time bonus of 10 lakh and the existing commanders of these aircraft at Air India Express will be paid 21 lakh over three years, the sources said.

Upon getting the command, the sources said such pilots will be required to be at the operating base chosen by Air India Express for at least two years, which can be extended by up to six months. Once that period is complete, they would be allowed to choose their operating base depending on eligibility.



There was no official comment from Air India on the new framework.

Two senior pilots, who are with Air India Group, told PTI that the new framework has been mooted amid intense competition among airlines for hiring senior pilots, attrition and also lesser flying hours at present.

Air India has more than 3,500 pilots while Air India Express has over 2,000 pilots. Together, they have a fleet of around 300 aircraft. Air India does not have any Boeing 737 aircraft in its fleet.

Details about the number of senior first officers, as well as the count of narrow-body and wide-body pilots at Air India, could not be immediately ascertained.

Ladakh LG reviews landslide mitigation preparedness, orders safety audit on highway

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Leh/Jammu

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the Public Works Department (PWD) to conduct detailed safety audits of vulnerable road stretches in Ladakh and take immediate preventive measures to mitigate landslides and rockfalls following recent incidents that damaged property and disrupted traffic.

The directions were issued during a high-level meeting chaired by the lieutenant

governor on Thursday to review preparedness and mitigation measures in the wake of recent landslides, rockfalls and flash floods in the Union Territory, officials said.

Saxena appreciated the relief operations carried out by the Army and BRO during recent flash floods and landslides and lauded the prompt road-clearance efforts.

He, however, stressed the need for proactive measures at vulnerable locations to prevent recurrence of such incidents and ensure uninterrupted road connectivity.

The lieutenant governor

directed the agencies concerned to undertake a comprehensive safety audit of around 15 identified high-risk locations on the Leh-Kargil National Highway and four to five vulnerable stretches on the Khardung La axis of the Leh-Nubra road.

He asked officials to assess unstable slopes and remove loose and potentially hazardous rocks before they pose a threat to commuters.

Emphasising a shift from reactive response to proactive risk management, Saxena said the focus should be on engineering and technology-based mitigation to



ensure safer roads, uninterrupted connectivity and greater resilience against

natural hazards.

"The recent flash floods, landslides and rockfalls have

once again underlined the need to strengthen our preparedness and move beyond reactive response to proactive prevention," he said.

The LG directed the concerned agencies to identify vulnerable locations, undertake detailed safety audits and use the best available technologies for slope stabilisation and rockfall protection.

"Our priority is to ensure the safety of people, protect critical infrastructure and maintain uninterrupted connectivity across Ladakh," he said.

During the meeting, BRO

officials made detailed presentations on the causes of slope failures, citing changing rainfall patterns, geological factors, slope gradient alterations, weathering, developmental activities, vibrations and water pressure as key contributors.

They also briefed the lieutenant governor on various mitigation technologies, including retaining and breast walls, flexible ring nets, soil nailing, rock bolting, anchoring, shored-wall retaining structures, rockfall embankments, rock sheds, high-energy absorption barrier systems, smart

rockfall detection systems and the use of geosynthetics such as geogrids, geotextiles, geomembranes and geocells.

Chief Engineer, Project Vijayak, Brig Rahul Oberoy assured the Lieutenant Governor that safety audits and preventive measures on the Leh-Kargil and Leh-Nubra highways would be taken up on priority.

Saxena also directed the PWD Secretary to carry out similar safety audits and risk mitigation measures on major road stretches under the department's jurisdiction.



Editor's
TAKE

Free UPI no longer guaranteed

Parliament has removed the legal prohibition on levying charges, replacing it with the govt's power to impose fees through future notifications

The Lok Sabha has passed the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, by voice vote amid Opposition protests that never became real debate. Buried inside a broader tax bill was one consequential change: an amendment to Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 – the provision legally barring banks and payment firms from charging Indians to use UPI. That wall is gone. In its place sits the government's discretion to notify, whenever it chooses, which payment modes may attract a fee.

To be fair, nothing changes today. No Merchant Discount Rate has been announced, and UPI remains free at the counter. But the distinction that mattered – free by law – has quietly become free by permission. Permission, unlike law, can be withdrawn by notification, not by Parliament. UPI is the spine of India's digital economy: in July alone it carried 23.66 billion transactions worth nearly `30 lakh crore, some 85 percent of the country's digital payments. That scale was built on one promise, kept since January 2020: UPI would cost nothing. The Finance Ministry itself called charge rumours baseless and misleading as recently as June 2025. Fourteen months later, it has legislated the very power it once denied wanting. Reports suggest the eventual target is a 0.25-0.4 percent levy on merchant payments above `2,000 – just 4 percent of UPI's volume but 67 percent of its value – while small payments and person-to-person transfers stay free. That sounds reasonable, until RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra's own admission: someone always pays. It may not be the same consumer at the till, he said, but the wider economy absorbs it regardless.

A merchant charged 0.4 percent rarely absorbs it quietly – prices creep up, and "free" starts to feel like a technicality. That is why this will not sit well with ordinary users, whatever the fine print says. Nirmala Sitharaman's insistence that MDR applies only to merchants, not customers, is technically accurate and practically beside the point – few consumers distinguish between a fee charged to them and one passed through to them. A bill pushed through without real debate only compounds the problem: a foundational digital-inclusion guarantee diluted in a voice vote.

The fallback case is not baseless, though. Zero-MDR costs the exchequer real money – `2,000 crore is budgeted this year alone to subsidise banks for low-value UPI transactions – and payment companies have long argued they cannot keep funding fraud detection and infrastructure on zero revenue. Even the traders' body CAIT has said it would accept a nominal charge on high-value transactions, provided small merchants and ordinary users stay protected. That may be a fair trade-off eventually. But it deserved Parliament's scrutiny, not a voice vote amid din. Digital India's biggest success story was built on trust as much as technology. Spending that trust this quietly is the real risk – to UPI's next hundred crore users, and to the idea that "Digital India" was ever a guarantee rather than a policy revisable by notification.

The missing workforce in India's EV transition

The success of India's green mobility mission will ultimately depend not only on how many electric vehicles it produces, but also on how effectively it equips its workforce to thrive in the new economy



JAYANTA MITRA

GATI KOCHAR

India's EV transition is gathering significant momentum, as is evident from impressive figures showing EV sales, expanding charging infrastructure, ambitious manufacturing targets, and a vision of clean and sustainable mobility solutions. However, beneath this narrative lies a less visible yet critical question: who will power this transition?

While much of the discourse has focused on the environmental and economic benefits that this transition offers, its implications for the workforce that underpins India's mobility ecosystem call for equal attention. This is particularly noteworthy for a country where nearly 80 per cent of the non-agricultural workforce is concentrated in the informal sector. Among them are an estimated 4.29 million roadside mechanics and professional garage owners who provide repair services across the country. As EV technologies become more advanced and demand for EVs increases across the white- and blue-collar segments, particularly among the aspiring middle class, these informal workers risk being left behind unless they are equipped with the skills and empowered to participate in the emerging EV ecosystem. Therefore, it is imperative that the workforce be made future-ready to adapt to changing technologies, which will be critical in enabling a transition that is not only environmentally sustainable but also socially inclusive.

While certain occupations associated with ICE vehicles are expected to decline over time, the EV ecosystem is simultaneously creating demand for a diverse range of new skills and services. Beyond vehicle manufacturing, jobs are emerging across charging infrastructure deployment and maintenance, battery swapping, fleet management, diagnostics and repair, battery recycling, and digital mobility services. Recent estimates suggest that employment in the EV service and repair ecosystem alone could create between 3.7 million and 5.6 million jobs by 2047.

The rapid expansion of e-commerce, app-based mobility services, and electric two- and three-wheelers is creating new avenues for gig workers, delivery personnel, charging operators, local service providers, and small entrepreneurs. The transition therefore presents an opportunity not only to generate employment but also to diversify livelihoods within India's broader mobility ecosystem.



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Despite this significant employment potential, the emerging opportunities cannot be accessed equitably without targeted interventions. Unlike conventional ICE vehicles, EVs rely heavily on advanced electronics, battery management systems, software diagnostics, and high-voltage components, necessitating specialised knowledge, software, and equipment.

Evidence suggests that nearly 93 per cent of workers in the service and repair sector lack formal technical training, while a majority continue to rely on skills acquired through informal apprenticeships and on-the-job experience. Limited access to EV-specific training, inadequate infrastructure at vocational institutions, potential income loss while undertaking training, and financial constraints in procuring specialised tools further compound these challenges. As a result, the principal concern is not a shortage of employment opportunities, but the absence of accessible pathways that enable informal workers to participate in the evolving EV ecosystem. Without deliberate and targeted investments in skilling, certification, and workforce transition mechanisms, there is a risk that those who have long sustained India's mobility sector may be excluded from its future.

The transition to electric mobility also presents an opportunity to address long-standing gaps in workforce participation within the automotive sector.

Historically, occupations across vehicle servicing, repair, and transport operations have remained overwhelmingly shaped by patriarchal values, and much more needs to be done in terms of critical thinking and promoting a conducive environment to reverse the exclusion of women. As a matter of fact, the evolving nature of EV technologies has the potential to diversify the workforce, and it is imperative to address structural and socio-economic barriers to facilitate women's participation across the value chain.

Realising this opportunity will require deliberate policy interventions rather than assuming that inclusion will occur organically. Targeted skilling programmes, financial support for women-led enterprises, mentorship networks, and gender-responsive workplace practices can enable greater participation in emerging roles. Several state policies have already begun recognising this need.

For instance, Tamil Nadu's EV policy provides enhanced training incentives for women and other underrepresented groups, signalling a significant shift towards embedding equity within workforce development and the deployment of human capital. Integrating women into the EV ecosystem from its formative stages will not only strengthen labour force participation but also contribute to a more resilient and inclusive mobility transition.

A sustainable transition is not only about reskilling and upskilling the existing workforce but also about creating a more inclusive and responsible EV ecosystem. Reflecting on emerging initiatives demonstrating an inclusive transition may open the way for deeper reflection and innovation. Social enterprises such as eBik have enabled street vendors, waste pickers, and daily wage workers to adopt affordable electric mobility solutions, improving productivity and reducing physical strain. Internationally, Singapore's Progressive Wage Model illustrates how linking skills development with wage progression and career mobility can support workforce transitions.

Together, these examples highlight the value of replication. As India stands at the threshold of significant EV adoption and mainstreaming in the mobility sector, industry, O&M, academia, and think tanks need to deliberate on and demonstrate viable EV transition models that are both environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

PIC TALK



'Kanwariyas' gather to collect holy water from the Ganga river during the holy month of 'Shravan', at Har Ki Pauri, in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. PHOTO: PTI

We hired a stranger and called It recruitment



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

2ND OPINION

Let me tell you something we all know but rarely say out loud. Somewhere, right now, a hiring manager is sitting across from a candidate who looks great on paper. Confident. Well-spoken. Impressive CV. The interview goes well, the team likes them, and an offer letter goes out within the week. Nobody asks too many questions. Nobody digs too deep. There is a position to fill, and this person seems right. Three months later, something doesn't add up.

This is not a rare story. It happens more often than organisations care to admit, and the reason is almost always the same: background verification was skipped, rushed, or treated as a formality rather than a filter. We live in a country where getting a passport requires you to prove who you are, down to your grandmother's



address. A bank will not open an account without seeing your PAN, your Aadhaar, a photograph, a signature, and sometimes requiring a physical visit. A SIM card also requires documentation. The government, financial institutions, and even telecom providers have decided that verification is non-negotiable. They have built entire systems around it.

And yet a company will hand someone a laptop, access to client data, a salary, and the trust of an entire team based on a CV they wrote themselves and two referees they personally selected. That logic seems strange when you lay it out plainly. The counter-arguments are understandable. Hiring is slow enough already. Good can-

didates do not wait. Documentation is sometimes genuinely incomplete. And honestly, when someone is sitting in front of you and they seem perfectly decent, asking for deeper verification can feel almost insulting. But that discomfort is exactly the point. The candidate who is perfectly decent has nothing to hide. They will wait the extra week. They will provide what is needed. The ones who push back hardest against verification are rarely the ones you want to be worried about, and yet somehow they are often the ones who slip through.

Incomplete documentation is not a reason to skip the process. It is a conversation to have before the offer, not a problem to quietly overlook. The cost of getting this wrong is not just financial, though that cost is real enough. It is the team that loses faith in leadership's judgement. The client relationship that gets damaged. The culture that quietly shifts when someone with the wrong values sits inside it long enough. We do not let a stranger into our homes without knowing who they are. We should not let one into our organisations either.

Background verification is not about distrust. It is about responsibility to the people already inside the organisation who deserve to work alongside someone who is exactly who they claim to be. Every hire is an act of faith. But faith, in the context of building teams, works best when it is backed by facts. Verify. Always.

The writer writes about development, social, and gender issues

CREAMY LAYER RULE SHOULD COVER SC, ST RESERVATIONS

Apropos "Creamy layer principle not applicable to quotas for SCs, STs: Govt's affidavit to SC," The Pioneer, August 7. The Central Government's decision to oppose the application of the creamy layer principle to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) is difficult to justify. Reservations were introduced to address the historic social discrimination and exclusion faced by these communities and to provide equal opportunities.

However, allowing economically and socially advanced families within these categories to continue enjoying reservation benefits generation after generation defeats the larger objective of affirmative action. Many families have already achieved financial stability, quality education, and professional success, yet they continue to

access the same benefits intended for the most disadvantaged.

Children from poor and marginalised SC/ST families, especially in rural areas, are forced to compete with candidates who enjoy far greater educational and social advantages, limiting opportunities for those who need them most. Applying the creamy layer principle would not abolish reservations or dilute constitutional safeguards. Instead, it would ensure that the benefits reach the weakest and most deserving sections of SC and ST communities. Such a reform would strengthen the credibility and fairness of the reservation system while promoting broader social justice. The Government should reconsider its stand in the interest of equity and inclusive development.

N SADHASIVA REDDY | BENGALURU

Please send your letter to the info@dailypioneer.com. In not more than 250 words. We appreciate your feedback.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged

The RBI's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent while maintaining a neutral policy stance reflects a balanced approach to sustaining economic growth while controlling inflation. The policy is expected to provide stability to borrowers, businesses and markets. Stable interest rates will encourage investment and consumption while enabling banks to maintain predictable lending conditions.

The RBI has also rightly acknowledged the risks posed by global uncertainties, rising crude oil prices, a hawkish US Federal Reserve, and food inflation, all of which continue to threaten price stability. The upward revision in the GDP growth forecast is encouraging and is a testament to the resilience of the Indian economy.

However, the central bank will need to closely monitor whether higher energy costs feed into core inflation and wage pressures. Any shortfall in the ongoing monsoon could further complicate the inflation outlook. While some may argue that the RBI should have raised interest rates amid external uncertainties, monetary policy must be supported by fiscal measures and structural reforms to ensure sustainable growth. Clear policy guidance will also help businesses and households make informed decisions.

BAL GOVIND | NOIDA

Restore full statehood to Jammu & Kashmir

It is high time that the Centre fulfilled its commitment to restore full statehood to Jammu & Kashmir. Seven years after the abrogation of Article 370, the region has witnessed notable improvements in security, infrastructure and democratic participation. The successful Assembly elections and the enthusiastic voter turnout clearly reflect the people's faith in democratic institutions. The Centre has repeatedly assured Parliament and the Supreme Court that statehood would be restored at an appropriate time. With the elections completed peacefully and an elected government in place, delaying this promise any further would only weaken public confidence.

Restoring statehood is not about revisiting the Article 370 debate. It is about strengthening federalism, respecting democratic aspirations and empowering an elected government with full legislative and administrative authority. A Union Territory arrangement should remain a temporary measure, not a permanent substitute for statehood.

Honouring this constitutional commitment will reinforce trust, promote political stability, and mark the next important step towards lasting peace and normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir.

VANDANA | CHANDIGARH

Keep UPI payments free

The proposed Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions risks slowing India's remarkable journey towards digital inclusion. While high-value transactions account for only a small share of the total transaction volume, imposing a fee on merchants could discourage digital payment adoption, particularly among small retailers and neighbourhood businesses. Adding another recurring monthly expense, over and above what many merchants already pay for soundbox subscriptions and other digital payment services, will increase operating costs and reduce the appeal of accepting UPI payments.

UPI's extraordinary success has been built on a zero-friction, low-cost public digital infrastructure that has transformed the way millions of Indians make and receive payments. Rather than shifting system maintenance costs to merchants, the Government should continue supporting operational expenses through public funding while retaining the existing statutory exemption from MDR. This approach will encourage wider digital adoption and strengthen financial inclusion.

Introducing additional charges at this stage risks pushing small businesses back towards cash transactions, undermining years of progress in digital payments, financial formalisation and transparency.

VIJAYKUMAR HK | RAICHUR

The new axis and the battle for the next world order

The growing strategic convergence of China, Russia, Iran and North Korea is bringing a new geopolitical rivalry into sharper focus. Their expanding cooperation across defence, technology, trade and cyberspace is steadily altering the global balance of power and posing the most significant challenge yet to American primacy



BHAVNA SINGH

United States (US) strategic circles have been awash in a new lexicon after Bradley L Bowman, Elaine K Dezenski, and Rear Admiral (Retd) Mark Montgomery of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies argued in *Axis of Aggressors: Countering the Cooperation of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea* that the four nations — China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran - now function as a strategically aligned bloc even without a formal mutual-defence treaty. The findings are seminal, foreshadowing a 'churn' in the emerging world order, where quadrilaterals and minilaterals that seemed unimaginable just a decade ago are gathering momentum and becoming credible power blocs. The 'new axis' is largely ascribed to authoritarianism and cooperation across military, economic, cyber, and technology domains, which is forging a formidable partnership to counter the US. China-Russia ties form the core of this partnership, while Iran and North Korea play supporting roles. Indeed, the opacity of such bloc politics only deepens the intrigue.

What is increasingly evident is that cooperation among the four has intensified after the Ukraine war, a turning point that provoked a coordinated response from outside powers. The alignment, though fractured and far from cohesive, seeks to cushion the blow from Western sanctions through alternative trade networks and technology transfers, largely in response to tariffs imposed by the US on several non-Western countries. Most importantly, the book stands as a testament to the fact that US policymakers are not deceiving themselves and are fully aware of the looming threat that a renewed Sino-Russian entente could pose, calling it a dangerous threat environment for Washington.

Since BRICS entered mainstream geopolitical discourse, policymakers have speculated about new power groupings. Among them is the proposed 'QUADRO'—an informal alliance of the US, Russia, China, and India. While such a coalition appears unlikely, it also challenges the notion of America's inevitable decline. Despite its relatively short history, the US has remained the world's dominant power since the Second World War and is unlikely to allow any emerging bloc to overturn the existing global balance of power. Rather than falling into the Thucydides Trap, a 'prolonged struggle for assertion' between the ruling hegemon and the emerging bloc appears more likely. While some elements of this transition are already visible, others are being pursued with mounting vigour. These pertain to cyber operations, digital surveillance, semiconductor supply chains, artificial intelligence (AI), and dual-use technologies. The US will look to counter this axis head-on by confronting security challenges and reinventing the wheel of domestic nationalism.

Two playbooks, one retreat

More revealing, however, is the contrast in strategic conduct. While US policymakers have been outspoken about their strategy and intent, China has consistently pursued a more restrained and covert approach. US policymakers have, at times, overreached on America's ability to shape global politics through military interventions and expansive security commitments; China, on the other hand, in keeping with Sun Tzu's traditional doctrine, has sought to win wars without even fighting them.

This has meant that while the US has fallen prey to strategic overreach and suffered setbacks in Afghanistan and Iraq, China has enjoyed the spoils of shooting from Russia's shoulder. Over time, China has been able to garner resources and trust from its neighbours and allies while supporting conflicts in Ukraine, Iran, and the South China Sea and - wherever it has chosen to intervene through supply of weapons (often to both sides of the conflict) — before selectively applying international norms.

Thus, while the US is criticised for advocating a rules-based order while simultaneously flouting it with its carrot-and-stick approach to neighbours under Pax Americana, China and Russia are likewise criticised for invoking sovereignty and non-interference while violating these very principles when it suits their strategic interests. Equally, the hypocrisy of an ascendant Chinese order can no longer be hidden behind the



rhetoric of a 'peaceful rise'. The emerging Sino-centric order, though outwardly benign and largely propagated through economic statecraft — simultaneously empowering and entrapping states through economic dependence — is engineered upon a dangerous chessboard of espionage, mis-information, and military balancing.

China has covertly abetted war and, most importantly, won it, without the international system even recognising the discrepancies it has exploited. Take the Ukraine war, which has turned out to be a bloody nose for the Russians: it could have easily culminated in Russia's favour had China not supplied the constant barrage of arms and ammunition to Ukraine. However, for the sake of 'justice', Beijing maintained that it had a concurrent obligation to help Kyiv during the war and came up with a charade of measures to try to end the war through a peace proposal on its own terms.

CHINA HAS COVERTLY ABETTED WAR AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WON IT, WITHOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM EVEN RECOGNISING THE DISCREPANCIES IT HAS EXPLOITED. TAKE THE UKRAINE WAR, WHICH HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A BLOODY NOSE FOR THE RUSSIANS: IT COULD HAVE EASILY CULMINATED IN RUSSIA'S FAVOUR HAD CHINA NOT SUPPLIED THE CONSTANT BARRAGE OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO UKRAINE.

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Whose order wins?

Similarly, China has been at the forefront of regional balancing, as demonstrated at the recent China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting at the held in Manila, where the two sides expressed concern that 'the rapidly evolving situation in the Middle East and its spillover effects pose a grave threat to the lives and safety of civilians, as well as to regional and global peace, stability, and economic activities including regional trade, investment, energy, and food security'. Manufacturing solidarity over the situation in the Middle East within ASEAN again gives a boost to China's regional aspirations and reveals China's ability to deftly steer an agenda that normally should be restricted to its bilateral economic and cultural engagement. This underscores China's rising influence and the shrinking space for dissent within regional groupings. China has been ASEAN's largest trading partner for 16 consecutive years, and the effects of that dependence are becoming increasingly apparent.

Interestingly, at this meeting, both China and ASEAN called for the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula — but the ASEAN community almost lost face when, in a rare show of defiance, North Korea lambasted the grouping and called the proposal a 'stupid and foolish wild dream'. Pyongyang reiterated that its status as a nuclear weapons state was 'final and irreversible', thereby posing a challenge to China's power assertion and dashing its hopes of regional balancing. However, this exposes the deeper hypocrisy when it comes to recognising nuclear-armed states and the politics of nuclear brinkmanship. Though China has unilaterally given up testing nuclear weapons and promised not to resort to any armed assault or race, the exclusivity of the nuclear club itself raises questions of privilege and denial. By raising this issue at the ASEAN Regional Forum, China also seeks to expand and assert its concerns. Doing so enables China to maximise its geographical reach across this part of the globe, especially where US influence seems restrained at the moment.

Undoubtedly, all major powers in the international system tend to display selective adherence to international rules, though the scope and methods of their actions differ. But when the clash between two distinctive orders lays bare the inner tenets of those systems, it is far easier to see through the hypocrisy of the aspiring hegemon than that of the current flagbearer. Today, as liberal democracies clash with a still-forming authoritarian order, the real question is on what terms the authoritarians will hold the mantle. Can they wield it more effectively than the order that is receding and for how long? Will they be able to rewrite the rules of the playbook any better than the receding states and empires.

Immigration crisis: The open sky and the Guarded Gate



ACHARYA PRASHANT

The human being did not evolve to stay fixed to one patch of soil. Movement is prakriti; it is natural, older than any border ever drawn on a map. You will watch a migratory bird cross a continent and feel something lift in you, but let the same instinct arrive on two legs, with a bag over its shoulder, and the feeling curdles into suspicion, even derision. Why not ban the birds too? They come because that is how prakriti moves, and you are not meant to remain confined to the village you were born in.

Late in July, some sixty thousand people threw themselves at the fence between Morocco and the small Spanish enclave of Ceuta, and more than seventy died in the crossing. Within days, nearly all had walked back into Morocco of their own accord. It was not an invasion by any standard.

Everyone reading this is a migrant. Wave after wave of movement and mingling over thousands of years gave the Indian subcontinent its present shape. Nature wants you to move, and it is society, not nature, that places on you the burden of staying loyal to your little ancestral farmland. But inside that one word, migration, two very different things are hiding.

A movement can rise from the natural centre, and a movement can rise from the centre of delusion, and the same person carries both. The ego can block the right movement and can also cause the wrong one. The problem is never the moving or the staying in itself; the problem is who is doing it.

Go in the hope of bread and butter, and that is fine; you will find bread. Go instead in the hope of fulfilment, believing that the missing thing in you is waiting on the other side of a border, and you will return empty-handed. No place, no object of the ego can complete you. This is not the traffic of invaders; it is bread, earned far from home and carried back.

It is raining hard, and a small puppy that has lost its mother is scratching at your door, crying to be let in out of the water. And there is another: the burglar, working the same door in the same rain, who is there out of desire. The first deserves sanctuary, so open the door. Shut it against the second.

One says that if you let the puppy in you must let the thief in too. The other says that since the thief exists you should bar the puppy as well. A country is not obliged to admit plunderers, but it should not be permitted to turn away the drowning either. Imperfect filtering is far better than either blanket, because a blanket is only a refusal to look.

Who decides whether an arrival is a puppy or a thief, and why is deciding so difficult? The difficulty is not out there at the border; it is inside you. You cannot tell the puppy from the thief in the world because you have never learned to tell them apart in yourself. In your own inner life, the thief constantly poses as the puppy. This is why an immigration policy is never just a policy but a confession of what the person who made it is like inside.

But seeing the difference is only half the work. The filter will only ever be as honest as the person holding it. What turns clear sight into clean action is intent. The puppy you let in out of the rain can grow into the greyhound that one day saves your life. But be very slow to call the puppy a thief, because the day you shut that door you also shut out everything the puppy would have brought.

What follows is rarely a quarrel about numbers or crime; it is about culture. A living culture does not fear the guest. Only conditioning defended as identity fears the guest.

If you move to a country for good, not for a month but for the rest of your life, learn its language. If the host says the theme is jungle, you do not arrive in a three-piece suit insisting you are not an animal; you either enter into the evening or decline the invitation.

There is a matching discipline the host owes the guest. If you tell me to change my name, or my religion, or to cover my head to your taste, you have crossed from the practical into the domineering. Learn the language, and that is fair; give up your name and your faith under duress, and that is not.

I have never liked the words integration and assimilation; both carry a faint smell of conversion. What the situation actually asks for is the day-by-day judgement to tell the practical from the imperious, on both sides of the door: discretion.

Underneath the whole argument of free movement sits an assertion that a human being has a right to move to whichever country he pleases. But there is no such general right. The law of nations keeps one narrow shelter open, for the persecuted and the drowning, and that shelter must stand. Beyond that shelter, everybody has the opportunity.

If you truly want migration to be a right, you must dissolve the order of nations itself, rub every boundary off the map. But then there can be no nationalism or patriotism, no line anywhere that is yours to defend. Before you erase the boundaries from the map, have you erased them from your heart?

The ego lives and breeds only in boundaries. The moment you say this is my family, these few are mine and the rest are not, you have drawn a border and posted a guard on it. The fences at Ceuta are the fences in the human heart. As long as the interior stays divided, the exterior will keep matching it, fence for fence.

This discretion has an older name in this land: viveka, the discrimination between the real and the unreal. Discretion is a direction to keep walking in, never a destination you reach and can then forget. The gate you keep guarding against the stranger is, when everything else is stripped away, your own. Whether it opens is not, in the end, a question of policy but of who you take yourself to be.



Acharya Prashant is a philosopher and author whose work centres on self-inquiry and its application to contemporary life

Punjab Congress and the politics of parallel power



MONIKA MALIK

Politics is often described as a battle between parties. Punjab Congress tells a different story. Its fiercest battles have often been fought within its own ranks.

From Darbara Singh and Giani Zail Singh to Rajinder Kaur Bhattal and Capt Amarinder Singh; from Capt Amarinder and Partap Singh Bajwa to Capt Amarinder and Navjot Singh Sidhu; from Sidhu and Charanjit Singh Channi to today's visible fault lines between Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and former Chief Minister Channi — the names have changed, but the pattern has remained strikingly familiar.

Every generation has inherited its own 'versus'. For nearly five decades, almost every major leadership transition in the Punjab Congress has been accompanied by a parallel power struggle. These rivalries were rarely just battles of ambition. Almost every 'versus' revolved around three questions — Who controlled the organisation? Who controlled the government? And who would eventually lead the party into the next election? Whenever these questions remained unsettled, factionalism flourished.

Punjab Congress has repeatedly followed a curious political cycle: every leader who rises by challenging the establishment eventually finds

himself challenged by another ambitious successor. Capt Amarinder's journey perhaps illustrates this better than anyone else's. After the Congress lost the 2012 Assembly election, the high command appointed Partap Singh Bajwa as state unit president. The decision was organisational. Its consequences were political. For nearly three years, Bajwa headed the organisation while Capt Amarinder remained the Congress's principal face on the ground. Rather than resolving the leadership question, Delhi chose to balance competing claims to authority — a formula that would repeatedly define its approach to Punjab.

The experiment yielded limited organisational stability. Recognising the need for a single face ahead of the 2017 Assembly election, the high command restored Capt Amarinder as the Punjab Congress president in late 2015. The decision paid immediate dividends. Under his leadership, the Congress returned to power in 2017 with 77 seats and nearly 38.5 percent of the vote — one of its strongest electoral performances in decades.

Yet the victory also reinforced a recurring paradox. In Punjab Congress, decisive electoral mandates have rarely guaranteed lasting organisational stability. Almost as soon as Capt Amarinder consolidated his authority, another rival centre of influence began to emerge. The Capt Amarinder-Navjot Sidhu confrontation was not merely another personality clash; it exposed the limitations of the Congress high command's



long-standing strategy of accommodating competing leaders instead of settling the leadership question. Eventually, Sidhu was appointed Punjab Congress president despite Capt Amarinder's reservations. The decision was projected as a political compromise. In reality, it formalised two competing centres of authority within the same party.

The consequences were swift. Capt Amarinder resigned as Chief Minister in September 2021, bringing to an end one of the most consequential leadership crisis in Punjab Congress. The Congress then made a bold political gamble by appointing Channi, Punjab's first Dalit Chief Minister, hoping to reshape the party's social coalition before the Assembly election. Instead, the party entered another phase of uncertainty. Within weeks, Sidhu and Channi were publicly at odds over administrative appointments and governance, signalling that replacing one leader had not resolved the underlying conflict.

That has been the enduring paradox of Punjab Congress. Leadership changes have repeatedly altered the protagonists, but seldom the script. Every attempt to settle one power struggle has

eventually produced another, suggesting that the party's recurring "versus" is less a clash of individuals than a symptom of an unresolved organisational culture.

Ahead of the ensuing state assembly election, visible differences between Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi have once again shifted attention from the party's campaign to its internal equations. The pattern is difficult to ignore. Time and again, the Congress has postponed settling leadership questions in the hope that competing ambitions could coexist. In Punjab, however, unresolved succession has rarely produced unity; more often, it has prolonged uncertainty. Leadership contests do not remain confined to the top. They inevitably permeate the organisation. District units align with rival camps, candidate selection becomes contentious, campaign messaging loses coherence and the cadre begins responding to personalities rather than the organisation. The opposition, meanwhile, gains valuable political space. Punjab's recent electoral history illustrates the cost of this drift. The Congress collapsed to 18 seats with around 23 percent vote share in 2022, while the Aam Aadmi Party swept the election with 92 seats. No electoral defeat can ever be attributed to one factor alone. Anti-incumbency, governance issues, changing political expectations, and the emergence of AAP all contributed to the outcome. But it is equally difficult to ignore that the Congress entered the 2022

election after spending months fighting itself.

The recurring pattern also raises a larger institutional question. For decades, the Congress high command has attempted to manage Punjab through political accommodation, committees, and organisational balancing. Punjab's politics, however, has rarely responded to calibrated compromises. It has traditionally revolved around clear leadership, strong regional identities, and leaders with independent political constituencies.

That disconnect has repeatedly produced an uneasy compromise: Delhi seeks balance, while Punjab demands clarity. The result has often been an unresolved succession rather than a settled leadership. As Punjab heads towards another Assembly election, the Congress faces a challenge that is bigger than choosing its next chief ministerial face or settling another internal dispute.

Punjab Congress has never lacked leaders. It has produced some of the state's tallest political figures. But it has repeatedly struggled to ensure smooth leadership transitions. Instead of one accepted leader, the party has often found itself divided between rival camps, each claiming to represent the real Congress. For any political party, healthy competition among leaders is natural. The problem begins when that competition overshadows the organisation itself. When leaders spend more time strengthening their own camps than strengthening the party, elections become harder to fight and victories become harder to sustain.

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Order Order

SC refuses to interfere in election plea against Baghel



The Supreme Court on Friday declined to interfere with a Chhattisgarh High Court order refusing to dismiss, at the threshold, a petition challenging former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel's election from the Patan assembly seat in 2023.

The top court, however, said that Baghel would be at liberty to raise all his pleas before the high court's election tribunal during the trial.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana disposed of Baghel's plea challenging the high court's interim order dated June 15 by which his application seeking rejection of the election petition for want of cause of action and non-compliance with statutory requirements was dismissed.

It said Baghel had an arguable defence and made it clear that dismissal of his challenge would not prejudice his right to raise all points and contentions before the election tribunal during the course of the proceedings.

Appearing for Baghel, senior advocate Kapil Sibal argued that the election petition was not maintainable in law.

Referring to the allegations, Sibal, assisted by lawyer Sumeer Sodhi, said that the election campaign had ended on November 15 and that Baghel was allegedly present at a religious function on November 16, which the petitioner claimed violated Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act. (PTI)

TN CM Vijay's wife Sankgeetha withdraws divorce petition



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. J. Jayaram's wife Sankgeetha on Friday withdrew her petition filed before a family court at Chengalpattu near here seeking divorce.

Sankgeetha appeared before the court through video-conferencing when her plea was taken up, and she submitted the reasons for not pursuing her case, months after filing the plea.

Accordingly, the court disposed of her petition as withdrawn, official court sources said.

In her divorce petition filed earlier, Sankgeetha had accused her husband of having an extra-marital relationship with an actress and that he had subjected her to "persistent mental cruelty, neglect and desertion". If required, she said she would implead the actress as second respondent.

The marriage had broken down irretrievably, she said in her plea filed under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 seeking divorce. Since 2021, the respondent (Vijay) has "emotionally withdrawn," treated the petitioner with verbal disdain and subjected her to "constructive desertion, forcing her to live separately within the matrimonial home."

The marriage between Sankgeetha and Vijay, a top notch movie star who has since wound up his career to focus in politics, was first registered on July 10, 1998 in the United Kingdom. Thereafter, a ceremonial marriage was performed on August 25, 1999 in Chennai, according to the petition. (PTI)

Why should city be put to ransom: Delhi HC questions protests at Jantar Mantar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday questioned keeping Jantar Mantar the designated site for protests and agitation, saying, why should an entire city be "put to ransom" due to demonstrations in the heart of the Capital.

"According to me, these things should not happen in the city. But it is the Government's call. Why should the city be put to ransom unnecessarily?" Justice Amit Mahajan remarked orally.

The court was hearing a petition by All India Dalit Christian Rights Protection Committee seeking a direction to Delhi Police to decide its request for permission to hold a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar on August 10 between 10 am and



1 pm. After the senior counsel for the petitioner submitted that Delhi Police has not decided on the organisation's request for permission to protest at Jantar Mantar since July 9, Justice Mahajan observed, "Personally speaking, why should protests happen inside the city?" Asserting that law and order is domain of the police, Justice Mahajan, nonetheless, asked Delhi Police



Delhi HC asks ECI to respond to Congress petition on electoral rolls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s stand on a petition by Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) president Devender Yadav concerning the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The petition by Yadav, and the chairman, booth management committee of DPCC, assailed the mandate to booth level agents (BLAs) of political parties to give a personal undertaking certifying that they have personally verified all details in the enumeration forms.

Justice Amit Bansal asked the Election Commission to file its response to the plea and listed it for hearing on August 12.

As per the petitioner, neither the Representation of the People Act nor the Registration of Electors Rules contain any provision empowering the Election Commission to ask the representatives of political parties to give such an undertaking.

"The requirement of a personal undertaking from BLAs is directly contrary to the



statutory scheme of verification prescribed under Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which mandates that the inclusion of any name in the electoral roll shall be made by the Electoral Registration Officer, and only after 'proper verification of facts in such manner as may be prescribed', the petition said.

"The prescribed manner of verification under the

Rules is to be conducted by statutory officers, not by private individuals or party representatives. The imposition of an undertaking of personal verification upon BLAs amounts to an unlawful delegation of a statutory function to private actors," it added. The petitioners were represented by senior advocate Sakal Bhushan and advocates Sunil Kumar and Prateek Sinha.

The petition sought a

direction to set aside the relevant SIR guidelines that require the personal undertaking of booth level agents for verification of the particulars contained in enumeration forms.

It also sought a direction to the EC to provide printed and soft copies of the 2022 electoral rolls of 2002 and the 'Frozen Photo Electoral Roll' for Delhi to enable the petitioners' BLAs to effectively assist in the SIR.

SC asks two hospitals to pay `12 lakh to father of deceased 4 year-old rape victim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday asked two Ghaziabad-based hospitals to pay `10 lakh and `2 lakh respectively to the family of a four-year-old rape victim who died of injuries after being denied medical care by them.

The top court also said that it will lay broad guidelines for hospitals and the law enforcement agencies to deal with victims of grave offences.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a plea related to the death of the minor girl. The bench took note of the report of the apex court-appointed SIT which said that the girl, who was bleeding, was alive for almost five hours and the hospitals concerned denied her the medical care leading



to her death. The bench asked Ghaziabad-based super speciality St Joseph (Mariam) Hospital and Khajan Singh Mannvi Health Care to pay `10 lakh and `two lakh to the father of the girl within four weeks.

On March 16, the girl was allegedly lured by a neighbour. When the child did not return, her father launched a search and found her lying unconscious and soaked in blood. The family took her to

the two private hospitals, which allegedly denied treatment. She was taken to a Government hospital in Ghaziabad, where doctors declared her dead.

The top court had, in April, flagged the "reluctance" of the Ghaziabad Police in lodging an FIR and conducting a probe in the case.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by the victim's father, a daily wage, seeking a court-monitored probe either by a special investigation team (SIT) or the CBI in the case.

Hearing the matter on April 10, the apex court lambasted the Ghaziabad Police's "insensitive approach" in the investigation of the case.

The bench had issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh Government, the station house officer (SHO) of the police station concerned, the two hospitals and the executive magistrate.

SC refuses to entertain plea for FIR, probe against former HC judge Yashwant Varma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking registration of an FIR and court-monitored probe into the purported discovery of huge stash of cash following a fire at the residence of former Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe dismissed the petition filed by advocate Ghanshyam Upadhyay, who contended that mere resigning from

office does not erase criminal liability for unaccounted money.

The bench said earlier also a similar petition was dismissed. Upadhyay submitted that the earlier petition was dismissed on technical ground that no complaint was filed but in this case, he has filed a complaint.

Justice Narasimha told him, "You are an advocate. This is just a misuse of the judicial process. All for cheap publicity. We are not inclined to entertain this. Dismissed."

Upadhyay said there is no



reason for not entertaining the petition as a judge of the high court has been held to be a public servant. "Now he is retired also. There is no

immunity from prosecution," he submitted.

The top court, however, refused to entertain the petition and dismissed it. On

Calcutta HC denies urgent hearing to Abhishek' aide Sumit Roy to quash 4 FIRs



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Kolkata

The Calcutta High Court on Friday refused an urgent hearing to Sumit Roy, personal assistant to TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, in connection with four FIRs registered against him in different police stations in West Bengal.

Roy's lawyer Trideep Pais stated before the court that these four FIRs are unrelated to two other cases, in one of which he received protection from the high court and in another from the Supreme Court.

Seeking an urgent hearing of Roy's petition on August 10, he said that apart from the two cases in which he has received protection, four other FIRs are registered against him, challenging which he has filed a quashing petition and sought interim protection from any

coercive police action.

Refusing an urgent hearing of Roy's petition, Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya said the matter will appear for hearing according to the serial number of cases before his court.

The court said that similar matters are appearing in the list and there is no scope for upgradation of Roy's petition.

The Supreme Court stayed Roy's arrest on Thursday in connection with a land-grabbing case in West Bengal's Salboni, while directing him to cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation.

Roy had moved the apex court challenging the Calcutta High Court's rejection of his anticipatory bail plea in connection with an alleged Government land fraud case being investigated by the Salboni Police in Paschim Medinipur district.

HC stays FSSAI ban on Dabur selling food products with 100% claims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday stayed an FSSAI directive prohibiting Dabur India from selling food products such as honey, cow ghee, and edible oils with "100 per cent" claims. Justice Amit Mahajan observed that Dabur was selling the products for decades and has made out a prima facie case for relief at this stage as the FSSAI order was passed without giving it any hearing.

"The court is prima facie of the opinion that the prohibitory order ought not to have been passed without giving an opportunity of hearing. Till the next date of hearing, the impugned order is stayed," said the judge, as it listed the case for hearing after two weeks.

Dabur's senior counsel argued that the FSSAI order was passed in violation of principles of natural justice,



in absence of any show cause notice or hearing. The Central Government standing counsel defended the order, stating that Dabur was earlier given "improvement notices" and advisories, and that its "100 per cent" claim on food products was misleading.

Declining a request to not grant interim relief at this stage, the court remarked, "They have been selling it for decades. Now suddenly you can't." In a social media post on Monday, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

said it has issued a prohibition order to Dabur India Ltd over the sales of food products carrying misleading "100 per cent" claims, including honey, apple cider vinegar, virgin coconut oil, sesame oil, cow ghee, coconut water, coconut milk and other such items.

According to the food safety regulator, the use of the 100 per cent claims is in contravention of the FSS (Advertising & Claims) Regulations, 2018, as they are ambiguous, unverifiable and likely to mislead consumers.

April 9, Varma, who was facing impeachment proceedings for his removal over allegations of corruption after wads of burnt currency notes were recovered from his residence in Delhi last year, resigned.

The rare removal proceedings initiated by the Lok Sabha against Justice Varma was rendered "infructuous" following his resignation with immediate effect. The judge submitted his resignation in a letter sent to President Droupadi Murmu. To avoid removal by Parliament, a res-

ignation was the only option left for the judge, who withdrew from the ongoing inquiry proceedings by a Lok Sabha-appointed panel. The judge was due to superannuate on January 5, 2031.

The purported discovery of a huge stash of cash took place after a fire broke out at the Lutyens' Delhi residence of Justice Varma, then a Delhi High Court judge, at around 11:35 pm on the night of Holi on March 14, 2025, prompting the fire department personnel to rush to the spot and douse the flames.

SC reserves verdict on TN quota for Muslim converts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday reserved its decision on a plea of the Tamil Nadu Government challenging a Madras High Court verdict which held that a person converting to Islam was not entitled to claim reservation under the Backward Class (Muslim) category solely on the basis of conversion.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekar heard senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Siddharth Luthra for the State Government who sought setting aside of the order.

Rohatgi submitted that the object behind the State Government's order of March 9, 2024 was to ensure that persons belonging to socially and educationally backward communities are not deprived of reservation ben-

efits solely on account of conversion to Islam.

He said the state Government's order created a level playing field by preserving affirmative action benefits despite change of religion. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan appeared for the respondent, the original petitioner, before the high court.

The high court's judgment arose from a petition filed by Sameer Ahamed, who converted from Hinduism to Islam in 2015, with the conversion being notified through a Gazette notification in 2016.

He subsequently married according to Islamic rites and sought a certificate identifying him as belonging to the "Muslim Lebbai" community to avail reservation benefits. His application was rejected by the tahsildar, prompting him to move the high court.

During the hearing, the state Government contend-



ed that it has the authority, based on the report of the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission, to issue backward classes (Muslim) community certificates to eligible persons who had embraced Islam among the backward classes, most backward classes, denotified communities and Scheduled Castes (SCs).

The bench reserved its verdict on the state Government's plea on the

issue. The State Government filed its plea through the district collector, Thoothukudi district and the revenue divisional officer, who were aggrieved by the declaration of unconstitutionality of Government order (GO)... No. 31 and the consequential findings having Statewide ramifications.

The State Government's appeal said the impugned judgment gives rise to substantial questions concerning

the permissible scope of interference with executive policy framed pursuant to the recommendation of an expert statutory commission.

It said the writ petitioner Sameer Ahamed had approached the high court challenging the rejection of his application seeking issuance of a Backward Class (Muslim) community certificate as "Muslim Lebbai".

"The only relief sought in the writ petition was for quashing the rejection order and for a consequential direction to issue the community certificate. Neither the writ petition nor the affidavit contained any challenge to the validity of G.O.(Ms.) No.31 dated March 9, 2024. There was no pleading alleging that the Government Order was unconstitutional or ultra vires, no amendment incorporating such a challenge, and no prayer seeking its quashing," the State Government contended.

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As many as 87 proposals have been received from various States and UTs under the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) scheme in the first round of Phase-I, for which applications were invited till July 31, Parliament was informed on Friday.

In March, the Government approved the `33,660-crore scheme to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across the country. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said applications received would be taken up for evaluation and scoring in accordance with the prescribed eligibility and evaluation criteria as per the scheme guidelines. The selection of projects is based on challenge mode with evaluation on parametres such as connectivity and site suitability, quality of core, value-added and social infrastructure in DPR (detailed project report), industrial ecosystem and policy enablers.

The guidelines provide that the selection process for first phase will be completed within one year from the date of notification of the scheme. In the first phase, the development of 50 industrial parks would be taken up. In the first round applications were invited for 20 parks from June 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026.

RBI rejects Religare’s proposal for demerger

Religare Enterprises on Friday said the Reserve Bank has rejected its demerger proposal even as it received a nod from the exchanges. The company has received a letter dated August 6, 2026, from the RBI, conveying that the application has been examined and that the request has not been acceded to, Religare Enterprises said in a regulatory filing.

"A similar communication dated August 7, 2026, has been received by Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL) as well in this regard. REL and RFL shall engage with the Regulator and provide further clarifications, as may be required in this regard," it said.

However, it said, the company got 'no objection' from National Stock Exchange of India Ltd and the observation letter with 'no adverse observations' from BSE Limited, in relation to the scheme. Burman family-backed Religare Enterprises had in February approved a plan to demerge its financial services and insurance businesses into two separately listed entities, a move aimed at unlocking shareholder value and sharpening strategic focus.

Odisha attracts `41,748 cr in food processing

Odisha has secured investment commitments worth `41,748 crore from 27 companies in the food processing sector, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said on Friday, as the State stepped up efforts to woo investors.

The companies signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) at an investors' meet organised by the State Government and industry body Assocham. "The MoUs signed today, worth `31,648 crore with 22 companies in the food processing sector, are proof of this progress," Majhi said, highlighting recent efforts to attract investment into the sector.

Later, the Odisha Government issued a statement, updating investment figures to `41,748 crore under signed MoUs, while another `1,689 crore investment is proposed through 12 investment intent forms (IIFs). Cumulatively on the first day, the State Government received investment proposals worth `43,437 crore with potential to create 43,316 jobs.

Speaking further, the chief minister noted that Odisha's industrial economy had long been centred around mining and minerals, but the state is now diversifying into four key sectors, including food and agro processing.

He said the sector is a priority area given its direct link to farmer incomes, with the government promoting food processing across all districts and a dedicated policy in place to incentivise investors.

Majhi added that Odisha ranks among the top five states in Niti Aayog's investment-friendliness index, and the government is working to make its business processes more inclusive.

Private sector investment moving at steady pace: Economic Affairs Secretary

Private sector investment is witnessing steady and sustained growth, driven by the Government's continued capital expenditure push, Economic Affairs Secretary Anuradha Thakur said on Friday.

Quoting a recent analysis, she said it shows that private sector investment, which the CII 2023 survey had indicated green shoots were emerging, now exhibits that private investment is moving at a "steady and stable pace upwards". Public capex has increased more than fivefold over the last decade from Rs 2 lakh crore in 2014-15 to 10.7 lakh crore in 2025-26, she said at the National Council of Applied Economic Research's India Policy Forum 2026 event here. The Government has projected public capital expenditure at Rs 12.2 lakh crore for the current fiscal in the Budget.

"Various indicators have shown, including the number of projects off-take, number of projects which are stalling, which is apparently at a decade low, which is a good thing. Public investment continues to play a catalytic role by crowding in private investment," she said.

India's long-term growth will be determined by how effectively public and private capital is deployed to create productive assets, globally competitive industries, quality jobs and transformative innovations, she pointed out. "Equally important is improving access to finance, particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises, which remain the backbone for manufacturing," the secretary added.

Talking about the global economy, Thakur said it is navigating a period of extraordinary uncertainty.

Geopolitical tensions, energy market volatility, fragmented trade patterns, and technological disruptions are all reshaping the global landscape, she said. Against this backdrop, she said, "We see that India continued to stand as a place for growth and stability over the past three years; the economy has grown at an average rate of 7 per cent while preserving macroeconomic stability".

Despite a very challenging global environment, she said, India offers strong domestic demand. On foreign capital flows, Thakur said that gross

The Pioneer

CHANDIGARH | SATURDAY | AUGUST 8, 2026

India not in favour of separate BRICS currency: Piyush Goyal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

India is not in favour of a BRICS currency and does not support the introduction of any such scheme, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

BRICS group comprises 11 major emerging markets and developing countries of the world — Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and United Arab Emirates (UAE). It serves as a platform for consultation and cooperation on contemporary issues having global as well as regional significance, and issues of global political and economic governance.

"Bharat BRICS currency ke paksh mein nahin hai. Hum samarthan nai dete ki aisi koi BRICS currency jaisi nai jojna lai jaye. Bharat ka uske upar virodh hai (India is not in favour of a BRICS currency. We do not support the introduction of any such BRICS currency scheme; India opposes it)," he told reporters after conclusion of the two-day meeting of BRICS trade and industry ministers in Jaipur.

These remarks are important as in 2024, US President Donald Trump warned BRICS countries against any move to replace the US dollar.

Over the past few years a few of its member countries, in particular Russia and China, are seeking an alternative to the US dollar or create own BRICS currency.

Goyal also said that the ministers discussed ways to promote balanced trade and investments among member countries. He added that access to easy and adequate financing to MSMEs was also deliberated upon.

India must build export-oriented medtech industry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

India must move beyond import substitution approach in the medical devices sector and build an export-oriented industry that serves global markets, a senior Government official said on Friday.

For this, the country needs to strengthen its domestic component manufacturing and deepen value addition, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Manoj Joshi, said.

The medical devices sector needs to be viewed from both healthcare and industry perspective, he said addressing the 'India Medical Device 2026' event, organised by industry body FICCI in the capital.

"India must move beyond the import substitution approach and build an export-oriented industry that serves global markets. While the Indian medical devices market is valued at around \$16 billion, the global market exceeds \$600 billion, offering immense opportunities for Indian manufacturers," he noted.

To realise this potential, Joshi said, "It is essential to strengthen domestic component manufacturing, deepen value addition, facilitate seamless cross-border movement of components and products, integrate India

into global value chains, and foster stronger partnerships between startups and large industries so that innovations can successfully reach the market." While healthcare providers focus on access to quality devices irrespective of their origin, domestic manufacturing is critical to generate employment, strengthen industry capabilities, and ensure supply chain resilience especially during global disruptions, Joshi noted.

irrespective of their origin, domestic manufacturing is critical to generate employment, strengthen industry capabilities, and ensure supply chain resilience especially during global disruptions, Joshi noted.

Stock markets decline dragged by banks, elevated crude oil prices

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Mumbai

Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday after two days of gains, dragged down by bank, financial stocks, and crude oil prices trading above \$80 per barrel mark.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 455.59 points, or 0.58 per cent, to settle at 78,499.17. During the day, it tanked 577.69 points, or 0.73 per cent, to 78,377.07.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 65.35 points, or 0.27 per cent, to end at 24,570.65. Intra-day, it declined 113.25 points, or 0.45 per cent, to 24,522.75. From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance tanked 5.90 per cent and Bajaj Finserv was down 4.18 per cent. ICICI Bank, Trent, Axis Bank, and Asian Paints were also among the laggards.

Tata Consultancy Services, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, and Tech Mahindra were among the winners. Financial stocks bore the brunt of the selling after the Reserve Bank of India released a draft framework proposing tighter norms for certain revolving credit products offered by non-bank financial companies (NBFCs).

"Bajaj Finance plunged 5.9 per cent, while Bajaj Finserv and other lending stocks also came under pressure as investors assessed the potential impact on future loan growth, product flexibility, and profitability," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth firm, said.

Bajaj Finance tumbled 5.90 per cent to end at `1,082, while Bajaj Finserv declined 4.18 per cent to `2,001.90.

"Indian equities ended lower on Friday as a sharp sell-off in financial stocks, lingering uncertainty over a lasting peace agreement in the Middle East and investor caution ahead of the closely watched US non-farm payrolls report weighed on market sentiment,"

Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a Research Analyst firm, said.

Shares of Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv were among the biggest drags on the benchmark indices, with selling pressure spreading across the broader NBFC space as

Build AI safeguards before adoption: CEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Friday cautioned the financial sector against overlooking the security risks posed by artificial intelligence, saying recent instances of AI agents attempting to breach other AI systems underscore the need to prioritise safeguards before embracing the technology's benefits.

The financial sector cannot afford to ignore emerging AI-related threats until they become a reality, he said at an event organised by industry chamber Assocham here.

"Whether it is the Anthropic or Meta agents going and hacking other institutions' IT systems without being prompted to do so, the key aspect is that we generally do not pay attention to risks until after they have become a reality," he said.

"I don't think we will have the luxury of time, particularly in the financial sector," he added, stressing that institutions should first strengthen security frameworks to ensure "we don't lose what we already have" before leveraging AI at scale.

His remarks came amid growing concerns over the cybersecurity implications of increasingly autonomous AI systems. In April, security concerns surfaced around Claude Mythos Preview, an advanced AI model developed by US-based Anthropic, accessing data in an unauthorised manner, putting financial services at risk globally.

On cross-border payments, Nageswaran said their wider adoption would depend primarily on the growth of bilateral trade and commercial transactions between participating countries.

"The value of trade between two nations has to become substantial enough for settlement in their respective currencies to make economic sense," he said.

investors assessed the potential implications of proposed regulatory changes, he added.

The BSE SmallCap Select index went up by 0.20 per cent and MidCap Select index edged higher by 0.19 per cent. Among sectoral indices, financial services dropped 1.33 per cent, private banks index (1.04 per cent), top 10 banks (0.97 per cent), consumer durables (0.90 per cent), housing finance (0.81 per cent), bankex (0.61 per cent) and insurance (0.61 per cent). Focused IT jumped 1.44 per cent, auto (1.33 per cent), IT (1.16 per cent), PSU bank (0.76 per cent) and healthcare (0.50 per cent).

This week, the BSE benchmark climbed 404.53 points, or 0.51 per cent, and the Nifty went up by 187.05 points, or 0.76 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dipped 0.35 per cent to \$82.20 per barrel. Foreign Institutional

Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth `17.86 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. "Indian equity markets ended modestly lower on Friday as renewed uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz negotiations and broad-based weakness in financial stocks overshadowed an otherwise supportive earnings backdrop."

"Investor sentiment remained cautious as markets weighed geopolitical risks alongside the potential implications of fresh regulatory proposals for the non-bank lending sector," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. For the entire week, both benchmark indices faced divergence after stock exchanges introduced a new auction mechanism for shares having futures and options (F&O) contracts.

Rupee settles on flat note, up 2 paise at 95.20

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Mumbai

The rupee settled on a flat note on Friday, higher by just 2 paise at 95.22 (provisional) against the US dollar, on heightened risk aversion due to fragile negotiations between Iran and Oman over the Strait of Hormuz.

Forex traders said risk aversion in global markets due to uncertainty on the deal between Iran and Oman and an overnight jump in crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.27 against the greenback and traded in a range of 95.19-95.28 during the session. It eventually settled at 95.20 (provisional), higher by 2 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee depreciated 14 paise to close at 95.22

against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on uncertainty over the deal between Iran and Oman over the Strait of Hormuz. However, markets may

remain volatile over any decision over the weekend.

"Any positive news may support the rupee and vice versa. Traders may also take cues from the non-farm employment report from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 95 to 95.60," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.90, down 0.02 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.23 per cent at \$82.30 per barrel in futures trade.

FROM THE WORLD

SYRIA

14 wounded in bus blast

Syria's Health Ministry said Friday that 14 people were wounded, three of them critically, but that there were no fatalities in the explosion of a minivan taxi a day earlier in a Damascus suburb. The Health Ministry had said Thursday night that two people were killed in the blast. In a statement Friday, it said the fatalities had been incorrectly recorded based on three severed limbs that were pulled from the wreckage.

After further investigation, the limbs were determined to belong to living patients who were undergoing surgery, the statement said. Officials said the explosion in Jaramana was caused by an explosive device planted in the minivan taxi, which was carrying passengers at the time of the blast. (AP)

ITALY

Heat wave strikes Europe

Italy placed all its major cities under the highest heat alert on Friday as a blistering heat wave gripped Europe, setting a national temperature record in Austria, fuelling wildfires in France and disrupting energy and transport systems across the continent.

The extreme weather has pushed temperatures above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in several countries, prompting health warnings for millions of people. Scientists and officials warn that such events are becoming more frequent and intense as the climate warms. The current heat wave has exposed vulnerabilities in public health systems, power generation, transportation networks and tourism infrastructure, forcing governments and businesses to adapt to more frequent periods of extreme weather. (AP)

3 inmates killed, over 20 injured in fresh prison clashes in Sri Lanka



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Colombo

Three inmates were killed and 23 others injured in separate clashes at two prisons in Sri Lanka over the past 24 hours, officials said on Friday. The clashes were the latest in a series of incidents of prison unrest in the island nation over the past month, which the public security minister has said are suspected to be part of an organised plot. At the Kuruwita prison, 60 kms southeast of Colombo, two inmates were killed and 13 others injured on Friday after a violent situation, officials said.

"The immediate trigger for the unrest appears to have been the detection of a package containing narcotics and the subsequent arrest. It is evident that this was a response to the Government's anti-narcotics drive," Justice Minister Harshana Nanayakkara told reporters. The injured are receiving treatment at Ratnapura

Student kills 5 people at high school in Thailand

ASSOCIATED PRESS n Nonthaburi

A student opened fire at a high school outside Bangkok on Friday, killing at least five people and wounding more than 20, according to authorities, who said he also appeared to have killed his two grandparents at the family home earlier in the morning.

The 14-year-old shooter took his own life at the school, officials said. Five school staff members, including teachers and administrators, died in the shooting around 10 am at Debsirin Nonthaburi School in Nonthaburi province northwest of Bangkok, Deputy Interior Minister Polapee Suwunchwee said at the scene.

The boy also killed his grandparents at the home he shared with them prior to the school shooting, Polapee said. Bangyai Hospital,



Police officers secure Debsirin Nonthaburi School, where a shooting killed several people in Thailand's Nonthaburi province

about 5 kilometres from the school, said 23 people were wounded, of whom 10 were in critical condition, with most suffering

gunshot wounds. Earlier reports gave conflicting casualty numbers.

A witness said students hid inside a classroom while they

heard gunshots from another building before police officers knocked on the door and cleared a way for them to leave the building. Amporn Niamfuang, who owns a restaurant 50 metres from the school, said there was the sound of a single gunshot and then a pause.

"And then there were multiple continuous shots," Amporn said, recalling the narrow road outside the restaurant filling with fleeing students. "Students were running scared and pouring onto the street. Young girls were holding each other's hands and crying. I went inside to hide."

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, speaking after touring the school, confirmed reports that the shooter was 14 and had killed himself. He said the student had shown signs of stress

connected to school. The gun, described by police as small and compact, was legally registered to his grandfather, he said. About an hour after the shooting, people stood outside comforting one another as police and first responders walked around the co-educational state school, which has an enrolment of about 3,000 students ranging from 12 to 18 years old.

All classes will be suspended between August 10 and 14 and school staff have been instructed to work from home during that time, the school said.

Police find grandparents dead at family home

After the shooting, police went to his home and found both grandparents dead of apparent gunshot wounds, regional police Commander Wattana Yeejeen said.

The student appeared to have shot them before attending school as normal. He waited until classes started and began shooting inside his classroom before walking out and firing more shots. Police spokesperson Trairong Piwpan said. The boy fired more than 20 shots and police found he still had 30 rounds after shooting himself, he said.

Several family members, including his uncle and sisters of the grandfather who were at the family home while police investigated, said he usually kept to himself and was a good student.

The family members said they were unaware of any troubles he faced at home or school. Thailand has one of the highest rates of gun ownership in Asia, second only to Pakistan and far surpassing its Southeast Asian neighbours.

Zelenskyy to make first visit to Russia-friendly Serbia

JOVANA GEC n Belgrade

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will on Saturday make his first official visit to Serbia, one of the few European countries that have maintained friendly relations with Russia despite its invasion of Ukraine.

The office of Serbia's populist President Aleksandar Vucic announced the visit late Thursday. Zelenskyy's office has not officially confirmed his trip to Belgrade.

The visit comes as Vucic tries to balance Serbia's traditional ties with Moscow against pressure to align its foreign policy with the European Union. Vucic has refused to join international sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, citing historic ties between the two Slavic Nations.

Serbia is in the process of joining the EU, but that has been stalled partly because of Belgrade's policies toward Moscow.

Serbia relies almost entirely on Russia for its energy supplies. Although Belgrade has refused to sanction Russia, it has provided aid to Ukraine and Vucic has recently stepped up contacts with Kyiv, in an apparent bid to boost his image in the West.

Russia last year accused Serbia of exporting arms to Ukraine through NATO member states, describing the move as a "stab in the back." Serbia also has promised to help rebuild Ukraine after the war.

Ahead of the visit, Vucic said he and Zelenskyy will



discuss cooperation in various fields and their countries' paths toward EU membership. Vucic said Serbia does not intend to change its position on Russia sanctions. "As far as sanctions are concerned, let me tell you directly: Serbia has established its policy," Vucic said on Friday. He added that Serbia's stand "has not changed and this will remain so for the time being."

Russia has faced international condemnation and sanctions since it launched its invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Djordje Vlajic, a senior editor at the independent Fonet news agency in Belgrade, believes that both Vucic and Zelenskyy aim to make political gains from the Belgrade visit.

Zelenskyy "is sending a message to Russia that he is taking over of its key allies in the Balkans," Vlajic said. Vucic,

on his part, "wants to keep the link alive with the EU and send a signal to Brussels that he shares their (EU) position about the war," he added.

Serbia has been told it could lose access to EU funds and cannot move ahead with its EU membership bid because of its Moscow ties and general democratic backsliding under Vucic, who has faced a year of youth-led protests following a train station disaster in November 2024 that killed 16 people.

Vucic and Zelenskyy have met on several occasions since the start of the Russian invasion. Vucic travelled to Ukraine twice to attend summits on strengthening European support for Kyiv's fight against Russian aggression, but each time he refused to sign a joint declaration calling for tougher sanctions against Moscow. (AP)

Russian retail depot burns after long-range drone strike

ASSOCIATED PRESS
n Moscow

Ukrainian long-range drones hit a warehouse in the Ural Mountains belonging to Russia's biggest online retailer, more than 2,000 kilometres from the two countries' border, local officials and the company said Friday.

Ukraine has regularly hit targets in the distant Urals this year and has even struck a Russian oil refinery in western Siberia, nearly 2,500 kilometres from the border. The attacks are examples of how Kyiv has used drone innovation as a key part of its response to the invasion by its much bigger enemy more



than four years ago.

Its successes have drawn international interest and drone cooperation agreements with nine countries, with further deals being negotiated with 15 other countries, according to Kyiv

officials. A Wildberries warehouse in Yekaterinburg, Russia's fourth-largest city, was set ablaze by the attack, the company said. Most merchandise wasn't damaged, it said, unlike at some of the more than a dozen other Wildberries depots struck by Ukraine in recent weeks that have burned down. Kyiv is trying to rattle the Russian public and the Kremlin with the attacks.

The regional governor, Denis Pasler, said three drones hit the warehouse's roof. Artym Zhoga, the Kremlin's representative in the region, said that 800 people were evacuated from the warehouse and nobody

was hurt. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is pushing for his country to keep up the pace of technological development, especially in air defence systems to help stop Russian ballistic missiles that are exploiting Ukraine's shortage of American-made Patriot interceptor missiles and battering civilian areas.

A joint European anti-ballistic development programme is already underway, Zelenskyy said late Thursday, with 10 countries engaged in developing an anti-ballistic shield. Europe is concerned about Moscow's ambitions on the continent beyond Ukraine.

Nepal wants to become vibrant bridge connecting India, China: FM Khanal

SHIRISH B PRADHAN n Kathmandu

Nepal wants to transform itself from a landlocked country into a "vibrant, dynamic bridge" connecting India and China, Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said here on Friday.

Nepal welcomed the continued development and prosperity of both India and China, Khanal said as he inaugurated a two-day international conference titled 'China and South Asia in a Multipolar World.' The foreign minister added that Nepal remained committed to strengthening its relations with both its neighbours based on "sovereign equality, mutual respect, mutual benefit, and sensitivity to each other's legitimate interests and concerns."

The conference was jointly organised by the Centre for South Asian Studies, Fudan University, China, and Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement. The remarks assume significance as Nepal's new government led by



Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal

Prime Minister Balendra Shah has sought to pursue a balanced foreign policy towards its two immediate neighbours while placing greater emphasis on economic diplomacy, investment and connectivity.

"Asia's transformation presents unprecedented opportunities for shared prosperity," Khanal said, stressing that South Asia possesses enormous promise, although much of its economic potential remains untapped. (PTI)

Climber Yukta killed in Broad Peak avalanche cremated in Kathmandu

SHIRISH B PRADHAN
n Kathmandu

Nepali climber Pur Bahadur Gurung, who was among the 10 mountaineers killed in an avalanche on Broad Peak in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, was cremated following Buddhist rituals and tradition in Kathmandu on Friday.

Gurung, popularly known as 'Yukta', and nine other climbers, including veteran Nepalese-British mountaineer Nirmal Purja, died after the avalanche struck the world's 12th-highest mountain at 8,051 metres in PoK's Gilgit-Baltistan on July 30. The climbers were declared dead on August 1.

Government officials, political leaders, tourism entrepreneurs, mountaineers, well-wishers and family members of Yukta were present when he was cremated near the Swoyambhunath Stupa in Kathmandu, according to Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) sources. A funeral procession was held before the last rites at the Swoyambhunath Stupa.

The mountaineer's body was brought to Kathmandu from Pakistan and was accorded a solemn reception at the Tribhuvan International Airport. (PTI)



Iran deal nears: Trump faces pressure to compromise

BEN FINLEY/MATTHEW LEE
n Washington

To reach a deal with Iran that reopens the economically vital Strait of Hormuz, President Donald Trump may need to do something out of character — compromise.

Any concession would be tough for the Republican president, who has insisted there is no truth to his sagging poll numbers, the sluggish economy and the US military's dwindling stockpiles of key weapons following the Iran war he launched with Israel more than five months ago.

"He divides the world into winners and losers, and this would make him a loser," said Eliot Cohen, who served as counselor of the State Department in the George W Bush administration. "And the image of being a loser, I think, would be intolerable for him." The sticking point



has been over control of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil normally flows. While both sides say a deal is close, the Trump administration has ruled out any arrangement that would cement Iran's grip over the Persian Gulf waterway, includ-

ing Tehran charging fees.

But Iran has insisted on some measure of control, saying the strait will not go back to being an open international waterway as it was before the war. Despite thousands of US strikes, Iran can still fire drones and missiles at vessels, giving it a chokehold over commercial shipping.

Cohen said yielding ground to Iran would be difficult for the president, even if the conflict keeps gasoline prices elevated and poses problems for Republicans in November's midterm elections.

But David Schenker, a former State Department official in the first Trump administration, said the increasing economic pressure may actually prompt Trump to compromise on the strait, even if it's likely to have profound implications on global trade. "There will be a lot of spin both ways, but my guess is that

the president has tipped his hand as to the urgency for him of resolving the crisis," said Schenker, now a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "This is a concession he may very well be willing to make."

weapons stockpiles are a little bit tighter: Trump

He posted on social media Thursday that the US military still has "massive amounts" of weapons and that large amounts are being manufactured. He threatened jail time for the alleged "leakers" of information on the nation's weapons stockpiles.

Trump was referencing a Washington Post story that reported his frustration with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth over the shrinking inventories of advanced weapons, as the Cabinet had gathered at Camp David last week. (AP)

US President signs new orders to limit birthright citizenship

SAGAR KULKARNI n Washington

US President Donald Trump has signed two executive orders to crack down on birth tourism and limit the number of people eligible for birthright citizenship, weeks after the Supreme Court struck down his directive in this regard.

One order signed by Trump on Thursday targets people who engage in commercial "birth tourism" by seeking to deny them access to the country.

The other expands the definitions of people that it States are ineligible for birthright citizenship, such as children of foreign citizens who lobby on behalf of foreign governments. On June 30, the US Supreme Court struck down Trump's executive order seeking to end birthright



President Donald Trump holding a signed proclamation regarding polysilicon imports in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington

citizenship, reaffirming the more than 100-year-old understanding that nearly all of those born in the United States are citizens.

Talking to reporters at the Oval Office after signing the executive orders, Trump lashed out at the Supreme Court for its June 30 order and asserted that the fresh move was aimed at "making adjustments". "We had a very unfortunate decision in the Supreme Court concerning birthright, it was close, but a very, very unfortunate decision. So we're making adjustments," the president said.

He was flanked by White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and White House Staff Secretary Will Scharf.

Ratified on July 9, 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalised in the US, including former slaves.

"This was done right after the Civil War. This was for the babies of slaves, and what's happening now? People are building businesses around it," Trump said.

Miller, considered the architect of Trump's anti-immigration agenda, said people come to the US pretending to be a tourist, but the real reason they're here is to have a child, to make that child an automatic citizen. "It gives them access, under this broken system, to welfare benefits, ultimately to the voting booth, and all the other rights and privileges that belong solely to Americans," Miller said. (PTI)

Saudi, Pak, Turkey forge Mecca Pact

ASHOKE RAJ n New Delhi

Amid growing uncertainty in West Asia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey on Friday signed a tri-lateral defence agreement, informally echoed the 'Mecca Pact', committing themselves to closer military cooperation and a collective security framework.

The agreement was finalised after a high-level summit in the holy city of Mecca attended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who was visiting the Kingdom after performing the Umrah pilgrimage.

According to a joint declaration issued after the summit, the three countries agreed to institutionalise defence cooperation through enhanced military coordination, strategic consultations and joint security mechanisms. A key feature of the pact is a mutual defence clause that treats an armed attack against any one of the three signatories as an attack against all, signalling a significant step towards formalised collective security among the partners.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry described the agreement as a natural progression of the countries' longstanding political, strategic and defence ties. It said the framework reflects their shared commitment to promoting regional peace and stability while strengthening cooperation based on common security interests. "The agreement is intended to enhance collective deterrence and deepen defence collaboration in response to emerging regional security challenges," the ministry said.

India on Friday said it was closely monitoring the newly announced tri-lateral defence agreement between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey, signalling that New Delhi is assessing the strategic implications of the emerging security framework amid an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment in West



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif posing after signing agreement in Mecca

PTI

Asia. Responding to media queries, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government was carefully following developments related to the agreement and would assess its implications as further details emerge. The measured response underscores India's watchful approach towards changing strategic equations in its extended neighbourhood, particularly at a time when regional security dynamics remain fluid.

The announcement comes against the backdrop of continuing instability across West Asia, where the conflict involving Iran has intensified geopolitical uncertainty. Repeated missile attacks, disruptions to maritime trade routes and concerns over global energy supplies have prompted several regional powers to reassess their defence and security partnerships.

The security environment has become increasingly volatile following military exchanges involving Iran, Israel and the United States earlier this year, raising fears of a wider regional confrontation with broader geopolitical consequences.

Turkish officials sought to allay

concerns by describing the new arrangement as a purely defensive initiative. They maintained that the pact is not directed against any particular country, does not replace existing bilateral or multilateral security arrangements and remains open to broader regional cooperation should other countries choose to participate.

Strategic observers see the initiative as a notable attempt by three influential Muslim-majority nations to deepen policy coordination at a time when traditional security architectures are being tested by multiple regional crises.

Analysts argue that beyond its military dimension, the agreement carries considerable diplomatic significance by signalling a greater willingness among regional powers to develop indigenous security frameworks rather than relying exclusively on external alliances. If backed by sustained political commitment and institutional mechanisms, they believe the partnership could enhance the three countries' collective influence on regional security issues.

Each member contributes distinct strategic strengths to the new

framework. Turkey possesses one of NATO's largest and most capable armed forces alongside a rapidly expanding domestic defence industry. Saudi Arabia combines significant financial resources, global energy influence and its status as the custodian of Islam's two holiest mosques. Pakistan brings extensive operational military experience and remains the only Muslim-majority nation with declared nuclear capabilities.

The pact also builds on decades of defence cooperation among the three countries. Pakistan has long maintained military training and advisory programmes in Saudi Arabia, while Ankara and Islamabad have expanded collaboration in defence production, military technology and joint training. Saudi Arabia has also emerged as a major buyer of Turkish defence equipment, including advanced unmanned aerial systems.

Security experts believe the agreement could pave the way for closer cooperation in defence manufacturing, intelligence sharing, joint military exercises and technology transfer. At the same time, analysts point out that Pakistan's nuclear doctrine remains focused on its security calculus vis-à-vis India, making any nuclear component to the new partnership unlikely.

Pakistan has also expanded military engagement with Gulf countries in recent months through additional deployments and broader security cooperation, while simultaneously exploring defence partnerships linked to investment and energy security across the region.

Although the three governments have presented the Mecca Pact as a defensive arrangement aimed at strengthening regional stability, its long-term strategic implications are expected to be closely watched by major regional stakeholders, including India, as West Asia undergoes one of its most consequential geopolitical transitions in recent years.

Pakistan forces kill 10 terrorists in KPK province

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

n Peshawar

Pakistan security forces have killed 10 terrorists in two separate incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military's media wing said on Friday. The incidents occurred on Thursday in South Waziristan and Upper Dir districts against Fitna al Khawarij, a term the Government uses for the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) of Pakistan's military, a group of terrorists attempted to attack checkpoints of security forces in the Azam Warsak area of South Waziristan.

The troops responded effectively to the attack, killing eight terrorists, it said. In the second incident in Dir district, security forces killed two more terrorists. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered during the operation.

The ISPR said the slain terrorists were involved in several terrorist activities in the area. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the security forces for eliminating 10 terrorists.

PM Sharif reaffirmed that operations against terrorism would continue with full resolve until the complete eradication of the menace.



16 elephants die after eating poisoned tomatoes in Kenya



EVELYNE MUSAMBI n Kimana

The carcass of one elephant lies on a dusty road, while another has been almost completely eaten by scavengers, leaving just the skull. They are among 16 elephants that died last month in Kenya's Amboseli National Park from suspected cyanide poisoning after eating tomatoes in nearby farms.

Investigations are ongoing into how cyanide found its way into an ecosystem where wild and domestic animals coexist. Growers have disputed claims that cyanide from their tomatoes killed the elephants. The elephant deaths and disputes about the cause have intensified concerns over growing human-wildlife conflict in the region due to expanding agricultural activities near

Amboseli park. Kenya has until recently been widely recognised for rebuilding its elephant population from historic lows to more than 36,000 individuals by reducing poaching.

Kenya's Wildlife Service said last month that 15 elephants had died in the Amboseli ecosystem in a span of a month. The service updated the numbers to 16 on Friday. Preliminary laboratory tests detected cyanide, while postmortem examinations found tomatoes in the animals' stomachs. The wildlife service on Friday said it requested the Pest Control Products Board to establish a team to investigate whether the chemical "may have been improperly used, stored, or disposed, and whether water, soil, or grass may have been contaminated."

(AP)

Typhoon Dolphin heads to Okinawa, airport closed



ASSOCIATED PRESS n Tokyo

The slow-moving Typhoon Dolphin approached Japan's southern remote islands on Friday, causing a main airport on Okinawa to close and grounding all flights in and out of the island, while sending hundreds of people to take shelter at evacuation centres. The typhoon was near Yoron Island and heading west toward the main island of Okinawa with maximum winds of 144 kph (89 mph) as of late morning Friday, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Three men in their 70s were slightly injured - two of them were caught in the wind

and a third one fell from a stool, apparently blown off by the wind while preparing for the storm, the Okinawa prefecture said.

The Naha Airport on Okinawa Island said it closed Friday and all domestic and international flights in and out of Naha have been cancelled. As of midday Friday, 240 people had taken shelter at evacuation centres across Okinawa, the prefecture said. With Dolphin expected to affect part of Japan's southern main island of Kyushu, residents whose houses were damaged by last week's deadly earthquake were placing blue tarps on roofs and walls to prevent water damage.

Pope Leo to meet with clergy abuse survivors

COLLEEN BARRY n Milan



Pope Leo XIV will meet with survivors of clergy abuse during a four-day trip to France next month that will include a visit to UNESCO headquarters, a meeting with French bishops in Lourdes and an interreligious meeting in the border city of Metz, the Vatican announced on Friday.

The Vatican issued a brief separate statement highlighting the meeting with several abuse survivors and noting that the victims themselves will be involved in preparations for the meeting. The timing and location will be provided at a later date.

Leo met with six abuse survivors during his recent trip to Spain, where the Catholic hierarchy has only recently begun reckoning with its legacy of abuse and cover-up after long dismissing the severity of the scandal. In France, a 2021 report estimated 330,000 children had been sexually abused over 70 years by church personnel.

The pontiff last month signalled commitment to continuing the fight against clergy sexual abuse by appointing French Bishop Thibault Verny to head the Vatican's child protection advisory commission.

The September 25-28

France trip, which was confirmed in May, will be Leo's fourth foreign voyage of the year. Leo made a day trip to Monaco in March, visited four African nations in April and Spain and the Canary Islands in June. The Vatican also confirmed this week that he will make his first trip to Latin America as pontiff in November, with visits to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru, where he served for over three decades.

Leo will start his visit September 25 in Paris, meeting with President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace where he will address authorities, civil society and the diplomatic corps before giving a speech at headquarters of the UN culture agency, UNESCO. He will later celebrate vespers at Notre-Dame Cathedral and end the day with a prayer vigil with young people at the national stadium. (AP)

NASA astronauts conclude spacewalk outside ISS

SAGAR KULKARNI n Washington

NASA astronauts Anil Menon and Jessica Meir on Friday concluded their spacewalk outside the International Space Station (ISS) to assemble a modification kit for its power channel, which would allow the addition of solar arrays.

The spacewalk - the 281st in support of the space station - sixth for Meir and first for Menon began at 8:33 am EDT (6:03 pm IST) on Thursday and concluded at 3:00 pm EDT (12:30 am IST Friday). Menon and Meir exited the Quest airlock and carried out structural upgrades on the exterior of the orbital laboratory during the six-hour, 27-minute spacewalk.

Their primary objective centred on installing mounting hardware on the



station's 3B power channel, located on the Starboard 6 truss segment.

"This work will enable the future installation of roll-out solar arrays, called IROSA, to provide additional power for the orbiting laboratory, supporting critical systems and the safe, controlled deorbit of the space station," NASA said in a statement.

Since 2021, astronauts on prior

spacewalks have deployed six of the International Space Station Roll-Out Solar Array (IROSA) assemblies, leaving now just two awaiting delivery to the station later this year.

Menon was positioned on an articulating portable foot restraint atop a worksite interface, providing a stable angle to work from the truss.

The two astronauts later routed cabling that will carry electricity from the future IROSA into the 3B power channel and then covered the struts with multi-layer insulation.

"Anil, you can see the moon to the - well, I am not sure what way you're facing, but....," said Meir, taking a short break during the spacewalk.

"To my right. Yeah, I see it - thanks for the heads-up. I can see a future moon base there," Menon said. (PTI)

Police officers bitten during anti-migrant protests in UK town

ADITI KHANNA n London

A UK police force said on Friday that its officers have been tackling serious violence, including being bitten and spat at by protesters, over days of anti-migrant clashes at a town in eastern England.

Norfolk Constabulary condemned the violence over three nights of disorder at Thetford as protesters targeted properties they believed were housing asylum seekers. Four people were arrested and a 68-year-old man has been charged with possession of an offensive



weapon, namely a wooden bat, since the protests turned violent on Tuesday night.

"As police intervened, members of the group became physically aggres-

sive towards officers - two were taken to hospital after a male officer was struck with a rock and a female officer was seriously bitten, breaking the skin. A third officer was also spat at," Norfolk Police said.

Properties have been damaged in the protests, including windows being smashed and fences broken, as people attempted to break into residential properties. Asylum seekers were forced to flee some of these accommodations amid the disorder, which entered its third consecutive night on Thursday.

"We will always facilitate and support the right to peaceful protest, and we recognise that people may hold strong views and feelings about issues.

However, no matter how strongly those views are held, there is no place for violence, intimidation or criminal behaviour," said Assistant Chief Constable Julie Dean, overseeing the response to the disorder for the Norfolk Constabulary.

"Our role is to keep people safe. We have a duty to protect everyone in our communities, maintain public order and prevent harm. We

will not stand by and allow violence to take place, whether that is directed towards members of the public, local residents or police officers carrying out their duties.

"Where criminal offences are committed, we will take robust action. Our focus remains on maintaining public safety and ensuring people can go about their lives without fear of violence or disorder," she said.

Her officers made arrests for offences including public order, harassment and possession of an offensive weapon, with some still in

custody while others have been released on bail.

Extra policing measures were enforced until Friday, which gave officers the power to order anyone committing anti-social behaviour, or likely to do so, to leave the area. According to Norfolk Police, several asylum seekers had to be escorted from homes as a result of the unrest this week.

"The ugly scenes in Thetford over the past few days have been difficult to watch and are deeply concerning," said Terry Jermy, the Labour member of Parliament for the area. (PTI)

Life in Cuba revolves around brief sparks of electricity

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ n Havana

A 20-minute burst of electricity is a small miracle in Havana nowadays - a miracle that sometimes comes at 3 am. That's when 72-year-old Leidis Rodriguez frantically cooked beans after the lights switched on this week following hours of uninterrupted blackouts. "The power has come back on, everyone go!" Rodriguez shouted. In the wake of sometimes dayslong blackouts in Cuba - fuelled by the oil blockade imposed by the Trump administration in January - Cubans are planning their lives around the lights turning back on.

Those small bursts of relief last a few minutes or a few hours. They come at any time, day or night. Increasingly, electricity flicks on when Rodriguez and her



41-year-old daughter, Yaimara Matos, would normally be asleep.

When the power comes on, the family stops everything they're doing. "You

want to do everything at the same time - wash clothes, iron, cook, tidy the rooms, because it's impossible in the dark, and even get a little relief from the heat," Matos

said. "What we used to do in 10 hours, we now have to do in two." That's the case for Cubans across the island, whose lives have been transformed by one of the worst

crises the island has seen since the Cuban revolution. Daily life has turned into a tangle of compounding crises families have to unravel.

Public transportation and cultural events have come to a standstill. So has tourism, the country's economic engine, especially as tourism companies have withdrawn, leaving 25,000 hospitality jobs vacant.

Flights to the island are regularly cancelled and workdays have been shortened to adjust to the new reality of a Cuba without power. Medicine shortages have worsened and food rots in fridges without power.

"If there's no electricity, there's no water because it doesn't get pumped to the tank. When there's water, there's no electricity," Rodriguez lamented. (AP)

SpaceX to build \$16.8b chip plant in Texas, create over 3,000 jobs

SEEMA HAKHU KACHRU n Houston

Aerospace major SpaceX and electric vehicle maker Tesla are investing \$16.8 billion to build 'Terafab', an advanced AI semiconductor complex in Texas, designed to narrow a looming gap in global chip supply, according to official statements.

The first phase of the vertically integrated, 100-million-square-foot facility in Grimes County, Texas, will create at least 3,000 high-paying jobs for engineers, technicians, and plant operators, with future expansion phases expected to push total investment significantly higher, SpaceX said in a statement on its website on Thursday.

"The Terafab is bringing cutting-edge manufacturing to America, creating thousands of high-paying jobs in the Lone Star State, and enabling us to produce AI chips at scale for use on Earth and in space," SpaceX Founder and CEO Elon Musk said in the statement. The mega facility aims to meet an anticipated requirement of over one terawatt of computing power for



Musk's ventures. The plant will make, package, and test advanced logic and memory chips under a single roof to power Tesla's Optimus humanoid robots and Cybercabs, as well as high-performance processors for SpaceX's planned orbital data centres.

The expansion comes as Musk tightens the integration of artificial intelligence efforts across his enterprises following SpaceX's acquisition of AI startup xAI earlier this year. (PTI)

PROSPECT

Bihar accounts for 70% of India’s prepaid smart metres: Energy Secretary Ajay Yadav



Ajay Yadav

Bihar showcased its remarkable transformation in the power sector and outlined its roadmap for a digitally enabled, future-ready electricity ecosystem at the 7th CII International Energy Conference & Exhibition (IECE 2026) in New Delhi.

Representing the State, Ajay Yadav, IAS, Energy Secretary, Government of Bihar & Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited (BSPHCL), participated as a distinguished panellist in the technical session, “Demand Response 2.0: Leveraging Smart Metres, DT Metres and IoT for Flexible Power Systems.” The discussion focused on the role of smart metering, AI, IoT and digital technologies in creating flexible and consumer-centric power systems.

Addressing the gathering, Yadav said Bihar has emerged as a national leader in smart metering, having installed 92 lakh prepaid smart meters, which represent nearly 70 per cent of all prepaid smart metres installed in the country. Further, when considering the total smart metre installations across India, including both prepaid and postpaid smart metres, Bihar accounts for around 30 per cent of the national installation base.

He said Bihar’s power sector has witnessed remarkable improvements between 2020 and 2025. Billing efficiency has increased from 75.14 per cent in financial year 2019-20 to 88.46 per cent in 2025-26, collection efficiency from 86 per cent to 100 per cent, while AT&C losses have declined from 35.12 per cent in 2019-20 to 11.54 per cent in 2025-26. The ACS-ARR gap has also turned positive.

Yadav said prepaid smart metering has significantly reduced electricity theft, virtually eliminated arrears, improved billing efficiency and strengthened consumer confidence.

Bihar has also generated nearly 10 billion data points, enabling utilities to better understand consumption patterns, forecast demand and improve decision-making. He added that the successful implementation of Time-of-Day (ToD) tariffs is helping optimise electricity consumption and strengthen demand-side management.

He further informed that Bihar has installed nearly two lakh Distribution Transformer (DT) meters, enabling real-time monitoring of transformer loading, predictive maintenance and better asset planning, thereby improving the reliability and efficiency of the distribution network.

Highlighting the next phase of Bihar’s power reforms, Yadav said the State is actively promoting industrialisation, planning to develop 13 greenfield satellite township and creating world-class infrastructure to support economic growth. Bihar has already recorded a peak demand of around 9,475 MW this year, while providing the power supply of 23-24 hours in urban areas and 22-23 hours in rural areas.

Emphasising the need to improve power quality alongside availability, he said, “Our focus is no longer limited to ensuring adequate power availability. We are now leveraging the digital energy ecosystem to deliver reliable, resilient and high-quality power supply for industries and consumers alike.”

LIC reports strong Q1FY27 results, PAT rises 22.8% to `13,492 crore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Mumbai

The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has approved and adopted the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026. On a standalone basis, LIC posted a Profit After Tax (PAT) of `13,492 crore for Q1FY27, compared to `10,986 crore in the same quarter last year, registering a growth of 22.81 per cent.

LIC continued to maintain its leadership position in the Indian life insurance industry. As per IRDAI data based on First Year Premium Income, the overall market share stood at 60.10 per cent for the quarter. In the individual segment, LIC held a market share of 38.89 per cent, while in the group segment it was 70.90 per cent.

Total Premium Income for the quarter ended June 30, 2026 rose to `1,27,250 crore from `1,19,200 crore a year earlier, a growth of 6.75 per cent. Individual Business Premium increased by 5.52 per cent to `75,416 crore from `71,474 crore in Q1FY26. Group Business Premium grew 8.61 per cent to `51,834 crore from `47,726 crore in



the corresponding quarter last year. In the individual segment, LIC sold 31,02,281 policies during the quarter, compared to 30,39,709 policies in Q1FY26, marking an increase of 2.06 per cent.

On an Annualised Premium Equivalent basis, total premium for the quarter stood at `13,692 crore. Individual Business accounted for 55.01 per cent or `7,532 crore, while Group Business contributed 44.99 per cent or `6,160 crore. Within Individual Business, Par products accounted for 67.51 per cent or `5,085 crore on an APE basis, and Non-Par products contributed 32.49 per cent or `2,447 crore. Non-Par APE grew 14.24 per cent from `2,142 crore in Q1FY26 to `2,447 crore in Q1FY27.

Consequently, the share of Non-Par in Individual APE

increased to 32.49 per cent from 30.34 per cent a year ago. The Value of New Business for the quarter was `3,136 crore compared to `1,944 crore in Q1FY26, a growth of 61.32 per cent. The Net VNB Margin expanded by 750 basis points to 22.9 per cent from 15.4 per cent in the same period last year.

LIC’s Solvency Ratio improved to 2.42 as on June 30, 2026, from 2.17 as on June 30, 2025.

Persistency ratios showed a mixed trend. On a premium basis, the 13th month persistency was 75.33 per cent and the 61st month persistency was 61.12 per cent for Q1FY27, compared to 75.63 per cent and 63.85 per cent respectively in Q1FY26. On a number of policies basis, the 13th month persistency stood at 66.45 per cent and the 61st month

at 48.74 per cent, against 64.35 per cent and 51.12 per cent respectively in the year-ago quarter.

Assets Under Management increased 4.10 per cent year-on-year to `59,39,384 crore as on June 30, 2026, from `57,05,341 crore a year earlier. The Overall Expense Ratio was 10.63 per cent for the quarter, compared to 10.47 per cent in Q1FY26, an increase of 16 basis points. Yield on Investments on policyholders’ funds, excluding unrealised gains, was 8.28 per cent for the quarter, against 8.45 per cent in the corresponding quarter last year.

R Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC said, “We are happy to maintain our leadership in both Individual and Group Business during the first quarter of this financial year, despite increasing competitive intensity in the life insurance industry. Our overall market share by First Year Premium Income was 60.10 per cent for the first quarter of FY 2026-27 and this fits in well with our market share strategy. What gives us even more happiness is that our VNB has grown by 61 per cent plus and our VNB margin has expanded by 7.5 per cent to 22.90 per cent this year.”

DG ITBP flags off Force Level Mountaineering Expedition-2026



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Shatrujeet Kapur, IPS, Director General, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), on Friday flagged off the Force-Level Mountaineering Expedition-2026 from Force Headquarters, New Delhi, by handing over the expedition flag to the Team Leader, Parikshit Shah, Deputy Commandant.

The expedition will attempt Mt Kamet (7,756 m) and Mt Abi Gamin (7,355 m) in Uttarakhand. A 27-member team, comprising 20 mountaineers and 7 administrative staff, is participating in the expedition. ITBP mountaineers had successfully summited both peaks in 2024, reaffirming the Force’s

high-altitude expertise and rich mountaineering legacy. Addressing the expedition team, the Director General said that ITBP has a distinguished history of successfully conducting numerous national and international mountaineering expeditions. He emphasised that such expeditions are an integral part of the Force’s professional ethos, enhancing high-altitude endurance, operational preparedness, leadership and teamwork-qualities essential for guarding the nation’s Himalayan frontiers.

Dr Akun Sabharwal, IPS, Inspector General (Training), along with other senior officers of the Force, was present on the occasion to extend best wishes to the expedition team.

SBI group firm SBICAP Securities runs investor awareness drive for traders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

SBICAP Securities Limited, a group company of the State Bank of India, successfully hosted an investor awareness programme designed to equip traders and investors with practical knowledge and strategies to navigate today’s dynamic financial markets. The initiative reaffirmed the company’s commitment to promoting financial literacy and empowering investors to make informed investment decisions.

The session commenced with a comprehensive overview of the global macro-economic environment, covering key indicators such as the Dollar Index and bond yields, followed by an assessment of the domestic market



outlook. Participants were encouraged to stay informed, adopt a disciplined investment approach and avoid impulsive decisions during periods of market volatility.

The research team shared insights into sectors expected to outperform over the medium to long term, highlighting opportunities for sustainable wealth creation through equities. The session also covered key domestic and global risk factors that could influence market per-

formance and discussed practical portfolio management strategies to help mitigate these risks.

Commenting on the initiative, Baldev Prakash, Managing Director & CEO, SBICAP Securities Limited, said, through initiatives like these, we aim to simplify market concepts, encourage disciplined investing and provide investors with practical insights that help them build confidence in their investment journey.

PFC net profit rises marginally to `8,998 crore in Quarter 1

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Friday reported a marginal rise in its consolidated net profit to `8,998 crore in the June quarter. The company’s total revenue from operations stood at `28,526.86 crore in the quarter against `28,539.04 crore. “`8,998 crore consolidated profit after tax (net profit) recorded in Q1 FY27 vs `8,981 crore in Q1 FY26,” a company statement said.

The consolidated loan asset book stands at `1,60,133 crore as of June 30, 2026.

PFC Group continues to be the largest renewable financier in the country, with a renewable loan book at `1,63,184 crore as of June 30, 2026. The consolidated net



worth (including non-controlling interest) was `1,87,106 crore as of June 30, 2026.

On the asset quality front, net credit impaired asset ratio (stage III) slipped 18 bps year-on-year to 0.13 per cent in Q1 FY27. Gross credit impaired asset (Stage III) ratio also declined by 81 bps to 0.66 per cent from 1.47 per cent a year earlier.

The board, in its meeting on Friday, also approved an interim dividend of Rs 3.90 per share in the first quarter.

PFC Chairman and Managing Director Parminder Chopra shared that with a clear focus on delivering sustained value to our shareholders, the Board has declared an interim dividend of `3.90 per share.

PFC continues to demonstrate resilient performance in a dynamic financing landscape, supported by a robust balance sheet and healthy asset quality, she noted.

With solid fundamentals and a clear strategic focus, PFC is well capitalised to tap on emerging opportunities in the power and renewable energy sectors and drive long-term growth, Chopra added.

On a standalone basis, the company recorded a net profit of `4,745 crore in Q1 FY27 against `4,502 crore a year ago.

Giriraj Singh inaugurates 10th India International Footwear Fair 2026 at Bharat Mandapam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The 10th India International Footwear Fair (IIFF) 2026, organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in association with the Confederation of Indian Footwear Industries (CIFI), was inaugurated on Friday at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, by Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Textiles.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Amb. Jawed Ashraf, Chairman, ITPO; Premjit Lal, Executive Director, ITPO; V. Naushad, President, CIFI; and Raj Kumar Gupta, Chairman, CIFI, along with senior government officials, industry leaders, exhibitors, buyers and international delegates from the global footwear industry.



The three-day B2B exhibition brings together leading footwear manufacturers, exporters, importers, buyers, technology providers and other stakeholders from India and abroad. It provides a comprehensive platform to showcase innovations, strengthen business partnerships and explore new opportunities across the global footwear value chain.

Welcoming the gathering, V. Naushad, President, CIFI,

highlighted the remarkable growth of India’s footwear industry and emphasised the importance of IIFF as a premier B2B platform for fostering innovation, strengthening manufacturing, promoting exports and facilitating business collaborations across the footwear value chain.

Addressing the gathering, Amb Jawed Ashraf, Chairman, ITPO, spoke about the immense potential of India’s

footwear industry, which employs nearly 4.5 million people and accounts for approximately 12-13 per cent of global footwear production. He noted that despite India’s strong manufacturing base, the country’s share in global footwear exports remains around 2 per cent, and called for a collective effort by the Government, industry and ITPO to raise this to 10 per cent. He stressed the need to focus on non-leather footwear, attract leading global brands, strengthen India’s presence in global value chains and enhance the international profile of the sector.

In his keynote address, Giriraj Singh congratulated ITPO and CIFI for organising this landmark edition of IIFF and appreciated Amb. Jawed Ashraf’s efforts in strengthening ITPO as a leading trade promotion organisation.

RBI officers’ body seeks review of HR policies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India Officers’ Association (R BIOA) has written to RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra seeking an immediate review of recent Human Resource (HR) policy decisions, saying they have adversely affected officers’ career progression, morale and workplace welfare.

In a representation dated August 6, the association said a survey conducted among its members found widespread dissatisfaction with the Bank’s HR policies. According to the RBIOA, more than half of its members across Grades A to



E participated in the survey. It claimed that 85 per cent of respondents did not see reasonable promotion prospects, 79 per cent reported low or very low morale, 91 per cent viewed recent promotion policy changes

unfavourably, and 65 per cent expected to retire at Grade D or below.

The association said officers overwhelmingly sought a “reasonable, time-bound promotion” as the single most important measure to

improve morale. The representation criticised the promotion policy issued in May, alleging that it did not adequately address career progression bottlenecks or incorporate suggestions made by the association during discussions with the management.

Apart from promotion-related issues, the RBIOA said officers were dissatisfied with recent changes to employee perquisites and welfare measures. It also claimed that women officers had expressed concerns regarding childcare support, workplace creche facilities, flexible working arrangements and work-life balance.

DAILY SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

HOW TO SOLVE IT

Sudoku is a logic puzzle where you fill a 9x9 grid so that numbers 1 to 9 appear once in every row, column, and 3x3 box, using elimination and logical deduction- no maths involved.

SOLUTION (7.8.26)

5	9	3	2	7	4	6	1	8
1	8	4	3	6	9	7	2	5
7	6	2	8	1	5	9	4	3
8	5	7	1	9	2	4	3	6
3	2	1	4	8	6	5	7	9
9	4	6	5	3	7	2	8	1
2	7	8	6	5	1	3	9	4
6	1	9	7	4	3	8	5	2
4	3	5	9	2	8	1	6	7

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

SATURDAY | AUGUST 8, 2026

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ACROSS

1 Waste, we hear, in a statistical centre (5)

6 Food for the journey east (5)

9 She names a vessel (7)

10 The best letter takes a lot of paper (5)

11 Little house with no fridge (5)

12 Gets hold of disorderly bars at Gateshead (5)

13 Gains a lot, nominally (7)

15 Fay, said to be whimsical (3)

17 She's some comedienne! (4)

18 Not out to recreate the moa (2,4)

19 Are out to serve, love (5)

20 In Africa, the first letter to upset Sarah (6)

22 One born in Hollywood? (4)

24 Strike hard at it! (3)

25 Something horsy afoot (7)

26 Twin uncle (5)

27 Not originally a slimmer's setback (5)

28 Chap to tidy up the stable? (5)

29 Her gift is to make aircraft (7)

30 She's less than humanitarian (5)

31 My first original Christmas gift! (5)

DOWN

2 Fearful affray said to come to a sad end (6)

3 Thin wooden beam, part of a seat (6)

4 Young Scot in "The Quiet American" (3)

5 Decorate sailors with much ceremony (5)

6 Praise for people holding out, losing nothing (7)

7 Well, they aren't riches (4)

8 Met up with a real expert, just for now (3,3)

12 Cheese, initially from an urban district in part of India (5)

13 Language we start learning on the quiet! (5)

14 Thing rebuilt in time (5)

15 Playing strength? (5)

16 Long time getting to the point (5)

18 Place in some embarrassment (5)

19 Land of men in song (7)

21 Weapon suitable for a "29 Across"? (6)

22 Nice sort of night to stay out of the car (6)

23 Warm-hearted, uncompromising devotion (6)

25 Too keen to turn up and have a fling? (5)

26 A crack from some drifter (4)

28 It's Margaret's turn to be a treasure (3)

SOLUTION (7.8.26)

ACROSS	atone-ment	DOWN	20, Leae
9, Rumi-nate	27, Tip-top	1, Putting out	22, Clement
10, To-o	29, i-oe-X	2, Diva (rev)	23, Coming round
11, C-Ray-on	30, Appears	3, Ma-gnolia	25, Applicable 2
12, Strain	33, Blinking	4, Re-si-ve (rev)	6, Turned over
13, Twit-ti-odile	35, Family tree	5, Holding good	31, Palisade
14, Sock	36, List	6, Acceptable	32, Smasher
15, On the level	37, Amor-o-us	7, Pas-s-up	34, N-ether
17, Not a peep	38, S-umm-on	8, Concrete	35, Front
18, Port-ray	40, Re-veal	10, Tjhe-rail	39, Ma-N-y
19, Floe	41, Net	16, Hottest	
21, Bucked	42, End-anger		
24, The day of			

A smiling man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a maroon blazer over a light-colored shirt, holds a large silver trophy. The blazer has 'adani' and 'Sustainable' written on it. The background is a modern interior with a wooden wall and a checkered pattern.



A wide-angle view of a large outdoor tennis stadium. The central feature is a blue tennis court with white boundary lines, set on a green grassy area. The stadium seating is arranged in tiers, with the front rows being red and the upper tiers being green. The stands are mostly empty. In the background, there are some structures and trees under a clear sky. A few people are visible on the left side of the court.

L&T Finance Limited
Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building
Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom
Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
CIN No.: L67120MH2008PLC181833
Branch office: Punjab



L&T Finance

PUBLIC AUCTION FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

The Authorised Officer of L&T Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 [54 Of 2002] and in exercise of powers conferred under the said Act is auctioning the following property on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"** by way of **"PUBLIC AUCTION"** for recovery of its dues and further interest, charges and costs etc.

Name of Borrower and Co-Borrower	Secured Property Address	Loan Account Number(s)	Physical Possession Taken	Earnest Money Deposit 10% or more of RP (In ₹)	Secured Debt	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Date of Inspection	Date and Time of Auction								
1. Sumit Bansal	Schedule – I All that piece and parcel of the H.No.1 measuring 14 Marla 99 sqft comprised under Khasra No. 5022, 5021, At Wakia Jyoti Nagar Jalandhar, situated at Tehsil and District Jalandhar, Bounded: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">East</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Others/75 feet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>Balkaram Singh/73 feet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North</td> <td>Road/40 feet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South</td> <td>House Number 2/41 feet</td> </tr> </table>	East	Others/75 feet	West	Balkaram Singh/73 feet	North	Road/40 feet	South	House Number 2/41 feet	H141HL240 313122724	02-03-2026	Rs. 12,00,000/-	As per Demand Notice dated 09/05/2025, Total outstanding of Rs 1,51,94,030.45/- As On Date 06/05/2025	Rs. 1,20,00,000 /- (BID Increment 1 Value : Rs.1,00,000 /-)	On 21/08/2026 from 10.00 A.M to 5.30 P.M with prior appointment nt.	28/08/2026 from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M
East	Others/75 feet															
West	Balkaram Singh/73 feet															
North	Road/40 feet															
South	House Number 2/41 feet															
2. Tanisha Bansal																
3. S R Steels (Through Its Proprietor Sumit Bansal)																

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AUCTION

- The E-auction Sale is being conducted online by the Authorised Officer through the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/> under the provisions of SARFAESI Act with the aid and through public e-Auction mode.
- The public E-auction will be conducted on the date and time mentioned herein above, when the secured asset/s mentioned above will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS & "AS IS WHAT IT IS" CONDITION.**
- For participating in the public E-auction, intending purchasers/bidders will have to submit the details of payment of refundable Earnest Money Deposit of 10 % of the reserve price of the secured assets along with copies of the PANCARD, Board Resolutions in case of company and Address Proof on or before **27/08/2026 till 6:00 P.M**
- The EMD of all other bidders who did not succeed in the public E-auction will be refunded by LTF within 7 days of the closure of the public E-auction. The EMD will not carry any interest.
- The successful purchaser/bidder shall deposit the 25 % (inclusive of EMD) of his/its offer by way of by way of D.D./P. O favoring "L&T Finance Limited" payable at Mumbai on or before 18:00 hours on **28/08/2026** i.e., day of e-auction or on the next working day i.e., **29/08/2026**, which deposit will have to be confirmed by L&T Finance Limited, failing which the sale will be deemed have been failed and the EMD of the said successful bidder shall be forfeited. The balance amount i.e., 75% of purchase price payable shall be paid by the purchaser to L&T Finance Limited on or before the fifteenth day of confirmation of sale of immovable property or such extended period as per provisions of law.
- For inspection of property or more information, the prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer i.e. **Name – Mr. Vikas Singh, Contact No. 8669189048 & Mr. Dilip Mishra, Contact No. 7575021496, L&T Finance Ltd, Brindavan, Plot no. 177, CST Road, Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400 098, Maharashtra, India.** At any stage of the E-auction, the Authorised Officer may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or postpone the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof and without any prior notice.
- The successful purchaser/bidder shall bear any statutory duties, taxes, fees payable, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed/delivered in his/her/its favour as per the applicable law.
- The Borrower/Guarantors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of above-mentioned public E-auction sale.
- The Borrower (s) /Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) are hereby called up on to pay the entire loan outstanding dues as mentioned above before the said E-auction date failing which the L & T Finance Ltd shall sale the property as per the provisions laid down in the SARFAESI ACT, 2002.
- The Borrower (s) /Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) public at large are hereby restrained from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise with the secured assets referred to in the notice without prior written consent of L&T Finance Limited.

Date: 08.08.2026
Place: Punjab

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For L&T Finance Limited



Government of Haryana

Har Ghar Tiranga



9th to 17th August, 2026

हर घर तिरंगा फहराएंगे
गर्व से आजादी का पर्व मनाएंगे

On this occasion
State Level Programme

Youth Marathon & Vande Mataram Concert

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

August 9, 2026

7:00 AM

Narnaul, Mahendragarh



“ पिछले कुछ वर्षों में ‘हर घर तिरंगा’ अभियान ने पूरे देश को एक अद्भुत भावना से जोड़ा है। इस वर्ष भी हमें ‘हर घर तिरंगा’ अभियान को पूरे उत्साह के साथ आगे बढ़ाना है। ”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

You are cordially invited