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CHANDIGARH, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹2



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# BJP IN HUDDLE TO PICK CMS

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After securing a decisive mandate in the Hindi heartland States of Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, the BJP high command is currently in a huddle to name the Chief Ministers (CM). It has been three days since the results of the Assembly polls were declared on Sunday. Party sources said several rounds of meetings, involving top leaders, including BJP President JP Nadda, have taken place in the last two days to finalise the candidates for the key positions. The party, despite having prominent leaders like multiple-time incumbent Chief Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan in MP, Vasundhara Raje Scindia in Rajasthan, and Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh in the electoral fray, did not go to the polls with a specific chief ministerial candidate. While there has been no word from senior party leaders on the likely chief ministerial picks, names will be decided keeping in mind the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. Interestingly, party sources have revealed that all three winning States may have Deputy Chief Ministers, following the model the BJP has implemented in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath. BJP sources said the central



leadership will soon be appointing observers to oversee meetings of newly elected MLAs of the party in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where they will elect their leaders. "Party will definitely keep in mind the major Lok Sabha elections within six months," party sources said. In Rajasthan, two-time Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia, Mahant Baba Balak

Nath, Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari, and Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are the top four contenders for the top post in Rajasthan. Although Vasundhara remains the front runner, at least until the Lok Sabha polls. Vasundhara is trying to impress the Central leadership and holding meetings with her loyalists since Sunday when the result were declared. On the other

hand Shivraj Singh Chouhan in MP and Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh have maintained a low profile and have left the issue with Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Sources from Vasundhara camp claimed that nearly 50 MLAs have met her at her residence since then. She has been the Chief Minister of Rajasthan twice from 2003 to 2008 and from 2013 to 2018.

While she was the chief ministerial face in earlier elections, the party decided to go to polls without projecting any leader for the post and Modi leading the campaign. BJP Sources said the party is not very keen on Vasundhara having a third tenure as the Chief Minister. The party's in-charge for Rajasthan, Arun Singh, said the decision of the party's parliamentary board about

the Chief Minister's post will be acceptable to all, even as newly elected MLAs continued to visit Baba Balak Nath. The Lok Sabha MP from Alwar is the head of the Baba Mastnath Math in Rohtak. He was the BJP's candidate for Assembly elections from the Tijara Assembly constituency. Known as 'Rajasthan ka Yogi' Balak Nath is the eighth 'mahant' (chief priest in a monastery) of Baba Mast Nath Math. Another name that can be considered for the top job in Rajasthan is that of Gayatri Devi's granddaughter and Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari. Previously, she was an MP from Sawai Madhopur. She is known for social work and was initially considered as an outsider in Sawai Madhopur. In Madhya Pradesh among the probable names for the CM post being tossed around are incumbent favourite Chouhan, Kailash Vijayvargiya and Jyotiraditya Scindia. In a video message on Tuesday, Chouhan said he had not been a contender for the CM's post in the past, nor was he one now. "As a party worker, I have always carried out whatever work the BJP assigned me to the best of my ability, with dedication and honesty," Chouhan said in a video statement posted on his social media account.

## INDIA Bloc meet postponed after key leaders snub



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of differences cropping up between various parties in the INDIA Bloc, the Opposition alliance has now decided to reschedule the meeting of party heads to the third week of December. Despite many leaders of the coalition already being in Delhi for the ensuing Winter Session of Parliament, the INDIA bloc meeting, announced by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on December 6 to strategise for the Lok Sabha 2024 polls, received a lukewarm response from several major stakeholder leaders, including West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav, and senior Janata Dal United (U) leaders.

According to sources in Congress, several key Opposition leaders will not be able to attend the meeting that was earlier scheduled on Wednesday in Delhi. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin will not be able to come to Delhi as several areas of the State have been badly hit by Cyclone Michaung. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will not be able to make it to the national Capital owing to his illness. Similarly, West Bengal Mamata Banerjee would have given it a miss owing to a wedding in her family. While Mamata claimed that she would go ahead with her state programmes as she was not aware of the meeting call, Akhilesh said if the behaviour of the Congress had been different in one of the States where polls were conducted recently, it too would have seen a change.

## BRIEFS

**KARNI SENA CHIEF SHOT DEAD**

**Jaipur:** Right-wing group Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena's president Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi was shot dead in the living room of his house here on Tuesday by three armed men, one of whom was also killed in retaliatory firing, police said. One of Gogamedi's security guards sustained bullet injuries in the exchange of fire with the assailants, who had gone to his house in the Shyam Nagar area on the pretext of meeting him, they said. The incident was caught on CCTV.

**MICHAUNG MAKES LANDFALL, CLAIMS 12 LIVES**

**Chennai/Amaravati/Bhubaneswar/Hyderabad:** Severe cyclonic storm Michaung made landfall crossing south Andhra Pradesh coast between 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm on Tuesday leaving its maximum fury to be felt on Monday in Chennai and adjoining areas in neighbouring Tamil Nadu. Southern districts of Odisha and eastern Telangana continue to be on alert. At least 12 people lost their lives in various rain-related incidents in and around Chennai.

**DELHI'S AIR QUALITY IMPROVES**

**New Delhi:** Pollution levels in Delhi improved on Tuesday, and were recorded in the "poor" category, with minimum temperature settling at 11.2 degrees Celsius, weather department officials said. As per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was 297, higher than 310 ("very poor" category) recorded a day earlier. The national Capital recorded a maximum temperature of 25.4 degrees Celsius.

## Ram Temple event guest list ready

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

As the eagerly awaited consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya approaches, the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has revealed the meticulously prepared final guest list. A total of 7,000 guests, including revered saints and sages from across the country, have been invited to partake in the historic event. In a bid to ensure a seamless and harmonious celebration, the Trust has issued a special appeal to all attending saints and religious leaders not to bring traditional symbols such as dand, chhatra and paduka to the ceremony. The decision was formalised during a meeting where officials from the four provinces of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Vishwa Hindu Parishad gathered in Ayodhya. Before the meeting, the officials inspected the ongoing work at the Ram Jannabhoomi site, along with assessing the progress of the statue construction and the tent city being set up in Bagh Bijesi. Following these evaluations, a two-hour meeting took place at the Trust office in Ramkot, focusing on the comprehensive arrangements for accommodating, transporting and providing sustenance for the guests. The guest list was meticulously prepared to encompass a diverse



array of individuals, with particular emphasis on extending a warm welcome to approximately 2,500 sages and saints representing various traditions from around the country. Approximately 7,000 guests, including representatives from Kedarnath, Badrinath, Baba Vishwanath Dham and Vaishno Devi temple, have been invited to witness the historic event. While the participation of priests from major temples remains uncertain, representatives from these temples are expected to attend the consecration ceremony. Emphasising the principle of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' (the guest is god), the Trust is keen on extending a grand reception to the esteemed guests. Dr Krishna Gopal, former co-

secretary of the RSS, held a meeting with the officials in Ayodhya, addressing various aspects of the consecration ceremony. This included discussions on accommodation, food, healthcare, sanitation and the tent city's provisions for the devotees. Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai said 21 Vedic acharyas from Kashi would conduct the consecration of the Ram temple. The throne for Lord Ram Lalla, eight feet long and four feet wide, is ready, with the final touch of a gold layer pending. "The Trust is making meticulous preparations to enshrine Ram Lalla on this golden throne during the Pran Pratishtha ceremony," he said.

## Adani Group Stocks surge

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Group shares continued their upward movement on Tuesday after a report stated that US agency IDFC had found Hindenburg Research's allegations of fraud against billionaire Gautam Adani-led conglomerate were 'not relevant'. Some of the group firms hit their 52-week highs and locked in upper circuit levels, with the total valuation of group companies reaching near the ₹14 lakh crore mark at close. Adani Energy Solutions and Adani Green Energy zoomed 20 per cent each to close at ₹1,082.60 and ₹1,348 apiece, Adani Total Gas surged 19.95 per cent to settle at ₹878.20, and NDTV jumped 18.41 per cent to end at ₹266.55 per share on BSE. Flagship firm Adani Enterprises advanced 17.03 per cent to finish at ₹2,960.10, Adani Power climbed 15.91 per cent to close at ₹538.50, while Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) bounced 15.15 per cent to settle at ₹1,011.85. During the day, shares of Adani Power and APSEZ hit 52-week highs on the BSE.



Shares of Adani Wilmar rose 9.93 per cent to end at ₹380.70, ACC gained 8.20 per cent to close at ₹2,185, Ambuja Cements went up 7.22 per cent to settle at ₹508.70. Meanwhile, Sanghi Industries jumped 4.97 per cent to finish at ₹129.90 apiece on the exchange. The combined market valuation of all the 11 firms soared to ₹13.91 lakh crore at close on Tuesday. It stood at around ₹11.98 lakh crore at the close of trading on Monday. Thus, the combined market valuation of all the 11 firms, including Sanghi Industries went up by about

₹1.92 lakh crore on Tuesday. This was the first time that the group stocks hit the ₹14 lakh crore mark after facing a rout early this year following a report by US short-seller Hindenburg Research that alleged financial wrongdoing and stock manipulation by the conglomerate. However, the company denied all the allegations. Meanwhile, a report stated that the US International Development Finance Corp, or DFC, examined the allegations against the Adani Group before extending a loan for the Indian conglomerate's port project in Sri Lanka.

## Panic subsides as leopard returns to natural habitat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The leopard, which spread panic in South Delhi's Sainik Farms and its adjoining areas for the last five days, seems to have returned to its natural habitat. According to the Delhi Government's forest department officials the leopard has not been seen since Saturday evening but the department's team remain stationed in the area. However, residents were advised to remain vigilant for a couple days more. The operation to capture it continued on Tuesday with the help of drone surveillance and at least 50 police personnel were deployed to monitor the situation. Several arterial roads in the area were blocked. Deputy Conservator of Forest (South Division) Mandeep Mittal said the Forest Department teams combed the area but did not find anything. "The leopard has not been seen since Saturday evening. We are expecting that it has gone



back but our team is still there," he said. The cage that was set up is also there," he said. Sushil Jain, a wildlife expert from Bail A Tail NGO, who led the search operation along with the forest department, wildlife and the Delhi Police for the last five days, told *The Pioneer* that search operation was on Tuesday evening. "A joint team of the force, Forest Department,

Western Avenue Resident Welfare Association (WARWA) and an NGO (Bail A Tail) conducted an hour-long search operation in the area in the afternoon but could not find the animal. There was no sighting of leopard for the past two days. That's why we decided to end operation," Jain said. After the search operation, the Residents Welfare Association of

Sainik Farms issued an advisory informing that the forest department officials have completed their search. "As per them the animal seems to have returned to its natural habitat. We can relax for now but still keep our eyes & ears open atleast for a couple of days more. We take this opportunity to thank our SHO Surinder Rana and his team and the forest officials for their support in this crisis. We on behalf of all residents thank our wonderful Member Sushil Jain for his relentless support," reads the advisory. "Last but not the least we salute our Quick Response Teams and our guards who have been on their toes all this time. Meanwhile lets try to keep the story alive so that the unwanted elements stay off our area," it said. "On Monday again, a thorough search operation was conducted in the area but the animal was not spotted. Exits were closed from three sides and only the one leading

towards the jungle was left open. It is likely that the leopard has gone back into the jungles of Aravallis but we are still on alert," the police official said. On Sunday, the Forest Department team conducted a search operation using drones but the leopard was not spotted anywhere, the official added. The Asola Wildlife Sanctuary shares boundaries with densely populated settlements like Sangam Vihar, Chattarpur, Sainik Farms and Fatehpur Beri and villages such as Mangar and Pali in Faridabad. In 2021, a leopard was caught on multiple cameras in southwest Delhi's Najafgarh, leading to cages being installed to catch the animal, but in vain. A similar exercise was also undertaken in 2016 to trap a leopard that had reached the Yamuna Biodiversity Park (YBP). The state forest and wildlife department eventually trapped the animal, which was then released in the Shivaliks.

## Revanth is Telangana new Chief Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Telangana Congress chief A Revanth Reddy will be the new Chief Minister of the State. Announcing the decision at the party headquarters in national Capital on Tuesday, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said the swearing-in will take place on December 7 in Hyderabad. "After considering the report of observers and after discussion with senior leaders, the Congress president has decided to go with Revanth Reddy as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in Telangana," he said. Revanth was the frontrunner for the top post in the State after the party staged a stupendous victory in Assembly elections by

winning 64 seats in Telangana, upstaging the BRS. Venugopal said the Congress Legislature Party in Telangana had unanimously decided to authorise the Congress president to take a decision to appoint the CLP leader in its meeting earlier. He said the party had appointed four observers, including Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Deepa Dasgumshi, Ajay Kumar and K J George, besides AICC general secretary in-charge Manikrao Thakre. Shivakumar and Thakre were present as Venugopal announced the party high command's decision on Telangana. He did not answer queries on how many Ministers would be sworn in and whether there would be any Deputy Chief Ministers.



# Classifieds

## LOST AND FOUND

It is notified that my original qualifying examination certificate of 10th Class No. TT40211379 ICSE Board have been lost since dated 20/11/23, PSOC Tibber, Gurdaspur date 20/11/2023. Unique ID 7352112 . Name of candidate- Rahulpreet Singh S/o Balwinder Singh r/o Village Babri Nangal Distt Gurdaspur.

**I, Diva Malik** D/o Sh. Surender Singh R/o H. No. 345, Rajdarbar Spaces, Sector-24, Hisar, Haryana hereby declare that my 10th Class Marksheet CBSE Roll No. 17167586 March 2021 lost somewhere and not traceable. If any person found contact my mobile number 9729377250. I want to duplicate copy of my 10th class marksheet.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Miss Sandeep Kaur Holder of Indian Passport No. W3159222 and Mr. Gurmukh Singh Holdder of Indian Passport No.X7376968 Inted Getting Married at The Embassy of India, Athens under The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 of India. Objections if any may be conveyed Top The Embassy of India, Athens within 30 days.

It is for general information that I, Anup Partap Punj S/o Onkar Nath Punj R/O B-21/215A Street no 1, Partap Nagar, Ward Number 11, Nalolan, Hoshiarpur Punjab 146001 declare that name of my father and my wife has been wrongly written as Onkar Nath and Sudesh in my Passport No. H2564322. The actual name of my father and my wife are Onkar Nath Punj and Sudesh Sharma respectively which may be amended accordingly.

**I, Swaran Kaur** w/o Late Sh. Ajaib singh r/o house number 179-180 village Ramgarh district Panchkula Haryana (Aadhaar card number 9690 2589 8919 ) declares that I am my son Amarjeet Singh and his wife Neha alias Rajni both are out of my control so, I disown them from my movable and immovable properties. Anyone dealing with them will be responsible of their own. concerned note.

**I Gayatri Devi** D/o Chandu Lal R/o H. No. 740/17, Sir Chotu Ram Colony, Hisar declare that I know by two names Gayatri devi and Gayatri soni. Both names are the same person and my new Pan Number is IPPDD5642M. Now I should be known as Gayatri Devi for future purpose.

**I, Krishana** w/o Late Babu Ram. R/o # 5487, Maloya Colony, Chandigarh declare that my daughter Manju is out of my control. So, I disown my daughter from all my movable or immovable properties. Anybody deals with her will do so at their own risk.

**I, Balwinder Kaur** W/o Sh. Harbajan Singh R/O H.No-26-A, Parshuram Nagar Colony Ambala city inform that my son Jaswinder Singh, his wife Jagpreet Kaur are out of my control. So I disown both of them from my movable/ immovable properties . If anybody deals with them at their own risk.

**I, Jagdish Yadav** S/o Sh. Mayaram, R/o Vill. Deepalpur, Sonipat has disowned my son Neeraj Singh from my all movable-immovable property as he is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with him, he/she will do at their own risk.

**I, Sheela Devi** W/o Ram Dayal R/O 107, Mayapuri (Bank Colony), Yamuna Nagar declare that my son Pankaj and daughter in law Manisha alias Tamanna are out of my control. So I disown them from my all movable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with them at their own risk. Me and my family will not be responsible for their any act.

**I, Madhu Bala** W/o Late Paras Ram, H.No. 393, Khuda Lahora, UT Chandigarh, disowned my daughter-in-law Mrs. Jyoti W/o Late Sushil Kumar from all movable/ immovable properties, as she is beyond my control. Anybody deals her at own risk /responsibility, I and my family shall not be responsible for her acts.

**I, Devi Lal** S/o Sh. Chandu Ram R/O Village - Bharkohan, Distt. Sirsa declare that my son Pardeep & his wife Komal are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/ Immoveable properties. I & my family have no social, financial, legally- illegal relation with them.

**I, Bhavna Gill** W/o Tarun Gill resident of H.No E.N. 127, Rasta Mohalla, Jalandhar, Punjab – 144001 have changed my name to Bhavna C/o Sudesh Kumar and also my address to House No. 14, Street No. 8, Cantt Road, Dashmseh Avenue Mithapur, Jalandhar-II, Jalandhar Punjab – 144002. All concerned please note.

**I Satnam Singh** S/O Surmukh Singh R/O #716, Gali No.4, Uppal Sweets Near Ranjit Singh Nagar-A Patiala Now R/O #2788 Prem Singh Colony Old Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That My Daughter Manpreet Kaur Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Her From All My Movable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Her On Their Own Risk.

**I, Murti Devi** Wd/O No. 13600441 Late Pti Lira R/O Vill. & P.O. Katesra, Teh. Kalanaur Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) Declare That My Name Mutli Is Wrongly Mentioned In My Husband Army Record. But My Correct & Actual Name Is Murti Devi.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Netravati** spouse of Prakash Secretary Shaileendra Kumar Gupta resident of Qtr No. F.F. 8 Type-IV, HQ ADGBR (North West), Sector 48C Chandigarh have changed the name of my minor Son from Girish Kumar Gupta to Ranvir Kumar Gupta. His date of Birth is 23 July 2007. All to note.

**I, Mohammad Butta** Ansari S/O. Mashyad Ansari R/O. 949, Small Flat, Dhanas, Chandigarh. I Have Changed My Name From Mohammad Butta Ansari To Mohammad Shami Ansari.

**I, Shanty Singh** S/O. Sh. Jagtar Singh R/O. Village Dappar, Tehsil Dera Bassi, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali-Punjab. I Have Changed My Name From Shanty To Shanty Singh.

**I, Baby D/o** Ashok Kumar R/O Patti Malko Di, Sultanwind Pind, Distt. Amritsar have changed my name from Baby to Baby Kaur.

**I Lekhika** D/O Basant Jain R/O Jainsons Vatika Kath Mandi, Sonipat Have Changed My Name To Lekhika Jain For All Future Purposes.

**I, Gurinder Singh** S/o Amarjeet Singh Saini # 4246, Sector- 56, Chandigarh have Changed my name to Gurinder Singh Saini.

**I, Shailesh Tomar** S/o Sh. Laxman Singh Tomar R/O A-5, Tomar Nursing Home Sirsa, Nandan Vatika Surkhabe Chowk, Sirsa (Haryana) have changed my name from Shailesh Tomar to Shailesh Tomer, in future my name is to be called as Shailesh Tomar.

**I, Harish Kumar,** S/O Rajender Pal Verma, R/O H. No. 298/10, Guru Teg Bahadur Colony, Kaithal, District And Tehsil Kaithal, Informs That, My Minor Daughter's Present Name Is Deeksha Verma. In Some Documents Her Name Is Deeksha. Now I Have Changed Her Name As Deeksha Verma. Call Her Deeksha Verma In Future.

**I, Anita Devi,** D/o Ran Singh, R/o Puthi Saman, Tehsil Bans, Hisar Hal, Abad, W/o Ghisa Ram, R/o Bhaini Bhaioran, Tehsil Meham, District Rohtak, declare that Neeta and Anita Devi both are same and one person

**I, Ram Rati** D/o Ran Singh, R/o village Puthi Saman, Tehsil Bans, District Hisar Hall, W/o Sunder, village Bhaini Jatan, Tehsil Bawani Kheda, District Bhiwani, declare that Ramrati and Aarti both are same and one person.

**I, Seema Jain** W/O Dherminder Jain Moonak Tehsil Moonak District Sangrur declares that Seema Jain and Sarita Jain boths name are mine but now in future I will do all Government Non-Government and all Official work in the name of Seema Jain. All concerned please note.

**I, Suman** w/o Anup Kumar r/o 622 Near AT-1, Tubewell Village Daria , Chandigarh have changed my name to Shakuntla Devi.

**I, Sachin** S/o Sh. Khjan Chand R/o H.No. 2963, Dadu Mahra Colony, Sector 38 West, Chandigarh have changed my name from Bachan to Bachan Lal.

**I, Sarita** W/o Tarsem Kumar R/o 138/B3, Bhima Devi Colony Pinjore Distt. Panchkula declare that my old name was Saritha C.V. (Saritha Chhotia Singh Vasundhara) now I have changed my name to Sarita. in future I should be known me as Sarita.

**I, Teena Jain** w/o Rinku Jain R/o H. No. 38 P, Sector -6, HUDA, Panipat have changed my name from Teena Jain to Teena. In future I shall be known as Teena.

**I, Ruby Sehgal** wife of Shri Mahesh Kumar Residence of 49777, Amar Bhawan Chowk, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Ruby Sehgal to Ruby. Both the names Ruby Sehgal and Ruby belong to the same person. In future, I should be known as Ruby for every work.

**I, Ruchika** D/o Pratap Singh Dhiman R/O 66/2, Chhatri Ariyan Kaisthan Mohalla, Panipat declares that Ruchika & Ruchika Dhiman both are my name, one and the same lady.

**I, Chhatarpal** S/o Ved Parakash R/o # 124, Block No. 2, Mirzapur(63), Hisar (Hry.) have changed my name from Chhatarpal to Anil Rana for all purposes in future.

**I, No. 1442206Y** Ex Hav Jaswinder Singh S/O Shri Manjit Singh R/O Vill. Gondpur PO Garhdiwala Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my daughter from Simranjit Kaur to Simranjeet Kaur.

**I, Shivani** W/o Ashish R/O H.No.352/7, Near Ram Mandir, Amar Bhawan Chowk, Panipat, declare that I have changed my name from Shivani Bakshi to Shivani. For all future purposes.

**I, GO-004919A** Private Secretary Shaileendra Kumar Gupta S/o Late Basudev Pd Gupta, resident of Qtr No. F.F. 8 Type-IV, HQ ADGBR (North West), Sector 48C Chandigarh declare that in my GRE/BRO Service Records, date of birth of my wife Smt Rajbanshi Devi is wrongly recorded as 02 July 1970, whereas her correct date of birth is 10 July 1970. All to note.

**I, Parveen Kumar** Chawla S/o Ram Kishan Chawla R/O House No. 383, Sector-13, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Parveen/Parveen Chawla to Parveen Kumar Chawla for all future purpose.

**I, Pushpa Rani** Chawla W/o Parveen Kumar Chawla R/O House No. 383, Sector-13, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Pushpa/Pushpa Chawla to Pushpa Rani Chawla for all future purpose.

**I, Ankit Rana** S/o Sh. Vedpal Singh R/O # 23/24, Shanker Vihar Colony, Yamuna Nagar, Teh. Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar I have change my name from Ankit Kumar to Ankit Rana All concerned note.

**I, Sunita Arora** wife of Sanjeev Arora R/O H.No.29 Gole Market, Model town Panipat declare that Sunita , Sunita Bajaj and Sunita Arora all name are mine and in future I should be known as Sunita Arora.

**I, Sandeep Kaur** w/o Surinderpal Singh Village Thikriwal Sarawa Tehsil Naushera Majha Singh Distt Gurdaspur have changed my name Sandeep Kaur to Kaur Sandeep.

**I, Hariom Munjal** S/o Sh. Ajaykumar Munjal R/O H. No. 2, 1st Floor Lane, H-8 DLF Phase-I, Gurugram (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Hariom Munjal to Hariom Munjal for all future purpose.

**I, Pradeep Kumar** S/o Ram Swaroop R/O village sunheri Khalsha Tehsil Thanesar Distt Kurukshetra have changed my daughter's name Prachi to Prachi Choudhary.

**I, Shakuntla** W/o Naresh Kumar R/O H. No. 298, FF, Sector 9-11, Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Shakuntla to Shakuntla Vashist for all future purpose.

**I, Deepak Midha** S/o Om Parkash R/o H. No. 84, Ward No. 2, Sirsa Road, Housing Board Colony, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Deepak Midda to Deepak Midha for all future purpose.

**I, Ajay Kumar,** s/o Sh. Balbir, r/o h.no.1078 Vidyanand Colony, ward no. 12 Panipat, declare that my name is Ajay in my marksheet and other documents my name is written as Ajay Kumar. I have changed my name Ajay to Ajay Kumar. In future I will be known as Ajay Kumar.

**I, Nirmla Devi** W/o Late Rakesh Kumar R/o #452, Lata Green Enclave, J.P. Chowk, Near Rana Properties, Deawal, Patiala-147002 i had changed my name from Nirmla Devi to Nirmla Devi.

**I, Urvashi Sood** W/o Sanjeev Kumar Sood R/o H.No.18, Near Baradari Garden, Yadvindra Colony, Patiala (Punjab), i had changed my name from Sunita Ranisood to Urvashi Sood.

**I, Sukhwinder Kaur** wife of JC-375263Y Rank: Ex. Nb Sub. Jaswant Singh R/O H.No.23, Baba Budha Sahib Colony, Near Avtar Dharam Kanda, Sirhind Road, Patiala (Punjab) declare that in my husband's Army record my Date of Birth wrongly mentioned as 02-04-1966, but my correct DOB is 10-02-1963.

**I, Gurjeet Singh** S/o Amarjeet Singh R/o House No. 231, Street No.3, Ghuman Nagar A, Sirhind Road, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name to Gurjeet Singh Dua.

**I, Yaduri Sai,** Legally Brother of No. 16135292K SPR Yeduru Balaraju Unit of 22 Engg Regt C/O 56 APO resident at 1-151 Village Konusula Kotturu Post Office Chakipalli Tehsil. Tekkali Distt. Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh) Pin-532201 have change my name in all documents from Yaduru Sai to Yaduri Sai Vide Affidavit Dated 05 December 2023 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Sant Kumar** S/o Bali Ram, Resident at Village Audhari, Po. Chubhawal, Tehsil. Ghughri, District. Mandla, (MP) 481663 have changed my name minor Daughter name from Tavinok Maravi to Twinkle Maravi Vide Affidavit Dated 04 December 2023 before at Notary Ferozepur.

**I, Reetu W/o** Kamajit Adiwali R/O 42-E, Nirankari Colony, F.G.C Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Reetu To Ritu

**I, Navdeep Kaur** W/O Harpal Singh R/O Village Aliwal Kotli Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar Have Changed My Son's Name From Gaivi To Fatehbir Singh

**I, Sarabjeet Singh** S/O Joginder Singh R/O 50/8, Bazar Borian Wala Katra Karam Singh Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sarabjeet Singh To Sarbjit Singh

**I, Savita Kaushal** D/O Jagdish Lal W/O Raman Verma R/O H.No.S 20/144, Gali Gujriar Kucha Budha Singh Bazar Baba Sahib Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Savita Verma

**I, Gaurav Kumar** S/O Raj Pal Sharma R/O H.No.86, Shiv Nagar Colony Islamabad, Po Jawala Flour Mills Amritsar Have Declare That Gourav Is My Given Name And Kumar Is My Surname.

**I, Surjeet Singh** S/O Gian Chand R/O H.No.52 Master Mehanga Singh Colony Burring, Jalandhar Declare That Surjeet Singh And Surjit Singh Both Names Are One And Same Person. I Known By Both Names.

**I Ratesh Kumar** S/O Sham Lal, R/O H.No- 153 Sector- 16 Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Ratesh Kumar To Ratesh Kumar Munjal.

**I Satyam** S/O Vishal Parbhakar R/O Flat No- 204, Gh-49, Sector- 20 Panchkula, Have Changed My Name To Satyam Parbhakar.

**I Anil Kumar** S/O Gobind Ram Ahuja R/O 5184/3 Modern Housing Complex Manimajra, Chandigarh, Have Changed My Name From Anil Kumar To Anil Kumar Ahuja.

**I, Parveen Kumar** S/O Sh.Ghansham Dass R/O Flat No-1301,Tower 3-B, Suncity Parkrama Sector 20 Panchkula Have Changed My Name From Parveen Kumar To Praveen Kumar Chopra.

**I, Simrit W/O** Vinay Kumar Aggarwal R/O 20-21 Model Town, Fatehabad, Haryana-125050 Have Changed Name Of My Minor Daughter Abhilasha Aggarwal Aged 10 Years To Avishi Aggarwal.

**I Jagjit Singh** S/O Bachan Singh R/O H.No.40 Janetpur, Tehsil Dera Bassi Distt Sas Nagar Have Changed My Name From Jagjit Singh Punia To Jagjit Singh

**I Baljit Kaur** W/O Jagjit Singh R/O H.No.40 Janetpur, Tehsil Dera Bassi Distt Sas Nagar Have Changed My Name From Baljit Kaur Punia To Baljit Kaur

**I, Mahindro W/O** Mohinder Lal R/O #166, Tribune Mitter Vihar, Sector 29, Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Mahindro To Mahindro Devi.

**I Satpal Arora** S/O Sita Ram Arora R/O #1255, Rosewood Estate, Gulabgarh Road, G.B.P. Barwala Road, Dera Bassi Tehsil Dera Bassi Distt Sas Nagar Have Changed My Name From Satpal To Satpal Arora

**I Vikrant Singh** S/O Vs Thakur R/O House No. 4a, Gurjivan Vihar, Lane 6, Dhakoli, Zirkapur, Sas Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name From Vikrant Singh To Vikrant Thakur

**I Sham Sunder** Bali Son Of Charanji Lal Village And Post Office Nurpurbedi District Rupnagar Has Changed Its Name To Sham Sunder.

**I, Suba Singh** S/o Sucha Singh Vill.Theh Kharak, Teh Guhla, Kaithal Have Changed My Name Subha Singh.

**I, Kuldeep Singh** S/o Subha Singh Village Theh Kharak, Tehsil Guhla, Kaithal Have Changed My Given Name Kuldeep Surname Singh

**I, Raj Kumar** S/o Om Parkash Vill.Siana Saidan, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my Minor Son name From Sagar To Sagar Kumar.

**I, Vikas Rana** S/o Kanwar Pal Vill. Chanalheri, Malikpur, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my Minor Son name From Rudra Pratap To Rudra Partap.

**I, Amarjeet Singh** W/o Gagandeep Singh R/O 96/14, Foji Plot, Multani Colony, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Amarjeet Kaur.

**I, No 3996315x** Ex Sep (Macps Hav) Surjeet Singh S/O Khajur Singh Resident Of Village Chhanni Manhasan, Po. Ghoh, Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Have Changed The Name Of My Wife From Suman To Suman Devi Vide Affidavit No In-Pb63313549541577v Dated 01 Dec 2023 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Smt Shanti Devi** W/O No G-110052 Pnr Late Ram Saran Resident Of Village Gho, Post Office Gho, Tehsil & Distt Pathankot (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Santi Devi To Shanti Devi Vide Affidavit No In-Pb6392843384823y Dated 04 Dec 2023 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Rita** Spouse Of Gs-177523n Gde-I (Oem) Bahadur Singh Resident Of Village Chhanni Maqimpur, Post Office Farida Nagar Tehsil & Distt Pathankot, State Punjab, Have Changed My Name From Rita To Reeta Rani Vide Affidavit Dated 05/12/2023 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot (Punjab).

**I, Army No.14653437h** Rank Hav Parminder Malik S/O Kanwar Singh R/O Vpo- Ram Nagar, Tehsil- Safidon, Distt- Jind, Haryana, India. Declare That In My Army Service Record My Mother's name Bedo Devi Is Wrong. But My Mother's Name Vedo Is Correct. Vide Affidavit Dated 05/12/2023 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur, Punjab.

**I, Baljeet Singh** S/o Santokh Singh R/o Vpo. Mari Panwan, Patti Angarh, Gurdaspur, Punjab have changed my spelling name from Baljeet Singh to Baljit Singh (Same Person).

I, hitherto known as Mohd Abdul Wasi S/o Mohammad Mannoon R/O H.No. 17-D, Silver Height Apartment, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Abdul Was Qureshi.

**I, Shakti Chand** Sharma S/o Prabh Dyal #3473/1, Sector 40-D Chandigarh have changed my name to Shakti Chand.

**I, Parveen Kumar** S/o Sh. Ved Parkash Arya R/O House No. 682, Sector -6, U.E., Kamal have changed my name from Parveen Arya to Parveen Kumar for all future purposes.

**I Arjun** S/O Puna Ram Sharma R/O H.No- 162 Force Colony Industrial Area Phase-II, Panchkula, Haryana, Have Changed My Name From Arjun To Arjun Sharma.

**I Sonu J Singh** S/O Jale Singh R/O Jhinjar(151), Jhijhar, Bhiwani, Haryana-127307 Have Changed My Name To Jaiprakash Jain.

**I, Achyutananda Rout** S/o Nk Satyaswarup Rout R/o Po. Chandapur, Distt.Dhenkanal, Odisha-759019, have changed my name from Achyutananda Rout to Achutananda Rout due to erroneously recorded in service documents of my son vide affidavit dated 04/12/2023 before Executive Magistrate Jalandhar.

**I, Ranjna Kohli** W/o Prem Kumar R/o H.No. 75, Green Park, Jalandhar-144033, Punjab have changed my name spelling from Ranjna Kohli to Ranjana Kohli.

**I, Sohan Singh** S/o Kartar Singh R/O Village Pandori Khas, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar-144040, Punjab have changed my name from Sohan Singh to Mohan Singh.

**I, Mandeep Kaur** W/o Jaswinder Singh R/o VPO. Bajuha Khurd, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar-144033, Punjab have changed my name from Mandeep Kaur to Paramjit Kaur.

**I Manjeet Kaur** W/O Makhan Singh R/O Village Madhopur, Tehsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala Have Changed My Name From Manjeet Kaur To Manjit Kaur.

**I Manisha** W/O Anil Makora R/O Village Anihar, P.O. Bara Pind, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Manisha To Manisha Makora.

**I Sreshtha Rani** W/O Satnam Singh R/O Village Khanni P.O. Lalwan Tehsil Garhshankar District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Sarishtha Rani.

**I Neha** D/O Paramjit Singh R/O H.No.385, St.No.5, Subhash Nagar Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Neha To Neha Kaur.

**I Jaginder Kaur** W/O Ashwani Kumar R/O Vpo. Hukran District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Jaginder Kaur To Joginder Kaur.

**I Baljinder Kaur** W/O Dilbagh Singh R/O Vpo. Mattewal District Amritsar Punjab Declare That My Husband Is Known By Both Names I.E Dilbagh Singh And Dilbag Singh.

**I Gursharnpreet Singh** S/O Pargat Singh R/O Vpo. Kaliawala, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Gursharanpreet Singh.

**I Kuldeep Singh** Gill S/O Davinder Singh R/O Vpo. Pakhi Kalan Distt. Faridkot Punjab Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Singh.

**I Manpreet Singh** Kattiri S/O Avtar Singh R/O Patti Mahirmir Chuhar Chak, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Manpreet Singh.

**I Karamjeet Singh** Gharu S/O Manjeet Singh R/O H.No.-77 W.No.-12 St.No.-22 Dogar Basti Faridkot Punjab Have Changed My Name To Karamjeet Singh.

**I Kuldeep Kour** W/O Jarnail Singh R/O Vpo. Deep Singh Wala Distt. Faridkot Punjab Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Kaur.

**I Aastha** W/O Harjot Singh Bedi R/O H.No.-D-135 J L P L Canal View Enclave Jaspal Bangar (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name To Aastha Bedi.

**I Vinod Kumar** S/O Ram Krishan Dhiman R/O H.No.-108-A Ground Floor Shiwjit Enclave Kharar S.A.S Nagar (Mohali) Have Changed My Name To Vinod Kumar Dhiman.

**I Charanjit Kaur** And Charanjeet Kaur W/O Angrej Singh R/O Chanu Patti Village Bukan Wala Distt. Moga Am Known By Above Both Names.

**I Amrik Singh** Ghuman S/O Harbans Singh Village Behbawal Chhanian Tehsil Dasuya PO Nangal Bihalan Distt Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Daughter's Name Mannat Preet To Mannatpreet.

**I, Lovepreet Kaur** W/o Gurpreet Singh R/O Bhollowala, Distt Ferozepur Punjab, changed my name from Lovepreet Kaur to Paramjeet Kaur to make related notes.

**I, Neena** alias Neena Gothwal W/o Harish Kumar R/O H.No. 307 Phase-4 BDA Enclave Near Green City (Bathinda) have changed my name to Neena Chaudhary.

**I Bhupinder Singh** Valia S/O Bhagat Singh R/O Village Chaplanwalli Tehsil And District Mansa Have Changed My Name Bhupinder Singh.

**I Amritdeep Kaur** Dhillon D/o Jagraj Singh Vill Majhuke Tehsil Tapa, Distt. Bamala have changed my name Amritdeep Kaur.

**I, Anita Sharma** W/O Pankaj Sharma R/o H.No. 131-B-V.No. 33 Near Rasila Ashram Guru Ram Dass Enclave (Jalandhar) have known by both names Neetu Sharma and Anita Sharma one and the same person.

**I, Gurmeet Singh** S/o Nachhattar Singh R/o Bassian (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Gurmeet Singh Bhullar.

**I, Akashdeep Singh** S/o Gurmeet Singh Bhullar R/o Bassian (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Akashdeep Singh Bhullar.

**I Mandeep Kaur** W/O Gurwinder Bir Singh Sandhu R/O Village Jauneke District Tarn Taran I Have Changed My Name To Mandeep Kaur Sandhu.

**I Jaspreet Kaur** Swaan W/O Varinder Singh Kalyan R/O Village Jalaidwal Tehsil Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Jaspreet Kaur Kalyan.

**I, Sukhvinder Singh** S/o Harchand Singh R/O H.No.114, Village Bhadla Ucha, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Sukhvinder Singh.

**I, Sukhjeet Singh** S/o Virvarinder Singh R/o Vpo Chak Muafi, Tehsil Samrala (Ludhiana) declare that my name be read as given name Sukhjeet and Surname Singh.

**I Udik Singh** Sandha S/o Jodh singh R/o Vpo Jwan Arain Tehsil Guruharsahai & Distt Ferozepur Punjab, have changed my name to Udik Singh.

**I Maninder Gill** S/o Iqbal Gill R/o House No 134-A, Ferozepur Road Rajguru Nagar, Ludhiana Distt Ludhiana Have Changed My name to Maninder Singh Gill.

**I Balraj Singh** Dhillon S/o Tarsem Singh R/o Village Chak Jamit Singh Wala Tehsil Guruharsahai Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name Balraj Singh Dhillon to Balraj Singh.

**I, Rutmanjeet Singh** S/o Karj Singh R/o Chak Shikargah, Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Singh is my Surname and Rutmanjeet is my given name.

**I Dilbag Singh** S/o Sarban Singh R/O Village Wander District Moga have changed my name to Dilbag Singh.

**I Makhan Singh** Brar S/o Chanan Singh R/o Village Rauwala (Faridkot) have changed my name to Makhan Singh.

**I Gurlab Singh** Dhillon S/o Jalandhar Singh R/O Village Dhab Guro Ki (Faridkot) have changed my name to Gurlabh Singh.

I hitherto known as Lovepreet Kaur Sidhu W/O Vipan Kumar Grover R/O H.No.445, W.No.25 St.No.17/3 Preet Nagar Moga Punjab-142001 India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Lovepreet Kaur.

**I Gaurav Khetarpal** S/O Trilok Khetarpal R/O # 1227/2, Shankarpuri, Jagadhri, Distt Yamunanagar have Changed my name from Gourav Khetarpal to Gaurav Khetarpal.

**I Dharampreet Kaur** W/o Gurwinder Singh R/O Ward No. 4, Baba Deep Singh Colony, Rajpura, District Patiala, Punjab-140401 have changed my name to Dharam Kaur.

**I Neelam** W/o Balwinder Singh R/O Vill Faridpur Gujran Teh Rajpura Distt Patiala Changed My Name As Neelam Saini.

**I Rajinder Kaur** W/o Major Singh R/O Vill Gharama Khurd Teh Rajpura Distt Patiala Changed My Name As Harjinder Kaur.

**I, Harpreet Bajwa** W/O Sh. Ravinderjit Singh Bajwa, Permanent Resident Of H.No. 13, Ward No. 2, Baijwa House, Behind Milk Chilling Plant, Dasua, District. Hoshiarpur At Present Resident Of Kot



# Int’l Gita Mahotsav to be organised in Kurukshetra from Dec 7 to 24: Hry CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said that the International Gita Mahotsav will be organised in Kurukshetra from December 7 to December 24 and Assam will be a partner state.

Addressing a news conference here, he said Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will officially inaugurate the festival with Gita Yajna and worship at Brahma Sarovar and will also inaugurate the three-day International Gita Seminar at Kurukshetra University. The seminar, scheduled to run until December 19, will witness the participation of Gita enthusiasts, scholars, and researchers from India and abroad. They will present their research papers on the theme of world peace and harmony.

Khattar said that the International Gita Mahotsav Fair is progressing towards



financial self-sustainability. In a strategic move akin to the organization of the Kumbh Mela, a dedicated fair authority will be established for the International Gita Mahotsav. This autonomous body will independently organize and manage the event. The government will appoint a fair officer to oversee the arrangements, while the fair authority will take charge of planning and executing the festival.

The CM urged all the residents of the state to come together and recite the Gita

shaloka collectively for one minute at 11 am on December 23, in honor of Gita Jayanti, he said the International Gita Mahotsav will kick off with a Crafts and Saras mela on the banks of the holy Brahmasarovar of Kurukshetra on December 7 which will showcase the talents of nationally renowned artists and craftsmen. A dedicated Haryana Pavilion, featuring folk dance, crafts, small-scale industries, and local cuisine, will be established to acquaint tourists and pilgrims with the rich culture of Haryana.

Additionally, exhibitions highlighting the development and progress of Haryana will be organized by various departments, providing information about government welfare schemes and regional advancements. To maximize the visitor experience, the festival will span 18 days this year, up from the previous duration of 16 days. Gita Utsav programs will be held in every district for two days on December 22 and 23. Indian Council for Cultural Affairs (ICCR) will also participate in this Mahotsav, he added.

Khattar said that on

December 23, a conference focusing on the pilgrimages within the 48 Kos Kurukshetra will take place at Kurukshetra University. Representatives from 164 pilgrimage committees in Kurukshetra will participate, bringing soil and water from their respective pilgrimages to later create an idol of Lord Krishna. On the same day, Gita Jayanti, a global Gita recitation will be led by 18,000 students in Kurukshetra. To commemorate Gita Jayanti, Deepotsav will be organized at all 164 pilgrimage sites in Kurukshetra on December 23.

The CM said that fun fair activities will be organized for devotees in the fair area from December 7 to 24 and students will have the opportunity to participate in various competitions, including Rangoli, clay modeling, Sanjhi, pot decoration, fancy dress, tableau, and poster making. To engage participants further, an online Gita quiz competition has been ongoing since November 26 and will continue until December 6. Over 70000 citizens, including students, have registered for this online competition, reflecting the widespread interest in the event.

# Punjab CM directs police to intensify crusade against drug menace

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To make Punjab a drug-free state, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann convened a crucial meeting on Tuesday with the Commissioners of Police (CPs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), urging them to ramp up their crusade against the drug menace.

Mann, during the meeting, emphasized the need for adopting a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, underscoring the significant strides already made by the Punjab Police in severing the supply lines and apprehending major drug peddlers. Acknowledging these achievements, the Chief Minister called for a relentless continuation of these efforts, stressing that the battle against drugs must be waged from the grassroots level.

The Chief Minister directed the police force to expedite the process of attaching the properties acquired by drug peddlers through illicit drug money, to strike at the financial foundations of the drug networks operating in the State. The Chief Minister also asserted that the officers must execute their duties with honesty



and dedication, devoid of any external pressures.

“We have launched a decisive war against drugs, and we must wipe out this curse from our beloved state,” said Mann, reinforcing the Punjab Government’s unwavering commitment to eradicate the drug menace.

Furthermore, Mann called for an enhancement of field visits by police officers to actively address and resolve the issues faced by the people at the grassroots level. He emphasized the importance of community engagement in fostering a safer and drug-free environment.

Asking the officers to adopt a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, Mann said that the Punjab Police had already snapped the supply line of drugs and big drug peddlers

had been put behind bars. This drive should be further continued and action against the drugs must be taken from the grassroots level, he added.

The Chief Minister also asked the officers to ensure that Punjab Police uphold its glorious record of discharging its duty efficiently. “Maintenance of the law and order must be accorded top priority by the officers and no stone should be left unturned for it. Severest of severe action must be taken against the organized crime and thrust must be laid to check and solve the cases of extortion and ransom,” he added.

“The officers must discharge their duty neutrally and diligently, as per the law of land. SSPs must undertake field visits and resolve the issues of the public by going amongst them... This will instill a sense of confidence amongst the people which will be helpful to Police in solving the matters related to the general public,” he added.

At the same time, the Chief Minister asked the officers to enhance vigil in the crowded areas, especially the markets, across the state. “It is need of the hour to preserve the hard-

earned peace of the State by nabbing the anti-social elements and forces inimical to the State,” said Mann unequivocally, adding that no one should be allowed to take the law in their hands and such elements should be dealt with sternly.

Apart from drugs and law and order, the Chief Minister asked the officers to check the menace of illegal mining, if any, in the areas under their jurisdiction. He made it clear that this illegal activity should be checked heavily and no one involved in this crime should be spared. “If anyone indulges in this crime, serious and exemplary action must be taken against him,” he directed.

Also taking cognizance of the reports about use of mobile phones in jails, the Chief Minister asked the officers to check this illegal activity. He unequivocally said that such sort of laxity on part of the jail staff and Police is unwarranted and undesirable. He asked the officers to take strict action against anyone indulging in such activity adding that the staff or officer responsible for the lapse should be brought to book.

## Khattar launches portal of Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday launched a Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojna portal in a programme held at Purushottapura Bagh in Kurukshetra district. The scheme is specifically designed for the elderly members of economically disadvantaged families, offering them the opportunity to visit pilgrimage sites at no cost. Under this scheme, individuals aged 60 years and above from Below Poverty Line families will be eligible for free pilgrimages, he added.

Khattar He said that one railway bogie has already been booked under the scheme and the first batch is scheduled to embark on a journey to Ayodhya after January 22. He

expressed intentions to expand its scope in the future. He also acknowledged the historic moment of constructing the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya after a prolonged struggle, deeming it a source of pride for every citizen.

Additional Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister and Director General of the Information, Public Relations, Language, and Culture Department, Dr Amit Agrawal said that significant strides have been made in the past nine years to showcase Haryana’s cultural heritage on the global stage. He highlighted various government initiatives, including the restoration of the Saraswati river and the development of Rakhigarhi and Agroha, aimed at presenting Haryana’s cultural heritage on a global scale.

## Pb Minister Bhullar leads eviction drive in Dera Bassi

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/DERA BASSI

In a move to reclaim Panchayat land under illegal occupation, Punjab’s Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar on Tuesday spearheaded an eviction drive in the Dera Bassi block and personally operated a tractor to vacate 100 acres of Panchayat land at Sundran village.

Highlighting the magni-

tude of the encroachment, Bhullar said the reclaimed land, situated in both residential and industrial zones, holds a substantial market value of approximately Rs 100 crores. He underscored the commitment to retrieve Panchayat land from illegal possession and mentioned that efforts are underway to resolve the legal intricacies concerning the remaining 12 acres, currently under court stay.

## Punjab police arrest Pak-based terrorist Rode’s associate from Amritsar airport

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

Punjab Police’s State Special Operation Cell (SSOC), Amritsar, has busted a terrorist recruitment, funding, and aiding module with the arrest of Pak-based terrorist Lakhbir Rode’s close associate identified as Paramjit Singh alias Punjab Singh alias Dhadi from Sri Guru Ram Das Airport in Amritsar.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Tuesday said that Paramjit Singh, a British citizen and a founder member of International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), was initially involved in terror activities in Punjab in the early 90s and was later arrested in 2003 and was convicted in cases pertaining to terrorist activities. After completion of his sentence, the accused returned to the UK but continued his activities in ISYF by working as a motivator, recruiter, and fundraiser for the organization in the UK and other European countries, he added.

Yadav said that in 2021, accused Paramjit Dhadi’s name was figured for his involvement in reorganizing of ISYF cadre in Punjab by arranging and providing funds and militant hardware to target specific persons for disrupting peace and harmony in the State. Following Dhadi’s involvement in terror funding and other subversive activities in Punjab, an LOC (look out circular) was got issued to ensure his arrest, he said.


Terming it as yet another major blow to the terror module attempting to disturb peace in the region, the DGP said that investigation is on to unearth and expose the whole terrorist network. Sharing more details, SSOC Amritsar AIG

Sukhminder Singh Mann said that accused Paramjit Dhadi was detained by immigration authorities at Sri Guru Ram Das Airport, Amritsar, on Monday, while he was going to board a plane to UK on a British Passport in the name of Punjab Singh. “During preliminary investigations, it came to light that Dhadi was regularly in touch with Lakhbir Singh Rode. The accused was a frequent visitor to Pakistan and on the instructions of Rode, he used to identify and handpick youth using social media platforms to motivate them to be part of terrorist activities,” said AIG Mann.


**Bhindranwale’s nephew, KLF chief Lakhbir Singh Rode Dies in Pakistan**

Lakhbir Singh Rode, the chief of banned outfits Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), reportedly passed away in Pakistan on December 1 after suffering a heart attack. He was 72. Rode, listed as an ‘individual terrorist’ under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, had been residing in Pakistan since fleeing from India. The nephew of the slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, Rode was a significant figure associated with the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). His death was attributed to a heart attack, and he has already been cremated in Pakistan, as confirmed by his brother and former Akal Takht Jathedar Jasbir Singh Rode.

Rode’s links extended to Islamist militant groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), leading to the ban of ISYF under the Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act (POTA) on March 22, 2002. The UK also imposed a ban on the group in 2001. Rode faced accusations related to the Kanishka bombing.



Government of Haryana



### Nation Remembers


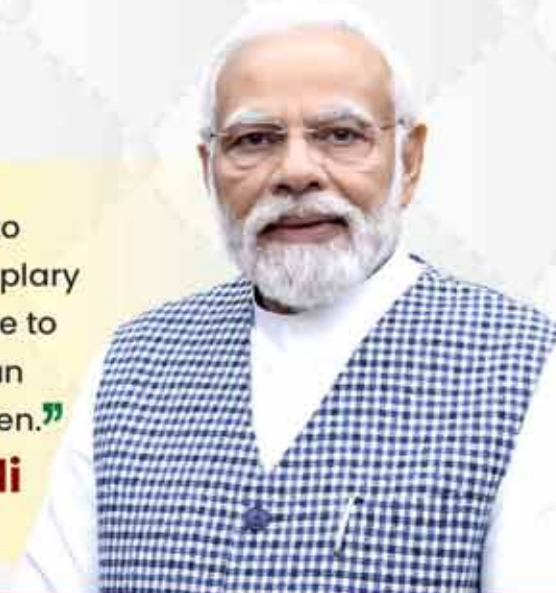
# Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

on

# Mahaparinirvan Diwas

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## December 6, 2023



“ On Mahaparinirvan Diwas, I pay homage to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and recall his exemplary service to our nation. His struggles gave hope to millions and his efforts to give India such an extensive Constitution can never be forgotten.”

**- Narendra Modi**

Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, Haryana

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	SH.MAHAVEER SINGH S/O SH. BHIKKAN SINGH, Hno-103/6,Sallagarh,near sharda covent. school, Palwal (Borrower) Sh.Bhagat Singh S/o Sh.Bhikam Singh R/o Hno- 103/6,Sallagarh, near sharda covent school, Palwal (Gurantor) Sh. Mahesh kumar S/o Sh. Girraj Singh R/o New basti sallagarh, Palwal (Gurantor)	C. 26.02.2020 D. Symbolic	and Within Municipal limits of Palwal, Tehsil & Distt.-Palwal, in name of Sh. Mahaveer Singh & Bhagat Singh both S/os Sh. Bhikkam Singh. Bank Identification of property as under:- East: property of Parshadi,at present chaupal, West: Rasta/ Sarak at present other property North: Rasta at present other property, South: Area of Mr. Kulbir at present other property	(G) Rs. 10,000/-	SHGB, Branch Office: Palwal	
2.	Palwal (7689)	(A) 09.05.2019	House no to the extent of 3/52th share in Khwat khata no 456/531, Khasra no 1011 (1-6) and 5/28th share in khasra no. 1012 (0-14), total area 2 kanal, the share comes 04 Marla, Grand Total Comes: 4 Marla situated within moja palwal, Krishna Colony Harijan Basti and within the municipal limits of Tehsil and District Palwal. Bank Identification of property as under:- East: Rasta Aam, West: 30 House of Omi North: 36' Sohna Road, South 36' Road	(E) Rs.27,01,000/- (F) Rs.2,70,000/-	28.12.2023 10:00 A.M	Not known
	SH.RAGHVEER SINGH S/O SH.BADAN SINGH	(B) ) Rs. 6,03,292/- Plus interest & charges w.r.f 01-10-2018 less net recovery until payment in full				
	SH.RAGHVEER SINGH S/O SH. BADAN SINGH,	C. 20.02.2020 (D) Symbolic		(G) Rs. 10,000/-	SHGB, Branch Office: Palwal	
	Sohna Road,(Hathin Gate),Near Mangla Medical Store, kanooog Mohalla,Palwal,Distt.- Palwal (Borrower) Sh.Raju S/o Sh.Fateh Singh, R/O- kanooog Mohalla,Palwal (Gurantor)					

**Other terms and conditions are as under:-**

The above assets are non-encumbered to anyone except Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank as per our best knowledge and belief. 'Authorized Officer' shall be entitled to postpone or discontinue sale at any time before the date and time fixed for auction for any reason whatsoever including the payment in full by the borrower. Bank also reserves the right to withdraw any property or portion thereof at any stage before confirmation of sale.

Interested parties can inspect the assets at site up to 25.12.2023 from 11:00AM. to 04:00 PM.

**BRIEF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION SALE:**

1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions
2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".
3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
4. The sale will be done through auction on above mentioned dates.
5. Last date for submitting the EMD for Immovable Property will be one day before date of Auction in the Branch office of concerned Account of Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank.
6. Sale will not be affected below the reserve price. The highest bidder shall be declared as purchaser provided that he is legally qualified to bid. It shall be at the discretion of the undersigned to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the Authorized Officer conducting the sale to adjourn. Bank reserves its right for open auction among tenders and will not be bound to accept the highest bid. The Bank reserves its right to cancel, postpone and indefinitely defer the sale process without assigning any reason. The successful bidder will have to deposit an initial amount of 25% of the tender amount (inclusive earnest money deposited) on the date of auction or within extended time as permitted by Authorized Officer by way of DD/Pay order drawn as above. The balance amount (75% of tender amount) should be deposited within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale or extended time as permitted by Authorized Officer by way of DD/Pay order drawn above. In case bidder fails to deposit the amount as specified above i.e. 25% and 75% of tender amount within time limit granted, the earnest money/initial amount received shall be forfeited. On confirmation of sale by secured creditor and if the terms of the payment have been complied with the Authorized Officer exercising the power of sale, shall issue a certificate of sale of the aforesaid property in favor of the purchaser. All the expenses in connection with Registration of the property shall be borne by the Purchaser. The particulars specified in the schedule hereinabove, have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, miss-statement or omission in the sale proclamation. The Secured Creditor does not in any case, warrant the fitness, quality or usability of the property being sold. The paper possession of the assets shall be delivered only on payment of the full amount of the tender money.

**Place: Palwal Date: 05.12.2023**

**Authorized Officer, Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank, Regional Office: Nuh**



HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT						
NOTICE INVITING TENDER						
<p>Sealed item rate / percentage rate tender are hereby invited on Form No. 6 &amp; 8 by the Executive Engineer, Bhoranj Division, HP-PWD, Bhoranj on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors/ firms of appropriate class enlisted in HPPWD (B&amp;R) whose registration stood registered under the H.P. General Sales tax Act, 1968. As per latest instructions so as to reach and open in his office as per time schedule given below. The offer of the tender will be kept open for 20 days from the date of opening of the tenders. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.</p> <p>1. Date of receipt of Applications for tender form a/w requisite documents:- <b>07.12.2023 upto 4.00 PM.</b>  2. Date of issue/Sale of tender forms against Cash payment (Non- refundable):- <b>08.12.2023 (2.00 PM to 5.00 PM),</b>  3. Date of receipt of Tender:- <b>11.12.2023 at 10.30 AM.</b>  4. Date of opening of Tender:- <b>11.12.2023 at 11.30 AM.</b></p>						
Sr. No.	Name of Road	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time	Cost of Tender Form	Eligible class of Contractor
1	A/R & M/O Various roads under HPPWD Sub Division Bhoranj (SH: - P/F Rumble strip at various road) (Section Bharen)	331500/-	6500/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
2	Special repair Una Aghar Mandi road (SH: - P/L interlocking paverblock pavement at Ladrouh Bazar) (MMGSY)	499843/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
3	Special repair Una Aghar Mandi road (SH: - P/L interlocking paverblock pavement and V/U s hape drain with 450mm dia RCC pipe i/c footpath at RD 78/375 to 78/450) (MMGSY)	498414/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
4	Special repair Una Aghar Mandi road (SH: - P/L interlocking paverblock pavement at Ladrouh Bazar) (MMGSY)	498579/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
5	R/R damages on Dungi Kanjan road km. 0/0 to 5/050, Link road Doh to Doh km. 0/0 to 2/0 under HPPWD sub Division, Samipur (SH: - Providing and manufacturing sign board)	245000/-	5000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
6	C/O Link road from Bhukkar Chowk to Village colony Diyungli in GP Kakkar km. 0/0 to 2/0 (SH: - P/L cement concrete pavement at RD. 0/0 to 0/112) (MMGSY)	499145/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
7	C/O Link road from Bhukkar Chowk to Village colony Diyungli in GP Kakkar km. 0/0 to 2/0 (SH: - C/O W/wall of slab type culvert both sides downstream at RD 0/05 to 0/025) (MMGSY)	498870/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
8	C/O Link road from Bajroh School to Village Baroh via Gehra (SH: - P/L MT at RD. 0/540 to 0/735) (Under MMGSY)	498754/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
9	C/O Link road from Bajroh School to Village Baroh via Gehra (SH: - P/L MT at RD. 0/345 to 0/540) (Under MMGSY)	498061/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
10	C/O Link road Amroh Chandruhi km. 0/0 to 4/225 (SH: - P/L interlocking paverblock at RD. 1/180 to 1/210 & 1/115 to 1/155) (OTMNP)	491476/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
11	R/R damages on Dungi Mehal via Chanderwar road (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD. 1/675 to 1/690 and 2/030 to 2/032) (D eposit work)	270632/-	5500/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
12	R/R damages on Awahdevi Chamboh via Hayor road km. 0/0 to 4/00 (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD. 3/550 to 3/562)	283121/-	6000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
13	C/O Link road Kotlu to Kasiyana km. 0/0 to 2/0 (SH: - P/L GSB WMM and premix carpet with seal coat km. 1/650 to 1/800) MMGSY	492209/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
14	C/O Link road Kotlu to Kasiyana km. 0/0 to 2/0 (SH: - C/O B/Wall at RD. 1/210 to 1/220 and Tarning at RD. 1/850 to 1/940) MM GSY	486673/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
15	C/O Link road Kotlu to Kasiyana km. 0/0 to 2/0 (SH: - P/L interlocking paverblock pavement at RD. 1/170 to 1/200 and CC pavement at RD. 1/600 to 1/650) MMGSY	414871/-	9000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
16	A/R & M/O Bridge over Sunehal Khad at RD. 3/285 on Kot to Jahu via Tuls Mundkhar road km. 1/705 to 3/540 (SH: - Painging and white washing)) MMGSY	375264/-	7500/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
17	R/R damages on Link road Shaheed Ankush Thakur in Village Karohta Tehsil Bhoranj Distt. Hamripur km. 0/0 to 1/500 (SH: - P/L interlocking paver block pavement at RD 0/210 to 0/310)	476875/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
18	R/R damages on Awahdevi Bagwara Gharan Dera Parol km. 0/0 to 9/750 (SH: - P/L wire crate at RD. 4/090 to 4/120)	493919/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
19	R/R damages on Awahdevi Bagwara Gharan Dera Parol km. 0/0 to 9/750 (SH: - P/L wire crate at RD. 4/045 to 4/090)	497418/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
20	R/R damages on A wahdevi Bagwara Gharan Dera Parol km. 0/0 to 9/750 (SH: - P/L wire crate at RD. 3/985 to 4/015)	493925/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
21	R/R damages on Awahdevi Bagwara Gharan Dera Parol km. 0/0 to 9/750 (SH: - P/L wire crate at RD. 4/015 to 4/045)	494491/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
22	R/R damages on Una Aghar Mandi road km. 89/0 to 91/0 (SH: - C/O R/wall at RD 83/970 to 83/980)	214183/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
23	C/O link road Nuahara to Kanjan via Bahdru km. 0/0 to 4/00 (SH: - Formation cutting 57'nftr wide road km. 3/795 to 3/885) SCSPP	480853/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
24	Restoration of rain damages on Awahdevi Bagwara Gharan Dera Parol road km. 0/0 to 9/750 (SH: - Restoration of road surface by filling available excavated earth in various RDs)	499785/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
25	C/O Link road Ambedkar Bhawan to Dhamrol km. 0/0 to 1/600 (SH: - P/L GSB & CC pavement at RD. 0/200 to 0/343) (under MMGSY)	467767/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
26	C/O Link road Ambedkar Bhawan to Dhamrol km. 0/0 to 1/600 (SH: - P/L GSB & CC pavement at RD. 0/343 to 0/486) (under MMGSY)	467767/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
27	C/O road from Bagwara to Daboh Dalit Basti (SH: - P/L CC and interlocking paverblock pavement at RD. 0/100 to 0/170) MMGSY	485767/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
28	C/O road from Bagwara to Daboh Dalit Basti (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD 0/190 to 0/200 and B/Wall at RD 0/180 to 0/200) MMGSY	435586/-	9000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
29	Restoration of rain damages on various roads under Bhoranj Sub Division (SH: - Repair of berms and unlined surface drain on various roads in Bharen, Patta, Jahu and Bhoranj section)	494490/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-	Class-D
30	C/O Link road from Bajroh to Dho via Gadola km. 0/0 to 2/850 (SH: - C/O 900mm dia hume pipe culvert at RD 1/030 and 1/195) (SCDP)	499017/-	10000/-	Two months	Rs	

PUBLIC NOTICE	Public Notice	Disclaimer
<p>Mrs. Sharda Devi Wam Kumari R/o Ward No.19, Belamandri (Rural) wants to avail a loan against property from Fimova Capital Pvt. Ltd, Hsare, having its branch at Hsare against property- Plot no. 6, Khevali no. 128, Khatoni no. 159, Khatoni no. 160, Khatoni no. 161 &amp; 162, Sarsa Village (50-KM-51, 1/32 share out of 80-000), Gair Murkin situated in the revenue estate of Village Bhat, Belamandri, District Bathinda, Punjab.</p> <p>The owner of the above said property is Sharda Devi Wam Kumari and it is informed that one original document i.e. sale deed no. 2165 dated 12.2.2015 with regard to the above said property has missed and same is not traced out. If any person/Entity/DSA/Financial Institution/ Bank/ Government, may have obtained or has issued any loan/Staff Order/ Court Case against this property as well as this document or have any objection of any kind with regard to giving loan on above said property, They can file an objection regarding the use of above said documents as well as property within 14 days from the date of this advertisement to the below mentioned person on the address or contact numbers given and after 14 days no claim shall be admitted and it would be assumed that the property is free from encumbrance as far as the above documents are concerned. Rights/Associates Adv. Bhupinder Kumar, Cont. No. 8295949891</p>	<p>It is brought to the Notice of the Public at large that At the time of handing over the title deeds of the property it has been found that Transfer Deed No. 1637 dated 20.2.2020 executed by Sundar Singh son of Ranjit Singh in original of the property owner, it is informed by the party, the same has not been used for other purposes by the property owner and the same has been lost. If anybody has any objection regarding the mortgaging of the same, may respond within Seven days, to the undersigned. If after the expiry of the said period of Seven days, no claim whatsoever shall be entertained. The detail of the property is as under- Detail of property: Property measuring 0.2 Khar 10 Paisa 12 Shas of and measuring 0.10 Khat 10 Marla comprised in Kharsa No.702 in 0-10, Khata No.75/231 as per jamabandi for the year 2013-14, Situated within the revenue limits of Neharwal tehsil Neharwal District Bathinda standing in the name of Sundar Singh son of Ranjit Singh son of Dharm Singh</p> <p><b>KULDEEP SINGH, ADVOCATE, CHAMBER NO 646, ANVAY CHAMBER, DISTRICT COURTS, BATHINDA, MO.9356445777.</b></p>	<p>The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents for the advertisement (Display / Classified) carried in this newspaper. The Paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the content on their own.</p>

**COURT NOTICE**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**  
(Order 5, rules 20 of the Code of Civil Procedures)

**IN THE COURT OF:- Sh. Disha Singh, CJ-02, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi Room No.361.**

**SUIT No. CS/1109/21**

**Title: HARGUNN SINGH VS SUMAN MAHAJAN & ORS.**

**To**

**1. MS. SUMAN MAHAJAN**  
**PROP. OF REHANAI INDUSTRIES**  
**OFFICE AT-SUB URBAN ESTATE, FATEH SINGH COLONY, BHRADIWAL, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB**


**2. ROHIT MAHAJAN**  
**OFFICE AT- SUB URBAN ESTATE, FATEH SINGH COLONY, BHRADIWAL, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB.**

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summon it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **20/12/2023** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.


GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this **22/11/2023**

**CIVIL JUDGE-02,**  
**DELHI**

**Classified Ad**



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**OR BLACK AN**  
**CONTACT:**

of Law, SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (Deemed to be University), Chandigarh Campus have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). It was signed by Rani Bindu Sachdeva, IPS, Director, CDTI, Chandigarh and Prof. (Dr.) Jaskiran Kaur, Campus Director, NMIMS, Chandigarh Campus on behalf of their respective Organizations. Sachdeva said that CDTI has been proactive in training and organizing awareness programmes at various educational institutions and their step of signing their 1 st MoU with an educational Institute was due to the reputation of NMIMS being one of the best names to reckon with quality law education. Dr Kaur emphasised upon the fact that this collaboration would help bridge the gap between theoretical and practical learning of the law students.

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## Advertisement




Illustration of a person reading a newspaper. The newspaper has the word 'NEWS' visible on its front page.

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## Sensible approach

Cong will do well not to dwell on the Assembly poll debacle and heed PM Modi’s sound advice

The Assembly poll results in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have bruised the Opposition, particularly the Congress. The defeat in the Hindi heartland raises questions about its strategy, also triggering concerns about its impact on the winter session in its weakened avatar. The rout has prompted its leaders, workers and supporters alike questioning the efficacy of their campaign strategies and leadership choices. The winter session of Parliament comes immediately after the declaration of results, making it important for the Congress to register its presence on the political landscape. So it might resort to pandemonium, walkouts, sloganeering and entering the well to disrupt proceedings. The defeat may also affect the morale of Congress members, leading to potential rifts and groupism. Causing further embarrassment to the Congress, Trinamool’s Mamata Banerjee and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav — already unhappy with the party over its indifference in attending a seat-sharing meeting with the INDIA bloc members ever since the last round of State elections was announced as it reportedly wanted to focus on the polls — have declared that they have no plan to attend today’s INDIA all-party meeting at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge’s residence.

The Congress, as the principal Opposition party, is supposed to play a crucial role in shaping House discussions, debates, legislative agenda and steering the bloc. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call for a balanced approach in Parliament, despite the heated post-election atmosphere, underscores the need for constructive debate. The Congress would do well to introspect rather than finding fault with the system or blaming the BJP for the results. Following the rather surprising verdict, Modi has urged the Opposition MPs not to vent their anger in Parliament. The call for restraint comes at a time when tensions are high, and there is a risk of disruption. The appeal for a dignified and constructive approach to parliamentary proceedings highlights the importance of maintaining decorum and focusing on the nation’s priorities. Unfortunately, however, the PM’s own party has other ideas. Amit Malviya, the BJP’s IT cell head, mocked, “Where is Rahul Gandhi hiding?” Malviya, and for that matter the huge troll army at the BJP’s disposal, would do well not to provoke the Congress as that will result only in more acrimony. It is crucial for all political parties, including the BJP and the Congress, to prioritise the nation over partisan interests. The Assembly election results should serve as a catalyst for introspection, reform and improvement rather than leading to a confrontational stance. The session presents the Congress with an opportunity to reevaluate its strategy and leadership and connect with the electorate. It can be a platform for the party to articulate a clear vision for the future, demonstrating resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity.

### PICTALK



A farmer carries harvested rice as a herd of wild elephants gathers in a field in search of food, in Nagaon

# Only right education can ensure world peace

The quality of school education deserves maximum attention, particularly in terms of teacher education and recruitment, vocational skills and interest identification

The strife-torn world aspires to witness days of no wars, and no violence for future generations. One could safely state that even those who are busy fighting the Ukraine-Russia war, or Israel - Palestine war; or busy in violence in the name of fundamentalism and terrorism, must be somewhere inside willing to give a tension-violence-war free world to their future generations. Probably some select ones could still be under the illusion that their Truth is the only Truth, and all others who do not toe the line must be brought within the fold by even by violence would like their generations ahead to continue in the tradition of violence their Goal – certainly a utopia - stands achieved! One needs a really tough-nut optimist to even imagine that wars and violence could vanish from the face of the earth in the near future. However, the faith in human ingenuity and trust in the powers of love to create an environment of hope and inspire people to work for global peace. The way out is only one; follow the path of knowledge, and be conversant in applying the skill of discrimination to separate right from wrong, light from darkness, real from false, and Truth from Untruth! This is not the oft-quoted cliché! It is the only alternative available to human beings for the very survival of the human race on the planet Earth, and the planet itself.

The mute question before India and Indians is: are we preparing ourselves to become the soldiers of peace and harmony within the boundaries of India, and then establish that the only way is the Indian way that respects diversity, universality of the human race, and responsibility of human beings to care for every human being, and most importantly, the nature that sustains humans so long it is treated in the appropriate manner! In the third decade of the third millennium, it is evident that as the world moves ahead in its dependence on knowledge, the emergence of an enlightened and cohesive people; and a strong, prosperous, enterprising, nation would prominently depend on good quality



education and dynamic skill acquisition which are the two of its most powerful pivots. India’s achievements in education in the post-independence period are indeed praiseworthy. From a literacy rate of around 18%, in 1947 we are now touching 80%! Initiatives taken at the policy level, support extended to the community and adequate comprehension of their key role by teachers, academics, scholars and people have contributed to reaching the present position. Credit must also go to three major policy formulations in education - 1968, 1986 and 1992 - that have taken a comprehensive view of the emerging needs of the nation, changing national and international scenarios and aspirations of the young of India. Each one of these confronted the inherited legacy of a transplanted alien system of education and made an attempt to move away from it. It has not been an easy task. However, India is now well-equipped with the necessary experience and expertise and has successfully formulated a policy that is ‘rooted to culture and committed to progress’. It envisages India’s prominent role in global human endeavours to create new knowledge and explore every possibility of its use for the benefit of humanity. The NEP-2020 is essentially an articulation of the fundamen-

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THE WAY OUT IS ONLY ONE; FOLLOW THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE AND BE CONVERSANT IN APPLYING THE SKILL OF DISCRIMINATION TO SEPARATE THE RIGHT FROM WRONG

tal role of education in ‘achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development’. It responds with the confidence of an alert and active nation to achieve the SDG-4 that seeks to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote; lifelong learning opportunities for all”. The challenge before the academia of the nation is how to ensure quality education on a universal scale, dynamic skill acquisition and effective personal-ity development. This would require high levels of competence, commitment and performance from every teacher irrespective of his level or stage in the hierarchy. The NEP-2020 offers basic support by permitting flexibility in the choice of subjects of study and encourages multidisciplinary. Every learner could pursue the subject areas of his interest, he could study music and mathematics, or chemistry and philosophy. Flexibility and learner’s interest shall dominate the system. As the quality of school education paves the path for quality enhancement at higher levels, it deserves maximum attention, particularly in terms of teacher education and recruitment, vocational skills, individual attention and interest identification, and assessment procedures. It shall have to fully transform itself to ensure that ideas, imagination,

curiosity and creativity with which every child is blessed with is never impeded, but dexterously nourished. Hopefully; education shall get all the resource support in future, and the dilution of quality in certain aspects of education shall be redressed early. Only then the Indian education attract global attention and appreciation and shall not be ‘just the acquisition of knowledge as preparation for life in this world, or life beyond schooling, but for complete realisation and liberation of Soul’. True Indian education imbued with the legacy of ‘Worlds but one family’ could pave the path for global brotherhood in the world of today that is suffering in innumerable ways. The first step in India could be the transformation of elementary schools! Yes, if teachers are given the autonomy -and responsibility – to present a model of regularity, punctuality, discipline, honesty, integrity, empathy, broad vision, commitment to the profession, value-based conduct, and growing up in competence, the multiplier impact would be tremendous. That could transform work culture in every other sphere of life. For that, the nation must trust the teacher and look after him!

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A MEMORABLE PERSONALITY

Sir — On December 5, 1950, Sri Aurobindo left his body in Pondicherry. His far-sighted views on many issues are still relevant and deserve our attention. He had the foresight about the necessity of a socialist revolution for evolutionary progress. He wrote, “There is to be equality of opportunity for all, but also of status for all, for without the last the first cannot be secured; even if it were established, it could not endure (The Human Cycle: The Psychology of Social Development - page 201). On October Revolution he said to AB Purani that he was one of the influences that worked to make it a success (Evening Talks with Sri Aurobindo - Page 474). We cannot deny the contribution of the October Revolution towards human evolution. That brute capitalism made poor children die young after working as chimney sweepers, gives us enough reason to tip our hats to his foresight. Let us recall a line from William Blake’s poem, “The Chimney Sweeper: When my mother died I was very young”, “So your chimneys I sweep & in soot, I sleep.” As a result of the October Revolution, many socialist states emerged to take care of the potentialities of every human being. Human evolution again discarded the dictatorship of the proletariat of socialism as it had earlier thrown out the laissez-faire liberty of market players. However, the contribution of socialism to human evolution can never be denied as modern welfare states have come to balance between the liberty of capitalism and the equality of socialism. All modern welfare states including the United States of America have accepted the ideas of socialism in their policy of giving social security to the people like health care and handsome allowance for the unemployed. A true welfare state is more inclined to socialism than far-right capitalism.

Sujit De | Kolkata

### BJP’s spadework succeeds



Like every election season, this one too was filled with tall promises, speeches, and the blame games of netas. As in the past, it steered clear of all the noise and brought a fresh

lease of life bereft of the poll issues. As all attention now moves to the CM designates in states, we love to see the outcome across the five states. Unlike the 2023 World Cup cricket final (trigger warning: may revive trauma), where the match still had to be played to know the result, the result here is already decided. A range of exit polls have given their verdict on what they see as likely to happen in the five Assembly elections. With the BJP emerging as an impossible opponent to dislodge, is Madhya Pradesh the new Gujarat? The BJP has always won a higher vote share than the Congress this millennium. The thumping victory in MP made its model most amicable for its governance. The exit polls have gone awry but exact poll results proved BJP’s supremacy in state elections.

CK Subramaniam | Chennai

### DRUG ADDICTION

Sir — Today the country’s youth are falling into the swamp of drugs. One of the reasons for this is lack of stamina. Young people today lose their morale very quickly, which leads to depression and then falling into the trap of drug addiction. Parents should teach their children to fight situations and make them strong. The second big reason is that addiction has become popular nowadays. In many films, the actor is shown smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol, as a result of which young people are also inspired to become addicted to drugs. The biggest weakness of young people is accepting drugs as a fad by falling into bad company. Young people need to empower themselves and share any problems with their parents.

Ashraf Nawaz | Hyderabad

### SOIL POLLUTION: A CAUSE OF CONCERN

Sir — Soil pollution has received a different level of attention than water and air pollution. The chemicals emerging from industrial and agricultural practices cause land degradation. Untreated waste and waste waters have also destroyed

thousands of species of fish, birds and plants. Though soil has the innate property to filter out contaminants, it can do so only to a limited extent, the rest trickle out into the atmosphere. Direct contact with contaminated soil is a plausible reality. More than ninety per cent of people’s food is accrued through soil and, therefore, its conservation is crucial for the eco chain. The crippling effects of soil pollution, including congenital health disorders, infectious diseases and non-contagious diseases like cancer, have worried the health professionals. No doubt, environmental scientists have in their armoury various remedies to combat soil contamination like surface leaching, bioremediation, thermal remediation, mycoremediation and phytoremediation. Nonetheless, on December 5, World Soil Day, the responsibilities of an individual as an active contributor to the prevention and elimination of soil pollution cannot be overlooked.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Why did Gehlot lose despite his welfare schemes?

The BJP encashed the alleged massive corruption in the welfare schemes launched by Gehlot and people trusted Modi’s guarantee

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is ready to return to power in Rajasthan and in the elections held on 199 seats, BJP has won 114 seats and Congress 70 seats. But this is evident from the fact that the difference between the two parties appears so big. This marks a continuation of a three-decade-old trend of voters in the desert state changing governments every five years. This marks a major turnaround in the fortunes of the party, which was divided into factions and was struggling to counter the welfare agenda of the Ashok Gehlot-led government. To win in Rajasthan, the BJP targeted the Gehlot welfare model and ensured victory by controlling the internal strife in the party. The only hindrance was the lack of unity in its organisation and the Rajasthan unit was mired in infighting. Rani Basundhara proceeded step by step to convince Raje and bring unity to the party and addressed the leadership issue by fighting as a unit and without announcing any chief ministerial face. Modi’s guarantee card Modi had previously mocked



the growing Revadi or ‘freebie’ culture in Indian politics, mocking the Congress’ guarantee in Karnataka and even speaking on the issue in Parliament. However, several surveys conducted by the BJP found that people were voting based on day-to-day economic issues and that the Congress’ promised welfare schemes in Himachal and Karnataka were key factors in its victory. Thus, the BJP went to the polls armed with a number of welfare schemes, both existing schemes – such as Madhya Pradesh’s Ladli Behna scheme, which was announced in March this year – and the annual financial assistance for women in Chhattisgarh in the manifesto. As promises were made. Also many concessions for youth and farmers. The Prime Minister also used his personal credibility by offering the ‘Modi Guarantee’ to differentiate BJP’s welfare schemes

from those of Congress. There was the issue of recruitment exam paper leak, which was used by BJP leader and Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to target the youth constituency. Rajya Sabha MP Kirori Lal Meena and the state leadership held several protests on the issue. Earlier this year, when Meena was on hunger strike, Bashundhara Raje had also given her support to him. The BJP brought together these issues, from paper leaks to crimes against women to unemployment, during a street protest in September – ‘Nahi Sahega Rajasthan’ – to craft a unified script and capitalise on the anti-incumbency wave. Can be picked up. Since Rajasthan has a mental tendency to elect a different government every five years, the BJP’s only real fear was a welfare scheme-based loss by Gehlot at the last moment, but the CM lost that advantage too by retaining most of its sitting MLAs, which became a boon for the BJP. To turn the indecision of Gurjars in BJP’s favour. In 2018, the Gujarat community was seen supporting the Congress and rallied with

the Meenas to make then-state chief Sachin Pilot the chief minister. Eight Gujar candidates of the Congress won, giving the party a total of 25 seats in East Rajasthan. The BJP was reduced to three seats in the region, with the remaining seats going to independents and the BSP, which later supported the Congress. This time, the BJP had been working on a multi-pronged plan for some time to win back the Gujar votes, as evidenced by Prime Minister Modi’s attempt to capitalise on Congress’ attempt to humiliate Rajesh and Sachin Pilot at rally after rally. This not only brought many Gujar leaders into the organisation but also kept the issue of Pilot’s “insult” alive in the Gujar belt to draw community voters away from the Congress. State BJP leaders acted at Modi’s behest, for example, Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuriya, a two-time MP from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur, said Pilot had “no chance of becoming chief minister because Gehlot would never allow it”. (Writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH



FIRST COLUMN

GET ON THE HAPPINESS TRAIN!

Happy people see the humour and magic in each moment



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

As per 'World Happiness Report' (WHR) released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative of the United Nations, India stands at rank 126th in the global happiness ranking list with a Happiness score of 4.036, classifying it as one of the world's least joyful nations. Isn't it startling & unpleasant? There is no doubt in it that happiness is an aspiration of every human being, and it can also be a measure of social progress. It is the art of living, the very purpose of our existence & the true index of quality of life. Without happiness, life is dry and meaningless. With happiness, life immediately becomes fulfilling and wonderful.

Being happy is not about how well you're doing in general, but rather if you're doing better than expected. For example, say you go to an ice cream parlour where the desert ice cream was the best you've ever had in your life. Now, according to the happiness equation, you would be happier if you had expected it to be just average, as opposed to assuming it would be as delicious as it was. However, it doesn't mean that having low expectations is the path to happiness. Happy people usually keep themselves happy because they know the little ways to appreciate themselves and to see the humour and magic in each moment.

Each one of us wishes to be happy all the time and we pursue this goal of ours in various ways, whether it be through leisure, careers, wealth, relationships or whatever the means, the tendency of the soul is towards being happy. However, in this quest to be happy, we end up making others unhappy and at times also make ourselves unhappy. In such a situation, we should ask ourselves, "Why do we lose our happiness?" What makes us take the wrong path and lose our inner state of buoyancy? When we pursue limited, superficial or false goals, it is very easy to lose happiness, firstly, because we are not being true to the self, and secondly, because we may build up false expectations that are not met through our goals and activities. Remember! Happiness gained through relationships and possessions has seeds of sorrow because they are sown with expectations that stem from greed, selfishness, attachment or ego. Hence before getting yourself involved in anything, we need to ask ourselves, "Will this bring me happiness?" Very few people know about the fact that human beings in their most powerful stage have a good stock of happiness. It is only when we contravene the spiritual and natural laws, we lose happiness & start making others around us unhappy. The repercussions of anger, attachment, greed, ego and desire lead us to loss of peace and happiness. The more we are driven by these forces, the more we will spend the stock of our happiness. Hence awareness and application of spiritual truths is the only way out to sustain & increase our stock of happiness. We need to go within ourselves to tap the eternal source of happiness and for that firstly we need to be true to the self, know the self and be the self.

Once we have understood the happiness that comes from within and as a result of the manner in which we conduct our lives, and ourselves then it is possible to understand how to share that happiness with others. Increasing the happiness of others brings happiness to the self, but this cannot be an escape - that is, it is not a substitute for creating internal happiness. Benefitting the self on a spiritual level will definitely bring internal happiness & resolve past karma. So what are you waiting for? let's get on the happiness train & reach our final destination of "Happy Nation".

*(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are personal)*

# Revolutionising agriculture with the ‘natural produce on wheels’ project

The ‘natural produce on wheels’ project has been a resounding success in Himachal Pradesh, showcasing that natural farming can reshape agricultural practices in the region

A truck arrives at the Agriculture Department of Himachal Pradesh in Baluganj, Shimla. Two women, Nirmala and Sumana Devi, members of Narishakti Mahila Krishi Samooh from Nerwa village, Tutu Block, Shimla, step out, bringing fresh seasonal vegetables. These vegetables, including tomatoes, radishes, French beans, and even fruits like guava and kiwi, have been collected on the same day from the doorsteps of local farmers, primarily by women.

Representing their group, the two women, along with Lokesh Bhanot, Farmers Produce Officer (FPO) from the agriculture department, move to the vegetable market or 'subzi mandi'. Bhanot, who surveyed the market rates the



SARITA **BRARA**

previous evening, displays the rates on a blackboard, and customers make on-the-spot purchases. The vehicle then heads to another selling venue at the state Secretariat complex, carrying the produce along with a cashier.

Upon reaching the venue, vegetables and other products are unloaded and arranged. Several women, mostly regular customers, are already waiting to buy these fresh, chemical-free, and locally-grown products. "The vegetables are fresh, have a longer shelf life, taste better, and, importantly, they are chemical-free, not harmful to our health," says Sunita, a regular customer. Other customers echo similar sentiments, expressing a preference for naturally farmed, more nutritious produce.

Beyond fresh vegetables, products from forest areas, such as anna dana (dried pomegranate seeds), amla (Indian gooseberry), kachina, Bauhinia variegata, and wild honey, are also available. The villages, falling under forest areas, allow people to collect and sell forest produce.

The farmers are paid according to the rates fixed by the FPO. Another pickup van from Basantpur Block brings vegetables from villages in that area, forming a network of women farmers participating in the 'natural produce on wheels' project. Three blocks in Shimla district, Totu, Mashobra, and Basantpur, were selected for this initiative, involving 5,000 farmers, including 8% women, practising natural farming. They are

all small and marginal farmers. Four women Self-Help Groups with 20 members are involved in this pilot that aims to procure fresh produce directly from farmers' doorsteps and sell it at the HP Secretariat & Agriculture Directorate Boileauganj, Shimla. This alleviates the need for middlemen, ensuring farmers receive fair market prices.

The project operates twice a week, and its success may lead to increased frequency based on customer response. For farmers, it is a win-win situation; they receive market prices without intermediaries, transport costs are shared among them, and all produce is sold on the same day.

A survey conducted a year ago identified areas and farmers engaged in natural farming. Farmers undergo a two-day training program, and their products are certified and graded by the agriculture department. Initiated earlier this year, the 'natural produce on wheels' project addresses the challenge of lower yields in natural farming. Farmers cultivate only a portion of their land using the kitchen garden model, maximising the output on smaller plots.

Natural farming, a chemical-free traditional method, relies on nature's laws, avoiding external inputs like chemical fertilisers and pesticides. The process minimises human intervention, making it distinct from organic farming. Pesticides used are prepared by farmers using cow dung, cow urine, garlic, red chilli, and buttermilk.

While organic vegetables are often costly, products from natural farming are more affordable for daily consumption. A survey indicates that natural farming reduces cultivation costs by 46% and increases profits by 22%. In comparison, organic farming relies on expensive inputs, contributing to higher market prices. The positive impact of natural farming extends to disease incidence. Scab and marssonina incidences in Natural Farming orchards are notably lower than in chemical farming, suggesting its potential to improve crop health. Most women involved in the project own small agricultural plots, not exceeding 6 to 7 bighas of land. Their husbands typically work in various professions, and two

women from each group manage the pickup of produce. "We spend half of our day in our agriculture fields or with livestock, managing sowing to harvesting on our own," shares one woman. The pickup service provided makes it feasible for them to sell their produce without the challenges of transportation. The 'natural produce on wheels' project has seen success, with products selling out quickly, and the demand continues to grow. It exemplifies a sustainable model, benefiting farmers, consumers, and the environment, showcasing the potential for natural farming to reshape agricultural practices in the region.

*(The writer is an independent senior journalist, views are personal. Charkha Features)*

# Cut out red tapism in public sector share sale



UTTAM **GUPTA**

The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red tape undermines the chances of the Government selling CPSU shares to willing investors

In the Budget for 2023-24, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had set a target of Rs 51,000 crore for proceeds of the sale of Union government shareholding in central public sector undertakings (CPSUs). As per available indications, the government may fall short of this target by Rs 30,000 crore.

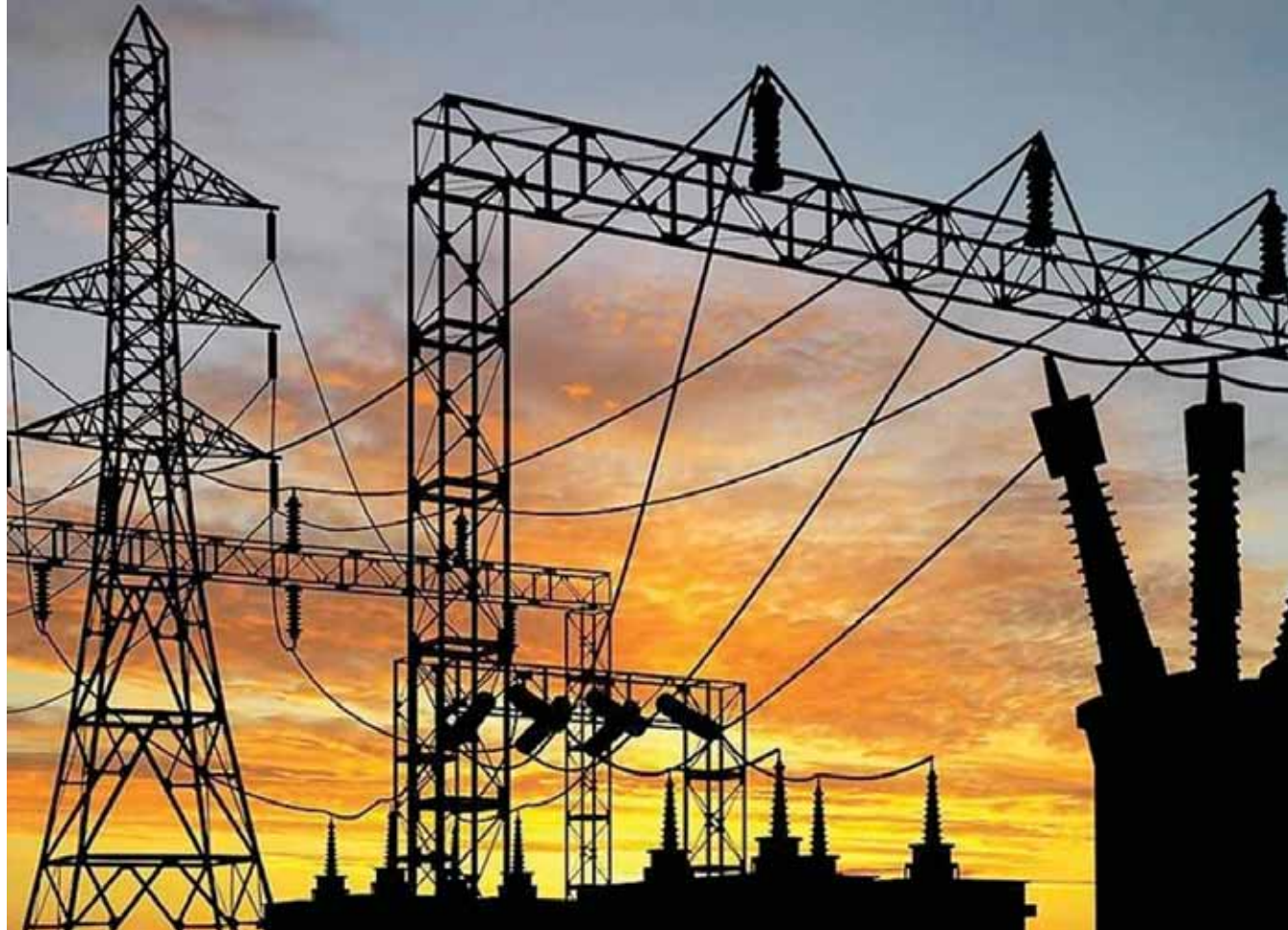
An overwhelming share of the shortfall is due to delays in the disinvestment plans of IDBI Bank (the government plans to sell 30.48 per cent of its stake as well as 30.24 per cent shareholding of LIC aggregating to a total stake sale of 60.72 per cent) and state-owned NMDC Steel. Whereas, in the case of IDBI Bank, this is due to delays in the vetting process for potential buyers by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), The sale of NMDC Steel is hamstrung due to elections in Chhattisgarh where the company's main plant is located.

The shortfall in proceeds during the current fiscal year is in sync with the trend seen since 2015-16 when the Modi - government started disinvestment with a particular focus on 'strategic' sale (a sophisticated nomenclature for a share sale that reduces its holding in the CPSU to below 50 per cent or privatization). Barring two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19 when the actual proceeds exceeded the target, in the remaining six years, the achievement was far short.

Even during 2017-18 and 2018-19, the government could achieve the target primarily because of the two big-ticket sales of its shares in one CPSU to another viz. (i) sale of its 51.11 per cent shareholding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during 2017-18 that yielded Rs 37,000 crore; (ii) sale of its 52.63 per cent stake in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) during 2018-19 yielding Rs 13,000 crore. These sales can't be termed as strategic as the purchaser being another CPSU namely ONGC/PFC, the Government continues to have effective ownership over the divested entity viz. HPCL/REC.

It makes no sense to fix a target for proceeds from share sales. This is because unlike tax revenue, which can be projected with a degree of certainty, the same cannot be said about proceeds from disinvestment. In this case, a lot depends on the market scenario and, in particular, the perception of investors about the company in which share-sale is contemplated. In cases where the strategic sale is mooted, the Government faces a bigger challenge as apart from a favourable market, it needs bidders with deep pockets. The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red tape further undermines the chances of the Government kicking the ball rolling just around the time when the strategic investors are ready to put in their bets.

The Niti Aayog identifies companies for disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself, which takes it to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) - a group of ministers, including finance, road transport & highways, administrative reforms, etc., - for approval. After AM's approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) moved a proposal for in-principal approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs



THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO REMAIN IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT EVEN AFTER STRATEGIC SALE. THIS IS AMPLY REFLECTED IN A STATEMENT IN SITHARAMAN'S BUDGET SPEECH FOR FY 2019-20

(CCEA). Taking all these approvals is a time-consuming process and by the time these are in place, the market scenario could become adverse. At a fundamental level, disinvestment of the government's shareholding in a PSU is tantamount to the sale of assets. Therefore, receipts arising therefrom can only be treated as 'capital receipts' (CRs). While preparing the budget, it won't be advisable to plan for receipts from this source in the same manner as it is done for revenue receipts (RRs) which are receipts generated from the day-to-day business activities e.g. dividends on shares held by the government.

The government should only provide for proceeds from share sales in CPSU on an 'actual' basis after it has happened instead of making provision at the time of presenting the budget. Having delinked from the budgetary process, it should take up disinvestment in CPSUs as an independent exercise guided by the broad principle of where it shouldn't be in.

In an approach outlined in the Budget for 2021-22, the government divided CPSUs into two broad categories i.e. strategic and non-strategic. The strategic group covers atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services. The non-strategic category includes all other sectors such as industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing.

While, the government wants to

sell CPSUs in the strategic sector with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sector, it will privatise 'all' undertakings in non-strategic sectors. All loss-making undertakings in the latter category will be closed. Based on this template, it is working on a detailed action plan which is fine. But the process is hamstrung because of a host of legacy issues.

For instance, despite the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and Niti Aayog recommending the privatisation of all nine CPSUs in the fertiliser sector (it falls in the non-strategic category) coming under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, the latter has opposed it. The ministry feels that with control over fertilizer PSUs gone, the government won't be able to ensure adequate availability of this politically sensitive agri-input in every nook and corner of the country.

The strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) hasn't happened nearly four years after it was initially mooted in 2019-20. A prime reason is the government's intent to regulate the prices of petrol and diesel (despite the price of these fuels having been deregulated way back in 2010/2014) which it can do by asking the three oil marketing CPSUs including BPCL to do its bidding. Its ability to influence prices will be hampered if BPCL is privatised.

The government wants to remain in the driver's seat even after strategic sales. This is amply reflected in

a statement in Sitharaman's budget speech for FY 2019-20. She had stated the intent was to change the existing policy from "directly" holding 51 per cent or above in a CPSU, to one whereby its total holding, "direct" plus "indirect", is maintained at 51 per cent.

In yet another glaring instance, even though an order of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) issued last year prohibits participation of CPSUs in the strategic sale of other PSUs, a caveat "...unless otherwise specifically approved by the Central Government in public interest" enables the powers that be to bypass this prohibition if they so wish.

Above all, the majority ownership and control by the Government for several decades has ingrained in the bureaucrat a feeling of exercising command (albeit remote) over the management of the PSU. The latter readily acquiescing has added to the sense of bureaucratic power. Although things have improved under the Modi - dispensation (courtesy of its focus on a 'policy-driven state', and increase in 'transparency'), the basic ingredients remain intact.

Modi needs to play some hardballs to kill the existing mindset of the bureaucracy. The process of share sale should be de-bureaucratised by setting up a holding company (HC) where all government shares in CPSUs are placed. To be manned by eminent professionals, the HC should be fully empowered to make all decisions.

*(The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)*



# Israel strikes in and around Gaza’s second largest city

AP ■ KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP)

Israel intensified its bombardment in and around Gaza's second largest city early Tuesday, as ambulances and private cars came racing into a local hospital carrying people wounded in a bloody new phase of the war in Gaza.

Under US pressure to prevent further mass casualties, Israel says it is being more precise as it widens its offensive into southern Gaza after obliterating much of the north. Aerial bombardment and the ground offensive have already driven three-fourths of the territory's 2.3 million people from their homes.

At the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, ambulances brought dozens of wounded people in throughout the night. At one point, a car pulled up and man emerged carrying a young boy in a bloody shirt and whose hand had been blown off. "Where is the Red Cross? ... where is the United Nations?" a woman screamed outside the emergency department. "My children, since 10 p.m., are still under the rubble."

Satellite photos taken Sunday showed tanks and troops massing outside Khan



Palestinians are treated as they lie on the floor after being wounded in an Israeli army bombardment of the Gaza Strip, in the hospital in Khan Younis, Tuesday. AP/PTI

Younis, the latest target of the offensive, which was home to more than 400,000 people before the war.

Israel has ordered people out of nearly two dozen neighborhoods instead of the entire region, as it did in the north. But with most of Gaza's population already packed into the south, cramming U.N. shelters and family homes, there are few places left to go. Israel has barred people who fled the north earlier in the war from returning. Palestinians say that

as Israel continues to strike across the besieged territory, there are no areas where they feel safe, and many fear that if they leave their homes they will never be allowed to return.

## THE QUEST TO ELIMINATE HAMAS

Israel says it must dismantle Hamas' extensive military infrastructure and remove it from power in order to prevent a repeat of the Oct. 7 attack that ignited the war. The surprise assault through

the border fence saw Hamas and other Palestinian militants kill about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and capture some 240 men, women and children.

The Israeli military says it makes every effort to spare civilians and accuses Hamas of using them as human shields as it fights in dense residential areas, where it has a labyrinth of tunnels, bunkers, rocket launchers and sniper nests.

But the militant group is deeply rooted in Palestinian society, and its determination to end decades of open-ended Israeli military rule is shared by most Palestinians, even those opposed to its ideology and its attacks on Israeli civilians. That will complicate any effort to eliminate Hamas without causing massive casualties and displacement.

Even after weeks of unrelenting bombardment, Hamas' leaders in Gaza were able to conduct complex cease-fire negotiations and orchestrate the release of more than 100 Israeli and foreign hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners last week. Palestinian militants have also kept up their rocket fire into Israel, both before and after the truce.

The fighting has meanwhile brought unprecedented death and destruction to the coastal strip. The Health Ministry in Gaza said the death toll in the territory since Oct. 7 has surpassed 15,890 people – 70% of them women and children — with more than 42,000 wounded. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths. It says hundreds have been killed or wounded since the cease-fire's end, and many still are trapped under rubble.

An Israeli army official provided a similar figure for the death toll in Gaza on Monday, after weeks in which Israeli officials had cast doubt on the ministry's count.

The official said at least 15,000 people have been killed, including 5,000 militants, without saying how the military arrived at its figures.

# Putin to discuss Israel-Hamas war

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a one-day trip to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia focused on the Israeli-Hamas war and host the Iranian president in Moscow this week, the Kremlin said Tuesday.

Putin will make working visits to both countries on Wednesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

The talks will focus on bilateral relations, the war between Israel and Hamas and other international issues,

Peskov said. Issues related to oil price caps under OPEC+ will also be on the agenda, he added. Putin's trip was first announced on Monday by his foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov, who didn't give a date for the visits when he spoke to the Russian news outlet Life.

"I hope that these will be very useful negotiations, which we consider extremely important," Ushakov was quoted as saying by Life.

Putin will make the visit at a time when Russia wants to advance its role as a power broker in the conflict in the

Middle East. Putin will host Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in the Kremlin on Thursday, Peskov added.

The Russian president visited China in October and recently made several trips to former Soviet nations.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin in March for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

Since the warrant was issued, Putin chose not to attend a BRICS summit in South Africa because the

country would be obliged to arrest Putin upon arrival as it is a signatory to the international court's treaty.

Neither Saudi Arabia nor the UAE have signed the ICC's founding treaty.

The notice against Putin in March was the first time the global court issued a warrant against a leader of one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The ICC said in a statement that Putin is accused of the war crime of "unlawful deportation" of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia.

# Top US Congressmen introduce bill to reduce Green Card backlog

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Three influential Congressmen have introduced bipartisan legislation in the US House of Representatives to reduce the Green Card backlog and end country-based discrimination for employment-based visas, a bill if passed would benefit thousands of Indian Americans.

Three influential Congressmen who introduced the legislation include Indian Americans, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Pramila Jayapal. Congressman Rich McCormick is the third lawmaker to have joined the two Indian-Americans in introducing the bill on Monday.

If passed and signed into law, it would help thousands of Indian Americans who are currently in decades-long wait for green cards or permanent residency.

HR 6542, the bipartisan Immigration Visa Efficiency and Security Act of 2023, would strengthen the US economy and boost its international competitiveness while reducing the Green Card backlog by allowing American employers to focus on hiring immigrants based on their merit, not their birthplace, a press statement said. A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent



Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently.

The bill would phase out the existing seven per cent per-country limit on employment-based immigrant visas while increasing the seven per-country limit on family-sponsored visas to 15 per cent, it said.

"As we work to build the economy of the future, we cannot allow high-skilled workers to languish in the Green Card backlog, left unable to fully establish themselves as Americans and contribute more fully to our nation," Krishnamoorthi said.

"I am proud to partner with my colleagues on our bipartisan legislation to end country-based discrimination for employment-based immigrant visas to reduce visa back-

logs while strengthening our economy and our workforce," he added.

The employment-based visa system provides permanent residence (or "green cards") to individuals whose work contributes to US economic growth and enhances our competitive advantage.

To qualify, a sponsoring employer generally must advertise and prove that they cannot find a qualified US worker to fill the position. Thus, although America's employment-based visa system starts as "merit-based," what happens next has nothing to do with merit or skills — visas are allocated based on the intended immigrant's country of birth, the statement said.

Approximately 95 per cent of employment-based immigrants currently live and work in the United States on temporary visas while waiting for a visa to become available. Some of these individuals remain in temporary status for many years, if not decades, because of the caps applied to their country of nationality, it read.

The statement said the new, phased-in system, established in the bipartisan EAGLE Act, would help ease the backlog for those who wait the longest.

Like the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act that

AXIS BANK LTD. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS						
THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS (GOLD LOAN FACILITY) IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY. AS THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 16.12.2023 AT 12.30 PM TO 03.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS".						
DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT						
SR. NO.	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING (IN RS.)	DATE OF RECALL NOTICE	GROSS WEIGHT	NET WEIGHT
B.O.: ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
1	PANKAJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX5857	RS. 34,355.42	30-05-2023	9.300	8.700
2	PANKAJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX3350	RS. 116,627.05	30-05-2023	35.100	33.700
3	JITENDER KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX3905	RS. 459,970.13	30-05-2023	139.900	131.550
B.O.: BALI NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
4	RASHMI TANEJA	XXXXXXXXXXXX7347	RS. 368,485.36	08-02-2023	157.100	141.500
B.O.: BALLABHAGHARH [HR]						
5	SUMAN LATA	XXXXXXXXXXXX5865	RS. 210,782.00	30-05-2023	80.010	74.410
B.O.: DARYAGANJ, DELHI [DL]						
6	UPENDRA SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX8135	RS. 46,399.00	28-02-2023	13.000	12.600
7	AMITABH KUMAR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX8323	RS. 79,917.63	25-10-2023	32.100	30.800
8	SEHAJ KAUR PANESAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX1936	RS. 124,517.00	17-10-2022	103.600	100.450
9	KAVITA GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXXXX3441	RS. 299,684.00	03-09-2022	117.200	104.300
B.O.: FARIDABAD [HR]						
10	SANU RAI	XXXXXXXXXXXX9114	RS. 41,817.00	08-02-2023	11.800	11.340
11	SAGAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX8960	RS. 85,884.00	07-01-2023	88.000	82.000
12	MONU	XXXXXXXXXXXX0932	RS. 139,768.00	28-08-2023	47.300	45.200
13	LOKESH	XXXXXXXXXXXX4270	RS. 172,928.78	22-06-2022	85.700	81.100
14	JITENDER KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX9641	RS. 273,218.00	08-02-2023	77.900	74.200
15	AKSHAY PANDEY	XXXXXXXXXXXX6881	RS. 273,445.00	12-10-2022	81.900	80.400
16	KSHITIJ SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXXXX0659	RS. 317,657.49	25-08-2023	122.700	102.780
17	ANIL SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXXXX9080	RS. 473,420.00	30-05-2023	150.100	138.900
B.O.: GEETA COLONY, NEW DELHI [DL]						
18	INDERJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX7720	RS. 27,229.59	10-10-2023	13.000	12.800
B.O.: JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI [DL]						
19	ANISH RAWAT	XXXXXXXXXXXX1668	RS. 118,962.00	30-09-2023	30.200	28.900
B.O.: JYOTI NAGAR DEL DL						
20	SHABNAM	XXXXXXXXXXXX5396	RS. 60,325.49	10-10-2023	31.400	30.500
B.O.: LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
21	ROHIT SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXXXX0171	RS. 169,973.72	20-10-2023	50.500	45.500
B.O.: MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
22	GUDIA DEVI	XXXXXXXXXXXX1438	RS. 96,299.00	08-02-2023	31.400	27.200
B.O.: MAYUR VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
23	SUNNY KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX4045	RS. 56,790.24	25-08-2023	23.400	22.430
24	SANJAY SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX7825	RS. 65,642.00	28-08-2023	18.700	18.160
25	DANAVIR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX2512	RS. 94,043.00	28-10-2023	26.300	25.520
B.O.: NAZAFGARH, NEW DELHI [DL]						
26	PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX0371	RS. 36,436.43	30-09-2023	12.200	11.500
27	ROHIT	XXXXXXXXXXXX3941	RS. 97,902.00	15-06-2023	36.200	25.200
B.O.: NEW FRIENDS COLONY, NEW DELHI						
28	ADEEBA JAMEEL	XXXXXXXXXXXX4501	RS. 210,513.50	30-05-2023	58.400	57.480
B.O.: NOIDA [UP]						
29	RAZADUN	XXXXXXXXXXXX3620	RS. 65,528.90	28-02-2023	20.800	19.800
30	RAMKRIPAL SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX1463	RS. 276,908.92	30-05-2023	93.300	88.700
31	MITTHAN YADAV	XXXXXXXXXXXX1680	RS. 468,144.00	28-02-2023	141.000	135.400
B.O.: PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON [HR]						
32	RUBEL RANA	XXXXXXXXXXXX8849	RS. 33,346.39	30-09-2023	8.000	8.000
33	AJAIB SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX1571	RS. 54,388.92	28-10-2023	19.800	18.100
34	GAURAV SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXXXX2456	RS. 83,959.00	30-05-2023	28.100	24.500
B.O.: PALAM, DELHI [DL]						
35	MANDAKINI BAJPAI	XXXXXXXXXXXX1705	RS. 147,746.00	30-05-2023	43.000	41.000
B.O.: R K MISSION, NEW DELHI [DL]						
36	MANSINGH YADAV	XXXXXXXXXXXX6821	RS. 34,338.00	30-09-2023	11.600	11.100
37	MOHD AAMIR	XXXXXXXXXXXX9811	RS. 602,134.00	07-01-2023	199.400	191.650
B.O.: ROHINI, DELHI [DL]						
38	RITU	XXXXXXXXXXXX5205	RS. 294,750.00	30-05-2023	78.900	76.000
B.O.: SECTOR 10A, GURGAON [HR]						
39	PARDEEP	XXXXXXXXXXXX4823	RS. 38,516.00	05-09-2023	12.670	11.870
B.O.: SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR]						
40	RAVINDRA PRATAP SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX9395	RS. 70,537.00	18-07-2023	17.800	17.800
41	MONIKA	XXXXXXXXXXXX4672	RS. 153,444.00	25-08-2023	42.100	40.200
42	SHIRAJ BAQUAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX2655	RS. 155,554.00	18-07-2023	48.200	45.700
43	SHIRAJ BAQUAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX9960	RS. 191,574.00	10-10-2023	50.000	50.000
44	SHIRAJ BAQUAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX4432	RS. 212,124.00	18-07-2023	61.300	60.300
B.O.: SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR]						
45	PAWAN KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX5141	RS. 66,197.44	27-06-2023	15.100	14.800
B.O.: SHAHDARA, DELHI [DL]						
46	SHRI RAM	XXXXXXXXXXXX7113	RS. 71,400.00	20-10-2023	24.800	23.500
B.O.: SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI [DL]						
47	RAJESH KUMAR KUNDNANI	XXXXXXXXXXXX5007	RS. 109,578.63	28-02-2023	35.800	34.400
48	NAGENDRA KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX5979	RS. 117,629.00	18-07-2023	31.100	29.550
B.O.: SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
49	DHRUV CHAUHAN	XXXXXXXXXXXX6262	RS. 37,373.00	28-10-2023	11.500	10.700
B.O.: TILAK NAGAR, DELHI [DL]						
50	NITISH	XXXXXXXXXXXX6753	RS. 32,693.00	30-09-2023	10.200	9.600
51	PAWAN KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX0683	RS. 126,319.35	25-08-2023	53.600	50.500
B.O.: UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
52	ASHISH KUMAR SAHU	XXXXXXXXXXXX0589	RS. 35,604.00	20-10-2023	10.900	10.500
B.O.: VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP]						
53	NISHANT AMBASTHA	XXXXXXXXXXXX3557	RS. 207,810.51	05-09-2023	59.300	54.300
54	ALOK SAXENA	XXXXXXXXXXXX1455	RS. 685,187.00	20-09-2023	181.300	171.600
B.O.: VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI [DL]						
55	HIMANSHOO CHADHA	XXXXXXXXXXXX5313	RS. 73,927.85	10-10-2023	23.200	22.000
B.O.: DLF, GURGAON [HR]						
56	SAIF ALI	XXXXXXXXXXXX2187	RS. 53,762.00	25-08-2023	20.000	19.500
B.O.: VAIBHAV KHAND UP						
57	VIRENDRA PRATAP SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXXX508	RS. 36,634.00	20-10-2023	11.230	10.630
AXIS BANK LTD. HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE ACCOUNT/CHANGE THE AUCTION DATE WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE. AUCTION WILL BE HELD ONLINE <a href="https://gold.samil.in">HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN</a> BETWEEN 12.30 PM TO 03.30 PM. FOR DETAILED TERMS AND CONDITIONS, PLEASE LOG INTO GIVEN WEBSITE <a href="https://gold.samil.in">HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN</a> PLACE: DELHI, DATE: 06.12.2023						
SD/-, AUTHORIZED OFFICER, AXIS BANK LTD.						

# Prince Harry challenges UK govenment’s decision to strip him of security detail

AP ■ LONDON

Prince Harry is challenging on Tuesday the British government's decision to strip him of his security detail after he gave up his status as a working member of the royal family and moved to the United States. The Duke of Sussex said he wants protection when he visits his home and claimed it's partly because an aggressive press jeopardizes his safety and that of his family.

The three-day hearing scheduled to begin in London's High Court is the latest in a string of Harry's legal cases that have kept London judges busy as he takes on the UK government and the British tabloid media. It was not clear if he would attend Tuesday's hearing.

Harry failed to persuade a different judge earlier this year that he should be able to privately pay for London's police force to guard him when he

comes to town. A judge denied that offer after a government lawyer argued that officers shouldn't be used as "private bodyguards for the wealthy."

Harry, the youngest son of King Charles III, said he did not feel safe bringing his wife, former actor Meghan Markle, and their two young children back to Britain and was concerned about his own safety after being chased by paparazzi following a London charity event.

Harry's animosity toward the press dates back to the death of his



# Pak EC reserves verdict on plea to bar Khan from heading party

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's election commission on Tuesday reserved its verdict on a petition seeking to remove former premier Imran Khan as the head of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party due to his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Khan, 71, has been in jail since August 5, when he was arrested after a conviction in the Toshakhana case. He was also disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the same case for failing to disclose the proceeds from the sale of gifts he got from the Toshakhana (state repository).

A petition was filed on October 3 with the top election body to bar him from holding any position within his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Two months later, on December 2, the former-cricketer-turned-politician decided against contesting the ECP-mandated intra-party polls for the post of party chairman due to his disqualification in the Toshakhana case.

The jailed former prime minister had instead hand-picked Barrister Gohar Ali Khan to lead the party he founded and other legal challenges earlier this month.

Barrister Gohar was officially elected as the PTI chief unopposed in the intra-party polls held on December 2. On Tuesday, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja, leading a five-member bench, presided over the hearing held at the ECP headquarters in Islamabad.

During Tuesday's hearing, PTI lawyer Shoaib Shaheen said the petition had become infructuous as the party has elected its new chairman.

## Finance ministry releases ₹17.4 bn for general polls

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government said on Tuesday that it has released Rs 17.4 billion to the election commission for the upcoming general elections, a day after the poll body raised concerns over the non-provision of funds. Cash-strapped Pakistan, which is facing both political and economic instability, is going to the polls on February 8.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Finance Division said it has released Rs 17.4 billion to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in addition to Rs 10 billion released in July 2023 for the conduct of general elections in the country. "This brings the total released

amount to Rs 27.4 billion for holding general elections. The Finance Division remains committed to the provision of funds as and when required by the Election Commission of Pakistan," it added. The development comes a day after the electoral body raised concern over the delay in the release of the urgently needed amount for the conduct of polls.

Addressing the ECP's concerns, caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi had said that the government would meet the financial needs of the ECP ahead of the February 8 general election.

"There is no crisis in meeting the financial needs of the ECP," Solangi said in a post on X. "Whatever budgeted

amount is needed by the ECP will be released as per its needs accordingly," he said. Solangi's statement followed media reports that the ECP summoned the finance secretary on Monday for the ministry's failure to provide the funds allocated for the election.

The minister said the Cabinet already approved Rs 42 billion for the ECP's needs and Rs 10 billion had been released so far. "We firmly stand behind the ECP in holding free and fair elections as mandated by Article 218(3) of the Constitution," he added. Last week, the electoral body rejected as "baseless and misleading" the media reports about a delay in the upcoming general elections.

Stating that they have submitted a record of the intra-party polls to the ECP and the matter should now come to an end, advocate Shaheen also said that if the ECP wanted to hear this matter, then it should club it with a petition being filed by PTI founding member Akbar S Babar against the party's intra-party polls.

Geo News quoted Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja as saying: "You are giving Khalid Mahmood (petitioner's lawyer) a chance to file a petition against the new chairman." Advocate Mahmood also pleaded with the CEC to mention in the order that Khan cannot hold any position

in the party due to his conviction. The CEC said they could not comment on the matter as the former PTI chief did not contest intra-party polls. The ECP also directed Khan's lawyer to submit the record of the PTI's intra-party polls even as it reserved the verdict on the petition.

As the petitioner's lawyer pressed Raja to issue orders to ban Khan from holding any office in PTI, the CEC reserved his judgment while concluding the hearing. It is not clear when the verdict will be announced. "Several political parties, including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and others have

dubbed the PTI intra-party polls as fake, while PTI founding members raised objections to the process and announced challenging the internal party elections in the ECP," Geo News said.

In November last year, the ECP found Khan guilty of not submitting accurate details of the gifts he got from the Toshakhana and disqualified him from public office. Later, he was convicted in the same case. Khan is currently jailed at the high-security Adiala prison in Rawalpindi since September 26 in the cipher case for allegedly leaking state secrets and violating the laws of the country.

## Seven injured in blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PTI ■ LONDON

Four minor children were among seven people who were injured on Tuesday when an improvised explosive device exploded near a school here in the capital of Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. According to the police, the blast occurred around 9:10 am on the congested Warsak road near a school and a private bank in Peshawar. At least four kilograms of explosives, planted in a "cemented block" on the side of the road, were used in the blast, Geo News reported. According to a Michni Gate Police Station official, seven people were injured in the blast. Four children between the ages of seven and ten were also injured, Lady Reading Hospital authorities said. Police and rescue teams were sent to the site as soon as the blast was reported, Warsak Superintendent of Police Arshad Khan was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Those injured were moved to a private hospital, where the condition of two children was critical, spokesperson of the Peshawar Lady Reading Hospital Asim Khan said. He added that none of the children were wearing a school uniform. Khan said that the police launched a search operation in the surrounding areas. "The element of extortion is also being considered," he was quoted as saying. "It would be premature to say who was the target," he added.

According to The Express Tribune newspaper, No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Pakistan has been hit by a wave of terrorist activities orchestrated by various terror outfits.

## 3 die in mishaps caused by freezing rain in Germany Munich airport suspends flights

AP ■ BERLIN

Freezing rain and cold weather buffeting Germany were blamed for traffic accidents that left three dead on Tuesday while Munich Airport temporarily suspended flights.

One student was killed in a crash involving a school bus in the Erzgebirge mountains in the eastern German state of Saxony, police said. At least 10 other schoolchildren were taken to a hospital. Two adults, including the bus driver, were seriously injured.

The bus skidded into the side of a winter road maintenance vehicle in Sehmatal county near the Czech border, German news agency dpa reported. It then crashed head-on into a tree and the impact was so strong that it completely destroyed the front of the vehicle.

In Munich, all flights were either cancelled or postponed between 6 a.m. and noon (0500-1100 GMT), with the airport warning that many flights scheduled for later in the day might also be affected by the severe weather conditions.

The airport, Germany's second-biggest, announced the temporary shutdown on Monday night as a result of weather forecasts for Tuesday. "The operating areas will be deactivated in the first half of the day. The plan is to allow air traffic to resume from midday," the airport said on its website. "However, it can be assumed that the majority of flights will also have to be cancelled dur-



A plane is cleared of ice in Munich Airport, Germany, on Tuesday

AP/PTI

ing the rest of the day for safety reasons."

Tuesday's cancellations came after all flights at Munich Airport were grounded on Saturday following heavy snowfall in the city and in Germany's southern state of Bavaria. Two people died in a collision between a car and a tractor-trailer on the A8 highway in Upper Bavaria. According to the police, their car skidded under the rear of a truck, which had come to a stop across the highway overnight from Monday to Tuesday due to frozen rain on the highway's surface, dpa reported.

The A99 near Munich was shutdown in both direction after 13 vehicles were involved in a mass accident, dpa reported. There was no immediate information about possible injuries. Train operator Deutsche Bahn said traffic in

the Munich region would be affected for several days.

"At present, access to Munich's main station is severely restricted. Only a few long-distance trains are therefore running to and from Munich," it said on its website on Tuesday. Rail services to the Austrian cities of Salzburg and Innsbruck, as well as Zurich in Switzerland, remained suspended. Deutsche Bahn said that there could also be train cancellations and delays in other parts of southern Germany. Passengers were asked to postpone non-essential journeys to Wednesday.

Southern Germany as well as neighbouring Austria and Switzerland have been experiencing heavy snowfall which has affected public transport all over the region and led to alarm about possible avalanches.

## Russian shelling hits southern Ukraine; 2 killed

AP ■ KYIV

Russian artillery struck the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson on Tuesday morning, local officials said, killing at least two people in the street as the 21-month war drags into another winter.

Regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin posted a video of the attack's aftermath, showing two bodies in a city center street and blood near holes in the road caused by the shelling. "The medics who arrived promptly at the scene could only declare their deaths," Prokudin said of the victims on Telegram.

The head of the Kherson city administration, Roman Mrochko, added that a medical facility also was struck, wounding two medics. Russian attacks on the Dnieper river port city have become routine since the Ukrainian army liberated the city last year, with civilian deaths reported almost daily.

With the war's front line apparently static along most of its more than 1,000-kilometre length, and amid wintry weather, both sides in the war have used aerial bombardment to keep up the military pressure.

Russian authorities said Tuesday they repelled another heavy Ukrainian drone attack on Crimea, while Ukraine officials said air defences responded to drones and missiles launched by the

Kremlin's forces. Neither side immediately reported any other casualties or damage. The Russian Defence Ministry said that air defences destroyed 22 Ukrainian drones and intercepted 13 more over Crimea and the Sea of Azov early Tuesday. Shortly after, it added that another four drones were destroyed and two were intercepted. Russian officials commonly say drones were destroyed when they were shot down and say they were intercepted when electronic jamming is used.

Military and logistics sites in Russian-occupied Crimea, annexed by Moscow in 2014, have been a frequent target for Ukraine since the full-scale invasion in February 2022. Last month, Ukraine launched one of its biggest drone attacks on Crimea, according to Russian officials, though they did not mention any casualties or damage. Ukraine's air force, meanwhile, said it downed 10 out of 17 Shahed drones that Russia launched during the night. Moscow's forces also unleashed six S-300 missiles, the air force said without providing further details.

The UK defence ministry said last month that Russia could target Ukraine's power grid again, just like last winter when Moscow aimed to break local resistance by denying civilians home heating and running water.

## Toll in Indonesia volcanic eruption climbs to 22

**Batu Palano (AP):** Rescuers searching the hazardous slopes of Indonesia's Mount Marapi volcano found 11 more bodies of climbers who were caught by a surprise weekend eruption, raising the number of confirmed dead to 22, officials said Tuesday. One person remained missing. More than 50 climbers were rescued after the initial eruption Sunday, and 11 others were initially confirmed dead. New eruptions on Monday and Tuesday spewed more hot ash as high as 800 metres (2,620 feet) into the air, reducing visibility and temporarily halting search and recovery operations, said Abdul Malik, chief of the Padang Search and Rescue Agency. The bodies of two climbers were located on Monday and nine more on Tuesday, the National Search and Rescue Agency said.

One climber remained missing and was presumed dead because of being very close to the eruption site, said Edi Mardianto, the deputy police chief in West Sumatra province. The recovered bodies will be taken to a hospital for identification, he said.

The rescuers contended with bad weather and difficult terrain, along with winds that brought heat from the eruptions. A video released by West Sumatra's Search and Rescue Agency showed rescuers carrying an injured climber on a stretcher off the mountain and into a waiting ambulance to be taken to a hospital. Marapi has stayed at the third highest of four alert levels since 2011, indicating above-normal volcanic activity under which climbers must stay more than 3 kilometres from the peak, according to Indonesia's Centre for Volcanology.

## Dawoodi Bohra community head conferred with 'Nishan-e-Pakistan'

**Islamabad (PTI):** Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, head of the Dawoodi Bohra sect of Islam, was on Tuesday conferred with 'Nishan-e-Pakistan', the highest civilian award of Pakistan.

"President Dr Arif Alvi conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, at a special investiture ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr," the president's office said in a post on X. Dr Saifuddin, the head of the Mumbai-headquartered Dawoodi Bohra community spread across over 40 countries, including a sizeable congregation in Pakistan, is the 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq of the order. The Dawoodi Bohras carry out developmental works to benefit the underprivileged in all these countries.

Nishan-e-Pakistan is the highest civilian honour awarded for services of the highest distinction to the national interest of Pakistan. The award, conferred at a special investiture ceremony, recognises 77-year-old Saifuddin's services to Pakistan in the field of spiritual guidance and social services, Geo News reported.

The Bohra community head holds a special regard for Pakistan and is an advocate of peace, harmony and goodwill, read the citation read out before the conferment of the award. Recounting his services in the education sector, it was said that he had contributed to the building of the School of Law at the University of Karachi and launched a university project. Multiple healthcare institutions are operating in the name of the Bohra community head providing affordable healthcare to people.

Separately, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar met the Dawoodi Bohra community head and lauded the community's services for the progress of the country. The premier felicitated Dr Saifuddin on being awarded the country's highest civil award and expressed confidence that the Bohra community would continue to play their role in the progress and development of the country.

Each year, the announcement of awards is made on August 14, Pakistan's Independence Day, and the awards are conferred next year on Pakistan National Day, observed on March 23. But in special cases, these dates are not followed and the investiture can be arranged anytime.

## China recognises Taliban govt in Afghanistan

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has become the first country to confer diplomatic status to a Taliban-nominated official as Afghanistan's Ambassador to Beijing, thereby formally recognising the Taliban-run administration as a legitimate government in Kabul.

"As a long-standing friendly neighbour of Afghanistan, China believes that Afghanistan should not be excluded from the international community," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing on Tuesday when asked whether China recognised the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. Earlier reports from Kabul said China has given Bilal Karimi, a Taliban

nominee the status of Ambassador and he has submitted his credentials to the foreign ministry here.

China along with Pakistan and Russia maintained its embassy in Kabul after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021 following the withdrawal of American troops from the war-ravaged country. While maintaining close contact with the Taliban interim administration, Beijing withheld recognition, especially over global criticism of the Taliban's treatment of women and girls, excluding them from educational institutions. No other country has formally recognised the Taliban government, which has been criticised over human rights violations and crushing women's rights.

Defending China's move, Wang said, "We hope Afghanistan will further respond to the expectations of the international community, build an open and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, firmly combat all forms of terrorist forces, develop friendly relations with other countries, especially with its neighbours, and integrate itself into the world community."

"We believe that diplomatic recognition of the Afghan government will come naturally as the concerns of various parties are effectively addressed," Wang said.

China, which shares borders with Afghanistan, also has serious concerns over the regrouping of East Turkistan

Islamic Movement (ETIM), a banned outfit comprising Uighur militants from the volatile Xinjiang province, and pressing the Taliban administration to crack down on the outfit. Significantly, China's diplomatic recognition comes at a time when Pakistan, Beijing's all-weather ally, is having serious problems with the Taliban which it once nurtured. Pakistan is now blaming the Taliban government for recurring terrorist attacks in the country and criticised it for not cracking down hard on Pakistan Islamic militant groups, especially the Pakistani Taliban, operating from Afghanistan. In retaliation, Islamabad has ordered forceful evacuation of thousands of Afghan refugees living in the country for decades.

## 14 killed in western Thailand bus crash

AP ■ BANGKOK



In this photo provided by Sawang Rungrueang Rescue22 Foundation, rescue workers and volunteers work at the site of a bus accident on Tuesday

AP/PTI

A bus crashed in western Thailand early on Tuesday, killing 14 people and injuring more than 30 others, officials said. The accident occurred in Prachuap Khiri Khan province as the bus was travelling from the capital, Bangkok, to Songkhla province in the deep south. It was carrying 49 people when it ran off the road and hit a tree near Hat Wanakorn National Park, a local police official said. Prachuap Khiri Khan province is located on a coastal stretch between the Gulf of

Thailand and Myanmar.

"We presume the driver might have fallen asleep," said Pol. Col. Weerapat Ketesa, the superintendent of the Huay Yang Police Station, adding that officials were waiting for the result of a blood test on the driver, who survived the accident. Police were still investigating what caused the crash, he added. Most victims were Thai and a few were Burmese, Weerapat said. Some 35 people were being treated for injuries at local hospitals, according to the Sawang Rungrueang Rescue Foundation.

## Nod to bill in France to ban disposable e-cigs

**Paris (AP):** France's National Assembly unanimously approved a bill to ban single-use, disposable electronic cigarettes, in an attempt to protect young people drawn to their flavours and mitigate the environmental impacts of the disposable products known as "puffs."

Lawmakers adopted the bill in a late-night vote on Monday by 104 in favour, zero against. The bill, supported by the government, will then move to the Senate where it is expected to be adopted as well.

It could go into effect by September 2024. Disposable e-cigarettes — which cost about 10 euros (nearly USD 11) each — are small, battery-powered devices that are especially popular among teenagers for their

sweet flavours. While they do not contain tobacco, many include nicotine, a dangerous chemical known for its addictive properties. They differ from reusable vaping devices in that they are not designed to be refilled or recharged. Their small, non-rechargeable lithium batteries often end up in landfills. This bill is part of a broader trend. The UK, Ireland, and Germany are considering similar measures. New Zealand and Australia have already implemented restrictions, with the former mandating lower nicotine levels and restrictions on vape shop locations near schools. Three years ago, the US Food and Drug Administration cracked down on kid-friendly flavoured reusable e-cigarettes like Juul.

## Indian-origin filmmaker re-launches Mandela documentary

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Internationally-renowned South African filmmaker of Indian origin, Anant Singh, has re-released on an OTT platform his special documentary on the life of the late Nelson Mandela as the country marked his 10th death anniversary on Tuesday.

After serving 27 years in prison under the minority white apartheid government, the globally celebrated leader became President of South Africa in 1994. Mandela died on December 5, 2013. Singh's documentary feature 'Viva Madiba: A Hero for All Seasons' will be seen globally on Netflix and will be available to audiences of the streaming service throughout Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands for the first time.

Initially produced as a tribute to Mandela, the documen-

tary is a celebration of Mandela's epic life and his status as an international icon. The film takes one on a journey behind the headlines and away from the public eye and looks at Madiba through different lenses - as a loyal friend, a faithful comrade, a trusted confidant, a respected mentor, and a man who has touched and transformed countless lives globally.

Mandela's life of struggle, humanity, destiny, and greatness is recalled and celebrated by those who knew him best and who worked with him and "the film takes us beyond the political and into the personal realm and features exclusive interviews with politicians, close friends and comrades," Singh said. These include Archbishop Desmond Tutu; former ANC leader Oliver Tambo; George Bizos, the lawyer who defended



lowing just one term in office. Singh recalled how he had been at the Royal Premiere of his movie 'Long Walk to Freedom' in London when he received news of 95-year-old Mandela's passing after a long illness. Just 15 minutes before the end of the film 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom', based on the autobiography of the same name, Singh got the news that Mandela had died. What was expected to be a standing ovation for Singh and the cast of the film from the celebrity audience, including Prince William and his wife Kate, turned into shocked disbelief as he waited for the end of the film to give the audience the tragic news and called for a minute's silence to honour the global icon.

"Even though we had all expected it to happen one day, it was such a shock to hear it

while sitting in the theatre watching the movie exactly as it happened," he said. A planned after-party was also cancelled as cast members left in tears. Singh had spent almost two decades planning the multi-million-rand film, which won accolades all over the world.

Earlier he explained how he had told Mandela after first reading the manuscript for the book that it had to be made into a film. "It is amazing how quickly 10 years have passed — it feels like it was yesterday that we got the dreaded news of Madiba's passing," Singh said, referring to Mandela's clan name. "Whilst the world is poorer without Nelson Mandela, despite his passing 10 years ago, the gravitas of Madiba is still respected and acknowledged not only in South Africa but around the world," Singh concluded.

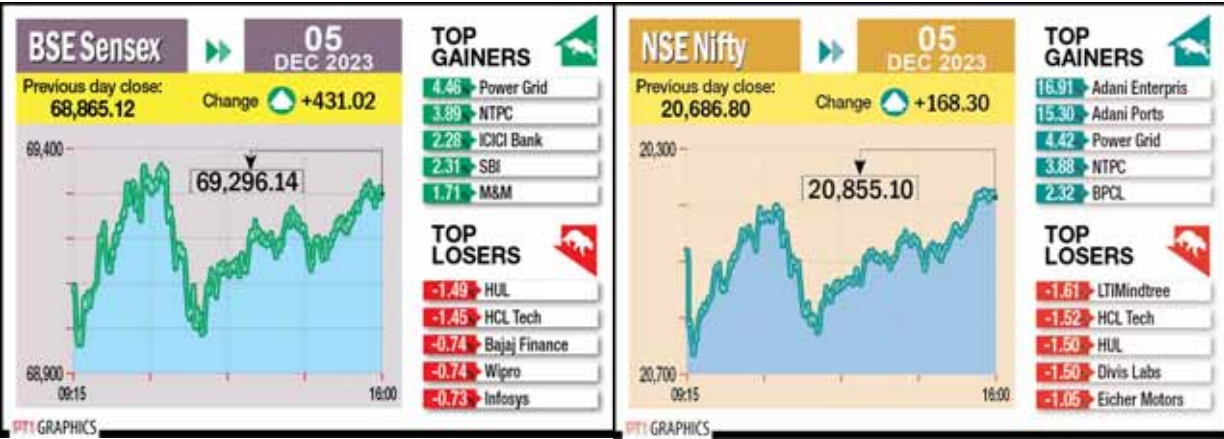


# Stock markets hit new record highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI **SENSEX BREACHES 69K-MARK, NIFTY EYES 21K LEVEL**

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty settled at new peaks on Tuesday, rallying for the sixth straight session amid massive buying in power and utility sector shares. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 431.02 points, or 0.63 per cent, to close at a new record high of 69,296.14. The broader index Nifty also climbed 168.50 points, or 0.81 per cent to hit its lifetime high of 20,855.30.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged by more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore to cross Rs 350 lakh crore on Tuesday. Analysts said the positive sentiment was fuelled by unabated inflow of foreign funds on the back of robust sentiment built up over favourable macroeconomic data in the previous week and the results of assembly polls of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh that raised expectations of longer political stability in the country. Also, investors



are expecting the Reserve Bank to maintain the status quo on the interest rate in its bi-monthly monetary policy decision to be announced on Friday, they said. Among major Sensex movers, Power Grid rose the most by 4.46 per cent, NTPC by 3.89 per cent, SBI by 2.31 per cent and ICICI Bank by 2.28 per cent.

Other gainers included Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan and Maruti. On the other hand, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance remained laggards with losses of up to 1.49 per cent. As many as 20 stocks of the 30-share benchmark closed with gains, while among Nifty firms,

32 shares registered gains. Foreign institutional investors purchased shares worth Rs 2,073.21 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. "The domestic market extended the gains and hit fresh highs despite cautiousness among global peers ahead of key US job data this week. The aura of the

state election results and other positive factors like above-expected earnings and GDP growth data are supporting the return of FII flows to the Indian market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. "The RBI's monetary policy meeting is expected to be status quo. However, the com-

mentary on economic growth, foodgrain prices and inflation trajectory will be closely watched," he added. Meanwhile, in Asian markets, Hang Seng and Nikkei 225 were trading lower by 2.07 per cent and 1.37 per cent, respectively, while China's Shanghai Composite was trading 1.67 per cent lower. European markets were mixed. Germany's DAX gained 1.51 per cent and France's CAC 40 by 0.69 per cent. London's FTSE 100 declined 0.22 per cent. The US markets ended on a mixed note with S&P 500 registering a loss of 0.54 per cent on Monday. Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude advanced 1 per cent to USD 78.81 a barrel. On Monday, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,383.93 points, or 2.05 per cent, to close at a lifetime high of 68,865.12. The barometer logged its biggest single-day jump since May 20, 2022. Nifty also climbed 418.90 points, or 2.07 per cent, to hit 20,686.80.

## Indian Chamber of Commerce unveils first overseas office in Italy

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Marking a milestone in its international expansion strategy, the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has inaugurated its first overseas office in Italy. The ICC said this strategic move underscores its commitment to fostering robust trade relations between India and Italy and expanding opportunities for Indian businesses in the European market. ICC has appointed Vas Shenoy, a businessman and seasoned geopolitical strategist and analyst, as Chief Representative for Italy who will play a major role in driving the chamber's engagement with the Italian business community and government entities. ICC President Ameya Prabhu said, "The opening of our first overseas office in Italy marks a pivotal step in ICC's

global expansion strategy." ICC Italy's primary focus will be on promoting India as an attractive investment destination for Italian companies and facilitating the entry of Indian businesses into the Italian market. The establishment of ICC Italy aligns with the recent strengthening of diplomatic ties between India and Italy. The two countries have upgraded their relationship to a strategic partnership and signed defence cooperation and manpower mobility agreements in 2023. The growing economic ties between India and Italy are evident in the surge in bilateral trade, which reached Euro 14.88 billion in 2022. India's exports to Italy have also witnessed a substantial increase, highlighting the deepening economic relationship between the two nations.

## Banks write off ₹10.57 lakh crore in 5 years



'Make NPA recovery worth ₹7.17 lakh cr'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banks have written off Rs 10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years, of which Rs 5.52 lakh crore was in respect of loans pertaining to large industries, the government informed the Parliament on Tuesday. "As per RBI data, scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) have written off an aggregate loan amount of Rs 10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years," Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. The scheduled commercial banks have also recovered Rs 7.15 lakh crore of non-performing assets (NPAs) during the five-year period. "Comprehensive steps have been taken to recover NPAs, enabled by which, SCBs have made an aggregate recovery of Rs 7.15,507 crore (RBI provisional data for FY 2022-23) in NPA accounts, including written-off loans, during the last five financial years," he said.

In reply to a separate question, Karad said: "Scheduled commercial banks have written off an aggregate amount of Rs 5.52 lakh crore in respect of loans pertaining to large industries and services during the last five financial years (FYs), i.e. From FY 2018-19 to FY 2022-23." He also said that this includes Rs 93,874 crore written off by all the banks on account of fraud during the five-year period. Karad said banks regularly evaluate the impact of write-offs as part of the exercise to clean up their balance sheet, avail tax benefit and optimise capital, in accordance with the said guidelines and policies of the respective boards. "Such write-off does not result in waiver of liabilities of borrowers to repay and therefore, write-off does not benefit the borrowers. The borrowers of written-off loans continue to be liable for repayment and banks continue to pursue recovery actions initiated in written-off accounts through various recovery mechanisms available to them..." Karad said.

## COP28: Adani pitches for balanced approach to energy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As world leaders dwell on the language of the final outcome of climate talks, billionaire Gautam Adani on Tuesday made a pitch for adopting a balanced approach that takes into account energy costs and availability while continuing to accelerate on green ambitions. At the 28th UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai, called COP28, 118 governments pledged to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030 but have not been able to arrive at the language to be used in the outcome document for cutting the share of fossil fuels in the world's energy production. "In the midst of initial encouraging signs from COP 28, it is relevant to remember that while in sum total (given our 1.4 bil-

lion population) we are the world's third largest primary energy consumer, our per capita electricity consumption @ 1250 kWh is still less than one-third of the global average and less than one-seventh of the developed world," Adani said in a post on X. India, he said, is also the only large nation ahead of its target in meeting its UNFCCC commitment to reduce its emissions intensity by 45 per cent from the 2005 level by 2030. "The fastest growing economy must balance its energy cost, energy availability and green energy objectives while continuing to accelerate its massive green ambitions," he added. On his post, the coal-to-edible oil conglomerate he heads commented: "With a pledge of investing USD 75 billion by 2030, Adani group is playing a



pivotal role in accomplishing this" task of reducing emission intensity. To keep global warming from rising no more than 1.5 Celcius by 2050, fossil fuel use needs to be greatly reduced

and unabated coal use needs to be completely phased out, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has argued. But India is not agreeable to phasing out of coal as 73 per cent of

its current electricity is produced from burning the fossil fuel. The share of coal-fired electricity generation in India's power mix is slated to rise to 77 per

## Solar power potential 75,000 GW by 2050 possible with long-duration storage: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Solar power generation capacity can go up to 75,000 gigawatts by 2050 globally with long-duration storage capacity, a report by the International Solar Association (ISA) and LDES Council, said. The report released on Tuesday by ISA and the Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Council unveils a bold vision for the future of renewable energy, showcasing the pivotal role of Long Duration Energy Storage in realizing ambitious solar targets. The report, presented at COP28 in Dubai, emphasized the transformative potential of combining solar energy with LDES to ensure continuous, reliable, and affordable renewable energy, a statement said. The report emphasized the necessity of LDES to fully real-



ize the potential of solar installations for complete decarbonization and achieving a solar capacity of 75,000 GW by 2050. It presented a case study of isolated island utilities in the US, demonstrating the financial viability of LDES in areas with limited interconnectivity and high local fuel costs. The combination of solar, wind, and LDES emerges as the most

cost-effective solution for achieving 100 per cent renewable energy. The LDES Council estimates that LDES will become a USD 4 trillion industry by 2040, with an installed capacity potential of 8 TW, the statement said. This growth is essential for enabling solar energy to meet global electricity demands affordably and reliably.

The report also identified barriers to the widespread adoption of solar and LDES, including regulatory challenges, financing issues, and technical limitations, and proposed solutions to overcome these hurdles. "Solar, already the most economical source of new electricity globally, will further strengthen its competitive advantage. Combined with Long Duration Energy Storage, solar becomes a continuous, reliable 24/7 energy source," stated Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General ISA. "Developing long-duration energy storage is the best pathway to full decarbonization for economies worldwide. LDES provides the scaffolding for reliable, resilient, around-the-clock renewable energy for industry and the electric grid," asserted Julia Souder, Chief Executive Office, LDES Council.



## 21,791 fake GST registrations

Suspected tax evasion of ₹24,000 cr detected in special drive: FM

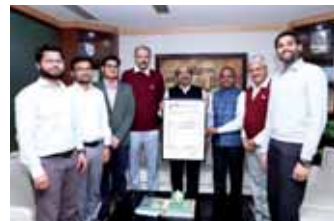
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said GST officers have detected 21,791 fake GST registrations and over Rs 24,000 crore of suspected tax evasion during a two-month-long special drive. In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, the minister said to safeguard the interest of honest taxpayers and avoid extreme hardship to taxpayers, instructions have been issued from time to time, directing officers to exercise due caution and care in the exercise of powers such as summons, provisional attachment of property, blocking of tax credit etc. "A total of 21,791 entities (11,392 entities pertaining to state tax jurisdiction and 10,399 entities pertaining to CBIC jurisdiction) having GST registration were discovered to be non-existent. An amount of Rs 24,010 crore (state - Rs 8,805 crore + Centre - Rs 15,205 crore) of suspected tax evasion was detected during the special drive," Sitharaman said. The minister was replying to a question on the number of entities identified as having fake registrations, and the total amount of evasion detected during the special drive against fake GST registrations conducted by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) from May 16 to July 15, 2023. To a query on whether the government has considered the challenges faced by e-commerce enterprises in obtaining GST

registrations, especially operating in virtual spaces, Sitharaman said that considering the special nature of e-commerce operators, a simplified procedure for registration of e-commerce operators has already been notified. It provides that when an e-commerce operator applies for registration in a particular state or Union Territory where he/she does not have a physical presence, he/she can apply for registration by giving details of the principal place of business located in another state or Union Territory. Further, amendments have been made in GST Rules to strengthen the registration process, including biometric-based Aadhaar authentication, for high-risk registrants, along with the verification of the original copy of the documents. A pilot project for this was launched in Gujarat. In July, the pilot project was extended to Puducherry and in November to Andhra Pradesh. Also, details of bank account, name and PAN of the registered person are required to be furnished within 30 days of the grant of registration or before filing of the statement of outward supply, whichever is earlier. Entities who do not furnish the details of valid bank accounts within the time period prescribed will be suspended automatically by the system. However, upon compliance with this provision subsequently, by the registered persons such system-based suspension would be automatically revoked by the system.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### POWERGRID LAB GETS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION



Gurugram: POWERGRID Advanced Research & Technology Centre (PARTeC), the technology development centre of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), Maha-ratna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has received an UCA International Users Group (UCAIug) accreditation, to perform IEC 61850 Conformance Testing of Intelligent Electronic Devices (IEDs).

### INTERNATIONAL HARDWARE FAIR 2023

New Delhi: Over 200 international exhibitors and 7000 trade buyers created a vibrant platform for cutting edge hardware products and solutions at the International Hardware Fair 2023 in national Capital last week.

### RISE IN GLOBAL PRICES OF DAP FERTILISERS

New Delhi: Fertiliser industry body (FAI) pointed out that global prices of Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) have risen in the last few months and said there will be a need to increase either the government subsidy or retail prices if the rates remain high in the international market.

### DIGITAL INVESTMENT PLATFORM EXPANDING

New Delhi: Digital investment platform Vested on Tuesday said it is expanding its alternative investment portfolio by offering of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending via Vested Edge, and INR (Indian Rupee) bonds and solar projects via Vested Solar. With its solar offering, Vested is looking to give individuals the opportunity to earn while helping India transition to clean energy, a company statement said. Through Vested Solar, investors can own solar panels in rooftop projects and earn 10-13 per cent rate of return from the electricity generated over the panel's lifetime. The INR bonds offer another alternate fixed income investment opportunity to Vested customers. Vested offers a curated selection of listed corporate and government bonds, with corporate bonds rated A and above, and government bonds backed by the Indian Government.

## Rapido forays into cab services segment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ride hailing firm Rapido on Tuesday announced its foray into the cab services segment, where it will compete with established unicorns Ola and Uber. The company has started the service in Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad and Bengaluru with around 1.2 lakh cabs and plans to scale it to around 35 cities by September 2024, Rapido Co-founder Pavan Guntupalli said. "Over the course of 10 years not more than 25 per cent are participating in app based services. Our motive is to bring all these guys online and increase the market. "With a zero commission model, we will maximise their revenues in a way that it is not a burden on users," Guntupalli said. The captains or the driver partners will get direct payment from customers without any commission cut by Rapido. However, they will have to pay a subscription fee after crossing a certain level of earnings. While the company claimed that it will provide the lowest price in the market, a random



check on the app showed that the fare of Rapido cab was higher compared to the prices offered by the established online players. Guntupalli said that the service has just been launched and the company will work with cab partners to get the cheapest fare across 80 per cent of the route in the city where it operates. Software-as-a-service-based Rapido will invest in adding electric vehicles to its fleet but it will operate rest of cab services at break-even level, he said. The company plans to expand the services to Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai in January-March 2024 and cover a total of 35 cities by September 2024, Guntupalli said.



## Gold nosedives ₹1,050 to ₹63,250 per 10 gram

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold nosedived Rs 1,050 to Rs 63,250 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, retreating from its all-time high due to weak trends in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal settled at Rs 64,300 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also tumbled Rs 1,700 to Rs 78,500 per kilogram. "Gold prices plunged on Tuesday in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 63,250/10 grams, down by Rs 1,050, following a bearish trend in the overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at

HDFC Securities, said. In the futures trade, February contract of gold climbed Rs 46 to Rs 62,415 per 10 grams on the MCX. However, silver's March contract declined Rs 389 to Rs 75,779 per kilogram on the bourse. In the international markets, gold and silver were quoting lower at USD 2,037 per ounce and USD 24.50 per ounce, respectively. Gold retreated from its record high as the dollar and US Treasury yields advanced amid signs that traders' believe aggressive monetary policy of Federal Reserve rate cuts may have gone too far, Gandhi said.



# ARAJEET SCORES HAT TRICK IN INDIA 4-2 WIN

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Araijeet Singh Hundal struck a hat-trick as India dished out a dominant display to beat Korea 4-2 in their opening pool match of the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup here on Tuesday. Hundal scored in the 11th, 16th and 41st minutes while Amandeep found the target for India in the 30th minute in the Pool C match. Dohyun Lim (38th) and Minkwon Kim (45th) were the

goal scorers for Korea. India, who had lost to France in the bronze-medal match in the last edition in 2021 in Bhubaneswar, made a strong start with Hundal scoring in the first quarter off a penalty corner. The Indians continued their domination by pumping in two goals in the second quarter through Hundal and Amandeep — both field goals — as they were 3-0 up at the half time. Korea pulled one back though Dohyun midway in the third quarter but India replied soon



after with Hundal completing his hat-trick with another field goal. With a 4-1 lead in the match, the Indians appeared to have slowed down a bit. The Koreans pressed for goals and they were able to reduce the margin with Minkwon finding the target. India next play against Spain in their second pool match. Canada is the other country in the four-team Pool C. India have won the tournament twice (2001 and 2016) and finished runners-up once (1997).

## JUNIOR WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS



# Payal, Nisha and Akansha strike gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young pugilists Payal, Nisha and Akansha won a gold medal each after dominating performances as India ended their impressive campaign at the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships in Yerevan, Armenia with 17 medals on Tuesday. The Indian contingent secured three gold, nine silver and five bronze medals from the championships. The Indian women's team finished joint second in the event. Payal handed India its first gold when she outclassed local favourite Petrosyan Heghine of Armenia by unanimous decision in the girls 48kg final. Later, Asian youth champions Nisha and Akansha lived up to the expectations as they extended their dream runs to clinch

gold medals in style. Nisha (52kg) and Akansha (70kg) thrashed Abdullaeva Farinoz of Tajikistan and Taimazova Elizaveta of Russia respectively with identical 5-0 margins. Three other Indian women in action on the final day, Vini (57kg), Shrushti (63kg) and Megha (80kg) signed off with silver medals after suffering defeats in their respective final bouts. In the men's section, Sahil (75kg) and Hemant (80+kg) added silver medals to the Indian tally after going down 0-5 in their respective finals. Jatin (54kg) also put up a strong fight against Tulebek Nurassyl of Kazakhstan before losing 1-4 in a thrilling match. Overall, 12 Indians had entered the finals, which was more than any other country in this edition.



# WFI election date to be announced after December 8

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The notification to hold the stalled Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections could be issued on or after December 8, the date set for inclusion of any changes in the electoral college published earlier this year. The Supreme Court recently set aside the stay imposed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, paving the way for the process to elect the new WFI governing body. An IOA-constituted ad-hoc panel, led by Wushu Association of India chief Bhupender Singh Bajwa, is currently managing the day-to-day activities of the WFI after the sports ministry suspended the federation headed by Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment levelled by top Indian grapplers. Several wrestlers, including Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, sat in protest at the Jantar Mantar here for more than two months to protest alleged sexual harassment of female grapplers by Brij Bhushan. The election process, which was set in motion in July, has been delayed because of court cases. This has further led to the suspension of the WFI by the international federation, United

World Wrestling, for failing to conduct fresh polls in the time stipulated by them. Indian wrestlers continue to participate in international competitions under the UWW flag because of the suspension of the national body. But with the Supreme Court clearing the path for the elections, the returning officer, Justice (ret'd) MM Kumar, held a meeting on November 30 and asked Bajwa if there is any change in the electoral college notified on July 25, 2023 for the polls, initially scheduled on August 12. "The way is paved for holding elections of WFI which were stayed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on August 11, just a day before the date fixed for holding elections," said a statement from the office of the returning officer. "Returning officer asked Mr Bajwa to inform if there is any change in the electoral college already notified on 25.07.2023... He was asked to provide this information at the earliest. Mr Bajwa sought one week time. Let complete information be furnished within 5 days i.e. On or before 8th December so that final notification for holding elections be issued," said the statement issued by assistant returning officer Tapas Bhattacharya.

AXIS BANK LTD. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS						
THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGED IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS (GOLD LOAN FACILITY) IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY AVAILED. AS THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 16.12.2023 AT 12.30 PM TO 03.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS".						
DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT						
SR. NO.	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING (IN RS.)	DATE OF RECALL NOTICE	GROSS WEIGHT	NET WEIGHT
B.O.: ABOHAR [PB]						
1	JATINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX9734	RS. 106,512.00	20-04-2023	33.700	30.900
2	DALIP KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX5160	RS. 120,090.00	28-10-2023	36.200	34.800
B.O.: ADAMPUR [PB]						
3	MANDEEP KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX6500	RS. 38,110.00	20-04-2023	10.800	10.100
4	SUKHWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8787	RS. 43,791.00	30-05-2023	13.100	11.700
5	SUKHWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8610	RS. 125,321.00	30-05-2023	36.900	35.900
B.O.: AGAMPUR RUP PB						
6	RANJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX9668	RS. 36,012.00	27-06-2023	9.500	9.300
7	RANJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX1127	RS. 70,586.00	30-05-2023	19.300	18.900
8	RANJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX0026	RS. 111,883.00	27-06-2023	30.900	30.300
9	PARWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX5357	RS. 146,730.00	08-03-2023	43.400	41.700
B.O.: AHMEDGARH SRR PB						
10	SUKHPAL KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX0501	RS. 34,212.00	30-05-2023	11.230	11.080
B.O.: AJNALA [PB]						
11	GURWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX0914	RS. 60,552.00	30-05-2023	18.710	16.200
12	MANPREET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX9905	RS. 82,933.84	20-04-2023	25.550	23.150
13	PALWINDER KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX6880	RS. 284,603.00	30-05-2023	85.920	73.300
B.O.: AMLOH [PB]						
14	HARPREET KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX8179	RS. 39,267.00	30-05-2023	14.100	14.000
B.O.: AMRITSAR [PB]						
15	MANPREET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX07194	RS. 52,459.00	25-08-2023	17.100	16.500
B.O.: BAGHAPURANA [PB]						
16	BIKRAMJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX6934	RS. 146,076.00	27-06-2023	42.100	37.100
B.O.: BAGRIAN KAP PB						
17	JASWINDER	XXXXXXXXXX00713	RS. 30,760.96	08-02-2023	18.600	18.100
B.O.: BALAHAH VINJHU BTA PB						
18	AMARJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8280	RS. 68,993.00	20-04-2023	22.800	21.800
B.O.: BANGA [PB]						
19	MANJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX9359	RS. 163,269.00	30-05-2023	43.600	43.100
B.O.: BATALA [PB]						
20	SARABJIT SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX7997	RS. 95,347.99	25-08-2023	28.600	24.500
B.O.: BEGOWAL [PB]						
21	PRIYA VERMA	XXXXXXXXXX2416	RS. 146,197.00	30-05-2023	47.000	38.500
22	PRIYA VERMA	XXXXXXXXXX2542	RS. 244,042.00	30-05-2023	70.500	64.500
23	PRIYA VERMA	XXXXXXXXXX2322	RS. 394,278.00	30-05-2023	120.000	108.000
24	NISHAM HUNDAL	XXXXXXXXXX01931	RS. 575,894.00	25-08-2023	154.000	145.000
B.O.: BHOGPUR [PB]						
25	JATINDER PAL	XXXXXXXXXX5160	RS. 75,535.00	08-03-2023	17.500	17.150
26	JATINDER PAL	XXXXXXXXXX5160	RS. 75,535.00	08-03-2023	17.500	17.150
27	SANDEEP KAUR GURAI	XXXXXXXXXX1968	RS. 143,890.66	30-05-2023	44.000	43.000
B.O.: BIKHIWIND [PB]						
28	SATNAM SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX6171	RS. 47,269.00	30-05-2023	18.200	17.200
29	MUSHABBER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX07819	RS. 229,277.00	25-08-2023	62.400	60.400
B.O.: BUDHLADA [PB]						
30	JASVEER KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX8061	RS. 31,285.00	25-08-2023	9.100	8.800
31	LAKHVIR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8037	RS. 36,550.32	30-05-2023	11.500	10.900
B.O.: CHOGAWAN [PB]						
32	GURPREET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX0369	RS. 34,210.00	25-08-2023	11.550	9.850
B.O.: DEVIGARH [PB]						
33	MAKHAN SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX6721	RS. 93,486.87	27-06-2023	31.590	26.800
34	KULWINDER SINGH SO HARCHAIN SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX06845	RS. 151,154.38	30-05-2023	52.960	44.720
B.O.: DHURI-SANGRUR [PB]						
35	HARVINDER PAL SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX07661	RS. 178,244.00	25-08-2023	57.400	54.000
36	SARBJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX07202	RS. 198,434.00	25-08-2023	70.300	68.000
B.O.: DINANAGAR [PB]						
37	SUKHBIR SO RAM LAL	XXXXXXXXXX3635	RS. 26,590.00	30-05-2023	9.500	9.500
38	MAHINDER PAL	XXXXXXXXXX1852	RS. 39,457.00	30-05-2023	12.400	11.200
39	PALWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX4903	RS. 52,094.00	30-05-2023	16.400	16.400
40	SUNAM DEVI	XXXXXXXXXX1387	RS. 85,619.99	25-08-2022	21.200	21.000
41	ROHIT MAHAJAN	XXXXXXXXXX07622	RS. 106,105.00	25-08-2023	30.200	29.700
B.O.: DORHA PB						
42	MANJOT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX6927	RS. 88,824.00	30-05-2023	30.400	29.000
43	KULJIT SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX3200	RS. 433,024.00	30-05-2023	134.700	133.400
B.O.: FARIDKOT [PB]						
44	GURSEWAK SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8247	RS. 169,927.00	30-05-2023	47.700	47.200
B.O.: FATEGARH CHURIAN [PB]						
45	JASKARANJIT SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX1432	RS. 122,577.00	30-05-2023	40.200	37.500
46	JOBANDEEP SINGH S/O HARBHINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8200	RS. 129,037.00	25-08-2022	29.400	29.000
47	GURWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX5660	RS. 151,038.00	29-09-2023	42.000	40.700
48	GURPREET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX1021	RS. 213,461.00	30-05-2023	59.800	58.000
B.O.: FAZILKA, FEROZEPUR [PB]						
49	SUMANPREET KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX02067	RS. 35,898.00	25-08-2023	12.000	11.200
B.O.: FEROZEPUR [PB]						
50	LOVEPREET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX50828	RS. 61,054.00	30-05-2023	22.000	21.800
51	RAVINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX00073	RS. 203,371.00	10-10-2023	55.800	54.500
52	NIRMAL SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX01256	RS. 425,891.00	10-10-2023	121.300	117.000
53	SATNAM SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX1395	RS. 492,046.50	30-05-2023	150.000	149.550
B.O.: GARDHIWALA [PB]						
54	SURINDER KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX5870	RS. 142,517.54	30-05-2023	39.800	39.300
B.O.: GIDDERBAHA BRAN GID PB						
55	BHOLA SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX06171	RS. 360,042.33	25-08-2023	97.400	95.400
B.O.: GORAYA [PB]						
56	TIRATH SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX9664	RS. 56,904.00	08-03-2023	17.800	15.700
B.O.: HARIANA PB						
57	SUKHWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX5945	RS. 114,027.00	27-06-2023	30.300	30.000
B.O.: HOSIARPUR [PB]						
58	ARTI DEVI	XXXXXXXXXX02167	RS. 342,503.00	27-06-2023	99.200	96.900
B.O.: JAGRAON [PB]						
59	PARAMJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX3802	RS. 92,582.00	25-08-2023	29.100	28.400
60	TARNJEET SINGH SIDHU	XXXXXXXXXX4175	RS. 215,589.00	27-06-2023	71.800	68.300
B.O.: JALALABAD JLB PB						
61	LABH SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX00858	RS. 32,957.00	25-08-2023	10.300	9.600
62	RAKESH KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX06677	RS. 74,125.00	27-06-2023	21.300	20.000
63	MANJEET KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX9803	RS. 87,825.00	30-05-2023	28.500	25.600
B.O.: JHABAL KALAN [PB]						
64	MANJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX5764	RS. 92,420.00	30-05-2023	27.600	26.600
B.O.: KHADAUR SAHIB [PB]						
65	LAKHBIR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX03448	RS. 367,972.00	30-05-2023	124.700	110.900
B.O.: KHIANNA [PB]						
66	GURDEEP SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX5738	RS. 46,186.00	30-05-2023	13.900	13.400
B.O.: LAJPAT RAI ROAD JAG PB						
67	NIRBHAI SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX04549	RS. 46,596.00	30-05-2023	13.700	13.200
68	HARWINDER KAUR MALHI	XXXXXXXXXX07956	RS. 136,684.00	27-06-2023	43.800	41.900
B.O.: LALRU PB						
69	HARPAL SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX08825	RS. 32,450.22	20-04-2023	10.000	10.000
B.O.: LANDRAN [PB]						
70	KULWINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX1551	RS. 337,137.37	30-05-2023	108.600	106.200
B.O.: LOHAN KHAS PB						
71	GURMEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX03281	RS. 58,778.00	30-05-2023	14.900	14.800
B.O.: MACHHIWARA LUD PB						
72	KARAMJIT SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX03820	RS. 30,000.00	30-05-2023	9.750	9.600
B.O.: MAJITHA AMR PB						
73	GURVINDER SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX02831	RS. 31,931.00	25-08-2023	10.100	8.710
B.O.: MALOUT [PB]						
74	DALWINDERJIT SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX0108	RS. 69,563.00	30-05-2023	22.600	21.800
75	KHUSH PREET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8734	RS. 222,393.00	25-08-2023	77.200	67.400

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# INDIA TO PLAY FEARLESS CRICKET

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India women team's new head coach Amol Muzumdar wants his players to play 'fearless cricket' while also making it clear that there would be no compromise on fitness and fielding, ahead of the three-match T20I series against England beginning here on Wednesday.

"We need to play a certain brand of cricket, which we have been known for so far. Fearless cricket is something which I have always advocated. We would be playing that brand of cricket," Muzumdar told reporters on Tuesday ahead of the team's training session at the Wankhede Stadium.

"Shafali (Verma) and Jemimah (Rodrigues) are both very important cog in the wheel. I would like them to continue what they have been doing."

Muzumdar said that every step taken from here-on will be important as the team has embarked on its preparations for next year's T20 World Cup (September-October 2024 in Bangladesh).

"We are moving towards the World Cup. Every series and match will have its own importance. The series against England and Australia will count a lot," said Muzumdar who is starting his coaching stint with the women's national team during the three-match T20I series against England.

"We had a chat about it with the team and they (players) are all raring to go. Every step that we take (hereon) is (about) moving towards the World Cup.

"England and Australia will be a superb series to start the preparations (for the World Cup). (Both) will be tough series (and) will give us an indication of where we are. Going forward, the tougher the opposition, the better it is," he said.

After the contest against England, India face

## NO COMPROMISE ON FITNESS AND FIELDING: WOMEN'S TEAM COACH MUZUMDAR



Australia in another home series. Muzumdar said there will be any compromise on fielding and fitness standards, as parameters have been set and are being followed already.

"Fielding and fitness are of highest priority. There is no compromise on fielding or fitness. There will be a lot of camps post this series - a lot of cricket will be played - at NCA or some other place," he said.

"That means more exposure. All the fringe and new players will also get an opportunity." India's record of only seven wins in 27 matches against England in T20Is (home and away) does not bother the new coach who has urged his team to leave the past behind.

"As a team, we have decided to leave the statistics and whatever has happened behind us. We are looking forward to a fresh start," said the domestic batting stalwart.

"The numbers are there to be seen, but these girls and the team are looking forward to the season ahead. We are not going to go back in history — of course it is important — but at the same time, it is also important to look forward to the season ahead. They are all raring to go."

Muzumdar informed that Troy Cooley has been named the bowling coach for the series against England (three T20Is, one Test) and Australia (one Test, three T20Is and three ODIs).

He said women's cricket in India is on 'cusp of something big' with the inaugural Women's Premier League garnering a lot of response from the fans.

"It was a fantastic advertisement for women's cricket last year. We all saw how many people turned up for the game. We all are on the cusp of getting it big in women's cricket. The crowd turning up for the game is absolutely a boost for everyone," he said.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The T20 series in India gains significance as it will show how the young visiting players excel in conditions which will be similar to what the team will experience in Bangladesh during next year's T20 World Cup, said England women's skipper Heather Knight.

India and England are set to face off in a three-match T20 series, starting here on Wednesday. "I learned a lot about my game playing in Indian conditions, it really tests you as a cricketer, your skill level and how you do with the noise and the heat," Knight told reporters ahead of England's training session here on Tuesday.

"It is a really good place to accelerate development, to see how our young players cope with it. We have got a T20 World Cup in Bangladesh later on in the year (2024) so this tour is going to be valuable in terms of having similar conditions."

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be hosted by Bangladesh between September and October in 2024.

A lot of members of the England's T20I squad arrived in

India two days before the start of the series which will be played at the Wankhede Stadium on Dec 6, 9 and 10. Knight said it will be challenging for her team to silence the Indian crowd as despite their dominant record against the hosts, presence of "world-class" players make India a "brilliant" team.

"We have had some really good T20 games against them. They have got some world-class players in and in home conditions they are going to be tough (to face)," Knight said.

After winning the ODI World Cup beating India in the final, Australia captain Pat Cummins had said that he took delight in silencing the Indian fans.

Knight said passionate crowds in India can be imposing on the visiting sides and her team will look to keep its focus amid all the noise.

"Sometimes you can feel like things are accelerating; rushed actually, when there is crowd and the game is happening quite quickly. We have talked a lot about trying to get our own pace, maintain our concentration in the moment," the England captain said.



"Trying to silence the crowd will be tougher - watching the men's World Cup it is all you see and the support and the passion that Indian fans have and having experienced that, it is a hard thing to do to silence the crowd and even if there is not many of them they are usually very

loud.  
“We have to have quick turn-around, adapting to conditions has to be accelerated a bit. How we do that, how we communicate, how we are going to take 10 wickets, how we are going to score runs?” Knight said the past experience

of playing in India, including the Women's Premier League (WPL) earlier this year should hold her side in good stead. "We have got some good experience of players playing in India as well which will be valuable. It will be a brilliant series between two best teams," she

said. Having played in the WPL for Royal Challengers Bangalore wherein Knight shared the dressing room with some Indian players like Smriti Mandhana, Shreyanka Patil and Kanika Ahuja, the England captain said knowledge-sharing works two-ways. "It is brilliant that some of the RCB girls have got the chance to play for India on the back of what they did in the WPL. It works both ways, obviously I know those players better and they also know my game better," Knight said. England have seven wins in nine T20Is against India in their backyard and overall 20 wins from 27 matches, but Knight said it does not feel like they have a comforting factor as far as knowledge of conditions is concerned. "It feels like a long time actually since we have been to India, before that 2019 series we had a lot of tours here," she said. "It is how the Future Tours Programme pans out, and obviously, playing another WPL here in the calendar, there is going to be a lot of cricket here which is brilliant."

# Bangladesh looking to secure first test series win over NZ

**AP**  **MIRPUR (BANGLADESH)**

Bangladesh head coach B Chandika Hathurusingha wants his players to guard against complacency as it tries to secure a first series win against New Zealand in the second and final test.

Bangladesh won the first test in Sylhet by 150 runs to close in on a landmark series victory. The only top-level teams that Bangladesh has ever beaten in a two-match test series are Zimbabwe and West Indies.

"I can't see complacency in the team. If I see any action of complacency, I will have one to one chat," Hathurusingha said ahead of Wednesday's opening day.

"We had a good chat inside the dressing room yesterday. Strong and experienced leaders like Mushy (Mushfiqur Rahim) and Mominul (Haque) spoke very emotionally. They spoke in Bengali. I can see there's no tall poppies in the dressing room."

The Sylhet test victory was only Bangladesh's second against New Zealand in 18 meetings, and it came courtesy of captain Najmul Hossain Shanto's second-innings century. In doing so, Shanto became the first Bangladeshi cricketer to hit a century on his debut as captain.

"Captaincy and leadership are two things," Hathurusingha said. "(Shanto's) captaincy was excellent. He was tactically on the mark. He was step ahead of the game most of the time. Very impressive field placings as well. Sometimes unorthodox, but very effective.

"(His) leadership was excellent. He led from the front with his performance. He was commanding respect, and demanding the standard. I think he has

long future ahead?"

Left-arm spinner Tajul Islam, who took 10-184 in the first test, will be a Bangladesh's most crucial weapon in Mirpur, which traditionally has a slow wicket with unven bounce.

"He goes under the radar because he plays second fiddle to Shakib (Al Hasan) in most of the games," Hathurusingha said of Islam. "His record is phenomenal. He has nearly 200 wickets. He is very consistent."

New Zealand skipper Tim Southee said the team's spinners need to show more consistency if they are to avoid a first series defeat against Bangladesh.

"We're expecting obviously spin-friendly conditions, but we spoke about it after the last game about being more consistent for longer as a bowling group," Southee said. "And then, obviously, partnerships as a batting unit. We've had a great couple of days of training. So, we're looking forward to getting into another test match."

While Bangladesh's spinners claimed 18 wickets at an economic rate of 2.48, New Zealand's spinners took 14 wickets at a rate of 3.73 runs.

New Zealand's frontline spinners Ajaz Patel and Ish Sodhi also had a limited impact in the match, and the team could include Rachin Ravindra and Mitchell Santner in the squad for the second test.

"They're (Ravindra and Santner) obviously capable spinners. But we went with what we thought was the best side to win that first test match," Southee said. "It's just a tough one to try and get your 15 great players to fit into an 11. So, it's about picking a side that you think is going to do the job for the five days ahead of you."

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Defending champion Manu Gandas, PGTI Ranking leader Om Prakash Chouhan and Rashid Khan will be seen in action in the second edition of the SSP Chawrasia Invitational Golf tournament beginning here on Thursday. The 124-member field of the Rs 1-crore prize purse event will also see tournament host and local favourite SSP Chawrasia, along with the likes of Rahil Gangjee, Khalin Joshi, Chikkargangappa, Veer Ahlawat, Karan Pratap Singh, Udayan Mane and Aman Raj.

The leading names from abroad include Sri Lankans N Thangaraja, Anura Rohana and K Prabagaran, Bangladesh's Badal Hossain, Md Akbar

Hossain and Md Dulal Hossain,  
American Varun Chopra,  
Nepal's Sukra Bahadur Rai,  
Canada's Sukhraj Singh Gil and  
Andorra's Kevin Esteve Rigall.  
The other prominent local  
players are Shankar Das,  
Divyanshu Bajaj, Mohammad  
Sanju, Arjun Puri and Raju Ali  
Mollah.  
Two-time Indian Open cham-  
pion Chawrasia is the second  
Indian professional golfer after  
Jeev Milkha Singh to have a  
PGTI event named in his hon-  
our.  
A six-time winner on the Asian

# Gandas, Chouhan headline SSP Chawrasia Invitational Golf



Tour, Chawrasia also has represented India at the Rio Olympics and the World Cup of Golf in 2016. He also represented Team Asia at the Eurasia Cup in 2016 and 2018. SSP, a winner of 17 professional titles, was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2017.

"With a strong field, we can expect a week of exciting golf. I'm also very motivated to performing well at my home course. I wish the players all the best," tournament host Chawrasia said.

# Rajeshwari, Vivaan win season's first trap shooting national trials

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Paris Olympics quota winner Rajeshwari Kumari on Tuesday won the national selection trial 1 in women's trap, while Vivan Kapoor triumphed in the men's category on a day when both the finals went into shoot-offs.

India's No. 1 woman trap shooter Rajeshwari had topped the qualification round held at the Karni Singh ranges over three days, with a score of 118.

Teenager Bhavya Tripathi of Delhi, who won silver, shot 114 to grab one of the six qualifying spots, but improved upon her fifth position to end tied at 43 hits with Rajeshwari in the final.

Bhavya then missed the first shoot-off shot as Rajeshwari made no mistake to win the



match. Shreyasi Singh was third.

Vivaan's path to winning the trial was a bit different as he shot 121 in qualification to finish second to Shardul Vihann, who shot a table-topping 122.

The Rajasthan trap shooter then hit 44 targets in the final and found himself tied with Zoravar Singh Sandhu after the regulation 50 targets.

It was the second time Vivaan faced Zoravar in a shoot-off on the day.

At the end of the qualification, Vivaan had pipped Zoravar 1-0 to take the higher bib number going into the final.

In the final, Zoravar put up a better fight, but missed his third shoot-off target as Vivaan blasted all three. Former world champion Manavjit Sandhu came third.

## Ebenyo, Yehualaw star attraction in Kolkata 25K run on Dec 17

PTI ■ KOLKATA

World championships 10,000m silver medalist Daniel Simiyu Ebenyo of Kenya and Ethiopian 10K world record holder Yalemzerf Yehualaw will be the star attractions in the men's and women's sections respectively in the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K run on December 17. Ebenyo won a silver medal in 10,000m in Budapest world championships in August and then finished second in half marathon in Riga at the inaugural World Road Running Championships, before easily winning the Delhi Half Marathon in October. Two other Kenyans, Roncer Kipkorir Konga and Bernard Biwott, with sub 60-minute personal best in half marathon (21.0975 km), are expected to challenge Ebenyo for the top podium position. Yehualaw, who set the 10k world record of 29:14 in 2022, will participate in the event for the first time. She also sits second on the world all-time list in half marathon with a time of 1:03:51 (clocked in 2021).


Another Ethiopian, Anchinalu Dessie and Kenya's Betty Chepkemoi Kibet will be the main challengers for Yehualaw.

**ELITE FIELD:** Men: Daniel Kenyona, Eric Kiptanui, Roncer Kibogo, Bernard Biwott, Victor Kipruto Kotonjo, Jackson Kipwelte, all from Kenya; Hiskel Tewelde, Aferwerki Berhane (both from Eritrea), Abe Gashahun, Mulgeta Debasu (both from Ethiopia).

**Women:** Yalemzerf Yehualaw, Anchinalu Dessie, Sutume Asfaw Kebede (Ethiopia); Betty Chepkemoi Kibet, Nelly Jeptoo (both from Kenya); Mercyline Chelangat (Uganda).

**कायालय नगर निगम सोनीपत**

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

S.NO. Name & Code of Office Being Closed	Address of New Servicing Office
1. Business Office Morinda (231948)	Business Office Mohali (231400) 2nd Floor, SCO-20, Phase 1, SAS Nagar, Mohali-160055
2. Business Office Amritsar (233306)	Business Office Amritsar (233501) Ground Floor, 26, Kennedy Avenue, Court Road, Near PWG Rest House, Amritsar-143001
3. Business Office Jalandra (233392)	Business Office Amritsar (233501) Ground Floor, 26, Kennedy Avenue, Court Road, Near PWG Rest House, Amritsar-143001
4. Business Office Gurdaspur (233699)	Business Office Dinanagar (233891) Shah Shiv Dayal Charitable Trust, 1st Floor, Shivnala Market, Railway Road, Dinanagar-143531

<b>DATE: 06.12.2023</b>	<b>Sd/- Deputy General Manager I/c</b>
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