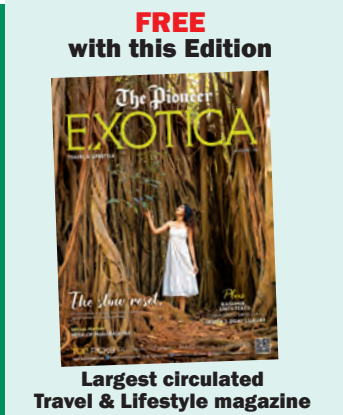




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SC urged to set up SIT to fix police liability for attack on protesters

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From preparation to performance in 90 days

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Misri concludes China visit after talks on bilateral ties

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SPORTS



First Indian to win CWG men's high jump silver

SC bars action against student protestors

Hearing allegations of police brutality, the court sought preservation of evidence while protecting students

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday restrained States from taking any coercive action against protesters in the recent student-led agitation and directed them to release those under 18 on the condition that none should have any criminal antecedents.

“All States are hereby instructed to release children under the age of 18, who have been reported to be arrested or detained in connection with the ongoing protests and who do not possess any criminal antecedents,” a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant directed. It said if necessary, these children shall be released upon the execution of a simple bond by themselves or their family members, especially if such a requirement is insisted upon for surety.

Hearing a batch of petitions alleging police brutality during demonstrations against irregularities in exams and the NEET paper leak, the bench said a fair and indepen-



Security personnel detaining CJP supporters near Jantar Mantar during the protest march to Parliament on Monday, July 20

PTI

dent probe on the matter was required.

During the hearing, the bench also comprising justices Joymala Bagchi and V Mohana observed, “Whosoever committed excesses, took law into their hands should be taken to task.”

The bench took note of allegations such as the use of pellet guns, *lathis* embedded with nails, rubber bullets and electric batons on protestors resulting in severe life threatening injuries to several students and young women.

It directed that Delhi Government and other States may proceed with the investigation of the FIRs registered but no coercive measures shall be taken against the protesting students.

“Such protection, nonetheless, shall not be extended to the persons with criminal antecedents,” the SC clarified.

Noting that the bench is mulling an independent, transparent and thorough probe into all allegations by a task force, the bench said a probe is also required to ascertain the attacks on 250 policemen and whether they were by students or miscreants. “Be that as it may, the allegations made by the petitioners, prima facie, establish a compelling case for an independent and impartial investigation into the incidents of violence. Such an investigation will adequately address the allegations presented by the family members of the police personnel, as well as the issues raised by the Solicitor General of India,” the bench said.

The court indicated that it might constitute an SIT headed by a former SC judge for the investigation.

While posting the matter for further hearing on August 3, the SC said in the interest of justice it is giving an opportunity to the Union Government and the States concerned to place their versions on record before it considers constituting an independent committee or a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The SC issued notices to Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala and asked their advocates general to appear online on the next date of hearing.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi

Top Opposition leaders on Tuesday tore into the BJP claiming that Dharmendra Pradhan was given a hero's welcome in the Parliament after he quit as Union education minister following large-scale student protests over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak.

Participating in the debate Priyanka Gandhi said Pradhan was welcomed as a superstar. Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav also questioned the welcome accorded to Pradhan.

Ending a week-long logjam, the Lok Sabha began the discussion on the anti-paper leak Bill, with Union minister Jitendra Singh describing it as a reaffirmation of the Government's commitment to safeguard the welfare of students and the youth.

“Incidents of paper leaks have taken place in various States ruled by different parties... The anti-paper leak Bill is a reaffirmation of the Government's commitment to safeguard the welfare of students and youth. The



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla conducting proceedings in the House during the Monsoon session

PTI

amendment... (is being) brought to make the law more stringent,” Singh said.

RSP MP NK Premchandran moved that the Bill should be circulated for stakeholder consultations till December 1, so that it can be made more fruitful.

BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj accused the Opposition of displaying selective outrage over examination paper leaks, saying such incidents also happened during the Congress-led UPA regime and asserted that the Union Government had undertaken structural reforms to strengthen the examination system.

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Priyanka said if he wants to win over the Gen Z then videos changing camera angles won't help as this generation has the enormous ability to identify lies. “Injustice has been done with youths under your Government, accept the truth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi must take responsibility,” she said.

TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee said the amendment Bill on paper leaks will not wash away the 12 years of the “incompetence and failure” of the BJP-led Government even as he extended TMC's support to the proposed legislation.

The Bystander

Congress and BJP are demanding Punjab Education Minister's resignation over the paper leak issue.

ESMUSH

PIONEER IN SHORT

GOVT CAPS SUGAR DEALER STOCKS

The Government has capped sugar stocks that dealers can hold, restricting inventory to 4,000 quintals for a maximum of 30 days, in a move aimed at curbing rising prices. The order, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and the Sugar (Control) Order, 2025, will take effect from August 1 and remain in force until November 30, 2026. The decision follows a sharp rise in ex-mill sugar prices to ₹45 per kg from ₹39 per kg over the past three months. Dealers will also be required to declare and regularly update their sugar stocks on the Government portal. The restrictions will not apply to stocks held on behalf of the Government or for distribution through the Public Distribution System. The Government has already banned sugar exports to boost domestic availability amid concerns over a deficit monsoon.

HEAVY RAINS BATTER HIMACHAL PRADESH

Flashfloods and landslides triggered by heavy rain wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district on Tuesday, damaging more than 25 houses and a shop, while burying over a dozen vehicles under debris. No casualties have been reported. The Sultanpur Nallah overflowed, inundating nearby residential areas, while boulders and debris carried by the Tadoli Nallah destroyed a store. A landslide near Bhariad on the Udaipur-Golthi-Navodaya road buried cars, trucks and two-wheelers. The State Emergency Operation Centre said 178 roads remain closed across the State, including 58 in Mandi, 42 in Kullu and 30 in Chamba.

Delhi drenched, roads drown

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi



A man with a child makes his way amid heavy monsoon rain in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Monsoon returned vigorously on Tuesday to several parts of north India, including the national Capital, ending a spell of heat and energy-sapping humidity.

The intense spell of rains, however, brought back the old woes of waterlogged roads and traffic snarls. Delhi, recorded its coldest July day in three years on Tuesday due to heavy rains.

Seeking a first-hand view of the situation, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta boarded a Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus on Tuesday and carried out an extensive on-ground inspection as heavy rain, thunderstorms and dark battered the Capital, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to upgrade its warning and issue a red alert.

20 people killed in PoJK poll violence

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH ■ New Delhi



Police officers firing tear gas in Muzaffarabad, the capital of PoJK in 2025

AP

At least 20 people lost their lives, and dozens were injured in Dreik Eidgah and nearby parts of Rawalakot, during the first phase of legislative elections in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). Security was strict throughout the elections. Thousands of protesters connected to the banned Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) attempted to march. Security forces, including local police, Punjab Rangers, and the military, responded with live ammunition, tear gas, and snipers.

The JKJAAC reported that Usman Nazir, the brother of committee leader Sardar Umar Nazir Kashmiri, was among those killed, along with people from Kotli, Hajira, and nearby towns. Protesters said they saw bodies in the streets and experienced power outages. Electricity and phone service were cut, and most of the region has been without internet since early June.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) called the Rawalakot shooting “open terrorism” by forces “intoxicated with power” against unarmed people asking for their rights. He said the state failed to address these issues before they turned violent.

Elections are taking place in phases amid heavy security, while sit-ins and marches continue. JKJAAC leaders say they will keep pushing for their demands.

Violence like this has happened before. Protests began between June 5 and 7, 2026, after the JKJAAC was banned under anti-terrorism laws and the Supreme Court reserved 12 out of 45 Legislative Assembly seats for refugees from Indian-administered Kashmir and their descendants living in Pakistan. The JAAC, which includes traders, lawyers, activists, and civil society groups, said these reserved seats reduce local representation and political influence for the region's estimated 4 to 5 million residents. Economic issues such as high electricity bills, rising food prices, and unemployment have also fuelled the movement, with earlier protests reported from 2023 to 2025.

Reacting to the developments, the Ministry of External Affairs' Randhir Jaiswal said at his bi-weekly media briefing. He reiterated that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, including the areas currently under Pakistan's “illegal and forcible occupation”, are parts of India. “India's position on this matter has been clear, consistent, and well known. The entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, including the areas currently under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation, are integral and inalienable parts of India.”

“As we have stated earlier, the ongoing mass protests in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir are the direct consequences of Pakistan's economic exploitation, its denial of the people's fundamental rights, and its administrative oppression,” he said. Jaiswal also responded to a question about many Pakistani experts discussing a shared Indus Valley civilisation between India and Pakistan in the context of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), and whether it was an attempt at cultural appropriation.

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BEDKHALI NOTICE

I Rajinder Kaur W/o Surmukh Singh R/o House No-705, Gurdwara Sahib, Hamirlap Nagar Phase-1, Baltana SAS Nagar Mohali. Punjab my son Gurpreet Singh is out of my control. I disown him from my moveable immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him at his/her own risk.

I, Rajinder Kaur Marwah W/o Late Jagjit Singh Marwah R/o Flat No. 371, L-6, Enclave, Sector 49-A, Chandigarh declare that my son Harikaran Singh Marwah and his wife Jasleen Kaur are out of my control, I disown them from my moveable/ immovable property anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I Monika Sharma W/o Late Sh. Narinder Sharma R/o Flat No. 2204, Victoria-C, Omaxe The Lake, New Chandigarh SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab declare that my son Nitin Sharma his wife Ruchi and their child Drishyam Sharma are out of my control. So I disown them from all my moveable immovable properties. If anybody deals with them, they will do their own risk/ responsibility.

I, Sajid Khan S/o Sh. Avid Khan, R/o House No. 4832, Maloya Colony Chandigarh inform that my son Sakib Khan and his wife Humaira Khan are out of my control. I disown them from my all moveable and immoveable properties. Anybody deal with them will do at their own Risk.

We Dharambir S/o Sh. Narayan Dutt and Savitri Devi W/o Sh. Dharambir R/o House No.5473 Gali No.9 Shiv Colony, Karnal declare that our son Vijay Kumar and his wife Seema and their children are out of our control. We disown them from our moveable and immovable property. They will be responsible for their transactions, good-bad, legal and illegal activities.

We, Rakesh Kumar, S/o Late Shri Mangal Ram, and Rajneeta, W/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar, House No. 2238/53, Gali No. 8A, Shanti Nagar, Manimajra, Chandigarh, hereby declare that our daughter Meenakshi, Wife of Shri Dimple Sharma, is out of our control. We disown her from our all moveable and Immoveable Properties. Anybody who deals with her will do at their own Risk. I and my family members will not be responsible for her any activities.

I Seema Rani W/O Devi Dayal R/O #549, Bharat Colony Rajpura Dist Patiala Declare That My Son Rajnit Kumar And His Wife Rashmi Are Out Of My Control. So I Disowned Both Of Them From All My Moveable And Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them At On Their Own Risk.

I Harbans Kaur W/o Late Nirmal Singh R/o Vill Noorkheria, university, Distt Patiala declare that my daughter Sukhjeet Kaur W/o Puneet Sharma is out of my control so I evict her all my moveable immovable property anyone dealing with her at their own risk.

I Bhupinder Kumar Kapila S/o Harsarup Chand R/O H-6/12 B, Adarsh Colony Rajpura Distt Patiala declare that my son Yash Kalaria and his wife Himani Tanuja is out of my control so I evict them all my moveable immovable property anyone dealing with them at their own risk.

I Ashok Kumar S/o Shri Kaur Chaudh, Resident of Village and Post Office Sidhuwal, Tehsil and District Patiala declare that my son Sandeep Joshi is beyond my control. So I disowned my son Sandeep Joshi and his wife Simran, from my moveable and immovable property. Anyone who deals with them in any kind of transaction or use will be held responsible. I will not have any responsibility.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, TARUN ASJIA S/o Sh. BIHARI LAL R/o H. NO.403, FIRST FLOOR CITY HOME OMEX CITY, SECTOR-15, BAHADURGARH, JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124507 HARYANA, INDIA, declare that the name of my minor daughter JANYA HASIJA, aged 10 years has been wrongly written as JANYA RANI in her Birth certificate. The actual name of my minor daughter as JANYA HASIJA respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Saroj, wife of Rakesh Kumar, resident of VPO Bassi Kalan, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab, hereby declare that my correct name is Saroj. In the marriage certificate of my daughter Preeti, my name is mentioned as Anu Ratti. Saroj and Anu Ratti are one and the same lady, and I have never changed my name legally.

I, Kanan Gabba D/o Rajinder Kumar R/o Sarabhia Nagar St.No. 11 Malout declare that I am in Class 10 from sacred heart Convent School Session 2026-27. In the school records, My father's name has been wrongly mentioned as Rajinder Kumar Gabba. The correct name of my father is Rajinder Kumar henceforth, all records may kindly be read and treated with my father's correct name as Rajinder Kumar.

I Lila Bai Mother of 15580457F hav Wakchoure Jalindar Laxman residing at Vill. Talegaon Rohi Distt. Nashik State Maharashtra, Pin 423104 have changed my name from Lilabai to Lilabai Laxman Wakchaure and date of birth 24.03.1973 to 10.05.1969 vide affidavit date 29.04.2026 before notary public Distt. court Bathinda (PB).

I, Harpreet Singh S/O Davinder Singh R/O Village Mirkachana Po Bhagthana Tullan, District Gurdaspur, Punjab, India Pin code 143604, I have Changed my Name From Harpreet Singh To Singh Harpreet Please Note. Surname As Singh And Given Name As Harpreet.

I, Ravi Dass S/o Sh. Lakhmi Dass R/o H. No. 06, Type-5, Vidyt Nagar, Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Ravi Dass to Ravi Thakral for all purposes in the future.

I, Rajesh Chandra S/o Satya Prasad Trivedi R/o H.No. 1008, Sector-30-B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Rajesh Chandra to Rajesh Chandra Trivedi.

I, Chetana Devi W/o Rajesh Chandra Trivedi R/o Vill. Kundaliya, Distt. Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand have changed my name from Chetana Devi to Chetana Trivedi.

I, Sudesh Rani W/o Mukesh Kumar R/o Gugga Mari Colony, Tagra Kal Ram, Tehsil Kalika, Distt. Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Sudesh Rani to Sudesh, correct date of birth is 04-05-1971.

I, Shubhum Gaur S/O Late Shri Vijay Gaur R/O H.No. 1586, Sector 25, Panchkula, Haryana Have Changed My Name From Shubham Gaur To Shubhum Gaur.

I, Jaideep Kumar Sachdeva S/o Late Sh. Fateh Chand Sachdeva, R/o MIG-49, Sector-1, Panwano, District Solan 173220, (HP) have changed my name from Jaideep Kumar Sachdeva to Jaideep Sachdeva.

I, Shilimkar Sushama spouse of Shilimkar Sharad Balu Permanent resident at AT-Gavati, Post Shind, Tehsil-Hohra, Distt-Pune, State Maharashtra, PIN-412206 have changed my name from Shilimkar Sushama to Sushama Sharad Shilimkar vide affidavit No. IN-PB69379575487399Y dated 13.07.2026 before Distt. Court Bathinda.

I, Gaurav S/o Bram Pal R/O H.No. 1552, Mukhraj Park Mandir, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my minor son's name from Sonam to Pranav Mogha.

I, Javeer S/o Jahid R/o Taharpur Kalan, Tehsil Chhachhrauli, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my name from Javeer to Jabit.

I, Kadir Ansari S/o Mahfooj Bhasra R/o Dist. Patrol, Punjab, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my minor son's name from Baby of Kadir Ansari to Hamza Ansari.

I, Mitlesh W/o Sanjeev Kumar R/o Village Ismailpur, Tehsil Pratap Nagar, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my name from Mitlesh to Mitlhash.

I, Saahid S/o Nazar R/o Village Sundar Bahadapur, Po. Dayalgarh, Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my name from Saahid to Shahid Khan.

I, Vinod Kumar S/O Dharampal R/O Village Raipur, Po. Bilaui, Tehsil Chhachhrauli, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my minor son's name from Baby of Anu to Aarya Pandit.

I, Sachin S/o Suresh Pal R/o Village Gundana, VPO Gundiana, Tehsil Radour, Distt. Yamuna Nagar-133103, have changed my name from Sachin to Sachin Sachin.

I, No. 2682378A Hav Jaspal (Retd) son of Sh. Ranka Ram, resident of Village Rakri, PO Datarpur Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed name of my dependent daughter from Ranjana Kumari to Ranjana Devi. Her correct date of birth is 05.01.1997. Concerned note.

I, Atam Prakash S/O Harful, Resident of H.No. 48 Ward No.3, Near Bhanger Dhamshala, Vpo Siwani, Tehsil Siwani Distt Bhiwani Haryana (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Atam Prakash To Atmaram.

I Prem Lata Sharma W/o Subhash Chand R/O H No B-1/573 Mohalla Dakonta Wala Old Rajpura Rajpura Distt Patiala Have Changed My Name To Prem Lata.

I, Sheela W/o of 4553011 Rank SGP Bal Raj Singh resident of House No. 3581 Urban State Jind, in my husband's service record my name is Shila and date of birth is 01/03/1966 whereas my correct name is Sheela Devi and date of birth is 01/02/1968

I, Ram Pal S/o Sh. Ram Sukh R/o Flat No. 691, Block A-1, Ananda Tower, SPB Housing Park, Derabassi SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab have changed my name from Ram Pal Dhingra to Ram Pal

I, Sube Singh S/o Surjan Ram R/o Village Kathwala, P.O. Mehlawali, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, have changed my name from Sube Singh to Sube Singh Rathi.

I, Ramphal Kundo S/o Lal Chand R/O 957/20, Durga Colony, Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my name from Ram Phal to Ramphal Kundo for all future purposes.

I, Kamlesh Rani W/o Lachhman Dass, resident of M.I.G. 19, Model Town Phase-1, Bathinda, Punjab, have changed my name from Kamlesh Rani to Kamlesh Mittal for all future purposes, including my son Paras Mittal's passport application. It is concerned all to note.

I, Kuldeep Singh S/o Ram Pal R/o Vill- Kathura (Tehsil Gohana, District Sonapat) have changed the name of my minor son from Dev to Dev Narwal, he should be known with this name in the future.

I, ANSHUL, S/o Sh. Vijender Singh Kundo, born on 06/05/1997, residing at Villa No. 936, Block E, Omaxe City, Sector 18, Sonapat, Haryana - 131001, have changed my name to ANSHUL KUNDU for all future and official purposes.

I, Shamsher Singh, son of Rulda Singh, resident of Village KhLOUR, Post Office Banur, Tehsil Banur, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), declare that the names Shemsher Singh and Shamsher Singh refer to one and the same person; I am known by both names.

I, Subhash Chand alias Sundar Das S/o Sh. Manohar Lal S/O Hari Chand R/O H.No. 893, Ward No. 13 at present R/O Ward No. 10, near Modern Public School, Vishnu Nagar, Gohana, Teh. Gohana, Distt. Sonapat declare that my name is recorded as Sundar Das in the Jamabandi Khewat No. 5862/5626, Mouja Gohana, Jamabandi year 2020-21, whereas Subhash Chand is recorded in my Aadhaar Card and other documents, Sundar Das and Subhash Chand both name are one and the same person.

I Gurpreet Singh S/o Shivdev Singh R/O Village Kurl, Tehsil Dera Bassi, Distt SAS Nagar(Mohali), declare that I have changed my minor son 's name Gunbir Singh to Gunbir Singh Sanserwal. This is for all future reference.

I, Gurpreet Kaur W/o Paramjeet Singh R/O Dharampur Colony, Near Saint Thomos School, Pinjore, District Panchkula, Haryana, I have changed my minor son's name from Male Baby Of Gurpreet Kaur To Tegbir Singh.

I, Reena Rani Mother of Jannatpreet Hans who has passed her 10th class examination under ICSE Board during the session 2024-2025 from St. Mary's Convent School Bhogpur Jalandhar, Punjab. Her Unique ID is 8463435 and Index No. is 1257507/074. On my daughter Jannatpreet Hans Pass Certificate Cum Statement of Marks her name has been written as Jannat Preet Hans. Now her name has changed from Jannat Preet Hans to Jannatpreet Hans.

I, Joginder son of Hariram, resident of Village Gangesar, Tehsil Gohana, Sonapat, hereby declare that my name is recorded in my documents as Joginder son of Hariram. My actual name is Joginder Lathar, and my father's name is Hariram Lathar. Joginder and Joginder Lathar refer to the same person, and I should be known by the name Joginder Lathar.

I, Arvind Kumar S/o Tejpal Singh R/o #Manduli Gagger, Po Khadi, Tehsil Chhachhrauli, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor Son name from Devrath Choudhary to Devrat Choudhary.

I, Salma W/o Vir Singh R/o #Village Nabh, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Salma to Sharma Devi.

I, Sonu Kumar Pandit S/O Bahadur Pandit R/O Karanpura, Manjha, Gopalganj, Bihar have changed my name to Sanoo Kumar Pandit.

I, hitherto known as SUSHMA ALIAS HIMANSHI W/O ANIL GULATI R/O H.NO. 26/4, NEAR ANAND HOSPITAL, ADARSH NAGAR, DISTT PANIPAT-132103, HARYANA, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HIMANSHI GULATI.

I, Ashu Tyagi D/o Ramphal Tyagi W/o Mahi Pal R/O Village Barana Panipat have changed my name from Ashu Kumari to Ashu Tyagi for all future purposes.

I, Sukhdev Singh S/o Ajit Singh R/O Manawala, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab-143109 have changed my name from Sukhdev Singh to Singh is my surname and Sukhdev is my given name.

I, Harinder Singh S/o Nirmal Singh R/o VPO Khassa, Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar, Punjab-143107 have changed my name from Harinder Singh to Harwinder Singh. Harinder Singh and Harwinder Singh is one and the same person.

I, Pinki Verma W/O Deepak Kaur R/O Z-4 06315, Gali Bal Bhawan Wali, Ambedkar Nagar, Bathinda, Punjab have changed my name to Pallavi Kapoor.

I, Gurmeet Kaur W/O Gurdev Singh Sehgal R/O House No-4759 Darshan Vihar, Sector-68, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab-160062 have changed my name to Gurmit Kaur.

I, Chhajja Singh S/O Ramgopal Presently Residing At House No-3042, SBI Society, Sector-49 D, Chandigarh-160047 Permanent Resident Of Village Banhpur, Tehsil & District Ambala, Haryana have changed my name to Jilander Nath Ratol.

I, Vir Bhan Singla, S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram Singla, R/O #656, Sector-16, Panchkula, Haryana, declare that I have changed my name from Vir Bhan to Vir Bhan Singla.

I Gobind Singh S/o Fateh Singh, House No. 707, Daria, Chandigarh have changed my name from Gobind Singh to Govind Singh

I, MEENA DEVI W/o Jasmer R/O Near Khera Mandir, Parchh Mullanpur, Post office Mullanpur, District SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab-140901 India have changed the name of my minor son BABY OF MEENA DEVI, aged 7 Years and he shall hereafter be known as AMRIT SINGH.

I hitherto known as RAJNI BALA Wife of HARPREET SINGH Resident of Village Gharuan, Post Office Gharuan, Tehsil Kharar, District SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab -140413 India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SIMRANDEEP KAUR.

I hitherto known as POONAM Wife of KAMAL KANT Resident of House No. 960, Saini Vihar, Phase-3, Baltana, Zirakpur, District SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab -140604 India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as POONAM HIMDAN.

I, hitherto Known as Jasmeet Kaur wife of Parminder Singh residing at H.No.66, Near University, Preet Vihar, Chhhleharta Road, Rayon & Silk Haryana, Amritsar, Punjab-143104 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jasmeet Kaur Brahm.

I, hitherto Known as Sourav son of Hira Lal residing at H.No.2359/12, Gali No.4, Kishan Kot, Islamabad, District Amritsar Punjab-143001 have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Sourav Verma

I, No. 22001878X Sep Golla Hanmanth Unit 202 Army Avn C/o 56 APO, residing at 1-49, Puttapahad, Kulakacharla, Puttapahad, Distt-K V Rangareddy, State-Telangana-509395 declare That I have changed my minor son name from G Rudra Vedansh Yadav to G Rudransh Yadav as per his Aadhaar Card, vide Affidavit No. IN-PB74651611887683Y dated 28.07.2026 before the court of Bathinda.

I, Lovely Kumar Son of Om Parkash, resident of Village Khalaspur, Sub-Tehsil Ghanaur, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala, Punjab, have changed my name from Lovely to Lovely Kumar

I Suriti D/o No 3189338P, Ex Hav Rishak Lal resident of Vill & PO- Goyalal Kalan, Tehsil- Badli, Distt-Jhajjar (Haryana)-124507 declare that my name Shriti and date of birth 15 Aug 2007 are incorrect service record of my father. My correct name and date of birth is Suriti, date of birth-19 May 2006, I have changed my name from Shriti to Suriti & date of birth from 15 Aug 2007 to 19 May 2006 as per my other documents.

I, Dhrampal S/o Sardar Singh R/o Village Mahmudpur Majra Tehsil Berr District Jhajjar-124103 (Haryana) have changed my name From Dhrampal To Dhampal.

I, Maninder Singh S/o Nirmal Singh, have changed my name from Maninder Singh to Maninder Singh HALLAN for all future purposes. All concerned note.

I, Manjeet S/o Chand Singh R/O H No 108/6, Subhash Nagar, Gohana-131301 have changed my name from Manjeet to Manjeet Singh for all future purposes.

I, Sarita W/o Manjeet Singh R/O H No 108/6, Subhash Nagar, Gohana-131301 have changed my name from Sarita to Sarita Sehrawat for all future purposes.

I, Mamta Rani, wife of Shri Mohan Lal, resident of House No. 479, Bhoool-Bhoolia Chowk, Wadhawa Ram Basti, Panipat, District Panipat, state that my name is Mamta Rani in all documents, which is correct. My husband Mohan Lal's passport shows my name as Mamta Rani, which is incorrect. However, I wish to change my name to Mamta Rani in my husband's passport.

I, Manjeet Kaur (Aadhaar No. 7246-4727-4163) W/o Ameer Chand Village Kishanpura, Pipli, District Kurukshetra, hereby declare that Champa Devi and Manjeet Kaur are the names of one and the same person, and both names refer to me. All concerned are requested to take note of the above.

I, GUNI wife of Sh. Rajmal Poonia R/O VPO Satrod Kalan, Tehsil & Distt. Hisar (Haryana) are hereby changed my name from GUNI to MUNNI DEVI for all future purposes. Neither any court case nor any Bank loan is pending against my old name.

I, Nasrin W/o Mohd. Azad R/O House No. 354, Maloya Chandigarh have changed my name from Nasrin to Nasreen Begum.

I, Sanya W/o Gourav Goyal R/O 20, Additional Mandi, Sirsa (Haryana) have changed my name from Sanya to Sanya Goyal. That in future my name is to be called as Sanya Goyal

I, Saroj W/o Suresh Kumar R/O 20 SCF, 2nd Additional Mandi, Sirsa (Haryana) have changed my name from Saroj to Saroj Gupta. That in future my name is to be called as Saroj Gupta.

I, Reena W/o Dalwara Singh R/O Village Rurka, Sub-Tehsil Ghanaur, Tehsil Rajpura, Distt. Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Reena to Reena Kaur.

I, Sumit S/o Sh. Ramdhari R/O Village Baroda Thuthan, Gohana, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana declare that previously my son was known as GAURAV @ GORO and now I have changed his name from GAURAV @ GORO to GAURAV. In future my son may be known as GAURAV for all purposes. Now I want to correct/rectify my son's name as GAURAV instead of GAURAV @ GORO in his Aadhar Card and other documents.

I, No 1060682W, Swr Jagdev Singh Dul (Retd), resident of VPO- Padha, Teh-Assandh, Distt-Karnal (Haryana)- 132036 have changed my name from JAGDEV SINGH DUL to JAGDEV SINGH vide Affidavit dated 22 Jul 26.

It is for general information that I, Davinder son of Satbir Singh residing at Village Hartari, PO Dahar, Tehsil and District Panipat Haryana-132145 declare that name of my daughter has been wrongly written as Bhavna in my minor daughter Bhavna aged 16 years in her 10th class educational Certificate. The actual name of my daughter is Bhavana respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

I, hitherto Known as Jaskomalpreet Kaur Takkar wife of Sarabjit Singh residing at 3951, Patel Nagar, Jandiala Guru District Amritsar Punjab-143115 have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Jaspreet Kaur.

I, hitherto Known as Jasmeet Kaur wife of Parminder Singh residing at H.No.66, Near University, Preet Vihar, Chhhleharta Road, Rayon & Silk Haryana, Amritsar, Punjab-143104 have declare that Veer is my given name and Kaur is my Surname.

I, Ankit Gupta S/o Sh. Naresh Gupta R/O House No. 1568, Plot No. 4, Adarsh Nagar, Near Bansal Hospital, Main Road, Hisar declare that I have changed the name of my minor son from Gravil Gupta to Gravil Airan for all future purpose.

I, hitherto Known as Ragini Kapoor wife of Jayesh Goyal residing at H.No.190-191, Street No.7 B, Sahibzada Juhar Singh Avenue, Ajnala Road, Amritsar Punjab-143001 have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Ragini Goyal

I hitherto known as Lovesh son of Laxman Parshad residing at 2574/18, Gali No. 1, Mahabir Mandir, Putlighar, District Amritsar Punjab-143001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Lavish Sharma

I, hitherto Known as Shalini Daughter of Ranvir Singh residing at Village Chauhra, PO: Degham, Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Pin -144527 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shalni Kaur. I have changed my name only, not my religion.

It is for general information that I, Micky Mahotra son of Surinder Kumar residing at Village Chuhuan Post Office Gharota, Distt. Pathankot, Punjab-143533 declare that the name of my mother has been wrongly written as Punita in my CBSE Class 12th Educational Documents. The actual name of my mother is Punita Devi, which may be amended accordingly.

I, hitherto Known as Vidya Devi Daughter of Babu Ram residing at Village and Post Office Baknaur Tehsil and District Pathankot, Punjab, Pin-143534 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Bindu Salaria.

I hitherto known as Babbi W/o Satnam Singh residing at H.No. 126, Near Gurdwara Baba Budha Ji, Dakoha, Jalandhar, Punjab-144023, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jagjit Kaur. I have changed only my name, not my religion.

I, hitherto known as Tilea D/o Ganga Ram residing at Ward No. 6, Bhim Nagar, Post Office Puriharan, Puriharan, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146111 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sanjna.

I hitherto known as Buhania D/o Ganga Ram residing at Bhim Nagar, Ward No. 6, Post Office Puriharan, Puriharan, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146111 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhumi.

I, Satinder Kaur W/o Kashmir Singh R/O Village Bodh, Gilwali, PO Gilwali, District Amritsar have changed my name from Satinder Kaur to Jaswinder Kaur

I, Veena Kumari mother of No 13774989H Hav Baz Singh Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my son's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Veena Kumari but my correct name is Beena Kumari Vide affidavit No.IN-PB7449464872118Y DL28.07.2026 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Samsher Singh father of No 13782952W Nk Manoj Kumar Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my son's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Samsher Singh but my correct name is Shamsher Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB74496048833509Y Dt.08.07.2026 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Anjna Devi mother of No 13782952W Nk Manoj Kumar Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my son's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Anjna Devi but my correct name is Anjana Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB7449639015520Y Dt.28.07.2026 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Ashok Malhotra S/o Dwarka Das R/O H.No.5, Gali No.4, Rishi Vihar, Majitha Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Ashok Malhotra to Ashok Kumar

I, Krishana Rani W/o Girdhara Singh R/O Badanpur, PO Rajla District Patiala have changed my name from Krishana Rani to Krishan Kaur

I, Akanksha Hans w/o Ankush Gaba R/O Mandir wall gali Beas Amritsar have changed my surname from Akanksha Hans To Akanksha Gaba after marriage

I, Raghuvir Singh S/o Gurnam Singh R/O Adda Chabhal, Chabhal Kalan, Tehsil and District Taran Taran have declare that Raghuvir is my Given name and Singh is my Surname

I, Rajni Bala Thakur mother of No 13781863L Nk Vinayak Vir Thakur Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my son's army service record my name and date of birth has been wrongly entered as Rajni Bala Thakur 05.05.1969 but my correct name and date of birth is Rajni Bala 13.08.1969 vide affidavit No.IN-PB74805137037241Y Dt.28.07.2026 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Chander Shekhar Thakur father of No 13781863L Nk Vinayak Vir Thakur Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my son's army service record my name and date of birth has been wrongly entered as Chander Shekhar Thakur 17.05.1964 but my correct name and date of birth is Chander Shekhar 17.05.1967 Vide affidavit No.IN-PB74805426155609Y Dt.28.07.2026 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Veer Kaur W/O Satish Kumar R/O - H No 680, Hargobind Avenue, Hamidpura, Sher Shah Suri Road, Chhleharta, Amritsar 143105 have declare that Veer is my given name and Kaur is my Surname.

I, Ankit Gupta S/o Sh. Naresh Gupta R/O House No. 1568, Plot No. 4, Adarsh Nagar, Near Bansal Hospital, Main Road, Hisar declare that I have changed the name of my minor son from Gravil Gupta to Gravil Airan for all future purpose.

I, Sudesh Devi Mother of Army No. 14949881A Rank Sep Sunil Kumar r/o village Jindran Kalan, PO Kalanaur, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Rohtak, Haryana, Pin-124113, Unit 25 Mech, Inf (R&SP) (WH) BN C/o 56 APO have changed my name from Butthni Debee to Budhni Oraine & DOB 01-07/1969 in my son service records. Whereas my correct name Sudesh & DOB 01/01/1961 vide affidavit No.E Stamp No. IN-PB74259069788018Y dated 27.07.2026.

I Sumit Singh Son of SARV DAMAN Residing at House No. 239/3, Nangal Kotli, Gurdaspur, Tehsil and District Gurdaspur, Punjab, PIN-143521, have changed my name from Sumit Singh to Singh Sumit. In future Singh is my surname and Sumit is my given name. Concerned note.

I, Amarjit Singh s/o Piara Singh R/o Vill Udhawali Kalan PO Udhawali Khurd Tehsil Dera baba Nanak, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Amarjit Singh to Amarjit Singh Udhawali. Concerned note.

I, Davinder Singh S/o Mangal Singh, D-301 Siddharth Landmark, Sasna Savli Road, Opp Solitairs9, Vadodara, PO Chhani, Distt.Vadodara, Gujarat. have changed my name from Davinder Singh to Davinder Singh Randhawa. Concerned note.

I, Raghunath Sharma S/o Prithvi Ram R/o Indira Colony gali No-1, Ward No-48. Tehsil & District Pathankot (Punjab) have changed my Name from Raghunath Sharma to Raghunath Kindly Note.

I, Harjit Kaur W/o Jaswinder Singh Bhullar R/o # 421 Sector 22-A Chandigarh, have changed my name to Harjeet Kaur Bhullar.

I, Rakesh Singh Chaudhary S/o 77/5 Kajheri Sector 52 Chandigarh, have changed the name of my minor son from Aarav Singh to Aarav Singh Chaudhary.

I, Mamta Bansal W/o Kamal Kumar R/O H. No. 37 HUDA R-3 Cheeka Tehsil GUHLA District Kaithal Haryana 136034, have changed my name from Mamta Bansal to Mamta Rani.

I, Som Dutt S/o Joginder Pal, Vill Johal, Tehsil Nangal, (Rupnagar) have changed my minor son name from Sourav to

Aam Aadmi Clinic Staff, PSPCL Unions Call Off Strike After Govt Assurances

MONIKA MALIK ■ Chandigarh

Public healthcare services and power sector operations across Punjab set to return to normal on Tuesday after the State Government successfully persuaded the contractual staff of Aam Aadmi Clinics (AACs) and 16 unions of the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) to withdraw their strikes following marathon negotiations and key policy assurances.

Announcing the breakthrough, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, who heads the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Employee Issues and Demands, on Tuesday said that the government had resolved major concerns through sustained dialogue, resulting in the restoration of essential public services. He said that all Aam Aadmi Clinics across the state had resumed functioning, while PSPCL unions had also returned to work after accepting the government's proposals.

Cheema said that the deadlock with the contractual employees of Aam Aadmi Clinics was

resolved after a meeting between representatives of the AAC unions and the Managing Director of the National Health Mission (NHM). He said the government accepted the employees' primary demand to consider their service experience while filling regular posts, while other administrative issues are under active consideration.

Stressing the government's commitment to dialogue, Cheema said that the state would continue addressing the genuine and reasonable concerns of employees through discussions rather than confrontation. He added that the Cabinet Sub-Committee had been continuously engaging with various employee unions over the past several days to resolve pending issues.

The Finance Minister said that the agreement with PSPCL employees followed intensive late-night deliberations with Power Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond and the PSPCL chairman-cum-managing director, followed by a five-hour marathon meeting at the utility's Patiala headquarters.

According to Cheema, all 16 participating unions agreed to restore normal functioning after the government decided to constitute a dedicated Finance Department committee to examine the financial implications of their demands. The committee has been tasked with submitting its final report by August 15.

The unions that joined the consensus included Technical Services Union PSEB, PSEB Employees Federation (AITUC), Ministerial Services Union PSEB, Association of Junior Engineers, PSEB Employees Federation (Bhardwaj), Thermal Employees Coordination Committee, PSEB Karamchari Dal Punjab, Karamchees Federation PSEB, Punjab Raj Bijli Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Workers Federation INTUC PSPCL/PSTCL, Employee Federation PSPCL/PSTCL (Pehalwan and Chahal groups), ITI Association, Grid Sub-Station Employees Union Punjab, Powercom and Transco Pensioners Union (AITUC), Pensioners Welfare Federation Punjab and Mulazam United Organisation, among others. Cheema said that

progress had also been made in resolving the grievances of sanitation and sewerage workers. He said that several unions had withdrawn their protest calls after discussions with him and Local Government Minister Harjot Singh Bains, while Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak was also engaged in talks with sanitation workers' representatives to ensure an early resolution.

The Finance Minister further announced that the Punjab Government has submitted an ordinance to the Governor proposing the transition of outsourced employees into contractual positions. He said that the move is aimed at strengthening job security and improving service conditions for thousands of workers.

With healthcare services restored at all Aam Aadmi Clinics and normal operations resuming in the power sector, Cheema reiterated that the Bhagwant Mann government remains committed to safeguarding employee welfare while ensuring uninterrupted public services across Punjab.

Haryana Cabinet approves housing, EV & governance reforms

PNS ■ Chandigarh

The Haryana Cabinet on Tuesday approved a series of decisions aimed at promoting affordable housing, boosting industries, improving governance, strengthening welfare measures and encouraging electric mobility.

In a major relief for beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0, the Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, approved a sharp reduction in stamp duty and registration charges for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) beneficiaries purchasing eligible dwelling units of up to 60 square metres.

Under the decision, eligible beneficiaries will pay only Rs 500 as stamp duty and Rs 500 as registration fee per conveyance deed. The move aims to reduce the transaction cost and financial burden on EWS beneficiaries, thereby promoting the objective of "Housing for All" under PMAY-U 2.0.

The cabinet also approved a proposal of moving a Bill for the establishment of a private university, namely Kusum International University,



Rewari, by way of an amendment to the Haryana Private Universities Act, 2006. This Act may be called the Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Act, 2026.

CABINET APPROVES DRAFT OF LOCAL AUDIT BILL, 2026

The Cabinet approved the draft Haryana Local Audit Bill, 2026. The proposed Bill seeks to establish an effective and efficient audit framework for all local authorities and other bodies, institutions and funds in the State, besides providing for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The cabinet approved the proposal regarding granting of compensation to the legal heir(s)/next of kin of persons who die in police custody. The compensation will be provided as per the existing jail policy.

APPROVES EXPANDS 20%

HORIZONTAL RESERVATION FOR EX-AGNIVEERS ACROSS KEY UNIFORMED SERVICES

The Cabinet approved the 20 percent horizontal reservation for Ex-Agniveers who are domiciles of the State of Haryana in direct recruitment to the posts of Fire operator-cum-driver in the Fire Services Department, Wildlife Guard in the Environment, Forest and Wildlife Department, Constable in the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) under the Home Department. The Haryana Government had earlier provided 20 percent horizontal reservation to Ex-Agniveers in certain Group 'C' posts, including Forest Guard (Environment, Forest and Wildlife Department),

Warder (Prisons Department) and Mining Guard (Group 'D') (Mines and Geology Department).

HARYANA GRANTS FULL TAX EXEMPTION ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES UP TO RS. 30 LAKH

In a major boost to clean and sustainable transportation, the Cabinet has approved 100 percent exemption in Motor Vehicle Tax at the time of registration of new pure electric/battery-operated two-wheelers, three-wheelers (autos/e-rickshaws) and four-wheelers having an ex-showroom price of up to Rs. 30 lakh, purchased and registered in the State. Besides this, vehicles costing above Rs. 30 lakhs will be eligible for Tax Exemption of 50 percent.

BRIEFS

PAPER LEAK MENACE TO END WITH STRONGER LAW, SAYS CM SAINI

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday said that the menace of examination paper leaks would be effectively tackled through a stronger legal framework, while accusing the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of misleading the country's youth and compromising their future. He alleged that the Congress had compromised the future of the youth, and the same was done by the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi and Punjab. He said the Government of India has treated the issue of paper leaks with utmost seriousness. Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only enacted a law in 2024 to curb paper leaks but is now working to make it even more stringent so that such incidents can be effectively prevented in the future. Addressing a press conference after the Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister said the opposition has no agenda except opposing Prime Minister Modi and the BJP.

GURU RAVIDAS'S 650TH PRAKASH PARV TO BE CELEBRATED ACROSS HARYANA IN 2027 WITH GRANDEUR: HARYANA CM

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini On Tuesday said that the 650th Prakash Parv of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas will be celebrated across the state in 2027 with great devotion, dignity and public participation. To ensure the successful organisation of the year-long celebrations, the state government will constitute a high-level committee to prepare and oversee the event roadmap, he said. Addressing the media persons, he said a Haryana delegation will participate in the special religious and spiritual programmes to be held in Varanasi on July 29. He informed that, on this historic occasion, a ceremonial Kalash containing the sacred soil from the birthplace of Guru Ravidas will be formally handed over to the Haryana delegation. The Chief Minister further said that the delegation will return with the sacred Kalash and reach Sirhaul Border in Gurugram on the evening of July 30, where it will be accorded a grand welcome by senior BJP leaders. Thereafter, the Kalash will be placed at Shri Sheela Mata Temple, Gurugram.

CHANDIGARH CHIEF SECRETARY INAUGURATES PAUDH MELA 2026

Chandigarh: UT Chief Secretary H Rajesh Prasad on Tuesday inaugurated Paudh Mela 2026 at the Lake Club Parking Area. The Paudh Mela witnessed enthusiastic participation from various government departments, educational institutions and community organizations. Stalls set up by the Forest Department, the Horticulture Wing of the Engineering Department and the Municipal Corporation offered a wide variety of saplings for sale, making them easily accessible to citizens while promoting tree plantation and environmental awareness. On the occasion, the Chief Secretary presented awards to Eco-Clubs and Eco-Societies in recognition of the outstanding contribution of schools and higher educational institutions towards environmental conservation and awareness.

RAINS IN MANY PLACES IN PUNJAB, HARYANA

CHANDIGARH: Rains lashed many places in Punjab and Haryana on Tuesday, bringing relief from the ongoing hot weather in the two states. This triggered waterlogging at many places, especially low lying areas, causing traffic snarls. In Punjab, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar received 15.2 mm of rainfall, while Bathinda received 14.5 mm, according to a report of the Met department.

NEWLY ESTABLISHED CBSE SCHOOLS TO RANK AMONG FINEST INSTITUTIONS WITHIN FIVE YEARS: HIMACHAL CM

Shimla: Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday said that the newly established CBSE Schools would emerge as the best educational institutions in the state in the next five years. While presiding over the foundation day function of Bishop Cotton School, he said that the state government was committed to provide equal opportunities for every child. As part of this vision, English-medium education has been started from Class I in government schools and 156 government schools have been affiliated with the CBSE, yielding encouraging results and leading to an increase in enrolment of more than 24000 students. Sukhu said that Himachal Pradesh is best suited for education as the state is student friendly and education friendly. He said that Bishop Cotton School is not merely an educational institution but a living tradition of excellence, leadership, discipline and character-building. It has nurtured generations of young minds and has remained a beacon of quality education, he added. He also flagged off Mountaineering Expedition-2026 of the School students in Leh and Ladakh from 28th July to 8th August to Mt.Yalung Nong 6090M.

CM Saini Announces 60 Transformative Initiatives for MSMEs and Exports to Mark Haryana@60

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday announced 60 transformative initiatives for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and export promotion as part of the state's celebrations marking Haryana@60. The initiatives are aimed at strengthening industrial growth, enhancing global competitiveness and creating new employment opportunities across the state.

A spokesperson said that Haryana has placed MSMEs at the centre of its growth strategy, recognising them as the key drivers of investment, innovation, employment and exports.

As Haryana celebrates 60 years of its development journey, the Government has dedicated 60 transformative initiatives to strengthen the ecosystem of over 14 lakh MSMEs across the State. The policy targets over Rs 55,000 crore in manufacturing investments, creation of more than five lakh new jobs, and doubling Haryana's exports over the next five years, positioning Haryana among India's most competitive destinations for manufacturing, entrepreneurship and global business.

The spokesperson said that the policy's 60 transformative initiatives are anchored around six strategic pillars, finance, infrastructure, technology, exports, sustainability and skills, creating a holistic framework to support MSMEs at every stage of their growth. Designed to benefit enterprises across all geographies of Haryana, it provides targeted support to both traditional and high-growth thrust sectors, including automotive and auto components, electric vehicles, aerospace and defence, general engineering, metal products and steel fabrication, electricals, electronics and scientific instruments, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, rubber and plastics (including toys and sports goods), footwear and leather products, renewable energy, circular economy and green industries, textiles and apparel, and agri-based, food processing and allied industries.

Recognising Haryana's strong agrarian foundation and the pivotal role of farmers in the State's economic growth, the Government has also notified a dedicated policy, the Haryana Agri-Business and Food Processing Policy 2026, to complement the MSME policy framework.

Punjab Congress' Power Struggle Shows No Signs of Ending

MONIKA MALIK ■ Chandigarh

The bitter infighting and leadership battle in the Punjab Congress has refused to die down, with the widening divide between the camps led by Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi along with former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa emerging in full public view. The latest developments have made it evident that the power struggle has entered a decisive phase, with the Channi-Randhawa faction increasingly distancing itself not only from Warring but also appearing unwilling to fall in line with the party high command. The latest show of defiance, marked by the boycott of the Congress protest outside Parliament, delegation visit to the National SC panel, and parallel political mobilisation in Punjab, has once again exposed the deepening cracks within the state unit ahead of the crucial Assembly elections.

The organisational fallout of the factional war is also becoming increasingly visible. Nearly a month after the Congress constituted election-related committees, not a single meeting has been held because of the continuing deadlock between the two camps. The impasse is expected to deepen further as Congress in-charge Bhupesh Baghel has announced a series of meetings across Malwa, Majha, and Doaba in coordination with district presidents. However, the dissenting camp is expected to boycott the meetings, with several district presidents also reportedly opposed to Warring's leadership, threatening to further derail the party's election preparations.

The growing discord became evident when Punjab Congress MPs staged a protest outside Parliament over the alleged lathi-charge on sanitation workers in Barnala and the paper leak issue in Punjab. While Punjab Congress president and Ludhiana MP Warring, along with MPs Dr Amar Singh, Gurjeet Aujla, and

Sher Singh Ghubaya, participated in the demonstration, Jalandhar MP and former Chief Minister Channi and Gurdaspur MP Randhawa stayed away despite being present in Delhi. MP Dr Dharamvira Gandhi also kept away from the protest, making the absence of senior leaders even more significant.

In fact, Channi and Randhawa also remained absent on Tuesday when the Punjab Congress MPs delegation, led by Warring, met the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) chairman to submit a memorandum seeking its immediate intervention into the brutal police excesses against sanitation workers belonging to the SC community during a protest in Barnala.

The development came close on the heels of a tense meeting in Delhi past week, attended by Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, where efforts to bridge differences reportedly failed. During the meeting, Venugopal said to have strongly reprimanded the Channi-Randhawa camp,

but Channi reportedly responded bluntly, leading to a heated exchange. The confrontation reportedly ended with Venugopal leaving the meeting midway, followed by Channi, signalling that the leadership crisis remains unresolved.

Even as Warring led the party's protest in Delhi, the Channi-Randhawa camp intensified its independent political activity. Senior leaders aligned with the faction, including Channi, Randhawa, Rana Gurjeet Singh, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, and others, gathered at the residence of Gurdaspur MLA Barindermeet Singh Pahra on late Sunday evening to discuss election strategy, indicating that the group has already begun preparing independently for the Assembly polls.

The faction further underlined its political messaging by releasing a video reel carrying a Punjabi song with strong symbolic undertones. The lyrics projected the group's unity, loyalty and determination while sending an unmistakable message that it would neither compromise nor accept pressure from either the party high command or the rival camp.

The group's recent public appearances have also fuelled speculation over its political ambitions. Addressing sanitation workers during a protest in Barnala, Channi projected himself as a potential chief ministerial face, asserting that the present government had only a limited time left and declaring that if "God gives him power", those responsible would be held accountable. The remarks have reinforced perceptions that Channi is positioning himself as a contender for the party's top leadership in Punjab.

Paper Leak Politics Intensifies in Punjab as Mann Holds Ground, Opposition Demands Accountability

PNS ■ Chandigarh

The alleged paper leak controversy has entered a sharper political phase in Punjab, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann mounting an aggressive defence of his government's recruitment record while the Opposition parties intensified its attack by invoking AAP's own campaign against the NEET paper leak that culminated in the resignation of the Union Education Minister. As Mann insisted that not a single examination paper has leaked during his four-and-a-half-year tenure and described the recent Pharmacy Officers recruitment examination as an isolated incident of high-tech cheating, the SAD and Congress are demanding resignations, court-monitored investigations, and accountability, alleging that the government is attempting to downplay a much larger recruitment scandal.

The controversy has now shifted beyond allegations over a single recruitment examination. With the ruling AAP and the Opposition locked in a battle over credibility, rival parties are questioning what they described as the government's "double standards" on paper leaks. They are citing AAP leaders'

earlier stand that Ministers must accept responsibility whenever examination leaks occur.

The Opposition has also widened its attack by alleging at least six major paper leaks during the Mann Government's tenure and citing alleged irregularities in the Senior Assistants, Punjab State Rural Livelihood Mission, and Excise Inspector recruitment processes, besides pointing to the 2023 Punjab State Teacher Eligibility Test (PSTET) episode and the recent Pharmacy Officers examination.

From protests and planned state-wide agitations to demands for High Court- or CBI-monitored probes, the issue has emerged as one of the biggest political flashpoints confronting the Mann government ahead of the ensuing state assembly polls.

MANN DEFENDS GOVT, REJECTS PAPER LEAK CHARGE

Seeking to blunt the Opposition's offensive, Mann asserted that Punjab had not witnessed a single examination paper leak during his government's four-and-a-half-year tenure. Speaking during his visit to Parliament after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and other MPs, he accused the BJP, Congress, and SAD of defaming Punjab and its youth for political

gains.

Highlighting what he called a transparent recruitment system, the Chief Minister said his government had provided nearly 69,000 government jobs purely on merit, without recommendations or bribery. "No Cash, No Farnaish, only merit," he said, claiming corruption in public recruitment had become a thing of the past.

On the Pharmacy Officers recruitment examination, Mann maintained that the incident was a case of organised cheating — not a paper leak. "Within 15 minutes of the examination beginning, authorities detected a candidate allegedly using a Bluetooth-enabled pen to scan the question paper and receive answers through an earpiece from handlers outside the examination centre. Punjab Police immediately arrested 10 candidates and an 11-member outside gang, ensuring the examination concluded successfully," he said.

Rejecting demands for Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains' resignation, Mann clarified that the examination was conducted under the Health Department and that the Health Minister had already ruled out any paper leak. Reiterating that "paper leaks cannot happen in Punjab", he said Opposition parties should fight him

politically instead of tarnishing the image of hardworking Punjabis. He also claimed that SAD had lost its relevance in the state and asked the BJP to "look after Jantar Mantar" before targeting Punjab.

OPPOSITION INTENSIFIES PRESSURE, SEEKS ACCOUNTABILITY

The Opposition, however, dismissed the government's explanation and sharpened its attack with fresh allegations, documentary claims and street protests.

Senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia alleged that there had been six major paper leaks during the AAP government's tenure and demanded a High Court-monitored probe into all examination-related controversies.

Besides questioning the Pharmacy Officers recruitment examination, he alleged manipulation in the Senior Assistants recruitment process, irregular allocation of interview marks in the Punjab State Rural Livelihood Mission recruitment, and large-scale irregularities in the Excise Inspector recruitment examination. He also cited Chief Minister Mann's own 2023 social media post on the Punjab State Teacher Eligibility Test (PSTET), claiming that it contradicted the government's assertion that no paper leak had occurred

during its tenure. Majithia demanded the resignations of Chief Minister Mann, Education Minister Bains, and Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh.

The Congress too intensified its agitation. Punjab Youth Congress workers led by state president Shubham Sharma Shubhi broke police barricades during a protest outside Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains' residence in Rupnagar, staged a sit-in and smeared black paint on the Minister's nameplate while demanding his resignation. The organisation warned of a statewide agitation, including a gherao of the minister's Chandigarh office and district-level protests if he failed to resign within five days.

Punjab Congress president and MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring alleged that six paper leaks had taken place under the Mann Government and questioned who would take responsibility for the future of over five lakh students. Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and MP Charanjit Singh Channi announced he would join the Congress dharma outside Baba Farid University of Health Sciences in Faridkot on July 29, with the party demanding an impartial investigation, strict action against those responsible and complete transparency in future recruitment examinations.

AAP's Lone Punjab Rajya Sabha MP Returns Security, Seechewal Flags Deteriorating Law & Order

MONIKA MALIK ■ Chandigarh

Aam Aadmi Party's lone Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab, Balbir Singh Seechewal, on Tuesday openly expressed disappointment with his own party's government over the state's law and order situation, announcing that he is voluntarily returning his official security while asking that the six police personnel deployed with him be reassigned for public policing. In a strongly-worded letter to the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, the noted environmentalist said that the safety of ordinary citizens must take precedence over his personal security at a time when crime is on the rise.

The development assumes significance as Seechewal is now the only AAP Rajya Sabha member from Punjab after six party MPs quit and joined the BJP. His decision is being viewed as a rare public expression of dissatisfaction by a senior AAP parliamentarian with the functioning of the state's police and the Bhagwant Mann Government on the issue of law and order.

Seechewal, in his letter, requested the DGP to immediately withdraw the six police personnel assigned to his security and deploy three each at Lohian Khas and Sultanpur Lodhi police stations in Jalandhar district. He said that the areas along the sacred Kali Bein were witnessing an increase in

robberies and other criminal activities, making it imperative to strengthen policing rather than provide him with personal protection.

Stating that the people need security more than he does, Padma awardee Seechewal wrote that incidents of robbery, theft, and drug-related crime have become a matter of serious concern. "If the people themselves are not safe, it is not appropriate that six police personnel remain deployed for the security of a single MP," he conveyed, urging the police chief to act without delay.

The Rajya Sabha MP also revealed that he had earlier written to Shahkot DSP highlighting the shortage of police personnel at Malsian police station.



कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत बांजणी
विकास खंड कण्डाघाट, जिला सोलन (हि.प्र.)

निविदा सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है की ग्राम पंचायत बांजणी में विभिन्न विकास कार्यों के लिए निम्नलिखित सामग्री हेतु 2026/27 के लिए निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है यह निविदाएं 06.08.2026 सुबह से पहले पंचायत कार्यालय में पहुंच जानी चाहिए । 1. रेत; बजरी, पत्थर; गटका; रोड़ी; प्रति क्यूबिक फीट । 2. सीमेंट दुलाई लोडिंग अनलोडिंग सहित। 3. स्टील सरिया एंगल पीब्रोसी पाइप ईंट शटरिंग आदि। 4. खिड़की दरवाजे पेंट बिजली सामान आदि की दरें प्रभावित इकाइयों सहित । 5. भूमि कटिंग काया जेसीबी प्रति घंटा की दर से । 6. मु० सोर उर्जा कंक्र्रीट बैच आदि । नोट: जीसीटी न०/टिन न० होना अनिवार्य है निविदाएं ग्राम पंचायत कार्यालय में खोली जाएगी शर्तें, पूरी न करने वाली निविदाओं को रद्द करने का अधिकार ग्राम पंचायत को होगा तथा पारित निविदाओं द्वारा दी जाने वाली सामग्री की दरें पूरे पंचायत क्षेत्र के लिए लागू होगी किसी सामग्री की कोई भी निविदा प्राप्त न होने पर पंचायत अपने स्तर पर किसी को भी स्थानीय दरों पर सप्लाई देने के लिए प्राधिकृत होगी । सामग्री की मांग व सप्लाई पंचायत में कार्यानुसार की जाएगी।

प्रधान/सचिव ग्राम पंचायत बांजणी
विकास खंड कण्डाघाट, जिला सोलन (हि.प्र.)

ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ, ਫਗਵਾੜਾ।

ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ, ਫਗਵਾੜਾ ਦੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਸਕੀਮ 15.68 ਏਕੜ (ਸਾਉਥ ਐਲੀਨਿਓ) ਦੇ ਲੇ-ਆਊਟ ਪਲੇਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਿਹਾਇਸ਼ੀ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ: 71 ਤੋਂ 80 ਤੱਕ ਜਿਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਕੁੱਲ ਰਕਬਾ 2000 ਵਰਗ ਬਟਾਦਾ ਹੈ ਦਾ ਉਪਬੰਧ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਜਗ੍ਹਾ ਨੂੰ Intelligence Bureau ਨੂੰ ਦੇਣ ਲਈ Institutional Site (Office cum Residential) ਤੋਂ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਟਾਊਨ ਇੰਪਰੂਵਮੈਂਟ ਐਕਟ, 1922 ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ 43 ਅਧੀਨ ਸੋਧ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਤਾ ਨੰ: 4 ਮਿਤੀ 21-04-2026 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਫੈਸਲਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਮਤੇ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵਲੋਂ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ: ਸ ਡਰਸ-ਟਰਸ-2026/60433 ਮਿਤੀ 27-07-2026 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸੇਕਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ/ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਉਕਤ ਫੈਸਲੇ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼/ਸੁਝਾਅ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਿਤ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 30 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ, ਫਗਵਾੜਾ ਵਿਖੇ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ। ਨਿਯਮਿਤ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਵੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ਾਂ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਕਾਰਜ ਸਾਥਕ ਅਡਮਰ,
ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ, ਫਗਵਾੜਾ।

3185/12/2026-27/13717 Dated CHD :- 28/07/2026

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ
...सरोज का प्रतीक...

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, CIRCLE OFFICE – Hissar
GSAD, Circle Office Hissar, ITI Chowk, Dabra Road, Hissar -125005
(Tel: 01662-247733, Email ID: cohsgsad@pnb.bank.in)

PREMISES REQUIRED

Punjab National Bank requires a well-constructed hall-type building for Sr. Nos. 1 & 2 and well-constructed hall-type building/vacant plot for Sr. No. 3 on lease/rental basis. The premises should preferably be on the ground floor. If a ground floor premises is not available, the same may be on the first floor, provided lift facility is available.

S. No.	Branch/Office	Carpet area in sqft	Remark
01	Circle Office, Hissar	3650-3850	Suitable places in the commercial market of Hissar or upcoming marketplaces within the periphery of Hissar City
02	LDM Office, Hansi	300-400	In the Vicinity of Hansi city
03	BO Barwala	1400-1600	In the Vicinity of BO Barwala (147510)

Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners / registered Power of attorney Holders of such premises in the desired locality who are ready to lease out their readily available premises on long term lease basis preferably for 15 years or more may send their offers in the prescribed format available on Bank's Web Site www.pnbindia.in or the same may be obtained from Circle Office, Hissar or from the concern branch during office hours. The complete offer duly sealed & signed should reach the Circle Office on or before **Dated 13.08.2026 Till 05:00 PM** at the above-mentioned Circle Office address.

No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

-sd-
CIRCLE HEAD

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that M/s Krishna Builders and Developers was granted License No. LDC/ICA-ADC(UD)/2024/69 dated 02.09.2024 by the Additional Deputy Commissioner-cum-Competent Authority, Urban Development, SAS Nagar (Mohali) for the development of the Group Housing Project "Atlantis Three Sixty", Village Ramgarh Bhudha, Zirakpur, over an area measuring 08 Bighas 03 Biswas 03 Biswasis.

Now, the said Colonizer/Builder has submitted a Revised Layout Plan for the project "Atlantis Three Sixty", Village Ramgarh Bhudha, Zirakpur for approval. The revised layout plan includes Khasra Nos. 334/1, 334/3, 335/1, 335/3, 336/1, 338/1, 336/2, 337 and 338/3, measuring a total area of 17 Bighas 09 Biswas 03 Biswasis.

The concerned Colonizer has applied for the approval of the Revised Layout Plan/DRG No. 01 dated 18.02.2026 for the above-mentioned project.

Before granting approval to the Revised Layout Plan, this Public Notice is hereby issued to inform all affected persons and members of the general public that if any person wishes to inspect the Revised Layout Plan or has any suggestion, objection, or representation regarding the proposed revision, the same may be submitted in writing to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice at Room No. 401, Third Floor, District Administrative Complex, SAS Nagar (Mohali).

If no objection or suggestion is received within the stipulated period, further proceedings for approval of the Revised Layout Plan submitted by the Colonizer/Builder shall be initiated in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations. Any objection or representation received after the prescribed period shall not be entertained.

Declaration / Undertaking

The following declarations are hereby made:

- We undertake to provide all basic infrastructure and civic amenities in the colony/project.
- We undertake to comply with all instructions, rules, regulations, and conditions issued by the Government from time to time and shall not commit any violation whatsoever.
- We declare that no violation of the Government instructions or the approved Layout Plan has been committed by us.
- We further declare that there is no complaint, litigation, or any order passed by any competent court that may restrain or prohibit the development or approval of this project.
- We declare that the project has been duly registered with the Punjab Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Punjab RERA).
- We declare that the written consent of 100% of the allottees of the colony/project has been obtained with respect to the proposed revision.
- We declare that all documents submitted by us are true, genuine, and correct. If any document is found to be false, incorrect, or misleading at any stage, we shall be solely responsible and liable for the same.

Additional Deputy Commissioner
cum-Competent Authority
Date: 23-07-2026 Urban Development, SAS Nagar (Mohali)

बेदखली सूचना

मैं आतिया घडी स्वो खी ब्रवण कुरार निवासो यकन न० 38-ए, शांति विहार, गहावरि कॉलोनी लिखत नहसूल व जिला हिसार अर्था हदक से ब्यात कर्तो हूँ मेरो पुत्री मोहिनी जोकि आबिवाहीत है यह मेरे कर्ते सुनने से बाहर है। इसलिये मैं अपनी पुत्री मोहिनी को अपने घर व अपने परिवार से बेखुश करती हूँ इसकी किसी बाधा रहे कुरार, लेन-देन व व्यवहार के लिए मैं व मेरा परिवार जिम्मेवार नही होगी। इसकी साथ लेन-देन करने वाला स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगा। अब मेरा व मेरे परिवार का मेरी पुत्री मोहिनी से कोई सम्बन्ध तथा ताबूत के वाला न रहे।

-सपथकार

Disclaimer

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ਕੋਆਪੇਰੇਟਿਵ ਬੈਂਕ
FULLY COMPUTERIZED BANK

Cooperative Bank
H.O.: CIVIL LINES, BATHINDA

THE BATHINDA CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being **The Bathinda Central Cooperative Bank Ltd.**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned against accounts calling upon the borrowers / guarantors to repay the amount mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors & the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on date mentioned against each account.

The borrowers / guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **The Bathinda Central Cooperative Bank Ltd.** for an amount of mentioned below & further interest / other charges accrued thereon. The borrower attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the Secured Assets.

Name of the NPA Account / Branch	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of the Demand Notice	Date of the Possession	Amount Outstanding
M/s Narian Dass Bansal, 218-C, Grain Market, Bathinda through its Proprietor Sh. Baldev Bansal S/o Sh. Krishan Lal Bansal, 5787, Aggarwal Street, Sirki Bazaar, Bathinda and others. Branch : Grain Market, Bathinda	Equitable / Registered Mortgaged Property MC no. 218-C, measuring 178 sq. yards Situated at Mohila Guru Nanak Pura, Bathinda, owned by Smt. Bimal Bansal W/o Sh. Krishan Lal Bansal, Registered with Sub Registrar Bathinda vide Document no. 1158, Bahi no.1, on dated 06-05-2010 and bounded as East : Jagdish Rai, West : Tal Ram, South : Birj Lal, North : Gali 10 Feet	16-07-2022	24-07-2026	Rs. 12,53,374.86 + Interest, other charges w.e.f. NPA date & less recovery if any, till date affected

Date : 28-07-2026 Place : Bathinda Sd/- Authorised Officer

ਬੈਂਕ ਆਫ਼ ਭਰੋਦਾ
Bank of Baroda
FOUNDED IN 1891

Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Hissar
Ground and 1st Floor, SCO 36-37
Sector 13, Hissar, Pin 125001

PREMISES REQUIRED FOR OPENING NEW ATM OF BANK OF BARODA

Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Hissar, intends to acquire commercially approved premises at following location on lease basis in two bid system for "Opening New ATM" with 24 hour access, clear visibility with 3 phase Electric connection as mentioned below and minimum space of 4'x4' on terrace for Antenna

Location	Carpet Area Required	Lease Period	Required/Proposed Location	Electric Load Required
1. Huda Market, Narwana Near Bank of Baroda.	80-100 sqft	10-20 Years	Ground Floor only, Prime Location	5-7 KVA
2. Uchana Near Bus Stand.				
3. Huda Market Sector 3, Fatehabad.				
4. Badsi Gate Hansi , Bus Stand.				
5. Akoda Mahendergarh.				

Sealed offers are invited in Two-bid system viz: (1) Technical Bid (2) Financial Bid from the person having clear title/ownership of the premises. Last date of submission of offer is dated **12-08-2026 up to 03:00 PM** on above mention address. Previous tender Stand Cancelled. For details, log on to tenders section of our website www.bankofbaroda.bank.in or www.bankofbaroda.in/tenders/zonal-regional-offices

Bank reserves the right to reject any bid without assigning reason whatsoever.

Date : 28.07.2026 Hissar Assistant General Manager, Hissar Region

PIRAMAL FINANCE LTD.
CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639
Registered Office: Unit No.-601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amlit Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamarni Junction, Opp. Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400070 – T +91 22 3802 4000
Contact Person: 1. Piramal Finance Ltd -022-69482444

E-Auction Sale Notice - Subsequent Sale

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Piramal Finance Ltd (Formerly Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd.) under the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrowers, offers are invited by the undersigned "for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the possession, on 'As is Where is Basis', 'As is What is Basis' and 'Whatever is There is Basis', Particulars of which are given below.

Loan Code/ Branch/ Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address- final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (24-07-2026)
Loan Code No.: 245000091365 & 17800005611, Bathinda (Branch), Ramandeep Singh (Borrower), Amandeep Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	Dt. 21-01-2020, Rs. 10,58,947/- (Rs. Ten Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Seven Only) & Dt. 21-01-2020, Rs. 8,93,863/- (Rs. Eight Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Three Only)	All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Having An Extent - Ward No.1 Ramana Patil Near Akalgarh Gundwara Sahib Village- Namol Gundwara Sahib Village- Namol Tehsil Sunam Distt Bamala Punjab In 148106 Boundaries As:- North - 607/- 07 H/o Teja Singh S/o Sadhu Singh West:- 317-57 Plot Ramandeep Singh East:- 317-57 Gali South:- 607-07 Plot Ajai Singh S/o Kaur Singh	Rs. 19,52,100/- (Rs. Nineteen Lakh Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Only)	Rs. 1,95,210/- (Rs. One Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Two Hundred Ten Only)	Rs. 20,25,871/- (Rs. Twenty Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy One Only) & Rs. 17,59,217/- (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen Only)

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 13-08-2026, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M. (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 12-08-2026, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in www.piramalfinance.com/e-Auction.html or email us on piramal.auction@piramal.com

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

The above-mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.

The Borrowers attention is drawn towards sub-section 8 of section 13, of the act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Borrowers in particular and public in general may please take note, that in case the auction scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then the secured creditor may enforce its security by the way of private treaty.

Date : July 29, 2026, Sd/- (Authorised Officer),
Place: Punjab Piramal Finance Limited

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ
...सरोज का प्रतीक...

punjab national bank
...the name you can BANK upon!

BRANCH: NIGHDU (SOL ID: 150110) DISTRICT KARNAL

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas,

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 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 notice dated 16.05.2026 calling upon the Borrower, 1. M/s Sourav Enterprises (Prop. Navin Kumar S/o Sh. Krishan Lal), 2. Sh. Kaptaan Singh S/o Sh. Krishan Lal(Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Krishan Lal), 3. Naveen Kumar S/o Sh. Krishan Lal (Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Krishan Lal), 4. Mamo Devi W/o Sh. Krishan Lal(Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Krishan Lal), 5. Smt. Anita W/o Sh. Rajiv Goyal, (Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Krishan Lal), 6. Sh. Sunder Lal S/o Sh. Sukam Chand(Guarantor/Mortgagor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 19,71,702.74 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Seventy-One Thousand Seven Hundred Two and Paise Seventy-Four Only) due as on 06.05.2026 (Inclusive of interest upto 30.04.2026) with further interest and cost, expenses etc. w.e.f. 01.05.2026, within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 27th day of July of the year 2026

The borrowers 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 for an amount of Rs. 19,71,702.74 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Seventy-One Thousand Seven Hundred Two and Paise Seventy-Four Only) due as on 06.05.2026 (Inclusive of interest upto 30.04.2026) with further interest and cost,w.e.f 01.05.2026 expenses etc., and cost, expenses etc., until payment in full.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provision of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY/(S)

All the Part and Parcel of residential Double Story House built over Plot No. 888 measuring 220 sq. mts. or 263.12 sq. yards., situated at Sector 5, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra in the Name of Sh. Krishan Lal & Sunder Lal vide Regd. Transfer Deed No. 5579/1 dated 20.10.2009 which is measuring and bounded as under: - North- 22 Meter H. No. 887, South- 22 Meter H. No. 889, East – 10 Meter Other House, West – 10 Meter Road

DATE: 27.07.2026 PLACE: KARNAL Authorized officer, Punjab National Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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 (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 symbolic 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 Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Sushil Kumar/ Shalu Sharma/ LBYGR00006139818	H No 360, Ppid, No B/1756 ,waka East Bhatia Nagar, Tehsil Jagadhri Dist. Yamunanagar Within Mc Limits Yamuna Nagar, Haryana- 135001, July 24, 2026	April 28, 2026 Rs. 12,61,697.20/-	Yamunanagar (Haryana)
2.	Shiv Kumar/ Poonam Devi/ TBYGR00006502013	Khasra No 5/21 Waka Mouja Mamidi Musoma New Jain Nagar/Palam Vihar, Old Ppid 333C192U9 And New Ppid 1K9QVDN2, Tehsil Jagadhri, Within Mc Limits Yamuna Nagar, Haryana- 135001, July 24, 2026	March 27, 2026 Rs. 38,52,351/-	Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra (Haryana)
3.	Anita Rani Saini/ TBKKR00007254743/ LBBKR00007260171	Part of House No. 1303/5, Waka Rakha Darro Khurd Vashisth Colony, Inside M.C. Limits Thanesar, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana- 136118 July 24, 2026	March 26, 2026 Rs. 23,46,406/-	Kurukshetra (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: July 29, 2026 Place: Yamunanagar & Kurukshetra (Haryana)

Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Superintending Engineer 4thCircle, HPPWD Shimla

(Name of Authority Inviting Bids)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Superintending Engineer Shimla Circle HPPWD Shimla on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate/item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of road under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jal Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for the works having amount put to tender above Rs. 100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids, however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

District	RIDF	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh) without GST	Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Starting date for download ding bid	Form Cost	Deadline for submission of bid	Period of Com pletion	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Shimla	RIDFXXXI	Upgradation and improvement of Road Batewari Kanchi to Deothli Alidher road from km. 000 to 11.870)	1174.68	83.31	1257.99	31-07-2026	20000/-	17-08-2026	540 days

The bidders are advised to not other details of tenders from the departmental website www.hptender.gov.in

The Superintending Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

RO NO. 2224/2026-2027 Dt. 28-07-2026

Branch Office : ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on the underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security concerning a Housing Loan Facility granted pursuant to a Loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) who has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan Facility(ies) obtained by them from the secured creditor. The Loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them at their last known addresses; however, it has returned un-served and hence, they are hereby notified by way of this Public Notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ & Address (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Deepak Kumar/ Ganpat Rai/ Kailash Rani/ QZHS00005020282/ House No. 187/2, Dayalsingh Colony, Hansi Hishar, Haryana -HansI- 125033	Plot Situated At Dayal Singh Colony, Hansi Tehsil District Hissar Haryana- 125033	04/07/2026 Rs. 19,64,917.54/-	30-Apr-21

The steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower(s) and/or the guarantor(s) of the Loan (as applicable) is/are advised to make the payments of the outstanding within the period of 60 days from the date of the publication of this Notice else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: July 29, 2026 Place: Haryana Authorised Officer
Team ICICI Bank

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ
...सरोज का प्रतीक...

punjab national bank
...the name you can BANK upon!

BRANCH: NIGHDU (SOL ID: 150110) DISTRICT KARNAL

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas,

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 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 notice dated 16.05.2026 calling upon the Borrower, 1. M/s Pawan Trading Co. (Prop Sh. Sunder Lal S/o Sh. Sukam Chand), 2. Sh. Kaptaan Singh S/o Sh. Krishan Lal(Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Krishan Lal), 3. Naveen Kumar S/o Sh. Krishan Lal (Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Krishan Lal), 4. Mamo Devi W/o Sh. Krishan Lal(Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Krishan Lal), 5. Smt. Anita W/o Sh. Rajiv Goyal, (Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Krishan Lal) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 20,01,226.33 (Rupees Twenty Lakh One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Six and Paisea Thirty-Three Only) as on 30.04.2026 with further interest and cost, w.e.f. 01.05.2026 expenses etc., and cost, expenses etc., until payment in full.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provision of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY/(S)

All the Part and Parcel of residential Double Story House built over Plot No. 888 measuring 220 sq. mts. or 263.12 sq. yards., situated at Sector 5, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra in the Name of Sh. Krishan Lal & Sunder Lal vide Regd. Transfer Deed No. 5579/1 dated 20.10.2009 which is measuring and bounded as under: - North- 22 Meter H. No. 887, South- 22 Meter H. No. 889, East – 10 Meter Other House, West – 10 Meter Road

DATE: 27.07.2026 PLACE: KARNAL Authorized officer, Punjab National Bank

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ
...सरोज का प्रतीक...

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The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 27th day of July of the year 2026

The borrowers 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 for an amount of Rs. 8,26,296.70 (Rupees Eight Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Six and Paisea Seventy only) as on 30.04.2026 (Inclusive of interest upto 30.04.2026) with further interest and cost, w.e.f. 01.05.2026 expenses etc., and cost, expenses etc., until payment in full.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provision of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

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DATE: 27.07.2026 PLACE: KARNAL Authorized officer, Punjab National Bank

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to Rule 8 (6)]
Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset(s)

This E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset/ Assets is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd. (DHFL) in relation to the enforcement of security with respect to a Housing Loan facility granted pursuant to a Loan Agreement entered into between DHFL and the following Borrower/ Borrowers/ Co-Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor/ Guarantors under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/ Borrowers/ Co-Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor/ Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' basis as per the brief particulars given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured Asset/ Assets with known encumbrances, if any	Outstanding amount	Reserve price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and timeof property inspection	Date and time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Varinder Pal (Applicant), Radha (Co-App					

Rajnath unveils policy reforms for ICG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday here unveiled two significant policy reforms for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) aimed at promoting gender parity in the induction and service conditions of officers, and streamlining the administrative procedures for granting ex gratia to the families of personnel reported missing at sea while on duty.

The first policy directive establishes a comprehensive, women-centric approach by ushering in a gender-neutral framework for the induction of officers into the ICG.

The highlights of the policy include induction of women candidates into both Short Service Appointments (SSA)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the unveiling of two policy reforms for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in New Delhi

and Permanent Appointments (PA) at par with their male counterparts. SSA has also been opened for male candidates.

The policy ensures equal opportunities for career progression, commencing right from the ab-initio training

phase. The existing PA women officers shall also be considered for promotion to higher positions subject to fulfilment of eligibility conditions. The existing serving women officers on SSA will also be provided an option to convert their service to a PA,

subject to the fulfilment of stipulated conditions. This progressive step reflects the Government's commitment to Nari Shakti and equal opportunity in the nation's maritime security apparatus.

The second policy reform brings relief and administrative ease to the Next of Kin (NoK) of the personnel who unfortunately go missing at sea in the line of duty. The key highlights of the policy include the authority to declare an ICG personnel missing at sea while on duty as 'presumed dead' for the purpose of ex-gratia.

The reform significantly eases and accelerates the process for the grant of ex-gratia compensation and terminal benefits to the NoK.

This measure ensures that the families of brave person-

nel are not subjected to prolonged administrative delays during times of mental trauma.

Lauding the ICG for its exemplary service over the past five decades, Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that these forward-looking policies will further strengthen the morale and operational efficacy of the force as it marches toward its Swarnim Jayanti (Golden Jubilee) in 2027.

He reaffirmed Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government's resolve to strengthen the ICG as a modern, capable and future-ready maritime force. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, DG ICG Director General Paramesh Sivamani and other senior officials attended the event.

No paper leak case in Punjab, Opposition lying: Cheema



Harpal Singh Cheema

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Chandigarh

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday rejected the Opposition's charge of a paper leak in the State, claiming that it is trying to spread lies against the AAP Government.

Addressing the media here, Cheema said there has been no paper leak in the past four years of the Bhagwant Mann Government.

Opposition parties have been attacking the Mann Government over the issue of a cheating racket detected recently in a pharmacy officer recruitment exam and are demanding the resignation of Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains and Health Minister Balbir Singh.

On July 19, Punjab Police dismantled a highly sophisticated, interstate cheating racket operating during the pharmacy officer examination. A total of seven key conspirators and 28 candidates were held. Police also recovered 27 battery-operated wireless cheating devices.

Cheema said, "There has not been a single case of paper leak in Punjab. Opposition parties are trying to mislead our youths."

Referring to the pharmacy officer exam, the minister said some youths in the exam were caught cheating using electronic means.

Students must be protected, not arsonists: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The BJP on Tuesday said the Supreme Court's interim order on petitions related to protests over the alleged NEET paper leak draws a clear distinction between genuine student protesters and those involved in violence, stressing that while "dissent is okay, danga (riot) is not".

The remarks came after the Supreme Court directed authorities not to take coercive action against protesters while continuing investigation in FIRs and to release those under 18 years of age, provided they have no criminal records. It also asked authorities to preserve electronic and digital evidence relating to the recent nationwide stir over the NEET paper leak.

"The allegations prima facie warrant consideration of a fair and independent probe, which must also address the concerns of families of over 200 injured police personnel," a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed, while hearing a batch of peti-



BJP spokesperson Shehzaad Poonawalla

tions alleging police brutality during the demonstrations. BJP national spokesperson Shehzaad Poonawalla said the Supreme Court has dealt with the matter in a "mature" and "sensitive" manner. "SC has weighed in very maturely and sensitively. It must be welcomed by all," he said in a post on social media.

"Students and arsonists or rioters are different. Students must be protected. Arsonists cannot. The court says this. Dissent is okay, danga (riot) is not. Students, okay; arsonists, not. Protests

are okay; provocation is not," he said. Poonawalla asserted that the Government is already committed to ensuring that no cases are pursued against genuine protesters.

"But cases will continue for arsonists. There can be no blanket suraksha kawach (protection shield) for those who assault, molest, etc with established criminal antecedents," he added.

Citing CJI's observations, Poonawalla also said the court has noted that the allegations "prima facie warrant consideration of a fair and independent probe, which must also address the concerns of families of over 200-250 injured police personnel."

The bench, also including Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, directed all States where protests were held to preserve CCTV footage, drone recordings, body-camera footage, wireless communication records, PCR logs and other digital evidence pertaining to the protests. It also ordered that any digital data collected on protesters be preserved but not brought into the public domain.

Assam flood situation improves with receding water levels, no fresh deaths

TONY DAS ■ Guwahati

Assam's flood situation improved with no fresh fatalities reported, the number of affected people decreasing to 4.45 lakh and water levels receding in several districts, officials said on Tuesday. A central team visited Sivasagar, one of the worst-hit districts in the current wave of floods, and reviewed the situation in the eastern parts of the state, they said.

The toll is currently at 68 with no fresh deaths recorded and no person was reported missing, an official bulletin said. The officials said Sivasagar, Golaghat, Charaideo, Jorhat, Nagaon and Kamrup (Metropolitan) continued to be impacted by the floods, but the number of people hit by the deluge decreased to 4.45 lakh. Charaideo remained the worst-hit district, where 1.88 lakh people remained affected, followed by Sivasagar (1.44 lakh) and Jorhat (74,458).

Till Sunday, the number of affected people was over 5.24 lakh across five districts. Altogether 90 relief camps remained opera-



Assam CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma chaired a review meeting with Ministers, MLAs, District Commissioners and senior officials to review the prevailing flood situation and the ongoing relief and rehabilitation measure

tional, sheltering 28,695 displaced people. Additionally, 94 relief distribution centres were also functional, the bulletin said. The Dhansiri (S) river was flowing above the danger level at

Numaligarh in Golaghat district. Multiple agencies, including the NDRF, SDRF and civil defence personnel, are carrying out the rescue and relief operations. A total crop area of 37,139.52 hectares was still

submerged, while damage to houses, roads and other infrastructure was reported from various parts of the affected districts, the officials said.

Chief Minister thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "personal attention" to the Assam flood, which has claimed 68 lives so far while over 4.45 lakh people continue to reel under the deluge. He said the state Government has been able to reach all affected villages and was working on a war footing to provide relief to the flood-hit population.

PM Modi on Tuesday held a meeting with Union Ministers and BJP MPs belonging to Assam at the Parliament House complex to review the state's flood situation and later said on X the Centre was working closely with the Assam Government in providing relief to the affected people. A five-member central team led by MHA Joint Secretary M Ramachandrudu visited Sivasagar on Monday to review Upper Assam's flood situation with state ministers Keshab Mahanta and Bimal Borah, and local officials

accompanying them. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in a social media post, said power restoration work was going on in a phased manner.

"Since this morning, the number of families without power has declined by another 25 per cent. As floodwaters continue to recede, power supply is being restored across more affected areas. I will continue to share regular updates and keep you posted until power is restored to every affected household," he said in the post late on Monday evening.

Sarma also said that with water receding, disinfection and fogging drives across villages have been started to prevent the outbreak of any disease. Water Resources Minister Susanta Borgohain said steps were being taken to bury livestock and animals killed in the deluge. "The recent floods in Assam have sadly claimed the lives of many livestock. To prevent water contamination and the spread of diseases, the deceased animals are being buried and disposed of scientifically," he said.

Change *dil ka angle*, not camera angle: Priyanka

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi needs to change his "*dil ka angle*" instead of camera angles if he wants to win over the Gen Z, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi told Parliament Tuesday in a sharp barb over his Instagram outreach to student protesters last week.

Priyanka Gandhi also launched a stinging attack on the Government over the lathi-charge on students, saying every 'lathi' blow on any boy or girl, hurt the Government's prestige more than the backs of the students. "Why was it necessary to fire tear gas shells at students, to rain lathis on them? Why was it necessary — to humiliate young girls by tearing their clothes, to have them beaten mercilessly? Why was it necessary to fire pellet guns and AK-47s at the country's youth? Are they terrorists," the Congress general secretary asked, participating in a discussion in Lok Sabha on 'The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill 2026'.

"Today, these questions are being asked not just by the Congress party, but by the entire nation, and the responsibility to answer them lies with the Government. Why does this Government fear the country's youth? Who gave it the right to suppress their voices," she said. Priyanka Gandhi also dismissed the Government's announcement of setting up fast-track courts to deal with paper leaks, saying fast track courts already have a very poor record. "Blaming



the opposition in Parliament, playing hollow political games won't work. If the prime minister wants to win over the Gen Z, then making videos with different camera angles will not help. The prime minister needs to change his '*dil ka angle*', not the angle of cameras," she said. "This new generation is aware and has an immense capacity to recognize lies. To win their hearts, PM Modi will have to step onto the path of truth," Priyanka Gandhi said.

Under Modi's governance, grave "injustice and barbarity" has been done to the youth, she alleged.

"Accept this truth, take responsibility, take concrete steps, and consult experts and take all stakeholders along to prepare a new education system after deep consultations...PM Modi will have to take steps to create employment. Education and healthcare must expand in the country, so that children can dream of a bright future," she said.

In her 29-minute speech, Priyanka Gandhi also said students can be removed from the streets, but not their questions. "Every 'lathi' blow on any boy or girl,

hurt the Government's prestige more than the backs of the students. The youth of the country are demanding justice? not charity. They had come not to topple the Government, but to redeem their trust," she said.

Home Minister Amit Shah and Modi will have to answer who gave the order to attack the children with pellet guns, she asked and added that the question is being asked by the entire country.

Talking about her visit to RML hospital last week to meet a young woman injured in the protests and the interaction with her mother, Priyanka Gandhi asked Modi and Shah as to what was the need for suppressing an innocent little girl, humiliating girls and tearing their clothes, unleashing tear gas, pellet guns, and AK-47s on students.

Priyanka Gandhi said the demand of the protesting students was that action should be taken against those who leaked exam papers, reform of education system, education minister Dharmendra Pradhan should resign, and action should be taken against those who brutalized students, and an apology be issued.

Parliament panel summons Meta, X, Google over regulation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A Parliamentary panel has summoned representatives of major social media platforms, including Instagram, along with officials of the ministries of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Home Affairs, on August 3 to discuss regulation of social media and digital platforms.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who chairs the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, said the panel has called representatives of Meta (Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp), Google, X (formerly Twitter) and Snapchat on August 3 to explain how they protect the privacy of women, children, farmers, rural residents, labourers and the general public, and ensure public order.

The meeting comes days after social media, particularly Instagram, was extensively used by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) to publicise and mobilise participants for its student protest at Jantar Mantar. The demonstrations, which were held over the NEET-UG paper leak and other issues, drew widespread attention online, with videos, reels and live updates from the protest sites being shared across social media platforms.

According to the notice issued on Tuesday, the agenda includes a "briefing by the representatives of (i) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY); (ii) Ministry of Home Affairs; and (iii) Social and Digital Media Platforms — Snapchat, Google, X (formerly Twitter), Meta (Facebook and Instagram) on the subject 'Social and digital platforms and their regulation'."



BJP MP Nishikant Dubey

21 crore screened, 6 lakh treated for Hepatitis: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

More than 21 crore people have been screened for viral hepatitis and over six lakh patients have received free treatment under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP), the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

Marking World Hepatitis Day and eight years of the programme, Union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel called for a "Hepatitis-Mukt Bharat" and urged the Centre, states and other stakeholders to intensify efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Patel said India is among the few countries providing free treatment for Hepatitis C and free management of Hepatitis B — a serious liver infection caused by a virus.

She said the cost of medicines has been reduced to less than a dollar and quality diagnostics are being made increasingly accessible to facilitate early diagnosis and timely treatment.

Highlighting the pro-



Union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel

gramme's expansion, Patel said screening and treatment services are now available through the country's network of over 1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, taking hepatitis care closer to communities.

She said the Hepatitis B vaccine, introduced under the Universal Immunisation Programme in 2011, has achieved more than 92 per cent birth-dose coverage.

The minister, however, said only around 65 per cent of pregnant women are currently being screened for Hepatitis B and urged states and Union Territories to achieve 100 per cent screening to ensure timely administration of the Hepatitis B birth dose and Hepatitis B

Immunoglobulin (HBIG) for newborns of infected mothers.

Calling Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C "silent killers", Patel stressed the need to vaccinate health care workers, strengthen interventions among high-risk groups and create greater public awareness about free testing and treatment services available at Government health facilities.

Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava said the programme has established 1,153 treatment centres, surpassing the target of one treatment centre in every district, including more than 70 specialised centres providing advanced care.

Mehbooba Mufti announces protests on August 5 for restoration of Article 370

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Srinagar

People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday announced that her party would hold peaceful protests at district headquarters across Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 to press for the restoration of Article 370 and "resolution of the Kashmir issue".

The Centre revoked J&K's special status by abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019.

"All our people, who are sitting here, will hold peaceful protests in their districts on August 5 for the restoration of Article 370, 35A, and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue," Mehbooba Mufti said at a press conference at the party headquarters here on the occasion of the PDP's 27th foundation day.

The announcement comes close on the heels of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, ministers, MLAs and party workers holding a protest in the national capital on July 20, demanding the immediate restoration of statehood to the Union Territory.

Mehbooba Mufti, the former chief minister, said that August 5 was the day "everything was stripped from us". She said the party, on its foundation day, has passed a resolution including on "resolution of Kashmir issue".

"The party hereby resolves to reaf-



firm its belief in 'peace with dignity' as the only sustainable path towards lasting peace, through dialogue, reconciliation, confidence-building and meaningful democratic engagement among all stakeholders," the resolution read.

She said PDP is committed to "peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue", alongside the restoration of Article 370, Article 35A, "our identity, and statehood".

"PDP remains committed to this cause. We will continue our struggle, and God willing, we will achieve it," she said.

Mehbooba Mufti said her father and PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's vision cannot move forward

unless Jammu and the Kashmir valley walk together, understand each other's pain and sorrow and work jointly for each other's progress.

"We will endeavour to walk hand-in-hand, just as the people of Kargil and Leh in Ladakh move forward together," she said.

She also called for restoration of trade and connectivity, saying J&K has been constrained like a flower in a pot, even as it can become a vital bridge between Central Asia and South Asia.

"Whether across the Line of Control (LoC) or other regional borders, we will strive to reopen these routes for movement and trade.

"The Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot trade routes opened in 2005 following our efforts were unfortunately closed. We appeal to the Central Government to reopen them for trade, and also to open the Sharda Peeth corridor for our Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters," she said.

The PDP president called for the release of political prisoners and undertrials, and withdrawal of the Army from areas where militancy has reduced.

"In areas where militancy has reduced, as the Government of India itself frequently claims, we urge the Central Government to relocate the army back to barracks. This is not a new demand; we have voiced it previously and are reiterating it today," she said.



Editor's
TAKE

The human firewall against AI exploitation

Across India, thousands of workers are refusing to turn their labour into free training material for AI models. Their fight is about protecting their rights

Artificial intelligence is now omnipresent. In every walk of life, AI has made an intervention. Though it has several advantages, it also has a downside. It may well replace humans in various industries. And the irony is that it needs the help of those very workers it would replace. Every AI model must be trained first, and this has to be done by those who are presently doing that work. Every sophisticated AI model learns from billions of pieces of human-created content and from the painstaking work of countless annotators, translators, coders, writers and reviewers. Without this invisible workforce, AI simply cannot improve. It is therefore significant that many Indian workers are beginning to resist attempts to use their labour to train AI systems that may ultimately replace them. The concern is understandable. A content moderator who labels harmful posts, a language expert who translates documents, or a software engineer who corrects AI-generated code is not merely completing a task. They are transferring valuable expertise to machines. Once an AI system masters that knowledge, the demand for the same human skills may gradually diminish. Workers are effectively helping to build their own competitors. India occupies a unique position in this debate. It has become one of the world's largest suppliers of AI training labour, employing hundreds of thousands in data annotation, linguistic validation, customer support, quality assurance and digital content moderation. Yet most of these workers have little say over how their contributions are used.

Knowledge is a form of intellectual capital. If companies profit enormously from AI systems built upon human expertise, there is a compelling argument that the individuals supplying that expertise deserve transparency, fair compensation and meaningful consent. Otherwise, AI risks becoming another example of technological progress that concentrates wealth while socialising its costs.

Can such practices be legally stopped? The answer is complex. Existing Indian labour laws do not specifically regulate AI training. Copyright law protects original creative works but not necessarily the knowledge or judgement workers apply during routine employment. Contract law generally favours employers where employees have already agreed to broad usage rights. However, India's Digital Personal Data Protection framework and evolving discussions around AI governance could provide opportunities to strengthen worker protections. First, India needs clear legislation requiring companies to disclose when employees' work is being used to train AI models.

Transparency should become a legal obligation rather than a corporate choice. Second, workers should have the right to informed consent wherever feasible, especially when their specialised expertise is being incorporated into commercial AI systems beyond the scope of their original employment. Third, labour laws should be updated to recognise AI-assisted workplaces. Finally, India should establish an independent AI ethics and labour commission to balance innovation with workers' rights. Technological progress should never come at the cost of human dignity.

Balen Shah@100: A new reckoning

The euphoria that swept Balen Shah into office is gradually giving way to the harder realities of governance. With his first 100 days now behind him, the next phase will be crucial in shaping the future of Nepal's democratic experiment



ASHOK K MEHTA

The new British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has two things in common with Nepalese Prime Minister Balen Shah: both have risen from Mayor to PM; and both want a new political and economic model. While Burnham has an experienced and capable team to do so, Shah has neither. Still, Balen has completed his honeymoon period of 100 days with a mixed record, even as his Adidas keeds have begun to pinch. While the Balen craze seems to be on the decline, it is not clear who is calling the shots: Party Chairman Rabi Lamichhane, Shah or the PMO. By some reports, it is the PMO led by Balen's political adviser, Kumar Ben, and his team.

Lamichhane is no Nitin Nabin, BJP's titular head of the party. Lamichhane is a former deputy prime minister and home minister but carries the baggage of unresolved court cases which do not allow him to hold any Cabinet office. Though he has the numbers in the party and government, it was the Balen craze that swept the elections. Obviously, there is an unspoken conflict between two young and ambitious politicians, which has spurred internal party strife, registering a decline in the Rashtriya Swatantra Party's popularity. The sound of the bell (party symbol and rallying call) is getting muffled.

Yet, according to one confidential source, Balen consults Rabi frequently and their successful spouses, Sabina and Nikita, are good friends, though Sabina Kafle naturally captures the limelight. Balen realises Rabi has stolen a march due to the tumultuous party convention in Chitwan last month and the red-carpet welcome in India. Balen's focus on domestic affairs and decision not to travel abroad on any foreign visit have lost him mileage, which prompted his confidant Ben to meet NSA Ajit Doval, PM Modi's principal adviser on the neighbourhood, especially Nepal, and discuss a possible Balen visit before he travels to the UNGA in New York in September.

A standing invitation to India for Balen was given by Modi soon after his triumphant victory, but scheduling in September may be a problem due to the BRICS summit fixed for September, unless he is a special invitee. Rabi is due to go to China, where he has sought a meeting with Communist Party Chairman Xi Jinping. At present, Rabi is the unquestioned leader who has managed differences with Balen.

Cracks within other political formations are natural after the Gen Z upheaval last year. GoP Nepali Congress was the first to introspect: after all, it had won a two-thirds majority in 1959, registering Nepal's first short-lived tryst with multi-party democracy. King Mahendra dismissed



NEPAL IS INDIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN SOUTH ASIA, LOCATED AT THE HEAD OF BHARAT MATA. THE BLOOD BONDING WITH NEPAL THROUGH GORKHA RECRUITMENT IS LIKELY TO BE REVIEWED FOLLOWING A BIG RALLY COMMENCING ON JULY 29, FROM THE GORKHA HEARTLAND IN LAMJUNG. THIS STRATEGIC NIRVANA OF BILATERAL RELATIONS

The writer, a retired Major General, served as Commander, IPKF (South), Sri Lanka, and was a founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, now the Integrated Defence Staff

the first elected Prime Minister, BP Koirala, which upset India even as its Army Chief, Gen KS Thimayya, was on a tiger shoot at Chitwan, Nepal, at that very time.

NC has never been fully united - parties within a party, at least three factions - and has split earlier and is on the verge of another split under the same patronage of five-time PM Sher Bahadur Deuba, who is abroad but will return shortly to face charges of corruption. The original NC, led by stalwarts Purna Bahadur Khadka and Shekhar Koirala, has challenged, through a review petition, the decision of the Election Commission and Supreme Court to award the flag and party symbol to rebel youth leader Gagan Thapa, who held a special party convention to be elected as NC party president. From the single-largest party with 87 seats in the last election, it has crumbled to its lowest-ever tally of 38 seats, still the second-largest party thanks to the mixed electoral system. Thapa has decided to break with Left parties in the Provincial Councils, where RSP has no representation.

Surprisingly, four-time PM KP Oli, who was the trigger of the Gen Z revolt last year, is still leader of CPN-UML, his health holding despite multiple kidney transplants, proving power is the biggest aphrodisiac. China, which is again recreating political space, is attempting to bring together all Left parties, including four-time PM Prachanda and former President Bidya Bhandari, spouse of legendary Left leader Madan Bhandari, into a grand Left alliance. It may end up in a surfeit of former PMs with few stormtroopers. Prachanda and Oli have allied to form governments in five of seven provinces.

Once kingmakers, the Terai-based parties and monarchists have been decimated by the RSP tsunami, but former Raja Gyanendra still

hopes the monarchy, which is on the rise on social media, will return. Home Minister Sudan Gurung has announced a review of the 2000 Palace Massacre enquiry, when present President Ramchandra Poudel was Home Minister and Prince Gyanendra was in Pokhara. Former Indian ambassador KV Rajan and Atul K Thakur's book, Kathmandu Chronicles, has covered the horrendous event in stark detail.

India enjoyed a fleeting sweet spot in Nepal with back-to-back visits by Lamichhane and Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal, who said his visit to India could be termed 'special', probably referring to India's claim of "special and unique bilateral relations". For 250 years now, Nepal has followed 'balanced diplomatic relations' between India and China in pursuit of the dictum enunciated by the founder of modern Nepal, King Prithvi Narayan Shah. In reality, this balance was always tilted towards India due to strategic geography and religious and cultural factors.

Advantage India has been diminished by the entry of a third power, the US, which two decades ago said it would follow India's lead in South Asia. That is no longer the case. US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Samir Paul Kapoor, made a stand-alone visit to Nepal in April 2026, notably not meeting Balen Shah. He warned against Chinese 'debt-trap diplomacy' and asserted that no single power should dominate South Asia — a clear setback for India.

Nepal is India's crown jewel in South Asia, located at the head of Bharat Mata. The blood bonding with Nepal through Gorkha recruitment is likely to be reviewed following a big rally commencing on July 29, from the Gorkha heartland in Lamjung. This strategic nirvana of bilateral relations

PIC TALK



Workers carry harvested jute stalks for retting by submerging them in water to facilitate fibre extraction in Nadia district, West Bengal. PHOTO: PTI

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE



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AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

2ND OPINION

There is a logical reason for it. We, souls, are parts of God (The Bhagavad-Gita 15.7). Then, it stands to reason that we can be satisfied only when God is in the loop. A simile of a toddler and his mother will shed light on this matter. Nothing pacifies the child until he is united with his mother. Similarly, God must always be involved in our life in order for us to feel satisfied; otherwise, it is not possible.

Let us examine the veracity of this statement. We have been given gross senses and subtle faculties, which are the mind, intelligence and 'ahankar' (fake ego). Starting with the senses, they always seek sense objects. The tongue seeks tasty food. Does it ever get satisfied? It does not. One must follow God's instructions in this regard. What has God instructed? One should eat what is right



for us, and neither too much nor too little (6.16 and 17). How about seeing? Where do we go wrong in this regard while seeking satisfaction? We see wrong content, strictly prohibited by God, because it goes against 'dharma' (highest principles). Thus, we become our own enemy (6.5 & 6).

Similar pleasures are sensuous. They never satisfy. Otherwise, why would anyone indulge in illicit relationships, with big punishments waiting? God has given a safe option, which is to enjoy within dharma, as permitted by the social norm of marriage (7.11). Similar restraint is required in choices made by us in talking, hearing, etc.

Now turning to the mind, does it not hurt us time and again by being uncontrolled? It does, in the form of

Why true satisfaction begins with God

depression, etc., and must be controlled to enable us to feel satisfied. Lord Krishna has instructed us to practise mind control by being detached (6.35). And this is possible only with God's active help, as is our experience also. Let us take objects of the mind. We all want lots of wealth, don't we? Does money by itself ensure proper maintenance? God has to ensure it, and He does for His devotees. How else do sannyasis exist, and quite well too! The only real power is that of empowerment by God; all others are temporary and are taken away sooner rather than later. The same is the fate of fame; it lasts as long as good, pious acts last.

Intelligence of the material kind can only help one earn a living. Real intelligence lies in being wise. For this, one must be connected to God — the Omniscient. He guides, and one succeeds 100 per cent (10.11). The remaining faculty of 'ahankar' is entirely harmful unless one gives it up and takes active shelter of God, as Arjuna did (18.73). Contrarily, what happened to Ravana and his over-bloated ahankara?

Therefore, if we are really keen on having satisfaction, we have to take shelter of God and remain there. The senses will be satisfied, the mind will be peaceful, intelligence will become wisdom and ahankara a dear friend. Ask me, who is enjoying a very satisfactory life in the shelter of my Lord.

The writer is a spiritual teacher

RESTORING TRUST AND CREDIBILITY IN INDIA'S EXAMINATION SYSTEM

Apropos of 'A Digital Fix for a Crisis of Trust', published on 28 July. For years, exam paper leaks have been a huge blot on a system that needs structural reforms. Question papers have found their way into a few hands, and the advent of the digital age has made this easier. One paper or even one mark can make or break a student's future.

There have been other committees, but with UIDAI founder-chairman Nandan Nilekani at the helm, this one brings credibility. It will have to introduce safeguards at every stage of the examination process — setting question papers, checking and finally declaring results.

In almost a decade of existence, the NTA has not covered itself in glory; there have been too many failures. It should not work merely as a contracting agency

but have permanent professionals with expertise in question design, psychometrics, cybersecurity and logistics. Nor should the NTA conduct every specialised examination. A hybrid approach could allow the NTA to conduct examinations for certain all-India seats, while states conduct their own examinations, ensuring that one leak does not affect all seats.

Technology should be used at every stage. Questions should be set by distributed teams, independently reviewed, calibrated and stored in encrypted modules. No individual should have access to the complete paper.

The ultimate goal should be that every candidate leaves the examination centre confident that merit and effort, not manipulation, will decide their future.

BAL GOVIND | NOIDA

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

Can Parliament become 'Mangal Milan'?

The NDA's choice to call its gathering *Mangal Milan* — an auspicious union — raises a deeper question: why can't Parliament itself embody that spirit? Today's scenario is marked by adjournments, walkouts and partisan shouting, reducing debate to spectacle rather than dialogue. A *Mangal Milan* Parliament would mean sessions where diverse voices meet in harmony, guided by respect and accountability. Instead of obstruction, the Opposition could offer constructive criticism; instead of grandstanding, the ruling benches could prioritise problem-solving.

To achieve this, all stakeholders must act responsibly. Government benches should lead with transparency and respect for dissent. Opposition parties must replace disruption with reasoned alternatives, while presiding officers need to enforce rules firmly and curb disorder. Members of Parliament must commit to punctuality, preparedness and civility. The media and civil society should highlight substantive debate rather than sensational chaos, while citizens must demand discipline and encourage cooperative politics. Presently, Parliament resembles a fractured arena. A *Mangal Milan* Parliament, in contrast, would be a crucible of unity, where disagreement sharpens policy rather than divides society, and dialogue becomes the nation's auspicious meeting ground.

O PRASADA RAO | HYDERABAD

Sporting glory deserves the spotlight

These are proud moments for India, with the country winning ten medals, including two gold, five silver and three bronze, so far at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. However, the NEET uproar has grabbed the headlines, pushing our Commonwealth heroes to the back pages. Sports lovers are on cloud nine.

The winning performances of gold medalists Mirabai Chanu (weightlifting) and Sharmila Dhankar (para-athletics); silver medalists Rishikanta Singh (weightlifting), Raja Muthupandi (weightlifting), Sarvesh Kushare (athletics), Valluri Ajaya Babu (weightlifting) and Gyaneshwari Yadav (weightlifting); and bronze medalists Jhandu Kumar (para-powerlifting), Bindyarani Devi (weightlifting) and Shilpa Shyla (para-athletics) have further raised hopes of increasing India's medal tally.

The other victories, including Esha Singh's achievement at the ISSF World Cup and the Indian men's entry into the World Junior Squash team event, are also significant achievements. At a time when sporting excellence is bringing pride to the country, these athletes deserve greater recognition and visibility. Their dedication, discipline and success on the international stage should inspire the nation. Such sporting laurels surely deserve prominent headlines.

VINOD JOHRI | DELHI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A wider vision for education

The Experts Committee chaired by K. Radhakrishnan submitted a report in October 2024 titled Reformation of National Common Entrance Testing, covering over 100 recommendations on improving examination security and restoring the credibility of national entrance examinations.

In essence, the Radhakrishnan report was an operational reform blueprint. It seeks to make examinations secure, transparent and professionally managed. It does not fundamentally revisit India's education philosophy, curriculum, skills agenda or research ecosystem. That broader strategic task is precisely where the Nilekani committee could make a lasting contribution. The Nilekani committee must, therefore, be entrusted with a far wider mandate. India does not merely need leak-proof examinations; it needs an inspirational education policy aligned with the demands of the coming decade. Artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and climate science are rapidly redefining the nature of work. The question today ought to be less about how students should be tested and more about what they should be taught and what capabilities they must acquire. If the Radhakrishnan report secures the credibility of examinations, the Nilekani committee should define the onward purpose of education itself.

R NARAYANAN | NAVI MUMBAI

Why Chhattisgarh is betting on trust-based governance

Ease of doing business is often measured by rankings, but its real test lies in the confidence it gives investors. With the enactment of the Chhattisgarh Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026, the state has gone beyond administrative reforms to make time-bound approvals and government accountability a matter of law



VISHNU DEO SAI

Vidhan Sabha on July 16, Chhattisgarh has chosen to make ease of doing business a legal commitment, not an administrative promise. For investors, entrepreneurs and enterprises, this matters because certainty must be written into systems, timelines and accountability structures.

This Act is built on a simple belief: honest enterprise should not be held back by avoidable approvals, repeated renewals or overlapping permissions. Investors value opportunity, but they value predictability just as much. Entrepreneurs value speed, but they also need a government system that responds with clarity. Our reform gives them both: fewer unnecessary steps and a stronger guarantee that the State will act within a defined framework. We did not design this law for rankings. We designed it for outcomes.

For decades, regulatory systems often treated every industry in the same way, irrespective of scale, activity or risk. A small start-up and a large industrial project could face near-identical scrutiny, even when the nature of what needed to be checked was entirely different. In many cases, businesses had to seek more than one approval for the same activity. Such systems did not make governance stronger. They only spread scrutiny thin, delayed genuine economic activity and reduced the time that government could spend on areas where oversight was genuinely required.

The Chhattisgarh Ease of Doing Business Act replaces this approach with a risk-proportionate system. Low-risk enterprises can proceed through self-certification, without physical inspection. Medium-risk enterprises can obtain certification through empanelled third-party experts. High-risk enterprises will continue to be subjected to thorough technical due diligence because trust-based governance cannot mean ignoring risk.

But even in such cases, scrutiny will operate under a defined clock. If a certificate is not issued within the timeline prescribed under the Chhattisgarh Lok Sewa Guarantee Act, the approval will be deemed to have been granted. Any delay beyond three days will be escalated directly to the Executive Committee. We have chosen to enforce certainty through law, not leave it to discretion.

The principle behind this design is clear. Government oversight should be strongest where risk is highest and lightest where risk is low. This is not deregulation. It is better regulation. If an enterprise carries limited risk, the system should not force it through unnecessary layers of approval. If an enterprise requires technical assessment, the State must retain that scrutiny, but it must also hold itself accountable for doing the work within time. The Act therefore reduces compliance where it is excessive, while preserving transparency and safeguards where they are needed.

We have also created an institutional structure capable of delivering this reform. The Executive Council, chaired by me, will set policy direction, amend the schedule where required and exercise final authority over Executive Committee decisions. The Executive Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary, will oversee implementation and act as the appellate body for district-level decisions. The District Empowered Committee, chaired by the Collector, will review district-level authorities so that delays are identified early and resolved before they become a barrier for businesses. Reform cannot rest only on intent; it needs institutions that can monitor, correct and enforce.

Trust must also be earned continuously. That is why the Act includes safeguards for both businesses and the public system. It overrides conflicting provisions in other state laws so that a business is not caught between contradictory requirements. It holds officers

When a state gives legal backing to trust-based governance for businesses, it is not merely improving a process. It is changing the relationship between government and enterprise. With the Chhattisgarh Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026, passed by our



THE CHHATTISGARH EASE OF DOING BUSINESS ACT ENVISAGES A PROPORTIONATE SYSTEM. LOW-RISK ENTERPRISES CAN PROCEED THROUGH SELF-CERTIFICATION, WITHOUT PHYSICAL INSPECTION. MEDIUM-RISK ENTERPRISES CAN OBTAIN CERTIFICATION THROUGH EMPANELLED THIRD-PARTY EXPERTS. HIGH-RISK ENTERPRISES WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECTED TO THOROUGH TECHNICAL DUE DILIGENCE BECAUSE TRUST-BASED GOVERNANCE CANNOT MEAN IGNORING RISK

The writer is the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

accountable for delays through Section 14 and the provisions of the Lok Sewa Guarantee Act. It allows the State to revoke an approval where necessary, but only after a show-cause notice, a hearing and recorded reasons. At the same time, bona fide actions taken in good faith are explicitly protected. This balance is important. We are stepping back from unnecessary gatekeeping, but not from responsibility.

The scale of the reform is significant. The Act consolidates 43 services across nine state Acts and eight departments, covering urban administration, industries, culture, home affairs, water resources and public works. Earlier, reform often meant amending one law or one service at a time. That approach could deliver progress, but only incrementally. Chhattisgarh has now created an omnibus legal architecture that can absorb future reforms without requiring repeated legislative change. This makes the system more adaptable and gives investors greater confidence that reform will not remain trapped in isolated departmental changes.

The biggest beneficiaries will be our more than 15 lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. MSMEs are the backbone of Chhattisgarh's economy. They create livelihoods, support local supply chains and take opportunities beyond large industrial centres. For them, compliance time is not an abstract burden. It is time taken away from production, employment, customers and expansion. Every hour saved from avoidable approval or renewal processes is an hour that can be invested in growth. When government reduces unnecessary friction, small businesses gain the space to focus on building, hiring and serving markets.

This reform also reflects a larger national direction. It responds to the Prime Minister's call for a nationwide deregulation drive, for it is central to India's Viksit Bharat ambition. Chhattisgarh has chosen the more ambitious path: a comprehensive omnibus law, rather than a narrower service-by-service amendment. In doing so, we are aligning state-level governance with the national objective of building a more competitive, more responsive and more enterprise-friendly India.

In every interaction with investors, one message consistently emerges: businesses value certainty as much as opportunity. Capital moves towards governments that are consistent, where approvals are time-bound and institutions are accountable. Incentives matter, but they are not enough.

As India advances towards Viksit Bharat 2047, states will increasingly compete on the quality of governance they offer. A state that can provide clarity, speed and accountability will become a more natural destination for investment and entrepreneurship.

With this Act, Chhattisgarh has set that standard for itself. We have chosen trust over red tape, partnership over procedure and accountability over discretion. Our message to entrepreneurs across India and investors around the world is direct: Chhattisgarh is ready to work with you through a governance system that respects your time, protects public interest and supports growth. Come and experience a state confident in its potential and ready to build the next chapter of India's growth story together.

India's thin state: Too few, too well paid



RUPAK CHATTOPADHYAY

ists the country desperately needs.

This combination has created a chronic deficit in state capacity that increasingly limits India's economic ambitions. India's public sector employs only about 3.3 per cent of the country's workforce, even after including central and state governments, local bodies and public sector undertakings. In absolute numbers, this amounts to around 17-18 million employees, making it the second-largest public workforce in Asia after China. Yet, relative to the country's workforce of more than 550 million people, India has the thinnest state among major Asian economies. The contrast is striking.

Around 23 per cent of China's workforce is employed by the public sector. South Korea employs roughly 10.7 per cent, Indonesia about 8.9 per cent, while both Japan and Vietnam are close to 8 per cent. Contrary to popular perception, the stereotypical "bloated sarkari system" simply does not exist when viewed through an international lens. This shortage becomes most visible at the point where government actually meets the citizen. India has only around 150 police personnel per 100,000 population, well below the United Nations benchmark of 222. The judiciary has barely 21 judges per million people, compared with 50 to well over 100 in most developed countries. Vacancies in government schools, primary health centres and rural development departments remain a persistent feature across states. Policies are ultimately implemented not by cabinet ministers or senior civil servants but by frontline workers. A district collector cannot compensate for an absent nurse, an unfilled teaching post or a missing agricultural extension officer. Administrative excellence at the top cannot substitute for the absence of people on the ground.

India's implementation deficit is as much a staffing problem as a governance problem. Yet this shortage exists alongside another anomaly: India pays its public employees extraordinarily well relative to the rest of the economy. World Bank studies show that public-sector wages exceed those in the formal private sector by 62 to 102 per cent, while the premium over India's informal workforce ranges from 164 to 259 per cent. Development economist Karthik Muralidharan estimates that nearly 95 per cent of government jobs pay around five times the median Indian wage.

India spends roughly 8 per cent of GDP on public-sector wages, comparable to many OECD countries. But while advanced economies use similar expenditure to support a much larger workforce, India spends it on far fewer employees. The result is fewer teachers, doctors, police personnel and technical experts. East Asia offers a contrast. Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China built capable states that coordinated investment, developed infrastructure, nurtured human capital and supported strategic industries. India's post-1991 reforms dismantled many controls associated with the licence-permit raj but did not build an equally capable developmental state.

China has a deeply layered administrative system supported by specialised planning agencies and technical institutions. India increasingly relies on contracting out services while maintaining a relatively thin administrative backbone. The weakness extends to foreign policy. India's diplomatic cadre comprises only around 950 Indian Foreign Service officers across nearly 200 missions worldwide, while China employs several thousand career diplomats. For a country seeking global leadership and a larger strategic role, such limited capacity creates unavoidable constraints.

The Ministry of External Affairs inevitably concentrates its attention on a handful of relationships - primarily China, Pakistan and the United States - because it simply lacks the manpower to devote sustained attention elsewhere. Training officers in specialised areas such as climate negotiations, technology governance or artificial intelligence often leaves desks understaffed. India's global ambitions are therefore increasingly running ahead of its institutional capacity to support them. Ultimately, this is also an employment issue.

Expanding public-sector recruitment will not solve India's entire jobs challenge, but filling existing shortages in education, healthcare, policing, justice and agricultural extension would create productive employment while significantly improving public service delivery. These are not artificial jobs; they are positions that government norms already recognise as necessary but remain vacant. The long-standing assumption that India's public sector is too large has become increasingly detached from empirical reality.

The country does not need a smaller state. It needs a more capable one. The next phase of India's development will depend as much on strengthening institutions as on expanding markets. Economic growth, industrial policy, infrastructure development and effective governance all require a state with adequate numbers of skilled professionals at every level - from policy specialists in New Delhi to teachers in village schools and nurses in primary health centres.

The lesson from East Asia is therefore straightforward. Prosperity was built not by abandoning the state but by building one that was competent, specialised and capable of working alongside markets. India's challenge today is not to shrink government further, but to expand its capacity intelligently. That means addressing both sides of the equation simultaneously: strengthening expertise at the top while rebuilding the frontline workforce that delivers public services. Without that balance, India risks remaining a country with ambitious policies but insufficient administrative muscle to turn them into reality.



The writer is the President and CEO of the Forum of Federations, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Beyond policy: Putting mothers at the heart of child care



SUMANTA KAR

that actually brings it to life, is the mother. In our country, we have a long and beautiful tradition where the family is the foundation of everything.

For a child who has lost that foundation, the world becomes a loud and terrifying place. You cannot fix that with a dormitory or a rotating shift of staff. You fix it with a person who stays. In these cases, a foster mother who provides a strong and caring presence is the only thing that can truly make a difference in their lives.

A mother is a representative of stable relationships. She provides a protective setting where a child does not just exist but has a real opportunity for holistic development. It is through her that a child learns to trust again. This is not just about basic caregiving. It is about the security, love, and stability that every

human being needs to survive. One of the most incredible things to witness is how a mother builds resilience in her children through her own inner power. She does not just shield them from the world. She prepares them for it. She plays the role of a teacher, a friend, and a mentor all at once. By building a close and individual relationship with each of her children, she creates a caring family environment where they feel safe enough to take risks.

She is the one who encourages participation and confidence, helping a child find their own voice. She acts as a guide to ensure they have every opportunity to thrive rather than just get by. She is always ready to go the extra mile, often sacrificing her own comfort for the well-being of her children. There is simply no substitute for a mother. For children who have faced the hardship of being alone, the role of motherhood becomes even more crucial. They do not just need a roof. They need a parent who is ready to sit by the bed at three in the morning or celebrate a small victory at school.

What makes this bond so powerful is that she is not just fulfilling a duty. She is enjoying the journey of motherhood herself. This mutual joy is what transforms a house into a home. It is in the quiet moments like shared meals, evening talks, bedtime stories and a steady presence that a child's trauma begins to soften and their potential begins to bloom. Let us recognise that for a vulnerable child, a mother is not just a part of their life.



A mother can transform a childhood memory into a happy memory, transforming children into self-reliant individuals and ensuring they grow up with the strong bonds to become their strongest selves. If we want to raise a generation of healthy and confident citizens, we must ensure that the mother remains the heartbeat of our care systems.

If we cannot provide a child with a hand to hold and a heart to lean on, are we really giving them a future or are we just providing a place to stay?

If we really want to honour mothers and give her the rightful place we should remember that the greatest gift society can offer a vulnerable child is not merely protection but belonging.

Policies, funding and institutions are indispensable, yet they achieve their true purpose only when they create space for loving human relationships. A child who has experienced loss does not simply need food, education and healthcare. They need someone who knows their fears, celebrates their milestones, comforts them after failure and believes in their potential even when they cannot believe in themselves.

That unwavering presence is what a mother, whether biological, adoptive or foster, uniquely provides. The strength of a nation is ultimately measured not by the size of its institutions but by the quality of care it extends to its most vulnerable citizens. By nurturing children with love, stability and emotional security, mothers help shape resilient, compassionate and self-reliant individuals who go on to strengthen society in return.

Investing in motherhood within child care is therefore not an act of charity; it is an investment in the country's future. If we aspire to build a compassionate and confident India, we must place mothers at the centre of every child welfare system, ensuring that every child grows up not merely with a roof overhead, but with a hand to hold, a heart to trust and a family to call their own.

The writer is the Chief Executive Officer of SOS Children's Villages India

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Order Order

Kolkata court sends 16 NEET protesters to jail

A city court on Tuesday remanded 16 people arrested in connection with violence during a NEET paper leak protest by the Left students' organisations to judicial custody till July 30.

Several journalists were injured when some people attacked them during the march from Sealdah station to Esplanade in central Kolkata.

Refusing their bail prayers, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court here remanded the 16 accused, against whom provisions of the newly legislated stringent Goonda Act have been applied, until July 30.

Following Friday's unruly scenes during the rally, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari had stated that those who indulged in violence during the march had no connection to the NEET paper leak protest and were suspected to be anti-national elements. The state Government claimed that at least 70 people identified in connection with the violence were neither students nor members of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), and had no direct link with the movement against the alleged NEET paper leak.

The state's counsel, seeking their remand, argued before the court that releasing the accused persons on bail would severely hamper the investigation. (PTI)



Court orders mental health test in Assembly breach case

A Delhi court has directed the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) to constitute a medical board to examine whether Sarabjeet Singh, an accused in the Delhi Assembly security breach case, is of unsound mind and incapable of entering his defence.

The order came after the counsel for the accused submitted that Singh was suffering from bipolar disorder and sought directions for the constitution of a medical board.

Additional Sessions Judge Ankur Jain was hearing the plea filed by the accused under the Mental Healthcare Act and ordered that he be produced before the Director of IBHS whenever required.

Singh, 37, allegedly crashed his car through a gate of the Assembly complex and injured a security guard on duty on April 6, 2026. He was sent to judicial custody after police interrogation on April 5. Allowing his plea, the court, in the order dated July 27, directed the Director of IHBAS to constitute a board comprising specialists as required under the Mental Healthcare Act to examine whether the inmate was of unsound mind and incapable of entering his defence. The court noted that the previous medical documents relied upon by the defence had been verified by the investigating officer. The prosecution also said it had no objection to the constitution of the medical board.

The court directed that a copy of the order be sent to the IHBAS director for compliance and asked the investigating officer to ensure that the medical board was constituted and the accused examined. The matter has been listed for further proceedings on August 11. Singh is believed to be a "follower of the Kisan Andolan (farmers' agitation)". He has shared several posts on social media platforms expressing support for farmer leaders who lost their lives during the 2020-21 agitation. (PTI)

Delhi HC asks ECI to limit SIR burden on teachers

Underscoring the need to balance the students' right to education with the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to be "sensitive" to the condition of Government school teachers requisitioned for the exercise and ensure that they are not overburdened.

A bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said the Special Intensive Revision was undoubtedly "important" but expressed displeasure at the "threatening" tenor of an ECI order to principals not to obstruct election-related work.

The bench also directed the authorities to keep in mind that undue stress is not caused to the teachers who have been called upon to act as booth level officers (BLOs) and enumeration staff after working for long hours in school.

"What we all want from you is to be a bit sensitive to their situation. We are not curtailing your right. We are conscious of the human condition which these teachers are undergoing. Asking any teacher to work for eleven hours. Teaching staff, mostly, it is women. They have children, their families. You have to humanise their conditions. What language you have applied while issuing this order. Are you creating fear or what?" the bench told the ECI. "We do not undermine the exercise being undertaken by the ECI. The issue is how to strike a balance with Section 27 of the Right to Education Act. It appears that you are least bothered about the Right to Education Act. The kind of language that you have used in this. The whole tenor of the letter is threatening," it added. (PTI)



SC urged to set up SIT to fix police liability for attack on protesters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday was vehemently urged to set up an SIT headed by a former judge of the court to fix responsibility up to higher echelons of police departments of various states for alleged excesses on students during the nationwide protests against the NEET paper leak.

Stressing the need for a fair and independent probe, the top court, while issuing a slew of interim directions, restrained states from taking any coercive action against protesters in the recent student-led agitation and directed them to release those under 18 on the condition that none should have any criminal antecedents.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana heard a battery of lawyers including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the Centre and the Delhi Police.

Senior advocates Abhishek Singhvi, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Shyam Divan, Vrinda Grover and Prashant Bhushan appeared



for petitioners who were alleging police brutalities on the protesters.

For a change, it was the CJJ, who started narrating specific cases of alleged police atrocities. "One case is the use of pellet guns which harmed a young boy, then use of electric batons which led to life-threatening injuries, then there is the issue of injuring video persons also.

"Then a police officer was assaulted while he was in civil dress... a woman was slapped also by a police officer and some cases of molestation also at the hands of police," the CJJ said. He said there was no need for elaborate arguments. It was a peaceful protest by students raising

demands, and it is constitutionally protected, he added.

"The ones who want to prevent it indulge in excess use of force. Then some complaints about police officer families. They say that others with an agenda entered the protest and tried to become co-hosts. So, why should there not be an independent probe into all of it," the CJJ said. Sankaranarayanan then proceeded to argue the case and said the matter concerns the protests that have taken place across the country.

"The incidents are not limited to Delhi or Jantar Mantar alone. They include protests and related incidents in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Agra in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and

several other States," he said.

There are multiple incidents arising out of these protests and various petitions raise allegations of police excesses, including lathi-charge, use of pellet guns, brutality against students and other actions by the police, he said.

"Legally, there needs to be an order under Section 144 etc. There was nothing for Jantar Mantar. Such cases came during the Ramliya Maidan protest also. Then there were guidelines laid down for how to prevent it," he said.

The court said the allegations raised in the petitions required a "thorough, independent, fair and transparent" inquiry and observed that responsibility must be fixed if any excesses were committed. "There has to be a completely independent probe. Whoever has committed excess, law will take its course. Probe is meaningless if no responsibility is fixed," the CJJ said.

The court described the protests as "peaceful demonstrations" by students and said it is needed to address the kind of force used against the protesters.

Delhi court allows woman to lead defence in cheque bounce case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Underlining that a "single opportunity" does not constitute a "sufficient opportunity" under the law, a Delhi court has set aside a magistrate's order that closed a woman's right to lead defence evidence in a cheque bounce case.

Additional Sessions Judge Shefali Barnala Tandon also said that the Constitution guarantees a fair trial, which includes a reasonable opportunity of defence for the accused.

In an order dated July 22, the court said, "Law is well settled that a fair trial is the foundation of justice and without affording an accused the opportunity to present a defence, the trial is rendered a mere formality rather than a judicial process."

It noted that the revision petition was filed against the magisterial court order of August 2025, closing the opportunity of the accused or revisionist, Manju Devi, to lead defence evidence in a



complaint filed by one Sunita Devi under the Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act provision.

According to the revisionist, the complainant's evidence was closed in March 2025, and the matter was adjourned to July 30 for her to file a list of witnesses and an application to examine herself. On that date, however, the magistrate observed that no steps had been taken by the accused and immediately closed her right to lead defence evidence.

Setting aside the order, the court said it is apparent that the revisionist was denied

her basic right to defend herself. It said, "Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution guarantees a fair trial which includes a reasonable opportunity for the accused to defend himself/herself. A single opportunity does not constitute 'Sufficient Opportunity' under the law."

The court also referred to Section 346 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) corresponding to the erstwhile Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), dealing with the "power to postpone or adjourn proceedings."

Final report of AAIB in Ahmedabad plane crash to be filed in October, SC told

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday was apprised by the Government that the draft final report of the probe conducted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) into the June 2025 Air India flight AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad will be filed before it in the first week of October in a sealed cover.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V

Mohana also took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the Federation of Indian Pilots can provide its inputs to the AAIB which, in turn, can peruse and deal with them if found necessary during the investigation.

During a brief hearing, the solicitor general told the bench that four simulation tests have been conducted as sought in an application by one of the petitioners. The law officer said that the final draft report will be filed before the bench in a sealed



cover. The court was hearing petitions filed by an NGO, a law student and the father of the deceased pilot, seeking an independent, court-monitored investigation into the crash. The bench has now

posted the pleas for further hearing on October 13.

Recently, the AAIB filed an affidavit in the top court saying that the draft final report of the probe into the crash in Ahmedabad, which

Ghost student scam: Court sentences TN school officials



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ranipet

A court here sentenced the correspondent and headmistress of a Government-aided school to four years of rigorous imprisonment for fabricating records to create 187 "ghost" students and siphon off Government funds. An official release from DVAC on Tuesday said those convicted were Karunagara Sanjeev Doss, correspondent, and Alice Thabitha Vijay Kumari, Headmistress of Vitva Ratna Villa Government Aided Primary School. They were also fined ₹35,000 and ₹40,000, respectively.

The scam was unearthed on August 27, 2012, following a joint surprise inspection by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC), Vellore detachment, along-side inspection cell officers.

Investigations revealed that while the school's actual student strength was signif-

icantly lower, official registries were manipulated to reflect an inflated strength of 259 pupils.

By padding the rolls with 187 non-existent students, the duo illegally secured sanction for six excess teaching posts.

They wrongfully drew Government benefits, including ₹4,67,121 toward salaries for the unneeded staff and ₹2,762 meant for noon meal allocations, causing a total financial loss of over ₹4.69 lakh to the state exchequer.

Following a detailed investigation, the DVAC filed a chargesheet before the court in Ranipet.

Delivering the verdict on July 27, 2026, the court held both accused guilty of criminal misconduct and misappropriation of public funds, sentencing them to four years of hard labour to reinforce strict accountability in State-aided educational institutions.

Adults have right to choose their life partners, says Calcutta HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Kolkata

The Calcutta High Court has directed West Bengal police to provide adequate security and ensure a seamless inter-faith marriage in Howrah on Wednesday, observing that "adult citizens of this country have the right to choose their life partners".

The observation by the court came while hearing a plea by a woman and a man of different faiths who sought police protection to solemnise the marriage, with their counsel claiming they faced opposition from locals over their decision.

The Superintendent of Police of Howrah (Rural) Amit Verma said on Tuesday that adequate steps were being taken in compliance with the high court's order. Acting on the petition, Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya on Monday directed the police to provide adequate protection to the petitioners during their marriage, which



is to be solemnised on Wednesday.

"This court does not find any hindrance even if it is a case of inter-faith marriage since the petitioners are adult citizens of this country and they have the right to choose their life partners," Justice Bhattacharyya observed. The court directed the police to ensure that no untoward incident takes place during the wedding.

Justice Bhattacharyya directed the inspector in-charge of Uluberia police station in Howrah to file a compliance report within seven days after the marriage is solemnised and posted

hearing in the matter on August 10. Representing the petitioners, senior advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya told the court that a furor in the locality over their decision led the man and woman to fear that they may be prevented from solemnising the marriage.

Representing the state, Additional Advocate General Rajdeep Mazumder presented in the court a communication of the inspector in-charge of Uluberia police station, disclosing that certain steps have been taken by the authorities to maintain peace in the locality.

killed 260 people, is expected to be ready in October.

The AAIB had said there is an "absolute statutory prohibition" on disclosing cockpit voice recordings and airborne image recordings from the June 12, 2025, Ahmedabad plane crash to any external committee or the public.

It had said that sharing such material would violate Rule 17(1) and Rule 17(5) read with Schedule C of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2025.

Prior to this, bench had asked the Centre to file a brief

report on the "procedural protocol" followed so far, after it was informed that the investigation into the crash by the AAIB is at its lag end.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 flight AI171, en route to London's Gatwick airport, was operated by pilot-in-command Captain Sumeet Sabharwal and co-pilot Captain Clive Kunder.

The crash took place after the plane took off from Gujarat's Ahmedabad. Former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani was among the victims.

HC seeks Maharashtra's stand on PM's clay idol appeal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has asked the Maharashtra Government to clarify its stand on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal urging devotees to use eco-friendly clay idols during the upcoming Ganesh festival.

A bench of Justices Ajay Gadkari and Kamal Khata questioned the state while hearing a bunch of petitions against the use of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols, granting Advocate General Milind Sathe time till Wednesday to clarify the Government's stand.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had prohibited Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols in its 2020 guidelines. The court cited PM



Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' address aired on Sunday, in which he urged people to use eco-friendly clay idols, and asked the Government about its response to the same.

Last year, after the CPCB stated that its guidelines were advisory in nature, the court allowed the immersion of PoP idols over six feet in natural water bodies as per the state Government's 2025 policy.



“A university built only for placement is a pipeline; one built for enterprise must give ideas the structure and space to survive,” states Prof Indranil Manna, Vice Chancellor of BIT Mesra. Having navigated both industry floors and elite academic corridors, the distinguished academic pioneer outlines a bold vision for India’s technical education. In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, Prof Manna discusses shifting corporate demands, the necessity of cross-disciplinary research, surviving the generative AI wave, and why tomorrow’s engineers must prioritise solving fundamental problems over chasing corporate titles.

Professor Manna, what is the biggest shift in what industries expect from engineering graduates today?

Engineering fundamentals have remained largely constant, but the tools and skills used to apply them have changed rapidly. From an era without computers or robotics, we have moved to IoT, parallel computing, GPUs and AI, which are reshaping even fundamental sciences. Having worked in industry before joining IIT Kharagpur in 1985, I have seen hiring expectations change too. Employers once recruited graduates for what they knew and trained them further; today, they value how quickly they can learn and adapt. The India Skills Report 2025 places engineering employability at 71.5 per cent, but a transcript alone is rarely enough. Recruiters look for articulation, integrity, adaptability, projects, and internships. Yet fundamentals remain non-negotiable: an engineer must still know the core principles of the discipline.

Why is cross-disciplinary innovation critical for students seeking high-impact careers today?

My own discipline settled this question long ago. Metallurgy became materials science by absorbing physics, chemistry and mechanical engineering, and is now incorporating machine learning for materials discovery and design. As National Coordinator of IMPRINT, I saw India’s engineering challenges mapped across ten domains, none of which could be addressed within a single department. IMPRINT-II reinforced this: proposals working at disciplinary interfaces and showing potential for application received backing. An affordable diagnostic device needs biology, electronics and data science; an electric power-train brings together materials, power electronics and software. NEP 2020 now supports this approach through flexible credits and cross-stream learning. A student’s major provides depth, but future careers will depend on connecting that expertise across disciplines to create feasible, sustainable solutions.

How does BIT Mesra’s investment in advanced AI infrastructure enhance students’ global competitiveness and career readiness?

We have committed ₹100 crore from our own resources to establish an NVIDIA-powered Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence, operational by December 2026 with eight NVIDIA DGX B200 systems. It will serve nearly 12,000 students and 660 faculty members, while remaining accessible to researchers,

startups, strategic departments, industry and other collaborators. My international research experience has shown that talent alone cannot produce globally competitive research; access to advanced facilities matters equally. Today, simulation and modelling are as critical as experimentation across fields from drug discovery and VLSI to climate science and manufacturing. Such computing infrastructure remains limited in Jharkhand and eastern India. Aligned with the IndiaAI and India Semiconductor Missions, the Centre forms part of BIT Mesra’s wider, sustained investment in research infrastructure and institutional partnerships.

How can academia encourage young engineers to choose research and innovation over immediate high-paying corporate careers?

I chose research in 1985, a career that has given me problems worth solving and the opportunity to mentor more than thirty doctoral scholars. Research and corporate careers appear unequal partly because placements receive greater visibility. Yet a doctorate today can lead to national missions in space, semiconductors and AI, industrial R&D centres and deep-tech startups. The funding environment has also changed: the Anusandhan National Research Foundation has a ₹50,000-crore funding envelope for 2023-28, while the expanded Prime

Minister’s Research Fellowship offers up to ₹80,000 monthly and a ₹2-lakh annual research grant. Academia must expose students to research early and celebrate fellowships alongside placements. Money matters, but creating knowledge, solving difficult problems and contributing to society offer rewards that cannot be measured by salary alone.

With the national focus heavily shifting toward self-reliance and innovation, how can technical institutions structurally evolve to train students to become risk-taking ‘job providers’ rather than just ‘job seekers’?

A university built only for placement is a pipeline; one built for enterprise must give ideas the structure and space to survive. The national foundation exists through Startup India, the Ministry of Education’s Innovation Cell and Atal Innovation Mission, but institutions must build the local ecosystem. BIT has done so for decades, establishing the country’s first Science and Technological Entrepreneurs Park on campus. Its student-run Entrepreneurship Development Cell has operated since 2007, while the Institute Innovation Center at STEP supports early ventures. This Foundation Day, distinguished alumnus Madan Mohan Mohanka of Tega Industries, from the 1964 batch, committed ₹5 crore towards a Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Beyond the sum, students see that those who once occupied their classrooms can become job creators themselves.

What irreplaceable human skills must students develop to future-proof their careers in the age of generative AI?

Generative AI has commoditised the middle of intellectual work: drafting, routine

analysis and the first version of almost everything. The two ends remain human-framing the right problem and judging whether an answer works in the real world. A model may propose a new alloy composition in seconds, but determining whether it can and should be made requires fundamentals, judgment and experimentation. The World Economic Forum expects 92 million roles to be displaced and 170 million created by 2030, with analytical thinking, resilience, flexibility and creative thinking among the most valued skills. Problem formulation, verification, ethical reasoning and adaptability will therefore matter greatly. You cannot audit a machine’s output without mastering the fundamentals yourself, and I do not foresee AI making human judgment, intervention or leadership redundant.

How should institutions make mental health and emotional resilience a core part of student development?

Behind every statistic on academic pressure is a young person, often away from home for the first time and carrying a family’s hopes. Institutions must recognise distress before it becomes a crisis. New UGC guidelines now require dedicated mental health centres, qualified counsellors and systems for early detection, but regulation only sets the floor. Prevention requires manageable academic structures, trained faculty and an environment where seeking help carries no stigma. At BIT, every student has a faculty adviser and meets them regularly to discuss academic progress, careers and well-being. Sports, NSS, NCC and over thirty student clubs, supported by more than ₹1 crore, provide outlets beyond academics. An institution must be accountable not only for how its students perform, but also for how well they are supported.

What advice would you give engineering students to remain relevant, adaptable and resilient in a changing job market?

BIT encourages students to pursue a burgeoning professional career, not merely a job. After four decades of teaching, my advice is simple: master the fundamentals, learn how to learn, build deep competence alongside broad curiosity, and choose problems over titles.

My journey from an alloy factory in Hyderabad to laboratories in Germany, Britain and Singapore was carried forward by problems honestly solved, never designations. Use time wisely to build knowledge and character while protecting your health, friendships and integrity. Stay physically active and prepare to adapt to a changing job market. BIT also enables aspiring entrepreneurs to become job creators rather than job seekers.

From preparation to performance in 90 days

PROF. ABINASH PANDA

Chairperson - PGDM (HRM), Management Development Institute (MDI) Gurgaon

For every CAT aspirant, the final 90 days before the examination can feel both exciting and overwhelming. By this stage, the syllabus may still seem incomplete, mock scores may not always be encouraging and the pressure to perform starts building. It is easy to believe that success now depends on studying for longer hours or covering every remaining topic. In reality, the last three months are not about doing more; they are about doing the right things consistently. This phase is where preparation shifts from acquiring knowledge to refining strategy, improving execution and building confidence.

The first step is to understand your current level of preparation. Take a full-length mock test and evaluate your performance honestly. A mock test should



not be viewed only as a scorecard; it is a mirror that reflects your strengths, weaknesses and test-taking habits. Ask yourself which section consistently gives you confidence, which topics continue to affect your score and whether you are losing marks because of conceptual gaps, poor time management or avoidable mistakes. Every aspirant starts from a different point, so there is no

single preparation strategy that works for everyone. Focus on building on your strengths while systematically improving weaker areas. During the final 90 days, mock tests should become an integral part of your preparation. Start by taking one mock every week and gradually increase the frequency as the examination approaches. However, simply writing more mock tests will not improve your performance. The real learning begins once the test is over.

Spend time analysing every mock carefully. Understand why you got certain questions wrong, identify the questions you should have attempted and recognise where you lost valuable time. Often, the biggest improvements

come from correcting repeated mistakes rather than learning entirely new concepts. Maintaining a notebook of recurring errors, formulas and shortcuts can also make revision more effective. One of the biggest misconceptions about CAT preparation is that success demands ten or twelve hours of study every day. While dedication is important, consistency is far more valuable than intensity. Create a realistic weekly plan that includes concept revision, sectional practice, mock tests and their analysis.

As the examination draws closer, many candidates sacrifice sleep, exercise and personal time to maximise preparation. This often has the opposite effect. Regular sleep, short breaks and physical activity help improve focus, memory and overall performance.

As CAT approaches, avoid beginning completely new topics. Instead, revise what you already know, strengthen familiar concepts and continue learning from your mock tests. The goal is not to know everything; it is to perform your best with what you have prepared.

The final 90 days before CAT 2026 are not about studying harder; they are about preparing smarter. Ultimately, CAT is a test of discipline, planning, adaptability and execution.

Empowering Generation Z through NEP 2020



PROF. (DR) RACHITA RANA

Director, Institute of Information Technology & Management (IITM), Janakpuri

The landscape of the higher education system of India is being impacted by competition, disruption, expectations of stakeholders i.e. parents, industry, institutions, gen Z themselves. This Generation is digitally native, globally connected, socially conscious. Today’s learners seek more than degrees; they seek purpose, flexibility, inclusivity, plus opportunities that prepare them for an uncertain yet exciting future. Responding to these aspirations requires institutions to move beyond conventional models of education towards systems that are equitable, inclusive, future-ready.

The urgency of this transformation is reflected in India’s steadily expanding higher education landscape. As highlighted in the Economic Survey 2025-26, based on the latest AISHE 2022-23 data, India’s Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has risen to 29.5 per cent, with total enrolment reaching approximately 4.46 crore students. Expansion alone, however, is not enough. The true measure of success lies in ensuring that every learner, irrespective of socio-economic background, gender, geography, language or physical ability, has equitable access to high-quality, inclusive higher education.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognises this challenge, reimagining higher education as an ecosystem that nurtures human potential rather than merely producing degree holders. As the policy rightly states, “The purpose of the education system is to develop good human beings capable of rational thought, action, possessing compassion, empathy, courage, resilience.”

In today’s rapidly changing world, this vision has become more relevant than ever. Education must not only impart knowledge but also cultivate empathy, ethical leadership, critical thinking, social responsibility. For Generation Z, education extends far beyond the physical classroom. Learning is increasingly digital, collaborative, personalised, global.

The emergence of India’s digital education ecosystem represents one of the most significant reforms in recent years. Platforms such as SWAYAM, DIKSHA, the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), APAAR are enabling learners to access quality courses, accumulate academic credits across institutions, experiencing greater flexibility in their educational journeys.

Technology has transformed access to lectures, digital libraries, virtual laboratories, online internships, collaborative research, thereby democratising learning opportunities for millions of students. Yet, technology by itself cannot guarantee inclusion. Digital architecture must be accompanied by digital equity. Reliable internet connectivity, affordable devices, digital literacy, accessible learning platforms remain unevenly distributed across the country. Assessment practices are also witnessing a significant transformation. Traditional memory-based examinations are gradually making way for competency-based evaluation, experiential learning, project-based assessments, continuous feedback mechanisms. Universities must therefore prepare students not merely for their first job but for lifelong employability in a rapidly evolving knowledge economy. Equity plus inclusion must therefore become institutional values rather than policy obligations. Ultimately, higher education is not just about producing graduates; it is about nurturing thoughtful citizens capable of leading societies with wisdom, compassion, integrity. For Generation Z, inclusion is no longer an aspiration; it is an expectation.

How debate shapes future-ready talent

ANJALI TIWARY

Founder and CEO, Indian Debating League

At 9:40 on a Monday morning in Gurugram, a young strategy analyst opens three market-entry reports her AI copilot generated overnight. Forty pages each. Fluent, structured, confident. At least one is subtly wrong. Her job is to work out which, and to defend that judgment before a client by noon.

This is the modern workplace in miniature. Today, generation is nearly free, and the binding constraint has moved up the stack: from access to assimilation, from producing answers to deciding between them. When machines write the first draft, human value concentrates in the skills of the second read which is evaluation, synthesis, and judgment under pressure.

First, assimilation under overload. A debater receives a motion and limited preparation time, and must compress hours of research into a seven-minute case. This is triage, not accumulation: identifying the two or three arguments that decide the round and discarding the rest.

Second, outside-in thinking - the practice of approaching a problem from



another person’s perspective rather than your own assumptions. Debaters are routinely assigned the side they did not choose and often do not believe. To win, they must reconstruct the strongest version of the opposing worldview, steelmanning, not caricature.

Third, decision-making when your team includes AI. When your colleague is a system that produces a plausible output without accountability, the human role migrates from generator to a decision maker: allocating burden of proof, testing internal consistency, detecting confidence error. Every rebuttal speech is an exercise in asking, “This sounds persuasive-but does

it survive scrutiny?”

Fourth, “judgment itself”, the capacity to decide with incomplete information while being actively challenged. A point of information mid-speech is a live stress test: respond, concede, or refute, in seconds, in public.

The analyst in Gurugram will not be displaced by the machine that wrote her reports. If she is displaced at all, it will be by someone who learned - probably at sixteen, on a school stage, with a stopwatch running - how to decide which report to trust.



FROM THE WORLD

NEPAL

Curfew continues in border districts

Curfew remained in force for the second consecutive day on Tuesday in parts of Nepal's India-bordering Sunsari district as tension persisted following communal violence that left one person dead and several others injured.

The District Administration Office (DAO), Sunsari, said curfew and prohibitory orders would remain in effect from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm on Tuesday in several areas. According to a notice issued by the DAO, restrictions have been imposed across the entire Harinagar and Devgunj rural municipalities, while curfew is in force in five market areas of Harinagar, Bhutaha, Kaptangunj, Ghuski and Devangunj. The administration has prohibited rallies, demonstrations, public meetings, sit-ins and gatherings of more than four people in the affected areas. (PTI)

LIBYA

Protests spark blackout fears

A group of protesters stormed a key energy complex in western Libya amid anti-Government demonstrations over ongoing power outages, with officials warning Tuesday that the incident could trigger a nationwide

The General Electricity Company warned in a statement Tuesday that a group of people on Monday stormed Mellitah Oil & Gas complex located around 90 kilometres west of Tripoli and closed the gas lines use to operate power plants to generate electricity. That could cause a complete blackout in multiple areas and ultimately a collapse of the electricity network.

Demonstrators across western Libya, including in Zawiya, Tripoli and Misrata, have been protesting for several days over hourslong power outages affecting those cities, demanding better power services and for the Government of Unity led by PM Abdul Hamid to step down. (AP)

Sharif's PML-N wins 9 out of 13 seats in first phase of PoK polls amid rigging allegations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won nine out of 13 seats in the first phase of elections held in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the Election Commission said on Tuesday.

There were allegations of massive rigging in the first phase of the polls held on Monday, in which the Pakistan's People Party (PPP) won the remaining seats.

The elections for 45 contesting seats in the so-called legislative assembly in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are happening in three phases between July 27 and August 10.

India maintains that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of it. New Delhi also asserts that Pakistan has been in "illegal and forcible occupation" of parts of these Union Territories. According to preliminary results issued by

48 survivors, 14 missing after Vietnam ship sinks near South China sea

ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL ■ Hanoi

The number of survivors of a cargo ship that sank Saturday off a Chinese-occupied shoal in the South China Sea rose to 48 by Tuesday as search and rescue crews hunted for more people who went down with the vessel.

A multinational search for 14 people who remain missing was still underway Tuesday afternoon involving Vietnamese, Philippine and Chinese rescuers.

Vietnamese authorities announced Monday that three more of the 62 people onboard had been saved but did not provide details of the rescue. The Vietnamese

7.1-magnitude earthquake shakes southern Japan

MARI YAMAGUCHI ■ Tokyo

An earthquake registering a magnitude of 7.1 shook Kumamoto on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu late Tuesday afternoon, causing damage and injuries, officials said.

A tsunami advisory was temporarily issued but was lifted within two hours, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The agency said the tsunami advisory covered the nearby Ariake and Yatsushiro Seas on the western coasts of Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka and Saga prefectures about 900 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. The US Geological Survey

Chad announces intent to withdraw from International Criminal Court

WILSON MCMAKIN ■ Dakar

Chad announced plans to withdraw from the International Criminal Court, accusing the judicial body of ineffectiveness and bias against African countries.

The West African country submitted a letter to the United Nations to begin withdrawing from the court, which was established to prosecute people responsible for humanity's worst crimes under its foundational treaty, the Rome Statute. The withdrawal process takes at least a year.

Chad was the fourth African country since 2025 to begin withdrawing from the ICC. Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso announced last year they would stop participating with the court based in The Hague.

The court is already facing daunting challenges, including the July 24 removal of its chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, over sexual misconduct allegations. Secretary of State Marco Rubio earlier this month said the US was launching a campaign to dismantle what he called the threat posed to its national sovereignty by the ICC. (AP)



Damaged AEON Mall after an earthquake in Kashima, Japan

AP

initially said the earthquake had a magnitude of 7.1, but revised it later to 6.8.

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, in a message posted on X, said her

Government has set up a task force to gather information, assess possible damage and prepare for rescue operations if needed.

Takaichi later told

reporters that there have been reports of a number of injuries and damages to roads, bridges and buildings, as well as blackouts and fire, though details are still

Misri concludes China visit after talks on bilateral ties

KJM VARMA ■ Beijing

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Tuesday wrapped up his visit to Beijing after two days of extensive discussions with several Chinese officials on the entire spectrum of India-China relations.

The visit by Misri, who was previously India's Ambassador to China, came as the two countries have stepped up bilateral engagement. Earlier in the day, he met Li Wentang, Vice President of the ruling Communist Party's Central Party School in Beijing and discussed opportunities for future cooperation and exchanges. During the meeting, Misri was briefed



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri

about the school's historical significance, intellectual contributions and academic programmes, according to a social media post by the Indian embassy here.

He concluded his China visit after meeting with Li, official sources said. On Monday, Misri met other Chinese leaders, including Vice Foreign Minister Hua

Ebola cases in Congo top 3,200, nearing record of the country's worst outbreak

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Bunia

Confirmed cases in Congo's ongoing Ebola outbreak have reached 3,262, its Ministry of Health said in an overnight update, nearly the same as the 2018-2020 outbreak that is the largest ever recorded in the country.

Data from the Congolese health ministry showed that 1,437 patients have died out of the 3,262 cases, in what officials have said is the fastest Ebola outbreak on record, concentrated in the eastern Ituri province.

The 2018-2020 outbreak that was recorded in Congo and neighbouring Uganda lasted roughly two years, with more than 3,400 reported cases, including over 2,200 deaths, according to the US Centers for Disease Control. Only the 2014-2016 outbreak across West Africa, considered the worst in history, had

a higher toll with 28,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths.

The speed of transmission in the current outbreak comes amid concerns from residents that many communities in the affected provinces are either unreachable or have been abandoned by responders in recent days over safety concerns amid attacks from angry residents and rebels.

"The fact that, in just 10 weeks, we have reached nearly the same number of cases recorded over an almost two-year outbreak is alarming and should stop us in our tracks," Onesphore Bangenza, Mercy Corps response team lead in Bunia, Ituri's capital, said Tuesday.

"There is no doubt that the virus is moving faster than we can contain it," Bangenza added. The ongoing outbreak, which was declared on May 15, is unlike most previous Ebola outbreaks because



the Bundibugyo virus responsible for it has no approved vaccines or treatments. Efforts to slow the transmission have been challenged by rebel violence in eastern Congo

as well as health workers striking to protest the nonpayment of their wages.

The outbreak continues to spread faster than health officials

can track despite an expanding response. A key challenge is that patient zero has yet to be identified in the outbreak while displacement from armed conflict and illegal mining in the region have made it difficult to trace thousands who have come in contact with infected individuals.

Despite distrust between communities and health workers mostly seen at the early stages of the outbreak, signs of progress have emerged.

"We can never again wage war against the Ebola teams. We have lost members of our families.

As a community, we have a vested interest in fighting Ebola to return to normal life," said Fabrice Mumbesa, a resident of Mongwalu, a mining town at the center of the outbreak where residents previously burned down several treatment centers. (AP)

India helps construct school building in remote municipality in western Nepal

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

■ Kathmandu

Foundation stone for the construction of a school building, to be built with financial assistance from India, was laid in the Sudur Paschim province of Nepal.

The Government of India has pledged Nepalee Rupees 75 million for the construction of the Gokuleswor Secondary School, Shaillyashikhar Municipality-9, Darchula district of Sudur Paschim Province.

The foundation stone was jointly laid on Monday by Basist Nandan, first secretary, Indian Embassy at Kathmandu and Bijay Singh Dhami, Mayor of



Shaillyashikhar Municipality, said a press release from the Indian Embassy.

This High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) will be implemented through the Shaillyashikhar Municipality,

Darchula district, it said.

Mayor Dhami appreciated India for the assistance and expressed confidence that the new infrastructure would help enhance the learning environment for students and educators in the municipality area.

India and Nepal are engaged in wide-ranging and multi-sectoral cooperation, the release said, adding, the implementation of HICDPs reflects the continued support of the Government of India in strengthening the efforts of the Government of Nepal in promoting growth and development, apart from augmenting infrastructure in priority sectors. (PTI)

UN chief makes rare Cyprus visit to help ease decades-old ethnic division

MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS

■ Nicosia

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on a rare visit to Cyprus said Tuesday he was demonstrating his commitment to resolving the island nation's decades-old ethnic division, even as expectations remain low for a speedy breakthrough leading to a peace accord.

"I will do everything I can to support the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in this very important moment," Guterres said after talks with Greek Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides.

The UN chief also met with Turkish Cypriot leader Tufan Erhuman and was scheduled to hold joint meetings with both later Tuesday and Wednesday.

The first visit by a UN chief in 16 years came during renewed efforts to resume formal peace talks after a nearly decade-long hiatus. The last major push, which Guterres mediated in 2017, collapsed in recriminations over who and what was to blame for the impasse.

A Cyprus peace deal would help unlock the eastern Mediterranean's potential as a provider of natural gas for Europe and beyond while easing tensions in a turbulent region with competing interests over energy, territory and influence.

Numerous rounds of UN-mediated talks have shared the same fate since 1974,

Ritual restored at Sri Lanka's historic Hindu festival under tight security



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ Colombo

A key ritual that was cancelled over an underworld threat returned to Sri Lanka's centuries-old annual religious pageant at an ancient Hindu temple in the coastal town of Devinuwara on Tuesday amid an unprecedented security deployment, police said.

Around 1,500 personnel, including members of the elite Special Task Force (STF), were deployed to secure the Kavadi ritual in the Esala perahera (pageant) at the Uthpalaawanna Sri Vishnu temple.

The traditional dance ritual was reinstated after being called off on Sunday following intelligence inputs of a possible armed or drone attack on the pageant linked to the ongoing rivalry between fugitive drug kingpins Shehan Sathsara and Kanjipani Imran, both believed to be operating from overseas.

Police said they carried out security checks on participants in the Kavadi ritual on Tuesday and seized crystal methamphetamine, locally known as "ice", and cannabis from some individuals.

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Hindustan Unilever Limited

Shares of FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Tuesday tanked 7 per cent after the firm reported a 3.17 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit for the June quarter of FY27. The stock tumbled 6.97 per cent to settle at ₹2,023.15 on the BSE. During the day, it dived 7.16 per cent to hit the 52-week low of ₹2,019. At the NSE, the stock dropped 6.98 per cent to end at ₹2,022.70. The company's market valuation declined by ₹35,619.79 crore to ₹4,75,357.56 crore. The stock was the biggest laggard among the Sensex and Nifty firms. Hindustan Unilever Ltd on Tuesday reported a 3.17 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to ₹2,680 crore for the June quarter of FY27, mainly on account of exceptional items and higher taxes. The company had reported a net profit of ₹2,768 crore in the April-June quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by HUL. (PTI)

Industrial production rises by 7.3% in June: Govt data

Industrial output rose by 7.3 per cent in June compared to 5.1 per cent in the preceding month, mainly on the back of improved manufacturing sector performance and strong growth of the electricity and gas supply sector. This is the third monthly Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data based on the new series. "In June 2026, Index of Industrial Production recorded a 7.3 per cent year-on-year growth, supported by 7.8 per cent growth in Manufacturing sector and strong growth of 10.6 per cent in Electricity & Gas Supply sector," the National Statistics Office said in a release on Tuesday. The IIP growth rate for the month of June 2026 is 7.3 per cent against 5.1 per cent (Quick Estimate released in June) in the month of May 2026, it stated. The revised estimate of IIP for the month of May is 5 per cent. The production of Mining & Quarrying rose by 1 per cent, Manufacturing by 7.8 per cent, Electricity & Gas Supply and Water Supply by 10.6 per cent, and Sewerage & Waste Management by 6.1 per cent in June 2026 compared to the year-ago period. Within the manufacturing sector, 19 out of 23 industry groups have recorded positive growth in June 2026 over June 2025. The top three positive contributors for the month of June 2026 are – manufacture of electrical equipment (34%), manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (17.5%), and manufacture of food products (10.8%). (PTI)

Gold drops ₹2,640 per 10g, silver slides ₹5,200

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Gold prices retreated by ₹2,640 to ₹1.47 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, and silver dropped ₹5,200 per kg, tracking weak global trends and a firm rupee.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by ₹2,640 to ₹1,47,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Monday's closing level of ₹1,49,640 per 10 grams,

according to the All India Sarafa Association. Silver also witnessed selling and tumbled ₹5,200 to

intraday high of 95.63 before ending the session at 95.88 (provisional) against the local currency. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.75 and touched the

The Pioneer

CHANDIGARH | WEDNESDAY | JULY 29, 2026

Macroeconomic fundamentals strong: Union minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Macroeconomic fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong, supported by robust domestic demand, healthy corporate balance sheets and sustained fiscal discipline amid global challenges, Union Minister Pankaj Chaudhary told Parliament on Tuesday.

Further, according to the RBI's Financial Stability Report (June 2026), the domestic financial system remains resilient, underpinned by strong bank and non-bank balance sheets, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

"As a major player in global markets, India's economy is also linked with international trends, which impact its exchange rate movements.

Since the start of the West Asia conflict, the Indian Rupee (INR) has depreciated against the US Dollar (USD) by 5.8 per cent in FY27 (from February 27 up to July 22, 2026)," he said.

At present, the macroeconomic fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong, he said, adding real GDP has consistently grown at over 7 per cent during the last three years.

Economic growth continues to be supported by robust domestic demand, healthy corporate balance sheets and prudent fiscal management, he said.

The high-frequency indicators for the first quarter of 2026-27 also point to sustained momentum in economic activity and domestic demand, indicating the continued resilience of the Indian economy, he said.

The Index of Industrial

MoS Pankaj Chaudhary speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi

Production (IIP) recorded a growth rate of 4.9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in April 2026 and 5.1 per cent YoY in May 2026, indicating continued investment-led industrial growth despite heightened global uncertainty, he said.

"The industries reliant on imported inputs may face cost pressures. Thus, to support stability, the Government is easing imported inflation through duty adjustments, expanding MSME credit, ensuring afford-

Govt sets up India Digital Payment Intelligence Corp to contain cyber frauds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The government has set up the India Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC) to share real-time fraud intelligence and alerts to the banks and financial institutions in order to contain cyber financial frauds, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

In a reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, she said the new entity has been set up in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to check growing incidents of cyber frauds.

"To contain cyber financial frauds, the government in consultation with the RBI has set up India Digital Payment

Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC) to share real-time fraud intelligence and alerts to the banks and financial institutions by leveraging advanced technologies such

as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Big Data Analytics," she said.

To address the growing cyber threats, she said, the government has been active-

ly engaging with the financial sectoral regulators to strengthen the cybersecurity posture of financial institutions.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has set up a National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC), which monitors cyberspace at metadata level to detect potential cybersecurity threats and facilitates real-time information sharing with concerned organisations, regulators and other stakeholders, enabling timely preventive and response actions, she said.

Further, she said, a nodal Computer Security Incident Response Team for the Financial Sector (CSIRT-Fin) has been set up under the overall supervision of CERT-In.

Samsung says foldable smartphones account for over 20 % of flagship sales in India

JOYEETA DEY ■ New Delhi/London

Samsung's foldable smartphones now account for more than a fifth of its flagship sales in India, and it expects the adoption to accelerate as consumers shift to new mobile designs and layouts, the company's Southwest Asia CEO and President J B Park said.

Samsung first introduced foldable phones in 2019, and since then it has launched a new version of foldables every year. Last week, the South Korean technology giant announced the launch of its 8th generation of foldables — Galaxy Z8 — which are made in India.

"When we first introduced the foldables in 2019, they were not even known to the consumers. Even my neighbours were surprised that our phone could fold and asked - Is this real? Since then, we have come a long way. Today, more than 20 per cent of our flag-

ship sales are from foldables. And year by year, it (foldable sales) is growing. "Based on whatever the experience or the requirements are for the consumer, that's where we are focussing. I expect there will be an expansion in the con-

sumer base transitioning to the new form factor," Park said at an Indian media roundtable in London.

Samsung currently sells almost 65 per cent of its flagship devices, including the Samsung Galaxy S26 Ultra, Samsung Galaxy S26+, and the foldable Galaxy Z series, in tier 2 and tier 3 cities and rural markets.

"We have seen the rural market growing in double-digits, much faster than metros... We continue to invest heavily in tier 2 and tier 3 towns to educate them about our premium products, which are different from what we used to sell in rural markets like 2G and feature phones which were mostly about voice. But once these (tier 2, tier 3 and rural) customers come in touch with a new technology and environment, the transition rate is much faster, and that's how we are focussing on the rural market for expansion," Park said.

Govt orders sugar dealers to limit stocks to 30 days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The government on Tuesday directed that no dealer of sugar should hold stock for more than 30 days and also imposed a stock limit of 4,000 quintals as part of its efforts to keep prices of sweetener under control.

The order would come into force with effect from August 1, 2026, and would remain in force up to November 30, 2026.

In a gazette notification, the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs imposed this restriction using powers under section 3 of the Essential Commodities

Act, 1955, and the Sugar (Control) Order, 2025.

"...Central Government hereby directs that no dealer of sugar shall hold any stock for a period exceeding thirty days

from the date of receipt of such stock and shall not keep sugar in stock at any time and in any place throughout the country in excess of 4,000 quintals," the notification said.

To keep prices under check amid a forecast of a deficit monsoon, the Centre has already banned sugar exports.

The order would not apply to sugar stocks held on the government account, or by dealers nominated by the State Government or an officer authorised by it to hold stock for distribution through fair price shops under the Public Distribution System.

able financing, attracting long-term FDI, promoting trade facilitation and digital platforms, and advancing free trade agreements," he said.

The value of the INR is market-determined, with no target or specific level or band, he said.

The RBI regularly monitors the foreign exchange market and intervenes in situations of excess volatility. Further, the RBI monitors key developments across the globe which may have an impact on the USD-INR exchange rate, he said.

In reply to another question, Chaudhary said, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) posted the highest-ever net profit of ₹10,177 crore in 2025-26.

"The financial health of RRBs has improved in recent years. RRBs posted the

highest ever consolidated net profit of ₹10,177 crores during 2025-26. RRBs have also shown consistent improvement in key financial parameters like Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR), deposits, advances, Non-Performing Asset (NPA), Credit-Deposit Ratio (CD ratio) etc," he said.

Government regularly reviews the progress made by RRBs in deepening financial inclusion in rural and remote areas, he said.

The targets for various financial inclusion schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) are set by DFS and periodically monitored, he added.

Delhi High Court ordered winding up of Paytm Payments Bank, says RBI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The High Court of Delhi has ordered that Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) be wound up, the Reserve Bank said on Tuesday.

In April this year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had cancelled the banking licence issued to PPBL for non-compliance with norms, saying the affairs of the bank were conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of its depositors.

The central bank also announced it would be making an application for winding up of the bank before the High Court.

Girikumar M Nair, former CGM of State Bank of India, was appointed as liquidator of PPBL.

"By an Order dated July 08, 2026 read with the Order dated July 22, 2026, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has ordered that PPBL be wound up under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 read with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013," it said.

Further, the High Court appointed Nair as the

Official Liquidator of PPBL.

As per the Order, the RBI said the official liquidator shall exercise all the powers prescribed under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 along with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

In terms of the said Order, the official liquidator, with effect from July 8, 2026, exercise all the powers of the Board of PPBL, it added.

PPBL, an associate firm of Vijay Shekhar Sharma-promoted fintech firm Paytm, came under the regulatory scanner on multiple occasions earlier, including in March 2022 when the central bank barred it from onboarding new customers.

While cancelling the licence, the RBI had said the affairs of the bank were conducted in a manner detrimental to its own interests as well as its depositors.

Earlier, PPBL was directed to stop onboarding new customers with effect from March 11, 2022 amid "material supervisory concerns" observed in the bank.

The bank was also directed to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive system audit of its IT system.

Rupee settles at 95.88 against US dollar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The rupee stayed on upward track for the third straight session and ended 11 paise higher at 95.88 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by lower crude oil prices amid signals of easing West Asia crisis. According to forex traders, the sustained outflow of foreign capital amid selling pressure in domestic equity markets, as well as an elevated dollar index ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision, capped gains for the local currency.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.75 and touched the

appreciated sharply by 54 paise to close at 95.99 against the US dollar, after rising 20 paise in the preceding session on Friday.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said the rupee strengthened on the halting of strikes between the US and Iran.

"Traders may take cues from CB (Conference Board) consumer confidence data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 95.35 to 96.05," Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.08 per cent higher at 101.46.

Stock markets end flat; Sensex dips nearly 70 points

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended flat on Tuesday as investors' sentiment turned cautious ahead of key global central bank policy meetings this week and heavy sell-off across Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 69.86 points, or 0.09 per cent, to settle at 76,765.92. During the day, it hit a high of 76,988.48 and a low of 76,672.77, gyrating 315.71 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty slipped 10.60 points, or 0.04 per cent, to end at 23,985.35.

From the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever tanked 6.97 per cent after the FMCG major reported a 3.17 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to ₹2,680 crore for the June quarter, mainly on account

of exceptional items and higher taxes. Bharat Electronics, NTPC, ICI Bank, Power Grid, and Reliance Industries were also among the laggards. Tata Consultancy Services, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, and Titan were among the major gainers.

"The respite in crude oil prices provided relief to markets by easing concerns over inflation and input cost pressures. However, investor sentiment remained cautious ahead of key central bank policy meetings this week, including those of the Fed, BoE (Bank of England), and BoJ (Bank of Japan)," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 2.82 per cent to USD 85.87 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,688.23 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI tanked 10.84 per cent, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index also ended lower. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled marginally higher.

"Indian equity markets ended largely flat as a broad selloff across Asian markets weighed on investor sentiment," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Markets in Europe were trading in positive territory. US markets ended on a mixed note.

On Monday, the Sensex jumped 776.01 points, or 1.02 per cent, to settle at 76,835.78. The Nifty surged 228.50 points, or 0.96 per cent, to end at 23,995.95.

PROSPECT



Assam Minister Atul Bora along with Asom Gana Parishad MLAs and party functionaries, on Tuesday contributed to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked them for their generous support



Yuva Bharti Trust chairman HN Sharma on Monday welcomed Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe on being appointed the President of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai

Hudco intends to raise \$1.3b via ECB to fund urban infra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (Hudco) on Tuesday said it plans to raise \$1.3 billion via external commercial borrowings (ECB) in the next five months to fund urban infra in the country.

Hudco, a techno-financing public sector enterprise in the field of housing and infrastructure development, intends to raise up to \$2 billion through ECB under the RBI concessional swap window available up to December 31, 2026.

"So, far we have raised \$700 million through External Commercial Borrowings this financial year. Remaining \$1.3 billion would be raised in the next five months depending on funding requirement,"



Hudco Chairman and Managing Director Sanjay Kulshrestha said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in June opened a special US Dollar-Rupee forex swap window to give cheap currency hedging support to public sector undertakings (PSUs) raising External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).

Last year, the financial institution had raised about USD 700 million through the ECB in Japanese Yen.

This year, Hudco is planning to raise the ECB in US dollars along with Yen, he said, adding borrowing in dollar terms would be first for the company.

Experts push universal screening to end viral hepatitis by 2030

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

India has the knowledge, vaccines, diagnostics and treatments needed to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat.

The next challenge is ensuring that these lifesaving interventions reach every individual from expectant mothers and newborns to high-risk adults through universal screening, adult immunisation, stronger maternal healthcare, early diagnosis and equitable access to treatment, leading policymakers, hepatologists and public health experts said at the second edition of the Illness to Wellness Foundation's conference on "Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment for Hepatitis," organised on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day 2026.

Delivering the keynote address, Rajesh Bhushan, former secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and



chairperson, Governing Council, Illness to Wellness Foundation, said, "India has made meaningful progress through the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme, but achieving greater impact will require stronger collaboration across stakeholders. Government, healthcare institutions, the private sector, civil society and development partners must work together to expand the reach of hepatitis services and ensure that quality care is available to every community."

Delivering the welcome address, Anil Rajput, chairperson, Advisory Council, Illness to Wellness Foundation, asserted, "We believe that success demands a whole-of-society approach. Governments, healthcare professionals, researchers, industry, civil society, the media and citizens all have vital roles to play. Public health succeeds not through isolated efforts but through partnerships that place prevention at the heart of national development. The Illness to Wellness Foundation remains committed

FY26: Private banks collect ₹4,949 cr, PSBs ₹2,138 cr for minimum balance shortfalls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Private sector banks have collected ₹4,948.71 crore from account holders for failing to maintain minimum average balance in their current accounts and savings accounts in FY26, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

During the period under review, public sector banks (PSBs) collected ₹2,137.92 crore for the non-maintenance of minimum average balance (current account & savings account), Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

HDFC Bank collected the highest amount — ₹1,798.14 crore, followed by Axis Bank at ₹1,081.33 crore during FY26, he said quoting Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

Both these private-sector lenders collected ₹2,879.47 crore as charges for non-maintenance of minimum average balance. This is 58 per cent of the total collection done by 19 private-sector banks.

No penal charges are levied on Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) Accounts, etc, he said.

Replying to another question, Chaudhary said the financial health of PSBs has shown significant improvement with healthy balance sheets, historically high profits and multi-decadal low level of gross



non-performing assets (GNPAs). Further, PSBs have recorded sustained credit growth across different sectors of the economy, he said.

He further said that the government has introduced Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0) in May 2026, to tide over any short-term liquidity mismatches faced by businesses due to the West Asia Crisis.

The scheme provides guarantee coverage to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) for the amount in default under the additional credit facility extended to the eligible borrowers, he said.

The scheme provides 100 per cent guarantee coverage for MSMEs and 90 per cent guarantee coverage for non-MSMEs and the scheduled passenger airline sector, up to a credit flow of ₹2,55,000 crore, which includes ₹5,000 crore specifically earmarked for the scheduled passenger airline sector.

ted to advancing this movement through awareness, evidence-based dialogue and collaborative action."

The conference featured three thematic technical sessions that examined critical dimensions of hepatitis prevention and management across the continuum of care.

Other spokespersons who delivered key notes are Padma Bhushan Dr (Prof) SK Sarin, senior professor, Department of Hepatology and Director, ILBS; Asha Hegde, director, South Asia-HIV/Hepatitis/STIs and Family Health, PATH India; Dr RS Mishra, principal director and head - Internal Medicine, Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, Dr Anil Agarwal, co-chairman, Institute of Surgical Gastroenterology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Dr Anita Shete-Aich, Scientist-E, Hepatitis Group, ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune and Dr Suneela Garg, member, FICCI Swasth Bharat Task Force.

Assam CM Himanta flags off Purabi Dairy's first ice cream export to Bhutan

TONY DAS ■ Guwahati

In a major boost to the dairy sector of Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday flagged off Purabi Dairy's first export consignment of 5,627 litres of Purabi ice cream to Bhutan, marking the first such export of dairy products from the State. The consignment will make Purabi ice cream available in major markets across Bhutan, including Thimphu, Paro, Phuentsholing and Wangdue.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by Minister for Cooperation Kaushik Rai. Senior Government officials — KC Samria, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Fishery & Animal Husbandry, Govt of Assam, Aruna Rajoria, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture, Govt of Assam; Virendra Mittal, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Finance, Govt of Assam; Anant Lal Gyani, IAS, Secretary, Cooperation, Govt of Assam; Sunita Rai, Deputy General Manager, APEDA; SB Bose, Managing Director, NEDFL —

Tata Sons chairman's pay climbs to ₹158.7 crore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Tata Sons executive chairman N Chandrasekaran received total remuneration of ₹158.66 crore in the year ended March 31, 2026, up from ₹155.81 crore a year earlier, according to the holding company's annual report. The compensation is the highest that Chandrasekaran has received since Tata Sons began disclosing executive remuneration in fiscal 2022. Over the past five years, he has earned a cumulative ₹671.4 crore.

His FY26 remuneration comprised salary and other benefits of ₹17.97 crore, up 18 per cent from ₹15.12 crore in the previous fiscal, and a profit-linked commission of ₹140.69 crore, unchanged from FY25. While his fixed pay has risen over the past five years, the bulk of Chandrasekaran's remuneration has come from commissions, which have increased alongside Tata Sons' profitability.

His commission rose from ₹94 crore in FY22 to ₹100 crore in FY23 and ₹121.5 crore



N Chandrasekaran

in FY24 before increasing to ₹140.69 crore in FY25, where it remained in FY26.

While the commission remains unchanged from the previous year, the salary and other benefits are up from ₹15.12 crore in 2024-25. The 2024-25 salary and other benefits were higher than the ₹13.82 crore earnings of the previous year and ₹13 crore in 2022-23. This was ₹14.61 crore in 2021-22. The remuneration places Chandrasekaran among India's highest-paid corporate executives.

HCLTech Chief Executive C Vijayakumar received ₹176 crore in FY26, while Persistent Systems CEO Sandeep Kalra earned ₹148 crore in FY25.



and representatives of the organisations involved in facilitating the export were also present on the occasion.

Commenting on the export, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "This export marks a proud milestone for Assam and reflects the growing strength of our dairy sector. Purabi ice cream is made from milk produced by farmers across the State, and its entry into the Bhutanese market will create new opportunities for our dairy cooperatives and rural producers."

Commenting on the milestone, Assam Minister for Cooperation & Chairman, NEDFL, Kaushik Rai said, "The export of Purabi ice cream to Bhutan is a significant achievement for Assam's dairy sector

and reflects the strength of the entire Purabi value chain. Every pack in this consignment has been manufactured using milk produced by farmers of Assam, making this milestone particularly meaningful for our dairy farmers." Sunita Rai, Deputy General Manager, APEDA said, "APEDA has been working to promote exports of agricultural and processed food products from the Northeast and to help organisations in the region meet the requirements of international trade. The export of Purabi ice cream to Bhutan is an important development for Assam, and APEDA is pleased to facilitate NEDFL and Purabi Dairy in completing the required export procedures and formalities."

DAILY SUDOKU

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 (28.7.26)

6	7	3	1	5	9	4	2	8
8	1	2	7	6	4	3	9	5
5	4	9	8	2	3	6	1	7
7	6	8	5	1	2	9	3	4
1	3	5	9	4	6	8	7	2
9	2	4	3	8	7	5	6	1
4	9	1	2	3	8	7	5	6
2	8	7	6	9	5	1	4	3
3	5	6	4	7	1	2	8	9

DOUBLE CROSSWORD
WEDNESDAY | JULY 29, 2026

ACROSS

3 Fellows seemingly half sane but of great intelligence (5)
8 Letters to Jack from a Gulf state (5)
10 Nice change at the medical centre for old people (5)
11 One way to address a person of class (3)
12 Music group at number ten, possibly (5)
13 Charming women get it at church in various ways (7)
15 One doesn't feel right out of them! (5)
18 Hugh, we're told, is just a "hack" (3)
19 Being in the way, a tree could be removed (6)
21 Garden structure by Olga, cleverly (7)
22 A book can be a good one about modern times (4)
23 Stingy chap embracing his sweetheart intelligence (5)
24 Means of printing a penetrative article? (5)
26 Old king possessing E1 and a dog (6)
29 It's a lot to carry to the end of the garden (3)
31 Put to a fitting test (3,2)
32 Cut terribly crude keys (7)
34 Looked desirous of gold, perhaps, out East (5)
35 Has to do without love, being on his own (3)
36 Frustratingly promise central heating with no problem (5)
37 Agrees all but initially to weave cloth (5)
38 Trial outcome? (5)

DOWN

1 He's apt to get into the salad, etc. (5)
2 Walked in a charmed manner? (7)
4 Archer, one of the immortals (4)
5 Rest period for which one can set seats out (6)
6 He'll do something dramatic (5)
7 Join one for a close finish (5)
9 Bird after coal, maybe (3)
12 Old prison's modern entrance (7)
14 That woman from Motherwell (3)
16 A woman with contrary ways about her can be fun (5)
17 To astound the team leader is no ordinary feat (5)
19 Inclined to be biased (7)
20 Booklet concerning a car crashed during a race (5)
21 Frivolously injection of money into a new play (5)
23 They shouldn't take long to read (7)
24 Hot vocalist? (6)
25 Spot cash for fish (3)
27 Decree in gold and possibly red (5)
28 Solo arranged by an egghead for free (5)
30 Is it peripheral in the field of betting? (5)
32 Where to end a united state in the United States (4)
33 Gosh, a French horn! (3)

SOLUTION (28.7.26)

ACROSS

1. Arrow
2. Spots
9. Painter
10. F-Lood
11. C-ombs
12. Cut up
13. Je-St-ers
15. Gas
17. Oslo
18. Va-Li-se

DOWN

2. Re-lies
3. O-port-O
4. Wad
5. Angus
6. Secula-R
7. Prop
8. Tob-I-as
12. Crowd
13. Joker
14. Sloop-p

15. Gil-E-t
16. Se-Amy
18. V-a-ild
19. Ser-Ious
21. Lather
22. Shrine
23. Eleven (II)
25. Tents
26. Otto
28. So-p

India's telecom user base hits 134.8cr: TRAI data



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Telecom subscriber base in the country increased marginally to 134.8 crore in June, driven by net addition of subscribers on the network of Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio, according to data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Tuesday.

Bharti Airtel led subscriber growth during the month, adding 31.63 lakh users compared with May. The additions included 29.89 lakh mobile subscribers and 1.73 lakh fixed-line connections.

It was followed by Reliance Jio which reported a net addition of 22.91 lakh subscribers, comprising 21.46 lakh in mobile segment and 1.44 lakh in fixed line segment.

Together, the two private telecom operators accounted for 54.54 lakh, or about 87 per cent, of the total net addition of 62 lakh subscribers in June.

"The number of total telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,343.1 million at the end of May 2026 to 1,348.08 million at the end of June 2026, thereby showing a monthly

growth rate of 0.37 per cent," sector regulator TRAI's monthly data subscriber report for June 2026 said.

The total number of wireless connections in June increased to 130 crore from 129.4 crore in May. The total wireless connections comprised 114.7 crore consumer sim, 13.47 crore M2M sim and 1.78 crore fixed wireless access connections.

Vodafone Idea reported net addition of 1.63 lakh wireless subscribers.

State-run BSNL added 94,006 subscribers during the reported month.

MTNL lost 11,284 mobile subscribers in June.

The wireline subscriber base declined 1.67 per cent on monthly basis to 4.78 crore in June, from 4.86 crore in May, mainly due to BSNL losing 7.96 lakh fixed line subscribers.

Only Airtel, Reliance Jio and STPL added new subscribers, while rest all the companies including Vodafone Idea, MTNL, APSFL, Tata Teleservices, Quadrant reported decline in fixed line connections.

As per the information filed by 1,580 operators for June 2026, the total number of broadband subscribers increased to 108.75 crore from 108 crore in May.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Advertisement No. 8/2026

Online applications are invited for the post of Officer on Special Duty in various Constituent/University Colleges of the University on the prescribed application form. Online registration of application for these posts will start w.e.f. 29.07.2026 and end on 18.08.2026. Last Date for submitting Hard Copy of the Online submitted application is 28.08.2026. For further details visit University Website: <http://www.gndu.ac.in>.

Amritsar
28-07-2026

REGISTRAR

2426/12/2026-27/13750 Dated CHD :- 28/07/2026

MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL: <https://mpphscs.mp.gov.in>, Phone : 0755-2578915
Dated : 28.07.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for following item/Services floated on website and Portal from Dated 28.07.2026 to next 30 days :

- Online Tender RFP No. T-937/MPPHSC/Selection of an Agency for time-bound Provision of Tele-ECG (STEMI) Diagnostic and Reporting Services under National Health Mission, Madhya Pradesh 2026 Dated : 27.07.2026 Uploaded on portal & Website.
- Online Tender EOI No. 08/Software Data Extraction, Engagement of a Service Provider for Supply and Implementation of an AI based Software Solution for Data Extraction from Documents and Analysis of Equipment/ Device Specifications, on a Locally-Hosted Basis, for the Department of Public Health & Family Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh Dated : 27.07.2026 Uploaded on Website.
- Tender (s) for AYUSH-Kachhi Aushadhiyan (Ayurved and Unani).
- Tender (s) for Various Equipment.
- Tender (s) for Various Drugs.
- Tender (s) for Various Surgical & Consumables.

All Prospective bidders are requested to visit "www.mptenders.gov.in"/<https://mpphscs.mp.gov.in>, <https://gem.gov.in>" for further details.

M.P. Madhyam/127237/2026 CGM (TECHNICAL)

BRIEFLY

Sajan Prakash, Aryan finish eighth in CWG swimming finals



Two-time Olympian Sajan Prakash and Aryan Nehra finished eighth in the men's 200m butterfly and 800m freestyle finals respectively, while para swimmer Swatik Patil secured fifth place in the men's 100m breaststroke SB9 event at the Commonwealth Games here on Monday.

Prakash, who had qualified as the sixth fastest swimmer overall from the heats, clocked 1:58.05 to finish last in the eight-man 200m butterfly final. The 32-year-old from Kerala had earlier clocked 1:58.59 to finish second in Heat 2 behind Scotland's Duncan Scott (1:58.29) and book his place in the final. New Zealand's Lewis Clareburt claimed the gold medal in 1:55.05, while Australia's Harrison Turner (1:55.38) and Matthew Temple (1:55.45) took silver and bronze respectively. In the men's 800m freestyle final, Nehra also finished eighth after clocking 8:07.26. Australia swept the podium with Sam Short winning gold in 7:39.81, followed by Benjamin Goedemans (7:46.49) and Matthew Galea (7:47.10). In para swimming, Patil finished fifth in the men's 100m breaststroke SB9 final with a time of 1:15.82. Australia's Beau Matthews won gold in 1:09.41, New Zealand's Joshua Willmer claimed silver in 1:11.44, while Australia's Timothy Hodge bagged bronze in 1:12.74. The SB9 classification includes swimmers with minimal weakness affecting their legs, missing feet, a missing leg below the knee, or hip impairments. (PTI)

Atiqa Mir produces moments of brilliance in Sweden



Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir displayed moments of brilliance in qualifying and the opening heat race before an untimely crash spoiled the remainder of her weekend at Champions of the Future Euro Series Round 4 in Kristianstad, Sweden.

Considering it was her debut at the Kristianstad Kart Track, the 11-year-old hardly took any time to get up to speed. Fresh off a pole position in Italy, Atiqa turned heads by qualifying only 0.17 seconds off the fastest time in her Qualifying group for a commendable 10th place and 29th overall out of 86 drivers. Atiqa, the first Indian to be backed by Formula 1 Academy, qualified second overall among the wildcard entries. In the round held as a prelude to the high stakes FIA European Championship here this weekend, Atiqa got much needed track time for an invaluable experience. In the races, her seventh place in heat 1 was her best result of the weekend and came ahead of many established drivers on the grid. After the impressive show in heat 1, Atiqa did not have much going her way. Starting on the outside row was a big disadvantage before a crash and two penalties marred her smooth start to the weekend. (PTI)

Pakistan's Usman Tariq criticises batters questioning his bowling action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Karachi

Pakistan's mystery spinner Usman Tariq has criticised the growing trend of batters questioning the legality of his bowling action whenever they are dismissed by him.

Tariq, who played in this year's T20 World Cup, had to face a similar situation recently in The Hundred in the UK where Australian batter Tim David gestured for a no-ball after being caught behind during a match between Trent Rockets and Birmingham Phoenix.

"It is not the batters job to do these things. The umpires and match referee is there to



watch everything. If I am allowed to bowl by the umpire it means my bowling action is legal," Usman said in an interview.

Tariq, who is the only other Pakistan player apart from

Sarvesh Kushare wins CWG men's high jump silver

APARAJITA UPADHYAY
■ Glasgow

National record holder Sarvesh Kushare scripted history as he became the first Indian to win a silver medal in the men's high jump event of the Commonwealth Games, losing the gold by the narrowest of margins in an enthralling showdown with Jamaica's Romaine Beckford.

After sailing over 2.25m, both the 31-year-old Kushare and Beckford failed to clear the 2.28m mark. But the Jamaican took the gold as he had one less failed attempt than the Indian on count-back. The bronze went to Jack Kimani (2.20m) of England. The other Indian in the fray, Adarsh Ram,

finished fifth with 2.15m.

Before Monday, Tejaswin Shankar was the lone Indian to have won a high jump medal — a bronze in the 2022 Birmingham Games. But Kushare bettered it with his silver. It was Kushare's first medal in the CWG and that too on debut.

Tejaswin also competed on Monday and retired after failing to clear 2.05m in his first attempt. The move was a precautionary measure for Tejaswin as he is competing in the men's decathlon starting on Thursday.

The 27-year-old, who has a personal best of 2.29m, has not competed in too many individual high jump events in the last two years as he has been



focussing on decathlon.

Son of an onion farmer at Devargaon village in Maharashtra's Nashik district, Kushare used to practice high jump by using makeshift landing pits made of corn husks, cotton, and agricultur-

al waste, prepared by his father and childhood coach.

"It's my first medal, also my first medal at a major event. Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games are the Games that push for the Olympics. I want to win a

Boxers Sachin, Ankush, Sakshi enter CWG quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Glasgow

The Indian trio of Sachin Siwach, Ankush and Sakshi Chaudhary advanced to the quarterfinals of their respective categories in the boxing competition of the Commonwealth Games here on Monday.



Sumit, however, lost a tight men's 70kg round of 16 bout to Northern Ireland's Jon McConnell by 1-4 split decision. Earlier, former world youth champion Sachin produced a composed performance to beat England's William Hewitt 4-1 in the men's 60kg class, winning four of the five judges' scorecards.

Judges 1, 2, 3 and 5

awarded the 26-year-old Sachin a 29-27 victory, while Judge 4 favoured Hewitt with a 29-27 scoreline.

Sachin dominated the contest with consistent scoring across the three rounds. He won the first two rounds on four judges' cards before securing the overall

defeated Lesotho's Toka Litabe in another last-16 contest by a 3-2 split decision. Rising youngster Ankush also advanced to the quarterfinals of the men's 80kg competition. He won a one-sided round of 16 bout against Jan Zalaan of Antigua and Barbuda 5-0 in a unanimous decision by the five judges to make it to the last-eight stage. The 20-year-old Haryana boxer is also one win away from a medal in his debut Games. He faces Jade Micock of Seychelles in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Sakshi, a former world youth and junior champion, won her 51kg round of 16 bout against Lethabo Modukanele of Botswana in a unanimous 5-0 verdict.

Nirupama Devi fails to finish in CWG weightlifting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Glasgow

India's Nirupama Devi endured a heartbreaking outing in the women's 63kg weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday after failing all three of her clean and jerk attempts, resulting in a Did Not Finish. Nirupama, who had won a silver medal at last year's Commonwealth Championships in Ahmedabad with a total lift of 217kg (91kg+126kg), opened her campaign in the snatch with a failed attempt at 93kg.

She successfully lifted the same weight in her second attempt before her 95kg attempt failed in her final lift. Her best lift of 93kg left her fifth at the end of the snatch



round, with four lifters ahead of her. Despite being placed fifth after the snatch, Nirupama remained well in medal contention.

However, the Indian lifter had a disappointing clean and jerk. Attempting 123kg, a weight below the 127kg she

had successfully lifted at the National Championships earlier this year, Nirupama failed on all three attempts, ending her campaign without a total.

Canada's Tokyo Olympic champion Maude Charron once again stamped her

authority on the event, setting Commonwealth Games records in both lifts to clinch her third successive Games gold medal.

Charron dominated the snatch with an effortless 102kg before lifting another Games record of 130kg in the clean and jerk for a winning total of 232kg.

England's Sarah Davies Smales claimed the silver medal with a total of 217kg (95kg+122kg), while 17-year-old Femily-Crystie Nottle of Nauru secured the bronze with 216kg (100kg+116kg).

Weightlifting has been India's most productive discipline at the Games so far with six of the country's 10 medals so far have come from the weightlifting arena, including one in para powerlifting.

Zidane realises his dream as he takes charge of France team

JEROME PUGMIRE
■ Paris

Moments after being announced as France's new coach on Tuesday, Zinedine Zidane clenched his fists and his usually measured voice trembled a little. "I'm excited," he said. "The France team makes you dream. We have extraordinary players, an extraordinary team."

Zidane coached Real Madrid until leaving in 2021. He replaces Didier Deschamps at the helm of France team he led to glory as arguably its greatest ever player. "I've waited five years for this chance, so that's why I'm a bit emotional," said Zidane, adding that it was the happiest day of his career as coach. "I've always

watched this side as a fan and also as a future coach, I won't hide it," Zidane added. "That's why I didn't take a club side. I told myself that the only thing I wanted to do after Madrid was taking the France team." French Football Federation president Philippe Diallo announced Zidane's appointment at the FFF headquarters in Paris on Tuesday, saying he has been given a 4-year contract.

Diallo called the hiring of Zidane "an exceptional moment, exceptional because of the person sat next to me," adding that Zidane "is one of the legends of French soccer."

The 54-year-old Zidane could have gone to another



club after leaving Madrid in 2021. But there was no way he would. "I had some offers during the five years I was away to take charge of a club," he said. "I turned them all down for the France team. It was the only thing I

wanted to do." Zidane called it "an immense joy" taking charge. "I have so many emotions, I am ready for the challenge," he said. "That's what motivates me." Zidane praised Deschamps, who won the 2018 World Cup

and stepped down after the recent edition, where Les Bleus lost in the semifinals to Spain. "Today I have the opportunity to be in charge of this team and I will give everything so that this team can win," Zidane said. "I would also like to congratulate DD (Deschamps) for these remarkable years."

Diallo said he met Zidane for talks in February, 2025 after Deschamps said he would stand down after the 2026 World Cup. Zidane said France would play differently to how it did under Deschamps. "What motivates me is the game, I was a No. 10, I like goals," Zidane said. "I was a leader on the field and now I want to be a leader by experience." (AP)

Batting collapse haunt Pakistan ahead of chase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Karachi

Pakistan will be desperate to avoid yet another batting collapse, a recurring problem over the last 10 months, when they begin their chase in the opening Test against the West Indies at Tarouba on Tuesday.

At stumps on the third day, the West Indies had stretched their overall lead to 155 runs with three wickets in hand after another eventful day dominated by the fast bowlers. All 27 wickets to fall in the match have been claimed by pacers, with West Indies all-rounder Justin Greaves starring with a five-wicket haul after Pakistan were bowled out for 282 in reply to the hosts' first-innings



total of 311. Resuming on 199 for three, Pakistan appeared well-placed at 242 without further loss before suffering a dramatic collapse. They lost their last seven wickets for just 38 runs, including the final

five for 16, as Greaves ripped through the lower order with four wickets in four overs.

The latest meltdown was the sixth major batting collapse for Pakistan in the last 10 months, again exposing the

lack of contributions from the lower order.

Since the start of the current World Test Championship cycle in October last year, Pakistan have endured similar collapses in every Test series. Against South Africa in Lahore, they lost five wickets for 16 runs in the first innings and seven for 48 in the second. In the second Test at Rawalpindi, they lost their last five wickets for 17 runs in the first innings and six for 42 in the second as South Africa levelled the two-match series.

Pakistan's batting woes continued in Bangladesh in May this year, where they lost five wickets for just 11 runs in Dhaka on their way to a 0-2 series defeat.

Arshad ready for CWG qualifiers: Coach Butt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Karachi

Defending Commonwealth Games champion Arshad Nadeem has put behind a difficult build-up caused by inclement weather in Switzerland and is "all keyed up" for the men's javelin throw qualification round, his long-time coach Salman Butt said on Tuesday.

Arshad, Pakistan's brightest medal hope at the Games after the country's athletes endured a medal-less campaign so far, finished ninth at the Lucerne Silver Meet in Switzerland earlier this month but has since adapted to the conditions in Glasgow ahead of the qualifiers on July 30. "Look, the rain didn't



allow Arshad a proper build-up before the competition and he took time to adjust to the wet surface conditions," Butt told PTI over the phone. He said the reigning

Olympic champion struggled to find his rhythm in Switzerland after arriving directly from a training camp in the hot conditions of Lahore. "He couldn't settle into a rhythm in Switzerland but now is adjusting to similar conditions in Glasgow. "He is all keyed up for the qualifiers and wants to do well again in this competition," Butt said.

Arshad managed a best throw of 78.47 metres in Lucerne, well below the standards he has produced over the last few years.

The Pakistani star, who won the Commonwealth Games gold in Birmingham in 2022 in the absence of India's Neeraj Chopra, will be joined by compatriot

Muhammad Yasir in the qualification round. India will field Neeraj Chopra, Rohit Yadav and Yash Vir Singh in the event. Twenty athletes will compete in the qualification round, with the top 12 advancing to the final. The automatic qualification mark has been set at 83 metres.

The event has generated considerable interest because of the much-anticipated rivalry between Arshad and Neeraj.

While Neeraj missed the 2022 Commonwealth Games due to fitness issues, Arshad went on to claim the gold before scripting history by winning the Olympic title in Paris in 2024 with a record throw of 92.97 metres, an Olympic and Asian record.

Ajaya wins Commonwealth Games silver in 79kg weightlifting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Glasgow

Fast-rising Indian weightlifter Valluri Ajaya Babu produced a remarkable performance to win the silver medal in the men's 79kg category and continue the country's successful run in the sport at the ongoing Commonwealth Games here.

The 21-year-old from Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district lifted a Games record 149kg in snatch and 181kg in clean and jerk for a total of 330kg to win the second prize, narrowly missing out on gold to Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad, who totalled a Games record 331kg (147 + 184) during a gripping contest on Monday night.

This was India's sixth medal in weightlifting in the current edition of the Games.

England's Chris Murray settled for bronze with a total of 325. First, Hidayat lifted 181kg to smash the Games record, the Indian then bettered it within seconds by lifting 181kg in his final attempt to break the record again for 330kg.

Hidayat did one better, breaking the record again with a lift of 184kg in his final attempt to win the gold medal. Earlier, after a failed second attempt at 149kg, Ajaya Babu made a fine comeback to lift the weight in his final try and set a new Games record, finishing at the top of the heap at the end of snatch section ahead of England's Chris Murray (148kg) and Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad (147kg).

He had 145kg listed as his first attempt and nailed it too easily. Entering the clean and jerk section on a high, Ajaya Babu looked confident of winning the top prize but his opponent from Malaysia edged the Indian out eventually.

Seen as one of India's fastest-growing lifters, Ajaya Babu had in the past won the gold medal in the men's 79kg category at the 2025 Commonwealth Championships in Ahmedabad with a personal-best total lift of 335kg (152kg snatch + 183kg clean & jerk), breaking the championship records. That performance earned him his direct qualification spot for Glasgow 2026. In the 2024 divisions in the men's 81kg category in Suva, Fiji.

After that, in the 2025 World Championships, the youngster was placed 16th overall in a highly competitive 39-lifter field in Forde, Norway.



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Saransh Jain gets maiden India Test call-up for Sri Lanka series

KUSHAN SARKAR ■ New Delhi

Veteran Madhya Pradesh off-spinner Saransh Jain earned his maiden Test call-up on Tuesday, capping a decade of consistent domestic performances as the selectors announced India's 15-member squad for the two-match series against Sri Lanka next month. As reported by PTI on Sunday, the 33-year-old Saransh was in contention due to Washington Sundar's likely unavailability for the opening Test because of his ongoing rehabilitation from a hamstring injury. The short series will be played in Galle (August 15 to 19) and Colombo (August 23 to 27).

PUBLIC NOTICE ON AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower/s in specific and interested bidders in general, are hereby informed that on account of non-repayment of the Banks due by the borrowers as under despite the payment notice and recall/auction notice issued by the Bank, the gold ornaments pledged with the bank security by the respective borrowers for the loan availed by them will be sold in public auction on "as is where is" and "non-recourse" at branch premises on **10th August 2026 at 10.30 AM**. The auction may be adjourned to any other later date at the discretion of the bank upon publication of the same in the Bank's notice board. The borrowers are hereby further inform that the gold ornaments will be disposed of by Public auction/e-auction, if the auction is not successful and if there is a further balance to be recovered thereafter, legal action will be initiated against the borrowers for recovery of the balance amounts due to the bank. "In case of Deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs".

S. No.	Auction Center No.	Account Name	Client ID	No. of Acc.	Bal. Outstanding as on 26-07-2026	Weight (grams)
1.	Soan	Shoyab	05066223	002	7,89,733.24	75.09

For more details/account wise information borrowers/interested bidders may contact respective branches and for participating in the auction
Haryana | 29.07.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer, CSB Bank

भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprises)

No. BSNLCO-11/12(11)/3/2026-RECTT-CO-Part(1)

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) invites applications for the post of **Executive Director (Network Planning & Procurement) and Executive Director (New Business)**

Interested Advocates/ Law Firms may visit BSNL website www.bsnl.co.in for further details and updates.

BSNL CO, NEW DELHI

CBC 06204/12/0007/2627

भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprises)

No. BSNLCO-11/12(12)/1/2026-RECTT-CO

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) invites applications for "Empanelment of Advocates/ Law Firms" in BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi.

Interested Advocates/ Law Firms may visit BSNL website www.bsnl.co.in for further details and updates.

BSNL CO, NEW DELHI

CBC 06204/12/0006/2627

BRANCH OFFICE :
IBB, CIVIL LINES JALANDHAR -144001

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES

1. The Sale will be done through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://baanknet.com>.
2. EMD & KYC will be done online through portal <https://baanknet.com>.
3. BAANKNET HELP DESK No. +91 82912 20220, or write email support.baanknet@psballiance.com.

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable/Immovable Assets under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s),mortgagor(s)and Guarantor (s) that the below described Movable/Immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Punjab National Bank, "Secured Creditor, will be sold on" **As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on date of Sale,) for recovery of amount, as mentioned below due to the Punjab National Bank secured Creditor from below Named borrower(s), mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s). A short description of the movable/Immovable property with known encumbrances, if any, are mentioned as under.

Sr. No.	Property ID	Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on C) Possession Date u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) Earnest Money Deposit C) Bid Increase Amount	Date of Auction
1.	PUNB2999RENU KHOSLA	IBB JALANDHAR -299900	Equitable Mortgage of apartment No. 402 (3BHK) 4th floor, Block-A, Luxotic Homes, Village-Pholriwal Jalandhar Punjab-144022. Owned by Mrs. Renu Khosla and Mr. Sanjeev Khosla. Bounded by: North: Passage, South: Open, East: Open, West: Lift & flat No. 401.	A). 11.05.2026. B). Rs. 42,51,857/- as on 08.05.2026 plus future interest w.e.f. 11.05.2026, along with costs and charges until payment in full. C). 22.07.2026. D). Symbolic Possession.	Rs. 80,11,000/- Rs. 8,01,100/- Rs. 50,000/-	02.09.2026 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE :- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. 1. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 2. The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned). The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. 3. All statutory dues/ attendant charges/ other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. If any property ID/ NOC/ Clearances/ Any other formalities required for registration of IP in name of bidder, the formalities and charges have to be borne by the bidder. If IP is sold on Symbolic possession it shall not be responsibility of the Bank to deliver physical possession of the IP. Bank shall give only symbolic possession of the IP after sale. 4. It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. 5. The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions. 6. The intending Bidders/Purchasers are requested to register on portal <https://baanknet.com> using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they will upload the requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 or more working days), the intending Bidders/Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet. Only after having sufficient EMD in his Wallet, the interest bidder will be able to bid on the date of e-auction. 7. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction. 8. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer, <https://baanknet.com> or contact our office IBB, CIVIL LINES JALANDHAR, Authorised Officer, Contact No. 98962-04707, E-Mail ID: bo2999@pnb.bank.in.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT.

Dated : 28.07.2026 **Place: Jalandhar** **Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank**

Central Bank of India
Branch Rattewali, VPO Rattewali, Distt. Panchkula - 134118

[RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India, Branch Office - Rattewali, VPO Rattewali, Distt. Panchkula** under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) & 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Bank issued Demand Notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(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 **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION** of the property/ies 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 the date mentioned against account.

The Borrower(s) and the Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA**, for the amounts and interest thereon.

The Borrower(s) attention is invited to provision of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of SARFAESI 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	Amount Outstanding
Borrower(s):- (1) Roshan Lal S/o. Ram Chand S/o. Lachu (2) Salochana Devi W/o Roshan Lal, Resident of VPO Manak Tabra, Tehsil Raipur Rani.	(1) House on land measuring 00K-09M-08S being 1/6 share out of land measuring 02K-19M-comprising in Khewat No. 681/646, Khatauni No. 894, Khasra No. 411/18/32/1-13), 231/2/1(1-16) situated in Village Manak Tabra HB No. 224, Sub-Tehsil Raipur Rani, Tehsil and Distt. Panchkula in the name of Roshan Lal S/o Ram Chand. Bounded as under:- North: Road; South: Common Rasta; East: Vacant Plot of Sh. Jagdish Chaud; West: Vacant Plot of Sh. Roshan Lal. (2) Commercial Property on land measuring 00K-04M being 1/324 share of 65K-18M comprising in Khewat 392 Khatauni 457 to 460 Khasra No. 43/38/2(0-3), 52/16/17/2 min (6-16) (1-10), 53/1/9 min 10(6-0), 52/17/2 min (2-13), 53/9 min 11(4-0), 53/6/7/15(7-8) in the name of Salochana Devi W/o Roshan Lal.	29.04.2026	23.07.2026	Rs. 16,61,051.20 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Sixty One Thousand Fifty One and Twenty Paise only) (which represents the principal plus interest due on the 21.07.2026), plus intt. & other charges from 29.04.2026.

Date: 28.07.2026 **Place: Rattewali** **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

ARMB - JALANDHAR
Company Bagh, Civil Lines, Jalandhar-144001,
Phone : 0181-4697613, email : cs8249@pnb.bank.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES

1. The Sale will be done through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://baanknet.com>.
2. EMD & KYC will be done online through portal <https://baanknet.com>.
3. BAANKNET HELP DESK No. +91 82912 20220, or write email support.baanknet@psballiance.com.

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable/Immovable Assets under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s),mortgagor(s)and Guarantor (s) that the below described Movable/Immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Punjab National Bank, "Secured Creditor, will be sold on" **As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on date of Sale,) for recovery of amount, as mentioned below due to the Punjab National Bank secured Creditor from below Named borrower(s), mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s). A short description of the movable/Immovable property with known encumbrances, if any, are mentioned as under.

Sr. No.	Property ID	Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on C) Possession Date u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) Earnest Money Deposit C) Bid Increase Amount	Date of Auction
1.	PUNB162510SUTLEJ	Basti Sheikh Jalandhar-162510	Plant & Machinery and insulation of Cold store Electrical Instruments and Fittings Fixed assets installed in Suttlej Cold Store building. a) EM of Land & building 17-6M situated at Village Kallah, Tehsil Khandoor Sahib, District Taran Taran Vide Khasra No.70/5(8-0), 6/2(6-8), 14 (8-0), 15/1(4-16), 17/2(4-4) total Rakba 31K-8M out of which 26/628 Share=Rakba 1K-6M vide Sale deed No.479 dated 19.07.2017 in the name of Sh.Gurpreet Singh and Sh.Samsher Singh having 1/3 share each. b) EM of land and building 5K-6M situated at Village Kallah, Tehsil Khandoor Sahib, District Taran Taran Vide Khasra No. 70/14(8-0), 15/1(4-16), 17/2 (4-4), 5/8-0, 6/2(6-8), Total Rakba 31K-8M out of which 106/628 share = Rakba 5K-14M vide Sale deed No.336 dated 21.06.2017 in the name of Sh.Gurpreet Singh and Sh.Randeep Singh having ½ share each. c) EM of Land and building 2K-14M situated at Village Kallah, Tehsil Khandoor Sahib, District Taran Taran Vide Khasra No.70/14(8-0), 15/1(4-16), 17/2(4-4), 5/8-0, 6/2(6-8) Total Rakba 31K-8M out of which 32/628 share= Rakba 2K-14M vide Transfer Deed No.335 dated 21.06.2017 in the name of Sh. Samsher Singh and Gurdial Singh. d) EM of land and building 1K-12M situated at Village Kallah, Tehsil Khandoor Sahib, District Taran Taran Vide Khasra No. 70/5(8-0), 6/2(6-8), 14(8-0), 15/1(4-16), 17/2(4-4) Total Rakba 31K-8M out of which 32/628 share= Rakba 2K-14M vide Transfer Deed No.335 dated 21.06.2017 in the name of Sh. Gurpreet Singh, Sh. Randeep Singh and Sh.Samsher Singh having 1/3" share each.	A) 03.10.2019. B) Rs.4,21,13,683 + future intt. From 30.09.2021along with cost & charges until payment in full. C). 25.08.2020. D). Physical Possession.	Rs. 2,13,00,000/- Rs. 21,30,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	24.08.2026 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM
2.	PUNBABHINAV	PNB- 179600- Tanda Road	EM of Residential property measuring 27'-6x30'-9" 845.625 Sq. feet (04M 17 Sq. feet (1 Marla= 207 Sq. feet), Situated at House No 1m, First Floor having	A) 10.12.2024. B) Rs. 33,28,165.99 + future intt. From 10.12.2024 along with cost & charges until payment in full. C) 24.02.2025. D) Symbolic Possession.	Rs. 32,32,000/- Rs. 3,23,200/- Rs. 30,000/-	24.08.2026 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM

Private No. 2-B, Cool Road, Jalandhar, Comprised in Khewat/ Khatauni No. 5891/6877, Khasra No. 27086/5199, 27089/24290/5199, 27088/5199 as per Jamabandi for the year 2009-10, Standing in the name of Sh. Abhinav Handa S/o Sh. Deepak Handa vide Title No. 2020-21/186/1/2062 dated 20.08.2020 registered with sub- registrar Jalandhar-1. Bounded as under : East: House of Kuldip Kaur, West: House of Mukesh Sethi, North: Common Passage, South: Plot of Others. Ownership: Mr. Abhinav Handa S/o Deepak Handa.

3.	Lot 1 PUNB227200PNK1 Lot 2 PUNB227200PNK2	PNB-227200- Focal Point, Jalandhar	Lot-1 : Equitable Mortgage of Immovable property measuring 3 Marlas 146 Sq. feet comprising in Khasra No. 13339, 13341, 13347, 13343, 13344, 19986/13345, 13348, 13349, 13342, 13337, 13338, 13340, Situated at Mohalla Hargobind Nagar, Village abadi Reru, Tehsil and District Jalandhar, Title Deed No. 915 dated 27.04.1992. Ownership: Sh. Pawan Kumar & Late Sh. Parvesh Kumar.	A) 01.07.2024. B) Rs. 70,28,251.34 + future intt. From 01.07.2024along with cost & charges until payment in full. C). 11.09.2024. D). LOT : 1. Symbolic Possession. LOT : 2. Physical Possession.	LOT-1 Rs. 17,50,000/- Rs. 1,75,000/- Rs. 20,000/-	24.08.2026 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM
4.	PUNBABA38145493	511710-JALANDHAR-APJ SCHOOL	Equitable Mortgage of residential Property Measuring 05 Marla (1 Marla = 207 Sq. Ft.), Comprised in Khasra No. 19634/10232 to 10234, Khewat/Khatauni No. 3207/3760, Hadbast No. 307/2, Jamabandi for the year 2004-2005 vide Title Deed No. 7625 dated 01.01.2010, measuring 08 Marlas 181 Sq. ft. (30' x 61-3") (1 Marla = 207 Sq. Ft.) AND Khewat/ Khatauni No. 6111/7629, Khasra No. 19986/13345(6-15), 13346(3-0), 13339(0-13), 13347(8-10), Hadbast No. 307/5 as per Jamabandi for the year 1999-2000, vide Title Deed No. 5894 dated 07.10.2005 area measuring 11 Marlas 50 Sq. ft (38'x61-3") Ownership: Sh. Pawan Kumar & late Sh. Parvesh Kumar .	A) 22.07.2024. B) Rs. 37,52,238.79 + future intt. From 22.07.2024 along with cost & charges until payment in full. C) 01.10.2024. D) Symbolic Possession.	Rs. 33,09,000/- Rs. 3,30,900/- Rs. 20,000/-	24.08.2026 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM
5.	PUNB299900REXON1	PNB- 299900- Jalandhar, IBB	Equitable Mortgage of Leased property comprising all the part and parcel of Factory land and building. Situated at Plot D – 3, 4 & 5 at Sports & Surgical complex, Kapurthala Road, Jalandhar measuring 1247.42 Sq. yards (49.90 Marla), Standing in the name of M/s Priya Drugs Ltd. (Rexon Laboratories Ltd.) vide Lease Deed No. 6750 dated 25/09/1995 executed by Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation Ltd.	A) 15.03.2023. B) Rs. 10,73,13,685.27 + future intt. From 28.02.2023 along with cost & charges until payment in full. C) 23.05.2023. D) Symbolic Possession.	Rs. 3,00,00,000/- Rs. 30,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	24.08.2026 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE :- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. 1. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 2. The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned). The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. 3. All statutory dues/ attendant charges/ other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. If any property ID/ NOC/ Clearances/ Any other formalities required for registration of IP in name of bidder, the formalities and charges have to be borne by the bidder. If IP is sold on Symbolic possession it shall not be responsibility of the Bank to deliver physical possession of the IP. Bank shall give only symbolic possession of the IP after sale. 4. It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. 5. The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions. 6. The intending Bidders/Purchasers are requested to register on portal <https://baanknet.com> using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they will upload the requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 or more working days), the intending Bidders/Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet. Only after having sufficient EMD in his Wallet, the interest bidder will be able to bid on the date of e-auction. 7. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction. 8. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer, <https://baanknet.com> or contact our office ARMB Jalandhar, Authorised Officer, E-Mail ID: cs8249@pnb.bank.in.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT.

Dated : 28.08.2026 **Place: Jalandhar** **Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank**

BRANCH OFFICE :
IBB, CIVIL LINES JALANDHAR -144001

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES

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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable/Immovable Assets under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s),mortgagor(s)and Guarantor (s) that the below described Movable/Immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Punjab National Bank, "Secured Creditor, will be sold on" **As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on date of Sale,) for recovery of amount, as mentioned below due to the Punjab National Bank secured Creditor from below Named borrower(s), mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s). A short description of the movable/Immovable property with known encumbrances, if any, are mentioned as under.

Sr. No.	Property ID	Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on C) Possession Date u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) Earnest Money Deposit C) Bid Increase Amount	Date of Auction
1.	PUNB2999RENU KHOSLA	IBB JALANDHAR -299900	Equitable Mortgage of apartment No. 402 (3BHK) 4th floor, Block-A, Luxotic Homes, Village-Pholriwal Jalandhar Punjab-144022. Owned by Mrs. Renu Khosla and Mr. Sanjeev Khosla. Bounded by: North: Passage, South: Open, East: Open, West: Lift & flat No. 401.	A). 11.05.2026. B). Rs. 42,51,857/- as on 08.05.2026 plus future interest w.e.f. 11.05.2026, along with costs and charges until payment in full. C). 22.07.2026. D). Symbolic Possession.	Rs. 80,11,000/- Rs. 8,01,100/- Rs. 50,000/-	02.09.2026 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE :- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. 1. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 2. The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned). The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. 3. All statutory dues/ attendant charges/ other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. If any property ID/ NOC/ Clearances/ Any other formalities required for registration of IP in name of bidder, the formalities and charges have to be borne by the bidder. If IP is sold on Symbolic possession it shall not be responsibility of the Bank to deliver physical possession of the IP. Bank shall give only symbolic possession of the IP after sale. 4. It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. 5. The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions. 6. The intending Bidders/Purchasers are requested to register on portal <https://baanknet.com> using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they will upload the requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 or more working days), the intending Bidders/Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet. Only after having sufficient EMD in his Wallet, the interest bidder will be able to bid on the date of e-auction. 7. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction. 8. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer, <https://baanknet.com> or contact our office ARMB Jalandhar, Authorised Officer, E-Mail ID: cs8249@pnb.bank.in.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT.

Dated : 28.08.2026 **Place: Jalandhar** **Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank**